
UNKNOWN SPEAKER: If you can please start the recording and start this call, thank you very much.

TERRI AGNEW: Certainly. We'll begin at this time. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. This is the LACRALO Showcase Organizing Committee call, on Monday the 4th of May, 2015 at 21:00 UTC.

On the Spanish channel, we have Adrian Carballo, Alberto Soto, Cristian Casas, and Johnny Laureano.

I don't have any participants on the English channel or Portuguese channel.

And I show no apologies listed for this call.

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

Our Spanish interpreter today is Sabrina. Our Portuguese interpreter today is Bettina.

I would like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking, for our interpreters and transcription purposes. Thank you very much and back over to you Alberto.

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.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Thank you Terri. So, let's get started so as not to be running late.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking on the Spanish channel. This is Sylvia, my apologies, I am joining late.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Okay welcome, welcome to the call Silvia. We're just starting, welcome. Alberto Soto speaking again. Okay, we're going to perform the budget review, and we're going to discuss our possible sponsors. So far, we have a budget allocation from ICANN, and a budget allocation from Rodrigo. So that is 2,750 US dollars. And I was trying to secure 500 US dollars in additional sponsorship, but that hasn't been confirmed.

So I don't want to count on that money until we have secured the funds. So my question is, do any of you have any potential sponsor, or could get a potential sponsor? I see that nobody is raising their hands. So it seems that we do not have any further sponsors. And Sylvia, I am waiting for a call to take place with the finance department, where we are just starting a week after a long weekend, because last Friday was a holiday.

So I believe that the call will take place shortly. I have two other possibilities in terms of sponsorship, but they are very uncertain to date. And also, I would have a confirmation as for May 10th, so I cannot confirm anything to date. So I would please ask you, if you can work

within your own countries on this topic, because as we said, every penny, or every single cent, counts.

And excuse me, I am still coughing because I am still having, or recovering from a cold. So my apologies for this. So we're going to focus on item number four on our agenda, because the remaining items on our agenda are closely linked, or heavily dependent upon our budget. In any event, we are going to try to get more budgetary allocations, so as to have a good catering service, and a good showcase.

I still haven't received the detail of the menu from staff, the Sheraton Hotel's menu, because unfortunately, this means that we cannot compare or make any comparison. If I remember correctly, I sent out two different budgets, assuming we will be holding the showcase off venue, that is not at the Sheraton Hotel.

In terms of holding the event off the venue, and even if we don't go into detail regarding the menu at the Sheraton Hotel, if the menu is the same as the one we had in our last or prior showcase, well that menu is really poor, because food was not enough. So, I think it's not even worth comparing the menu. I had sent a budget in the region of 1,700 US dollars, including drinks. It was a very good catering service. It was all finger food.

And I also have another budget, which I will be posting on the Wiki after this conference call. This is typical Argentine food. We would be eating beef and pork. That would be served in two different places, and the meat would be carved and served in sandwiches. And that would cover around 250 people. And we would have a snack, Argentine snacks,

including different types of cheese, and different types of cold meats, or cold cuts, for people to help themselves.

It would be a sort of buffet. So that would be in the region of 1,500 US dollars. Sylvia, you have the floor. Go ahead please.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. I will give the floor to Silvia Vivanco.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia Vivanco speaking. No, no, no. Please go ahead Sylvia.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. Alberto, this menu you're mentioning is great, fantastic. The price, the venue, everything. However, would that budget be enough to transfer people to the venue?

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. I don't have a venue yet. I am still working on that. I haven't yet received replies so as to give you a cost estimation for renting out a venue or place. I am focusing on securing a venue within the foreign office, the Argentine foreign office, which is very close to the Sheraton Hotel, to the meeting venue. If not, I should rent out, or rent a room in a hotel close to the Sheraton.

And I'm bringing this up because if we hold the showcase at the Sheraton, we're left with 250 US dollars for the show, the music show, and the promotional items or gifts. So there is very little we can do.

And if we focus on a transfer service for people, for participants, then that, in the same budgetary region as the food. It would be 15,000 Argentine pesos, which is about 1,000 US dollars.

So we cannot afford to have a transfer service for people. I have just received an email from Olga confirming that unfortunately, the foreign office venue can be used only for official events. So as I speak, I have received this negative reply from the foreign office. So it is impossible to have buses or vans to transfer the participants, because it's almost as expensive as the food or catering services.

