
ICANN79 | CF – At-Large NARALO Town Hall Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2024 – 3:00 to 4:00 SJU

MICHELLE DESMYTER: Hello, and welcome to the At-Large NARALO town hall meeting. My name is Michelle DeSmyter, and I am a participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. Onsite participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Please speak at a reasonable pace.

And with that, I will hand the floor over to Greg Shatan, NARALO Chair.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, and welcome to the NARALO town hall here at ICANN 79 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, part of North America. So here we are. We have a packed schedule, and I don't want to take too much time. I've built a little introduction to NARALO into the first slide deck. So why don't we bring up the first PowerPoint, please?

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.

Next slide, please. So NARALO, as you know, is the North American Regional At-Large Organization, and we embrace all of the At-Large Structures and individual members of NARALO, many of whom are here or here in Zoom. We'll be hearing from a few of them. The NARALO leadership is named. No pictures, but you might know what they look like. I'm Greg Shatan, of course, the chair. Adrian Schmidt is the secretariat. Adrian, why don't you say hi so the camera will see you?

ADRIAN SCHMIDT: Hi. This is Adrian Schmidt.

GREG SHATAN: Okay, the camera saw you. We also have our ALAC representatives, Eduardo Diaz. I don't see Eduardo, but you probably saw Eduardo this morning announcing the Award of Sustained Excellence, or whatever we're calling it. So you know Eduardo. Eduardo. Bill Jouris, as well, is also our second ALAC representative. Bill, why don't you also say hello?

BILL JOURIS: Okay, we'll see if the camera is actually paying attention. Yes, the camera is paying attention. Another victory for technology.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Bill. See, that's even better than putting pictures into the slide deck. We can show people. And one person who needs no introduction, but we'll get one anyway, is Jonathan Zuck, who is nominally the third ALAC representative. But we have dedicated him to

the world as he is the ALAC Chair. And, Jonathan, why don't you whisper hello?

JONATHAN ZUCK: For the record, Jonathan Zuck, NARALO whipping boy.

GREG SHATAN: And that is Jonathan whispering, by the way. If you want to hear his full voice... And last but not least in our leadership, someone who disappears and then makes great people come to ICANN is Alfredo Calderon, our NomCom representative. Alfredo?

ALFREDO CALDERON: Thank you. Alfredo Calderon, for the transcript record. Here I am, and I'll be speaking about the NomCom in a few minutes. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: You'll notice that some people say their name for the transcript, others say their name for the record, but only Alfredo says for the transcript record. Next slide, please. Oh, Eduardo, have a seat and say hello into a microphone. Eduardo is now running to a seat. He's now attempting to move a chair. His butt is hitting the chair.

EDUARDO DIAZ: This is Eduardo Diaz for the record. I am from Puerto Rico, so welcome to Puerto Rico to all of you.

GREG SHATAN:

Thank you very much. So you can see we our three major territories (the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico) all well represented in our leadership. This is the one place where Puerto Rico is at least as important as the United States or Canada. New York City is the other place where Puerto Rico is more important than other places.

So let's go to the next slide. Oh, here we are. This slide is the next slide. Just so you know, in NARALO, we have 23 At-Large Structures in various stages of being alive and in living color. United States has seven. Canada, in spite of having, what, 10% of the population, has eleven. And Puerto Rico has five, including, I think, at least one, if not two, that are quite new. So Puerto Rico gets the improvement award as well as the per capita award. And the United States clearly has a lot of work to do in terms of recruitment, so we cannot take the US for granted. We have 46 individual members, and this is perhaps why we don't have more ALSs in the United States. 32 of those 46 are rugged individualists, as Americans always are. They don't want to join any club that would have them as a member. We also have nine Canadians. Of course, they don't want to bring too much attention to themselves—tall poppy syndrome and all that. And last but not least, there's five individual members from Puerto Rico, because each of them is a party in and of themselves, so they don't necessarily need other people to make a full and exciting membership contribution. So that is NARALO by the numbers.

Why don't we go to the next slide, please? Excuse me? Oh, Bill, please go ahead.

BILL JOURIS: Just wanted to point out some of us are individual members, so we can focus and devote all our attention to ICANN instead of furthering it away on ALSs somewhere.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Bill. We appreciate your single-minded fortitude and intense focus on NARALO.

