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ICANN82 | CF – LAC Space Work Session  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 16:30 to 17:30 PST

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Session where we learn about the latest events and developments in our region, together with LACTLD, with LACRALO. We will also hear from the NomCom. They have very interesting news to share with us. We will also be hearing from the Caribbean IGF. And finally, Pablo Rodriguez will share some updates from the recent IGF that took place in Trinidad and Tobago. And we have a special guest today.

Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to the President and Senior Vice President for Global Stakeholder Engagement, is here with us. She is in charge of engagement in all regions, including ours. So, once again, thank you all for joining us. We hope this will be a very engaging and useful session. And we have our star moderator, Laura Margolis. Laura, the floor is yours.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, Rodrigo. Good afternoon, everyone. Well, Rodrigo already shared the agenda, so with that, I'll give the floor to Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to the President. Sally, the floor is yours.

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SALLY COSTERTON

Thank you. Thank you, Laura. Thank you, Rodrigo. And I'm going to take my headset off, and then I'll put it back on. Okay. Right. These headsets are always a bit loose, and it takes time to get used to them. So, is everybody ready? Yes, we're all tuned in. Okay. Thank you to the interpreters as well. Well, it's great to be with you. Always, this is such a pleasure. And it's lovely to be here in Seattle. I think we are having, by all accounts, I feel, a very good ICANN meeting.

We love when we can have the venue like this, when everybody is in the same hotel. It doesn't always work like this, but this is a particularly easy environment to have an ICANN meeting. And so, welcome. I should say welcome. We're nearly at the end of the meeting, but you know what I mean. So, many of you know me, and all of you know my team here, the Rodrigos. I don't know if there is a collective noun in Spanish for Rodrigos. Perhaps we should look for one. Yes? The Rodrigues. That is an excellent suggestion.

I think we'll definitely use that. Thank you very much, Pablo. So, obviously, we also have the rest of our team here. I can see Josie and Albert and Daniel, and I've probably forgotten somebody, so I apologize. But we're a big team here in LAC. Just in the engagement team, but of course we have our colleagues as well across other teams, and it's great to have everybody with us who takes care of and works with you as we go through the year.

Just focusing on engagement for this brief moment in the meeting, the team has always, this team has always played a

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critical role in ensuring that ICANN's work is understood, and that diverse voices from this region are heard in the global discussions that we facilitate and convene at ICANN that help us to deliver our mission, that are part of delivering our mission. Some of that is about policy development and joining working groups and working in specific areas, but not all of it.

Increasingly, I've noticed, and I've been at ICANN, for those of you who don't know me, somebody asked earlier last week, what is your ICANN age? No, they didn't just ask me. We were in a group meeting, and everybody went around the table, and they said whatever it was, and my ICANN age is 13. So, in my 13 years at ICANN, I think we have seen, and I think it's been quite an organic process, but an evolution of common topics of interest across our different SO AC groups.

So, we've become, I think, certainly on the engagement side in our ICANN community globally, more collaborative, perhaps a bit less siloed than we were in the past, and maybe that's also to do with the reality that the world faces fewer, maybe harder problems when it comes to the Internet, and we need each other more than we ever have before to come together to understand a way forward and to lean on each other, to listen to each other, to make sure that we have common goals. And I see Vanda there, and she was running a fascinating session yesterday in the DNS Women's Group, and she invited a lady, Jake, what's her surname, Vanda?

VANDA SCARTEZINI

Elizabeth, in the name of Jake Feiler. Yes.

SALLY COSTERTON

And she is?

VANDA SCARTEZINI

She developed the WHOIS in the beginning of these times.

SALLY COSTERTON

Incredible. Incredible lady. She joined us on Zoom, and she was talking about, we were talking about women in the DNS, and specifically, what does it take to contribute? What can we learn from her? And we heard in that group some very, sadly, familiar, old, long-time issues, which are gender-specific. But we also heard lots of hope, and she talked about, and we talked in that room, we get together, we get together to tackle that kind of problem as a community, as a global community.

