| MARIO ALEMAN: | Mario Aleman speaking. Good Afternoon, good evening to all of you. Welcome to this call of the LACRALO Governance Working Group on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 23:00 hours UTC. We have Alberto Soto and Sergio Salinas Porto on the Spanish line. We have no one on the English line. We have apologies from Aida Noblia, Maritza Aguero, Vanda Scartenizini, and Dev Anand Teelucksingh. I'm together with Silvia Vivanco and Claudia Ruiz. I will be managing the call and our interpreters will be Paula and David. |
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| | Before starting with the call, I would like to remind all participants to please say your names before you speak not only for the purposes of the transcription, but also to facilitate the job of the interpreters, so Sergio, you can start with the call. |
| SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: | Sergio Salinas Porto speaking. Thank you, Mario. I would like to welcome all of you who have joined this call. I see Alberto and I also want to thank the members of the staff. In the previous call, we worked on the discussion of individual users and their participation in the region. That is a topic that we discussed also in a previous call, so today, we should be able to reach some minimal level of agreement on some texts that we can write about some conclusions of this discussion. |
| | When we had our discussion last week, just to bring you up to date, Alberto, we talked about the details of individual users' participation and, of course, you are fully aware of my position regarding their participation, but it is important for us to see how we can move forward |

and allow the participation of individual users in some way, and somehow encourage them to get organized in their own countries with an organization or perhaps to encourage them to join an already existing ALS.

Aida made a contribution that I find is similar to something that you raised some time ago, how to find some kind of solution. In NARALO and also in EURALO, there are some examples of participation, so perhaps in our case, we can have some kind of organization of course taking care of some of the issues raised here. An individual member cannot be elected for any RALO position. It cannot be an ALAC member, nor the chair or the secretary. The individual user could participate in decision making at the regional level on some specific topics.

I think that we shouldn't discuss that now. That is when we come up with a definition of their participation according to the operating principles. Then, we will have to see how many individual users we have that could set up some kind of organization.

You sent us an email expressing your point of view. You talked about metrics and I think that we need to keep a record of the suggestion to have two or three people, a committee, who would work on this in parallel. The topic of metrics, that was already discussed in two documents, but the last document that addressed that issue was from June, 2015. Both of us participated in the writing of that document. So perhaps, we can do some fine tuning if that is necessary, and bring it back to the group. And then, submit it here for approval and take it to the regional level. I think that that would be a big step forward.

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|  | Before giving you the floor, I would like to welcome Antonio Medina Gomez who has joined the meeting.  Now, Alberto, you have the floor. |
| ALBERTO SOTO: | Alberto Soto speaking.  Thank you, Sergio.  As far as individual users are concerned, I think that the main issue here is that they must not have an organization like an ALS with bylaws, with an organic charter.  We always talked about a virtual ALS, that is, there is no paper to formalize that ALS.  It would be some sort of organization.  I can't remember in which RALO they have that. |
| SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: | EURALO. |
| ALBERTO SOTO: | Yes, EURALO.  So, those individual users represent their opinion there. When they have to vote, they will only get one vote for all those individual users and that vote will be made based on the choice of all the individual users.  So, I don't think that they will create a local ALS, or perhaps they can join an already existing ALS, but that may cause some problems with ICANN regarding the introduction of end users.  I think that that would take away some transparency from us, because we have accepted individual users.

Then comes the issue of running for positions.  Of course, that is something that we can also discuss, but I think that the ALS they form should be a virtual ALS.  There shouldn't be even a document formalizing that.  I don't know what name to give it.  Perhaps if we could |

speak about virtual ALS, the bylaws could say for voting purposes the individual users will choose one of them and that individual user will cast a vote on behalf of all individual users, something along those lines. I'm not suggesting that we should use exactly those words, but more or less that is my idea.