Just going to go briefly over what our outreach engagement plan looks like. We have five pillars to our plan. Unfortunately, I didn't get a five pillar graphic to put on the screen. Just imagine the Corinthian columns. The first pillar, of course, is the ALAC At-Large RALO ALS pillar, or the us pillar, the outreach pillar, which is the not-yet-us pillar. The engagement pillar is the “us, but we want you to be more us” pillar. There's the capacity development pillar, which is the “we want you to be better prepared [than us]” pillar, and the operational pillar, which is “just getting the business of the business done” pillar. So each of those needs a plan, of course.

Next slide, please. So this is where we do the planning for what NARALO does in ALAC and the At-Large community. We also, of course, work with GSE (Global Stakeholder Engagement). And that's in terms of outreach and engagement planning, very important relationship. Also under here, we'll put under activities that we'll be doing to develop and implement the At-Large Loop, which, of course, is our perpetual communication system that will be using a series of vacuum tubes under North America in order to have ... And I don't mean vacuum tubes like valves. I mean actual hydraulic tubes to move little pieces of paper underneath. This used to be in New York, by the way. There used to be

hydraulic tubes connecting a lot of the office buildings. Also, New York has its own steam system for heating buildings. None of these things are relevant to this discussion.

Next slide, please. Outreach, of course, is a main part of what we're doing. We always are looking for fresh blood, kind of like vampires. So, of course, we have our networking event tomorrow afternoon on the terrace. You are all invited, and everyone is. If we have a lot of people, remember, you're each allocated one peanut. Or if you have a peanut allergy, please, no peanuts. We're also, of course, making outreach to the Fellows and NextGen. And particularly since we are in North America, we have lots of North American Fellows and NextGens, and we're really excited. And of course, any Fellow or NextGen who wants to discuss more about ICANN NARALO, being a member of an ALS, becoming an individual member, all of the above should, of course, look to speak to me, Adrian, Alfredo, Eduardo, Bill, even Jonathan Zuck. But he might make you be a globalist or something, so maybe not. We also have our social media, various social media accounts, and we do a newsletter in conjunction with ICANN staff.

And right now, our next step, or another specific item, is we want to reach out to more of the serious policy wonks in North America, many of whom are in Washington, DC. Others are in New York. Some of them are affiliated with ALS. Some of them don't even know they exist. So we'd like to kind of be more of a policy center, get more people involved through ICANN who are already thinking about Internet governance, since North America is full of such people, oddly enough.

Next slide, please. The engagement pillar of course. We are close to the full-blown implementation of ALS mobilization and individual mobilization, which are plans that have been coming together in terms of a way to further engage ALS and individual members by a plan, as opposed to just a series of lucky accidents. Don't know why we have social media and newsletters here again, but you know, what the heck? ICANN readouts, of course, fall under this. We try to have a readout after most, if not all, ICANN meetings where everyone can learn what really happened at ICANN from people who were there and maybe discuss what they think happened there as well.

Next slide, please. Our capacity development pillar, of course. We do webinars many months, not every month, but we often do them as part of our monthly meetings, sometimes at other times. We need, of course, to work on even better retention of our members.

Promoting ICANN Learn is another obvious capacity development win that we could have. Once again, we've got ICANN readouts here because you can learn something from them as well.

And as Glenn notes, a real key capacity development effort which NARALO supports, but which Glenn McKnight, I think Alfredo, and others helped to make happen, is NASIG, or the North American School of Internet Governance, which this time took place just before ICANN 79. Similarly, in Washington, DC, [at] ICANN 77 there was a NASIG This is a multi-day exploration of Internet governance issues, both ICANN-centric and non-ICANN-centric, and all of the sessions are now online for your edification and amusement. So I definitely encourage people to look at that and to look at attending a future NASIG as well.

We also would like to do a better job of fitting our members to opportunities and trying to develop experts in various areas.

Lastly, we would like to have more ALS members, particularly in the United States, where we're dinky compared to Canada and Puerto Rico. So we need more members. I think we have one forming in the Pacific Northwest. So as soon as that has popped out of Mount Rainier, we'll hopefully have that happening as well.

Whole bunch of stuff about NASIG in the chat. Please check the chat.