And in this region, we know that you have some of the same issues as the rest of your colleagues and your partners in ICANN. We share that, how do we protect the technical infrastructure of the internet? How do we continue to maintain not just the technical resilience of that layer, but the trust that is built amongst the technical ecosystem players, which is so important? I have been heard to say in public, one of the things that I found quite extraordinary in my 13 years is that the internet doesn't succeed just because of technology. Perhaps even despite the technology.

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Really, it is a technical concept, but it is based on people. It's based on this. It's based on people coming together and showing up for each other. So, our role on the staff side is just to help that happen better, more smoothly, as much as we can, in as many languages as we can. And we were talking just before, Theresa was talking just before about the importance, and she was giving me wonderful feedback about our capacity development that we put together. And that is all about, of course, equipping people to engage. Because sometimes being inside ICANN can be difficult. Just because we run a newcomer program doesn't mean you magically feel like you know where your home is.

You know how to contribute. Some parts of ICANN are relatively easy to engage with, because the topic matter is a little bit more general. Some of it is extremely difficult to understand. When I came to my first ICANN meeting, it was Toronto. And I'd come out of the private sector. I'd spent my career in the private sector. And I spent a week in Toronto, and I noticed two things.

Everybody was incredibly welcoming and friendly. I mean, they really were. I met hundreds of strangers, and people were welcoming me. They took care of me. They invited me to dinners. They didn't know who I was. The SSAC invited me to one of their dinners. I mean, it was spectacularly friendly. And I understood almost nothing for a whole week. And I said at the time, and you may have heard me say this before, I thought I had joined a cult by mistake. And I had absolutely no idea how to get out.

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And 13 years later, I've come to the conclusion that I probably had. And I still haven't found out how to get out. And I don't want to get out anymore. But going from where I was then to where I am now, I mean, it doesn't need to take 13 years. But there's a lot that you have to learn, and you have to assimilate. So, it's that our work in the GOC team and the engagement team is all about blending, that capacity building. How do we help you to get on the ladder, on the rung? How do we bring you in so that you feel you can contribute? But also, how do we introduce you to people? How do we help you to do this? And the regional structures, the LAC structure, the APAC structure, the African, these are one of the things that I think has been very successful in ICANN, because it's cross-stakeholder.

Now, we also had a RALO, we had RALO meetings this week. And that, of course, is where we meet in our stakeholder group. That's another regional group. The GAC has regional groups. But when you come together, I'm going to say kind of horizontally, I hope that you get as much benefit as we can probably help you to support you to have, to feel that sense of, we're moving forward, because everybody wants to do that.

So, dealing with two or three things that are very specific to the here and now, because these things I'm making general comments, they're always true. And given whenever we are, new things, particular things on our horizon. And of course, at the moment, we are very focused collectively on the, I was going to say impending opening of the Next Round. I'm not sure impending is quite the right word. I mean, we're talking about the

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spring of 2026. But we have been very focused, and I know many of you have, and I want to thank you, because the outreach and the help that you've offered the team, the engagement team, to go and find people we don't know in your countries, to see whether they might be interested in applying for a top-level domain.

And they might be a community group that could benefit from the Applicant Support Program. And finding people who don't know who you are, or what you do, and have no idea why they might want to be part of your community, is famously the most difficult marketing technique ever. I mean, like, it's a really hard thing to do. It's very expensive, and it's very slow. So, when we said, which we did as a community, we must do everything we can.

We must strain every sinew. Those of you in the room who are perhaps in the GAC will know this. It's particularly focused at the GAC and the At-Large. We need to go out, and we need to talk to new people. We want to increase the diversity in the contracted party group in ICANN. We want a different mix of registries. And in order to do that, we have to go and find them, because they don't know we're here. So, they're not going to come to us. We have to go and find them. And in this region, you have been incredibly helpful to my colleagues. They've been charged with this.

