
EVIN ERDOĞDU:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening everyone, and welcome to the AFRALO monthly teleconference on Wednesday, the 5th of April, 2017 from 18:30 UTC to 20:00 UTC.

Today on the call we have with us on the French channel: Tijani Ben Jemaa, Brahim Ousmane Mustapha, Aicha Abbaad, Etienne Tshishimbi, Fatimata Seye Sylla.

On the English channel, we have with us Nikem Nweke, Remmy Nweke, Seun Ojedeji, Barrack Otieno, Isaac Maposa, Sarah Kiden, Aziz Hilali, Michel Tchonang, Liz Orembo, Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, Ramanou Biaou, Otunte Otueneh.

We have no apologies.

On staff we have Gisela Gruber and Evin Erdoğan, myself.

Interpreters, we have with us Claire and Isabelle.

And on call management today we have Gisella and myself, Evin Erdoğan.

With that, I would like to remind everyone to please state your name clearly for the record, not only for transcription purposes but also for the interpreters. Over to you, Aziz and Tijani. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Evin. Good evening, everyone. I am very glad to be gathered again together for this monthly meeting for the month of

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April. We do have several things to address today. Now, if there's someone who would like to add something, let me know. I actually would like to add one that I will mention, the vote on the RALO proposal concerning the ALAC meeting.

But before we go any further, we will review the public comment list. I think there are about ten of them. First of all, the comment of the community on the recommendations to improve ICANN's accountability, the CCWG Working Group.

The second public comment has to do with international domain names and the IDN implementation guidelines. There was a working group that was formed in order to cancel the current guidelines of implementation so that they are updated. So the thought here is to comment on the new guidelines as far as policies and registration of IDNs.

Third point has to do with the interim document. Four of the Cross-Community Working Group on the use of names of countries and territories as top-level domains. This was something that was done by the GNSO and ccNSO together, so they worked as a cross-community group to work on this use of names of countries and territories, and to define certain guidelines.

Third point, improvement of the guidelines on good faith, enhancing accountability guidelines for good faith in order to improve the CCWG project for the Work Stream 2. So the conduct standards of good faith to eliminate individual administrators at the Board level. So the thought here is to comment or to recommend thoughts and perspectives on the work that was done by the CCWG on Accountability.

Next point, the report on the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice review. This also needs to receive our recommendations and comments on the work that was done, and this is related to the new gTLDs.

Next point, ICANN's draft FY18 operating plan and budget, as well as the five-year operating plan. This is something that has to be included. It is one of the obligations of ICANN to publish the five-year operating plan as well as the FY18 operating plan and budget.

Next point, the GNSO community comment two – CC2 – on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process.

The next point has to do with the draft 2016 African Domain Name System Market study. The goal is to gather our comments on the market in Africa, comments from different people, public interests and different interests that need to be reflected. This has to do with the African Domain Name System.

This is something that we discussed in Copenhagen. During our meeting, there was a presentation that was done on that. There was a study that was done by a firm. So the idea is to open up the document to read it and to comment on it.

Next point, the NGR, so the Ethiopic Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules.

And the last comment has to do with the changes to the fundamental Bylaws, to move the Board Governance Committee reconsideration process responsibilities to another Board committee.

So the comments that are needed there have to do with proposed fundamental Bylaws changes in order to define the responsibilities of the BGC, Board Governance Committee. And again, that has to do with accountability of the Board.

That is all I have to say on this. I don't know if there are any comments on what I have just explained. And if not, before we move to the second point on our agenda, I would like to mention the message that I sent to some of you concerning the vote that I just mentioned.

There was an e-mail that was received. It came from Ariel. As you know, Ariel is in charge of the RALO vote, and we are trying to vote on the RALO statement. As you know, a statement was prepared, and that statement is now submitted to a vote.

And I am a little bit worried, because to be quite honest, when we are talking about traveling, people answer very quickly. However, when we are talking about their role as ALSes, people do not respond quickly.

So the document that we prepared for the comments is quite long – I am aware of that – but I worked with Tijani last night and we worked to explain to the different ALSes that all five RALOs worked together on the statement and that all five RALOs truly supported. All ALSes throughout the world are in the process of voting, but unfortunately, within AFRALO, very few of them voted.

