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CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening, everyone. Thank you for joining the AFRALO monthly teleconference call on Wednesday, the 5th of December, 2018 at 18:30 UTC.

On the English channel today we have Mohamed El Bashir, Nkem Nweke, Abdulklarim Ayopo Oloyede, Sarah Kiden, Aisha Saho, Bram Fudzulani, Daniel Nanghaka, Akanyihayo Ambrose, Vernatius Ezeama, Emmanuel Onwugbufor Otunte Otuenah, Mary Uduma, Raihanath Gbadmassi, Abdalmonem Galila, Roger Baah, Barrack Otieno, Seun Ojedeji, Dave Kissoondoyal, Ejikeme Egbuogu, Leon Sanchez, Yazid Akanho, Franck Kouyami, and Chenai.

On the French channel, we have Tijani Ben Jemaa, Gabdibé Gab-Hingonné, Gabriel Bombambo Boseko, Michel Linze, Montrésor Konan, and Aziz Hilali. We have received apologies from Baudouin Schombe and Silvia Vivanco from staff.

From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management. Our interpreters today on French are Camila and Jacques. Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone to please state their name before speaking for the transcription purposes and also so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels. And with this, I pass it over to you, Mohammed. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Claudia. And good evening, everyone, and good morning for some of you that's morning time. And thank you very much

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

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for joining our last AFRALO call for the year. And I wish you happy new year to you and your families in advance, because the next teleconference will be after the new year.

We made a slight adjustment in this call. You can see that English has been put as the language [inaudible] number of participants during the whole year, and we have noticed that English-speaking participants were more than the French. I think we have about 129 English-speaking participants attending the call compared to I think 92. So we thought of making an alternative or rotating, but we thought of experimenting changing the language for this meeting, and hopefully, everyone wouldn't have an issue about that.

Without further ado, we'll go to agenda items. We have very packed agenda items for this call. So for the first item regarding the open comments within ICANN, I have posted in Adobe Connect the link to ICANN public comments. And basically, there are several, let's say, public comment periods that are currently open. I would just maybe select few of them just to highlight it. And please mute your phone lines so either we don't have echo or we don't have background sound so the call could be productive.

So as I said, there's many items in the public comments. There is the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review Team Final Report, which is also due to December 11th.

There is the Initial Report of the initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process, EPDP, on the Temporary Specification for gTLD

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Registration Data, which is very important. And it's currently a very important hot topic, currently due for 21st December.

And those are, I think, the main ones that are open for comments. And I sent the link in the Adobe for the comment periods. So we can proceed to the reports part of the meeting.

So let's start by the ALAC activities and updates from our representative there, so I can hand it over to Tijani, Seun and Hadia. Please be brief, and if you can in a minute or two update us about the recent activities within the ALAC. So, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Okay. Thank you, Mohamed. Do you hear me well?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Yes, very well. Please.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Okay, thank you very much. [Yes, ALAC] is now concentrated on two main things, which are the review and ATLAS III. For the review, we've already prepared the implementation plan requested by the board, and I think it was sent to the board. But it took all our time until a few weeks ago.

And also, the second main thing we are working on is ATLAS III now. Of course, we do everything which is related to the public comments, such as the subsequent procedures. We had an initial report, and now a

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supplemental report with new questions, so we are also working on that.

We are, of course, working on the EPDP, and we have two representatives, two members of the EPDP, one of them is not from Africa, and two alternates, and one of them is African too. So I can say that our region is, how to say, has advantage to be very strongly represented on this very important working group which is working on the new policy to replace the temporary specifications regarding the WHOIS data.

So we are working on all those things, but mainly, if you want, as ALAC, we work a lot on implementation of the review, and now we start working on the ATLAS III, the At-Large summit. And I will let the two other members to complete. Thank you. Hello?

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Mohamed, could I continue? Hello?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Hadia, go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Okay. Thank you so much, Tijani. So you covered like everything. I would just add that the initial report of the generic top-level domain registration data, the temp spec, is out for public comment, and we have 16 days now to complete our comment and post it. So currently, we are working on that, and we encourage all members to take a look at

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the Wiki page. If you have any comment, please, with regard to the initial report, please post them so that we can include them in our statement or comment on the initial report. We're also working on the subsequent procedures report, as Tijani mentioned, so that is with regard to the policy activity. Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: I think Seun might be disconnected.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Yes Seun just dropped. We are dialing back to him right now. One moment.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Sure.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Mohamed, if you would like to continue, the operator –

HADIA ELMINIAWI: I can –

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CLAUDIA RUIZ: Yeah. Please go ahead.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Who's that, please? Hadia?

