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ALBERTO SOTO: Today is Monday, August 18, 2014. We will start with this call, with this LACRALO monthly call. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening because we have people connected everywhere. I would like to thank you all for having replied to our request for Portuguese, and today we have Portuguese on our call. I would also like to thank [Daniel], thank his manager and stakeholder from Brazil. I think he has now participating in the Portuguese channel, so I would like to ask staff to proceed with the roll call. Thank you.

KATHY SCHNITT: Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. This is the LACRALO monthly teleconference on Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 at 23:00 UTC.

On the call today, for Spanish we have Adrian Carbello, Cristian Casas, Antonio Medina Gomez, Aida Noblia, Carlos Vera Quintana, Alberto Soto, Carlos Aguirre, Sergio Salinas Porto, Alfredo Lopez, Tatiana Toculescu, Gilberto Lara, Humberto Carrasco, and Fatima Cambronero.

From Portuguese we have Aislan Vargas, Vanda Scartezsini, and Daniel.

We have apologies from Juan Manuel Rojas, Johnny Laureano, Marcelo Telez, Javier José Pallero, Oscar Garcia, and Erik Huesca.

From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco, Heidi Ullrich, Terri Agnew; and myself, Kathy Schnitt.

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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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We also have interpreting today for Spanish, Veronica and David; and for Portuguese Esperanza.

I would like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes. Back over to you, Alberto.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you very much, Kathy. I see Dev is not on the call and he is the one dealing with the first item on the agenda. This is for our training cycle. So we can continue with our agenda. Fatima, please, you have the call. Go ahead, please.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Thank you very much, Alberto. Dev has just informed me that he is on another call and that he will join this call later. So once he joins the call, he will proceed with his presentation. So, if you will, we can start with this call and then we can deal with the training cycle. Thank you very much.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you very much, Fatima. Is Olivier connected? Is Olivier on the call so that we can proceed with our next item on the agenda?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Alberto, Olivier is on another call, so perhaps we can continue with the next item on the agenda so that he can finish with the previous call.

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ALBERTO SOTO: Okay. So we will continue with Item D on the agenda. This is follow-up regarding the agreement in the LACRALO General Assembly. This is just a brief follow-up regarding all these documents and we will discuss and see what we will do, because then we will have comments for each of the working groups.

So, first of all, we have the procedure to determine the means to achieve consensus in the opinion to certify ALSes. So, Sergio, you have the floor. Go ahead, please.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Alberto. Can you hear me? Good afternoon. I will be very brief. This is an item that will be discussed in our next meeting of the Governance Working Group. Today I have sent out an e-mail to the group so they can read the document, so that once we get to the call, we have an idea of the content of these documents and to be able to discuss this topic. The idea is to have a document and to debate this document, to have an approach. And this will be discussed later in the region. So during this time, we will work, and in our next meeting, we will have some progress about that.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you very much, Sergio. Next document is the proposal of LACRALO procedures to work [inaudible]and publish declaration or statement. We will work on the document sent by Fatima Cambroner. Particularly, I would like to mention that this is also [voted] for the Governance Working Group so that they can work on that document.

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I would like you to read [inaudible] declaration or statement, and I think a document is, just as Sergio has mentioned, it is a complete document. This is for all the documents, in fact. Anyone who would like to make a comment or recommendation, of course, we have the procedures. But please, let's try to make the amendments or comments on complete paragraphs of the document so that we can replace complete paragraphs, so that we can make the work easier and save time. So I insist this applies for all the documents.

Now, let's talk about the next document. This is the procedure to improve the participation of ALSes in LACRALO in ICANN. Sergio Salinas Porto, you have the floor.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Well, we have two documents here. They will be debated, and of course we will not have enough time for the next meeting, but in the future, we will circulate the document. We will start working on the first document I have spoken before, and this second document will be discussed later. Now we are focused on trying to comply with the metrics we have been discussing in our last governance call.

I will then let you know how we are working, our objectives. But in fact, we do not have enough time so as to deal with it right now. Of course we will discuss the document later on. But we need to deal with the first document regarding the participation of ALSes, and after that we will work on the following document, as I said before. So that said, we will work in the following month. Of course we have plenty of work within

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the Governance Working Group and we are doing our best to [improve] time for our work to be effective. That's all. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you very much, Sergio. So the next item on the agenda, this is the proposal of recruitment program to involve more ALSes in LACRALO. This document, as we said in the GA, relates to the improvement in the participation of ALSes and to cover countries where we do not have participation. We have been contacting people and we will keep on working on that proposal.

This proposal we will start right now. This was something pending from our General Assembly. [inaudible] chair and the secretary vote from now in this link that is open, we will have a 30-day period for public comment so that you can comment on that. And after that, we will open the voting period. We will have seven days, and then we will see if we can approve the document already commented by everyone.