Next slide, please. Last but not least, our operational pillar. Of course, we have our monthly NARALO businesses. We discuss business, we discuss policy, we discuss things like rules of procedure. One of our big tasks this year was to write up the secretariat job description, which for a number of years had been done by Glenn McKnight and other very experienced people. For Adrian Schmidt, our new secretariat, it helped get him onboard, and of course, now he's very experienced because we're already around at a time where we need to plan new elections, which is actually going to be this time for the chair—in other words, me. And I do plan to run for reelection, and I think we do have at least one ALAC seat up for election as well. You'll hear more about that in the next couple of months.

Next slide, please. Here, just to run quickly through our outreach and engagement activities, we had a UA Day program (Universal Acceptance Day) last year, co-sponsored with ISOC New York. Of course, NAIG has just been mentioned. Town hall, just like this at 77. And 79 roundtable, which we're having tomorrow. Also had one at 77. And of course,

networking events where people get to network and might even drink an adult beverage or two.

Next slide, please. In addition, we had an ICANN 78 readout in November, and we planned to have an ICANN 79 readout in April after the dust settles from UA day and other such things. We had three CROPP trips scheduled. One, we sent one of our members to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance conference earlier this year, and we had two other slots dedicated to bring people here for NASIG and ICANN. And apparently the slots were infected because both people who were supposed to take those trips got sick and they are participating remotely (Judith Hellerstein and Marita Moll, who's not Marcia Mole, as her name is in the agenda, unfortunately) but they are with us.

Next slide, please. What are we going to be doing in the future? If we get anything done, we're going to be doing our fiscal year 25 outreach and engagement strategic plan, dovetailing that with, of course, ICANN planning and ALAC planning. We'll review our fiscal year 24 activities, decide what went well, what didn't, fix them up, and continue to do them again in fiscal year 25, plus anything else new. We'll hope to be more earnest in our implementation of the At-Large Loop and particularly focus on ALS and individual mobilization, as well as, of course, having monthly webinars and other capacity-building events and the like.

And ultimately we'll have ... Next slide, please. We're only around the corner, oddly enough, to yet another meeting in North America. In March 2025, we'll have ICANN 82 in Seattle. Of course, we'll have a roundtable and a town hall and a networking event, maybe at the top

of the space needle or something. Or we'll get to throw fish in Pike Place Market. And of course, we'll be working closely with At-Large staff and with GSE and ALAC and other RALOs for cross-RALO activities. So we'll be busy. Leadership, of course, doesn't do this alone. So if you're in NARALO because you're a North American member or want to be one, we also would love you to help us with all of this implementation. Many hands make light work.

Next slide, please. That's it. Just the beauty slide. Okay.

So that gets us through that with record time, perhaps. So we will now go to our next agenda item, which is our policy, operational, and governance issues from a North American perspective. And we have another slide deck. And in this one I will be joined and hopefully have a lot less to say because Marita Moll and Judith Hellerstein will be part of our presenting team. So let's bring the next slide deck up, please. And Judith and Marita, I do not have the slide deck in front of me that has where you've noted which slides you're going to cover. So I just ask you to jump in where you expected to do so.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Sure.

GREG SHATAN: So let's bring up the next slide deck.

[MICHELLE DESMYTER]: Thank you. Greg, one moment, please.

MARITA MOLL: Can I just point out, Greg, that you're also part of this, right?

GREG SHATAN: Yes, absolutely.

MARITA MOLL: Okay. So if I remember correctly, sort of, you're the first five or six?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yes. I have slides five and six, and then Greg has the earlier slides, but I can put it in the chat, so you'll see.

GREG SHATAN: Okay, well, I will certainly start talking and you just stop me. Otherwise I'll keep talking until the gala event this evening. We're just waiting for the slide deck now. You get to look at me, apparently, and my collection of colorful shirts that I've brought for San Juan. This is from the famous tropical shirt maker Uniqlo, by the way, from Japan.

MARITA MOLL: Just a little product placement there, Greg?

GREG SHATAN: Absolutely. I'll be eating plantain and some trail mix.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Are you getting commission, I hope?

BILL JOURIS: [inaudible]

GREG SHATAN: Yes. Please go to QVC and use the initials GSS when you buy these so that I get my 10%.