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Quickly, just some points. Until Seun is with us, I could quickly tell you some items that we are seeking comments on with regard to the EPDP, and [inaudible]

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sorry, [we don't hear you.]

HADIA ELMINIAWI: – those allow [inaudible] distinction based on geographic location, legal versus natural distinction between registrants, and others related to [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sorry, Hadia, the line is breaking up. We can't hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. So if we don't have Seun back on the call, I think we can proceed to the next agenda item. Sorry, Hadia, the line is breaking up. It would be good if you provided your phone number so staff could dial you out instead of using the Adobe Connect since the audio from the Adobe Connect is not that good.

So the next agenda item is the report on the hot topics implementation working group activities, and either Dave or Abdulkarim or Daniel [inaudible]

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is [inaudible] I needed to reply [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Who's that, [please?]

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Hello.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, who's speaking?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: This is Abdulkarim.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Seun. It's Seun.

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay, Seun, could you briefly, Seun, quickly give us your ALAC update?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Mohamed, it seems that I am wrong, it was Abdulkarim. Abdulkarim wanted to speak. I'm sorry.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: No problem. Is it Abdulkarim?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Yes.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. Okay. Briefly, Abdulkarim, if you can please update us on the hot topics working group activities.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay. Thank you very much. I want to [inaudible] after the ICANN meeting in Barcelona, [we were still also] meeting with Tijani. I will meet Tijani at the AFRINIC 29 meeting in Tunisia, and we had a discussion about when we're going to have our next webinar. And Tijani informed me that it would help us to arrange a webinar as soon as possible.

Currently, we are running out of time for this year, and also, it's difficult to get some [details.] We have promise that [as soon as possible,]



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probably early next year, we'll be able to schedule another webinar as soon as possible.

Then also on the hot topics, the document [which is attached,] which we can all see here in the Adobe Connect, which is what the Communication team has been able to produce, which is a fantastic summary of the AFRALO hot topics. You can go through this document.

I think there's been a lot of hard work put into it by the Communication team and I would like to thank them and commend them for a wonderful job, and I would like to also seek [for our] approval. I'd also approve that document so that it can be used subsequently for our activities, especially the outreach activities. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah. Thank you very much, Abdulkarim. Dave, do you have any comments?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: No, it's okay. Abdulkarim has told everything. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you very much as well for the hard work that you have been doing on the working group, and it's really good to see that we have now a well-drafted, designed [and defined] policy hot topics document which we can share with everyone and we can spread around. It will be good if you just share it on the mailing list and just announce it. I think it's a good work, and thank you very much

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for the effort. So you can share it, or we can see how we can send it to the whole mailing list and update everyone. Thank you very much.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Okay. Thank you. We'll [need to] do that.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes?

HEIDI ULLRICH: I have my hand raised.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, please, Heidi.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes. Thank you, Mohamed. I just wanted to briefly, again, send congratulations to everyone who worked on this. This is an amazing document that will really help with your outreach, your engagement to current members on what the key policy topics within AFRALO and the importance to end users.

So, very well done, but this does not mean that your work is done here. This document is actually just the source material for you now to go and

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communicate this information to all of your current members within your ALSes, potential new members that you would like to have as either new ALSes or individuals, so that means communication.

So please, as Mohamed said, if you could make sure that you do send this to the list, to your ALS members, and also think about how are you going to incorporate this in your outreach and engagement activities all across Africa. Every time that you're at a conference, please do use this as a resource.

You do have RALO discretionary funding where you can print copies of this, so I would suggest that you do think about that. Please use social media. So do think about that, how you're going to communicate this and get this into the hands of people that you're wishing to reach. Thank you so much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Heidi. Thank you for your help on all the stuff, and the Comms team in producing this. Definitely, we'll make sure that we try to spread the word and share it as soon as possible. Thank you.

