
ICANN81 | AGM – LAC Space
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 - 15:00 to 16:00 TRT

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Good, and thank you for our remote participants. I think we have Rodrigo Saucedo also remotely to help our remote participants, and we'll be looking at the chat frequently. Just a couple things before we start, and I hand over the microphone to Laura.

The first one is please, at the end, try not to go. We'll try to take a group picture, group photo. So please do stay. And one thing I wanted to do before we start and we run out of time, I just want to take this one or two minutes to recognize a person from our community. It's the part team. He has been around even before ICANN existed. He has been part of the efforts to create various institutions in the Latin American Caribbean region, the part of ICANN, the part of LACTLD, later LACNIC. He was CEO for many years at the nic.mx, the naming side of the house, and also for the number. He was recently CEO to LACNIC for more than 10 years. So he will be taking some time off, but hopefully he will remain in contact, so if we can just recognize the work of Oscar Robles before we start. So Oscar, thank you. And yeah, with that, I'll hand over to Laura.

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LAURA MARGOLIS:

Good afternoon. I will speak in Spanish because I don't feel like trying hard to speak English. Welcome, everybody. I can see many familiar faces online. I can see Albert, who isn't here this time. I can see Harold. Hi. We have quite a busy agenda for this meeting. We'll be receiving updates from the Board. We will get updates about the new round. And finally, we'll be talking about the digital compact and WSIS+20. I apologize to interpreters. Finally, there will be an update from all the regional organizations.

So to start, is Leon here? Sorry, Leon, you are far away. On behalf of the Board, we'll have Leon Sanchez and Patricio. So let's start with Leon. Leon, you have the floor.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Laura. Thank you for inviting us. We are always excited to share this LAC space. And I would like to tell you about the recent activities of the Board. Before a public ICANN meeting, we always hold a work meeting. It's a three-day long workshop where we discuss issues that are important for the organization and the community. This time, things went as usual. We had our three-day long workshop, and of course, we received updates on various issues. And we held discussions about expectations related to the new CEO coming into office, the transition, and the onboarding process for the CEO. There is a group in the Board which is carrying out that task, welcoming him and onboarding him, actually.

There was also a discussion about reviewing the public comments received during the public comments period related to the strategic

plan for fiscal years 26 to 30. We also discussed some issues about the new round of gTLDs. We received information about the work environment within ICANN. We discussed issues related to internet governance. We received updates by the staff about the events taking place or what is happening right now related to internet governance. And some of us got briefed to participate in the internet governance forum to be held in Saudi Arabia. We got some updated figures after the first year of using the RDRS system, that is the data requests for registrars and registries.

On Sunday, finally, we talked about some administrative issues, and on Thursday, you will hear how we are going to-- So we will be electing the chair, the vice chair for the Board, and several committee heads will be appointed, committees from the Board. So this will take place on Thursday at the General Assembly. The meeting held by the Board after General Assembly will be welcoming three new Board members, and we will be saying our farewell to other three members. So as part of the three-day workshop, we held a meeting, an official meeting of the Board, where we approved some resolutions, and Patricio will talk about them in a few minutes.

I will be staying here for some more time. If you have any questions, I will gladly answer them, but I would like to apologize because I have to attend a parallel session, and I won't be able to stay here until the very end.

PATRICIO POBLETE:

Shall we take the question for you right now? Yes.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

If you have any questions, I will gladly answer them. Otherwise, I will give the floor to Patricio, so he will talk about the resolutions. I will say goodbye, and thank you for your understanding.

PATRICIO POBLETE:

Thank you, Leon. I am really pleased to be here, just like I was excited to be here in past meetings. As usual, we are in a hurry, so I would like to apologize in advance because I will have to leave after my presentation.

As Leon has said, we held a Board meeting after our workshop, although we will be holding two more meetings on Thursday. One to pass the resolutions that have to be passed, and the second one is an organizational meeting for the following term. The resolutions we passed at the last meeting, while the first one relates to what is happening in a discussion or a case, different kinds of disputes submitted by Namecheap that challenged the resolutions made earlier by the Board, which did away with the price thresholds for .org and .info.