So welcome here. We have our San Juan By Day as opposed to our San Juan By Night background.

So let us go to our next slide, please. So it may be no news to any of you, but NARALO members participate in ICANN policy and operational governance issues, and we do it in a number of different ways. Many of us participate in the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group, which, as you know, is where all policy discussions take place. Many also participate in the Operation Finance and Budget Working Group, where just about every other type of thing about how ICANN runs (strategic planning, finance operations, policies about things that happen at ICANN, as opposed to consensus policy about the DNS) is all in the OFB. Many of us participate in GNSO working groups, where the policy is actually made, of course. And we participate in other types of groups, such as the Implementation Oversight Teams, IOTs, and in things like the facilitated dialogue on closed generics that Alan Greenberg from Canada and I (I'm a secret Canadian, but an American) participated in as well.

So there are a variety of different fora, and we have, I think, a good number of people who are participating, but we always want more.

Next slide, please. So, as noted, we have the two main working groups for At-Large. They're open to all At-Large community members. ALAC members are, I believe, required to participate in both. And I noted that this kind of gives members different entry points into At-Large policy work, depending on their strengths and interests. And don't be shy if you don't know anything. This is the place to go to start learning. You have a learning curve, but it's as good a place to park yourself to get into the business of policy or the business of helping ICANN be better or less worse.

And next slide, please. So the CPWG, as noted, focuses on the policy development process. working groups that are typically run through the GNSO, sometimes chartered by the GNSO, sometimes at the Board's behest. The CPWG meets every week, and we help to develop the positions that ultimately we hope that ALAC will adopt on these issues, help to write public comments (or sometimes decide not to write a public comment), help to write ALAC advice. All of this funnels up, of course, to At-Large, but we're basically the kitchen for ALAC. And of course we support members who are working directly in the working groups and also support liaisons to different groups, such as Justine Chew (who may seem like she needs no support, but we're there anyway) who's our liaison to the GNSO, and other things.

Next slide, please.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN:

Thanks, Greg. I can take it from here.

GREG SHATAN: This is Judith's favorite group. Please go ahead.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yes. So the next series of the At-Large working groups. We have the Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group, and this group focuses on ICANN processes, procedures, operations, governance issues, strategic planning, as well as budget and finance. And we may look into changing the name to make it more understandable. And welcome to all.

GREG SHATAN: I think you mean "sexy," right?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: And we want sexy, yes. So this group discusses the work that's taking place in the working groups, but we also focus and develop ALAC positions on issues. We support members in the working groups and we develop and draft comments for different working group reports as well as strategic plans, ICANN budget, budget requests, use of funds, all types of different things.

Next slide. So as he said, there are two working groups for discussing policy issues. We have the Consolidated Policy Working Group, and there's about 10 to 15 NARALO members participating weekly in these discussions, and some also participate directly into the PDP working groups and other groups as well. But we also have the second policy group, the RFB for short, and we were about twelve people participating there. And these are different topics of projects.

So why we have these two groups and why we have separated some of them out are different. The CPWG issues sometimes can be very technical. They may require a significant knowledge of technical issues on DNS abuse, on PDPs, and other areas. But there's also a good amount of people who are in the operations, finance, and budget area who are working on less technical areas, more operational and governance areas, covering also strategic plans, the multistakeholder model. And we see a lot more increased engagement in this group than in the CPWG, where it's often been challenging to get new NARALO members to volunteer and engage and write policy comments, although we do have many experienced members who are happy to act as mentors.

Next slide. So as you see here from these stats, members are in seven different working groups and other policy-related groups. We prepared eleven different public comments over the 2023 and we reviewed additional five comments, but we decided that they didn't really merit At-Large or comments. We have an ongoing work on DNS abuse and we have a panel tomorrow that's going to be a great panel on DNS abuse. And we also are supporting work with our liaisons who are in the GAC, GNSO and ccNSO.

Next slide. Some of the areas where NARALO members are particularly active are in commenting on the [NARALO], ICANN, or IANA budget. Within these budgets, there's also the strategic initiatives and strategic plans. And so these are many different areas. There's also strategic trends outlook sessions. We regularly have the planning people coming to the ICANN sessions, and they discuss different issues and keep us

abreast of strategic plans, strategic initiatives, budget issues, and a range of different other topics, like the multistakeholder model.