There is also a venue, it's part of a restaurant that could be booked to host the showcase. They offer a full dinner. It includes a main course, desert, a Tango show, and Tango lessons. And that has a cost of 40 US dollars per person. So, it really is expensive. I think, and excuse me for the term, it's a rip off. A full dinner with a show, we should be paying the same price as we should be paying at the Sheraton.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Silvia Vivanco speaking. Thank you Alberto. I would like to review the budget again. I have been told that finger food would entail in... beer, white wine, red wine, water, and sparkling water. If not, if we don't include food, we will have more drinks, more beverages. And Vanda suggested taking some packaged food, traditional food, maybe treats or another type of traditional food, but it's inside a bag or a package, and it can be distributed.

There is nothing that prohibits that. So that would be an option. I really appreciate your time, your dedication, Alberto, looking for other venues

for other possibilities, but if I may, as I said last time, if we had a plan A at the Sheraton, which is the venue available, and with the money available, that is 2,750 US dollars, then we could have the Tango show, the drinks, and those little bags with food that Vanda was suggesting.

Also, we could start focusing on our guest speakers, because as we speak, people are working on their agendas for this session. Definitely, we want to have Fadi, Steve Crocker, Rinalia won't be present on Wednesday, that is the day of the showcase, so maybe we can focus on three or four speakers, and hard working, or drafting, a program so that these guest speakers mark this date on their calendars.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Alberto Soto speaking. Thank you Silvia. Let's take one point at a time. I cannot understand why the Sheraton cannot give a menu of what they will be delivering. Even so, if we consider the prices they are charging. Silvia, you mentioned a [banana] and something else, and I am getting small, you know, different food, gourmet food, it's a wide variety of gourmet food entailing different types of food and cheese, and different types of meat. Both meat and warm dishes.

So it's a very detailed menu. Of course, I'm not going to be the decision maker here. If everybody agrees, then okay. But with that plan, we're just going to have speakers, a drink, something else, and that's it. And I wouldn't pay 3,500 US dollars for that. Regarding those little bags that were proposed or suggested, we have to make sure that we have enough for all the people. Who can guarantee that everybody will be able to bring all of the food in bags for 70 participants or attendees?

So who can guarantee that, of the people on this phone call for example? Sylvia, go ahead please.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia Herlein speaking. Vanda and I can very well bring very typical Brazilian sweets, because and I brought that kind of treat on prior occasions. So maybe we can have four or five snacks, little snacks, in each bag. And we can prepare 70 small bags. I understand the way you feel, because I see that the Sheraton prices are a rip off, and we are not allowed to bring anything in, and it's their business.

But as Silvia Vivanco said, we have to focus on plan A and plan B. First of all, because time is of the essence. And unfortunately, the foreign office has denied the use of their facilities, which is a real shame because it's a beautiful place. But we should have a very, very close venue, very close to the Sheraton. Maybe two blocks away. Last time, for example, very fine, they held an event and they chose a hotel which was very close to the Sheraton.

But I imagine any other place in that district is very expensive. So, although it's very, very expensive, our hands are tied because we have to mobilize 70 people and the fact that they cannot attend the showcase on time, because everybody leaves a meeting to go to the showcase, and if we choose a definite time for a bus to leave and transfer the people, that would be a restraining factor.

And also having Fadi going to our new venue is also a factor to be considered. But I agree with you in that this is very expensive.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Alberto Soto speaking. Okay. Our plan A is going to be the Sheraton, but we have to cut down costs as much as possible, if not, we will not be able to have a Tango show, and we will not be able to give any souvenirs, for example I will write an email or note to Alan about this.

First of all, we are given a budgetary allocation so that we can spend it in the way that we feel is convenient, but our hands are tied because we have to focus on, or use the Sheraton services. And then, we give the impression that LACRALO spends a certain amount of money on these products and services, and not in a very sensible way.

So I will send an email to Alan. And please, if you don't agree with this, raise your hand. I see nobody else posting, so I will send this email complaining to Alan, saying that we were given, or allocated, money or funds, but we are really restrained or limited in the way we can spend that money. So LACRALO will be accountable for this, and we cannot do anything to prevent it. Silvia Vivanco, go ahead please.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Silvia Vivanco speaking. First of all, the meeting team at ICANN is our liaison with the Sheraton Hotel. I cannot call the Sheraton myself, even if I wanted to ask about more details. So we are asking our colleagues in the meeting team for them, and we are waiting for their reply. The information we received from them is that the catering service includes several types of empanadas and wines.

