GISELLA GRUBER:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. Welcome to the AFRALO Hot Topics call on Monday, the 28th of May at 16:00 UTC.

On today's call, on the English channel, we have Mohamed El Bashier, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Dave Kissoondoyal, Daniel Nanghaka, Caleb Olumuyiwa, Beran Dondeh, Alagie Ceesay, Abdulkarim Oloyede, and Aisha Saho.

On the French channel, we have Michel Tchonang and Olévié Kouami.

From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco; and myself, Gisella Gruber.

Our interpreters today are Isabelle and Jacques.

If I could also please remind everyone to state their names when speaking not only for transcript purposes, but also to allow the interpreters to identify you on the other language channel. Please do speak at a reasonable speed to allow for accurate interpretation.

Again, we're using WebX for this conference call. We may have a few audio issues, and if we do, please, I'm really apologizing ahead of time if I do have to interrupt people to make sure that the interpreters can hear you.

Thank you very much, and over to you, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Gisella. Good afternoon and good evening, everyone. Thank you very much for joining. This is the second Hot

Topics Working Group call. I hope that this will be a productive, quick call.

We have an important agenda item, which is basically to select, or agree, on the chair and co-chair of the working groups. Since our last call, we have received on the mailing list three expressions of interest to serve as chair or co-chair. Those are Daniel, Dave, and Abdulkarim. These are the ones I can, let's say, count and have seen on the mailing list. Yes, please, go ahead?

GISELLA GRUBER: Apologies for interrupting. We also did get an expression of interest, however, with no statement of interest actually attached to the e-mail, only just a one liner, from [Adem] [inaudible] who was interested in the chair position. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay.

GISELLA GRUBER: Sorry. The e-mail was sent on the 13th of May. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: And that was sent to staff or to the mailing list? Because [inaudible] mailing list.

GISELLA GRUBER:	Correct. This was not sent to the mailing list. It was sent to staff and to us, RALO leadership. Thank you. Apologies. I did not forward it to the mailing list.
MOHAMED EL BASHIR:	No problem. It will be good if you can just forward it. But, we already have … Currently, if I'm … Allow me, let's consider that we have three expressions of interest received. I will open it for everyone to discuss how we are going to select the chairs and the co-chairs. I would like to hear your feedback on this.
TIJANI BEN JEMAA:	Mohamed?
MOHAMED EL BASHIR:	Yes, Tijani. Please go ahead.
TIJANI BEN JEMAA:	Thank you very much, Mohamed. Now that we just learned that there is a fourth expression of interest, I am a little bit puzzled because I don't know if we have to consider the fourth or not. If so, we will perhaps be obliged to go to the selection committee because we cannot have four chairs for this implementation group. Perhaps we will ask the four candidates to consult between themselves and try to come up with three maximum, and we may have three co-chairs. It doesn't matter. But, four is too much in my point of view. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani. Actually, I was thinking about to co-chairs and then we can extend it to three co-chairs, but now we have four expressions of interest. I think we need to consider how we're going to select. Any other comments before we conclude an approach? Also, time is running and I hope that we could make progress on this call by selecting the chair and the co-chair. [inaudible] by the next AFRALO conference call we can have something to report on, especially an implementation plan.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Can I speak please?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Dave, go ahead.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Okay. I agree with the proposal from Tijani. Let us consult among ourselves and then we decide. But, if need be, I'm ready to back out and leave the three other persons to chair and co-chairs. But, for this, I need to consult with them first. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Dave. My apologies. I'm not able to see who is raising hands on WebX. Before, we used to be on Adobe Connect. If you want to speak, maybe you need to just inform me.

We have a proposal that we give a chance to our colleagues who expressed their interest to be chair and co-chairs, agree among themselves. I think we need to set a timeframe for this. We don't want to delay the process. I'm not sure if we can … End of this weekend. Will that be okay to you, Dave? Also, just to make sure that we have Daniel in the call and I think Abdulkarim as well. I don't see them in WebX, but I think they're supposed to be on the call. So, what do you think, Daniel and Abdulkarim?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thanks, Mohamed. Can you hear me?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, very well. Please, go ahead.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay. I agree with [inaudible] decision is. If you want us to consult within ourselves, that's fine. It's okay by me. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Abdulkarim. I'm not sure if Daniel is here or not, but if we can …