Okay, the next report is on the new gTLD subsequent procedures working group five, and I hope Ali Hussein, our representative there is on the call to update us. Okay, we don't have Ali in the call. Just to update you, we communicated to Ali several times and we tried to urge him to be active as AFRALO representative. He promised that he will be more active and promised to join the calls, our calls and provide updates, which unfortunately didn't happen.

So I think we will proceed and try to find a replacement for AFRALO in this important working group, because it's important that we have active representation and also feedback to the community. That being said, I think we can proceed, and yes, so we can have an update regarding your ALS activities, and we can start by an update from Tijani on AFRINIC 29 and the North African IGF. So Tijani can start the update, and then we can give the chance to everyone. Yes, please go ahead, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much, Mohamed. Last few days, we had three back to back events. The first one was the African IGF held in Tunis, held in [inaudible] on the [26th] of November. The second event was AFRINIC 29, and I was with Abdulkarim in this event and I will let Abdulkarim update you on this and I will complete.

And the third event was an IPv6 day that my ALS has organized in Tunis. I organized this event on the 1st of December to make it back to back to AFRINIC so that I benefit from people attending AFRINIC, and that's how I got [inaudible] as a speaker, [Jordie,] and the third one is [inaudible]. Three of them attended AFRINIC, they are not [community.] So this was an enrichment to this event.

So let me start by North African IGF. It is the second North African IGF. The first one was organized in [Sharm El Sheikh] last year, and this year, we organized it over one single day because of several things.

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One of them is the short – how to say – we have a problem of attendance at this IGF, and we tried to make it back to back to AFRINIC so people coming to AFRINIC can attend it. This is the first [thing.]

Second thing, we weren't sure that we will have a lot of people coming, that's why we tried to make it on one day and make it condensed, if you want, make it very focused. It was especially focused on data protection and also on the next steps for the North African IGF, because it is a new IGF and we want to see how to make it better in the future and how to make it better attended and what are the means, how to find means to – financial means and also human means, human resources to make it more efficient.

This is for the North African IGF. Now I will give the floor to Abdulkarim to make the update on the AFRINIC, and then if there is something to add, I will add it, and then I will come back and speak about the IPv6 day. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. Please, Abdulkarim.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you very much. We – just as Tijani said – attended the AFRINIC meeting. We were able to do some of the outreach engagement, we were able to get some names and e-mail address or contact details of some people who are interested in AFRALO. We were able to explain to them what AFRALO is, also why they need to participate in AFRALO in particular and in ICANN At-Large. So that would be summary of

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everything. It went well, and it was a wonderful experience for me, and I would like to say thank you to the team for actually having the confidence in me and sending me to Tunisia. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Abdulkarim. Thank you for presenting us [inaudible]

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. May I come back now?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, sure. And I also just wanted to mention that if there's anyone else who have an update regarding a local ALS event who'd like to share it with us, please raise your hand or just mention [inaudible]

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Mohamed, please.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: [inaudible] can give you a chance. Tijani, go ahead. You're first.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Mohamed, we didn't finish AFRINIC.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, go ahead, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. I will finish on AFRINIC. IN AFRINIC, ICANN had a session. A short session, yes, but it was a session. And ICANN – we were three on the stage together with [inaudible] was moderating the session, and there was Khaled Koubaa as a board member, an At-Large representative, and Khaled as NPOC representative.

So we make an update, did an update on our activities, and it was very short, but it was, I think, efficient, because we tried to be focused. This is the first thing.

Second thing, we had a booth in the AFRINIC, and the booth was from the first day until the last day. we managed to have the banner. [Abdala] brought it from Nairobi, and we had it. We had also the table cover, the tablecloth, and we had a real booth and we had our brochure there. And also, I gave some power adaptors and some things that I got from Heidi.

So this is – of course, we participated in all the sessions, and AFRINIC was focused, the policy was focused on the exhaustion of IPv4 addresses and the soft landing process. Seun, who is a member of the board of AFRINIC, if he's available, he can make a better update than me.

But I think that policies were discussed along one day, over one full day, and it was about how to manage this exhaustion, how will these few blocks that we still have as AFRINIC – because we expect that in April 2019, everything will be finished, every public IP address will be

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finished. So this is more or less what was discussed [principally] in AFRINIC [inaudible].

