
YESIM NAZLAR: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the AFRALO Hot Topics Working Group call taking place on Wednesday, the 16th of May, 2018 at 18:00 UTC.

On our call today, on the French channel, we have Gabriel Bombambo and [Michelle Charman]. On the English channel, we have Mohamed El Bashir, Caleb Ogundele, Daniel Nanghaka, Omar Shuran, Yusif Amadu, Fatimata Seye Sylla, Abdulkarim Oloyede, Dave Kissoondoyal, and Tijani Ben Jemaa. We don't have any apologies received.

From staff side, we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, Evin Erdogan; and myself, Yesim Naslar. Our French interpreters for today's call are Claire and Camilla.

Before we start, I would like to remind everyone to state their names before speaking not only for the transcription purposes, but also for the interpretation purposes as well. Also, a very kind reminder for those who are on the phone bridge to use *6 to mute and *7 to unmute. Thank you very much, and over to you, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Yesim, for your support. Good everyone, everyone, and thank you for joining the first call for the hot topics implementation working group and I think that [inaudible] naming for it because we are moving ahead with the implementation of the hot topic and I'm looking forward to action items and I think that we need to [come back].

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First, I'd like to congratulate anyone for celebrating on the [inaudible] or you'll be starting tomorrow [inaudible]. We are almost [inaudible]. I think we just have two members absent and we are trying to get them connected.

The agenda is fairly short and this is the first call, so we will focus on sharing [inaudible] about your interest on the topics, and the group will also discuss selection of the chairperson, and also we need to talk about how we're going to implement our work.

So, for the work group chair, I invite you to look at the Wiki page for the working group and basically there you will see the list of the members who currently volunteered to join the working group, and there's a couple of discussions going there. So, we'll use effectively the Wiki [inaudible] mailing list [inaudible] main discussion.

My apologies, I'm not on WebX. I'm on the phone bridge, so I might not be able to see any chat discussion there. My apologies for that. If you want to intervene, I will coordinate that with Yesim and staff.

So, for the chair expression of interest, [inaudible] has received some interest from some members to work as volunteer for chairs for the working group and I did ask them to send that expression to the whole group mailing list and also talk on this call expressing their interest and why they think they could add value and what plans they have for this working group. I think it's important for the group to [inaudible] or have a way to select its chair. That being said, I will open the floor for you, so if you're interested to [inaudible] or to put yourself in a position to

serve the group [inaudible] turn to speak or if you have any comments as well in the process to selecting the chair, please.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Hello?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, who is that? Please, go ahead. If anyone would like to speak ...

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Hello, can you hear me? This is Abdulkarim speaking.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Go ahead, please.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Yeah. I think I just wanted before we probably go ahead and nominate ourselves, I wanted to find out any special requirements before you can nominate yourself to be a chair of this working group. Does it need some level of experience? What is required? Can you just go through [inaudible] nominate oneself for something at the end of the day? Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. I don't think we need to really create any special process like election. We'll see how many volunteers are coming and we will see if we can already within ourselves as a group select someone.

Regarding experience, I think it would be good if we have someone who is familiar with ICANN, policy development, actively partaking in working groups or in [inaudible] within AFRALO. That will be a good [inaudible], definitely.

The chair needs to really have ... He or she will lead the group and follow up the tasks on members on the group to fulfill their areas of interest. I think we agreed earlier that we're going to have [champions] in each area and basically we need to have some sort of a plan [inaudible] that we're going to have webinars, for example, on those topics and [inaudible] who got involved. That's hopefully [inaudible]. I think someone wants to speak. Please, go ahead.

YUSIF AMADU: Hello? Hello?

YESIM NAZLAR: Mohamed, if I may, Fatimata's hand was up. May I also learn who is saying hello?

YUSIF AMADU: This is Yusif.

YESIM NAZLAR: Hi, Yusif. If you could please wait, since we have Fatimata first in the queue and then we can continue with you.

YUSIF AMADU: I just want to comment on what [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay, so what is the follow-up on what I said?