And we follow the meeting team instructions. And they told us that we cannot reach the hotel directly. So the liaison with the hotel is the meeting team. So if you want to send a complaint to Alan Greenberg, then that complaint should entail the internal procedures of the corporation. And I want to make it clear that At-Large staff is trying to give you all of the information that you need so that you can organize this.

And I understand the way you feel because I am a Spanish speaker and I'm in the region, so I feel like picking up the phone and calling the hotel, and also this hotel, Sheraton Hyatt, all the time, you know, their services are overpriced. They are under hotels that are also international food prices are tailored to local prices. They Marriot Hotel is also overpriced. So this international hotel chains, Marriot, Four Seasons, etc. are overpriced, highly overpriced.

That's why we can work with the meeting team so that they can work on these prices, and they can have more bargaining power so to speak. But it's not that we are not willing to help you, it's that there are certain procedures within the corporation. That was my comment. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Alberto Soto speaking. Thank you Silvia. It was very clear to me that we have no bargaining power, but what I cannot understand is the following. 20 days ago, I asked for someone to send a menu, and in the mean time, I have obtained at least five different menus, and I have shared these menus. So I want to send this complaint to Alan so that Alan can complain to whom it may concern.

And I don't want to bargain with anyone, or negotiate with anyone. But the fact that we are entrusted with this responsibility and then our hands are tied because we have to work with a venue, a specific venue, okay. I accept that. But change your procedures because last time we were given more money, and we are forced to use a certain venue, and it's 100% more expensive than other budgets.

So this is what I am going to include in my note to Alan. We are now going to focus on the promotional items. I think we cannot speak a lot about promotional items if we have no sponsors. We can have hand crafts made by the aboriginal people of our region. It's very, very, very well done and very exquisite taste. It is made by the members of the Wichí community. The cost of these promotional items is 50 US dollars apiece, but we will have to reconsider or review this amount.

Then we have a [inaudible] made of wool and alpaca. And very nicely ornamented. The cost appear is 5.75 US dollars. And then we have a watch with a logo, that would be the third choice. The logo will be displaying, sorry. The watch would be displaying ICANN's, or ALAC's, or LACRALO's logo or image. And the cost apiece if 3.70 US dollars. I am just presenting this as information. And we can go further, or look further into this later on, because until we know how much money we will have available, then we cannot discuss this.

Is there anybody against this? Okay. Nobody is against this proposal, so we are focusing now on the program and showcase, and theme for the showcase. I think that we have to define the theme and program. I think that the theme should be capacity building and integration. If there are any other alternatives, I'm open to any other suggestions.

Are you hearing?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: This is Sylvia Herlein. Yes, of course. I think it's a very good theme, because we've been working on capacity building, and we've been holding plenty of webinars. So I think it's a very good theme.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Please remember that things have to be two or three words, since we can't have very lengthy phrases. That's why I encouraged you to think about this. And I thought about this theme because, as Silvia said, we are formally focused on training, on capacity building. And we will continue focusing on capacity building because we want to train our new leaders on integration because our capacity building program aims at directly integrating participants.

And Silvia Vivanco heads up for you, we are going to invite participants from universities from an university that will give us certificates for our webinars. And their students will be participants in the webinars that we will be holding until the end of the year. They will be able to listen in on the sessions. Adrian Carballo is proposing knowledge for inclusion, that is his proposed theme.

We have then capacity building and integration, or knowledge for inclusion. Those would be the two proposed themes. Is there any other suggestions or proposed themes? Okay. Hearing none, then maybe you can use the chat or, excuse me. Or you can indicate your agreement in

the Adobe Connect room. Who is in favor of the first theme? Capacity building and integration.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto, go ahead Sylvia please.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. Do we really have to decide this now? Because one of our colleagues said that he would be sending another proposal. So why not include all of these three options and carry out some kind of survey? Is that very hard to do? Do we really have to decide this now?

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. The thing is that we have been asking for alternatives or proposals for more than 15 days now. Alberto Soto speaking again. [Inaudible], when would you be sending your proposed themes so that I can circulate these three options? I am not going to launch anything else to the list for people to give their opinions. What I will do is to circulate the three options that we are discussing today because this would be never ending.