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Can you hear me?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. Please, go ahead.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Yeah. [inaudible] opinion or [inaudible] available, but [inaudible] able to kick off the implementation [inaudible] of outcomes that came out in the report [inaudible]. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. [inaudible] by the way, he just sent an e-mail that does not have any content on it. Compared to the other expressions of interest which is where it details, [inaudible] has already laid out and expressly said what exactly they want to plan to do. So, I think, to be fair, we can ask [Evan] to send complete expression of interest to the mailing list as well. Hopefully, I will coordinate with you so we can, by the end of this week, we can get back to the whole group with maybe a selection of the chairs and the co-chairs as a consensus between the applicants. If that is okay, we can proceed.

Okay, so it seems that's exactly what we're going to do.

The next agenda item actually was dependent on [inaudible] the first one, which is basically the working group implementation plan.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Mohamed, excuse me, please. From the chat, Tijani wants to take the floor.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sure. Thank you, Dave. Tijani, please, go ahead.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: He wants to be unmuted.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you, Dave. We are unmuting Tijani. Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Hello.

GISELLA GRUBER: Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes?

GISELLA GRUBER: Sorry, Tijani. We can now hear you on the English channel. Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay, very good. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mohamed, for what you said. You gave a very important item and that's the application of the fourth candidate wasn't complete, was very light. So, we had a deadline and if you want us to go ahead and progress, we may consider this application not completed and then we will have, in this case, only

three candidates. I propose that we take the three as co-chairs. We would have three co-chairs working together. This will give the opportunity, first, for Abdulkarim since he is new in the group to be well-mentored by two experienced people. Second, to have Dave with a long history in AFRALO and Daniel who works on the Hot Topics Implementation Plan. We will have them together, the three together. We will have a good team to lead this implementation group. This is my point of view and I am sorry to give it late because I wasn't able to speak. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Tijani. It's never too late. If everyone on the call did hear [inaudible] is that we should consider the application that came as incomplete because it did not provide the information required. In this case, we have three applicants and that the proposal is to have co-chairs basically as Daniel and Dave as co-chairs with Abdulkarim. Any support for this proposal, what you think about it? I'm fine with this proposal. It gives us a chance to proceed and we don't have to delay further time in terms of process to select the leadership of the group and we can start working because the work is most important. I'd like to hear other opinions. Sarah, please?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Sarah has her hand up. She wants to speak.

SARAH KIDEN: Hi, everyone. This is Sarah. Can you hear me?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, very clear. Thanks.

SARAH KIDEN: So, I like the proposal that has been put forward, but I don't know if we're not being unfair to [Edem] since he didn't … I don't know if he knew that he was required to put in all this information or not. I don't know. It might not be fair to him.

Then, the other proposal, if the clarification [inaudible], is it chair and co-chair or is all three co-chairs? Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: May I intervene, Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Tijani, please. Yeah.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay, thank you very much. Sarah, you're right. I had the same feeling at the beginning. Remember that I was the one who said we have to make them [inaudible] between themselves because they are four candidates. But, since we made a call for applications and we said what should be inside and we gave a deadline, we received this application with no information and the deadline is already passed. So, if we want to be efficient, I think the best is to proceed with three co-chairs. Three co-chairs, why? Because we want the newcomer to be fully involved,

not feeling that he is not a chair but a vice chair, not having the full responsibility. So, all people as co-chairs so they will support each other and give good work, in my point of view. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani and Sarah.

SARAH KIDEN: Sorry, Mohamed, just one more chance. I think I agree with having all three co-chairs if we [inaudible] all of them to be co-chairs. I agree. Thank you. And for [Edem], maybe next time he'll learn to send something on time. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani and Sarah. Also, for [Edem], we can send him an e-mail saying that unfortunately this was incomplete, but he is also welcome to actively participate in the working group. That does not mean that will limit his workspace. I think we can encourage him to be active in the working group and work with the co-chairs.

So, the proposal now is to have co-chairs. The co-chairs will work together among themselves to achieve the group objectives and collaborate together. I think that's the proposal we now currently have. I heard support from Sarah. I also support that proposal because it will give us a chance to move ahead and [inaudible] that there is no objection from anyone to this proposal.