YUSIF AMADU: Someone like [inaudible] on this platform. [inaudible] for somebody [inaudible] required to be the chair.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: I did not want to put requirements myself. I wanted us to discuss this and agree on something together because I don't want to [inaudible] this myself. But, like I said, someone familiar with the policy development, someone actively working with currently. That does not mean that newcomers are not welcome. Definitely newcomers are welcome. But, someone who should be able to coordinate the work group activities. Let's hear from others. Fatimata is next. Please, Fatimata.

YUSIF AMADU: Okay, thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yes. Hello, everyone. I agree with you, Mohamed, and I already put in the chat that I would suggest to have young members volunteer. I made some selection criteria. I think we should have someone willing to learn, of course knows about ICANN [inaudible] and be committed to ICANN,

and also of course to Africa involvement in ICANN policy and everything. And someone who has time to commit to this. I think it's very important to have someone you can trust, someone who will deliver. Of course, it can be ... That person might not have to be a member who has been here like us, but I really ... In supporting [inaudible], we need to have young people step in and take the lead. Of course, [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Fatimata. That's very valid and a good point, really. We need people eager to learn. I have Abdulkarim, Dave, and Tijani. Abdulkarim, please go ahead, please.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you, Mohamed. I think [inaudible] some of the requirements, and thank you Fatimata on what you think. I think basically when it comes to somebody who is ready to learn, I think probably [inaudible] probably I might be able to, if there is nobody else I'm probably willing to. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Abdulkarim, for volunteering. Dave, please?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Can you hear me? Hello?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Very well. Loud and clear.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yeah. I do support the proposal from Fatimata that we need to have young people in the group and young people even as chair for the group, for the working group. I'm prepared to provide support to the chair. [inaudible] volunteering to be the chair, but I can facilitate the work of the chair. For example, I did already list all the action items that we had from the last year's working group. So, in this way, I am ready to help the chair to work, to do the chairing properly and then to be able to be available to do the work. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Dave. Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much. Do you hear me?

YESIM NAZLAR: Yes.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: We can hear you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you. I hate to disagree with Fatimata, but here I would say that the chairman position is not a position to learn. It is a position to lead a group. Of course, we need young people, and to reach this goal, I

propose to have co-chairs, two co-chairs. One experienced and one young.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: So, we agree, Tijani. You're going down the same path. Someone who is willing to learn, who is willing to be a coach.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Now to the criteria. I am not sure if we put or set up the criteria for this position, because everyone will say I am willing, I want, I have time, etc. it's not like this. In my point of view, it is anyone who is volunteering to be chair should tell us why and what he will do and how he will be a good chair for this group. This is a way to know each one the disposition. I don't know the term in English, but the previous position of people to be the chair of this group and how they will try to lead it. I think this is better than we put criteria, and of course everyone will say, "Yes, I will put time. Yes, I will go, etc." So, the best is that the person commits [inaudible] immediately. Without pre-defined criteria everyone tell us what he will bring to this group and how he is a good chair for this group. Thank you.

YESIM NAZLAR: Yes.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani. We have Dave. Is that an old hand or do you have a contribution here you want to follow-up?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yeah, it is an old hand. I'm going to erase now.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay, no problem. We have Omar is next to speak. Omar, please.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Daniel Nanghaka, please.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Daniel, I can put you in the queue, definitely. So, it will be Omar, then Daniel. Omar, can you please proceed? Omar is not speaking, so Daniel, can you please go ahead?

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Just something more about what has already been mentioned by Tijani and Fatimata. I would like to request for utmost support from the working group members because previously we have had members volunteering to join the working group, but the work that [inaudible] is so minimal and [inaudible] not very good. So, I think that for someone who is willing to take up the leadership role should be willing to [inaudible] give their time for the betterment of the [inaudible] implementation plan.

The good thing is [inaudible] documents have already been created and the report is so much [inaudible]. So, if we could go ahead and identify at least [inaudible] position in this working group, then they also need

support from the co-chairs who will also be willing to give us [inaudible] documentation [inaudible] implementation.

The advantage that we have is we have at least our senior members, like [inaudible] work that has been done by Tijani and the other leaders who are in capacity building. So, they provide a very good avenue for collaboration and input into all [inaudible] AFRALO [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Daniel. Very good points. I will come to it. I have some comments about it, but let's give Omar a chance. He has already been unmuted now. Omar, can you speak? Please go ahead.