Our idea, together with Humberto is to follow this procedure for all the documents for all the publications. Of course we will have a public comment period, and then after that period, there will be a voting.

This all comes to this point. Now, the following document is a proposal to make unified the Rules of Procedure version. So Humberto, please, you have the floor.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO:

Hello, Alberto. I just wanted to tell you that we are still on the stage of adding the amendment for modifications to the Rules of Procedure. My

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idea is to create, to draft, a document in English or in Spanish so that we can discuss the document and compare both versions. I will have that ready before the end of this month so that I can send that information for comment to the regions just to check that there are no mistakes.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you very much, Humberto. Now, taking into account what Sergio and Humberto have said, as you can see we have plenty of work and we cannot do it all together. So we have one document which is open for public comment, and perhaps in the future we will be able to [inaudible] another document for public comment. But this is, in general terms, the procedure.

Next item on the agenda: Update of working group Work Methodologies. Then we have the Governance Working Group. Sergio, you have the floor. Go ahead, please.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you very much, Alberto. We had our meeting some days ago with some participation. Some members of the group were not able to attend the call, otherwise our discussion would have been more fruitful. But despite all this, we had good results when it comes to our guideline on the agenda. Of course this had to do with the creation of sub-working groups and dividing the [inaudible] topics within the Governance Working Group.

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And on the other hand, we have been discussing about some metrics or methodology guidelines to be able to work in a better way and comply with our deadlines.

In that sense, some groups were created. That is a group which is working already. One group is dealing with metrics and the other is dealing with Rules of Procedure and the Operating Principles. The Operating Principles Working Group drafted a document. That document was sent for comments and now we will have to add some amendments and comments to that, and of course we will have to provide a final document or a final proposal trying to cover all the input, ideas, and insight given by the participants and by the people who have commented on that.

Now we have ahead of us two big topics to discuss. One is the Rules of Procedure and the other is metrics. And along this line, we will have some metrics. We will be sending reports every 15 days. As you can see, next week we will be issuing our staff progress report and there will be some metrics starting as of August 18<sup>th</sup>, then the following report will be a [inaudible] date and we will have a final report on October the 8<sup>th</sup>.

There is a possibly that on October the 24<sup>th</sup> we will have at least the [inaudible] of metrics and Rules of Procedure proposal ready and well-defined within our working group. So we understand that on October the 24<sup>th</sup> that if our deadline to deliver the metrics and Rules of Procedure documents and to submit those documents to the region for comments and evaluation.

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Once the two documents are discussed, we will issue the final report of the final document and that final document or report – sorry. The final document will be sent on October the 8<sup>th</sup>, and on October the 24<sup>th</sup> we will have the final document with the comments by the region. So by October the 24<sup>th</sup> we will be able to know whether we will have a document on metrics and Rules of Procedure approved by the whole region. And I think this is very important when seeing the progress made in terms of transparency in our region.

So I welcome all the effort made by these working groups, the secretary and the chair, and all the regions because we are working very hard and we are doing our best. That's all. Thank you very much, Alberto.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Sergio.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: My line got disconnected before, so I couldn't really listen to the first item you were explaining regarding the procedure to issue declarations of interest – statement of interest – but we should apply the same criteria we are using to receive new ALSes, because the document is already ready in Spanish and English, and so perhaps we should be able to submit it for a public comment period for 30 days so that they can both run for the same term.

ALBERTO SOTO: That's perfect. Humberto, you have posted the link here in the chat room.



HUMBERTO CARRASCO: That's correct. This is the link where it is.

ALBERTO SOTO: I ask that you put it again so that it's not confused with the other links posted there. From now on we will have two documents: the document I referred to and that Humberto is now mentioning on the link that he will be posting right now and it will be open for public comment for 30 days, and as from the last date by coordinating this with the rest of the people, we will open the voting period for seven days. Humberto, did you hear me correctly?

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: I did. Now I'm trying to post the link where the document is in English and Spanish for the LACRALO Rules of Procedure for the elaboration and creation of a statement. I am posting it right now. You can see it now in the chat room. It is tied to the proposal that has already been published. However, we will send another e-mail with this information so that everything is clear from tomorrow.

They are telling us that Olivier is already in the call, so I now give the floor to you, Alberto.

ALBERTO SOTO: I see that Carlos Aguirre has raised his hand. Carlos, you now have the floor.

CARLOS AGUIRRE: Thank you, Alberto. I just wanted to ask that this link that you had just posted in the chat room, it would be nice if you can send it by e-mail to all the ALSes so that we can have it closer and just more handy so that we can discuss it.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Carlos. We have thought about this. Humberto had said this. But today we dealt with [inaudible] issue, so Humberto will be sending an e-mail tomorrow with all the information so that those who have not participated today can do it later on.