And it's almost a sales process. How do you go and find new customers? It has a lot in common with that. And I really want to heart thank you for that, because we came a lot to you and said,

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how do we find this kind of group in your country? Because they're not at ICANN. But maybe you know where they are, because you're in that country, you're in that government, you're in that community group. So, more to do there. Lots of very encouraging progress. And the same has been true for the Grant Program.

We have grants. Can we find people who will actually come and apply for these grants? So, it's been a great partnership. Now, in terms of, we talked about, I mentioned capacity development, and we were talking about this earlier. We've done a lot of technical training for ISPs, network operators, which are very key to that strengthening of the technical infrastructure that we all need to be able to rely on. And critically also, the Universal Acceptance initiatives. I thank you for all your help with this.

This can be difficult, I think, the topic of Universal Acceptance. Because although it's a very logical term, and you go, we want everybody to be able to accept, we just don't want there to be any barriers. It's not always easy for people to really know what you mean. And this is one of those areas where we have to be really good storytellers. It is a technical issue, but the need is a human issue. And I was in a meeting yesterday, which some of you may have been in, which I wanted to share a tiny anecdote. And there was a fantastic lady that one of my colleagues in the US, so Rodrigo's opposite number, Naela Saras, had put together this wonderful event.

And Ram Mohan was there, who created the UASG Working Group. And we had a very senior UA leader from Meta who was there. The

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chair of the Unicode Board was there, who has a 20-year career in Microsoft. Fascinating group of people. And this amazing lady who was a, I would think probably a linguist by specialism, and she focuses on scripts for tribal communities where languages are dying, to try and help them to work out how do they convert them into, how do they use technology? How do they protect and preserve that language, that script? And she said, of course, a lot of these, she said in a lot of these languages, there are very few people left who still speak them.

And so, she said a lot of the people we're dealing with, she used the term elders, which is a very nice term. So, you're talking about people who might be in their 70s, 80s, maybe even 90s, who struggle with perhaps, using devices in any language. And she said one of them had said to her, so he has grandchildren around the world, this chaplain, not living in his country. And he said, here's my problem. There is no F in my language. So, he was using a keyboard. But there is an F in Facebook. And it was one of those moments where it just, for me, it just came alive. That is what we mean. That is why we do this. Because he can't connect to his grandchildren on Facebook, something that most of us completely take for granted. But he also wants to protect his script and his language.

And it's a culturally critical thing for him. And you have a lot of those kinds of things in this region. You know what that looks and feels like, feel like. So, when we talk about Universal Acceptance, it isn't just saying, here's a tick list of things we want to do with technology companies, although there is that. Meta were in the

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room. They need to, they're very contributive. Here's what we're doing. And he actually said, the guy, Sean Bedford from Meta said, you know when we had to put new lists and tables in place for certain things, he said, I think, I can't remember, he said, it took seven minutes to do the actual conversion.

It took nine months to get through the sort of human bureaucracy in a big organisation. Don't we all know that? Isn't that a familiar story? So, the storytelling, giving people incentives who are not technologists, but who are decision makers, whether they're in governments or whether they're in companies or whether they're in big organisations, this is what we do in this team with you. And equipping you to be able to do that with us, because we're just a small group, but we have this wonderful community.

So, we'll see a bit more of that. I know that the, we've got our Universal Acceptance Days coming up in the next six, seven weeks. So, we'll have a big focus on that. And I would encourage you, those of you who are being involved, going to be involved and are already involved, and I certainly want to thank you. But also, don't forget that human, that human part. Why are we doing this? Who is it for? And we're not just a sort of, it's not just hello technical standard bodies, we need to do this because it's the right thing to do.

It's not that it's not that, but it's that reaching out to the end person, the user. Why is it going to make their life better? So, finally, I would say that we've also just, just going back into the team, we've been together for a while. I think many of us, we're

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very, very fortunate. We've had a lot of-- our colleagues have love ICANN. We work for a mission-based organisation. We're very lucky. And in that time, we, we, we've evolved things.

