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GISELLA GRUBER: Welcome today everyone on today's RALO Leadership meeting on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May at 1900 UTC. On today's call we have Tijani Ben Jemaa, Fatimata Seye Sylla, Holly Raiche, Darlene Thompson, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Pavan Budhrani, Garth Bruen and Wolf Ludwig.

Apologies noted from Oksana Pryhodko, Sylvia Herlein Leite and YJ Park. From Staff we have Silvia Vivanco, Heidi Ullrich, Carlos Reyes and myself, Gisella Gruber. I hope I haven't left anyone off the roll call. And if I could also please remind you all to state your names when speaking for transcript purposes. Thank you. Over to you, Fatimata.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you Gisella. So we're going back to the first point of the Agenda, which is the [inaudible 00:01:03] Beijing Regional [inaudible 00:01:06] meeting. We have the link, which is provided by Silvia, and it's on the Adobe Connect, I'm just trying to open it, and I'm afraid that will take me time. Maybe if we agree, I will keep that point because I really haven't prepared it. I have to be honest with you.

So the first RALO issue: members for the individual participation within the RALOs – we did not come to an agreement as to having a common rule to deal with this situation, whether we should, for example, exclude the [NLA? 00:02:40] if it's not performing on that. So we didn't come to a common agreement.

For the outreach and inreach recruitment of new ALSes, that was also discussed in Beijing, and for this issue I think I would open the floor if

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

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you have something to say about it? And also RALO's capacity building activities. We really dealt with all these issues and despite all the efforts for outreach and recruiting new ALSes, we're getting false results from region to region, that are not already [inaudible 00:03:58].

So can anybody talk about this better than me? I don't see any hands, so let's talk about the RALO's capacity building. Holly? Thank you for helping me.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Yeah, I thought I would go back to the first topic, which was the individual participation. It certainly wasn't solved, but I'm wondering how we might move that forward. Is there... There isn't anything in the Rules of Procedure for the [inaudible 00:04:45], but this is something we're putting to the meeting in Durban.

All those new RALOs might actually come forward with their view and other background, and determine whether they actually think there should be consistency or we should simply acknowledge that there is a difference.

Because we started that discussion noting the issues involved and maybe, if we can continue that conversation, because we got up to the point where we all acknowledged there were difficulties with the [Lao? 00:05:29] individuals participating in an ALS, and we still talked about how no NARALO dealt with it.

So I'm not sure whether we can go too much further with that one. I'm just thinking... I started to talk about the participation of individuals as

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[inaudible 00:05:53], so if either of you two think that the issue can be progressed then maybe we can just have statements from all of the RALOs, as to what the experience is and does each RALO make its own decision. I'm just wondering whether that's a way forward on that particular issue. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Yeah, thank you Holly. I think the first issue of individual participation – I think we really sorted that issue because we understood that we would not be able to move forward, as we didn't go to the same direction within the RALOs. [coughs]

And for the outreach and inreach recruitment of new ALSes, for this one too I think we can still – and this is my opinion – we can still maybe share experiences. But I don't think there is a strict rule that will apply to all the RALOs. So I would agree with you for "Issue B" – outreach and inreach recruitment of new ALSes.

And for the third issue – RALO's capacity building activities, for this one I think all the RALOs organized capacity building sessions during the ICANN meetings. I see Wolf.

WOLF LUDWIG:

Yes, it's Wolf Ludwig speaking for the record. Well, I think we have repeatedly discussed this issue on capacity building programs in the past, and there may be some confusion about EURALO. Many times I said in a general manner, I do not think that special capacity building in [inaudible 00:08:36] measures our needed at a EURALO, because there

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are plenty of existing offers like [the Diablo? 00:08:46] Foundation Training Courses that some EURALO have participated in; some EURALO Members are even in a teaching capacity at [inaudible 00:08:56] courses.

Every year they have a European Internet summer school on Internet governance. They are interested EURALO Members, and other RALO Members [inaudible 00:09:09] can apply. I know plenty of ALAC people who have attended European summer school courses, etc., over the last five years. Therefore I do not really believe and think that it's for the vast majority of our Members, indeed at our regional level.