Now, to my ALS event which is IPv6 deployment, it was IPv6 deployment, current situation perspective. We had the point of view of ICANN, the point of view of company [inaudible] and the point of view of AFRINIC on this event. And also, of course, we had the position of the Tunisian institutions such as the regulator and the [ATA] that everyone knows.

I think it was a successful day. We had a lot of photos that we posted [which Evin took, and Evin also tweeted on AFRINIC 29.] So I think this is all I wanted to say about those three events back to back. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Tijani. I have Abdalmonem, I have a raised hand. Please, Abdalmonem.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yes. I just wanted to highlight two issues, that the [first sessions will have] a lot of webinars in the capacity building working group for ALAC. We have discussed in the most recent [topic in basic terms] and other topics about the [inaudible] policies published by ICANN. So why not have [at least] what we learned from this session inside this meeting? I want to discuss this with the African community inside this meeting. That is the first issue.

The second issue is that we wanted to involve the African community with IDNs. We wanted [inaudible] leverage tools of IDN. So we wanted



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to encourage [the entity from] the Africa community to join the group of taskforce for international domain names. Those are the two issues. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Abdalmonem, for the update and for asking us for [inaudible] or contributors to the work on the IDNs and universal acceptance. That's very important. Please, if you can mute –

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yeah. Hello, this is Seun.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah. [inaudible]

SEUN OJEDEJI: Seun.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. I'll give you a chance. Please, if you're not speaking, try to mute your lines because there's lots of background sound and it's really distorting and we can't really focus on the speakers. So please, if you're not speaking, just please put your line on mute. Yes, Seun, please go ahead.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Yes –

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Abdalmonem, yes.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay, yeah, this is Seun. [inaudible].

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Abdalmonem can give - we need to give Seun a chance to speak.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: He was dropped and then [inaudible] Yes, Seun, please go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thank you. I think Tijani and Abdulkarim have given update about AFRINIC and the Africa IGF. Just to also add more to the policy [bit] of AFRINIC meeting, as you know, AFRINIC holds a public policy meeting twice a year, and the last one held in Tunis. It was as four-day session [inaudible] how to manage AFRINIC IPv4 and IPv6 and the [inaudible] assessments within the AFRINIC community. AFRINIC [inaudible].

So the [inaudible] talks about IPv4 exhaustion, [inaudible] how to manage the IPv4 exhaustion, because AFRINIC has not exhausted its free pools, so free pools means that we have still have some IPv4 left

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which can be allocated based on [inaudible] [going to exhaust this too by] sometime in first quarter – first or second quarter of 2019.

So [inaudible] last call and the discussion has been going on on the mailing list. So people [inaudible] continue to discuss [inaudible] on the mailing list as well. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Seun. Abdalmonem, you can briefly provide us with your update, or you have a follow-up.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Yes. I am here again. I ask the co-chair, maybe he can answer me for these two questions. The first question is, how is AFRINIC affected by the new technology of blockchain? Second question is that [ALAC did] many training about IPv6, so how [inaudible] possible to spread the word of blockchain inside Africa? Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Tijani, maybe you can respond as you attended the AFRINIC meeting, there was any presentation about blockchain and who's actively promoting IPv6 awareness as well or pushing for that? I'm not sure if Tijani is –

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello.

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ABDALMONEM GALILA: Please, can you respond as a board member?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes. So on the matter of the IPv6 [inaudible] entirely IPv6. So [inaudible] there are lots of initiatives inside of AFRINIC to promote [inaudible] usage, and AFRINIC also runs [inaudible] to actually the resource of previous activities [inaudible] to continue [inaudible] common [inaudible] through the community [inaudible] IPv6 and ASN number for AFRINIC [inaudible] ready to deploy. [inaudible]

Besides that, there are also other community members who [inaudible] Tijani [inaudible] Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Seun. It was very difficult really to follow because of the bad quality of the audio. I think Abdalmonem could follow up with you. Briefly, Michel and Hadia so we can continue on the other items. So, briefly, Michel first and then Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Yes. Okay.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Are you online, Michel? Okay, Hadia, go ahead until Michel – go ahead, please.