We've learnt how to do things differently. Things have got, we've learnt what works, perhaps we've learnt what doesn't work. We've evolved our thinking. And one of the things that, which I'm really supportive of, that Rodrigo and the team here will pilot here in this region, but I'm going to watch it because I think it's got a brilliant idea and I think we may want to take it around the world, is the idea of, we've always gone quite broad and maybe quite shallow, if you want to put it that way, being quite event focused about engagement activities in all our regions.

And the team is really going to now pilot the idea of these, I'm going to call them deep dives, what he's calling, what we're calling ICANN EU. You know about this because it's in your regional plan. But this is not just the team suggesting this, this is all of you working together with us. And I really like this idea because I think we're building on the foundations we've created of that broad coverage to say now we need to deep dive.

We need to deepen the communities and countries where the participation in ICANN is not what we want it to be. We're going to prioritize those countries. We shouldn't spend money talking to people who already agree with us. I mean that just doesn't make any sense. We need to, it's a bit like that conversation about new registries, you know we need to go and talk to people who aren't

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here but who we want to be here because they will make our work better and richer and more representative and more resilient.

And how do we do that? We do that by much more deep dive programmes and here we're talking about five countries every year where we will go into several days working directly with you and local sets of, well it will be some of you, with your local community much more sort of deep and narrow rather than shallow and broad and really engaging in tailored capacity to building activities, policy discussions and outreach efforts, so that we're really leaning into that and then the idea of course is to bring that participation, that better understanding back into our broader community and hopefully we will see that participation increase as a result in our various activities.

So, I'm going to watch that with a lot of interest. I think this is a brilliant idea actually. It makes so much sense to me and we'll pilot it I think here in that. So, do tell us what you think. Does it work? You know it's a bit of an experiment. What works? What doesn't work? It's agile, let's iterate as we go along. Do we need to change our online tools to help us? All this kind of thing but please throw yourself into that if you're involved in it and thank you for your support for it because it makes a lot of sense to me.

So, I hope that's helpful Rodrigo and everybody else. I'm going to have to run to another meeting but I've got, if anybody would like to ask a couple of questions, I could do that but I'm afraid I've been triple booked.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, Sally, for your presentation and I think I agree with you that we are like part of the cult of ICANN. Once we are in, we cannot get out so I agree with you and also, I think Rodrigo's idea of going around all the Latin American countries each year is a great challenge and that will help us to have more people and all the countries engaged in ICANN.

So, I don't know if anyone has any questions for Sally. I don't know in the chat. Let me check. Okay, no, we don't have any questions so we can leave you and thank you so much for being here. Okay, well maybe I will switch to Spanish.

SALLY COSTERTON

I'll get out of the way now so you can speak Spanish.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

We don't have a lot of English speakers.

SALLY COSTERTON

Yes, that's true.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Let's go to a series of updates in our region and let's get started with one update from the Board members in our region. León and Patricia, I see León somewhere but Patricia he's not around. Is he coming? No okay so the whole of the responsibility will be on

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Leon's shoulders to update us with the news of the Board. Welcome, León. You have the floor.

LEÓN SANCHEZ

I would like to thank the Latin American and Caribbean team for the invitation. It's always good to be with you. Patricia asked me to apologize on his behalf such as Sally. He had three meetings at the same time. As we sometimes do, we share the burden. He went to where the heavy work is and I came where the fun is. So, this is the way we share our efforts. As you know before this public meeting the Board had its second workshop this year.

We had one before in January and now we had our second workshop. We always have a workshop prior to the ICANN public meetings. We get together Friday, Saturday and Sunday before the public meetings so as to continue face to face with the efforts in progress of the Board. The subjects discussed at this workshop were distributed in a number of meetings with the new CEO. Of course we met him. He shared his impressions on this first month leading the organization. He gave us some updates, different projects, different environments and we also focused on this project that we know has had a plenary already.

The way how we get together, how we meet. Obviously, the Board being part of this community we are all part of has reviewed the different options, the different paths that we can pick to make the way we meet more efficient considering the financial challenges we're facing today, higher costs involved in the meetings, the ICANN meetings, the time allocated, the traveling time, their costs

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and so on. We also talked about reviews. As you know there are different recommendations for reviews that are pending implementation.