So that's why I took the time to write to every single one of them. I woke up early, I wanted to make sure that they had a chance to – that they read it and that they voted, but so far, we don't have a quorum. So I don't know what you think about that.

Among those of us who are present today, there are some of us who did not vote, actually. So I think that we need to devote five minutes to think about that. Who would like to address this topic at this point?

I see a comment by Abdeldjalil, who says that it is a sad reality. We do need to change the way that we collaborate together. I can see Tijani and then Sarah. So first, Tijani. Go ahead, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much, Aziz. It is indeed a big problem, because this statement was meant to be the point of view of the regions. It was written, developed by the RALOs, the RALOs' leaders. Even if I am not RALO leader, I participated in the [reduction] or in this text. So it is more or less our point of view, because as you know, the proposal was to suppress the ALSes and replace them by individual members.

If we don't do something, if we don't express our point of view, this will happen. And the statement which is the statement of all the RALOs – the RALOs means the ALSes because the RALO is composed of ALSes, of course. So we don't want it to be the point of view of the RALO Chairs or the RALO leadership. We want it to be the point of view of all the ALSes, and that's why the vote of the ALSes is too important.

Since the ALSes don't take or don't vote on this statement, this perhaps means that they don't care. It is not important for them. This is why it is really a problem. The problem is not that they neglected it, it is perhaps because they don't care. And if they don't care, that means that the report of ITEMS is right, we need to suppress the ALSes, they don't care. Which is not right. I know it is not right.

I know that people didn't have time to read or perhaps were busy, etc. But the mail that Aziz sent yesterday was very important to remind everyone that this vote is particularly important for us, for our community. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Tijani. I would like to also mention that Sarah did participate in drafting the document. I would like to give her the floor now. Very quickly, please, Sarah.

SARAH KIDEN: Hello. I just wanted to give some feedback. Some of the ALS contact persons worked for me, and they were explaining that they had difficulty understanding what this statement was about, and many of them said they did not participate because they didn't understand the whole At-Large review process.

So I don't know if we can take out two minutes to explain to the people who are on the call what it's about so that they are able to vote. Because they say they didn't want to say yes or no if they didn't know why they are voting. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Sarah. I would like to just mention to Sarah that what she needs to tell these ALSes is that there was a meeting where we asked them to be present, and very few of them were present, as Tijani mentioned.

We tried to make things simpler to avoid them having to read the entire document. What I sent this morning was precisely a summary of the goal. What really struck us was that the review is asking for an elimination of these ALSes. I think Fatimata asked for the floor, and then Ramanou.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you very much, Aziz. What I wanted to say actually was similar to what Sarah just said. We do need the ALSes to react, but what we need to do is to remind them to be involved. I think that what you did, Aziz, is good, but what we can do, the means that we have is to use personalized e-mails to target them personally.

That's too bad that we don't have better results, but we really need to work on that to make sure that they react. And I think it is too bad that we don't have better results, but we are doing what we can.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Fatimata. It was very hard to hear you, but I think that I understand the main idea of what you have to say. I see that Ramanou also wants to speak. Ramanou, you have the floor.

INTERPRETER:

Ramanou, this is the interpreter. Please take the floor when we can hear you. At this point, we cannot hear you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Let's now move to recent activities and upcoming activities within ALAC. If you would like to take the floor on this, I think we have Seun, Wafa or Tijani. Is Seun with us? Seun, would you like to speak? Seun, we cannot hear you. We cannot hear Seun, Wafa is not here, so Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Aziz. Moment. I'm trying to find my – okay, it's here. Now, I would like to draw your attention on the fact that the ALAC was mainly concentrated during last month on the review process.

We worked a lot on the review, because as you know, it was an external review, so the reviewers made their survey, made their interviews, etc., and then come up with a first draft that we totally refused because it was based on the fact that At-Large should be reformed, not reviewed.

And the reform is mainly to suppress the ALSes and replace them with individual members. Our reaction was very negative to this report, and then they come up with the second report or the report that they put for the public comment. They didn't change anything, more or less. Only small details.