Since no one is … Everyone seems fine with this proposal, so we can proceed. We agree that we have the three candidates to be not appointed, but endorsed, as the three co-chairs of the working group. We encourage them to work together to have a good leadership for the group. So, if we can proceed. You have the freedom among yourself really to choose the way you work and how you achieve your objectives. We're not going to intervene on that. Thank you very much for volunteering to work and have this important working group. Thanks Daniel, Dave, and Abdulkarim.

If we can proceed to the next agenda item, which is the working group implementation plan. As we discussed in the previous meeting, we need from the co-chairs to produce to us, or to the group, to the working group, an implementation plan, so it will guide us for implementing the actions required either to create awareness or increase capacity building for the policy issues as related to the hot topics.

Do we let the chairs agree among themselves on a timeframe on how they're going to produce that? I think my take will be it will be good if we kept the momentum and we don't delay this and we can have, let's say, an implementation plan that we can share with the wider AFRALO community hopefully by the next meeting. If that's acceptable, let's agree on that. I'm happy to hear your comments.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Mohamed, this is Dave.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, please, go ahead.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yeah. Mohamed, for today, I propose that you continue with the chairing of this meeting, and then for the next meetings we are going to decide among ourselves of the consultation how we are going to chair the meetings. This is the first thing.

The second thing is that when I did send my expression of interest I did send some proposals of how we are going to do the implementation plan. This is only at the state of a proposal. The committee has to decide whether we have to do it this way or not. What I'm proposing is that we have 24 members on this working group, excluding I counted to for the co-chairs but now we have three. So, I propose that we split the number of members equally among the hot topic items. We have eight hot topic items, so roughly around three members per hot topic. Then, we ask the three members to come with a draft of the implementation plan for that specific hot topic item. Then, co-chairs, we combine all the drafts and then come up with a [concise] implementation plan. This is my first proposal.

The second proposal, if you see on the hot topic items, the outreach, the capacity building and outreach, do come often. So, I propose that we group this item like in a major implementation plan where we take all the topics that is related to outreach to outreach and capacity building because I think capacity building, outreach, and [inaudible] in Africa, this is in fact the hottest topic that needs to be tackled.

So, these were my two proposals that [inaudible] with my expression of interest. The team now has to decide whether we go forward with this proposal or we take other ways and means of doing it. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Dave. For the first point, if I can continue chairing the meeting, hopefully in the next conference call you can agree among yourselves how you're going to deal with them, the group calls, in terms of chairing the calls.

For the proposal, it's a good one. It ensures that everyone on board drafting the implementation plan. My only concern, it might take time if we say everyone to propose action items for the implementation group, implementation plan.

I think the co-chairs could take the lead and maybe assign … Because we have already on the Wiki page, we have a table where the members should select the hot topics that they are interested in to work and [inaudible] only have very few numbers of members who did that. I think we have about four or five members – I'm already reviewing the page now – out of 26. So, I think many of the members, they did not select the hot topics of interest, so that might be a challenge if we ask them to propose actions for the implementation plan. And still we have the issue that not many members might be active as we expected.

I think if the chairs could look at the report, we'll try in the report as well to identify some action items and maybe propose something based on that for review. That's number one and [inaudible]. Once we can …

SILVIA VIVANCO:	Mohamed, sorry to interrupt you. This is Silvia from staff. We have Michele Tchnonang asking for the floor.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:	Okay. Michele, please go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:	Me, too.

SILVIA VIVANCO:	And Tijani as well.

MICHELE TCHONANG:	Thank you very much. I would like to go back on the issues that have been put forward. If you look at the table, I was not able to actually put forward a proposal. I do know that there are some topics that keep coming up, but what I would like is that we … I want to include the Internet of Things and then the block chain as well because other topics have already been mentioned. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:	Thank you very much, Michele. Those topics, issues, have been selected by a wider community consultation and I'm not sure if we can update them now. If we can try to include those two in a topic that's, let's say, wide enough to have sub-topics involved on it. Thank you for that. Tijani, Daniel, and Sarah. We'll go to Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much, Mohamed. First of all, I agree with you, Mohamed, regarding the involvement of the working group members. Dave, I prefer that you prepare the work, means that the co-chair prepares the work and ask people [inaudible] hot topic. This is perhaps a way to attract people because people don't go to the work themselves. You have to drag them. I think that the first work, the initial work, should be done by you, by the co-chairs. This is exactly what I [inaudible].