There are some others that are going to start but they have been paused such as ATRT4. Then there's the Pilot Holistic Review and there have been some issues to put this in place in full. This was discussed at the Board workshop and of course we're also talking to different community actors so as to find paths that will take us to the implementation of these reviews in a favorable manner without any overburden in the effort required from volunteers of the ecosystem.

We've seen some updates as to the Internet Governance ecosystem, the efforts toward the W-S-I-S +20, WSIS+20 and some information on the Internet Governance Forum which will be held in Norway by mid-year. A rather strange date for this forum but this is the news about it. The different manifestations that some actors have made in the ecosystem as the multiple stakeholder model where they support it or not.

There are some statements of some countries revolving around sustainable development goals whether they will adhere to them or not. There are some issues that may have an impact in Internet Governance. We are also focused on discussing updates on the status of the program of the New gTLD round and its implementation. We've got some updates on the Application Guidebook, The Application Support Program, the Applicant

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Support Program and we looked at the financial perspective of the organization.

You know that there are financial pressures and the figures the organization is dealing with. Inflation will not stop but funds coming to the organization have been stable for a while which has caught some deficit which was corrected by some adjustments in different areas. The updates we get is that the perspective is positive thanks to these adjustments but of course we cannot lower the guard. We need to keep on finding areas where we can be more efficient expense wise to reduce ICANN's financial pressure. This is what was discussed in our workshop and of course I'm available to answer to your questions. I will leave momentarily. I'll stay with you some 15 or 20 minutes and then I'll have to apologize and go.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, León, for your updates from the Board. Any questions for León? No. So, we will now give the floor to the LACTLD updates. But before that, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Claire, I didn't see your hand. You have a question, right? Please, go ahead, Claire.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Thank you, Laura. I am Claire Craig for the transcript record. I just wish to thank León for being here and Sally previously for attending our sessions. And it's more of a comment than a question. And it concerns a number of things. First off, you spoke about volunteers. No, let me just start by saying that I'm happy to

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see and hear about the new initiative ICANN near you that we are going to be rolling out in our region. I think our region has some peculiar challenges because there are so many SIDS, particularly in the Caribbean. There are a lot of small islands. And we function a little bit differently to some of the bigger countries in the region.

I hope that this new initiative would be able to reach some of these small states. Particularly the concerns I have are, the continuing to attract new volunteers as well as to keep the volunteers that we have. And as you know, one of my passions is talking about volunteer burnout, but I just wanted to bring it in this context as well.

So I'm hoping that those things would be able to be addressed there. And you know that as members of the Board that you will look closely and monitor how those are going. Also, I wanted to say thank you for the work that you all have done on the grant program as well as on the New gTLD. What I noticed, however, with respect to the grant program was that, again, our region did not have had a small number of applicants.

And those are some of the issues that I think we need to continue to do more outreach and engagement in the Latin America and the Caribbean region so that there is awareness, so that we feel comfortable, all of us, to engage in some of these initiatives that ICANN is spending a lot of time and effort in promoting globally. So, I just wanted to make those few comments. Thank you.

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LEÓN SANCHEZ

Thank you, Claire. I failed to say that there was a meeting with ALAC, with the ALAC leaders, and Claire was attending there and gave an excellent presentation there. And that helps the Board to have a better vision, a better understanding, one, on the role At-Large, ALAC, the difference between them, the time invested by the volunteers, their efforts to move forward in ICANN's mission, and the needs, the challenges you are facing.

So, Claire, thank you for bringing that vision forward and helping me get closer with this to the Board colleagues. Now, talking about the Grant Program, even when it's true that actually there is not a high number of applications in our region, there were some projects that actually I believe that have gotten some funding. I would like to remind you here that we are in a pilot stage, in a baseline stage. We're learning together with the community how to do this.