We also, this group review the At-Large funding requests for inclusion into the budget [inaudible] what used to be called the ABR process, which is now the At-Large funding request. So it's additional funding that At-Large wants to adopt that are funded by the ICANN budget.

We also participate in the holistic and continuous improvement community. That is where we have a discussion of those issues, as well as a subgroup, which is the Prioritization Subgroup, which is a subgroup within that to follow along on (we have many recommendations go to the Board) what should be priorities for the At-Large? Why are some not as important, or maybe they're overtaken by events? What should we prioritize? What should we tell the Board needs to be prioritized and that staff needs to work on. So we have a small group. All these groups are open to the public and open to anyone. They are small teams working on a lot of different subjects.

We also establish decisions and discuss frameworks for other topics within the working OFB.

Next slide. As I mentioned, some areas are strategic planning goals, discussions around the multistakeholder model, budgets, and financial planning. We have the ICANN grant program that there will also be discussions on here, ICANN Board issues surrounding strategic plans and strategic initiatives, and we also try to work with other constituencies. And how can we get more bang for our buck by working and having agreements for different constituencies?

Next slide. And members here are looking to, as I said, engaging with other constituencies on these issues and work closely with them. So as members of the operation, plans and budget, we were there was a pre-planning session in the ICANN pre-week with the Board where we discussed priorities and we broke up into different sections. So some of that is some of the work of the team, and a lot of NARALO members participated in there.

We're also, as I said, looking to increase the awareness within NARALO and At-Large around the strategic plan. Many people are not aware that strategic plan and strategic initiatives are bundled into the ICANN budget, and some constituents are not aware that they need to focus on the budget. And so we are working with all other constituencies to make others aware so they can focus their volunteer time and look at these issues which are [poor] to some of them.

We're also in many ways trying to figure out, can we affix the policy development process to the goals of the strategic plan to get more awareness? We also work to progress these issues with staff from ICANN planning and other issues. And we want to create a really good conversation between us and the end users as well as between the ICANN planning team.

And I think Marita will be covering the next slides to go from here. Next?

MARITA MOLL:

Hello. Yeah, a few more slides. There's a lot of duplication going on here, and I guess it needs to be said that this a lot of it is not unique to

NARALO. All groups are working on a lot of this stuff (well, all of this stuff, really) in one way or another.

This particular slide is basically talking about the three particular priorities that we looked at when we did the budget this year. There are 15 operating initiatives. The OFB work group did a poll and chose some, so we didn't try to deal with all of them.

So let's go to the next slide. Participation and At-Large and Working Groups. Yeah, this has all been already said.

Let's go to the slide next. Go ahead. Here's a way that people can participate. You've already been looking at some of these different opportunities. For any RALO members, we are certainly looking for your participation in any of these. It has to be said. And I don't think that NARALO is at all unique in this. A lot of the work is often shouldered by a few very active members, and we're constantly looking for more people to help lift some of that load. There's lots of room for people for whatever their particular interests are, whether they're more interested in the technical aspect or the governance aspect. There's room for everyone, and there's a lot of really interesting work to do.

So here are some of the things that we can articulate. But yeah, we're really looking forward to having people stepping up to some of these roles, and there are lots of people who are willing to help out if people are feeling a little lost.

Let's go to the next slide. Building partnerships. We didn't totally cover this in the other slides. NARALO itself does have an MOU with ARIN to co-locate some of its meetings. And this was something that was put

together a few years ago by Glenn McKnight and his team. So this helps any RALO members who go to the summit take part in some of the ARIN meeting. Plus it just helps defray some of the costs.

We're also, of course, working very hard with organizers of North American School of Internet Governance. I'm on the faculty of that, and I have been very pleased to work with Eduardo and Alfredo and Glenn and everyone else to put together a terrific school of Internet governance and really feel that this is one of the best ways to bring more people into the fold with a higher level of knowledge to begin with. It's not just about ICANN. It's just about the entire context and the ecosystem of Internet governance so that people leave the School of Internet Governance with a really good idea of governance things that are going on—ICANN plus others.

