
PANAMA – ALAC and Regional Leaders Working Session (7 of 7)

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OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we are going to start again. I didn't realize that we were waiting for me. My name is Olivier Crepin-LeBlond for the transcript. Now we are going to be discussing the ATLAS-3, the At-Large Summit. We have had so far two At-Large Summits, the first one being in Mexico City, the second one being in London. According to – I'm not going to go through the whole history of it. I think you all know about the whole history. But, according to the schedule of summits and our general assemblies that we had put together a few years ago and submitted to the board and which was accepted, we are due to have an At-Large Summit coming up soon.

As you know, our target date and target location is the Montreal meeting which would be in fiscal year 20. This meeting here is just for an update on where we are. Some of you might have attended the meeting just previous to this one with ICANN finance reflecting on the response that we received from ICANN finance, and then also looking at maybe what needs to be done now to start preparing, as in we need to prepare earlier rather than later for this.

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With me, next to me is Maureen Hilyard. Next to her is Cheryl Langon-Orr. We also have Eduardo Diaz. Alan appeared suddenly between the two. So, yes, that's not Cheryl Langdon-Orr. That's Alan. But, Cheryl on the other side. We also have Eduardo Diaz on my left. People keep on appearing here. As you know, this is the team that was assembled – a team of leaders, if you want, that was assembled for various reason. We've all been involved with putting together of the previous summits. This is just a starting point to then building a full team of people to bet start working on different tasks.

Needless to say, we are still at a very early stage. Montreal meeting would be in over two years, about two years, or a year-and-a-half I think. Yes, Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Olivier. I have a point of order. You introduced me as part of the leadership team, and I thank you for that, and in fact that is the memory of all of us out of Abu Dhabi, and indeed of the staff to my right-hand side out of Abu Dhabi. That was challenged by Sebastien, who undoubtedly would like to speak to this. Should he wish, I would welcome that.

But, in fact, the formal record of outcomes from Abu Dhabi is at least, unless we've all had seen our dementia developed, incorrect and my name is missing.

So, I will begrudgingly act as your advisor at this point until the record is corrected, so that we don't need to waste our valuable time on administrivia. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Cheryl. I'll let Sebastien speak. Sebastien Bachollet?

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: How to write history. Good, great. I will be happy to see the record. But, my point is more general. After the Abu Dhabi meeting, we were supposed to open the group and to ask for participants and it has never happened. I just want to tell you that when I was in Montreal, as it may happen at the ATLAS-3 go to Montreal, I met with a few people and specifically the chair of some of the ALSes there and I asked them to be ready to participate because I think it would be a good asset for the ATLAS-3 to have local people.

But, with that, if we have to change the history, I will be very happy to be involved in one way or another in ATLAS-3, but it was not my point when I said my question. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Sebastien. I believe this was an action item and some action items do not get undertaken and this one did not get undertaken yet. So, the plan is to proceed forward with the action item, and if I can come back to what I was saying earlier, we will be putting together teams and that will definitely include people locally. As I mentioned, our target is Montreal, so we will have, I hope, great participation from our At-Large Structures and individual members based in Montreal and in the surrounding region. Alan Greenberg?

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. Just to note, you're all aware of the budget issues that have been discussed. Although here was an action item, and admittedly there was no formal decision of the ALAC to defer. I did choose to defer significant preparation for the ATLAS until we had a little bit more confidence we would actually see it happening. So, that partly is on my fault and I'll take responsibility for that. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Alright, thank you. So, then, the next question is, is ATLAS-3 happening or not? I guess that's the one that everyone wants to know. At present, we are acting as if it is happening. We have not received any indication that it will not. The question that we had earlier regarding ATLAS-3 and whether ICANN was already

tabling for it in fiscal year 19, the answer was, well, it's not because we can start spending on it before we actually go into fiscal year 20, as they're well aware that there will be things that will have to be paid for and deposits, etc., before.

So, since ICANN does not have multi-year budgets, there is no financing of it in fiscal year 19, and in fiscal year 20, there will be a budget item.

Of course, that's the expectation. That being said, recent discussion of the RALO chairs with Goran Marby has yielded the answer from Goran when we asked him about ATLAS. That, ultimately, because the budget has to go through the whole overall budget process with the supporting organizations and advisory committees needing to approve it, he's basically said this will all depend on the approval that we will get from the rest of the ICANN community.

Now, needless to say, this is a large budget item and we've been through a process this year and probably in the next fiscal year also of having very tight budgets, perhaps certainly we've seen a reduction of the overall budget this year. So, for next year, we will hope that this can go through, but that also means that we ourselves need to show real strength into how we're going to do this and be very rigorous about how we spend money and how we build that budget up. Alan Greenberg?