And there was a previous resolution by the IRP, and the Board decided to hire an economist to find out whether .org has what we call market power, whether they would be able to set up higher prices than those quoted in the open market. And the economist said that .org doesn't have that market power. And based on that and some other

information, the Board passed a resolution which stated that .org and .info should have price thresholds or price caps, actually.

They also decided to have a look at the decision-making procedures. The organization or the Board has when there are any challenges related to the previous IDRP. We believe this is the end of the story, but there are still many signs that this will not be the case, that discussions will continue.

The second issue is the renewal of the contract for .xxx. You may remember that this was quite a contentious issue. There were cases filed, and finally .xxx took the shape of what we would call a sponsored gTLD. When a cycle was completed and it was time for a renewal, in this case, and it also happened in other cases, ICANN is trying to do away with some traces of the past, some kinds of gTLDs which do not exist any longer, and move everything into what is regulated by the base management agreement. So we passed the approval of .xxx in this case. So it won't be a sponsored gTLD any longer, it will be part of a different category.

The following resolution talks about the risk appetite statement by ICANN, which is a statement defining what ICANN thinks about the various risks it may face and what is the appetite risk, the degree of risk it is willing to accept, to take, when talking about the core mission. And in this case, our risk appetite is low. We would like to have the lowest possible risk in those cases, but in other cases, which are not so critical, we may have a larger risk appetite. A summary of this risk appetite statement will be shared soon.

And the fourth resolution deals with what we call rec7, recommendation 7, related to the grant program in force right now. This resolution states that those who apply for the grant may use the different dispute resolution mechanisms which ICANN has, such as the request for consideration and the IPP, the IRP. They may not use those mechanisms if their application whether it has been accepted or rejected. We tried to implement this in different ways, first by changing the agreements, later on by amending the bylaws with a very general wording.

And finally, after several challenges and objections by the community, we went back to starters and we approved an amendment in the bylaws, which for this case, that is the grants program, sets forth that the dispute resolution mechanisms cannot be used by applicants if they have not been granted a grant, so to say, or if they have been granted a grant. So, this idea of not allowing them to use these mechanisms is because the funds available should be spent on grants for projects that really are worth it and not in these legal discussions or legal cases, which may cost a lot of money, millions of dollars, so this was passed.

This does not mean that the bylaws have been amended already. Because now this has to be analyzed by the empowered community, which has to accept this before a bylaws amendment takes place. This is what we did at the Board's meeting, so I'm willing to answer any questions you may have, but I have to leave right now. Thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Are there any questions for Patricio? [00:16:25 Speaking In Spanish]

PATRICIO POBLETE: [00:16:36 Speaking In Spanish].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [00:17:11 Speaking In Spanish].

LAURA MARGOLIS: Well, if nobody else has a question for Patricio, then we can let him go. And now we're going to talk about the new issue in ICANN, the star issue in ICANN, the domain names round. And then we're going to go to the other, rockstar issue, rockstar person, Bob, who's dealing with the gTLDs. Now let's now give the floor to Rodrigo.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you very much, Laura, and thank you, Bob, for joining us. The idea of holding this session in the LAC space is to supplement the work we are doing individually with each of the groups, with the new gTLDs. As you know, we have approached GAC members, we have approached the ccTLD communities, we have also approached the LACRALO community, and what we're seeking is, through the joint work, to be able to provide more information on the program in the region.

More sensibility, more awareness, and to participate, if there is an interest, in the three programs. There are two already existing, or they're about to exist, such as the Applicant Support Program and the ASP and ISP Program. All of this is now being prepared so that, in April 2026, we start the time window for the new gTLDs. So, without further ado, I'm now giving the floor to Bob. Go ahead, please, Bob.

BOB OCHIENG:

Thank you, Rodrigo, and thank you, Laura, for this invitation to once more come and speak to the LAC team. Probably I need a LAC name at this rate, having joined many of your sessions. My name is Bob Ochieng, and I am lead for engagement, specifically for the next round.

And I want to believe by now we have heard quite a bit about the next round. I want to believe we have a general understanding on what it is about, and the different sub-projects under it. So, just by way of a very high-level introduction, you know that ICANN is in the process of implementing the final report of the SubPro Working Group that recommended that we roll out another round of new domain names.