As far as metrics are concerned, when we were exchanging emails, five minutes later I sent an email containing metrics that have only two points. I sent this to you and to Humberto to get to know your opinion. I was very brief. I can forward that to you again if you want.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yes, please do so. So I suggest the following, now that you're bringing up this issue here, I suggest that whoever wants to take the floor can make a comment, but if not, we can look into that not because I'm trying to centralize on the decisions or I'm trying to be selfish, just to speed up the process and to be able to put together a proposal that we can put forward to this group.

So perhaps, we can work on that and for the next meeting we can have some agreed idea. Perhaps we will have sorted out all the issues and come here with a more concrete proposal. Then, we will see if it is approved by the working group and we can escalate it to LACRALO, and we can have a presentation on this topic and a vote on that to see if it is approved by the majority.

| ALBERTO SOTO: | Alberto Soto speaking, yes perfect.  Because the metrics are well subject to a lengthy discussion.  We don't need all the introduction again, so we can bring them down to the minimum.  And I think we only have two points here with regard to metrics. |
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| | What we are saying here is that the requirements for active participation for every ALS takes no more than 12 hours a year.  It is different for those who hold the position, for those who participate in working groups, but ALSes do not need more than 12 hours a year in order to fulfill these metrics and you don't even need an appointed person to vote. |
| SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: | The ALS? |
| ALBERTO SOTO: | Alberto speaking.  Yes, the ALS.  You may say, "Well, I participate in a governance working group."  I'm here on behalf of my institute but there were some other members of my institute that participated in different working groups and the only thing that we had to do at that time was to identify [inaudible] members of a certain ALS just for that information to be considered in the metrics. |
| SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: | I haven't said my name here so far for the record, but what I propose is that perhaps on Monday or Tuesday we can have an informal meeting over Skype.  We can have a look at that information.  We can shape it a little bit and prepare a document that we can send to the working group |

mailing list so that the members can look at that proposal and see if they agree or if they want to make any contributions, and then, in the next meeting we can approve it and then escalate it to the higher level to LACRALO for approval.

ALBERTO SOTO:                I will send it to you as soon as we finish this call. I will forward it to you and to Humberto. You can read it, you can give your opinion, and if you want, we can send it to the Governance Working Group and then to LACRALO.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:        Sergio speaking. Perfect. Then, we also have this discussion on individual users. What you said, Alberto, is valid. We said that perhaps we should have a minimum number of individual users, so first, what we need to say is that this is already included in our bylaws, and that is that individual users can participate in LACRALO. What we are saying here is that not only can they participate, but they can also vote.

So, we will see afterwards what kind of voice and voting power they have, in which cases they will exercise their voice and in which cases they will exercise their voting powers. But what we can define here as a rule that will go into the operating principles is that in this virtual organization, there should be a certain number of members in order for it to operate as a virtual organization. So, we need to agree on the fact that individual users will participate with one single voice on behalf of the whole collective group.

I think we need to choose the words carefully, but they can have voice and voting power, and we should clarify that that will not always be the case. In some special cases, they will have both powers and that they will be able to exercise those powers provided that they fulfill certain requirements, so they can be members of a virtual organization, but this organization will not have the same characteristics as the ALSes as we know them. And, there will be only one voice representing the whole group.

I think that if we make that clear, then we have the door open to explore the criteria for the operating principles. If you agree, we can agree on this idea and we can move on to another topic. Alberto, go ahead.

ALBERTO SOTO:       Alberto Soto speaking. I disagree only on one point. Let's say that we don't have 100 individual users, we just have one individual user who registers. That person can have voice and voting powers. If it is only one, that person does not necessarily have to set up an ALS, but if we have two users, both of them will have to agree who is going to vote. Or, if we have three, we cannot set the number ourselves. They have to figure it out.

If we set a specific number, then they won't be individual users. One will be an individual user. Two, only one casts a vote. Three, only one casts a vote. If there are 100 users, only one casts a vote. That is the way that I think that they can participate.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:     Sergio speaking. I don't agree, Alberto. I think that there should be a minimum number of individual users in order to fulfill certain requirements. They should have discussed amongst themselves what is the position that they are going to take and which will be the underlying criteria. Otherwise, it will be very easy for us to have one person within a collective group and give it the same status as the other organizations.

