GISELLA GRUBER:	Good morning, good afternoon to everyone on today's APRALO Monthly Call on Tuesday, 16th of September at 05:00 UTC. On today's call we have Siranush Vardanyan, Bikram Shrestha, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Yasuichi Kitamura, Maureen Hilyard, Satish Babu, Gunela Astbrink, Pavan Budhrani, Lianna Gastyan. Apologies today noted from Holly Raiche, Shuaidi Hassan, Ellen Strickland, Hong Xue, Ali Almeshal, Raf Fatani and Fouad Bajwa. From staff today we have Silvia Vivanco, Kelvin Wong and myself, Gisella Gruber.
	Our Chinese interpreters today are Jessie Doherty and Yi Yi Johnson. If I can please also remind everyone to state their names when speaking, not only for transcript purposes but also to allow our interpreters to identify you on the other language channel. Also, please do speak at a reasonable speed to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you and over to you, Siranush.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Thank you Gisella. It's lovely to know we have Chinese interpretation today, so those who'd like to join that channel can do that. Welcome again to the APRALO September Monthly Call. We have a couple of things to be discussed today, so without further ado let's move forward according to our Agenda. Our next Agenda Item is current ALAC consultations and initiatives. The floor will be given to Olivier to provide updates on that topic. Olivier?

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OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Siranush. Hello everyone. I'll invite you over now to the policy advice development page. On there you will be able to find out all of our currently being drafted statements, but then also statements we've recently done. The majority of recent statements has been dealing with two-character domain names in the new gTLD namespace. This is a case of having second-level two-characters; for example aa.com.

The second-level is "aa", the first-level and top-level is ".com". This is now a request that we're seeing across a lot of different applicants for new gTLDs, requesting these will be allowed. Having seen that or forecast that, we will have a lot more of these requests on a case-by-case basis. The ALAC has decided to go to an accelerated procedure from now on. The first two statements that the ALAC drafted were adopted in the usual way, with a vote, but after that a vote was made in order to allow for a fast-track and therefore no need for an additional vote – to be able to ratify the statements that come afterwards.

We had two with a vote. Then we had the .luxury and 20 other .level domains; .sohu and more top-level domains. These were adopted by default. The same statement was sent. The process is the statement gets put on the Wiki. If we don't have objections or input from anyone for 7-14 days then the statement gets automatically ratified. It doesn't get amended. It gets sent to the public comment process as is. If there are changes to be made due to the special nature of this call then its possible that we need to then change the statement, and that point it would be a normal vote going through. These are the majority of recent statements.

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One recent statement was to do with bylaw changes regarding consideration of GAC advice. That's a totally different process. That's the Government Advisory Committee. The bylaws were changed to make the threshold higher, for the Board to be able to consider GAC advice. The ALAC said, "If you're going to proceed forward with that then you also have to implement the bylaw changes that the ATRT 2 made a recommendation about; that was advice for all ACs to consider and also reply to via the Board."

Currently, three statements are being developed. One is enhancing ICANN accountability. That's a speeded-up process of only 21 days, a comment period, and it was opened in response to the group of SO, AC and stakeholder group chairs that met in Istanbul on a daily basis, with the Board and with senior ICANN staff for breakfast. The question was, staff had developed a plan for ICANN's accountability process, which is just about starting now. No public comment period had been opened, and therefore the various communities of ICANN and the community outside of ICANN did not have a chance to propose amendments to the plan that was given.

Usually in ICANN, whenever such a plan is prepared, there's always a comment period. That's a short process. The scope is important. I invite you to have a look at it and respond to this within the next 24-48 hours, so that we have some time to be able to draft questions or specific comments based on the process itself. This is not comments about ICANN accountability, but comments about the process to get the Working Groups organized, etcetera. Now, another public comment statement that's currently in the pipeline is the Board Working Group Report on the NomCom.

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It's a bit like a review on the NomCom, but it was done by a special Working Group of the Board. They've made recommendations, which are now published, and the community is therefore asked to comment on those recommendations. It's a very important process for us, since we have five ALAC Members – one from each region – on the NomCom. Of course the NomCom also selects five people on the ALAC. The ALAC is 15 Members. Five are being selected by the NomCom, so we're quite closely linked with the NomCom and I really hope you have a read of that Report and comment on it. It's an important process.

Next, introduction of two-character domain names; .yes and a number of other TLDs. That's the process that would be the accelerated procedure, adopted by default, like the previous two that dealt with second-level domain names. That's currently what we have. There's one open public comment that we have not – we as in the ALAC – have decided not to comment on. That's implementing right protection mechanisms in the name collision mitigation framework. It's for a very specific case of name collision that also involves rights protection – as in intellectual property rights.