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HADIA ELMINIAWI: I have just a very quick comment about blockchain. I guess we need first to apply the application that blockchain technology would serve as a good platform for. And I would note that the center of the domain name system – Entrepreneurship Center, actually, during the summer, we had two interns working on trying to achieve a use of blockchain technology in making a DNS system, and we actually [inaudible] Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Hadia. There's lots of hype and there's lots of opportunities in blockchain. And as you said, it's about applications, and the problem is still there is lots of lack of application there. So let's proceed ahead.

Okay, we finished the reports part. We can go now to the updates. The first update, we have the At-Large 2020 budget development workspace, and if we can have a brief update, Tijani, and Sarah, both of you. So, Tijani, could you give us a brief update, quick update? I'm not sure if Tijani's online. Sarah, could you please provide us –

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Heidi?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, go ahead, Sarah. I'm always available, but go ahead, Sarah.

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Sure. Sarah, are you available?

SARAH KIDEN: Okay. I think Heidi would be in the best position to give the update.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sure.

SARAH KIDEN: I'm a new member in the working group, and I [inaudible] Heidi gives the update. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sure. Yes, please update us, [Heidi.]

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you. I wanted to raise everyone's attention. This is your one-year opportunity that you get to develop proposals for funding for activities in your region or all across At-Large. This is a really key time. These requests can range from capacity building, outreach and engagement, skill building, all across the spectrum of what you would like to do in your region. So I wanted to bring your attention to the workspace that I've just put into the chat.

And now for this next year, fiscal year 20, that begins 1st of July 2019. However, the requests are due to the ALAC Finance and Budget

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Subcommittee on the 4th of January. So you have just under a month, and this year, the criteria include a requirement that before they even go to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, all requests have to first be endorsed by the RALO.

So that means any kind of request that any of you would like to submit, it needs to be first endorsed by AFRALO. Okay? That's the key criteria this year. Also, outreach should not be a major focus. Maureen Hilyard, the ALAC chair, is asking that you think about requests that would improve engagement with existing members. This is in line with the At-Large review implementation.

So do please look at that workspace, look at the criteria, and then start thinking about some of the activities that you think that you need – not so much that you wish that you can have, but things that you – activities, material that you think that you will need going forward in fiscal year 20.

Then on that workspace, you will see a template that you need to fill out with all the details of that request and then submit that again, first to your RALO for endorsement, and then by the 4th of January 2019 to submit that to staff and the Finance and Budget Subcommittee. Okay? I think that covers it for the time being, Mohamed [inaudible]

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Yeah. Thank you very much, Heidi. So to be practical and move ahead, can we form a small group from interested members who could meet and brainstorm about possible, let's say, events or any programs that

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we can implement, anything we can request? And that could be formulated.

So a small group that could be hopefully less than five to be productive, and we can send the request to the mailing list asking for volunteers, or if you're interested here, you can volunteer. Tijani.

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

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, we can hear you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, we can hear you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. Thank you. We have to see what is needed. We need the community, any ALS who wants to submit an additional budget request to submit their request for funding for any activities they want to do. So I don't think that at this moment, we need a group for that.

At this moment, we need to make the largest outreach about that so that people know about it and know that we have very few time. We



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have only one month to do that. Less than one month. So I think that each ALS should think about activities, and we have to read the conditions, the criteria, everything, because if we don't read that, we will propose – as before, we received proposals that didn't fit and couldn't be accepted. And this time, the approval of the RALO is necessary.

So we have another step, that's why we need our requests to be ready very soon so that AFRALO approves it and then they go to the ALAC, and ALAC, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee will approve or not approve later. Thank you. So I don't see the necessity of having a group at this time. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Okay. Thank you, Tijani. But I think the issue of just asking ALSes just to submit their requests, I think we need to be strategic in terms of let's get something that at least we can be comfortable as a RALO that it might have higher chances of being approved, and it's also that we wanted to implement it.

Sao we need a small number of people who could look at that. Yes, maybe ALSes could submit their request, but at least we need to filter or we need to see exactly what we're submitting as a RALO. So, Sarah [has your hand there.] Can you briefly?

