
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – At-Large Regional Leaders Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 13:15 to 14:30 IST

YESIM SALAM

Hello, and welcome to the At-Large Regional Leadership Meeting. My name is Yesim Salam, and I'm the Remote Participation Manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom, and when called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom.

On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak, if speaking a language other than English, and speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Amrita Choudhury, APRALO Chair.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Yesim, and welcome, everyone, to the At-Large Regional Leadership Meeting at ICANN85. Being a community forum, we have the GSE leads as well as the RALO leaders, as well

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as the Chair of ALAC out here in the meeting, and can we see the agenda once, if possible, Yesim? Can we? Yes. So, we would have an update from the GSE on the engagement strategy and priorities, and we have ALP with us to speak on it. We will have some amount of discussion on the GSE engagement, starting with APAC, because this is the region where we are hosting the meeting, and then followed by the other regions, and I think we have more in the agenda.

We would have a discussion on RALO priorities, but looking at the amount of time we have, there were some suggestions which Natalia may want to discuss with us under Continuous Improvement Process.

If we have time, we would be discussing capacity building outreach and engagement, and as an AOB, we may touch upon the onboarding and mentorship discussion, and obviously, Gissela will be speaking about the RALO call scheduling, and we have the traditional handover from region to region where the next meeting is, which is ICANN86, and so the baton would be passed to Frederic.

If everyone is okay with the agenda, can we adopt it and go ahead? Seeing no objections, I think we'll go with it, and I pass it on to Alp.

ALPEREN ELKEN

Thank you so much, Amrita. Hello, everyone. Alp ICANN, for the record. I work with the GAC team, and I have the privilege to actually work with all our regions. I don't focus on only one region,

and one of the works we have been doing in the last six months is the engagement strategy, and the new engagement strategy is nothing really new, because our base was always the ICANN Strategic Plan from FY26-30.

The idea is that we have a shifting digital landscape in the last 10 years, and our focus has been the multi-stakeholder model, so now we are going to add to that focus on multi-stakeholder model, which we will start to also focus on how internet is a foundation of our digital societies and digital economies.

This will be another focus area, and as I said, the work started from the ICANN Strategic Plan, as it is the plan that we all worked together on as the community, the Board, and the organization, and this is basically a mechanical change to how we are implementing the engagement perspective of the Strategic Plan. Basically, our goal is better coordination among all stakeholders within ICANN, and RALOs are an important part of this work.

Through RALOs, among many things, we are having new leaders, we are having new relationships in the regions, and we also have more and more policy participants, but we still need to work on many things, and among them, we have to work together on upskilling our volunteers and focus on underserved regions or underserved communities in our regions.

Lastly, I can say that the reason of the work is streamlining and the coordination. For that, we created engagement goals based on our strategic goals in the Strategic Plan. In the Strategic Plan, we have

strategic objectives, four of them, and under each strategic objective, we have multiple strategic goals, and using those strategic goals, we created the engagement goals, which is, again, the engagement perspective from the Strategic Plan.

To give you an example, a UA maybe is a good example. We are trying to have this regional flexibility while implementing the Strategic Plan. For example, with the UA, some regions will focus on big tech so that big companies adopt more UA compliant systems, while some regions will focus on academia, universities, or youth for them to adopt the practices. I think this is all I can say for this, and thank you so much. Over to you, Amita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions for Alp? Because I think this is the first time Alp is coming and speaking to us at a high level on this topic. Yes, Chris.

CHRIS MONDINI

Hi, it's Chris Mondini. I just wanted to highlight Alp mentioned it at the beginning of his conversation, but his role is global in supporting all of the engagement regions, and he's really performing a very important role, as he mentioned, in streamlining, finding efficiencies, and holding us very strictly to the goals and the outcomes.

We hope you'll notice this in the coming months. I think that you've already made us more effective as a team, and that's enabling us to

be more effective partners to you. So, that's really just an opinion and a point I really wanted to make, and to say thank you to our colleague Alp. Thanks.

ALPEREN ELKEN

Thank you so much, Chris.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. Anyone has any questions? And as Alp mentioned, I think many of the RALOs, I think rather most, have adopted the same kind of strategy this year, and some regions like us have been doing it for at least two, three years now. If not, we will go into the next agenda item, and I think, Samiran, you want to take the lead, how hopefully we are engaging in the region?

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Well, we'll soon find out, but thank you. You know, even before I get started, I just wanted to warmly welcome the At-Large leadership and the various RALO leaders who are at ICANN85. Thank you for being here, and I hope you're having a good and productive stay in Mumbai and in India.

Having said that, and picking up from Chris's intervention and also what Alp mentioned, I think what's important is when we are engaging in using the 2026 to 2030 Strategic Plan or the regional strategies that we all have, what is important now is how we report this back to you, okay? And that's where my good friend Alp comes

in, because that's where we are going to be far more strategic in how you're going to see that information.