It's a bit complex. Not directly related to end users, according to our gNSO Liaison, and therefore no statement for the time being. If you believe otherwise, you're very welcome to put your hand up and suggest something, and then we'll go through the process of having a first draft, that you will probably have to draft. Then we'll put out for public comment for the ALAC and for the At-Large community to comment on. I've already been a bit too long. I'm open for questions on any of these processes. Thank you.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much Olivier. Any questions? I don't see any hands raised. A lot is going on on ALAC's table, as usual. I'd once again like to, officially during this call, congratulate the incoming new Chair for ALAC, Alan Greenberg, and officially thank Olivier for his wonderful job. I hope to continue working with you, because your expertise is always needed for ALAC; for our community. Thank you very much.

I'd also like to let everyone know that, as you may also have read on the APRALO mailing list, I've opened the call for nominations to appoint a Member for APRALO for the Cross-Community Working Group on the IANA Stewardship Transition. The deadline for nominations and self-nominations was yesterday. We had only one self-nomination from Fouad Bajwa, and I've sent already to Olivier that Fouad is nominated from APRALO to be part of this CC Working Group. Any questions? No. Thank you. Let's move forward.

Our next Agenda Item is the APRALO CROPP. You all know the extended deadline was September 12th, given to all APRALO Members. Many provided their input there. I'd like to ask Maureen and Kelvin to give a brief summary of all comments and the next steps of what we're going to do.

MAUREEN HILYARD: When we had our meeting, the comments that came from the group, in a very abbreviated form, were put onto the community workspace. I'm very pleased to see that other members of the APRALO community contributed to further discussions on what was raised. I think they all

support the issues and comments that were made in our discussions, but were specifying it a little more clearly. Just to raise a few things – for example, [unclear 12:50] mentioned that there were some areas of our region that are still underserved.

For example, [Ali and 13:01] was also mentioned; that there were some countries that don't have an ALS and perhaps we should be working a little bit more towards increasing that. Within the Pacific there are 22 countries, and there are only three countries that actually have ALSes. It's been something that [unclear 13:18] has actually been attending to address. The other thing that was mentioned – and I must admit, it's ben something we've always raised – was an improved knowledge management mechanism, so that APRALO can access information off the ICANN website a little more easily.

That's what we need within our region. Perhaps [unclear 13:47] that APRALO needed its own website perhaps, where we can again include information that's in our own languages, that perhaps the different regions can enhance what they need to know by putting it in their own languages. Of course, the final thing that we mentioned in our session was outreach, and I know later on in our meeting about the opportunities that CROPP has allowed, to share the knowledge from within the region, outside of the region. I'll pass over to you now Kelvin.

KELVIN WONG: Okay. Hi. Thank you Maureen for the roundup. I think you got a few key points there. This is what I saw from the feedback as well. We had more outreach to the underserved regions. We have better organization

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of information fro the ICANN website, and also through ICANN engagement, to conduct an outreach on APRALO and your objectives and activities. I think this is some of the feedback that we heard.

Also, you mentioned about including different languages. I see this is part of the language localization exercise that we're going through. I see this feedback as pretty in-line with the focus areas that we have identified together; the first of which is the language localization as supported by the community. Second is [raising 15:36] the APAC region for capacity and capability building. Third is to support the APAC region in outreach and raising awareness. This is the underserved region. I think we are fine with that. The next step I think is to identify the specific action we'd like to have, and to work together for this framework.

If I may, I think the first focus area on the language localization is something that the APAC Hub is working quite hard on. We have come up with a few topics already; such as IDNs and WHOIS, and the universal acceptance issues. We've already come up with a few toolkits, and of course we'll be working on more issues. These are the toolkits we'd like to have more help in translating. We'll have to get the ALSes to help with translation; be it Korean, Japanese, Chinese or Cantonese even, and to translate them, and for the community to help share this with even the wider community.

I think that's one area that we've identified and that we can work on. For the second focus area on capacity building I see a lot of feedback on end users. I was wondering if we can have a presentation toolkit that we can use for Internet end users, so that we can include them in our

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workshops, webinars or in, for example, the Asia Pacific Leadership Program that we just concluded in August at the [unclear 17:36] APrIGF. An Internet end user presentation toolkit I thought would be useful. Of course, this is up for discussion.