And by now, we have also heard, I believe, through the different interactions, especially in your engagements with the GSE team led by Rodrigo in the region, about the timelines that are applicable. So, you know that the round is due to be opened, or is projected to be opened for applications in April, 2026. That is, applications for actual TLDs. That is when ICANN would be ready to, or projects to be ready to receive or start receiving applications for top-level domain names, or from any potential applicant.

But before that, two important sub-projects are going to be rolled out as soon as next week, specifically on 19th of November. I believe that is Tuesday next week. This is the Applicant Support Program and the Registry Service Providers Program. And I think of great focus has been the Applicant Support Program, especially from an engagement perspective, for a number of reasons.

So, the evaluation fee for the next round has been set at US\$227,000. I should mention that in the last round, which was 2012, that fee was US\$185,000. So, to apply for a string or a top-level name, if you want to apply for .bob, that will be the applicable evaluation fees in 2026. And that's where the Applicant Support Program comes in.

Recognizing that many entities that would want to apply for particular names might not be able to afford that fee, there is a program to discount or subsidize the evaluation fee, plus a number of support components. And I want to speak a little bit about the package for support for those eligible entities. Also to remind the team that the eligible entities are very specific. Not everyone is eligible to be supported.

So, there are four broad categories of eligible entities to be supported under the Applicant Support Program. Those are not-for-profits, indigenous community groups, small-medium enterprises. And small-medium enterprises are in two categories. Small-medium enterprises that are social enterprises or that are operating in developing economies.

And developing economies here have been defined at the moment as those carried under what the UN categorizes as developing economies or other, for example, the World Bank or other international organizations. That is the reference that has been used. And the LAC region definitely falls in that category. So, small and medium enterprises under those two broad categories, social or operating in developing economies. And the last one is IGOs.

So, these four broad categories of entities are eligible for applicant support. So, if any entity be falling as an NGO, an IGO, small and medium enterprise, or an indigenous groups, community group, then you are eligible to be supported if you want to apply for a name. Now, I also need to clarify that at this point, on November 19th, what you are applying for is for your entity to be evaluated, not for your string. Not for what you would want to apply for in terms of top-level name. So, you might not be decided yet on what name you want to apply for, but you want to confirm that your entity can be qualified.

So, you apply for your entity to be qualified, to be evaluated. If it is successful, then you can then decide which name exactly you want to apply for, and come 2026, bring together your applications. All applications will be due in 2026. So, it's an important clarification that at this point, you are only applying for your entity to be evaluated if it qualifies to be supported under applicant support program.

We have had quite a bit of questions around eligible entities, for example, governments, ccTLD operators, for example, and I do believe that we have prepared an FAQs document that we have posted on the new gTLDs website, which clarifies some of these nuances around which kind of entities are not eligible and which ones are eligible. I do hope that you now have that clarity.

So, having said that, the other application that is opening on November 19th is the registry service providers program. And I'm sure we are all aware that these are back-end service providers in general. So, if you want to participate in the next round as an RSP, probably you are a

registry operator to date, today, or you want to be a registry operator, then ICANN has to evaluate your platforms for technical compliance and number of tests, and approve that system to be able to participate in the next round. All registry service providers who would wish to participate in the next round have to be either pre-evaluated now, in the 19th November opening, or you can also apply much later on when the round opens in 2026.

In other words, the RSP evaluation program will run twice. The first one will be between November 19th and May 2025, and after those that apply in that period are evaluated, we will publish them on the next round website. And any applicant in 2026 will have an opportunity to choose from any of those published pre-evaluated RSPs. Now, it is possible that you still want to be an RSP, but probably for one reason or another you haven't applied in the November 19th, May 2025 window. You can still apply in 2026 when the round actually opens. Maybe you want to be your own RSP. So at the same time when applications for top-level names are opened, you can put two applications. You can apply for names, but also apply for evaluation for your back-end service at the same time. So you will not miss that opportunity.

So we wanted to clarify the three applications, and I just want to make sure that we have gotten all of them right. So we have three applications. Two of them start on Tuesday next week. That is ASP application and RSP application. ASP applications will run for 12 months, so between November 19th, 2024 to November 19th, 2025.