So, I think that as a minimum if you have one single individual user, that individual user will have to work collectively with others. If there are some other individual users, well, perhaps in that case they can get together as a group. They can choose who will have a voice or who will cast a vote on behalf of the entire group because we know how the process works in the region.

When you have individual users, they work very hard, but they don't do anything for the benefit of the group collectively. They do everything for their own personal interest, so we need people who can think about the region, the country, the collective priorities. When they work only for themselves, when they are self-centered, there is where we have problems.

So my suggestion is first to come up with a definition; how many users we should we have as a minimum to get together, and they should reach some level of agreement. Although this might not be included in the operating principles, this should be reflected in the rules of procedure.

So, how many users we need in order to set up an organization? And then, those users will be able to participate. How? Where will they

participate?  When will they be able to vote or not?  Can they choose representatives?  All those questions will have to be analyzed.  I see that Alberto and Silvia Vivanco are asking for the floor.

SILVIA VIVANCO:       Silvia Vivanco speaking.  I have just shared the link to the webpage of the individual users organization for EURALO, and it has more than 30 members.  One of them, Bakare, has been elected as the secretary of the RALO, so they have no restricted rights with regard to EURALO and they have been working quite well as an organization.

And if you want, perhaps we can invite Roberto Gaetano, one of the founders, or Jean-Jacques Subrenat if you want, or any other member who would be willing to explain to you how they are working in this virtual organization of individual users.  They can share with you the experiences they have had, either good or bad, how they vote, so if you so wish, I can coordinate an invitation for them to join you and explain all these experiences to you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:    Sergio speaking.  Thank you, Silvia, for your proposal.  I think that at a given point, that would be a good idea.  Perhaps not now, but we know that many countries have applied for EURALO and they haven't participated.  That is the case of Spain and we have followed up on the organization that established that link with EURALO.  They have an experience that is different from the Latin American one.

It is different because here we have strong organizations that do not only have to do with ISOC. We have other types of organizations that have a life of their own. Here we have a number of organizations in the region that participate. So, I think that it is good to listen to the experiences of Europe and North America, but I think that in Latin America we also have a very rich experience in terms of participation. Alberto, go ahead.

ALBERTO SOTO:          Alberto Soto speaking. I think that all your concerns, once we have the metric approved, will be cleared up because an individual user will have to fulfill all the requirements just like any ALS. Probably, they will do a better job at that because they will have several members and they will be able to comply with all the metrics.

And I'm talking about the organization. It will be better for the organization to fulfill those metrics. If the individual users try to do that one their own, it would be much more difficult for them, so I think that that would clear up your concern. Then we can discuss the voting powers.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:     Sergio speaking. Thank you, Alberto. My concern is not how much they will participate or how hard they will work. My concern has to do with who they are discussing topics with. I first discuss everything with my colleagues before raising a point here. Sometimes, when we have some phony issues, we may put them forward for a vote, but there are

models of participation and user involvement which do not necessarily require perfect attendance to meetings.

This is not solved with metrics. This is solved with commitment from the organizations to discuss the topics that are on the table. And this is where I fear failure with individual users. In my opinion, individual users who cannot coexist with others by no means can lead an organization like LACRALO and they shouldn't do that. And they cannot represent and shouldn't represent the members of this collective group. And they shouldn't undertake any responsibilities except for participating in the work. If they don't have an organization in their country, they should set up one.

I think this is something that we need to encourage in the region because this is what we agreed on when we signed the MOU. And, if there are some already existing organizations, these users should join those organizations or found a new organization if they have different ideologies or different organizational objectives with the ones that are already in existence. Alberto, you have the floor.