Remember that it took a lot of time to shape this up, and today, finally, this is starting, moving. But as with any pilot program, there are lessons to be learned across the road, and I'm sure that in the next round or the next call to allocate funds, I'm sure we will have had the chance to correct those errors made and take advantage of the lessons learned to get to more projects in the different regions involved that need it.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, León. Thank you, Claire. Juan Manuel, you had a question. Please go ahead.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS

Thank you, Laura. My question is a bit general, but I think it's more addressed to León. Talking about the Applicant Support Program, this is the program that will help people file their applications to operate gTLDs. What is being done? I know that things are being done, but please tell us what is being done from the ICANN to prompt these applications and these applicants from smaller regions. For instance, Latin America has its peculiarities, and I'm sure that may not have many applicants from other regions do, but still be part of this program. That is a general question I wanted to share with you.

LEÓN SANCHEZ

Thank you, Juan Manuel, for your question. There is a series of efforts in progress. Rodrigo and his team, I'm sure, can enlighten us more as to what is being done in the field, as we say, what is being done by him and his team, so as to advertise the program to disseminate all the details that need to be known by an applicant, to take within reach to these applicants the form requirements to access the Applicant Support Program.

You know that this Applicant Support Program was defined by the community and adopted by the Board. There are different types of support, starting from discounts and payments to be covered to bring your application to the program, and also support in kind with advice from specialists to draft the applications. Also, the support services required from registry and the gTLD.

There are a number of items which are not on the top of my head now. Support actions in place to get more people involved in the least served regions in the DNS world. So, first of all, to prompt their interest, and then to understand the process, and third, to actually be able to be involved in this round. So, I believe that your efforts as ALS people in the region together with Rodrigo's team will be critical to help us expand this message and reach those places where we have not reached as yet.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, León. Thank you for the questions. We will move on with the agenda. I would like to say hello to Federica from LACTLD. It's her birthday, so Federica, happy birthday. And as a birthday present, Federica will share with us an update about LACTLD. So, go enjoy your present, Federica. Not to exceed four minutes because we're a bit delayed with the agenda.

FEDERICA TORTORELLA

Good afternoon. I'm a LACTLD policy officer, Federica Tortorella. Thank you for inviting us to this LACTLD update meeting. We have been working to create relevant information about the ccTLD community in the region, and I'm going to talk about the two most recent reports that we have been working with. In the first place, we have this report that deals with meeting points between the free trade agreement and ccTLDs, where we review the main provisions included in free trade agreements and trade promotion

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agreements in relation to the Internet and the ccTLDs in the region.

This survey let us understand that the instruments discussed include provisions about controversy, dispute resolution, ccTLD resolution, and administration. So, this lets us see that there is an evolution in the provisions included in these instruments. On the one hand, we have treaties and agreements, the older ones, that were focused in including instructions for a public online database with reliable and accurate information, such as the principles to create controversy resolution principles. On the other hand, we have the most recent agreements that do not add Internet principles and include the need to have measurements and remedies in case of dispute over the registration of a domain name that has been made in bad faith, including for the first time the compensation figure for these scenarios.

The second LACTLD report I want to talk to you about is the one that we were working with, which intends to map and analyze how ccTLDs in LAC, as members of the technical community, participate and contribute to local and regional spaces allocated to IG. This is a preliminary survey that has allowed us to identify three key aspects. First, the consultative bodies and national dialogue roundtable participation, organization of and participation in local, regional forums and events, and implementation of projects, training initiatives, and partnerships with ecosystem actors at a local, regional, and global level.

The report shows, among other conclusions, that ccTLDs, as part of the technical community, play a leading role and are actively engaged in various activities. Their engagement includes participation in a countrywide dialogue roundtable support for regional and local IG fora, involvement in initiatives that promote public awareness and training on Internet-related issues, and also the governance ecosystem. And finally, last but not least, this shows how ccTLDs represent the technical community and multi-stakeholder national bodies serving as key facilitators in different initiatives in the ecosystems.