So, as soon as I receive [Raitme's] proposal, I will circulate these three proposals, and I will give everyone a 48 hour time window to decide. Okay, let's us now focus on the program. The souvenirs will be handed

out when we receive our guests. And we need to be wearing traditional costumes representing our countries. So please remember this.

Now, we're going to focus on the speakers. If we choose the Sheraton as a venue, let's see. Silvia Vivanco, who is coordinating this?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia Vivanco speaking. I'm in charge of coordinating this.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Okay, good. So we would like to have Fadi as our guest speaker.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia Vivanco speaking. Okay, I will work on that.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Any other speaker apart from Fadi? Please, do not leave everything up to me, say something. Who else can you suggest?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. Maybe Rodrigo, Rodrigo de la Parra, because he has been helping us and he can give an overview of the activities, how he sees the region compared to the last time the showcase took place in Buenos Aries.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. I agree. Rodrigo de la Para should be another guest speaker. We should allocate 20 or 30 minutes max to the speakers.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. I think we should have Fadi, Rodrigo, and you, Alberto. If we receive more money because we have another sponsor, then that's great. But if not, with three speakers and our show, that will be great. Fadi will give an overview of ICANN, surely Rodrigo will give an overview of the region, and then you will give your overview. So maybe we can leave a spot for a sponsor, because if not, we know from prior experience that the showcase ends up being very long.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. We are focusing on planning a MOU also. So maybe in two days' time, I will be posting the MOU for public comment. It's a page and a half document, so I would need a very fast translation so that I can open a public comment period for no longer than 20 days, and I will have [inaudible] for comment in English and Spanish. That would enable us to find this agreement during the showcase.

Will that be feasible Silvia Vivanco?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia Vivanco speaking. Yes Alberto, of course. Please send us the MOU by email with a note indicating that you need an urgent translation, and we will send that to our language services team.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Yes, I can send you that in 48 hours time.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia Vivanco speaking. Yes, okay, okay. We'll look forward to that material, but please, when you send this, indicate that it is urgent in the subject line so that staff can send that out for translation immediately.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. The moment that I receive the document, I will forward that to you right away. Let us now focus on the next item on the agenda. Is there anything else on the showcase, the theme for the showcase? No further comments. Okay. Let us move on and focus on the next item on the agenda.

The traditional dances. This is also dependent on the monies available, or budgetary allocations. Depending on our budgetary allocation, we will have a shorter show, but we can also have lessons so that people can learn how to dance. Are there any questions so far? Unfortunately everything depends on how much money we can spend, we can get, because depending on how much we can pay, then we can determine the duration of the show and the number of dancers.

It can be two, four, or six dancers. Sylvia Herlein, go ahead please.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. Alberto, for the record, I want to highlight your time, your effort, your dedication, and as the date of the showcase becomes closer and closer, we all have to insist in our countries. It doesn't matter if we get \$100 each, but we should have a deadline to confirm the donations, or the money that we will be receiving so that you can finally make a decision.

So please, I urge all the members of this group or committee to work as hard as possible to secure more funds.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Thank you Sylvia. We have an issue with the craft made by the indigenous people, the indigenous communities. These are beautiful. I have to order them now, and they will be ready in 20, 25, or 30 days time. So it is highly likely that we will end up buying something readymade instead of this beautiful craft.

I will try to get a picture, a photograph, and these are really beautiful. And it's really typical of our national and local industries.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. Maybe May the 25th can be the deadline to secure funds, so that we can then move on.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. Okay, agreed. But Silvia Vivanco, please, I will be sending you, let's see. I will be sending staff the different budgets that I obtained, the quotes that I obtained, to see if you can forward

them to the group or community that has no time to send us the Sheraton menu, so that they can compare these menus to the Sheraton menu and see the difference, and see what we can get and what they are unable to get.

So I will be sending that information, and I please ask you, I beg you, to ask that committee, that group of people, to reply to you. And I want to talk to them, just ask them to reply to you, to give you a reply because time goes by, we cannot make any decision, and we cannot lower the cost if we don't know what we are being offered for that cost.

Today is Monday, so if they can give us a reply in two or three days time, that would be appreciated. If I can get a budget in one day or more budget, then these people can also get a budget, and lower the price. But we can have three days time maximum, because if not, by the time we want to decide something, we will have run out of time.