So, where we are going with this is it's not what we did, but what was the effective outcome, okay? And hopefully we can all work together towards that. Now, as Amrita mentioned earlier, we've been sort of on this path in the APAC region for a while now, and I've just got two examples on the screen to share with you.

So, the first one is with relation to Universal Acceptance. We actually have ISOC Chennai, which has facilitated bringing the UA curriculum to two universities in India, okay? Now, there was this missing link between, you know, we have the curriculum, we know what it can do, who's going to help us take it out? I mean, our team can go and talk about it, but who makes that first contact? And in this case, we have the ISOC chapter in Chennai taking that lead.

The other example I have is, and it goes back to a call some point last year, maybe summer last year, that some of us had, you know, Amrita certainly, and the question put to me was that, look, is we are not, I don't think, I mean, I'm trying to paraphrase what Amrita said, I don't think enough people know about the ESP program, and what can we do to help that, okay?

And that's where we kind of collaborated with the Next Round team and APRALO to put together the, you know, ESP webinar, okay? Now, again, one more example of the close contact we have and making this process collaborative, and of course, I have all these numbers over there just to showcase eventually when we are

reporting back to you, at the end of the fiscal, you're going to see all of these appear in, with numbers, and then you can, if you're so interested, you can go and check back into our strategic, in the regional Strategic Plan.

So, with that, I'll hand it back to Amrita, if you want to add something, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

No, thank you, Samiran. I think, and I'm sure all the regions do, and they would be sharing is, there are certain places where GSE and the RALOs want to work together, as in most of the places they do, but GSEs also have different priorities. We try to see how we can work together or push, ESP was one such program because, because the, you know, the next round team also had issues of confidentiality, etcetera.

So, shifting to have the webinar was a challenge for everyone, but I guess, since it was possible, the other regions also had similar webinars. So, anyone who does anything, as in many regions, do it differently, that helps. And I'm sure it is for us too, and ILAC has also got a sheet like that.

All our activities, whoever is doing it from the RALOs, are there in a sheet and it is a living document, everyone puts it in. When we have our AGM, we would be again sharing it. So, everyone can see at one point of time which strategic goal, what is being done, and from which area, because that is also important.

APAC is very diverse. We have very advanced countries, and we have countries who are trying to get in from the Pacific, the least developed countries, etcetera. So, I'll stop here. And who would want to go next? Which region? I'm sure Adam has it ready, or Adam, do you want to take it over from here? Go ahead, yes, please go.

SAVE VOCEA

Hello, everybody. This is Save, the VP for Stakeholder Engagement in the Oceania region. We've been asked to just provide some highlights, so I thought I'll put those events up there, like the annual Pacific IGF that we have in our region. And in those events, we collaborate a lot with the At-Large structures that are existing in the region.

One of it is the Pacific Islands Chapter of Indian Society, one of the regional ALSs, and other small ALSs. So, when the representatives of those ALSs come together, so that's an opportunity for us to also broaden our participation, especially the issue around involving a lot more people from the unrepresented communities.

PacNOG is also an annual event. We do this with local hosts. And wherever there's an event in a country, we'll also reach out to the ALS there. And a good example was that in December 2005, we have the Cook Islands Internet Action Group that's represented there. You know very well Maureen.

So, we work together in terms of broadening outreach on the ASP program as well. And it was put up on the media to also talk about this. One of the things that I wanted to highlight here is that tomorrow, during the SIDS session, we will also share a document that GAC from the Caribbean and also Oceania are working with OCTO on how we can broaden capacity development in the small island developing states. I'll stop there. Thanks.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Can we go to the next slide, please?

BAHER ESMAT

Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Baher Esmat. I'm the ICANN Stakeholder Engagement Lead for the Middle East. As you know, within GSE, the ICANN engagement team, we have what we call the engagement regions, which in a sense are sub-regions of the ICANN five main regions. So, Middle East covers countries across Asia and North Africa. And as my colleagues mentioned, we do engage regularly with At-Large structures in our regions.

Most recently, the two examples I'm sharing here come from Pakistan with the Internet Society chapter in Islamabad. We've organized a couple of events.

One was with academia, with one of the universities in Islamabad introducing ICANN and the ICANN's multi-stakeholder model. And the other one was with stakeholders to inform them about ongoing work in relation to the next round as well as Universal Acceptance.

Both events were facilitated and organized by the ISOC chapter in Islamabad.

And as you can see on the screen, they also fulfill some of our regional engagement goals, which are aligned with the ICANN's strategic objectives. So, yeah, I think that's it from my side. And of course, happy to take any questions. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Bahir. Can we go to the next slide, please? Is Pierre in the room? Let me check online. If not, we will come back, or Hadia can take it. Hadia, would you want? Is it okay for you to take, or we'll wait for Pierre. Are you aware of the slide?

YESIM SALAM

Amrita, this is Ishan speaking. If I may, I'm seeing Pierre in the Zoom room, but I'm not sure if he's able to speak. Okay.