I ask from all of you for some help. We are having more and more participants in our meetings, thank God, so if somebody raises their hand and I don't see them on the list and you do, please let me know. Thank you.

Let's try to see if we can finish this. Olivier is on the line. Maybe we can finish with this and then restart with training and whatever Olivier would like to say.

The last item on our agenda would be the training program. The training program for LACRALO is very, very important. As you will see now, there are some working groups who have conducted their work and we need to take advantage of the result of that work in the capacity building. Those aspects are very dynamic and they are just like our reality in our everyday life. So with the participation of everybody, we will try to cover these many aspects.

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In principle, Humberto is closing his discussion with [inaudible], so we will try to space the language barrier that way. When I said that there were some working groups who have worked, well, we are working on the difficulties we have identified in our region and the strengths as well. This is what came out from the strategy group for LACRALO. You see that working is very useful, but it's much more useful to work with the result. So we're going to work with that because each and all of us can just [build] with the language we need to learn, aside from languages that we would like to learn but we don't really need to use the language to discuss in the region.

We are also encouraged work via working groups in the mailing list and this allows us to use a better time in our monthly meetings. So we could use two spaces of 20 minutes each for specific training issues and the rest of the time to develop the agenda.

As you can see, this is just managing time, so we are improving capacity building issues. I also suggest using, for example – and some of us have already done this. We have sent the information, so it would be nice if others could do this. We should take advantage of the LACRALO introduction calls. This has already been given. I think it was in the last meeting we held. Our meeting. It is very well done, but of course we accept criticisms. There was some criticism regarding some specific issues, but those who criticized also offered to collaborate and they just suggested that they can help to solve this issue.

So this capacity building plan will have a theoretical and a technical area. The technical area will be used to cover knowledge on IP addresses, for example, DNS, security, stability, etc., and it would

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include the rules that are being used within ICANN regarding this technical issue specifically.

The other one is a theoretical part which is referred to rules and regulations for governance, which are the ones that we should use on a constant basis. And there will be an internal and an external mode.

Within our region we have people with the capacity and necessary training to be in any of these areas. If there are issues that we cannot cover, we will resort to people who can tell us who is the best person however can provide us with a talk that we cannot really cover. Of course this plan, I'm going to repeat very quickly what we have taken as weaknesses: language barrier, difficulty to working groups. Why is that so? This is because there are language issues, but also because there are issues with the knowledge of the area that we need to discuss.

We also have different perspectives of how issues should be dealt with in LACRALO. There is a lack of experience, so not participating. There's a lack of covering certain members of LACRALO within the ICANN [position] and this causes some ALSes that are frustrated and the idea is to eliminate this kind of frustration.

But within the strengths we also have an average to high level of people in our ALSes. This includes a large amount of professionals from technical areas such as engineers and lawyers, attorneys. And many of our members have covered positions within ICANN and they can provide us with this experience.

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We have also increased work groups and we have conducted [inaudible] to include new ALSes that have been interested in working with ALAC and ICANN in general.

So these are strengths and weaknesses we are discussing with our training program. You can also read the objectives, the activities, the plan, the themes, and the assessment of that capacity building training.

In few days you will be able to see this document when we can translate it into English so that you can read it. And we're not going to vote this document. This document is actually a tool that we [leaders] from LACRALO have so that we can quickly [inaudible] and coordinate it. This is not a procedure that needs to be approved.

So now I'm asking you if there is a question. I see Fatima has raised her hand.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO:

Actually, I wanted to ask something because I didn't really understand. When we were talking about capacity building, are you referring to the course with Natalia and with ICANN staff on capacity building for the introduction to LACRALO or are you referring to a different kind of training? Because if it is this course, I need make some comments; but then if it's not that, then we can go on and when you give me the floor, I can refer to the course.

ALBERTO SOTO:

No, no. We actually are [sort of finishing with this]. So this is a capacity building plan for LACRALO that is also including the introductory call. Let

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me say that I'm not sure if you are copied or not, but there were many of us who have read – and I think there is only one operation, as I said before. We've offered to work on this operation which I think is criteria. But just go ahead with whatever you have to say.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO:

I am going to post the link on the chat room with the direct access to the introductory call for LACRALO. We have seen these comments but we have not been able to reply. But as Natalia said in a previous call – and I want to explain this again – the idea is to have this as a pilot course. This is the first time we are doing this and the idea is that everybody can take this, that they can make all of the self-evaluation questions that they need and to assess the different aspects and also to send comments after completing the course.

I personally was surprised that [inaudible] took this very quickly and he made so many comments when there was only the English version. Now we were informed that translations are already completed in English, French, and Spanish and Portuguese as well – thank you, Natalia. You will also be able to take it then in the language that's most comfortable to you and to identify all those errors.