Yes, we do participate in meetings with GAC and meetings with GNSO, and I have to say there's a lot of interaction between different groups now. When I first came to ICANN, I didn't see a lot of this kind of interaction. And I think that absolutely, in the last few years, there's been a real attempt and hard work done towards breaking down the silos that we were working in originally. Part of this was due to the intensive work that we did to figure out why this multistakeholder system at ICANN was not working that well. And the fact that we operate too much in silos was one of the things that came out of that. And certainly we have definitely gone a long way to making that a lot better. Just a few hours ago, there was a great meeting between NPOC and At-Large, which is actually the first time these two groups had sat down together and talked about how their views on certain issues were

actually quite aligned. And so At-Large needs [to do] a lot of that, and that's something that, in my experience, has really improved.

And is that the last slide? I think it might be.

GREG SHATAN: That is the last slide. Thank you so much, Marita.

MARITA MOLL: Greg, unless you object or you have a question already ready, I was going to ask how people have heard a lot about what's being done in any RALO, and most people already who are there already know a lot of what's being done in RALOs generally. I'd like to hear something from some of the other RALOs about whether this looks very much the same as what they're doing there in the other RALOs, or are there some really big points of departure? Are there some things which are really different in how things are done? Would that be an appropriate question?

GREG SHATAN: Well, we have no time, but we can have a couple of minutes on it because there's always time for something. I don't know if anybody from any other RALO would like to comment. I'm looking at Claire just because ...

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Claire is our esteemed Chair of the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group and has been doing a great job and is an example of a newcomer becoming chair. So here is a newcomer who is very new to

ICANN and she was able to become chair of this very important committee. So there's hope for everyone.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Your headphones, please. I'm going to speak Spanish. What do we do different in LACRALO from what NARALO does? I believe that we are walking the same path, Greg. We have trainings in our monthly calls together with GSE, and on all the calls, we have someone invited where we talk and get trained. We have working groups such as in NARALO, but there is something different. We don't have so many statements, something I have made a note of, because it's part of this year's strategy for us to start using more documentation. So I'm taking home positive things for my region. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you very much, Sergio. I have a hand up from Harold Arcos. Harold?

HAROLD ARCOS: Hi, Greg. Hi everyone. I'm going to speak Spanish, so I recommend use your headphones. Thank you, Greg. Thank you, all. It's true. Just to expand on what our secretary has just said (I mean, Sergio), this year, our strategy is trying to get deeper in what's been done in the last few periods. We have put up a three R strategy: reinforcing, redriving and restrengthening LACRALO's strategy. And that can be done through informed participation, which stems from the new strategies of the working groups involved in policy to review and to move forward so that ALAC members in the region can be included, going and taking

these opinions to the ALAC central group. And [it's] where we put the focus because any relationship between the ecosystem stakeholders and the other parts stems in efforts and we are focusing on that.

Apart from that, there is integration with regional efforts such as the Southern Internet Governance School, the kickoff effort for all these initiatives. It is an example of the efforts of the ALSs, of the consistent will they have. And there is a great advantage. With several members of our region, such as [Carcom], Alejandro, and others who have been involved in the working groups that have been working for a long time, such as WHOIS and ATRT3, where we have been involved for many years, we have been sharing this experience with new members. And that is why we can see the outcome of what happened in the ATLASEs, where all the regions committed to promoting new members for them to become ALAC members, working group members, to drive them to work more, because one of the reviews that was held at the time was that we always saw the same faces in the same spaces. And I think that in LACRALO, we are investing a great effort for that to change. And that has been the case. So this is a very important reason why for the reviews.

That is what I wanted to say. I want to give everyone the opportunity to be part of LACRALO's discussions, remembering that these historic LACRALO discussions have promoted discussions such as Amazon [and] dot-RG, where we were lucky enough that many of our members were involved in those discussion groups, and we nurtured from that and completed our regional statements.

Thank you, Greg, for the opportunity to share this and let us invite you all to all open LACRALO meetings. Thank you so much.

GREG SHATAN:

Thank you very much, Harold and Sergio. And let's think about how to make Las Americas a kind of a double RALO in some senses.

With any further ado, we have, patiently waiting to discuss with us strategic plan development, Becky Nash and Margaret Benavides. So we're way behind and they've been very patient, so I will give them the floor.