HADIA ELMINIAMI

So, I can speak to this if Pierre is not able to speak. So, AFRALO is collaborating with global stakeholder engagement team. Sorry, this is Hadia Elminiawi for the record. And AFRALO is collaborating with Africa Global Stakeholder Engagement Team with regard to UA Day 2026.

We have sent out a survey to AFRALO members asking them about their websites and if they are based on WordPress. The reason for this is that Global Stakeholder Engagement Team of Africa are

willing to support AFRALO members whose websites are based on WordPress to become UA ready.

And we are looking forward to showcase this during AFRALO UA Day on the 13th of May. Another collaboration that's happening, we are to showcase the efforts that is happening between ICANN and the UNESCO. And we are also going to showcase AFRALO members' UA adoption, whether it's through websites or email addresses.

We have been also doing in collaboration with the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team, many capacity building and awareness webinars. The latest was, I believe, in February, and it was about the New gTLD program. We have also had several webinars speaking to internationalized domain names, Universal Acceptance of the New gTLD program, explaining the process itself. And I stop here. If I missed something, maybe Pierre or the team could like expand more.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Hadia, for stepping in. And by the time Yasim checks with Pierre, perhaps we'll go to the next region. Next slide, please.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Yeah. And I guess that would be me. Greetings, everybody. This is Rodrigo de la Parra for the Records. I am the Vice President and Managing Director for the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Since we last met, there has been great collaboration between the LACRALO and ALAC for activities in the LAC region, including, of course, the input that we received from LACRALO to the ICANN Strategic Plan for the LAC region. Very detailed, and it was really useful, and we incorporate most of the comments that you suggested. So, thank you for that.

But more importantly, I'm really happy to share this with you because we had an amazing collaboration in a new initiative that we have, which is called ICANN Near You. And this initiative is really about in-country focus of engagement activities for a full week, where we engage with the different stakeholders of that particular country in terms of training, technical training.

Our OCTO colleagues also attend this initiative, and we will engage with governments, the business, private sector, academia, etcetera. And our last edition was in Guyana, and we were very lucky to be coordinating with Lance Hinds, which is the chair of LACRALO. And through him, we were able to secure an amazing lineup of sessions and stakeholders in the country, which have derived very concrete outcomes for our activities. It was really good.

There was a lot of good media coverage in the country from that session, mainstream media, newspapers, live news on television. So, that was great. So, I will take this opportunity to thank Lance once again for his partnership and support on that event.

Also, we use a crop funding for that, Dr. Claire Craig with ALAC. She used that crop funding to assist us with the technical presentations and, in general, all the different outreach activities that we did in Guyana. We are planning different stops of this initiative for this year, and it's becoming a good practice and a model to engage with the local ALSs in that particular country for support. And I think, well, this is pretty much the highlight of our last months.

The other project I wanted to bring is the Universal Acceptance under the academic engagement in the LAC region. We've been collaborating with various LACRALO ALSs. We are actually featuring one of these activities in our LAC space later today. This is a commercial if you want to join, but this is an interesting activity. They are reporting back on this from Mexico, from Merida.

They have been going through the inclusion in the academic curricula of that university of Universal Acceptance topics. It's now already there, and they will be presenting that effort on the LAC space. So, we are also very proud about this exchange with ALSs. So, thank you very much, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Rodrigo. Each region does certain things differently, and perhaps those are best practices others could look at. Welcome, Pierre. I'll just come back to you, but Lance, do you have anything quickly to add?

LANCE HINDS

Not much, Chair. I mean, it was certainly a successful event. I think the one wrinkle that we had done, well, not a wrinkle, but we had asked the GSE to make sure that we had some basic introductory content. What is the internet? How it works?

Talk about the governance of ICANN and some other basic things that we had added to it along with the normal content that we delivered, only because we wanted to make sure that at the various levels of the audience in Guyana, we were able to reach out and be able to explain what it was.

I should say as well that this started off actually as a UA project, and we actually wanted to see whether we could put an elective into the final year program at the University of Guyana. That is something that we will revisit based on the success of the ICANN Near You Program.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. And can we go back one slide to Africa? We have Pierre here. Yes, thank you. Pierre, over to you, if you can take us through this.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much, and sorry for being late. I was in the middle of another meeting, but always happy to be here.

Quickly, as far as Africa is concerned, of course, we should just notice that we do have quite a good working relationship with AFRALO. And some of the things that we are doing, basically, I

would say recently, most activities, of course, were around the Universal Acceptance, say, for instance, the Universal Acceptance Day in Africa, where I would actually say that AFRALO is really driving the process at some point, which is quite good.

As you know, Africa is about 54 countries. We are not in all of the countries, so we can only rely on you guys to actually do some of the things. So, thanks very much for that. But all of this is also being done within the context of our Africa strategy, which, of course, you helped develop.