So the idea is that this pilot course will last until the end of the year, because we know it's a very long course and we have established this long-term so that you can analyze it little by little. We should not read this very quickly. We should not analyze this material quickly. There is also [inaudible] to correct [inaudible]. So of course we will welcome comments for improvement, but please take this with time. Process it,

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analyze it and try to see what is it that we need to add in the rest of the course, if this is going to take so long. And by the end of the year, we will make an assessment of this program or of this course.

If I am forgetting something that I should be saying, please, Natalia, ask this because you are here on this call. That's all, Alberto. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Fatima, for all the comments. Natalia, would you like to add anything else?

INTERPRETER: We apologize. We don't really hear Natalia properly.

NATALIA ENCISCO: The course is already completed in the four languages of the region. You can take it. And remember, it is a pilot and we need your comments so that we can then proceed to the second stage of this work.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Natalia. I will insist with what Fatima has said and we will remind you of this through e-mail that we will send so that you can really take the course, because it's very, very important. I hope we can all really take it.

So let's now go on back to the first item. Dev, are you ready?

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DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Yes. This is Dev. Are you hearing me?

ALBERTO SOTO: Please go ahead, Dev.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay, thank you. Well, I have [inaudible] presentation. If you want, I can do the presentation—

INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, Dev. Alberto would like to continue saying something. Just please wait one moment, please.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay.

ALBERTO SOTO: Dev, I will introduce you. Dev will now speak about the introduction, or he will speak about two-character domain names in new TLDs. This is a very important topic. Unfortunately, this topic is being voted, so we are not able to make comments. But perhaps we can make suggestions regarding the voting, regarding the topic.

Today we have [inaudible] – and I know Dev will speak about this. This topic will be discussed in the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles. So Dev, you have the floor. Go ahead, please.



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DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you very much. I have a PDF that I sent. Has staff gotten it, and can we upload it to the [pod]? Is the presentation ready to upload?

KATHY SCHNITT: It will be just one more moment, Dev.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay. The presentation is being uploaded to the Adobe Connect room. When that slide comes up, I'll start the presentation. While the presentation is being uploaded, I'll post the link to the PDF. I'm certain it will be uploaded to the LACRALO wiki after the call. I see the file is not being uploaded. I'm seeing something changing. I'll tell you what. If there's difficulties, I'll just share my screen. I'm going to share my screen, then, if that's okay. Just to confirm, are you seeing my screen?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, we are seeing it.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay. So are you seeing the slide with the title?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Excellent. Thank you so very much. I'm sharing my screen, so I may not see your questions or hands raised.

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The topic of the introduction of two-character domain names in the new gTLD space. I'm trying to give some background, because I noticed on the LACRALO list there was quite some confusion regarding what the public comment was about, what my [attempted] draft was trying to say.

So just to go to the background here, the budgetary operator signed registry agreement with ICANN for the delegation operation of a generic top-level domain. All applicants that have applied for the new gTLD as part of the new gTLD launch and that have successfully completed all the stages of the evaluation process, that is the initial evaluation, the dispute resolution, regarding any objection processes and whether there was more than one applicant for the same string. Once there is one applicant that has successfully completed all of these stages, they sign a registry agreement with ICANN. So the standard text of the registry agreement can be found at that link. It's a very long document, as can be expected.

Now, on page [68] of that registry agreement, there's an [inaudible] Specification 5, Schedule of Reserved Names. Specification 5 sets out several strings or labels at the second level or at all levels that the registry operator either must withhold from registration or be allocated to the registry operator, subject to certain conditions.

What exactly does levels mean? I notice that this was the sort of confusion. I'm just going to illustrate what we mean by levels when we talk about domain names. First, we're going to look at example.com. If you look at example.com, the com is the first-level domain or the top-level domain. This is typically a generic or country code. In this example,

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of course, dot-com is a generic top-level domain. “Example” is the second-level domain and “www” is the third level domain.

I’m just going to give a second example, which is example.co.tt. “tt” is the first-level domain or top-level domain. For those who don’t know, dot-tt is the country code for Trinidad & Tobago. “co” is the second-level domain and “example” is the third-level domain.

So this [inaudible] document and the comments talks about all levels, the first to the second level and all other levels below that.

What does Specification 5, Section 2 state? I just quoted a summary of it. Perhaps I’ll read it just to ensure that it gets translated properly by the interpreters correctly. Specification 5, Section 2 states “All two-character ASCII labels shall be withheld from registration or allocated to Registry Operator at the second level within the TLD. Such labels may not be activated in the DNS, and may not be released for registration to any person or entity other than Registry Operator, provided that such two-character label strings may be released to the extent that Registry Operator reaches agreement with the related government and country-code manager of the string as specified in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 standard. The Registry Operator may also propose the release of these reservations based on its implementation of measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes, subject to approval by ICANN.” So that’s a summary of Specification 5, Section 2.