And since this report was for public comment, we worked very heavily on it. We worked on it because it is – if you want our existence, we are trying to find a way to convince people that this proposal is not the right solution for any problem they mentioned.

We agreed on a lot of problems, because we were the source of those problems. We were the ones who told them that those problems exist,

so we are convinced that there are a lot of problems. But their empowered membership model is not at all the solution to any of the problems that are enumerated.

This was the main activity of ALAC during last month, but it wasn't the only one. We also worked on the – we didn't work a lot, but we were interested in the decertification of certain ALSes, because three of the RALOs provided a list of ALSes to be decertified, and as you know, it is ALAC who decertify and ALAC who certify.

So it is our duty to do that, so we are now trying to study those cases and try to take the right decision. Another issue that we were interested in and we worked on was the IDN ccTLD string similarity.

This is a very complicated thing, because at first, the ccNSO issued a report, and we supported it. We supported it because we didn't see any problem for the end users.

After that, the SSAC issued their report, and they showed us that for the ccTLD, for the IDN, the uppercase and lowercase may give a big similarity for the strings, and thus, this is a real problem for users, because any confusion, any similarities that confuse the user is a big problem for us.

So we reconsidered our position, and we asked both ccNSO and SSAC to sit together and to find a way to find common ground. But we weren't very successful since the ccNSO think that they are the only one who have the responsibility of the policy and the SSAC is only advisory. So we reconsidered our position, and we made a new motion that we sent to the Board.

We spoke also about ALAC – the regional elections. You know that we will start voting, we will start electing or we start selecting our official or our responsible starting 1st of May. So this is the schedule that the staff made and we discussed in the ALAC. Be prepared to vote or to select your responsible starting 1st of May.

The next thing that we dealt with was the ICANN59, means Johannesburg. So we are working on the planning for it on the scheduling, etc. So this is also a big issue that we are working on.

I think this is all. I will stop here. Back to you, Aziz. Bye-bye.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. I'm not seeing any hands raised, so I don't think there are any questions, and we're therefore going to move on to item number three in the agenda.

Excuse me, no, sorry. I forgot that we still had a couple of recent and upcoming activities of AFRALO members. Is there anyone who would wish to take the floor? Since there aren't any hands raised, I think we could skip this and move on to the next item in the agenda, which is ITEMS free information.

Now, I think we have discussed the At-Large review in enough length. I just got the suggestions and questions of those who voted from ALSes. There are about 30 who voted and there are about 30 ALSes who have still not voted.

So as Tijani just said, this will define the future of ALAC, so it is important to participate. All RALOs are trying to push in order to know

what the perspective of their members are in order to know what they think regarding the review.

We believe that the examiner has not properly understood our main function at ALAC, which is mainly based on the ALS's advice. So as I was saying, this will define the future of ALAC. It is important that you all participate.

Now, in the absence of questions or comments, we should move on to the next item, which should be dealing with the Customer Standing Committee right now.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello. Can you hear me?

AZIZ HILALI: [inaudible] connected to the call. Then we have the CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2, the subgroup's activity. I'm not sure whether Seun is connected, and we have already discussed the subject.

So I think we should in the meantime move on to the next item in the agenda, which is items for discussion, and we should discuss the general assembly of AFRALO that will be held in Johannesburg within the framework of the ICANN meeting.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello, can you hear me?

INTERPRETER: Yes, Seun, I hear you. I'm sorry. I'm letting Aziz know that you're on.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. I'd like to stay in the queue. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: So as president of the RALO, I have sent an invite to all ALS representatives, and I seized the chance to let them know that if they wish to travel to Johannesburg to participate at the General Assembly, they should at least update their ALS's information so that we have the accurate information for each ALS that is a member of a RALO.

As you know, AFRALO will be adding new members throughout the year, so by Johannesburg, I think we should be 68 ALSes or so. So going back to what we did, we sent an e-mail asking each ALS to let us know who according to them should participate, or which representative they would like to appoint to represent their ALS at the Johannesburg meeting.

So I'm going to specify this, because almost everyone replied very quickly, and I would like this to be accurately interpreted. Out of 52, we got 47 replies. That is a true record.

That represents about 30 countries that will be represented at Johannesburg, and we asked them to participate actively. So like I said, we will have 47 ALSes that will be represented in South Africa.