For the underserved regions, again up for discussion is seeing how we can further [unclear 17:55] on CROPP to help reach out to this region. That's all I have for now. All this is up for discussion.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much Kelvin and Maureen. Any questions from participants? No questions. I think that this is a very good start, and we identified the priority areas for our region, which were also highlighted by many members. The next steps for us will be creating a small Working Group to start implementing what is planned. This will happen at the LA Meeting. The call will be sent and we'll ask APRALO Members to join that Working Group. With that small Working Group we'll identify the specific steps to be followed up. Am I right, Kelvin and Maureen?

KELVIN WONG: I think that can work.

MAUREEN HILYARD: I just wanted to say I'm assuming that Kelvin was going to be setting up something similar to what you said.

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KELVIN WONG: Sorry Maureen?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Maureen, can you repeat what you said?

MAUREEN HILYARD: I just said that I thought that that was probably what Kelvin is probably going to be working towards; establishing a Working Group for us to move forward on this.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes. You've mentioned this also in the chat. For sure, Kelvin, we will need your support and our [VP's 19:59] support in that. I hope they also will be a part of this Working Group, because you are the initiators of this process and we hope you'll be very good supporters of this team.

KELVIN WONG: Siranush, of course we'll be helping to support this project. Like you said, it's initiated by us, and we look forward to working with everyone to have more specific action inside this framework, so we'll need input from everyone. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Olivier?

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OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Siranush. I must say, I'm very impressed with the fact that this RALO is starting the work already on these recommendations. Just to mention #29, where the ALAC should implement an automated system – of course, this would need ALAC resources, funding and so on, if a special automated system was to be put together or used. Assume there that really what you are doing is putting together the recommendation and the details of how such a system might work. Then we'll see from that point onwards what can be done in order to design or build a system that's close to these recommendations.

Second, I wanted to make sure that you as a RALO also coordinate closely with the other RALOs on the work you're doing. It might well be that other RALOs are going to follow the same process, and it would be good to be able to share lessons learnt, or best practices on how to proceed forward here, because obviously the ALAC will need input from all the RALOs on these topics, and duplicating work would seem too efficient.

That said, if you have any questions or if you'd like help in expanding those recommendations then you know that you have the post-ATLAS II activities implementation scheme. You will be able to ask questions and hopefully they'll be answered to your satisfaction. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Olivier. I couldn't agree more. Yes, I think the priority areas that we identified for ourselves is probably the same for almost all the RALOs, so we'd be happy to share our experiences and best practices

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with other RALOs. We have Satish Babu leaving early, so I'd like now to talk about the IGF in Istanbul. Let's give the floor to him, and then we'll come back to recommendations, which I mentioned in the Agenda. Satish?

SATISH BABU: Thank you Siranush. I have five slides, which are up on the screen. At the outset we had the idea at Istanbul a couple of weeks back. The theme was connecting continents for enhanced multistakeholder Internet governance. There were about 2,300 participants and another 1,000 plus remote participants. My region and my stakeholder group numbers are there on your screen. I would estimate over 50 participants were from ICANN, but the official participants from APRALO were only three, according to our page that was there on the ICANN site.

Actually, there were a few more from APRALO who haven't reported their names on that page. Some of the hot topics – the IANA transition was by far the most exciting topic being discussed. The IGF Mandate, which had already been renewed earlier is approaching the next renewal date, and this is a hot topic. Generally, everybody including the GAC is for renewal of the IGF, but whether it should be made a permanent entity it's not clear. This is the discussion that's happening right now. There was a launch of an SO called the IGF Support Association during the event.

Fadi actually signed an MOU with the City of Istanbul for the .istanbul new gTLD. Fadi also signed an MOU with APNIC on the L root collaboration. These were some of the events that were happening.

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ICANN was very visible throughout the IGF and there were several interesting meetings happening in the town hall there. Before the opening of the IGF there were lots of activities there. The other things are there on the slide.

APRALO Members Gunela and Shiva had organized workshops, for which Olivier was there on work. Olivier was moderating the workshop organized by Gunela and was also at Shiva's workshop. We also had a number of remote participants in seven workshops, including notably Cheryl, Maureen and a lot of others that were there as remote participants. Given the time zones, it would have been quite taxing, but it was good to note that we had, if not in-person, at least remote participation.

To conclude, some general comments. This is my personal opinion. I could be wrong. Generally the feeling was that it was more of a continuation of the IGF initiative, rather than any [unclear 26:57] coming up, at this particular IGF. For the first time we had a parallel [unclear 27:06] Government forum – [RUF] – organized by the local activists who were protesting against censorship in the country. This is something new, and I didn't go there but I was told it was a very happening event with lots of interesting thoughts being exchanged.