Now, all registry operators that want to make changes to its registry service must use the Registry Services Evaluation process as provided by ICANN. There’s a link there that will explain that process in great detail,

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but all you need to know is that such proposals are called RSEP requests.

What has triggered the public comment is that many new gTLD registry operators have submitted RSEP request to ICANN to release certain two-character strings. This was posted for public comment. The link there is the same link that Fatima has posted in the chat regarding the At-Large introduction of two-character domain names in the new gTLD namespace workspace.

So many of these requests are for the release of two-character labels at the second level, not on the ISO list for which there are no corresponding government or country code operators.

My [attempted paper] was to break it down to the two things. When we look at two-character labels at the second level, such labels have been made available for many of the gTLDs and many ccTLDs. Shorter domains are more desirable to potential registrants and such labels can be used for alternative meanings, and the one used for the ISO 3166 standard.

Just to give a little background behind ISO 3166, this is part of the ISO standard published by the International Organization for Standardization and defines two ASCII letter codes for the names of country-dependent territories and special areas of geographic interest. There are two links there. By all means, you can read more details about it.

But just to bring up one key thing. This shows a table, which I've taken from the Wikipedia entry—

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Dev?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]. You're changing the slides too fast for the translators to translate. [inaudible], so you need to slow down so the translators translate slides.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay. All right. I'm sorry. I'll go back one slide. Just to give some background behind ISO 3166-1 Alpha-2, this is part of the standard published by the International Organization for Standardization and it defines two-letter ASCII codes for the name of country-dependent territories and special areas of geographical interest. There are two links that I've put on the slide, which gives more details about it.

The next slide I'm going to show shows a table of the codes that could be used in this ISO standard ranging from "aa" all the way down to "zz". The table shows in green which ones are officially assigned to date, but there are a lot of two-letter codes that are unassigned, that are free for assignment by the ISO group.

Two things [inaudible] I started thinking about when I wrote this comment. The ISO 3166 standard is not a static document. It will be

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updated to reflect changes to countries and territories. For example, the letters “bq”, “cw” and “sx” were added to the list in 2010. This got me thinking and this is what I tried to state in the notes. Such future changes to that ISO list gives rise to a potential disparity in the implementation of Specification 5 where future countries and territories [inaudible] differently than those countries and territories on today’s ISO list.

The statement also notes, because of the reasons I gave regarding two-character labels at the ASCII level – and I’ll just jump up to that – because they have been made available for many ccTLDs and many of the generic top-level domain domains, because such labels can be used for alternative meaning than the one for the ISO 3166 standard. For example, fb, Facebook for example, could use that to represent Facebook website. I’m sure many of you can think of other two letters that could mean other meanings.

Because of these reasons, the statement says that we do not object to the RSEP request being granted precisely because of these reasons and that there should be no restriction on two characters at the second level. We are not talking about the first level or the top-level domain. That restriction still stays in place.

I know this was a long presentation and I think I’ll stop now, and of course answer any comments or questions. Before I do that, I just want to note that the ALAC statement was voted on. I believe it was adopted with I believe 13 yes and 2 abstentions. I note that the GAC, in looking at the statement and looking at the activity here, has put this issue on its agenda for the next ICANN meeting in Los Angeles.

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Thank you. I'll stop now and answer any questions. Thank you. Alberto, do you want me to answer persons who raise their hands?

ALBERTO SOTO:

There is someone who has raised their hand. Sergio, please go ahead.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you, Albert; thank you, Dev, for allowing me to express myself. There is something throughout this week. There were days back and forth of e-mails where we were discussing this issue precisely. And I want to be clear in my appreciation.

When we are discussing this issue, especially the ALAC members and the representatives, we need to consider what is the impact these will cause on the users. And I am saying this because this may cause some confusion among users. It can also create some problems or some legal issues. So in this line, I think we are not actually looking at this issue in particular.

There is something I posted or I wrote in my e-mails and I will repeat again and it's this. On the one hand, I think we should do nothing to innovate on giving the new gTLDs any domain names with two characters, and this is just because we do not really know what is going to happen or in the future or even in the present with many countries who may change their names or they may change their status.

I think it would be very important to preserve both 3166-1 as well as 3166 Alpha-2 with respect to that domain name table that is still pending to be used. We saw a lot of domain names that are in white

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color and this means they have not been delivered to any country, but they will be delivered in the future.

On the other hand, I think what we should preserve is the fact that users should have a clear [scenario] of what the rules are and what the rules they will be playing with are.

It has been said that two characters have always been used to refer to a country, and more than two characters – and this is in general terms – of course there are some examples that may be against it. But the truth is that, in general, when we are two characters, this leads us to think we are referring to a country code, and where there are more than two characters, we are thinking of a new gTLD.