We now have a plan for this 2026, and a few aspects of it. And definitely, if you just consider the goals that we do have there, if you consider this strategy, 1.1.1, for instance, which is about integrating new stakeholders into ICANN community, this is something that we are really working on, and we hopefully would like to rely on you as well.

If you go to strategy goal number three, which is about digital inclusion, some of the things you are already doing, we noticed that you do have this sort of, what do you call it, you'll be working on the digital inclusion as well. We saw it. We do have a few activities surrounding that we will be informing, providing more information on that. You will be, of course, assisting to your monthly calls, and then also we'll be informing you on that.

And the last, I would say, aspect of it, which is strategic aspect of it, is also collaborate with all relevant external parties to promote Universal Acceptance. So, it's quite key, and you see, as far as

Africa is concerned, inclusiveness is quite important. Universal acceptance is quite important. We look forward to more additional, I would say, activities in that regard. So, thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Pierre. And can we move two slides forward to slide eight? The next one, please. Yes. North America. Chris would be speaking? Okay.

CHRIS MONDINI

Hi, it's Chris Mondini doing my best impression of Naela Sarra, but also delighted to do so. I sat in the North America seat for quite some time. I'm happy to see Greg and Judith and old friends here, and please invite them to jump in if they can help.

So, again, as you've seen on the other slides, the exercise is to show a concrete example of collaboration, and then the strategic goal that it is in support of. The first one here is initiated by the NARALO individual member, Dana Kramer, leading to speaking engagement at Toronto Metropolitan University, and it's an academic engagement example that leads to these strategic goals that you've seen on the other slides.

As Samiran said, being very disciplined about pointing to strategic goals and outcomes will help us in reporting, both regional reporting and global reporting, and that's exactly the kind of thing ALP is helping us to make sure we always do. Universal acceptance is also in North America very much NARALO-initiated. NARALO

members have initiated UA Day events, and ICANN has been very delighted to participate, support, and collaborate, supporting strategic goal 3. 1 about digital inclusion.

And then in a very, I think, structured way, there's collaboration on the ICANN Org North America newsletter, which makes a point to highlight NARALO activities. And again, I think different regions have different newsletters, and maybe we work a little bit differently, but like in Europe, I think the NARALO newsletter is like my favorite newsletter. But this is a situation where NARALO members are helping to provide content to the ICANN Org North America newsletter, which supports all the engagement objectives. So, that's North America, if I did it justice.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Chris. And Greg, do you want to add something to it?

GREG SHATAN

Thanks. This is Greg Shatan for the record. I'll just add briefly that we've enjoyed excellent support from Nayel Osiris and the whole of the GSE team, and happy that they're working directly with different NARALO members. We hope to learn from our successes and reiterate them, for instance, in doing academic engagement in other areas. And just happy to have all of the support. Thanks.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Greg. And I think we will go to Chris again for his region now, EURALO.

CHRIS MONDINI

Yes, on the next slide. It's Chris Mondini again. Before I start on the slide, I want to point out to two people. One of them is here in the room, and she's seated there. Her name is Gabriella Schitek, and she is based in Warsaw and is part of the engagement team in Europe.

If you haven't met her in person before, please do. And online, I want to say a big thank you to Adam Peake, who didn't travel to Mumbai, but behind the scenes coordinated collecting a lot of this content from many of us and many of you. And I want to say thank you to Adam, because he lends a lot of passion to this work and to this part of the community, and we're grateful for him for that.

So, in Europe, we're very lucky. We've had a series of readout sessions. I know now these have proliferated in the early days when I first became aware of them. These are things that happened mainly, I think, in Asian countries for linguistic reasons. So, people would attend the ICANN meeting and then go home and convene the local community to say, well, what really happened and what do we think, and explain to people who didn't travel.

And in those parts of the world, it was maybe because, you know, I think of Japan as the big example. When there's a readout in Japan, it's like 75 people get together, and I think China is similar.

These are really big readouts. And now, in EURALO for a while, we've had post-ICANN meeting readouts in really compelling formats, and this is really a EURALO-led initiative, and we help to send ICANN org speakers or help find speakers, and we're always in just in general webinar series helping in that respect, and maybe we'll hear if there are plans for that coming.

And then, Gabby, who's here, wanted to highlight, again, another ALS-initiated event, which was at the Central European University in Vienna, which was called Internet Governance, Your Seat at the Table.

Our Austria-based member really pulled together an array of representatives from across the community, locals, and people who traveled, and raised a lot of awareness, and I think recruited some people to SOAC structures as a result of that event.

And again, it's listed there, the strategic goals that these are in support of, but we're very delighted to support these EURALO-initiated type of activities. Thanks. I'll stop in case you have anything to add.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Yes, Frederic, if you just want to add something.

FREDERIC TAES

Yes. First, I would like to really thank the whole Global Support Engagement team from Europe. We had excellent support. We have also seen how to improve it in the future with a more long-

term view on what we can do in the next year. So, that's a work we have already started together, and I would engage other regions to do the same. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. I think that brings us to the end of the presentations. And yes, what we would like to do now is, we've heard about the collaborations with the GSE. One question, obviously, is how can we work better together? If anyone has something to say, we would come to that. We'll reserve 10 minutes.