With the only exception I agreed after a long discussion with Oksana, that the picture for some Eastern European countries, like Ukraine, may be different, and if they intend to organize something for their purposes, this is okay from our side, but we will not organize or invest capacities in developing own capacity building programs for the majority of our ALSes because it's really not considered as necessary. Thanks.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you Wolf. I think, as I said earlier, each RALO has its own experience and preferences. Of course EURALO's experience is very interesting. Regarding our RALO, we are working on a virtual capacity building program with ICANN, to provide a platform to our Members, to give them access to training programs at their own pace. So that's something we're working on right now.

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So in terms of capacity building, I think we also exchanged a lot about the different experiences of every Member – not only AFRALO, but I think APRALO too – they also use the monthly meetings to provide information and training on specific topics.

So I don't know if we should still have this issue. AS far as AFRALO is concerned, capacity building is still something we would like to pursue. Yes, Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE:

Perhaps – sorry if I'm not talking loudly – perhaps we can differentiate that there's a general capacity building, but what about a capacity building to initiate people or to refresh peoples' understanding of ICANN and what's going on. So that if you're new to ICANN or new to those particular policies, we can focus on a very ICANN-related capacity, rather than more general capacity, if that works.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you Holly. Do you mean that there will be a general capacity program on one issue for all the RALOs?

HOLLY RAICHE:

This is Holly Raiche, for the record. Possibly. Certainly for the RALOs' call that we just had, there's a run-down of the policy items but there isn't a lot of time to go into any depth. So many we could use the opportunity in Durban to, amongst other things, have more depth to be – say, two or three issues.

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We do this anyway when the Working Groups talk about it, but if we see capacity as spending a bit more time on ICANN issues then it will acknowledge that there is various levels of capacity in the RALOs. But the real capacity that all of us need is to get our heads around ICANN issues. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you. Fatimata. Thank you Holly. I think it's a good idea. [coughs] I think it's a good idea to do it that way. I don't know what the others think about having, maybe, not too many sessions... Not too many items at the same time, but just, for example, two or three, and focus on it during the Durban meeting.

But that's something we can do and also continue to share our capacity building activities in our RALOs. So do we all agree with Holly's idea? That we exchange and share experiences? So, [Silvia I think? 00:15:36] the Regional Secretariats' Agenda during the ICANN meetings are to be shorter.

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes, I agree.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yeah. Okay. So we will keep that one: two to three items only. So we'll have to decide which items we will have to move forward. So should we have a...

HOLLY RAICHE: Two people have their hands up.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Darlene? Go ahead.

DARLENE THOMPSON: No, my hand's not up. I was just showing agreement with what was being said – I'll keep it short.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Okay. So that's it. So we can go to the... Maybe we should just suggest two or three. Shall we do that online or should we...? What strategy would you suggest: to select the two or three items? Okay, Wolf?

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes, it's Wolf Ludwig for the record again. Well, I think even if it's maybe boring for some people, I think during RALO's Secretariats' meeting we should really concentrate on issues which are a main concern across RALO. I don't think it makes a lot of sense to discuss issues like RIRs, which is a special subject that can be an interesting introduction training course or whatever, but this can be covered in another format.

I think Secretariats' Meetings make the most sense when they are concentrated on common concerns – similar problems we face in all regional At-Large organizations, and one of our major concerns at

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EURALO at the moment is how to improve inreach. This is a key issue. Outreach is another one, but if I would have to set a priority on our key problem, I would say our main problem at EURALO is inreach – how we can manage, how we can encourage, how we can do anything to get our Members more involved.

Particularly more interested, participating more, etc., etc. This is really a constant key issue and in my opinion we should concentrate on this key aspect and not waste too much time on subjects we can accommodate in other types of sessions.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you Wolf. This is Fatimata. Wolf, so are you suggesting that we should not do any capacity building activities on policies? If I understood you well, you're coming back to the second issue of outreach and inreach in the appointment of new ALSes.

WOLF LUDWIG:

Yes. Wolf Ludwig for the record, again. Yes. I think we now tend... It's part of our common frustrations process over the last couple of years. When we have discussed inreach at various Secretariats' meeting in the past and probably decide some punctual improvement – there was not much progress made over the last few years.