SARAH KIDEN:

I just wanted to add that I think it's important because the e-mails have gone out but nobody has responded yet. So probably, there's a

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problem, and I think that's what the small group can try to identify and try to see how our ALSes can make better use of the funds. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you. And the next item is the AFRALO rule of procedures. I'm sure you have seen the vote result, and thank you very much for participating in the voting. Now we have an approved decertification rules, which is we can, let's say, could be implemented.

The next item, I think, which is critical is the AFRALO discretionary ALS activities funding. Basically, last time, we have submitted an e-mail to the mailing list requesting ALSes to come forward and apply for funding, and because we have a budget currently available which has been there for a couple of months and we need to use it.

So far, we didn't get any request from any ALS for any funding request, and I think we have about 4000 that we need to spend. This is the RALO activities budget. So again, I'm requesting ALSes, I'm encouraging ALSes to apply for the AFRALO discretionary activities funding, which is basically if you have an event and you would like AFRALO to help you or ICANN to help you in terms of providing part of the budget for that event, please send request. We need to [send this budget line items.]

So, Sarah, please go ahead.

SARAH KIDEN:

Old hand, sorry.

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: So maybe we can send to the mailing list another reminder about the discretionary fund which is also available. The next item is, Sarah, can you give us an update about this call for the regional vice chairs Technology Taskforce?

SARAH KIDEN. Hi, Mohamed. Hi, everyone. Judith, who is the chair for the Technology Taskforce has joined us on the call, and I would like to request her to give us a brief update. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Please, go ahead.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Hi. Thank you, Sarah, for the invitation. So we are looking to try to grow the leadership opportunities within the technology taskforce in line with some of the goals that Maureen had set out. So we are opening up opportunities for people who want to help out and work on – [definitely a] regional chair which is also looking at – so the leadership [inaudible] to the Technology Taskforce, heading up some subcommittees.

We've had several different subprojects that we've been working on. One has been working on looking at different conferencing solutions. We've looked at trying to create better forms to [inaudible] help other people, redoing the Wiki, many different other things.

I'm posting in the chat the link to the EoI. So we are looking to get some more people or other people within the TTF to take on a leadership role.

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Sarah has done a lot of work in this area. She presented in Barcelona to NPOC about the TTF, and so we are also looking at broadening our horizons on that. But I think you've got the hall music competing.

So if you have any questions, please let me know, and happy to have joined the call for this.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. And our apologies for the background sound and the music and other stuff. Yeah, sorry. The quality of the Adobe Connect wasn't really good this time.

Okay, so moving ahead with the agenda items, Sarah, can you update us about the ALS and individual members applications? Sarah, can you please update us about the new ALS and individual members applications? Maybe we have –

SARAH KIDEN: Hello. Can you hear me now?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, we can hear you. Please go ahead.

SARAH KIDEN: Hello?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, we can hear you, Sarah.

SARAH KIDEN:

Can you hear me now? Okay. Akanyihayo Ambrose who is from Uganda, and he is a student, and he is attending this call today. So welcome, Ambrose. And the second application is from [Serata Bari] who is from Guinea. She's an ICT specialist, she attended the ICANN meeting in Barcelona and she passed by the At-Large sessions by chance and she's interested in joining us as a member. So, welcome, [Serata] and welcome, Ambrose. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Yeah. Thank you very much, and welcome to our new individual members. We're happy to have you here and looking forward to your active participation.

Okay, so we are almost – hopefully [we ended] on time and hopefully we can finish in one hour. Tijani, please go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Sarah, for the update on the new members. I don't know if you mentioned that Abdalmonem Galila is our [inaudible] also. And we received [inaudible] application for individual member from Moroccan individual, and I think – I don't know if the application is already in process, but we'll need to consider it very soon, because [inaudible] want to be active in our community. Thank you.

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. Sarah, please.

SARAH KIDEN: So we haven't seen the application from the Moroccan individual member, but we saw the one from Galila, and I think we talked about his application in the previous meeting, so he's formally been approved as a member. So if you can request the person to resend the application, because I have not seen it yet. We only have the two applications this month. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. And I have Fatimata on the queue. Please, Fatimata.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Good evening, everyone.

SARAH KIDEN: Sarah again.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sarah, can we give –

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: [inaudible] hear me?