In the whole of that period, ICANN will be open to receive from any eligible category of organizations to apply to be supported. Then there is RSP applications, the second application, which will run twice, November 19th, 2024 to May 2025 for six months, and will open again when the round opens in 2026. The third application is the actual application for TLDs, and that will be in 2026, April.

So I do hope that that clarity is now with us. To help us emphasize this information, as you know, we have some learnings from the last round. For example, in the last round statistics, we received a total of 1,927 applications by the time it was closed. And when you look at the distribution, which tells an interesting story, a later study done in terms of what could have impacted applications from different regions came up with certain recommendations.

For example, the CCT review report of 2018 points out that there was not enough awareness or engagement in certain regions. And this was because of timelines at that time. It was felt that it was not enough time to properly engage enough in certain regions, for example, Africa, the LAC region, the Middle East, to ensure that everyone who is potential actually got the right information at the right time.

At this time round, we do believe that the effort that we're putting in place, almost two years to opening of the round, will give us enough time, led by the regional GSE teams, to really ensure that all our regions really get this information on time. And we want to enlist your support as a community. And that's why we have prepared, for example, something that we are calling a Champions Toolkit. This is just material

that are either flyers or presentations or talking points that you can actually use yourself to engage or give details to those people that you consider are potential, because you might have a wider network beyond what staff can reach.

So this is partly in response to our learnings from the last round, so that you partner with us to support our engagement. And in return, we have provided material that you can use by yourself, translated in ICANN languages, and I think Spanish is listed there. So if you choose that, that content translates into the language you need. So we have a Champions Toolkit, which I really encourage us to make use of. And if you need support from staff, we have provided a form that you can fill to either request for staff support or speaker support, and we'll be able to ensure that that is done.

You can also give us your feedback if you do get questions as you engage on your own as community members. There is a feedback form that you can use to send us either your observations or questions that probably you cannot answer for one reason or another, and we'll ensure that they are answered.

So this time round, we are really hoping that in partnership with the community, we should be able to reach a much greater audience, and we clarify those that are eligible for ASP support and ensure that they are listed. So far what has happened is in every region, we have selected, according to these categories of eligible entities. So for example, under NGOs, Rodrigo has worked with the community to enlist all potential NGOs that he knows, all potential NGOs in the LAC

region, all potential indigenous community groups in the region. So as a first cut of exactly being very targeted.

And then looking at that list that has been generated from the LAC region, asking ourselves the question, do we have links to all of them, or which ones would we need help with to reach out to, and who is the best outlet to support that outreach? Is it a government agency? Is it a community member? Is it an SO/AC leader? Is it something that needs different kind of intervention? So that has at least enabled us to be a little bit more targeted, but we want to request that you sign up and help us reach out more.

So I believe I probably would want to take questions on specifics, on outreach and engagement, or any clarifications around the next round that anyone might have. That is really why we want to engage with you very specifically. And we are doing this with all the regions. So the Middle East space, the African space, and now the LAC space. So this is very important for us. Thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Rodrigo, myself, we have decided that now your name will be Roberto in Spanish. So I can see Lance, Sergio, Olga, and Eric. I don't know who is first, but I will start with Lance, who is the first one sitting on this side. Lance, the floor is yours.

LANCE HINDS:

And thank you for the presentation, sir. Just tying down some loose ends. The settled amount is \$227,000, you said? And if you are eligible

for the Applicant Support Program, is there a change in that price? And what is that change?

BOB OCHIENG:

So the package for support for ASP is in two parts. Financial support and non-financial support. So if you are successfully evaluated and approved, then you will be eligible for a discount to the evaluation fee for up to 85%. At the moment, we are projecting, depending on the final number that we finally realize in terms of approved applications, the maximum discount would be 85%. If there are more than 40 applicants that are approved, then it could go to 75%. So it is between 75 to 85% because of budget constraints. So that will be a discount.

There is another component of non-financial support in terms of trainings and capacity building and mentorship that will be provided, including with pro bono service providers that we are enlisting at the moment to equally offer those additional supports only to approved ASP applicants. So pro bono services for trainings, for capacity building, for mentorship, will be restricted to approved ASP applicants.