These reports are available to the community in English and in Spanish, not just for the members, but for the public at large. We would like to thank you for this space, and if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you so much, Federica. We wish you have a wonderful rest of your day today. I don't know if there are any questions of Federica. We are a little bit pressed for time, so if there are no questions, we will now hear from LACRALO. Harold Arcos will be in charge of this agenda item. I don't know if we have him online? Harold?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO

I believe he's not going to join us. He won't be able to join us, Laura.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Okay, so Sergio Salinas-Porto, LACRALO'S secretary, will be in charge of this update. Sergio, the floor is yours. You've got three minutes.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO

Thank you, Laura. Good afternoon, everyone. It's always a pleasure to join you and share updates in the LAC space. As you know, LACRALO has Working Groups that are actively working as part of our working plan for the region in order to be more productive. I will share a brief report given the time allocated to this point on the agenda. Excuse me, this is Sergio Salinas-Porto speaking for the record. My apologies, I didn't introduce myself before.

Our first Working Group focuses on DNS Abuse, and we had Nicolas Antonielo offering capacity development activities. He's really excellent. He's a great trainer, and he is fantastic at sharing knowledge and new ideas. It is worth highlighting that we have high expectations of this Working Group in terms of how it will work in the region. We also have a Working Group on contractual compliance at ICANN.

We are gathering all the attorneys that are LACRALO members. The idea is that we'll be following up on contractual issues and topics in the region. They will officially meet following ICANN82, and once our staff and interpreters' team are back in full operation after this meeting. They are really looking forward to get started.

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The LACRALO Governance Working Group completed the document on participation metrics, so that we have data that shows how we are participating and data that helps us move forward, not only within the region but also within ICANN. We have the Universal Acceptance Working Group that is also highly active. We have been working for three years now in a bottom-up process. Initially, we had one approved project. Then we had four approved projects, and now we have 14 approved projects in the region.

This is fantastic because it shows LACRALO'S involvement within ICANN processes. Our communications Working Group issued a newsletter earlier this year. Our next newsletter will be published shortly. This newsletter has been very well received, so we believe the second issue will be as successful as the very first one. And some of us are working in the Diacritical Marks Working Group, focusing on the Spanish-language diacritics.

This group is part of the GNSO, and to our surprise, we saw that no interpretation was provided. And we speak Spanish, and we are dealing with diacritics in Spanish. And people who do not speak Spanish perhaps may not understand the difference. For example, it's not the same to say revolver as to say revolver in Spanish. So, it is crucial to have interpretation in those working groups. And with this, I wrap up my presentation.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, Sergio. Thank you so much. I fully agree with you. I think that for the second year, we are the region with the highest

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number of Universal Acceptance projects and events. We will now move on to the next section in our LAC space agenda. Vanda Scartezini will very quickly give us an update on open leadership positions via the NomCom.

VANDA SCARTEZINI

Thank you, everyone. This is a very important opportunity. This year, we have two open positions in ALAC, one from Latin America, one for Africa, and one for the Asia-Pacific region. We have these three open leadership positions. So, if you're interested in applying, please do. The deadline is on the 28th of March. So, you have time until the 28th of March if you want to apply. Then, regarding the GNSO and the ccNSO, well, they have already chosen people from North America. The Board has already reached the maximum number of positions for the same geographic region.

So, we will not be able to consider candidates for the North America region. This means this is a great opportunity for all other regions. You will have more opportunities to apply because we will not be able to consider applicants or candidates, rather, from North America.

They will not be able to apply. If they have another citizenship, okay, they can apply via that different citizenship, or else they can apply for a different position. But anyway, we have three open leadership positions in the ICANN Board, two open positions at the GNSO with voting rights, one open position at PTI. This is a little bit more specific. You need technical knowledge to apply for the

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PTI position. However, PTI also needs people with financial knowledge.

They are responsible for auditing contracts, et cetera. So, the candidate needs technical knowledge, management skills, and financial knowledge. And we do have an open position at the ccNSO. In addition to the three ALEC positions that I have already mentioned, when it comes to the ccNSO, it's important to note the following. The ccNSO leadership told us that they are not looking for people from the CC community.