BECKY NASH:

Thank you very much, Greg. Hello, everyone. This is Becky Nash from ICANN Org Planning, and I am joined here by my colleague Margaret Benavides, and also online with Victoria Yang. We represent the Org's planning team and we're responsible for both supporting the development of the strategic plan along with the operating and financial plan process. I will be very brief because the key message that we have for everyone here today is that during this phase of the development of the strategic plan, the Board is continuing to develop the next ICANN strategic plan. And this is developed with input from the community.

So first and foremost, I just want to invite everyone to join the community consultation session here at ICANN 79. And this is on the schedule on Wednesday, the 6th of March. And this is where we are going to share the high level outcomes of the environmental scan or landscape assessment sessions that many of you participated in. And

we also will be sharing the working draft of the vision statement for fiscal year 2030 that was developed by the Board Strategic Planning Committee and is a subject of community consultations.

So just as a very quick overview on the slide that you see before you, I just want to highlight the process that ICANN is following for the strategic planning process. So the approach is divided into four key steps. I just want to briefly mention that we first held the environmental scan sessions. These were sessions that we held with the Board, Org, and the community and we had an overwhelming number of participants, approximately 185. We ran seven sessions and we collected nearly 1,000 different data points. So we do want to thank everyone that participated, but this is not your only opportunity to participate. So it's very key that now, as we move into the second key phase, which is called developing strategies, this is where the Board leads this process, supported by the Org and with significant input from the community.

We've had the opportunity during the prep week session to hear from community members in the new prep week Board-led consultation. That session is now being followed by the public session on Wednesday, March 6th, again here at ICANN 79, both in person and online.

And then following this phase, we also have the development, step number three, of the implementation strategies. This is an area, a part of the process, that's led by the ICANN executive team to identify how to implement the strategies that are being identified.

Both the strategic plan and the five-year operating plan are the two key takeaways that will go out for public comment later this calendar year

during the July time frame. The fourth step in this process is then to develop also the detailed action plans for the first year of the new five-year period, which is FY 26, and that will be represented by the draft FY 26 operating plan and budget, which has much more detail about the action plans. So this is the overall approach for the development of the five-year strategic plan for FY 26 through 30.

If we go to the next slide, I will just touch upon here the overall timeline for the development of the strategic plan. Where you see the lines in gray, those are actually activities that have already taken place. And we're currently then in the orange area, where it's demarked by today at ICANN 79, where the process for developing strategies is being led by the Board Strategic Planning Committee along with the Board. And the next phase that will begin will be the development of the implementation strategies. And again, those are the two key areas of work that will go out for public comment in the July timeframe, which will be shortly after the next ICANN meeting in Kigali. During the public comment period, that is a key step for the community to submit the public comments. And prior to that, we are expecting to have several webinars as well. So we just want to let everyone know that there will be opportunities for engagement, consultations, and then the formal public comment period.

And then following that, we move into the next phases, marching towards adoption, which again will have participation from all of the community. And the Board then will be presented with the plans to consider and that targeted date will be March of 2025. And the next step after that would be the empowered community process, because these plans are both subject to the empowered community proceedings. And

should there be no petitions raised, then the plans would be ready to go into effect by the beginning of the FY 26 fiscal year.

So this is a snapshot again of the overall process and timeline. And we just again would like to say we invite you to the Wednesday consultation, 10:30 local time. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN:

Thank you very much, Becky. We'll try to have a couple of minutes at the end for comments, but our next agenda item is Alfredo Calderon, talking about NomCom.

ALFREDO CALDERON:

Thank you, Greg. So let me give you some background information so you understand what the NomCom is all about. Our group is an independent group from the rest of the organizations within ICANN. So we sort of have our own independent judgment process to determine the people we understand we should appoint to the different positions. So we are in charge of filling out some seats for the ICANN Board, for the GNSO, for the ccNSO, for the PTI (Public Technical Identifier) board of directors, and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization.

So the way this goes is that we reach out to each one of these leadership groups and we ask them to give us sort of a highlight of what they are looking for. And so you can see on the screen there's some basic elements or criteria or skill sets that we're looking for. I'm not going to go into them. You can read them. And I have some handouts if you're interested in some description and applying for one of the positions if you feel that you fill the qualifications of the people we are looking for.