LANCE HINDS:

So the final determination of the reduction, part of that is the total amount of applications that you get?

BOB OCHIENG:

So the budget for 85% is budgeted for 40 applicants. So if we get less than 40 or up to 40 approved, then they will receive at least 85%

discount. If there are more than 40, then because the discount is also meant to be significant enough to ensure that there is significant support, the lowest will be 75%, and that will take the number to around 45 more.

LANCE HINDS:

Maybe some of this is past, but I come from the Caribbean where the islands are small. So some of the classifications that you have might not work in some of those islands. So for example, some of the smaller islands may look to see if they could use something like this as part of their economic development because they have nothing else.

So if you say that you are giving it to non-for-profits and you are giving it to SMEs, you are missing a mid-range bank who is not big like Chase or big like anything else, but they are somewhere in the middle there and could probably use something like this, but they don't fit into your qualification. And what might happen is that in a place like where I am, it makes more sense to work with those entities as opposed to working with the non-profits. Especially because of the nature of some of those non-profits, even though you get the help, they might not be able to sustain and maintain a gTLD, just because of the size.

Like I said, what I am trying to get at is the thinking behind all of this, just because depending on the location that you are in, the issues are slightly different. The SME in the Caribbean, and then it leads to the question at that stage of evolution, what are you giving them for? As opposed to a slightly larger organization, which again is large within the Caribbean context, but could be treated as an SME in South America, in

Brazil or anywhere else. A bank could be a small business in Brazil coming out of the Caribbean.

So I just think that as I thought about it, when I looked at who you were giving it to, I had a sense that there might have been some entities that you might have missed. Not through your data, I guess doing your assessments and stuff like that, but when I think about who you are giving it to, that is something we require thought. Anyway, thank you.

BOB OCHIENG:

Yeah, so just very briefly, so this was decided by the community, and I would agree that it's worth relooking at those criteria. But also, to just point out that the threshold within the SME is \$5 million annual revenues. So give or take, whether that would be a small entity, depending on which region it is, this is what the community put as a threshold. \$5 million USD, yeah, annual revenue.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

This is a very interesting subject matter. We have lots of questions, but we don't have time for all the questions because we just have 15 minutes left and two more themes on our agenda. So I invite everybody, Sergio, Eric and Olga, I know, but I apologize in advance. Bob will answer the questions, please write them in the chat and we will be answering them later on, please.

Now, we will start with the next theme on our agenda, which deals with the digital compact, the WTSA and WSIS+20. We have Elena Plexida and

Angela Wibawa, both working for the Internet Engagement Department at ICANN. Elena, please, the floor is yours.

ELENA PLEXIDA:

Thank you for having us. I'll try to be as brief as possible. My colleague Angela, as you said, is here. She will help me with the WSIS part and the WTSA, although we have to shorten a lot.

Global Digital Compact, I'm sure you all know that the negotiations are now finished and it has been adapted as part of the pact for the future. As it has to do with Internet governance, obviously this is the side of the global digital compact that we care about. It landed well, finally, although it didn't start really well at the beginning. You might recall that there was a policy brief, for example, by the Secretary General that was referring to ICANN as if ICANN is a forum.

We're not just a forum, there is decision-making here, right? The technical community was mentioned there as it is part of the civil society. Again, same thing, technical community is something completely different. There was a digital cooperation forum to be established, which didn't go through. That seemed to be antagonistic to the IGF. All in all, as I said, it landed well for Internet governance, despite indications at the beginning for the opposite.

That said, there are still open issues, most prominently the modalities of the new to be established office of the tech envoy. There's a lot of discussion about this thing, and I'm sure you have picked that up as well. Where is it going to be established? How? What kind of issues is

it going to pick up? Apparently, as you can understand, the modalities will inform what kind of topics are being brought in there. The question is, again, yes, the text of the GDC is good with respect to Internet governance. What is happening now with this new office, though, that is to be established? TBC.

Another open thing there is the endorsement. Stakeholders have been invited to endorse the Global Digital Compact. Stakeholders involve ICANN, apparently, and the other technical organizations, and anyone else, not just in our sphere. Discussion there is, what do we do? Do we endorse this kind of thing?

