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| GISELLA GRUBER: | Good evening everyone, and welcome to this AFRALO Monthly Call on Wednesday, 28th of February at 18:30 UTC. We've had to move our meeting forward one week because of the Singapore Meeting. At the moment, on the English channel, we have Seun Ojedeji, Barrack Otieno, Gabriel Ramokotjo, Alan Greenberg, Beran Gillen and Mohamed El Bashir. On the French channel we have Aziz Hilali, Etienne Tshishimbi, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Fatimata Seye Sylla and Didier Kasole, Baudouin Schombe sends his apologies. From ICANN staff we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Gisella Gruber. |
| | May I please remind everyone to state their names when speaking, not only for transcription purposes but to allow interpreters to identify you on the other channel, and to speak slowly, at a reasonably pace, for accurate interpretation. Thank you. Aziz, you have the floor. |
| AZIZ HILALI: | Thank you Gisella. Good evening everyone and thank you for being with us for this monthly call. I hope our call will be shorter than usual. We have an Agenda. It starts with open public comments. There are seven statements, if I'm not mistaken. There is an initial report on translation and transliteration of contact information, PDP. This report was reformulated. Now, public comments, with the related country and territory names. I know IDN ccTLDs fast track process reviews. IDN TLDs, LGR procedure implementations, et cetera. The first Item is the one for ccTLDs. There's the annual IDN ccTLD fast track process review corresponding to country codes. |

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The first Item on the public comment request is the IDN LGR procedure implementation, and then for new public comment request we have the WHOIS accuracy study report, and then we'll discuss the ATRT. Item #5 is the GNSO Policy Implementation Working Group and the [provocation 04:11] of an initial recommendations report. I can add that the document will be presented with a comment on this document. The next Item is on GNSO.

We decided in July 2014 to form a Working Group, and this Working Group has to present to the GNSO Council a group of recommendations on issues related to policy and implementation regarding domain names and generic domain names. The comment has to be done on recommendations of the report published by this Working Group of the GNSO. The last Item is about public comments about the amendments made for the registrars' accreditation. This item is very important for Africa, because it was a project made in the framework of the ICANN initiative to take care of the regions that need more attention.

ICANN has worked on accreditation of registrars, and ICANN is looking for more comments to see what the best way is to address the amendments needed on this item for the new registrars. This is all about the seven items that are currently on public comments. The public comments are published on the website, and you have a link in front of you that shows you all the public comments. Are there any questions or comments? Very well. Nobody's asking for the floor. We'll move to the next Item. These are the activity reports of ALAC first.

If there are items that we'll discuss afterwards, please leave them until the moment we discuss them – for example the budget, CCWG, ICANN

accountability, and the CWG for the IANA Transition. I'm going to give the floor to one of the three ALAC Members – Beran, Tijani or Hadja. Who wants to take the floor? Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you. I wanted Beran or Hadja to take the floor because I'm always the one who speaks. It's not good for diversity, but as nobody's asking for the floor I'm going to give you some comments about ICANN.

AZIZ HILALI: I'm sorry, but Beran just wrote on the AC that she can take the floor.

BERAN GILLEN: I just wanted to give a short update regarding the ALAC activities. Most of the ALAC activity is currently revolving around the ICANN accountability track as well as the IANA issues. I was recently voted on the financial year 16 budget and during our call yesterday we did discuss some special requests that we may be doing, of which I believe Aziz has sent something to the At-Large list, or the AFRALO list regarding special requests. We'll be looking at that in Singapore. We also discussed the ALAC schedule, which will be very tight in Singapore because of the accountability track as well as the IANA issues.

Yesterday we also discussed ALSes and how they would be added to the At-Large group. What we're trying to do is we're going to look at what the requirements are to become an ALS, critically, before we get any more ALSes on board. That's one major thing we're looking at at the moment, because we feel that the process might not necessarily be clear

enough, and the ALSes might not necessarily know what is required of them.  So we need to look at that and see how we can make it much more engaging for the ALSes as well as the RALOs involved.  I don't know if Tijani wants to add onto that, but mostly what ALAC is doing now is revolving around the two tracks of the IANA issues and accountability.  Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:    Thank you Beran.  Now I'm going to give the floor to Tijani.  Tijani, do you want to add anything?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:    Yes, thank you very much.  I' not going to speak about the transition, nor about accountability.  What Beran just said is very important.  ALAC needs to think about the commitment for outreach.  What we need to do now is not to have a lot of ALSes, but to have active ALSes, and this is why we spoke about criteria, et cetera.  We also spoke about the ICANN 52 Meeting and a special request from the community for the budget.  The ATLAS II recommendations we sent to the Board were sent back to us.  They said it was impossible to implement and that we need to give concrete proposals about things we can do.