That is about 90% of our membership. Then thanks to that, we could also update the information of our ALSes. So about 90% of our ALSes have had their contact information updated.

Now, we gave them until March 31st in order to send this information to us, and then we held a meeting that was chaired by Sarah given that Sarah is coordinating the organizing committee for our activities that will be held at our general assembly in Johannesburg.

So we created an organizing committee to organize all the activities that we will be holding, and at that teleconference, we discussed the ideas that we have and we shared information regarding what we will be doing.

Tijani explained to us what the program will be in terms of capacity building. We will be holding four to five sessions on capacity building in Johannesburg, and we will mostly focus on ICANN policy and the idea is for our sessions to be interactive in order for ALSes to have an opportunity to participate, ask questions and to get more information and clarify any doubts they may have so that they will engage further in ICANN's activities.

In order to prepare these ALSes, we have also decided to hold two to three webinars prior to the Johannesburg meeting, so this will be held remotely and the idea is to have them before they travel. We expect to have much participation at this webinar.

We've also decided to put together a mentoring program. The idea is to create small subgroups where people will share their ideas, and each subgroup will be assigned a mentor. The mentors will be some of the

senior members of AFRALO, and then there will be ALS representatives with more experience within ICANN who will also be sub-mentoring the group.

The aim of this endeavor is to prepare individual programs for each subgroup, so there will be webinars and meetings from 8:00 to 9:00 AM every day within the mentorship subgroups, and then we're going to put together a schedule for them in order to advise them as to where they should go during the day, what sessions they should participate at.

We're also trying to think of new ideas, so if you have an idea of the subjects that we should cover during the General Assembly, do not hesitate to send them either to Sarah or to myself.

We were thinking that – as we did in Dakar and in London – we always reviewed the performance metrics for AFRALO members. So as of the meetings I just mentioned, we had decided that it was important for AFRALO members to participate further, to be more engaged. So we should establish a set of criteria in order to be able to define which ALSes are active and which engage more in activities so that we can gauge the participation of all our ALSes at our activities.

I think I've explained this in enough detail. Not sure whether anyone would wish to take the floor regarding this. I see that Ramanou Biaoou just wrote on the chat that it is important to consider the ALSes' participation. There should be an annual assessment of the ALSes' participation in order to encourage them to participate at meetings or activities of ICANN and AFRALO.

I entirely agree, Ramanou. Is there anyone else who would like to take the floor? I don't see any hands raised for participants wishing to comment on this item.

Now, I was just mentioning the vote, and like I said, some people have not yet voted. So I would like to ask you to send out a reminder. I'm going to discuss it with Sarah to see whether or not we should send a reminder for the vote in order to remind those who have not yet voted to do so.

Are there any comments or any interventions?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello, can you hear me?

INTERPRETER: Yes, Seun. I have let him know. Please hold.

AZIZ HILALI: If you have any questions, you can ask Sarah or myself and we'll try to answer to your questions and thoughts. Now, we have also been discussing the matter with Gisella and we've been trying to consider what promotional items we could give out during the meeting.

We've also discussed the African meeting showcase. There's already an ALS that's been presented in Johannesburg. They're locals in Johannesburg and we have been discussing with –

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello, can someone tell Aziz I'm on the queue, please?

INTERPRETER: Yes, Seun, I'm sorry. I've let him know, but I cannot interpret and answer to you.

AZIZ HILALI: So we're organizing activities, so Michel Tchonang, I'm not sure, Michel, what you mean by your comment on the chat, because you say there's a chance we might not have the necessary tools to get there. I don't understand what you're trying to say.

In any event, I will restate what I said: there will be 47 ALSes, which is a true record in terms of attendance, so we should try and do things right. Now, if there are no comments – and I'm surprised that there are no comments right now – I see that Gisella's asking for the floor. You have the floor, Gisella.

GISELLA GRUBER: Yes. Sorry. I don't think [inaudible] can hear me on the French channel. I'm just trying to let Aziz know that Seun is desperate for the floor, and he has been for a little while. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: I'm sorry. I didn't get the message before. Of course, Seun, you can go ahead. You have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. Can you hear me?