And also, what is it that we're endorsing exactly? We have principles now in the Global Digital Compact which are actually laudable principles. I mean, no one disagrees with meaningful connectivity and inclusion and gender equality and all this. But as regards implementation of these principles, we don't really know. We're expecting to see how this will be implemented. And they're working on a roadmap for implementation.

And finally, the IGF, I mean, the renewal of the IGF, although there was a lot of talk in the context of negotiations for the GDC, that is completely left now to next year to be negotiated, renewed, hopefully, for the WSIS+20. That is it in very, very short. And of course, WSIS next year is not going to be only about the renewal of the IGF. It is about how the UN institutions and everyone else achieved the SDGs. I think the Internet community should be more proud of our achievements and

how we contributed to the SDG as we're going to the WSIS+20 negotiations.

And remind others also, ourselves, that yes, we tend to talk a lot about the multi-stakeholder model and the multi-stakeholder model and the multi-stakeholder model. But at the end of the day, the multi-stakeholder model is just a means to an end. The end here being the global Internet. That's there. It should not be forgotten by anyone. I'll try to be short. I'll hand it over to Angela for the rest. Thanks.

ANGELA WIBAWA:

Thank you, Elena. I think you captured a lot of things. So, the negotiation for the Global Digital Compact or the GDC, if some of you attended the geopolitical session on Monday, you will realize that we are dealing with an alphabet soup of a lot of abbreviations, so please bear with us. The GDC, the negotiation has completed. Like what Elena said, the outcome is actually quite positive. But nonetheless, now moving forward, the Internet community realized that there's an increasing importance for the WSIS+20 review coming up in 2025.

You must have heard this over and over again since Monday, increasingly about the importance of this, and Elena has mentioned WSIS includes a lot of things beyond just the Internet governance. But what is most pertinent and most relevant to us in the ICANN community, in the Internet community, is the fact that WSIS is the formal acknowledgement by the government of the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. Multi-stakeholder model itself has existed long before 2005 when WSIS was adopted, but it's been adopted

as the ideal model for Internet governance and acknowledged by the government.

In addition to that, WSIS was also where the IGF was adopted and as well the recognition of the technical community as a unique voice in the Internet policy decision-making. So therefore, the essence of WSIS and the Tunis Agenda, where the WSIS is captured, that's the name of it, is very important to how we ensure the interoperability of the Internet identifier.

Now, the WSIS itself will be reviewed for the second time at its 20th anniversary next year. There have been discussions by UN member states who will negotiate this WSIS+20 review that whether or not the Tunis Agenda, and they are somewhat targeting the multi-stakeholder model, whether or not it should be re-examined, and therefore whether it's still the best model to govern this. If this is the direction that UN member states decide to take, our role to be at the table to give advice, to make sure policies related to Internet, how it will be affected, we might be removed from that role. Our voice will be removed. The control of the Internet might be taken by a majority of one party. So therefore, it is important to make sure you have your voice in this discussion.

So therefore, ICANN has been going around, informing, raising awareness on these issues and sharing developments. What we have heard from the community is that developments from the government, the United Nations processes are very, very complicated. They do not have the resources to follow everything. So what we have done earlier

this year, ICANN launched the WSIS+20 outreach network. This is essentially a grouping of interested stakeholders who join together. It's an open network, anybody can join, where they will have updates, they will hear updates. We will share updates through mailing lists, through information on our website.

We hold webinars so that you will learn firsthand what's going on, how it will affect you. You can go into our webpage to get resources that you need, talking points that you need, so you better understand and therefore you can talk to people who will be able to make decisions on this. If you are interested in this, we encourage you to join our webpage, to join our outreach network.

Also, in the interest of time, I will move on for WTSA. WTSA is slightly separate from WSIS. This is a little bit more technical. Last month, ITU, International Telecommunication Union members concluded this WTSA, which is the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly. This conference happened every four years. This year, it happened in October in New Delhi, India.

ICANN sent a delegation and so did a number of ISTAR organizations. You may wonder, why is it that the standardization work by ITU should be of interest to us in the internet technical community? This is because there are some resolutions that come out of this WTSA process that touch on the internet. It's increasingly difficult to draw the line between internet and just telecommunications, so there are some that cross over. These resolutions play a role in shaping the work of ITU-T, so

ICANN paid close attention to some of these resolutions. For ICANN, the overall outcome at the end of the two weeks WTSA 24, it was positive.