And therefore I think it seems to be attractive then, and now to shift to other subjects, to do capacity building on ICANN issues. But I do not think that the Secretariats' meeting is the right format for this. I think the Secretariats' meeting, which I consider as a culmination meeting,



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having the opportunity three times a year in parallel to ICANN meetings, to use the limited time and capacities to exchange information about what our problems are and what our ideas and approaches can be to solve this practical...

Management or operational problems at a RALO level. And if I'm interested in a seminar, I will find many opportunities to go to capacity building or to training, but this is not the function of the Secretariats' meeting, in my opinion. Just my two cents. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you Wolf. I see your point. So what do other think? I think Darlene agreed with the idea of having not many items or topics; maybe two. And I thought we agreed on issue two, but in terms of sharing experiences, good practices? Because we don't have any "one size fits all" solution for all the RALOs.

WOLF LUDWIG: May I come in again?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes Wolf, go ahead.

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes Fatimata. I think we are all clear that there will never be a "one size fits all" solution because we have two different cultural and whatsoever differences and diversities, which makes the whole set-up very exciting,

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to be honest. But assessment of certain problems, even regarding the diversity and the differences, are quite the same.

Inreach, I believe – and I have observed this for more than five years now – inreach is a lasting problem of all the RALOs. It may be particularly bad at EURALO at the moment, but I have heard during ICANN meetings, Secretariats’ meetings and at other exchanges that how to keep our people involved is important.

We once tried to concentrate more on outreach – to get at least two or three new applicants per year, etc., more or less to show that EURALO is on a progress wave by counting numbers of new ALS registrations. But in my opinion, it’s not a quality indicator any longer. It’s not so much a challenge. It’s a challenge, but it’s not the highest challenge to get more members to apply, but to keep existing members involved.

And keeping existing members involved became for me, over the last five or six years, the biggest challenge. And I still don’t have any good answers. I have ideas of how we could do better, etc., but this for me is a key problem and I think it is not only EURALO in this mess, but I think this is a problem where most RALOs are concerned, and this offers a perfect ground for any further discussions and exchange. Thanks.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Fatimata. Thank you Wolf. I agree with your reasoning and I don’t think anyone will be against this because I think all the RALOs have the same problem, maybe in different ways, but we also have the same problem in AFRALO. Do you want to go again? Did you raise your hand?

WOLF LUDWIG: No, I will lower my hand now. I forgot to do it when I was speaking. I just entered a comment in the chat room.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Okay, so let me just remind you of the key points that I think we agreed on as a majority. One is to keep the inreach activities for our list, for our members. And I think that this does not prevent any RALO from trying to recruit new members. Maybe among the new members we'll find ones that will be able to participate and be involved.

And the second point will be to have the capacity building session. Maybe we'll keep it to two, Wolf? The topics?

WOLF LUDWIG: I'm not against keeping a second one but capacity building alone, to me, is not enough. It's not competitive; it's complementary, maybe.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes, so we have two issues now. Inreach and capacity building. And Darlene suggested that every RALO would send suggestions or items to be covered, and we will choose among those. So Heidi, those two issues of the meeting would take up 90 minutes. Well, if you really want to do capacity building it would take us at least 30 minutes. Now we have another... Yes?

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HEIDI ULLRICH: Sorry, this is Heidi. Just a correction, I'm sorry. I meant to say that the two issues, plus the meeting with the RALO [inaudible 00:28:48] RIR leaders would take up 90 minutes. That's probably a good thing.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: I think that's good. The items would take 90 minutes. I think that should work. That's my opinion. What do you think guys? Ladies and gentlemen, I should say. [laughter] Garth? Yes Garth, go ahead. Oh you're saying yes, you agree. Yeah. Sponsorship of RALO representatives. Point four. Holly, you have something to say?

HOLLY RAICHE: Yes. Do we want to meet with the RIRs to talk about the issues in common? I'm not sure what issues we necessarily have with the RIRs. There's certainly IPv4 and maybe other things, but is what we're trying to do just get money from them? Or are we trying to talk about issues in common, or what?

I'm just not sure... Is it just for us to understand better what they do and they to understand what we do? I'm just unsure of the purpose of this. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Okay, thank you Holly. Fatimata speaking. For the meeting with the RIRs, I think it would be interesting to hear what they're doing in each region in terms of involving the local RALO in the activity. How they involve them – because that was a discussion during the Beijing meeting.