Now keep in mind that this might vary depending on the amount of positions we have to appoint and what the leadership individuals from these communities express to us in a private session we carry out with them so we have a clear idea of what they need, what we have in the application groups so that we can make a best selection of the appointees for these positions.

Next slide, please. So right now we're looking for leaders in specific organizations or groups.

Next slide. So you can have an idea, in this cycle, we're looking for three members for the ICANN Board of Directors. We call them seats. So we're trying to fill out three seats. Just so that you're aware the candidates we're looking for necessarily don't have to know everything about ICANN. The more they know, the better, of course, because they're the fiduciary of the ICANN community, so they have to ultimately make some decisions for the management of the organization.

Next slide. We're actually in this cycle looking for two representatives from the ALAC community, specifically from Europe (one position), and one for the North American region. So every year we fill out, since these are staggered position, different regions required to fill in those positions. This year it's for North America and Europe. So there's only two positions we're looking to fill out in this cycle.

Next slide, please. For the ccNSO (the Country Code Name Supporting Organization) there's one position we're actually looking to fill in this cycle, and we actually had an interesting conversation with the leadership on the type of person they're looking for. So it's only just one position.

Next slide. In the case of the GNSO, we're also looking to fill out one position. The sort of people we're looking for for this position have to know how the GNSO works. It's sort of more technical, there's more policy involved, and there's more constituencies involved that have different point of views. And the person we're looking for needs to be someone that's sort of a consensus-building person, so that, in the GNSO Council, when they meet as a group, the decision they make is sort of a wise decision, an informed decision, and it meets the goal of the policy that they are working on so that they can submit their recommendations to the Board.

Next slide, please. So, in total, we're looking for seven positions. Here you have a slide where you can see them summarized in total: three for the Board, two for ALAC, one for Europe, one for North America, and one for the GNSO, which right now is a non-voting position. Now, what does that mean? That means that that person has sort of a leeway because he doesn't represent necessarily one constituency within the GNSO. So that's why I mentioned that it's sort of a consensus-reaching position in this round. So keep that in mind if you're interested in that position. And for the ccNSO, well, it's just one position for a voting member of the council.

Okay, having said that, the next and last slide, I think. Now, for the Board, there's no geographical restriction. What does this mean for those that are confused about this? Contrary to the ALAC, ALAC has five RALOs, and each one has a position on the Board. And the NomCom, the Nominating Committee, appoints those, as I mentioned, in a staggered way. So this year's is only two positions, Europe and North America. Now, in the case of the ICANN Board, there's no geographical

limitation, but if we reach a cap, the bylaws mentioned that there can't be x number of people from the same region. So keep that in mind as well. But right now, there's no geographical restrictions to fill out those three positions that we have open at this point.

And finally, next slide, if you're interested in applying the deadline is March the 15th—not the 16th; the 15th; 1-5. And I want to emphasize that because right now we have a large pool of open applications. Open means that they haven't completed it, and until they finish it and click on Submit, we can't even look at it. And we don't want to wait until the next morning to have 150 or 160 applications to look at and assess in four days. And I emphasize that: in four days. So we have our work cut out for us if you don't complete your application as soon as possible.

Now (and probably I shouldn't say this out loud, but I'm going to say it anyway), please be aware: if you do not feel that you qualify for any of the positions, please don't apply. Otherwise we'll run into trouble looking at so many applications, and we actually want to evaluate, to assess, and to pick the best candidates for each one of the positions so that ICANN can move forward in a timely manner.

Having said that, where can you apply? And I think now we're going to the next slide, which is the last one. There's a website where you can go and see all the requirements for each one of the positions in detail. And if you feel that you can apply, right there you'll see the link to go to the web portal where you need to apply.

Now, if you're going to apply, please read the application first, look at the description for each one of the positions, and then make your informed decision to apply.

Having said that, thank you.

GREG SHATAN:

Thank you, Alfredo, and thank you, everyone. I'm sorry we don't have more time. We're actually over time by three minutes. So I want to thank the interpreters for sitting here for three extra minutes. Sebastian, I'm sorry I could not get to you, but tomorrow we have another coordination meeting for RALO leaders. Maybe we can continue the discussion there. This meeting is now adjourned. Thank you.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN:

Thanks all, for a great meeting.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]