In fact, we were happy to note that the resolutions that related to IDN, Internationalized Domain Name, has been improved to encourage the adoption and more awareness of universal acceptance, so that the system will be improved further beyond just IDN, but to make sure the system runs even more smoothly. So that's a big plus for us.

We also note that WTSA also agreed on a number of other resolutions, like Metaverse, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Public Infrastructure. This signaled that ITU hoped to adjust its scope from the traditional scope of telecommunication to try to address the needs of the modern time. We note that some of these resolutions are not related to ICANN's missions, but we will continue to monitor development and be part of the process where we can to make sure that the development continues to ensure the interoperability of the internet identifiers. Okay, that's it from me. Thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Thank you, Elena and Angela. Let's go to the regional updates. We have Nacho Estrada from LACNIC, and then Rocio De La Fuente from LACTLD, and Harold Arcos on behalf of LACRALO. But the bad news is we only have five minutes. We can make it six. So I'm giving you two minutes each. And Nacho, please start.

MIGUEL IGNACIO ESTRADA: My name is Miguel Ignacio Estrada. They call me Nacho. I'm the LACNIC Strategic Relations Manager. I would like to bring my apologies on behalf of Ernesto. He is trapped in a GAC meeting. He has just taken office as a CEO on November 1st in replacement of Oscar, who's right there. So I'd like to say this publicly and thank him for his years of very good service.

I'll be really brief. The next LACNIC event will be LACNIC43 in Sao Paulo from May 5 to May 9, 2025. The other item is the provisional results of the Board. Alejandro Guzman, Evandro Varonil and Esteban Lescano were re-elected. And then very briefly remind you that we have programs in LACNIC now in operations. We have the IT Women Mentoring Program, where we provide mentoring support to women who work in technology in issues such as traffic, cryptography, operations and the future development of the Internet. These are the focal points. And so you are all invited to present your research.

Also this year, we started the R&D Ambassadors Program that will end after our event on May 2025. We will see presentations of all the work being conducted by all these ambassadors. They are all around the region. We also have the FRIDA Program, our flagship program. All the selected projects have been published. We have our Leaders Program. The 2024 edition has just published the pieces of research. This program is for small research conducted by just one person. The idea is to be able to identify talent in the region. We have a program called Policy Shaper where there is outreach and engagement.

And finally, reminding you of our Internet Governance Initiatives. We have national and regional IGF meetings and also IGF meetings for young people.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Thank you very much. All your activities offered by LACNIC are always very important. So let's now have a look at LACTLD. Rocio de la Fuente now has the floor. You only have two minutes.

ROCIO DE LA FUENTE:

Thank you, Laura. I'm going to be really brief. My name is Rocio de la Fuente and I work in LACTLD, the ccTLD Association for Latin America and the Caribbean. And I want to share some news on collaborative projects.

The first one is the Unified Domain Lookup Tool that we have already presented in other opportunities in LAC space. It is a service that offers the possibility to ask or query the availability of domain names under the ccTLDs of Latin America and the Caribbean in a unified way. This is unique in the region as a service. And it was launched in June 2023 as a beta version. And this year we have been working in consolidating the service in a more robust environment in terms of infrastructure and management so that it can go out of this beta version or beta mode. We have also developed a number of functionalities. I'm not going to deepen on that. But for those of you who do not know it, you can test it. You can do a unified query in buscador.lactld.org.

The second project I wanted to mention is a study that we started this year with NIC Chile Labs and the DNS Research Federation. This is research targeted to measure and analyze the main characteristics of the DNS system in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on the ccTLD communities. We presented a draft version during the DNS Week that we organized together with-- I mean, this was led by ICANN and we supported it from LAC-TLD.

And this study seeks to fill the gap in the information spectrum available on ccTLD in the region. And it also aims at strengthening the data culture and the measurement efforts in the ccTLD community in Latin America and the Caribbean. And of course, to provide findings and information that's relevant and that allows us to inform about decisions of this community. We're also compiling some expert reviews and soon we hope to be able to publish them. I'll wrap up soon.