AZIZ HILALI: We hear you, Seun, yes. Go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. I wanted to comment on two items or two agenda items that are on the voting for the RALO response to the At-Large review. When Aziz was presenting the report of those who have responded to the Johannesburg meeting, I find that we have over 90%, and I'm quite disappointed that we have not achieved similar percentage in terms of those who have voted.

I think we have to really encourage one another and make sure that people, even if it means that people who don't respond to things like this, which is the main reason why we are ALSes. We should respond to specifically these kind of calls, so I would like to encourage the [folks] who are here, who are on the call right now, who have not actually voted to do so.

And I think [inaudible] as well that you should actually send a reminder immediately, and then perhaps those who have responded to the travel to the Johannesburg meeting who have not actually voted on the particular call should be indicated. I think we should list the names as well. We should post it to the list that the following people are yet to respond on the AFRALO [list] so that we'll know how to encourage one another.

It's not necessarily to name and shame, but it's actually to challenge one another. This is our work and what we are supposed to be doing, so I think we have to be [inaudible] how we get one another to speak and act on what is required.

I hope I was clear. I'm sorry if there was some background noise there. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Seun. I entirely agree with you, but I'm not sure you heard what I said when I started. After an e-mail that I got from Ariel yesterday evening, she let me know that there were only some – meaning four to five as of yesterday – that have voted.

This morning, I took a call myself and I dedicated an hour and a half to send personal e-mails, individual e-mails to each of those who have not yet voted, and I wrote in French for French speakers, in English for English speakers, and Tijani helped me to do so.

And then I also sent individual e-mails for all ALSes. As I'm saying, I got up very early in the morning, and thanks to what I did this morning, we went from some ALSes – which was four or five – to 20.

So now this evening there are already 20 ALSes, and I just got a new e-mail saying that we are at 22 to 23 ALSes that voted. So Seun, perhaps you could explain what you mean by connecting the travel with the vote.

Are you saying that those who have not voted will not be going to Johannesburg? I don't think that would be a proper solution.

SEUN OJEDEJI: I'm not –

AZIZ HILALI: Please hold, Seun. Ramanou is asking for the floor. Ramanou, do you wish to speak? Ramanou is saying on the chat that we should send out a reminder. That is what I've already done this morning.

Is there anyone – there's Sarah, Mohamed, [inaudible] would like to suggest that we hold a new call. I have heard you, Seun. I'm sorry, I'm trying to get there.

Now, Ariel just sent us an e-mail, and I think Tijani was copied in that e-mail, as was Sarah. Would anyone like to send out a new reminder? I've already sent individual e-mails.

Some people voted as soon as they got my e-mail, and there are others who have not yet voted. Do you think we should send out a new reminder? Tijani, you're raising your hand, and then Fatimata.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay, thank you very much. I do think that we need another reminder, and perhaps we'll do it tomorrow, around noon. Waiting, because I have the hope that this evening we will receive several other votes.

But if we don't have sufficient votes tomorrow at noon, we have to send another reminder, I think. Thank you, Aziz.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Tijani. I have Fatimata and then Seun.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes. I agree with what Tijani just said, but I would like to add that on the mailing list, at times, there are activities according to each ALS that allow us to connect with the ALS Chairs and the ALS representatives individually, and that is what allows us to contact them.

So perhaps we would benefit from that. Of course, we should send out a reminder and giving them enough time to answer before, but yes. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Fatimata. Now, Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello, can you hear me?

AZIZ HILALI: Yes, go ahead, Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Aziz, I'm not saying that we make voting a requirement for people to travel to Johannesburg. That is not what I'm saying. I'm just saying that the response on the Johannesburg one was much more than what we have received in terms of voting. [inaudible]. [Not in] that case. It shouldn't be the case.

Of course, what I was also suggesting is that a reminder should go out, and also, after the reminder, [inaudible] a post to the AFRALO list those who have not voted so that perhaps we can [inaudible] reach out to reach them.

If [inaudible] the mailing list, we'll know the ALS that have not voted and we can reach out to them if we actually know them. I think maybe that's what Fatimata was also suggesting, so that's just what I was saying. Not that it should be used as a requirement. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Seun. In any event, what you're saying is precisely what we did this morning, and we're going to do it again tomorrow. I see Ramanou saying we should insist on the fact that the vote is mandatory.