And I think another thing which we would like to discuss is the Continuous Improvement Process within us, the RALOs, with ALAC, et cetera. But the question first I would like, and we can dedicate some 10 minutes to it, is if anyone wants to share any ideas on how we, the RALOs, can work. As in we are working, but if you think there is room for improvement in our coordination, please feel free to share that. And it could also be vice versa.

The GSE team also could say, look, we would want this to happen. And I do see Laura raising her hand, so I give her the floor. And you can raise your hand, your temp cards here, or raise your hand in the Zoom room.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Thank you, Amrita. This is Laura Margolis speaking. I just wanted to add something regarding the readouts. If I'm not wrong, the first readout was made in Montevideo. Rodrigo, maybe he can tell me.

I remember I attended in person in the House of the Internet. I cannot remember in what year. But the idea was, of course, trying to get to the people who could not attend in person the meeting. But I think that lately, at least in our region, people attending the readouts are the same people that we are attending the meetings. So, I think we should work more maybe on making some more promotion of the readouts, because if we will make the readout only for us, I think it doesn't make so much sense.

Maybe in other regions it's different, but I think we should work on that, promote it better, and try to get people who could not attend the meeting in person. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Laura. I think you bring in an important question that doing the event is not enough. Who is coming to the event? Are we being able to get newer people? Because the objective, even for all of us, is to get new people into ICANN so that they understand what is happening, because the learning curve is very high.

So, are we getting those new people in the room? And the question is, are we retaining people? So, that's a valid question. We'll take three together, Natalia, and then Hanna, and then perhaps even GSE can share there. And Lance, four together.

NATALIA FILINA

Thank you very much, Amrita, and thanks a lot for this very nice and very useful talk between all of us. So it's an idea, so we have a lot

for sure, but we don't want to keep you so busy with our ideas. At first things, I would ask you, and maybe each RALO may ask you, how can we expand our work together?

Maybe we can establish some kind of process of reviewing what is happening inside of our regions, because we are used to see only ISOC chapters as our potential ALSs, and some kind of the same organizations. But we now think how much changes we can see outside of ICANN community, and in different countries which still and will have some kind of complicated processes of having or establishing ISOC chapters, we can see that now appearing new formats of organizations who are caring as well about internet governance, discussions, topic, and people united now.

Maybe we can think about how can we do this review, what is happening in our regions, what we can, in which format it might be with this information, what we can suggest you to approve, to see what is happening for example in this country, in this region, and we may exchange each three months, for example, and look how we can mobilize outsiders, I mean outside community for making our members. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Natalia. As in different options to attract membership apart from traditional one, Hannah, Lance, IC Hadia online, Claire, and interventions for one minute would be helpful.

HANNAH FRANK

Hannah Frank for the record. What Laura says is really true about our region. I fully agree with her. Actually, we are working on a plan about adding new people, new ALSs to our community, as well as re-engagement all ALSs.

Unfortunately, the participation in our region in the last few years, and I am not ashamed to say, has decreased too much. We are always the same people. We are working or participating. Fortunately, we are developing some plan in order to re-engage the ALSs that are not participating at this moment. Thank you so much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you. Re-engaging or retaining existing members who are not active is crucial. Lance?

LANCE HINDS

Thank you, Chair. If I can reinforce that, the idea is once and for all to see what we have. Participation has been low, so the re-engagement plan, as Hannah says, is to do two things. One, why is it that you are not coming? Is there something that we are doing wrong or we are not doing enough? We want to ascertain that. Once we get to that stage, then we see what else we can do to sweeten it, improve our presentations, our training, whatever it is that we need to do to convince them.

If that does not work, we are going to try a few other things, but it is going to be Hannah's engagement plan that we are going to try

to see, one, to bring in new ones and, two, make some decisions about our existing membership. It does not make sense having that amount of ALSs and they are not doing anything. They are not attending. They are not participating. We need to see what is a proper working number to get the work done in LACRALO in this instance. Thank you, Chair.

Oh, sorry, Chair. Just before I get killed. 30 seconds. We also have a capacity building webinar program that we will be doing throughout the year to expose our current members and our interested members in various parts of the work in ICANN and the work in RALO. My time is up.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Hadia. One minute and then we'll go to Claire. If we have time, we'll come back to you, but can't get it. Oh, Sebastien, no chance.

HADIA ELMINIAMI

Okay, thank you. This is Hadia Elminiawi for the record.

First, I would like to thank the Africa Global Stakeholder Engagement Team. We've been working well together. We have taken part in the development of the regional strategy. When it comes to engaging newcomers and fellows and the readouts, what we have started doing is actually having the readouts by ICANN fellows coming from Africa.