ICANN was very strongly [unclear 27:26] and APRALO's participation, I felt, was a bit weak, particularly because we were quite close to the venue, considering that the next IGF is in Brazil, which is a long way away. I would have been very happy to see more participation from APRALO. That's it from me. Thank you very much.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Satish. Thank you very much for your presentation and highlighting the important points. I'd also like to thank Gunela and Olivier. I was remotely following this workshop on disability issues. It was very interesting and the participation from different disability groups there highlighted the importance of continuing such efforts. Yes, I saw your point that APRALO participation was weak. Though I wouldn't agree here that it was weak because your participation and the participation of Gunela, Shiva and many others…   Running the workshops was very important…

I know that many APRALO Members were there but they were wearing different hats. They were both ISOC Members, ICANN Members, so probably some of them didn't highlight themselves as APRALO Members but I think that our participation was good. I agree that we need to make it even stronger for the next IGF in Brazil. Any questions? I agree Cheryl, that they could still identify them as APRALO Members. Any questions to Satish? No. Thank you Satish. I know that you have to leave, so thank you very much for your participation and for your presentation.

Next, I would like to give the floor to Pavan, who also needs to leave soon. He will be presenting the update from the Social Media Working Group that he's a part of. Pavan, the floor is yours.

PAVAN BUDHRANI: Very quickly I just want to talk about social media. Yannis and myself are working on the Working Group for Social Media, and I think we need to

raise the awareness for APRALO. I had a couple of ideas that I wanted to share with the group. The first one was it's not just that we can Tweet or Facebook about APRALO activities, like when we have any announcements. This can be anything related to the Asia Pacific Region. Apart from the APRALO internal news that we have, we could talk about Asia Pacific Internet related news, anything about ecommerce, anything about Internet governance, anything that's happening around Asia Pacific.

You could send me the article as well to my email and I could summarize it and put it on the Tweet as well for the Asia Pacific RALO. The other idea I had is many Members of APRALO do go to different Internet-related events around the Asia Pacific region. They could simply send me or Yannis a picture and a couple of sentences and we could Tweet it, we could Facebook it right away as well, and it could be going on in time as well.

It could also be not related to the Internet – just to show the importance of Asia Pacific as a whole – so in terms of the economy. That could be another way as well. I just want to get the Asia Pacific region to be more vocal, more participative on the social media front, because it is one of the ways going forward. If you find it hard uploading it, just send it over to me and Yannis and we'd be happy to Tweet those for you. That's it from me. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Pavan. This is great. I followed some of your Facebook posts related to APRALO activities, and I'd like to ask you to send an email to

the APRALO mailing list, to tell them you are in this Working Group, because many of them are not aware that these activities are on and that you're working on that for APRALO. Please email them and ask them to send any information to you, which is important to be Tweeted or highlighted, which is happening in APRALO. Thank you for putting this as an AI. Thank you. Yes, let's move forward.

We have several post-ATLAS II activities. There is a post-ATLAS II activities workspace and there were several post-ATLAS II [developing call 32:57]. There are Action Items that could be taken into consideration. I highlighted four of them, which needed to be discussed within the RALO and to be submitted on our behalf as post activities. I think these APRALO Hub activities also will become a part of this, but let's go item by item. The post-ATLAS II activity #28 is mentioning that ALAC should work with all RALOs and ALSes to match the current expertize.

I think the step for this would be to send the information to our APRALO Members and ask them to highlight their expertise; to identify the SMEs. Then we'll come up with at least [unclear 34:08] in future activities. This is one of the things that we need to do prior to our LA Meeting and to summarize during our LA Meeting. This is also on our Agenda Item there. For #29, the ALAC should implement the automated system for creating topics. I think that during our [debriefing 34:38] calls it was discussed also that Capacity Building, the Technology Taskforce and the Social Media Working Group would be working on that. Of course, our RALO input will be needed there as well.

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For #42, ICANN should [be enabled 34:58] any face-to-face RALO Assembly. It was [unclear] Finance and Budget Sub Committee, but I think also we, as a RALO, should identify the needs of any meeting, and if there is an important necessity for us to meet somewhere on any basis then we need to come up with the suggestions for why we need that and ask for the support to implement that. The last point is #43 – a RALO should be encouraged via an elected ALS representative to comply with ALAC minimum participation requirements.