And in this sense, I think that we should consider that when we are approving something or presenting a document we need to consider the users and not companies. Many times an issue that is raised by companies may, for us, be a very good excuse to start working on issues related to users and the fact that users should have a more stable experience within this. This is all. Thank you very much.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you, Sergio. Fatima, please go ahead.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO:

In the chat room I said I did abstain for this ALAC declaration and I would like to say why it is that I abstained, and I also gave my reasons to ALAC because if there is one member that votes an abstention, they need to explain the reason why they voted that way.



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So firstly, I participated in this issue within ALAC, and from my point of view, in the first declaration of statement that we submitted from ALAC, there were some contradictions. This, for me, is a very difficult issue to understand because it is extremely technical. As you know, my background is a legal background. So I have asked several colleagues in the region, people who specialize in these issues, so I can try and understand this.

I didn't understand why is it that it was necessary for ALAC to make a statement on this issue. I still do not understand it. And then when we reviewed the statement and there were new comments added and it was modified, we started with our discussion in LACRALO. Well, actually, the discussion in LACRALO started a bit late because it had already been voted on on ALAC and there was a lot of confusion in LACRALO with this issue. I think there still is confusion when we refer to first and second level domains.

And many members in the region told the ALAC members that we should vote negatively. I believe that, because there was confusion and because issues were not clear within the region and because I was a representative in the region, my vote should be an abstention at least until these issues were clear.

Then we discussed this with Dev and we coordination this so that he can come and explain this issue, because we know it is a complex issue and I think it's not being properly understood.

I regret that the vote has already been closed and I think these are the main issues. I do understand that an issue that is a bit difficult to

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understand may cause the users to be confused and this is what should concern us. But this is the only reason I see. Thank you, Alberto.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you, Fatima, for your explanation. Before giving the floor to Olivier, there is a comment from Rubens Kuhl. My English is not very good, but Rubens says that this is just a quick comment. Not all of the mentions – the RSEPs are two-letter domains. One of them is for [inaudible] like the [F1] TLD and the current new gTLD agreement for [big] combinations that will never be ISO codes. This is the comment from Rubens. Aida Noblia, you now have the floor.

AIDA NOBLIA:

I just wanted to say I have been following these issues. I have seen the documents for the country codes and [all the tables] and it was a bit difficult for me to understand. But I wanted to clarify this because my comments were in line with preserving two-letter codes for countries because this is more clear. And we see these as users because the technical part is not clear for us.

I think we should respect the aspects expressed by the technical area. However, because this is addressed to the users, I didn't really want to vote. I didn't really have a defined position because this is a very technical issue.

I still think that the commercial part can have so many other options with so many letters available, and so I thought we should give preference to that user option. Again, I abstain from voting because I

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consider this was more related to a technical opinion. That's all. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Aida. I see Olivier has raised his hand. Please, Olivier, go ahead.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have concerns about this specific set of statements because the statement that has just been voted on is the first one in many other statements that are likely to come to comment on the same sort of request that is being asked by other applicants.

You will have seen in the agenda on the policy discussion page we've now seen a first statement. There are two more requests to ask for the same sort of thing as well as the first one, and so we're going to have to issue more statements about this. If there are abstentions in our voting – you've seen that the vote passed, but there were two abstentions. If there are abstentions, then if the abstentions are because people don't understand the issue, then we need to really make the issue understood and make our point. And perhaps, at that point, some people will just like to vote against the statement or vote for the statement, but at least it will not abstain about this.

I'm going to [inaudible] just to try and explain a little bit more. Here is the link to a Wikipedia page. I'm sorry it's in English. I could only find it quickly in English there. What it does on that page, if you scroll down

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the page, you will find a list of well-known two-letter domains under dot-com. In there you will find aa.com as American Airlines and gp.com as Georgia Pacific. A whole list, basically, going all the way down. You'll find in there as well ae.com, which if you look at "ae" as being the top-level domain, the country code for United Arab Emirate, ae.com is actually American Eagle Outfitters.

You'll see a lot of other companies out there, many of which websites you will have used. For example, fb.com is Facebook and you'd have ms.com is Morgan Stanley. You've got plenty of other domain names here under the dot-com name.

If you scroll further down, you will find that some two-letter dot-com domain names are also used as national country codes, which are promoted through one single private London-based registration company called [Pentronic]. They're the only company that has used the second level domains as a country code rather than just as two letters to the [inaudible]. In there you have ar.com website in relation to Argentina, vr.com website in relation to Brazil, etc., in there. But there are only a handful of these – or a couple of handfuls of these – that are used by one single company.