So, the readouts are always now conducted by newcomers and ICANN fellows. So, this brings newcomers to the table and to the presentations as well. We have also the capacity building group, the AFRALO Capacity Building Group is now also led by newcomers and previous ICANN fellows coming from Africa. So, that gives them a leading role. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Sorry, I have to be a bad taskmaster because we have the clock ticking and Natalia also wants to speak at the end. Claire, over to you. You want to share something and then Sebastien, then Samiran and I see your hand up.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Thank you, Amrita, for this opportunity. Happy to be able to contribute remotely. What I would like to suggest is that going back to what Laura was saying about the rollouts, there are some in our region, it is normally done by our GSE. And I think that there are some regions where this is really done well by the RALO itself.

The thing is, though, that we really don't want to be reinventing the wheel because a lot of times what happens with respect to the RALO, it's not just about what is happening in the region, but it's what has happened at the ICANN meeting.

I believe it would be really good if the RALOs could get together and have joint type sessions where we use time and volunteer

resources a little bit more efficiently so that we can get a good mix from the different regions.

The other thing I would like to suggest as well is that, sorry, I recognize that there may be issues with time zones, but we can work together to ensure that that happens. And finally, I want to commend the RALOs on the capacity development and the sessions that they're doing and that we can continue to work with our GSE teams to ensure that this has maximum impact across our regions. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Claire. Sébastien, one minute and then Samiran.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET

Former EURALO leader, I know you're bothered, but it is important to use the tools that are available to us, especially in an environment where there's a lot of diversity.

I would like to respond to what Claire said. We may have several goals, but the goals for several years have been to unite the stakeholders from Europe. And with my white beard, I would like to say that many of the things that you are discussing should be incorporated in your continuous evolution of your structures. It is very important to know that this is what came out of the review, the third review on accountability and transparency. ATRT3. Thanks.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Samiran, do you want to go first or want Heidi? No, because I want GSE to summarize, give their inputs. Heidi, do you want to go ahead?

HEIDI ULLRICH

Very quickly. I wanted to highlight for everyone, and I'll put this in the link, the chat right now. This is the overall capacity building document that is meant to align ALAC and all five RALOs and the ALSs with the Strategic Plan of ICANN. So, this document that I've just put into the chat, it lists all of these capacity building activities that are in line with the Strategic Plan and the priorities that have been identified by At-Large.

So, just very important for all of you to understand that and the GSE colleagues to please take a look at that. And when we're relevant, please do come in and help with implementing those capacity building activities in those regions. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Heidi. And Samiran and our GSE colleagues here, I think some of the things which we are looking, and this cannot be done just by you, but by us.

One is new approach to get new members. You know the regions much better, as we know. And obviously, retaining members is something which we have to work on. And relooking at strategies to retain is something which we work, we can work jointly.

What Claire mentions about RALOs having common strategy for some capacity building, perhaps that's something internal for the RALOs to discuss, not with GSE, but us. And I don't think in most regions we try to overlap. We do the, as in between RALOs and GSEs, we normally work together. I don't think we reinvent or overlook each other's work. But any other thoughts, Samiran, which you want to come up with? These were primary thoughts which I captured.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you. I'll be very brief, and I'll really cover off what our experience has been in the APAC region. So, Chris started by talking about Japan. And in Japan, it is a language-led issue, and that's where the readouts take place, and it's completely led by industry. Japan, we've had the advantage, ICANN has had the advantage of having several Board members come out of Japan. So, there's a kind of leadership in the community from them. In China, on the other hand, it's been more about, you know, it's a mix between government agencies and industry, okay? So, that's a mix. And in India, when the readouts were happening, it was a mix between community and academic institutions.

My point simply being, there may not be one model that works for a country in your region, and one needs to be a little open to how this might evolve where. If there are any other kind of summaries my colleagues wish to do for their regions, I'm happy to stop here, and we can go to them. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Samiran. I note we have 19 more minutes. One moment, Laura. Natalia wants to speak. She has a presentation. She wants to discuss that. So, we have 20 minutes. If we give you 10 minutes, can we take 10 more minutes for this discussion? Is everyone okay? Can I still? You will have to speak less than Natalia later.

Okay. So, Laura, Natalia, Hervé, you had your hand up. And anyone else who wants to speak? And quickly, one minute each. And I see Akinbo with your hand. So, Laura, go first.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Okay, I will only take 30 seconds. I just wanted to highlight that in our region, the program ICANN Near Me is being held by the ICANN GSE team, and they have been all around our Latin American region with lots of, it's a very successful program. I don't know if that's going on also in other regions. But I think it's very important for all of us to help to improve the outreach, the engagement to make ICANN known with the different stakeholders in each of the countries and regions. That's it. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Laura. Natalia, quick.