We also need to work on this, and this is one of the points in our pilot framework. I think we also need to identify how we're going to implement this – what kind of steps we need to do to encourage our inactive ALSes. This also has a lot to do with outreach, which also is a priority area. We also need to discuss this in LA, to identify what specific steps we need to do in that direction. Any questions on that? No?

If there are no suggestions, my suggestion here will be that I will be sending these activities to our mailing list to see the input from APRALO Members, which we'll summarize in LA. Okay, let's move forward. Our next Agenda Item is that it's pertinent that we have APRALO Members Ali and Holly to be present at the PacINET and I would like to ask – Ali nor Holly are here – Maureen to provide some brief update on what will be taking place in Rarotonga and APRALO participation there?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you Siranush. Yes, I think that this is really just following up from the discussions we had in our face-to-face meetings about ways in which we could actually share the skills, knowledge and expertize from within

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our own region with each other. We're very pleased that the CROPP Team were able to support Holly and Ali in coming to the PacINET in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, which starts next Monday. We've got Holly and Ali participating in training workshops and in the conference itself.

It's really to build knowledge and understanding within the specific community about ICANN and also about their own organizations within their countries. It's quite diverse, when you're looking at the Cook Islands in the Pacific, Australia and the Middle East. We're actually really looking forward to that opportunity and we'll be feeding back information as it happens during the week. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Maureen. I think this is a very good opportunity for APRALO Members within the CROPP to be a part of PacINET. We'll be looking out for updates during our LA Meeting for your event there. Thank you Maureen. Our next Agenda Item is APNIC 38 in Brisbane. I know that several APRALO Members, in particular Cheryl, are there. Yes, Cheryl, you provided an update here in the space. Silvia or Gisella, can I ask you to read out the notes that Cheryl provided?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, I can read this out. She says, "A short update – the APNIC 38 is currently running in Brisbane and there was a tech week last week in the AP Meeting held on Sunday. This week the main APNIC Meeting runs [parallel to 40:33] the [open 40:35]. Please go to apnic.org and follow the clear link to the archived video and [unclear 40:44] other activities,

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including today's Women in ICT Luncheon, and [still 40:51] events from today. All week the main sessions run for remote participation. Please browse and join.

Also today there is an ISOC AU event. Gunela has shared a link to join. Yesterday and today I am engaged with the [unclear 41:10] running in parallel as a partner event, and we have a good turnout of ccTLDs and other related parties attending. We might [unclear 41:25] those [staff] on this report from these activities to our list. [unclear] this report on these activities to our mailing list.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Silvia and thank you Cheryl for this update. This is very important participation based on our MOUs as well. I will send an email to John and ask him to pass his report to our mailing list, for our AP Members to be aware of what's going on there, and also we'll encourage our Members to visit apnic.org to learn about the updates from the Brisbane meeting. Any questions on that from participants? No?

Then our next Agenda Item is the APRALO Monthly Meeting in LA in October. We have several important topics to be discussed in the LA Meeting and some of them are also highlighted now in our Action Items. If there is anything else that you think we need to discuss there – though we have a lot on our plate – we need to discuss them and come up with final decisions on every single step we identified. We also had some travel and accommodation issues shared by Holly, myself and Maureen.

In my case, it's already solved. Can I ask somehow that also [unclear 43:13] is solved?

Is there anyone who is facing any travel or accommodation issues, who is participating now in this call, which is not yet solved? If so, I would ask you and encourage you to send an email to At-Large staff; if there are any challenges with travel or accommodation. I know that our travel constituency is doing a hard job, but there are some documents needed for visa issues, for travel issues, so if you have any issues, please involve At-Large staff. It is a great support if there is any change. Silvia, thank you: "If there are any challenges, please send an email to staff."

I know that there are only several people funded by ICANN to be in LA. Satish will be there for a NomCom Meeting as well, as he's the APRALO Member for NomCom this year. I will be there. Ali Almeshal, Holly and Maureen will be there as ALAC Members. Raf Fatani will be there. Cheryl will be there, and Pavan also mentioned he'll be there. Anyone else who'll be present in LA in person, out of those who are on this call? Okay, Lianna will be there as well. Good to know. Yannis and Winthrop, are you planning to be in LA in person?

Okay. Good. Yannis also will be there. Winthrop, I hope you'll join us remotely. Good to know at least there will be many APRALO Members there. Yasuichi will be there. That's good to know. Excellent. There is a lot on our plate to discuss in LA, so be ready for hard work. If there are no questions I would like to wish everyone who is coming to LA in person safe travels, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in a month. The meeting is now completed. Bye everyone. Thank you for your participation.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]