OMAR SHURAN: Hello, do you hear me now?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, we can hear you.

OMAR SHURAN: Okay. I'd like to wish those fasting tomorrow a happy Ramadan. For a certain extent, I do agree with Tijani because there should be no prerequisites for this position. The most important thing in this position is the commitment and the ability to achieve the objective of this working group. I believe this is my point and thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Omar. If I might summarize maybe just the discussion previously, Fatimata suggested young blood would be good to learn chairman. Tijani suggested a structure where we have a chair and two vice chairs or one vice chair. I agree with that because the number of topics are many. I think we have about nine. It would be also good to have some support to the chairs.

One of the things there is an agreement, at least what I sense that Fatimata also supports, is that one of the vice chairs to be an experienced member who could provide guidance maybe and mentoring or support to the chair.

Regarding the requirements, it seems from Tijani's proposal [inaudible] the interested candidates to submit something like a statement about why they want to be a chair, how they're going to commit and what is their plans for the group, if I understand that correctly. I also don't support having very complex process where eligibility requirements or things like that, but I believe we have a statement from candidates who are interested to become chair or vice chair and in that statement they need to express and tell us why they want to be a chair. Do they have the commitment? What are their plans for implementing the action items?

Daniel, by the way, was a very good starting point and thank you, Daniel, for the work in the previous working group in drafting the report. I hope all the members will be committed because, without the members, we cannot do anything, even the chairs, because the work that's done is about implementing activities. It's organizing webinars, doing activities with ALSes. That's going to be I think coordinated with

the members who are interested in [inaudible]. So, members' activity, that's key.

This is what I summarize now from the discussion. If I missed anything, please correct me. This is the way forward in terms of ... Tijani, I think you have your hand up. Tijani, go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Mohamed. May I propose Mohamed rather than a chair and vice chair, two co-chairs – one new, young, and one experienced. Because the vice chair will [inaudible] that he is not the lead, so he is not committed as the chair. No. We want them to be both committed at the same level. This is my first point.

My second point is that I am not sure if everyone has the same understanding of the work of this working group. I think the main objective is to raise awareness of our community about those topics, since they are hot topics for our community.

So, it is more learning, more outreach, etc. People should be first committed to understand those topics, to read, to have time, to read about those topics. Second, to make a plan for the community to try to not educate, but to inform the community about those topics and to explain them why they are hot for our community.

The last point I want to raise here, the Hot Topic Working Group can ask – and this is very absolutely in the mandate of the Capacity Building Working Group – they can ask the Capacity Building Working Group to organize specific webinars for the hot topics, for the Africa or AFRALO

topic working group about a specific topic. This is something that we can do. It is possible. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Tijani. I agree with you. I think there will be good coordination between the Capacity Building Working Group and our group because the majority of the work will be capacity building. So, if there is no objection, if we can proceed with the proposal of a chair and co-chair and the interested candidates to submit their statement on the mailing list. They can also post it in the Wiki, which is [inaudible] they need to express why they want to become a chair or co-chair and maybe their qualifications or what interests make them interested in this work, and also their plans. That could be shared and then we'll see the reactions from the mailing list and from the groups.

So, if there is no objection and we can move to the next topic, we continue ...

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Sorry for interrupting, Mohamed, just to clarify. The next session will be you will have a chair and a co-chair as leaders for this working group implementation.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Yes.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Then, next step will be you will send an e-mail asking for all 26 members to submit an expression of interest if they are willing to be chair or co-chair. Is that the next step?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. So, any member who is willing to, interested to, serve as a chair or co-chair, they can submit a statement to the whole group so we know who is interested. Yes.

SILVIA VIVANCO: And you want a deadline for this?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: I think we can give it a week maximum. We don't want to take long on this.