Now, would Seun, Tijani or Sarah wish to volunteer to be responsible for being the one to send out this new reminder? Who would like to volunteer to do this? Who would like to send out this reminder? I've already done it this morning.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Excuse me, Aziz. According to the activities, like I said we should [speak] with the ALS representative. We should reach out to them if they participated in an activity or another, we should try to send them an e-mail.

Now, if I send an e-mail I may get no reply, but the member is engaged in a different activity, perhaps we should look into that and consider

that communication, that contact with the person and benefit from it in order to remind them of the vote.

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, thank you, Fatimata, but there are many people who haven't voted. There are 30 ALSes that have not yet voted, Fatimata, and it's hard to do what you suggest. So unless you know who has not yet voted.

[Allan] [inaudible] from South Africa. There's someone from Kenya, [inaudible] Central African Republic, [inaudible] Internet Society from the Benin chapter of the ISOC.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

No, I understand, but maybe someone could help us to that. Maybe [inaudible] could help us. I'm not saying it is compulsory that we do this, it's just a suggestion.

BRAM FUDZULANI:

Hello.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Maybe we could try –

INTERPRETER:

Yes, Seun, please hold.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Fatimata. I understand, and I sent them a request for an information update for Johannesburg and they all replied because there is traveling associated. That's the truth, everyone wants to go there.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: But shouldn't we then try to send a form?

AZIZ HILALI: Yes, but it's not always possible. Now, there's [inaudible], Pauline, Andula, Rashida], [inaudible], Gabriel, [inaudible], [Aisha] from Morocco. Fatimata, as you said, you voted.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes, I've already voted.

AZIZ HILALI: And this is the list I had at 2:30. But I think if we could get to 30 ALSes by tomorrow, at least we will have quorum. Now, if you'll allow me, I think we should end the discussion on this matter, and I'm going to give Tijani the floor. You have the floor, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much, Aziz. I do support what Fatimata said. It is I think that the list, the status of the vote that you'll get tomorrow morning very early should be sent on the list asking everyone on the list to try to help us and make those who didn't vote voting.

I agree with her because as she said, when you speak to someone you know, it's much better than when you speak to someone you don't know. And I understand your point, Aziz.

I know that they are more interested in traveling than in voting, but this is the reality and we have to deal with it. And we need their vote. We need them to vote. We don't tell them to vote for or against, they have to vote.

We want to know their point of view so that when we speak, when we give this statement, we say that we are speaking for the ALSes. This is why we need their vote, so it is very important, and I think that we need to make this effort.

And I propose that Sarah will send tomorrow at noon to everyone who didn't vote a new reminder. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani.

GISELLA GRUBER:

I'm sorry, Aziz, to interrupt you, but I think that Bram wanted to speak on the English channel, and he's been waiting for a little bit.

AZIZ HILALI:

I will give him the floor, but before I do so, I would like to ask Sarah a question: did you hear Tijani's proposal, and could you please send the

reminder? I could actually give you the message. It can be done in English. So, is Sarah in agreement to do that?

SARAH KIDEN: Yes. I will do that tomorrow.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Sarah. And now I will give the floor to – Gisella, who was it again? I'm sorry.

GISELLA GRUBER: Bram.

AZIZ HILALI: Bram. It was Bram, so Bram, you have the floor. Please go ahead.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Aziz. I heard Sarah I think earlier on pointing out that most of the ALSes did not vote because I think they had trouble understanding the review document.

So my proposal is that maybe some of the senior members of the AFRALO could particularly reach out to those ALSes through e-mail or whatever channel and try to make them understand, because I think it's also important they understand what they're voting for.

So I'll propose maybe if we could have – if Sarah has a list, maybe a few members of the team reach out to them and make them understand, answer their questions so they can confidently vote. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Bram. You are absolutely right, and that is exactly what we will do. I think that with Sarah we will write two or three sentences to summarize.

Of course, we can't expect them to necessarily read the entire document, but at least to make sure that we understand that this statement came from the five regions, the five RALOs and that it is supported very strongly by all the leaders and that all of the ALSes throughout the world will be voting.