We've been working on that since LA and we've proposed some recommendations and we're still working on that, so as to be able to present some recommendations in Singapore that are ready.  We still have a lot of work to do.  In ALAC we're also speaking about the next At-Large Review that will be a complete review of At-Large – the RALOs, the ALSes, et cetera.  I'm finished.

AZIZ HILALI:             Thank you Tijani.  I'm very pleased to hear that and all that Beran said – that we're going to work more for activities and outreach of the ALSes – more than the number of ALSes, the quality of them.  Congratulations. If there are no more comments we're going to move to the next Item – ALS and AFRALO Member reports.  Do you want to speak about the activities that are taking place in your communities?  Who wants to speak about that?  Nobody.  Okay.  We're going to move to Item #4.  I remind you that for the local activities you have to post them on the Wiki that's been designed to explain the activities that are taking place in your ALS, in your country.

Item #4 is about special budget requests.  You've received an email that I sent you.  I have received from ALAC a message sent to all the RALOs saying that the special budget requests for the SOs and ACs had been decided for the FY 2016, so this process is now open, and Members can ask for some budget for the activities in their region.  I've also put in my email that the requests related to outreach need to go through the CROPP.  Tijani is a Member of this Committee and as Vice Chair of this Working Group he's going to explain how this works.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:       Thank you Aziz.  What I wanted to say was that what you said about the ALS requests was right.  The deadline is February.  I hope we'll be able to present those requests to the FBSC.   This Committee will see the compliance; if there's a problem with compliance.  It will be sent back to the RALO so the RALO can fix the problem and send it back.  Now I'm

going to speak about the RALO requests. The RALO request. AFRALO is going to organize a GA in Marrakech, so we need to do the request now for this FY 16 and this will be one of the requests from the RALO. This RALO will also present the request for workshops in the IGF, maybe among the other activities from ALAC. I'm finished.

AZIZ HILALI:          Thank you Tijani. I'd like to ask you a question that was asked to me personally. The question is an ALS can ask for a budget for a local activity in its country? Is that possible? Second question, Beran is asking for an example of a special request, different from the other kind of requests?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:    Aziz, when you sent the email you sent the documents about the special requests, and among those documents there is a template we have to produce when we do the request. We have to follow the different steps to present a normal request. If Beran or anybody from an ALS needs some help about this request they can ask me or you or those who know how to do a special request.

AZIZ HILALI:          Thank you Tijani. Beran, is that answer okay? Or do you want to give more precision to your question?

| BERAN GILLEN: | Thank you.  The reason I asked that is because it's not very clear what exactly the special requests cover.  That's why I want an example of an event or something you could apply for under that special request banner.  Thank you. |
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| AZIZ HILALI: | Thank you Beran.  Maybe Heidi can give us more clarification? |
| HEIDI ULLRICH: | Thank you.  Beran, to respond to your question there are many types of activities and proceses that you can apply for.  For example, in terms of engagement you may wish to ask for a regional session that has training involved for current ALSes, or you might wish to ask – and I encourage you to ask – for a GA during the ICANN Meeting in Marrakech next year, with perhaps a training element to that GA.  You might wish to add for additional documentation.  You might wish to add for e-learning activities special to your region.  You might wish to ask for videos.  There are other options for cross-RALO applications for inter-sessional.  These are all types of opportunities for you. |
|  | This is something that if you have a good idea of the process, then you need to get agreement from your RALO, from AFRALO, and then you can submit a proposal on the 4th or very shortly thereafter.  Then in Singapore the FBSC will review the proposals from all RALOs, and if there's need they'll ask you to revise that, and then the final review will be on February 26th, and the deadline for submission will be the 28th of February.  I hope that answered your question. |

AZIZ HILALI:                  Okay, Beran, if you have something else to ask you can ask Tijani or Heidi or myself.  If there are no other comments I see that Beran is saying thank you, so we'll move onto the next Item, which is the CCWG on ICANN Accountability.  This is the group that Tijani is part of.  Tijani?