SILVIA VIVANCO: A week from now?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay, so one week from now then. I will take that as an action item. I will note it on the Wiki page.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Daniel, I think you want to say something.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: I suggest that probably before the next working group meeting we should at least have the position filled up [inaudible] timeline for the implementation. One week is good, but when is the next working group meeting? Because by the time we have that working group meeting, there should be at least a key action point that should be able to [inaudible] the implementation of the hot topics. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. Fatimata, please.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yeah, thank you, Mohamed. This is just to go in line with Daniel. I would just add that maybe we need to set up a selection committee, then, because we might have a lot of statements of interest and we need to select the two co-chairs who would like to have.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: It's a valid proposal, but I would defer it after we see the number of expressions.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yeah, if we have more than two, I think that we have to.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, and we can see how [inaudible].

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Yeah, and even if we have two, Mohamed, I think it's going to be important to have two that we would just accept them because we want to have two. If the two candidates will have – if we don't like the profile or don't like the statement, I think we should maybe nominate.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: I think everyone's interest is really to work ... This is an area that we will have lots of work directed to this area because basically the activities could be driven by the hot topics because lots of quality issues in the hot topics. So, that's why encourage the maximum number of members to really take the lead and participate. Dave's hand is up. Please, Dave.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yes, Mohamed. I think you already mentioned, but I want to stress that the statement of interest by the candidate to be the chair, he has to include what are his plans, how he is going to take forward the group, to

have all the action items implemented. It should be included in a statement of interest.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, I agree with you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hello?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, who is it, please?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah, this is [inaudible] for the record.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As you stated, I think it would be better if you could take the requirement in the [mail that you are sending]. [inaudible] to qualify to be the co-chair or the chair, you need to do A, B, C, D, [inaudible] everybody is talking about doing this, this. So, when [inaudible] two, it's better [inaudible] expression of interest, the person will have to [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. I think what we can do is we can guide members to what we expect to have in the content of that statement. That's fine. It won't be specific [inaudible]. Thank you very much. Fatimata, I think you have your hand up and it's not a new follow-up. Okay.

We can go to the next agenda item which is implementation plan. Simply, the idea here is that we need the chair or co-chair, they need to develop a plan of action. We shouldn't just be working without really guiding. We all, as members, should know that this is our plan of action that we can discuss [inaudible] and a plan of action could be this is the topics. Those specific topics need capacity building and how we're going to deal with it. [inaudible], for example, the Capacity Building Working Group webinars, work with ALSes in the countries for those topics, when with dates, when we're going to tackle them, [inaudible], whatever. But, we need to have a document or some kind of plan. We cannot go to the hot topics implementation without really a clear plan of action. Otherwise, we will be just acting without really [inaudible] that action.

So, this is the idea of the action plan the chair and the co-chair that need to develop with the support and with the consultation with the members. Any feedback on this? Dave, you want to speak? Okay, no? Okay, no hands. So, if there [inaudible] and there is no comments, then there is agreement that the chair or the vice chair will develop that implementation plan.

YESIM NAZLAR: Mohamed, apologies for interrupting. Omar's hand is up.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much, Yesim, and my apologies for not having WebX on this call. Omar, please, go ahead.

YESIM NAZLAR: We will be unmuting Omar. Omar, you are unmuted.

OMAR SHURAN: I am repeating myself. I'm just forgiving Mohamed for not seeing my hand up because [inaudible]. I'm just reminding Mohamed that I have received an AFRALO Hot Topics report for 2018. Some part of this report is consisting of the action items to be done for each of these elements of hot topics. I think that the chair of this committee should develop this report and take it as a start point for implementing the action plan for this objective. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Omar. Definitely. The hot topic report will be used as a base for the action items. I'm not sure who has any other ... Dave is next. Please, Dave.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yeah, thank you, Mohamed. Since we are expecting a statement of interest from the candidates who are going to apply for the chair, I think it will be wise if they can include how ... I'm not telling them that they should provide the plan, but how are they going to tackle to have the

implementation plan, whether they're going to set up a group or a way forward to have implementation plan because this working group, the goal of it is the implementation. We are talking about hot topics implementation plan, so how are the chair and co-chair going to tackle this issue or this [inaudible], the task of the implementation? Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Dave. I will add that to the expression of interest. Tijani, please.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Mohamed. I think we have to separate the production of the plan, of the working plan, from the statement. The statement is the commitment, is the way to tell us, to tell the people what the candidate ... How the candidate sees his contribution or her contribution, how they will lead the group, what kind of time they can put in this work. Do they [inaudible] they can work in teamwork because they are two co-chairs? So, it is not one leading. They are two leading. These are the things that we need them to tell us.