In my point of view, you should first define a strategy for the work. How you see the work be done, how people will be involved. Shall you only put a table and say everyone choose one topic and then work on it, nobody will work. But, if you say we constitute a group for this topic and you have this co-chair on this topic, who wants to be with him, I think you will have more people [inaudible]. This is the first point.

For Michele, thank you very much for your intervention, but as Mohamed said, the selection of topics has been a long process and now we have a list of topics. It is not closed. It will be open for other topics later and this is the work of the co-chairs. So, now we have a list of topics that we have to implement, to have an implementation plan for them. I am sure that the co-chair will open again this [inaudible] to other topics to be added because the hot topics today will not be hot tomorrow, and what is not hot today can be hot tomorrow, etc. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Daniel, please.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Thanks very much for giving me the floor to speak. I suggest that the co-chairs put together [inaudible] list of discussion online whereby we discuss how best able to comment on the implementation plan [but that] in the next working group meeting, we share the outcomes of the discussion and then we see how best we are going to be able to drag the implementation plan [inaudible] including all the members of the working group.

Then, from there, [inaudible] from the Capacity Building Working Group whereby we shall have to come up with the respective [inaudible] and the respective hot topics.

So, the members so far suggested [inaudible] hot topics of interest. This is a good move. But, then, it also involves [inaudible] discussions during the webinars that [inaudible]. I don't know what [inaudible] suggest [inaudible] to the co-chairs coming up with the draft implementation plan [inaudible] next discussion. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Daniel. Sarah, please. Sarah needs to be unmuted.

GISELLA GRUBER: Please do try speaking. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN:

I hope you can hear me. I just wanted to comment on the three hot topic items that Dave is talking about. I don't know if it's a good idea, because if you look at the list right now, you'll notice that there are topics which [inaudible] express interest in, like GDPR, capacity building, and Internet governance.

So, for me, I would like to suggest that we don't restrict the number. We just let whoever is interested in the topic to come. And even as co-chairs, instead of saying each co-chair should select three topic items, since we have newcomers, I still suggest that co-chairs work together on the hot topics. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Sarah. So, since the consensus that the co-chairs need to work together and develop a draft implementation plan with action items and then we assign it to the members who are willing to work on those action items.

May I ask you to maybe coordinate with Tijani because the Capacity Building Working Group and working with them I think will be critical because many, many topics and hot topic issues require capacity building, the informal webinars or sessions. Thanks to Tijani and the capacity building. We have a couple of very good webinars that have been implemented. I think it's an area we can definitely explore and collaborate with the Capacity Building Working Group in terms of implementation.

It will be great if the co-chairs as well agree on a timeframe to provide us with a draft plan. Hopefully, if we can get the draft of a plan before

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the next conference call, AFRALO conference call, that would be great so at least we can update the community about the progress of the working group.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Mohamed, when are we planning to convene again? When is our next meeting? Two weeks time, one month?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: This is the next agenda item. We need to agree on a meeting schedule, but every two weeks seems reasonable at this stage because we need to keep the momentum and keep actively working on the issues. Then, after that, we can have a monthly conference call. That's my proposal, but it's up to you and everyone also to agree to it.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: I think for next meeting let us allocate two weeks for the implementation plan. We coordinate among ourselves, all the three co-chairs, we come with a draft implementation plan and then we have the meeting in three weeks from now. Two weeks for the implementation plan draft and then we put it on the mailing list for members to join and to comment, and one week later, we convene for the meeting.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: It's good to hear from the co-chairs as well.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Hello?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Abdulkarim.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: I want to agree with Dave. I think that is fine with me. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. That's all fine with me. I would like to remind the co-chairs that on the last conference call Heidi mentioned something about we need to provide staff with high levels … I mean, details of what resource is expected from them so they can start planning for that earlier. And if, for example, if we are expecting to do translation on documents, we can just say this is expected. It doesn't have to be detailed because you will be working on the implementation plan, but my understanding that staff has [inaudible] coming I think in June and they need to decide on allocation of resources for the activities.