NATALIA FILINA

One minute only. Thank you very much. Natalia Filina speaking. So I will start and it will end with a short statement. And many colleagues already agreed with me, and this is good. You know that after the work were very well done, I mean CIP groups, we should not to review this review, but we should to implement all improvements we need in each RALO, I think. And a few weeks ago, I proposed to the list for the discussion, the list of procedural and organizational matters that require clarification or revision, but each complicated process might be split for a teeny, you know, simple elements. And I suggest to start with the application procedures inside of our community, because we should care about --

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Natalia, I'll give you time for that. We'll take it as a separate item. The membership, right? Or is it something else? You want to talk about the continuous improvement, right?

NATALIA FILINA

But, you know, it's inside of this, because -- yes, to take this huge topic not needed for now, because I think we should go to the exact steps we should do each RALO. And so, if I may continue for one minute.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

No, I thought we'll take it as a separate item, the Continuous Improvement Process. This was the discussion with GSE. That is why I asked --

NATALIA FILINA

If I have one more minute, I would love to ask. Our vice presidents about the money. It's a very interesting topic, very short one, just because we had a very nice idea, I think. We know that each RALO has a discretionary funding. And it's a very interesting fact, so it's a very great opportunity for us to do additional outreach and engagement activities with this money. But we all are, if you can look at this spreadsheet, we are almost at the end of this financial year and this money is still there. And you know that we try to make alive this welcome package project.

Maybe we can ask you officially, it will be some kind of request for approving from your side to use some part of this money and to find the opportunity to do this, to finalize this project for our community with this discretionary funding budget. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you. Very quick, one minute. And Akinbo, do you have your hand up or down?

SETONDJI HOUNZANDJI

I'm going to speak French today. First of all, I want to thank you all. I'm going to be quite brief, a few questions. As the Secretary for AFRALO, like all of you, we have a monthly meeting, monthly call.

Personally, it's very hard because we are 77 ALSs, and sometimes when we have these meetings, we don't have any participation. Do you have the same problem? How do you deal with this? How do you call these people and tell them, well, there's a call, there's a call? At the end, nobody comes and listens.

I would like to know how do you do to have more participation, or do you have very little participation? Also, another question. Do the presidents of each region have a common meeting among themselves, a meeting, a call, maybe formal, informal? I don't know. Do those presidents meet each other?

Another question, and I know we already talked about it. It's linked to what Natalia said. Oh, I'm done, don't worry. 77 ALSs in Africa, but the funds are the same for each region. So, is it normal that the funds are the same for each region when there is less or more ALSs? Amrita?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

I will give you time to speak after Akinbo.

ADEBUNMI AKINBO

Akinbo, for the record. It's easy for us to say we have the numbers, even in engagements, programs or capacity building, you see them come, and just like the previous speaker spoke about, the challenges of having members actually participate in other activities that is related to ICANN.

So, my opinion based on research is that we need to develop onboarding toolkits that would ensure that they're engaged in pockets, and then we can retain them. You can't retain them by monthly meetings, you can't retain them by bringing them to a capacity building platform, but you can retain them when you give them responsibilities that they need to bring back to the table.

And this can be done before every single monthly meeting. And so, with some of my colleagues in Africa, ALAC members, I mean, we're developing such, and we hope across all RALOs we can be able to adopt it based on the pilot phase that we'll be sharing with the ALS. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Akinbo. In fact, that is something, once you do your pilot, it would be good. We have been doing onboarding for quite some time, but do remember everyone is a volunteer. So, that's the hard facts. Hadia, then Jonathan will have the last word, then we go to GSE.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much. This is Hadia for the record. And we have now 84 ALSs, and we have about 39 individual members, and usually our monthly calls are attended by between 40-something and 50-something participants. So, yes, we need definitely to do more. We need more participants on the call.

So, one of the things that we have been, we are on the way of doing now is actually forming something called the AFRALO Advisory Group. This group is formed of leaders of ALSs. So, this will give all, and as well as past AFRALO leaders. So, this group will give a path for ALSs representatives to be in a leadership role and thus get more engaged.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Hadia. I will stop you here. Jonathan, one minute.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Oh, thanks. I think one of the solutions to that is to recognize the fact that most ALSs are not interested in all of the issues that EURALO is interested in. They are participating because of a specific interest, and that a more retail outreach to those ALSs to understand what their individual interests are is going to be helpful. So, expecting them to just show up on a generic monthly call I think is unreasonable.

And one of the things would be a survey or something like that, interviews, et cetera, to find those interests. And then the other thing we are trying to do with the fishing course and other ALSs activities is to get them engaged and give them a responsibility and give them some of those discretionary funds to buy lunch or something during a fishing course and see how that goes. Because Universal Acceptance has been a pretty successful model for

engagement of ALSs, and let's see what we can do to replicate that model with our own priorities as well.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Jonathan. And that brings us to hot topic surveys or even what their skills are. That helps. Those are pilots. But anyone from GSC wants to conclude in two minutes, and then we go to what Natalia wants to raise on Continuous Improvement.