The question today is whether for other extensions, the new generic top-level domains that have come out, there is a need to restrict the second level so that you would not be able to use two letters in the second level. So instead of having sb.com, if you had sb.newdomain, you would not be able to use sb.new.domain, so you're effectively stopping any of these registrants that have two-letter second-level

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domain names in dot-com to register under the other extensions, effectively.

That's where the problem lies. The original rule was made because there was some thought that there would be some confusion for users, but as you can see there are far more domains under dot-com that are two letters that denote companies and organizations and so on that are not country domains or in relation to a country. There are only a small number of sites that are in relation to a country, and even that sometimes is a little bit confusing to users in fact, because when you have a name of a company .uk.com, users don't really know at that point what that means and whether uk.com is the company or whether the company name is the name before that.

So I hope I've given you a little bit more of an example on how this works and how that helps. When you look at domains which are something.twoletters.com, often the two-letter name is the one that is understood as being the company and not being a country code.

Of course, at the top level, there is not going to be any change. At the top level, any two-letter top-level domains is going to remain a country. There is no change on that [inaudible] with a second level, not the top level. That's it. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you, Olivier. That was an excellent explanation. Aida, you now have the floor.

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AIDA NOBLIA:

This explanation of the first and second level is what we, as users, do not really – or this explanation is not completely spread out, so perhaps by spreading this out we can solve the issue, because this is what we are doing to spread it out to the users.

Now that we know that this refers to the first and second level, we need to make more outreach of this and think of it a bit more. This may create some confusion. There is perhaps a communication problem that can be solved, and if we spread this out, this can be solved. That's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you, Aida. I want to say that I requested collaboration a long time before, and unfortunately I didn't get it before. So that actually is the reason. There is no lack of communication, but actually a lack of collaboration, what we have this time. I commit that this will not happen again. Please, Fatima and Carlos, speed up because we have just a little time.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO:

Thank you, Alberto. Very briefly, I just want to reply to what Olivier has said. Firstly, I understand that you prefer that there are no abstention votes within ALAC, but I, as a representative of my region want to vote just what my region is indicating. And if this is not clear for the region, then I need to abstain.

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Secondly, when we refer to the fact that the issue was not clear, we said it was not clear for the region, this is because it is a complex issue and that is why we invited Dev today so that he can explain this on this call.

I don't know if you, Olivier, were on the call that we referred to this before, but we present it because Natalia and I created together with ICANN Learn so that the region can take the course and get trained on this issue. So the training issue is being solved little by little.

The main reason why there was a voting abstention is because the discussing within LACRALO started when the vote in ALAC was already opened, and so I think it is not fair to issue a vote when the region is still discussing this. That's all. Thank you, Alberto.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Carlos, you now have the floor. Please be brief.

CARLOS AGUIRRE:

I'm going to be brief, then. After the explanations we heard from Dev and Olivier and after seeing the presentation, those of us who work with these issues or deal with these issues, we still see it is pretty complicated for those of you who do not deal with this. We still need to understand what are first, second, and third levels so that we can then explain to you that these labels or these two-character domains, some of them are forbidden for someone or not. Then we need to explain what are those characters.

I think we need to make this more simple and we should also have a document in Spanish in our case. That's all. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:                   Dev, please go ahead.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH:   First, thanks, all, for the comments. Just to say that, regarding Fatima, I certainly hope that the explanation I've given perhaps has clarity reflected exactly what the statement was trying to say. Hopefully you can consider supporting it, and of course I'm available to try to answer any further questions; and for anybody else for that matter to try to explain this issue.

Just to fully support what Olivier said. The two characters, we're talking about two characters at ASCII level [inaudible] only letters aa to zz, it would still be available at the top-level domain, so there's no worries there in terms of country codes or being suddenly taken by anyone in the future if something happens. The top level is protected.

It's only at the second level that this protection is probably no longer relevant. Again, it comes back down to the same reasons that we said. The two characters at the second level, fb.com for example. They are [inaudible] alternate meanings. For example, an alternate meaning could be for languages. Many of you are familiar with it: en, for example, for English; fr for French; es for Spanish and so forth. A TLD could decide to us that for that reason.

When we analyze that, [inaudible] say two things. [inaudible] in what the registries are asking for. And I think it's important to really point out



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if there's flaws in the logic by registries asking for exemptions to the registry agreement, it should be pointed out.

The second point is to say that given the use at the second level for two characters—

ALBERTO SOTO: I'm sorry to interrupt you. Unfortunately, we have no more time.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: I'm just going to say quickly that given the two characters at the second level, it's already in use by many gTLDs and ccTLDs [if] there's no reason to really have this restriction. That's it.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Dev. Now Olivier will give us an update on public [consultations]. Olivier, go ahead, please. Oh, I see on the chat that he has dropped. So just to make the most of the time, Heidi Ullrich will tell us about a topic which is very important. This is the ICANN Hub. Heidi, go ahead, please, and then we will give the floor to Olivier.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Alberto, did you call on me?