They are interested in fresh perspectives. They were very pleased with the experience they had with At-Large members. That was very important for them. It was very important to hear from the end users. So, the At-Large perspective was really important to them. So, that's another opportunity. If you're interested in embarking upon the ccTLD journey, so to speak. So, please do apply. We do not have that many candidates. And since the North America region is out of the picture this time, so to speak, well, let's make the most of this opportunity. Let's make the most of these open leadership positions.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Vanda, I don't know if we can publicly say that we are eliminating the Americans in that many words.

VANDA SCARTEZINI

This is not a public session. This is family. This is family here.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you. Thank you very much. And please do take the opportunity to apply, as Vanda was already recommending. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON

Let's give two minutes to Shanea from the Caribbean Communications Union. She's going to talk about the Caribbean IGF.

SHANEA LEWIS

Thank you, everyone. The IGF celebrated its 20th anniversary in the last year. It is the world's first and longest-running regional Internet governance forum. And in its 21st edition this year, we're going to have our first multilingual IGF held in Cuba. This will be done alongside the Caribbean Youth IGF for its fourth edition. The Youth IGF is run by 13 youths, six men and seven women.

They plan and contact the speakers all on their own with the support of the Caribbean IGF and its partners. This edition, we will continue looking at the hot topics in Internet governance, both policy and technical, which includes artificial intelligence, data governance. And we will be reviewing the fourth edition of the Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework document, which was also published last year.

The scope of the policy document includes infrastructure for connectivity, Internet technical infrastructure and operations

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management, legal frameworks and enforcement, Internet content development and management, public awareness and capacity building, as well as research. With each edition, the scope of the document is reviewed and it's expanded or reduced as the stakeholders, the community, decides. The current approach of the CIGF is to execute the IGF activities at the national level.

So, in planning, we will be meeting with representatives in Cuba to ensure that there's at least one day dedicated to their needs, specifically to the needs in Cuba, whether it be policy or infrastructure, to see what solutions could be developed. Thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you very much. Thank you for your presentation. I wish you success at the IGF. And to wrap up this block, we will give the floor to Pablo Rodriguez from the ccNSO. And he's going to talk about a presentation at the Trinidad and Tobago IGF in outreach for ccNSO. Pablo, you've got two minutes ahead. I don't know whether that will be enough for you, but please go ahead.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ

For the next half an hour, we'll keep on talking, so no worries. Let me greet all my brothers and sisters here, and I will switch to English right now. I want to thank the CTU for being so gracious as giving us an opportunity to speak and reach out to the various ccTLD operators in the region.

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The Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum not only is a fantastic opportunity to discuss the various topics that are taking place in the Caribbean region, but it is also an excellent opportunity to gather the various ccTLD operators in that particular region. And as such, I want to commend and recognize the Secretariat of the CTU for always being up front and being a leader in the region, and for giving the ccNSO an opportunity to present what we do, what are the topics that we're working with, and in addition to that, asking the TLD operators what is it that is of importance to them and how can we help and integrate that there.

This was a fantastic opportunity. It was well concurred, and I saw a number of participants that I had not seen for a long time. And I think it's an ongoing conversation that it is worth following and continuing conversation. I am confident that collaborations between the ccNSO, the CTU, and other Trinidad and Tobago operators are going to help us to continue this dialogue and to reach further opportunities of enhancement of their operations, of the local operations. So, with that, once again, thank you so much, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in future opportunities.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you so much, Pablo. I was sure I was going to cut you short. Thank you so much. I think that what you did in the Trinidad and Tobago meeting was very good. I hope that in terms of outreach

of the ccNSO, you did have success, and I think it's a good action to replicate in other events in the region.

I don't know whether anyone else, we have just one minute, if you would like to ask a question or make a comment. If that is not the case, Rodrigo is signaling at me that we're going to have a group picture. So, thank you all for being part of the LAC space, and I believe that the next edition will be an ICANN84 in Oman. I wish you all a good wrap-up at ICANN, and see you. Ciao.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**