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. On that subject, as we heard in the previous session, we can expect the fiscal year 20 budget to be approved sometime in the late May timeframe, if what Xavier said is correct. That's clearly too late to start planning. A meeting that's going to be held in October, we have to do significant planning. If nothing else, we're likely to have to start specifying who's coming and making travel arrangements and visa arrangements well prior to that.

I've had a good number of discussions with senior people at this meeting, and while nobody is in a position to make any guarantees, it is conceivable things might be so bad that, next May, it's not in the budget. But, I feel confident it's a good investment for us to proceed as if it will be. That is what I would recommend as an outgoing chair.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Alan. I saw Alberto Soto earlier. Yes. Alberto Soto, you have the floor.

ALBERTO SOTO: I will speak in Spanish. Resorting once again to history, I was thinking that ATLAS-2, for ATLAS-2, the budget, was that

approved on that same year or was there a fund appropriation before that?

The other question is, evidently, if this is an investment, it's not an expenditure if it's an important investment, a large investment, if we cannot do a fund appropriation in two fiscal years. Think of it that way. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Alberto. I think that it was – Alan, you might remember.

ALAN GREENBERG: Previous summits, previous ATLASes, previous summits, have not been approved through the normal budget cycle, but we went with an explicit request to the board. With the adoption of our long-term plan that we did of the GAs and summits, this was approved in concept and we were directed to make sure that we made the appropriate requests under the regular budget cycle. So, this is the first time we're doing it in this mode. So, the history was different, through a completely different process in the past.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Alan. Sebastien, was that in response to the question that Alberto Soto was asking? Okay. Sebastien Bachollet?

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you, Alberto, for your questions. There were two reasons that are very different now. The budget was made not a year before, but approximately a year before because the ATLAS summit was by the end of the fiscal year, and now it will be the first meeting of the fiscal year. That is one significant difference.

The second difference is I had the board meeting before the vote, but without it being public, so we were able to start working. I still have the signature of the chair just a few months before. That's why it's easier this year.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Indeed, the amount of work that you did within the board to get this ATLAS-2 moving forward was very, very important. I gather that our current board member will have to do the same thing on the current board and work them in the same way. I also do recall that you had arranged for meetings with the Board Finance Committee where Heidi and I were invited to come and present the budget that we had – well, that the community had put together and to effectively explain why certain items were certain amounts of money, etc.

I'm going to go through the queue, but then I really sort of wish to move forward on a few points that we need to address quite soon. So, the queue at present stands at Eduardo, then I have remote participation question. You need to make a reminder? Oh, okay.

ALAN GREENBERG: And I need to make a reminder. We have 15 minutes left.

YESIM NAZLAR: Thank you, Olivier. Just a reminder to state your names before speaking, please. It's for our interpreters as well as the transcription reports as well. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Yesim. Eduardo Diaz, please?

EDUARDO DIAZ: So, this is Eduardo Diaz. Very quickly, I just wanted to comment about the planning. Even if the budget doesn't get approved for Montreal for this planning session, it's to going to be wasted because still you need to think about how you want to organize this. I understand not all the ALSes or people will be able to go to this. Some requirements or some kind of criteria has to be developed to define who is going to go or not. So, even if we go

ahead and start planning now, I don't think it will be wasted for next year's.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Eduardo. Ricardo Holmquist?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you. Just a question. I understand that we move the meeting from Kobe. It was originally two or three years ago. Now to Montreal. But, for us not Canadians, Montreal has a very expensive visa and it's not [inaudible]. But, then one of the meetings in the next year is Morocco if I'm not incorrect. That is very cheaper, closer to Europe and Africa. That's not a best place for this? Just [inaudible].

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Ricardo. So, the Morocco meeting is due to take place in Marrakech between the 24th and 27th of June 2019. That's fiscal year 19. That would mean it would have had to be in this year's budget and it didn't.

Second, it actually happens at a B meeting policy forum and it is a policy now of ICANN not to allow other forms of meetings and so on because the whole point of the policy forum is to reduce the overall size of participants so they can find a smaller venue.

So, if we were to have a summit during the policy forum, that would completely defeat the purpose. That's the point.

Now, as Eduardo mentioned earlier, we do need to get moving on a number of things. The first one, as you might have probably guessed, is the whole point of attendance selection of participants.

We have grown considerably, and this is great to have grown a lot more At-Large Structures entering the second summit and the first summit. Yet, that would also mean a real increase in the budget. Unrealistic. That being said, I think we also have to face the reality that not all of our At-Large Structures are very active. Some of them are less active than others. Some of them are more active than others. Therefore, the discussions we had in previous meetings dealing with ATLAS-3 was that there would be some kind of a selection of At-Large Structures and individuals since we now also embrace individuals in our region. We need to launch that discussion earlier rather than later as to how we are going to select participants and also provide some, let's say, some options when we discuss things with the Board Finance Committee and with ICANN Finance as to how many participants we are going to have going to that meeting.