The plan, once they are co-chair, they can in this case set the plan to the list. But now, we need them to tell us about their will, their energy, their time. The manner they see themselves able to lead the group. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Mohamed, can I just respond to Tijani?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, sure, as a follow-up, Dave, yes.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yes, I'm not asking the chair and co-chair to provide the implementation plan. I'm just asking them what are their views, how they are going to take it, whether they're going to set up small groups for each action items. I'm just asking them to provide their views not for them to be hands-on and then implementation plans for the group. For us to decide who is the best chair or co-chair, at least it is important that we ask that person has leadership is being able to lead. We have the implementation that needs to be done and then we should be able to access [inaudible] the group to have the implementation plan. But, I'm not [inaudible] chair and the co-chair, they have to do the plan themselves. It's just ... I'm just asking whether, okay, our group has to do an implementation plan. How are you going to take it, whether you're going to set up small groups, whether we have eight topics, whether you're going to have 26 members divided by eight groups, etc. But, at least we need to know, get a feeling of how the chair and co-chair are going to lead the group [inaudible] implementation.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Dave. Understood. If there is not any further discussion on this ...

YUSIF AMADU: Hello?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, go ahead.

YUSIF AMADU: I want to know if we have terms of reference, so that all this up and down will just be, [inaudible] for the co-chairs I think do better. We have terms of reference.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: We have terms of reference for the Hot Topics Working Group that was completed.

YUSIF AMADU: [inaudible] what I said from the beginning, that it's better we put it for the mailing list, [inaudible] is applying for. [inaudible] is required of the person. It [inaudible] up and down, but I think [inaudible] discussion that [inaudible] have come back. We don't have enough time.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: I think it's clear that from the discussion ... I mean, I could draft some requirements, but I don't want to do things, let's say, without really consulting others. So, I think now everyone on the call has a clear understanding of expectations from the chair and the co-chair in terms

of work, implementation plan, in terms of coordination of work, follow-up, action items, capacity building. I think that's already clear. We will e-mail guidance in terms of what's to be provided in the statement of interest, although we don't want to limit people in terms of what they write, but we're going to just provide guidance in terms of what we expect from them to provide.

So, if there is no further discussion here, we can go to the next agenda item, which is basically the next steps and I think we end the meeting [inaudible] a couple of action items now in terms of sending an announcement in the mailing list about anyone interested for the two positions and with it we can send just the guidance of what is expected from the statements of interest [inaudible].

I think it's [inaudible] the next AFRALO call we will do a chair and co-chair selected and already they can present to the monthly call. I'm not sure if anyone has any suggested steps or comments on this item. I sense we are all in agreement.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed? This is Heidi.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Heid, please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Just a question and a comment. The first is that is there a deadline to when the call for the leadership of this working group is sent? Is there a deadline for [inaudible] to apply?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, we suggested a week.

HEIDI ULLRICH: One week. Okay, thank you. Then, my comment is I'm wondering and somewhat assuming that some of the implementation of the policy hot topics will require resources, including your time and effort, staff time and effort, and possibly ICANN.org in terms of commercial materials, etc. If we could have this perhaps somewhat advanced by Panama or at least by the beginning of the fiscal year, which is the first of July, that would allow us to have a better picture of what kind of resources are available. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. I think very short timeframe, but we got the chair and the co-chair selected, we can give expectations in terms of let's say resources [inaudible] more capacity building being done internally with the [inaudible] we have, or we need let's say developing [inaudible] materials, let's say [inaudible] translation. I think that's important [inaudible] hopefully before [inaudible] try to push that. Hopefully, we can finalize the selection of the chair quickly so they can This could be the first priority [inaudible] try to give you some estimate [inaudible] what to expect.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Since there is no further any other business, we can conclude our call. That's a great achievement. We are 15 minutes before the one hour. Hopefully, you can continue [inaudible] be proactive. Thank you, everyone. Have a good night. Thank you.

YESIM NAZLAR: Thank you. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a lovely rest of the day. Bye-bye.

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