TIJANI BEN JEMAA:           Thank you.  The first face-to-face meeting of our Working Group on ICANN Accountability, the CCWG on Accountability, took place in Frankfurt in January, during mid-January.  We made a lot of progress in our work.  As you know, we were still at the definition stage.  We were collecting data.  In Frankfurt we moved on and reached some agreement on a definition and we worked on a contingency list.  This list is very important if we want to have an accountability mechanism and if we want to take into consideration all those mechanisms.

We reached an agreement on definitions and about accountability: what accountability is, who's accountable to whom, and what it means.  The accountability definitions, the mechanism of accountability, the checks and balances mechanism and the review mechanisms, and the correction mechanisms also.  For ICANN accountability, ICANN is also accountable to the community, so we were working on who the stakeholders are – all the stakeholders.  We also worked on an agreement, because as you know, we are working on two work streams.  Work Stream 1 and Work Stream 2.

Work Stream 1 is working on the accountability mechanism that needs to be in place before the transition, or at the transition time, and Work

Stream 2 is working on the other aspects of accountability, which can be organized after the transition period. This division allows us to define the different things that can be in each category. It wasn't easy. We moved on and today we have two work avenues to work through. Now we are going to see how we'll organize the empowerment of the stakeholder community, so that this community will be ready to correct the problems when they arise.

The second item is the discussion about reviews and corrections or amendments that need to be set. I think we have made good progress. We have no output from now. In Singapore we are going to have three sessions – one for the public – so we'll tell the public where we are up to. We'll have two other work sessions to move along with our work, and if there are any questions I can answer them. If there are any questions I can answer them. Thank you. I'm finished.

AZIZ HILALI:                 Thank you very much Tijani. Are there any questions? I think we can move onto the next Item, which is the CCWG on the IANA Transition. I think we have already discussed this subject. Seun, do you have anything new to report? Have you had any more meetings since the last time?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:       I don't think Seun can speak right now.

SEUN OJEDEJI:               Hello? This is Seun. Hello?

AZIZ HILALI: Maybe we can move to Item #5 and then come back to this. Item #5 is items for discussion. Last time we had our monthly call we were discussing ideas on the countries we should deal with at our joint meeting for AFRALO/AFRICANN at ICANN 52 in Singapore. I think we should put an Agenda together for that joint meeting. We have created a drafting group, and Tijani volunteered to put together an initial version of the first draft, which is to be sent to the Committee, but I'd like to ask you whether you have anything to say about what we have discussed for the meeting as ideas? In eight or nine days Tijani has promised that we'll have something ready. Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes. For Agenda Item #4, I could speak now or wait until you've finished Item #5?

AZIZ HILALI: Great.

SEUN OJEDEJI: May I proceed with Agenda Item #4 please? Okay. Just to give a few updates from the CWG. Yes, obviously there is no submission of any proposal from the CWG by the area [unclear 34:08] at this moment. [Immediately] a new timeline will be released. Our next CWG Meeting is going to be [on Wednesday 34:22] and then it's closed. I think we should expect a new timeline from the CWG after the next meeting that we'll be having. Currently there are two main proposal from the RFP 3.

Among this, it's segmented into two aspects. One is the contract co, which is external to ICANN, a submission, which is [unclear 34:55] RFP 3.a, and the other one will be RFP 3.b, which is the internal to ICANN.

The internal to ICANN option is currently looking at the option of [cross-model 35:09], which will be replacing the contract co of RFP 3, which is the external approach, while there's also the option to also use the golden bylaw approach. A golden bylaw just means that it gives the bylaw some power, the community to be able to act whenever [unclear 35:36] in order to be able to have some control in both positions. That's really the goal of the golden bylaw, in some way. However, for the three different proposal models, there are issues that have been raised, which determine that they require legal advice.

Those issues have been developed and the comment is currently in draft [item 36:23] number three. It's still receiving comments, so if you have any comments on those you may add it directly in Google Docs. [unclear 36:40] the [unclear] other ones, that are going to [sort] from the experts – the independent, external, resident experts – who will help provide recommendations, legal recommendations, on the questions on the comments. Eventually, from the Singapore 52 Meeting [unclear 37:15] I think [unclear] community who are present, and they can participate remotely in those two meetings.