ALBERTO SOTO:     Alberto speaking. I think that today we won't be able to get to a conclusion on this topic because our opinions are completely different. We will have to discuss this through the group, because individual users, if we ask them to join an ALS or that they should set up an ALS, I insist, they won't exist as individual users. So we are saying, "Yes, you can be an individual user, but you need to join an ALS." So, this leaves us with

no individual users as such, so we will end up having this contradiction. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:     Sergio speaking.  I think that they are no longer individual users when they join the ALS or the virtual organization, and of course, the semantics changes and the term changes.  The truth is that, and I insist, if there are people, I don't want to mention any names, but if there are people who have been unable to join an organization or to set up an organization and work collectively with others in their own countries and they want to work alone, it's because something is not working properly and there is something wrong also in our own organization because we are trying to bring in individual users where we should have organizations.

Instead of companies in ICANN, I would like to have some other type of persons.  You may say, "Well, these persons have nothing to do with internet."  Well, the same happens here.  This is a space where users express their views in a collective manner, so here we need to encourage collective participation, but we are discussing about letting users participate on an individual basis.

We may say, "Okay, we can have individual users, but at the minimum they need to fulfill certain requirements," and we need to write down those requirements, they need to meet certain criteria.  Otherwise, the growth of individual users will undermine the work of collective organizations, so I refuse to be the ones that open the doors to

individual users in detriment of collective organizations. This is the paradigm that I feel we may run into. Alberto, you have the floor.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto speaking. Yes, I agree. That is one position, and I may have a different position. There are three of us here and we cannot reach an agreement because all of us have diverging views. It is important to discuss this in the broader group in order to have more views.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you, Alberto. I agree with what you say. Obviously, we won't be able to make any progress. But I'm trying to reflect on what you think, and you are my counterpart here and I want you to be flexible and try to see this not as an opportunity for participation, but as a big threat for the region. It's a threat. It's not just an opportunity. It is a threat to the region's stability. That is why I emphasize so much protecting the collective interest over the individual interest.

In the history of ALAC and At-Large, we have seen cases of people who focus their entire participation on their individual interest. They think about their own personal interest over the collective interest, so we need to have individual users working collectively for the benefit of end users, not for the benefit of a particular organization. And individual users usually do not think in collective terms. They have a more individualistic thinking. Alberto, go ahead.

ALBERTO SOTO:
Alberto speaking. Yes. The thing is that we have attended several ICANN meetings, the IGF and local meetings. The idea of incorporating individual users does not have to do with anything specific; perhaps we have a user who is interested in human rights, or the topic of jurisdiction, or intellectual property. That user will have participation only in that area.

That is the level of participation that we are considering here. But I insist, we need to have this discussion with multiple views, with more people.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:
Sergio speaking. Okay. Anyway, I'm going to send you the transcription of the previous call. I don't know if you had the chance to read it. I'm going to post it here because we have already seen a way forward and we started a discussion, but I want you to read this because this will also help us hear other voices, other opinions and try to be flexible on all sides. Not only on your side or my side, but all the members of the working group.

We still have these outstanding issues, Alberto, and you said that perhaps we shouldn't move forward with this, but there is a topic that is outstanding and that has to do with the possibility of having a board for LACRALO. How we can have a new board that will do a better job than the one that we've had so far.

I would like to remind you that we insisted on this idea of the board. There were some members that thought that the board could be a big body, and although there will be only a few that will take on

responsibilities for the board, that perhaps would give a more formally organic structure to the region. So, what is your opinion about having a board for LACRALO?

ALBERTO SOTO:             Alberto speaking. I fully agree because unfortunately, we had a period of time that was too long without any discussion about this. I don't know if that got lost in LACRALO's Wiki page, but there was a proposal, I think that was put forward by Fatima, and it was quite good. I criticized the number because I think she proposed 12 members, but looking at what they had to do, I think that nine would be the right number. Our RALO spoke about this on several occasions. There was a chair and a vice-chair, a secretary, and a vice-secretary.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:    Sergio Salinas speaking. You experienced this first hand?