ALBERTO SOTO: Yes, Heidi.

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HEIDI ULLRICH:

Sorry. Yes. We wanted to announce that there's going to be an opportunity for all At-Large Structures for the Los Angeles meeting in October, and that will be to serve as hubs for that meeting. You'll recall that during previous meetings – for example, London 50 – there were ISOC chapters as hubs. This time, there will be the chance for At-Large Structures to be hubs. And if staff could put the workspace for the hubs up onto the AC room.

The process will be there will be an online form that will be posted very shortly, and it contains information required in terms of the name, the ALS, the number of people that are expected to participate in these hubs. There are also two types of hubs. One will be a one-way listening only hub, and there will be an unlimited number of those types of hubs. The second type of hub will be a two-way hub and that will include both listening as well as the ability to communicate.

This will be used during the Thursday public forum. There will also be technical assistance from our team in terms of French, Spanish available. The technical specifications have been posted in English currently and we'll be posting those technical specifications in the other five UN languages very shortly.

In terms of the way that it will be selected, currently the ALAC is looking at it to be self-selecting. So apply online, and then given the requirements, announcements will be made later on after the 12<sup>th</sup> of September.

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ICANN will reimburse for the service of the hubs after the actual meeting. I think that's currently the information I have to provide. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you very much, Heidi, for the information. This is a very important topic and we will put that information on our mailing list. Olivier, please, go ahead. You have the floor.

It seems that Olivier has dropped again. We have six minutes to get to the top of the hour. It seems that he is back. Olivier, please, go ahead. You have the floor.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I was just dropped again, and I apologize for not being at the beginning of the call, but we had to finish an ALAC leadership team call that ran a little bit late.

We've already had our discussion today about the recently-adopted ALAC statement documents, the introduction of two-character domain names in the new gTLD space, and the next two requests after that.

I, unfortunately, got dropped at the end of our discussion on this, so I don't even know what was decided on that. But of course it's very likely to be a lot more of these questions arising.

I wonder whether it would be helpful if we could have a webinar on this. In the meantime, while I was dropped, I tried to look for some information in Spanish and in French and other non-English languages

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on these issues. I can't find anything. It's all in English and it's pretty confusing. I wonder if this could be one of the things we could learn from this as being an issue that does affect end users because it has the potential to confuse people. Some people think it's confusing, some people don't think it's confusing and this is why it's been a discussion which we've actually had on the ALAC.

There has been much more busy than many of the other topics that we've discussed where there were just a few comments. This one really brought a lot of comments through. I don't have much else to say. I heard what Fatima said about abstention and so on. It's no problem. At the end of the day, every ALAC member needs to vote according to both their view and the view of the region, depending on how they feel whether they will follow the view of the region. And if there is confusion out there, it's perfectly normal to abstain. That just serves the fact that that's a job that we have to do to tell our people.

There are no other statements or endorsements currently being developed or reviewed. There is one that is going to be coming up soon, which is – where is it? I haven't even got it there. It's a long-term one, so it will be within the next month, month-and-a-half or so. You will read about it in the normal ALAC Announce. I think it's imminent. Today or tomorrow it will be [launched]. That's it for the time being. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Thank you very much, Olivier. Thank you for your participation. Perhaps I may give the floor now to our participant, Daniel. Daniel, you have the

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floor. You have one minute to speak. Daniel, are you on the call? Otherwise we will bring this call to a close. Daniel is on Portuguese I think.

Thank you very much for your participation. We are almost 30 participants and I am also taking into account the apologies, so we have 30 participants in our region and this is a record for us. This is one of the highest participations that we had. Thank you very much to staff, to the interpreters, and now we'll finish this call. This call is now adjourned.

I see Olivier with his hand up. Olivier, would you like to make a comment?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I apologize for putting my hand up at the very, very last moment. I just found the public comment that has just started a couple of days ago, and that is proposed bylaw changes regarding consideration of GAC advice. The GAC is the Government Advisory Committee. That's a process that has just started. I put a link into the chat and it looks as though Ariel had not updated this yet in our own policy development page. That's one that has a long-term response all the way up until the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

It's basically looking at the way that GAC is going to change the way it works with the Board to provide advice. I must admit, I haven't read it yet, so I'll just raise your interest on it for you to have a look at it. If LACRALO wishes to comment on this, then I would suggest that you get reading as soon as possible. That's it. Thank you.

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ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you very much, Olivier. We will try to read that document. Thank you very much. We're finishing just in time. Thank you once again. This call is now adjourned. Thank you.

KATHY SCHNITT: This meeting has adjourned. Please disconnect all remaining lines.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]