And finally, I wanted to share that a few days ago we conducted the sixth edition of a workshop that brings together police officers, judges and lawmakers. And we call it a trustworthy edition. And the last edition was conducted in Montevideo, in the House of Internet. There were participants from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Paraguay. And it is one other initiative that we organized together with the technical community in Latin America and the Caribbean. We had the support and the engagement of LACNIC, ICANN, the Internet Society and the Public Interest Registry and we believe this is very positive and we want to continue working in this kind of initiatives. That was all, if you have a question we can talk offline, thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Thank you, Rocio. These are all excellent projects. It would be great to share the results of those workshops, at least the results that you can with the community and your lookup tool is an excellent tool, I recommend everyone to try it. I see a message from Olga promoting the Internet Governance School. Next year it will happen in the city of Mexico in 2025, May 2025. And now I'll give the floor to Harold so that he can provide us a brief update on the different issues in the region, our LACRALO region. Harold, you have two minutes, thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Laura, I hope you can hear me. Well, this is a summary that's very straightforward. To understand this LACRALO update, what we did was restructure the 3R structure that we are undergoing now in LACRALO. This started in the Cancun assembly in 2023. The first R is reconnecting with the purpose of the organization and the members. That's why we have already gotten in contact with inactive members for many years, for many months, to validate whether they want to continue and to encourage them to reactivate the ongoing processes. Otherwise, they could go to the inactive status.

This process of continuous improvement has served as an exercise to discuss within the Board about the relationship we are having with other stakeholders within ICANN and what is the possibility to bring all of this together. We have also provided support for the pilot holistic review and we have been able to reactivate the inter-RALO connection. And this is very important for all the global learning processes. We have

discovered that we cannot just hold round tables but actually we can have statements, we can strengthen the voice of the users both within and outside ICANN and this is what happened in the WCIS+20 and some of the in-person participants can account for that.

The second R is the re-evolution of training. There are important participants now in this room that help strengthen this process with GSE in Latin America, they are our ally in this path. And these are not just bi-monthly seminars as a space where the community or the region can understand the original issues being discussed in ICANN. This is extremely important. But we also focus on inactive countries. And that's why we conducted a very important event in the Dominican Republic where we saw the participation of these organizations and all of them were reactivated for the benefit of the region.

There's also an assessment of the work within the LACRALO and the creation of groups based on the times we are experiencing. This is a closer experience. We heard ALAC will have the creation of a sub-committee for community participation that seeks to better work in outreach and engagement and provide a more comprehensive approach.

The last R is re-boosting participation. In our sessions and working groups, we have seen an interest from members of the region to participate in bottom-up processes to build statements. This is one of the most important ones within the re-boosting process. Because when we went from not-- I mean, we have come from not issuing any opinion

to encourage people to give their opinion on all of the issues that we have been discussing in the past two and four years.

To illustrate this phase, we can talk about the implementation of universal acceptance. We have gone from two projects to six projects then to ten projects and now there are more than 16 projects for universal acceptance with the very positive experiences of the year 2023. We have received very good feedback and very good monitoring and implementation process.

So these are the key aspects that we need to include within the three R's that we started from the LACRALO General Assembly in Cancun 2023 and included in the process we need to continue.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Harold, you have 30 seconds.

HAROLD ARCOS: That's it. Thank you. With this, we can wrap up our summary.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Yes, we could hear you very well. I'm sorry, I had to cut you out, but you know we have our agenda and our interpreters. That's the end with this experience. All right, thank you very much for your engagement, for your presentations. Rodrigo and I were saying that since the new round is an issue where we all have many questions and we want to know more, even though in this space we could listen to Bob, this was not

enough for us to be able to answer all the questions and it's difficult to do this in just one minute.

And so we are going to organize a webinar or a panel or something. With Roberto right here and sitting by my side and with Rodrigo, we are going to provide you with information as fast as possible to be able to organize that session so that we can answer all the questions you may have. There are always many of course.

And now we're going to go for a picture, a photograph. Where are we going to take that picture? Oh, right there. Okay, this is what Rodrigo said so we're all going there. Thank you very much and I am waiting for all of you to take the picture.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]