They're fundamental questions because the numbers themselves all hinge on this, and of course the smaller amount

of participants the cheaper it will be. Well, if you call it cheap. The more affordable, the lower the sum will be, but also the more likely it is that there will be less opposition from the rest of the ICANN community. As you know, we're always being criticized for having too many people go on free trips and stuff like that, which is completely wrong, but there you go.

Let's start with Tijani and then I think I had Alberto Soto and then Holly Raiche. Tijani Ben Jemaa?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. As you said, Olivier, we already started this discussion before. In this kind of session, I don't think that we will come up with a solution or a decision. So, I propose that your group form a small group or an open group so that people discuss it and we have to make a deadline for that. So, a group with a deadline to discuss and to propose a way to select.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Tijani. Let's go to Alberto Soto, please.

ALBERTO SOTO:

I think I brought this concern to LACRALO when we started discussing this in ALAC. When we get the approval, I think Humberto said in 30 days, when we get the approval of the

modifications to our operating principles, also the metrics will be approved.

So, what we wrote there is that nobody will be able to travel to any paid event, CROP or general assemblies, will not allow any active ALS to travel according to what we've described to what is active participation. They will not be able to travel to any event one year before the event. So, if we have this, I think we will at least have an important tool to address the first consideration. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Alberto. We've got Holly Raiche and then Cheryl Langdon-Orr afterwards. Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE: First of all, I was just going to volunteer for one of the committees, probably not the initial one because I think we also need to plan what we're going to do, some of the activities. Just my memory, the last ATLAS was we would up with, I suppose, too many proposals and how we can actually make best use of all of the people who are there. So, I'd like to be part of that discussion, if that's possible. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah. Thank you, Holly. The contents of the summit itself are probably, at present, not the most urgent things to deal with, but we'll note this. Cheryl Langdon-Orr?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Olivier. Just to let you know some of the logistics that your leadership team and me clearly, as ancillary, have already done. We've been working with staff to have a set of dedicated Wiki pages set up and we're hoping that, and in particular, because of the limited time we have today, that if we just get – we wet your appetite on some topics and then encourage you and your wider regional membership and ALSes to start doing some discussion and toing and froing on these Wiki pages.

Just having checked with our staff, my guess is it's going to be in a more polished form in about the next 72 hours, so we might make sure there's an announce to say the Wiki pages are up, they're public. We'll pose a few questions. There can be some challenge questions. Nothing will be concrete. This is thought. This is white space. We're just sort of chewing some thoughts over. But, the presiding consideration will be the knowledge that we will have some significant limitations in how we make the best value, considering those limitations.

One of the key pieces, one of the early pieces, will need to be what type of criteria you would like to see applied for those who will be travelers. Remember, that is not the ALAC and At-Large leadership. You'd be traveling regardless. So, stop thinking about yourselves as part of this number if you're doing at.

But, there is the "ands". There will be a dollar associated with the ands and we need to make sure we can select the ands to the travel list in a fair, transparent way, and with the criteria established early enough that everybody who can meet the criteria is able to do so well and without undue stress, [inaudible]. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Cheryl. That I think will re hinge in a number of travelers. One of the really important things. So, I'm going to throw some numbers for you to start thinking about. The last summit we had was I think 150 people, was it, including the At-Large Advisory Committee, if I understand it. Was that plus the At-Large Advisory? So, 150 people plus the At-Large Advisory Committee.

There are figures that are going around that this might be too much, that we might have to look at 100 or 60. I'm pausing here to look at your faces. We have to be ready if we are asked to do something like this. So, those metrics are going to be

particularly important. Tijani and then Judith. Tijani Ben Jemaa?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Olivier. As I said a few minutes ago, we don't have to fix anything. We don't have to say it must be less or it must be more, it must be 50, it must be 60. We have to say what are the criteria and we have to set the criteria. Once we have the criteria and according to the budget, we will play on the [inaudible] – you understand?