Well, I think that we have covered the items on the agenda, but my patience is still there. I haven't run out of patience for this. I don't know if there is any other question, idea, comment, suggestion.

JOHNNY LAUREANO: Johnny Laureano speaking, Alberto.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto speaking. Yes, go ahead Johnny, please.

JOHNNY LAUREANO:

Johnny Laureano speaking. I agree with Sylvia Herlein's proposal in that we need resources because this is a regional activity, so I think we should have the genuine commitment of the ALSs so that they make a contribution in order to guarantee that the showcase can really take place. We have to take into account that the ALSs will be showcased in this event.

So they should consider making a contribution, a certain amount of dollars per ALS. So that, or precisely because all of us who have participated, engaged, and learned know this is the case. So this is a very good opportunity to reaffirm commitments with our own region, and maybe we can define or set a definite or a certain amount of dollars per ALS in the region for this meeting, for this event in Buenos Aires, which is very important for the region. That's my comment. Thank you.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Alberto Soto speaking. Thank you Johnny. I understand your point, but it would be the first time that we had to ever had to ask for this, for something along these lines. And it really hurts me because last time ICANN gave us 2,000 US dollars, and now they are giving us 1,250, and we have to take money out of our pockets, so to speak, and we are volunteers. And I think that is a shame.

If everybody agrees, I can send a message to the list. I can suggest that Johnny, of course, I will not, I am open to your suggestion. I don't know how successful we will be, but I don't think that would be the course of action. Do you agree then? Should I send out a message to the ALS list asking them to contribute money?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein speaking. I don't oppose the idea of asking for money. We mentioned May the 25th as a deadline to see how much money we would have. How would the ALSs be sending the money? Would they be using PayPal? What service? I think that that money transfer entails logistics that we don't have in 20 days time. Sometimes it's hard for the ALSs to vote on a certain issue, so I think it is hard to achieve this given the timeframe available.

And also it's a sort of lack of respect. I mean, what Alberto said, some years ago we were given a certain amount of money, and now we are given a lower amount of money and we are imposed requirements on how to do things.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto Soto speaking. [Raitem] is opposing this, because in Venezuela, for example, they cannot send out money to any other place in the world. They have a restriction. And if they send money to our country, here in our country, we have an important withholding charge by our central bank. So if somebody sends us 100 US dollars, we will most likely be receiving 65.

So there is a restraining factor on the money transfers. So as Sylvia was pointing out, we have these logistics issue, and then we have the Argentine Central Bank, and the way it is operating with foreign currency transfers. Sometimes we get the money two months later, and we are, or sorry, 35% of that money is withheld and the remaining terms are converted into Argentine pesos. We are not given US dollars.

So this is not feasible. Johnny, my apologies but we will not be able to do this given the restraining factors that we have been mentioning, sorry. Okay. Any further suggestions? Okay. With that, in a little while, or this evening, because I have now to leave for Buenos Aires. I've had an emergency.

JOHNNY LAUREANO:

Johnny Laureano speaking, if I may. Okay. What you say is understandable. My apologies for not taking into consideration the situation of Venezuela and also Argentina is in a complicated situation. I didn't take into account the banking systems in each country. But maybe every ALS could contribute a certain type of contribution in kind, in the same way as Vanda and Sylvia will get together to bring some contributions.

Well, maybe the ALSs can contribute something with their own resources, within their own means. It would be very positive, very suitable, and it would reinforce and support all of the efforts that you have been making, Alberto. So asking the ALSs to make a contribution in some way or the other.

ALBERTO SOTO:

Alberto Soto speaking. Okay, okay, Johnny, yes, I will send that out to the list. But the thing is that if we had a higher budgetary allocation, we could have three or four important gifts or souvenirs, and I say important not in terms of monetary value, but in terms of the gift itself, so that we can raffle these more important items. That can be worked out at a later stage, if we get more sponsors.

But the idea was to have a raffle so that people can take that raffle prize as a souvenir as well. With that, if there are no further points, comments, or suggestions, then I will bring this meeting to a close. I thank you all joining us, and please, I urge you, keep on insisting on obtaining sponsors. I expect to contact someone on the 10th, to see if I get additional sponsorship.

Thank you all for joining us and thank you for your participation. And looking forward to seeing you in Buenos Aries. Thank you. And let's keep on working. Goodbye everyone. Thank you.

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