ALBERTO SOTO:             Yes, but not only the secretary, as the chair, I also had to make a huge effort in order to fulfill my role and we work on a volunteer basis, so I'm not criticizing this because I do this because I like it, but sometimes, you have to make a big sacrifice. I had no one to replace me. Some people criticized me because I took over the secretary role when Humberto was unable to fulfill that task, but I had no one to take that position. I had to call someone for a meeting because Humberto wasn't able to travel.

So, I fully agree. In the other RALOs, they have had this experience too. In some meetings, they had a vice-chair and not the chair in the

meeting. I think it was in AFRALO. So, I think it is important and we need to work on that, but I would like to do it more swiftly. If I find that information, perhaps I can go over it and try to polish it a little bit, but I don't know where it is.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio Salinas speaking. I wrote the document and I do have that document. I just need to look for it. I think that we worked on that with Fatima.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto speaking. Please send it to me and I will update that document.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio Salinas speaking. The latest proposal on operational principles from 2015 where we also have the creation of the rules of procedure, in the operating principles we have included references to the board structure. Actually, there were some positions that already exist on the board, plus some others that needed to be created, plus the heads of the working groups and some other people that would take on a certain level of responsibility in the region.

This is a policy coordination body for the region. It wouldn't be part of the ordinary assembly or the regular monthly meetings. It would be a body that would coordinate the policies in the region in order to make them more effective. If we have a chair and a secretary that can work together with a group of people on certain responsibilities and certain

tasks, that will give us a lot of momentum because all those people would be working and at that logic.

I think that in fact, that was the process that when I was chair I wanted to promote in the region. I didn't want to have just four people. I wanted more people working under this spirit of collaboration and collective work in the region.

Alberto, you have the floor, but before I give you the floor, let me say this. Silvia, the LA document is correct and there is another document from 2015 that the working group presented the operating principles together with metrics and the criteria for submitting documents. We had some guidelines for the submission of documents. That was prepared by Fatima. We presented three documents. I can't remember where the operating principles document is. I see it on the list, but it was posted on the Wiki page and it was translated into Portuguese and English because it was originally written in Spanish.

SILVIA VIVANCO:         Silvia speaking. I will look for it.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:   Sergio speaking. Thank you, Silvia. Alberto, you have the floor.

ALBERTO SOTO:          Alberto Soto speaking. I think that the LACRALO board should operate just like the ALTs are working on ALAC. They discuss important topics. They do not necessarily make decisions, but they discuss the topics,

they analyze them and how should I say it, they look at topics from different points of view, and when they have some consensus, they take it to ALAC so that the rest can give their views.

So, they save a lot of time for ALAC and those meetings can be done over Skype, that wouldn't be a problem. But they digest the problem without making any decisions and then they present this to LACRALO.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Yes, I think that that is the right way forward. We need to have a collective solution. We need to look for creative tools always thinking about our collective interest. I think the board will be an operational tool not a policy definition body or a policy making body.

At the same time, we need to have decisions made at the executive level, so we need to have a chair and a secretary with a certain group that will help them deal with certain tasks. We need to have some North, we need to have some direction so we can have the working groups and the activities from ALAC and from ICANN, and the ALAC members.

The regional officials should be able to get support from these members for decision making. If the ALAC members have to do all this on their own, that would be difficult. We have members who could move forward very quickly with certain topics, so I think that that would be really helpful, thank you.

I see that Silvia has posted here the operating principles.

SILVIA VIVANCO:  Silvia speaking.  Yes, if you allow me, Sergio, I would like to make a comment.  This document has been posted in March 2015 and we have it in three languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese, and I'm posting here the different versions.  Effectively, it sets up a proposal for a LACRALO board, but going through the LA document, I think there was no agreement on whether we should have a board.  There are some general statements made, so I suggest that you be very careful when making a decision.