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For example, for AfriNIC, with this African Internet Summit, AFRALO will be participating in the [SACA? 00:31:28]. And we will also discuss if they're providing any assistance to the local RALOs, to the RALOs in the different regions. I think that's something we should be able to discuss. Wolf?

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes. Sorry to be nasty tonight.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: No, you're not nasty.

WOLF LUDWIG: It's Wolf Ludwig again. I don't want to be the troublemaker of the evening, but this is just a question I was asking myself. So I formulate it more as a question than as a comment. We tried, since the creation of EURALO 2007, we repeatedly tried on the regional level to get in touch with RIRs, and it didn't work. And today I have a sort of interpretation of why it didn't work: because it didn't know EURALO.

They didn't take EURALO seriously in any way. In the meantime we had this contact, but it didn't work via ourselves, it worked via another institution, which is called European Dialogue and Internet Governance, which is not the same as ICANN. But once EuroNIC was created we succeeded to attract the interest of more and more RIRs getting involved in this regional debate.

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And via EuroDIG, over the last three or four events, we suddenly are in contact with our RIRs and we always have them at EuroDIG – last time in Stockholm, next time in Lisbon in about four weeks. And by this intermediate channel, so to say, we arrived in getting in contact and exchanging information and taking each other more seriously.

So I asked myself the question of whether our previous approach of getting in touch with them directly was the most successful for everyone. Sometimes I think you have to take sidewalks and sidetracks and try this one. And sometimes they have a much better sense of a direct approach, on an ICANN level, at least for EURALO it never worked so far. Thanks.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you Wolf. Olivier?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Fatimata, it's Olivier for the transcript record. Olivier Crépin-Leblond. I'm very interested actually to have heard what Wolf has just said, and as you know, one of the things which I've wanted to really push for is for the RALOs to be able to receive help from the RIRs and to be able to be funded and participate in RIR policy development processes.

The regional Internet registries all have their own bottom-up policy development that's not really part of ICANN and it's a real opportunity for Internet users in the region to be able to participate in this. So I'm

hoping that we can hold their hand on that. I just wanted to keep you updated on what happened in Beijing.

I'm not sure I provided full details in time, but basically the ExCom met with the leaders of the different RIRs that were present over there. Thanks to a meeting that we jointly organized with the ASO, the Address Supporting Organization, Louie Lee and his friends and colleagues, the plan is to extend this now to Durban, so all of you RALO leaders will have a chance to meet with the Chairs of those RIRs, or the people that are in the leadership team of those RIRs.

And I guess that in some cases there have already been good relationships between the Regional Internet Registry and the RALO. I'm looking at LACRALO, I'm looking at EURALO. And in others there might be a chance to strengthen the relationship and to use a multipronged approach – both by going through the sideways, but also being able to push from the top, to really capitalize this collaboration between the RALO and the RIR.

I think that we are just at the beginning of this collaboration and I would really like to see this grow a lot more, because that is really bound to benefit both the RIRs and the RALO as well. And if there is capacity building as far as policy development is concerned, well certainly the RIR, being regionally located, might be able to help on that as well.

And of course I'm very much open to comments and to suggestions on how to... What to basically ask the ASO to help with and going via the ICANN path, the more usual ICANN path. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you very much Olivier. It's Fatimata speaking. I completely agree with you and I think this region has to be strengthened for the better of our local ALSes. Okay. Any more comment on this? There is a single item, sponsorship of RALO representatives for select ALSes to regional events.

I just [faded? 00:38:03] the case of AFRALO. AfriNIC inviting us, I mean, to participate in the African Internet Summit. And AfriNIC is providing travel support to one of us. So Tijani will be attending that meeting. And I think that's one example among others, and we should be able to develop greater and better relationships with our RIRs. Garth is asking a question. Are there issues we have better influence over that are better for our time?

Well, I think it's an important issue, at least for our region. It's an important issue to be able to profit from what AfriNIC can offer in terms of capacity building, in terms of providing financial support to, for example, have enriched activities, why not? And why not outreach activities. Oh, okay Garth. I've got you. Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE: Just a question to Tijani and maybe for all of us: if there are specific sessions, there'd be an AFRALO session, but should we all meet... Have a particular session for us and then all meet together? Because I know that usually during a meeting that's when we would hold our own RALO meetings. I mean, is this something we should all be doing?



FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: I don't think I understand you Holly. This is Fatimata. The AFRALO session Tijani is talking about will be held in Lusaka during the African Internet Summit. Yeah. Just for your information.

HOLLY RAICHE: Okay. I wasn't sure what you meant. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yeah, you're welcome. So are we good? So do we have any other questions or issues to raise? We have three issues. Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE: I'd just like to support what Garth said. If there are issues around policy, people come. I think our experience with Beijing and the Multi-Stakeholder Model sessions, where there were two issues discussed, we actually had a really good attendance, and it was attendance beyond just RALOs. It was a cross-community attendance. So Garth, I think you're right. I think that works really well. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes, I think you're right too. Thank you Holly. Fatimata. So we're good with the three issues? I deliberately kept the review of the Beijing Regional Secretariat meeting as I didn't prepare it well. But I don't think we did much more than what we dealt with, the cross-RALO issues,

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because it was actually the... Except for the policy issues sessions we had.

So, Heidi, is the proposed Agenda to the right okay? Okay. I need the others to say whether they are all okay with it? Outreach... Building. Inreach and capacity building. The RALO are to discuss other issues. I think we said inreach activities. The second one was RALO capacity building on specific policy issues – no more than two topics. And the third one [sneezes] is the meeting with the RIR. Thank you Heidi.

The second one was the capacity building. The RALO capacity building and specific policy items, policy issues. No more than two. And the third one is the meeting. Do you all agree?

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: So the 'B', Heidi, the RALOs are to discuss all the issues, but the second issue...

SILVIA VIVANCO: Fatimata, this is Silvia. I think that I have to mention that the RALOs were going to discuss another issue, but if not I would just leave it at that one.

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FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: No it's not. It's not. The second one is... You know, when you look at the Agenda, number three is cross-RALO issues, so we kept the 'B', inreach activities and we kept the 'C' but it will be RALO's capacity building on two specific policy issues. And three is the meeting. Is there Any Other Business?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Fatimata? This is Heidi. Just a question: now that the Agenda for Durban seems to be more or less set, should there still be another call in June? I think that was an Action Item from Beijing, that this group was to meet twice before the next meeting.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Well, I think we would just have to select the two items, the two policy items we would like to work on.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay, and then perhaps at that point, once the issues are known, then you could decide who from Staff you would like to invite to that?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes, and we will conduct this with Staff. I don't think we need a meeting. Wolf?

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WOLF LUDWIG:

Oh, I'm surprised that suddenly somebody has raised their hand for me. I'm not sure, I was just reflecting. For the moment I don't see a real need for having another meeting, but we never know whether there will be any upcoming issues in the time between... We are now in the process to create inter-RALO participation for the different At-Large Working Groups.

I think ATLAS II will be one of our key challenges on each RALO Agenda for the next year. And it will keep us busy. As I remember, it kept us busy for Mexico. And we will have, certainly around Durban, we will try to launch another survey to ask our Member ALSes for suggestions of what topics and what subjects should be discussed or on the Agenda for ATLAS II in London next summer.

I think this will keep us very busy and I think we should at least try to pre-plan. I do not really know whether this is already a key issue for Durban but in my opinion it should be or it must be a key issue for the Secretariats' meeting in Buenos Aires.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you Wolf. This is Fatimata. I think that that's a great idea. I think it's excellent. But if we don't want to have too many items in Durban – as we already have three –, but I don't think... We have 90 minutes but, you know, capacity building can take time and when we start discussing we talk a lot amongst ourselves, which is very good.

So maybe we should just keep it for Buenos Aires and we'll have another meeting if necessary? Any objection? Okay. So we're done for today.

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Thank you very much and sorry for my voice. I think we did a good meeting. Thank you all and bye.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you very much. Bye bye.

WOLF LUDWIG: Thanks.

DARLENE THOMPSON: Thank you all and Fatimata.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thanks. I hope you feel better soon Fatimata.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you Fatimata. Thank you everyone. Bye bye.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Fatimata, thanks everyone.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you all. Bye.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPT]**