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SARAH KIDEN: So we have Chenai Chair who is also one of our new members. She's on the call today, and Galila, so those are our new individual members. We'd like to welcome you to AFRALO. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Sarah. Please go ahead, Fatiamta.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Okay. Good evening, everyone. I've been waiting to discuss the update on outreach and engagement, and my question is related to that matter, not affiliated members. This is a question I wanted to ask before, but no one saw me asking for the floor earlier. So, can I ask my question now? I've been waiting for [inaudible]

INTERPRETER: That is the end of Fatimata's intervention.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Sorry, I didn't catch the last like. Can you just repeat what exactly the question or the comment, please? Can you please repeat Fatimata's question again? We didn't have the chance really to catch the question. For the interpreter, please.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: [Have we] received already a few requests for financing coming from RALOs for the At-Large budget development?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. To my knowledge, we did not receive yet. We need to ask ALSes to submit requests, and we need to form the small group which will look at requests and try to harmonize or have a strategy to submit requests that will have a likely high probability of successful – being accepted. So that's my response to Fatimata. Sarah, do you have a follow-up? Or that was an old hand?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: No, thank you very much. I wanted to ask the question because I thought that maybe AFRALO was the only one who didn't send requests. It's important that AFRALO does have requests for financing. This is a great opportunity and it is the only opportunity for the year to receive some funding. It is quite important. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. So we are in the Any Other Business part of the agenda. So, anyone who has Any Other Business would like to raise something before we conclude?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Hi, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Abdulkarim. Michel would like to speak also.



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ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: I would like to be in the queue for AOB.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay, so let's start with Michel, then Abdulkarim. Please go ahead.

MICHEL TCHONANG LINZE: Yes. Hello, everyone, and I'm sorry for the technical issues I had. I wanted to, about blockchain, propose for AFRALO to work on the blockchain issue and build our capacity regarding blockchain which seems to be the future. And we have to put together strategies regarding IPv6.

At first, we were pretty slow to react, and it's very important to do some capacity building webinars. We have some highly selective sometimes webinars from other entities and not ICANN, so it's quite important for ICANN to develop those webinars.

Since we're talking about all other business, in Central Africa, we're going to have a governance Internet forum in Brazzaville, 13 December, and many AFRALO members are going to be there. ICANN will be part of it in Brazzaville. That's what I wanted to share with you tonight. Thank you so much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Michel. And I think what we can do as well is try to have maybe a joint webinar with AFRINIC and also AFTLD as the regional organizations that, let's say, have interest, and also, they work on those spaces, especially AFRINIC on IPv6. Abdulkarim, please.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay. Thank you very much. I just want to bring to [our] attention I attended the ITU plenipotentiary conference in Dubai, and during some of the discussion that went on, the issue of ICANN was actually widely discussed, especially in relation to Internet governance and other things.

I am planning to produce like a report which I'm hoping to share with everyone, but before I'm able to do that, I just want to bring to our attention that we still have a lot of work to do, especially from the African and the Arab region because there is a lot of discontent or a lot of discussion going about activities, about the legality of ICANN, about things around ICANN and things like that.

A lot of the discussions are actually political, but some of it is serious, so we need to also try as much as possible to engage with the local ALSes, especially those that are representing each country at the ITU meeting. I hope to be able to send a formal report, and hopefully, I should do this with the next one week. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Abdulkarim. And yeah, thank you for the initiative. We'll be looking forward to that. Maybe we can have a webinar about the outcome of the plenipotentiary. It was a very hard contested – I mean politically – conference or meeting for the ITU, as usual the ITU ones. So I think it would be good to update our members about that. We're looking forward to the report to be shared. Thank you very much.

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Okay, so I'm checking Adobe Connect if there is anyone else who'd like to speak, and I don't see any raised hands. We tried to finish on time and we finished just eight minutes after the hour. Thank you very much for being patient, and my apology for the bad audio quality or the Adobe Connect audio quality that we experienced. Hopefully, we can work with the staff to improve that.

I'm not sure if there's someone who'd like to speak, Heidi or someone? No. Okay, thank you very much, and thank you very much for attending. Have a good night and happy new year to everyone. Thank you very much. Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you very much, and happy new year, merry Christmas in advance to everyone. Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, everyone. Bye.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you [inaudible] thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]