So, for example, translation materials, printing materials and any media production if we want to do a webinar or a review. Heidi asked us if we

can provide that as soon as possible, so can I put that on your list of actions to do, so at least we don't miss an opportunity that we can request resources that could help the working group to achieve its work?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yes, Mohamed. I think the implementation plan has to be comprehensive. It has to include all [inaudible] resources required and then the involvement, how far the involvement of ICANN staff will be necessary. We have to make it very comprehensive, complete.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah. But I think the challenges … You need to communicate with staff earlier before even completing the implementation plan because there is … The financial year is going to be in June, so they need to have a high-level expectation, [inaudible] details about what we need from them. For example, if we need to translate materials to not English and French, even to other African languages, if this is an idea, we can say translation is required, materials printing. So, just high level, so at least they have the visibility of what to expect. They need that as soon as possible. That's what has been requested from us from the last call. But, at least now we have you as co-chairs. That's something you can communicate with the staff on and at least agree on it. It doesn't have to be detailed and it doesn't have to wait for the complete implementation plan, but high level about expectation or resources needed for the working group.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Agree.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much. I'll let you decide among yourselves how to communicate to staff on how to take the lead on this, but keep this on your list of things to do. Thank you.

GISELLA GRUBER: Tijani has his hand raised. Thank you. Tijani, you are unmuted.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. Do you hear me? Do you hear me, Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. Thank you. Please go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you. I think that [inaudible] of the support we need from the staff, we need [inaudible] of the implementation plan. So, perhaps we need to have at least a high-level implementation plan defined before asking for support or expressing a kind of support. I think that it is more or less known. It is more about interpretation and printing and something like this. But, I think the best is to have at least the co-chairs working on their plan these two weeks and then we can give Heidi and the staff our needs for support. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani. I'm not sure if Silvia or Gisella … If that's okay for staff that they could receive the high-level resources required after two weeks or you want it before that, so the chairs could provide you something before that.

SILVIA VIVANCO: I think the idea is to have it as soon as possible, maybe within a week or maximum two. Yes, I think two will be okay. Actually, I'm looking at the calendar. We need by maybe June 8th. We will be thankful if you can provide us your expectations of what will be needed. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. So, Dave, Daniel and Abdulkarim, I think if you try to finalize that between yourselves in maybe a week, that will be great, so at least you don't have that to be delayed. Try to send that maybe after a week. That's [inaudible] before the two weeks, because it will just will be high level, as Tijani said, and we almost know what type of support is required, but we leave it to you to determine after reviewing the plan and working on the plan. Thank you very much.

For the next agenda item, this is regarding the next meetings and we already agreed that the next meeting is going to be after three weeks from now.

Sorry, there was an echo from a phone. I said we agreed that the next working group meeting will be after three weeks, and by that time, we should have the draft working plan and consulted in the mailing list. We will have a call to discuss it.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Tijani. Please go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes. Thank you very much, Mohamed. I have a concern because in two weeks it will be very close to our departure to Panama. If we may have it perhaps not in two weeks, but I don't know, in 15 days, two weeks or a little bit more than two weeks, okay. But, try to be far from our departure date. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you. So, basically, next week is the week of 4 June and the week after is 11. So, if we can have the next conference call by three weeks, that almost will be 18.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: 15 [inaudible], Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, I think by 15, that's reasonable. We should not take much longer on this. We should plan the conference call before the 15th, so you have that week. Really, I think the sooner, the better. We should not exceed the 15th.

Any other business?

BERAN DONDEH: Mohamed, can I say something?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Beran. Please, go ahead.

BERAN DONDEH: Sorry. I just wanted to say when they're [inaudible] the date to bear in mind that it will be on that week as well, so to try and push it earlier than the 15th, like maybe the 10th, the 11th, 12th because the closer you get to the 15th or past the 15th or the 16th, it's close to the end of Ramadan. Just to take that into consideration. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much for reminding us about [inaudible]. I think that's something else we should consider. I'm not sure about also on the call timing which we can consider breaking of fasting time. I think we have one colleague who couldn't make it who sent an apology saying that he will be breaking his fast, but I agree with you. If we can do it earlier, then maybe the 13th or 14th avoiding that period of holidays for Ramadan, that would be great.

Thank you very much for joining the call. That was a very productive and active call. I think we have made progress. We already have the three chairs. Thank you. We need to thank them for volunteering and we look

forward to work with you to achieve the objective of the working group. Have a good evening and thank you very much. Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, Mohamed. Thanks, everyone. Bye-bye.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you, everyone. The call has been adjourned and the audio will now be disconnected. Thank you very much for joining today's call and have a very good evening. Bye-bye!

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