In the LA 2016 document, there is no agreement on this specification.  There is a proposal, but it is not something that has been agreed on by all the members.  So, that is my concern.  Please take into account everything that was discussed in LA and reflected on this document.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:  Sergio Salinas speaking.  Thank you, Silvia.  Yes, I remember that, but I think that in LA we left the door open for a calmer discussion.  At that time, we were highly sensitive and we were all very anxious, so I take note of your comments and I would bring this, once again, to the discussion table, and we should discuss it even further.

We had some open discussions already and some of our colleagues did not understand why we were speaking about having this kind of body, LACRALO board, but we know that the board exists as such in other groups.  In ALAC, it's like an executive committee.  We don't want this to be necessarily that kind of body, but it would be a useful tool, so I suggest that we resume the discussion of this topic in the next call or in two calls.

I don't know what ALT means. I'm sure this is an acronym in English, but I have no idea what it means. Alberto, you have the floor. We only have 10 minutes left.

ALBERTO SOTO: Alberto speaking. This is a comment for Silvia. That idea was never challenged. When we put forward the idea of having a board, the only questions and criticism we had, had to do with a number of people, but there was some consensus that this board would be another encouragement for people who in LACRALO were not in a position to be elected as chairs or vice chairs or ALAC members, and perhaps this could be a nice way forward because this could be a good means for these people to have access to these kinds of positions.

In our mediation, there was no opposition to this idea. On the contrary, everybody tried to solve all outstanding issues.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you, Alberto. EURALO also has a board, and I think that all paths are open. EURALO has individual users and we don't have it, and EURALO has a board and now we are discussing about this, so perhaps we can also have something similar.

Well, we need to make some progress with this [inaudible] issue. I think that all of us have a clear understanding of the opinions of the various colleagues in the region, and we know that there is a group that is for it and there is another group that was concerned about the number of members, but they did not really oppose to having a smaller board.

We need to give some organic structure to LACRALO because LACRALO does not have an organic structure. The most serious problem that we have with all organizations and this happens at all levels in countries is organization. There was a politician here who would say organizations defeat time, so it has taken us a long time, many years, to get organized and it is very difficult for us to make progress under this kind of collective organizational approaches.

We are almost coming to the end of our time, I don't know if there are any further comments that you would like to make. Otherwise, it is 8:53 pm and if there are no more comments, I will adjourn the meeting. Alberto, do you want to take the floor?

SILVIA VIVANCO:   Silvia speaking. If you allow me, I'd just raise this point here that individual users can participate and then we need to discuss what are their rights for voting purposes and to have a voice. Right? Is that correct if I right it like that in our minutes?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:   Sergio Salinas speaking. Yes, that's correct. And then we have the metrics issue. The creation of a small group to work on metrics so that the group can send again a draft proposal for metrics for discussion in LACRALO. Probably, in the next meeting, we will be able to discuss and present this document.

So, Alberto and myself will be part of this small group, but perhaps Humberto can join us, but initially the two of us, Alberto and myself, will be working in this smaller group.

SILVIA VIVANCO:          Silvia Vivanco speaking. Okay, I will take note of these points and I will post them on the Wiki page.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:    Sergio Salinas speaking.  Alberto is telling me that Humberto is also going to be a part of this small group.  So, the three of us will be part of that small group.

So with this, I close this meeting.  It's 8:55 pm, so we are finishing five minutes earlier than expected, so I hope you have a good evening and I hope to see you in the next meeting that will be in a week's time, right?

SILVIA VIVANCO:          Silvia Vivanco speaking.  Yes.  If you wish, it can be on the same day at the same time.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:    Sergio Salinas speaking.  Yes, same day, same time.  And just send a reminder.  It will be Thursday the 7th of December at 23:00 UTC, and with the same agenda items; we are not changing the agenda.

SILVIA VIVANCO:                       Silvia Vivanco speaking.  Perfect.  Thank you so much.


SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:        Sergio Salinas speaking.  Thank you.  Bye-bye.


**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**