What we are asking them is to support it. I think that they probably will. So what we will say to them is if you do not have time to read the document, what you need to do is there is one point that is very important.

If you vote yes, you will preserve the current system, which means that you have the end users, the ALSes, RALOs and ALAC. Whereas the report, the proposal of the firm would change things, and that is a very serious thing. And that's why the ALSes absolutely need to vote, because the report proposes to get rid of the ALSes. And I don't think that people are necessarily aware of this, and that's why this vote is so important.

So as Fatimata suggested, for all of you who know someone within the ALSes that did not vote – as I said earlier, there are 30 of them – be aware of that. As I'm talking here, I'm just coming up with an idea. Maybe Tijani agreed with this. I think that maybe what we could do is for Sarah to post directly on the list the ALSes that did not vote so that everybody knows who didn't vote.

I don't know, it's just a thought, but what really is important – and that's why we've been talking about it for quite a while during this call, because it is so important – I think that the firm, it's called ITEMS, what they are proposing is to eliminate ALSes, so anyone in the world basically can become a leader or a RALO leader. They become eligible, and that was basically the discussion in Copenhagen.

Tijani, you have the floor. Go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much, Aziz. As I proposed earlier, I propose that the list of those who didn't vote should be sent to the whole list tomorrow morning, and tomorrow at noon, Sarah sends a reminder to those who didn't vote.

The list that will be sent tomorrow morning will be [inaudible] not the list of tonight, the list of tomorrow morning so that the members of APRALO will try to reach out to those who didn't vote, each one according to the relationship he has with the other member. This is what Fatimata proposed, and I think that we have to do all these efforts to make it clear.

As for the proposal of Bram about explaining to those ALSes, I think that the effort has been done, but it is not a waste of time to do it again.

I propose that a very short summary, and Sarah knows very well the statements, she participated in the drafting of the statement. She can make a very short summary of the statement explaining and highlighting the main points we wanted to address or wanted to say to people in this statement, and ask those who didn't vote to vote in their conscience. We are not asking them to vote for the statement or against the statement, we are asking them to vote as they want to vote. But they have to vote, so that we know if we are speaking for them or not. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. Are there others who would like to take the floor? If not, we will move to the next point, the new ALS applications.

We do have one new application that came to us in January. It comes from Dakar in Senegal, and it is the Senegalese ISOC chapter. It was received on March 22nd, but so far, we have not yet decided on this ALS because we have not done due diligence yet.

So that's it for the call today, but there is one last point, Any Other Business. Are there any topics to address? I don't see any raised hands. Tijani, you have the floor. You wanted to speak. Go ahead, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Aziz. I'd like to remind you that we will resume working on the working group on the review of our operating procedures. It is not because we finished the work on the Work Stream 2 at all, but it is only because it is necessary since we have to make the General Assembly in Johannesburg adopt or reject the proposal of this working group.

So be prepared, I will send a Doodle for the next call very soon. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. Thank you for reminding us of that point. So yes, absolutely, it is important that we complete that work before the Johannesburg meeting, because it will resolve the issue that we have today specifically, having to do with involvement of ALSes.

So there will be parameters, there will be ways to measure the performance of each AFRALO member. It will be based on activities, based on the number of individual members.

There are certain decertification process that are in process. What I mean by that is people who are not active, not doing anything. The process of decertification has been started.

It's great to be a member of AFRALO, but if the only reaction is to respond when we offer travel, that is an issue. I know it is a negative point and I don't necessarily want to end on that, but I think it is necessary.

It has to do with credibility. An ALS needs to represent a local group, and it has a role to play within the RALO, within ALAC, because we represent end users. That's what we do.

I would like to thank all of you for your participation. I would like to also thank our interpreters for their patience with us. Thank you, Evin, as well. You did wonderfully today as you started working with us.

Thank you Gisella for being with us. Thank you all for your participation, and we will meet again next month. Thank you very much, and have a good evening.

EVIN ERDOĞDU:

Thank you very much. Very kind of you. Everyone, the meeting is adjourned. Please do not forget to disconnect your lines from the bridge and AC room upon exit. Thank you very much, and have a wonderful day. Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]