So far, at the moment, what this is really is looking to really is the outcome of the legal issues that have been raised. It's after that that we can then determine what the way forward is going on. Otherwise, other RFPs, like RFP 4 and 5, they are also doing some minor work, especially

in the [unclear 38:10] for RFP 3, and [unclear] RFP 3.  I will stop now to take any questions.  Thank you.


AZIZ HILALI:                    Thank you very much Seun.  If there are no questions I'd like Tijani to take the floor so that we can go on with what we started before Seun came back and took the floor.  That was our joint AFRALO/AFICANN Meeting at ICANN 52 in Singapore.  As I was saying, Tijani volunteered to lead a drafting team to produce an initial version of the joint statement. Tijani, are you available at this point to tell us about what you have been working on?  Do you think it would be possible that we have a version of this document before the start of the Singapore Meeting?


TIJANI BEN JEMAA:              Our work has started already.  I've started to work on our first draft.  It will probably be ready soon.  I've already sent out this initial draft to the drafting team, and everyone is getting ready for the meeting and building this first draft, to see if they have anything to add or to change, or if they have edits to propose.  We're going to have a final version for the Singapore Meeting, which is to be discussed among of our AFRALO and AFRICANN Members at the joint meeting that we'll be holding. That's all.


AZIZ HILALI:                    Thank you very much Tijani.  I'm going to get back to what he said, and add that we have already sent out an initial draft, but if you have anything you'd like to add regarding that initial draft, now is the time to

do so.  Now, if anyone has any other business they would like to add – namely Barrack – this is the time to do it.  No?  Is there nothing else to add?  Nothing on the drafting list?  We'll move onto our last Item on the Agenda.  Currently there are a number of matters still pending.  There's the ad-hoc matter as regards to Cameroon and their application.  We discussed their case two times in a row.  We have some subjects that should be seen as important.

I [chose 41:52] these applications and sent them out to ALAC for them to discuss that.  I specified what our advice was.  I said AFRALO had already discussed their case and maybe ICANN should consider what would be proper.  We have considered Cameroon's activities, and so we looked into the matter a bit further, and we received a number of questions.  We sent all of these to ALAC.  Now, I would like to know whether Barrack can comment on what happened with this?  Barrack, if you could enlighten us on this matter and these applications, please do so.

ALAN GREENBERG:     I think Aziz asked me to speak.  I'm not quite sure, but I'll assume he did.  The question of the Cameroon League for Development will be going to an ALAC vote soon.  I know there are a number of ALAC Members who feel very uncomfortable accepting the advice from AFRALO without a real rationale for why AFRALO is rejecting it.  There have been a small number of comments made in writing, but not very many.  In any case, it will go to a vote and we'll see what happens.  I have asked the AFRALO Leadership and ALAC Members to prepare a statement.  If the RALO rejects the application, as recommended by the RALO, then in the rejection letter we are obliged to provide a reason why.

I've asked the RALO Leadership and ALAC Members to prepare such a statement so that we can sent out a rejection, if that's what the ALAC decides. The ALAC of course might decide that they did not get sufficient reason and decide to override the RALO. We'll see how the vote turns out. At this point a vote will be starting soon. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: If I understood what you said, I think in any event that I agree with what you're saying. I think Barrack is not with us, because I wanted him to comment on this. If Barrack is not with us I think maybe someone might wish to take over on these applications that we have discussed for so long. These applications and the forms that we've received regarding the applications. There are people who participate on one day but don't participate in another because they haven't been added there. So maybe we should add everyone to the same list. I'm not sure who would wish to participate, who'd wish to make a statement and who wouldn't. I see Tijani is raising his hand.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you Aziz. Alan didn't say we should reconsider this decision. All he said is that we must state the reasons for our recommendations for ALAC to be prepared to vote on these applications on valid grounds. So he didn't say we should reconsider our advice. Does that make sense?

AZIZ HILALI: Okay. Right then. Thank you. If there is nothing else to add here we're going to move onto Item #6, which is Any Other Business. If you would

like to discuss meetings, activities, if there's anything anyone would like to add?  Are we okay so far?  All right.  Who's speaking?  Do you wish to take the floor?  I remind you we must then prepare AFRALO's statement. I remind you we will not have our meeting next week.  We hope to see you all in Singapore.  Tijani is leading the Drafting Team, so he will start sending out his versions of his initial draft.  Stay tuned for that so that you're up-to-date with what's going on.

Thank you all very much, and I hope to see you in Singapore for our next meeting there.  Thank you all very much for attending today, and have a great meeting.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**