So, if you are active, if you are that active, you are sure to go if we don't have money. But, if you are that active, if you have enough money you can travel, if you will not have enough money. So, first, look at [inaudible] and then we will see.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Are you thinking of a point system? Because that's what it sounds like.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: A point system?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah. You get three points if you turn up at 8:00 in the morning, one point if you turn up after 9:00, and minus 10 if you turn up

after 9:30. No, this is not as a joke, but you're thinking of a point system as in the different changes of At-Large Structures or an individual's participation.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes, I think so.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Clearly, you have a lot of work in this. Judith Hellerstein?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yes. I am thinking about what Tijani said. Also, if we are doing that, we also should make it regionally balanced and if we're going to have a certain number of slots, have them proportional to the number of – or have them each the same in each RALO so that we can all do the metrics within the RALO of which ALSes can go and not. That way, it won't be that if we do a point system, and it maybe predominated by a certain region that have very active members and others that don't. But, it's also in this chance, the best way to get ALSes involved. I know my first one that I went to, Glenn who was my mentor had assigned me and some others to do some tasks, and that's how you really learned, with all the people, how to get more involved, how to get more engaged and you got more interested in it.

ALAN GREENBERG: To be clear, we're due in the GAC room in 14 minutes. It's not that far, but we do want to make sure we show up on time. They may well not be ready, but we have to be there anyway. I'll leave it to Olivier to gage time appropriately.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I'll just summarize what Judith has said and let Satish have one minute and then we'll have to close afterwards. This was just to wet the appetite to start with.

So, Judith, you mentioned that you wish to see the same number of participants from each region irrespective of the overall global classification as to which At-Large Structures or individuals are most active. Of course, that's one option.

Option two is to have a global list and just take the 50 or 60 or 100 most active people globally, which means some regions might get no one. Who knows? My region, for example, might be having a hard time.

Or, we could have another system. So, if anybody else has got another suggestion for this, then please proceed forward. Not now, but in writing as a follow-up. Satish Babu, one minute, please, and then we have to close.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Olivier. One of the problems that would arise when we start doing this exercise is to contain the dynamics of the allocations. So, between the RALOs, between individuals and ALSes within RALO, to contain the dynamics it may be better to announce objective criteria first rather than a number, so that we can start applying the number maybe available internally. But, to reveal it to the community, I'm wondering if it's a useful thing at all. Regardless, there should be a very clearly set of criteria that we can see as transparent. So, a transparent process. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Satish. I guess as an action item is for us to proceed forward with getting the action items that we've already got on our table to move forward and start building the groups and to follow-up with the leadership team on this. Cheryl, you have a closing word.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Olivier. It's not actually a closing word. I'll leave that to the leadership team. What I wanted to raise is another important point and that is that we need to start thinking now about sponsorship opportunities. We are going to be predictably

– and I would suggest definitely – under very tight financial circumstances. Every cent we get will undoubtedly go into supporting our travelers to get to the event. So, please, put your thinking caps on now as to how we can make some value-add for our travelers, for our hard working, because I would suggest the criteria to get there should be mated with criteria to ever get to one ever again by actually working while you're there. We all know that that doesn't always happen.

So, let's assume that we've got a huge and hard-working group, or a small and hard-working group – the hard-working group, wherever they are gathering at whatever cost probably would like a dinner or a coffee or a something. So, let's see if we can think about sponsorship as well. I think if we perhaps put ... That's a little awkward to go in a public Wiki, encourage in my advisory capacity, the leadership team to think about having some confidentiality about that, perhaps one other of you to be in charge so that people can put forward suggestions without compromising their commercial interests and connections. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much for this, Cheryl. With this, we'll close the meeting. We really have to go. 30 seconds, please. I will let you speak because you haven't spoken.

DESTINY TCHEHOUALI: Thank you, Olivier. Destiny Tch  houali speaking. I am president of ISOC Quebec, Montreal, Canada. I would like to make just a little comment in French, please.

I'd like to inform you that as a member of an ALS, [inaudible], if we do this ATLAS-3 meeting, we started to talk with the Quebec government. The Quebec government is very sensitive to [inaudible] in the French language and they would like to use ICANN 66 to have a [Francophony] forum for Internet users and we're talking with international relations ministry to see if we can get some help with some participants coming from French-speaking areas that would be sponsoring and we can work together and we can look at your criteria of selection and the government of Quebec could help out with a few people coming from French-speaking areas. Sometimes it's useful to meet chair of the ALS in the country where we want to have a summit. Thank you very much.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. As we proceed to the next room, the people who will be taking the leads on the various issues are Yrjo, myself, John Laprise, Maureen, and Tijani and I ask all of those people to be at the front of the table.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: And the next meeting is in the GAC room which is [inaudible].

ALAN GREENBERG: In our next meeting at the GAC.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Turning right, Salon 1. And this meeting is now closed. Thank you very much, everyone.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you. Just as a reminder, the GAC meeting is in Salon 1-3 as you come out on the right. It's running until 12:30. We will reconvene with the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting in this room at 1:30 running through until 3:00. That is the next meeting in this room will be the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting.

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