CHRIS MONDINI

This is Chris Mondini. I just want to say thank you for all of these ideas and these inputs. And I heard everything from more advanced forward planning to flexibility on discretionary funds to kind of getting closer to ALS interests and topics, working group, you know, forming working groups.

And so, it's good to be together like this because we can look at everything big picture to see what shared challenges and commonalities there are. But it's also important to this point about diversity and different approaches. And I have to say I kind of like this competitiveness about who has the most ALSs in their region. It gets my competitive spirit going. I do know with regards to funding and discretionary funds, there are rules.

And so, I'm happy to take them offline and respond to these requests. But being more creative and being maybe more topic focused or outcome focused. And that really brings me to really the conclusion of the point that we were trying to get across at the

beginning when Alp was speaking. Because I would say they're just really two paradigm adjustments we're aiming for.

One is being very outcome focused. What do we want to accomplish? What do we want to add to the report at the end of the year? What number are we tracking? And also, part of that is just, you know, topically in the way we tell our stories being closer to our audiences and the people that we're trying to attract.

Sally Costerton likes to joke that we used to go out and say, she exaggerates, but she would say she felt sometimes we would show up and say, you know, the multi-stakeholder model is great. Would you like a gTLD, right? And this is not the way to start a conversation. In engagement we begin by listening. And by listening we say, what do you care about on the internet? What do you care about on your digital future? And that's what I think this conversation is leading us to. And I hope that it's sort of this next era we can collaborate and being good listeners and growing our communities. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Chris. While we've not been able to internally discuss much about the RALOs, Natalia had shared a sheet with us about certain suggestions. But since we just have seven minutes, Natalia, I'll give you three minutes of it. Then we'll have, because Heidi wants to share something. So, if you can just share briefly your thoughts on this, what we really need to think, and perhaps

regroup online and discuss further. Because this, we can't discuss it so soon, but just food for thought for everyone.

NATALIA FILINA

Thank you very much, Amrita. So, I already put my message. You scared me with this timeline. So again, coming back to our efforts we can put on the table. So, we did the great work inside of our CIP Working Groups. And we had not five, six, by the way, because additionally it was a lot working group. And now we should, and we recently, two days ago, we discussed it here, we should go to exact steps, move forward for implementing some exact stuff. And you may see in the chat the link to the document, Google document, with the list I suggested.

You know, things we might improve inside of our procedures, inside of our approaches, and related basic documents, which we are using for, you know, make this management inside of our roles. And now, so there are five points, but let's focus on the first one. And it may be our priority for now, for nowadays. That is exact, the ALS application procedure.

And I think we should think about the building the fast and direct communication channel. We should improve the transparency of this procedure and the timeline for reviewing and resolution. It will be as short as possible.

And the last words, I may put this, so, you know, this is exactly the quality of these processes, an important indicator of our inclusivity,

openness, and willingness to build our potential and expand our presence inside of our regions as well, engage much more experts with various competences to the policy development processes and organizational processes in At-Large, in ICANN especially.

So, what we would love to do. So, please pay your attention to this document. Please provide the comments. And I think it might be the good start for us. Thank you so much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Natalia. I think you raise important points. We all need to read it and comment. Yes, if we are trying to encourage new people, we also need to make the process simple for them to register. And the process needs to be transparent and time bound. Many times, there are people who say there are six minutes or, you know, six months required.

So, I think that is something which we need to do. And perhaps we need to look at it. We have four minutes. So, Frederick, I'm sorry, we don't have time. Gissela, do you want to go through this? I think there is onboarding and mentorship program which is being discussed. And okay, you don't have? You want? Okay, go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH

Yeah, just to go follow the agenda. This is Heidi. I just wanted to let all the other RALOs know other than NARALO. And Greg, you can chime in on this one. But recently, NARALO held a very successful onboarding call. And it was sort of a mixture between staff, sort of

giving them the new ALSs and individuals, an overview of how At-Large the RALOs run. But then also all of the ALAC members from NARALO and the regional leaders also came on.

They also showcased them. They allowed themselves to introduce the new people, talked about their interests, how they might get engaged. And I believe there will be some follow-up. But we wanted to highlight that just if you're not doing that in your region, that you might wish to consider that when you have new people enter.

So, far this year, there have been 17 individuals across all five RALOs and four ALSs. And I'm not aware of how you're onboarding them, if at all. And, you know, it's because we are nearing, I think we have now 261 ALSs and 250 or so individuals. So, it's a huge number. And if we're not onboarding those people right as they join, how are we going to keep them engaged as they continue their journey? So, I just wanted to highlight that.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Heidi. I think there are other regions doing. APAC does it twice a year, the onboarding. So, perhaps if you look at the outreach engagement sheet of different regions, you'll get the figures. But that's a very valid point you raised. And I think with this, I need to pass the baton to Frederic for, you know, Seville is in your court, so you would be the chair for this. And Chris Mondini from the other side.

FREDERIC TAES

Yeah. What I'd just like to insist is to have a kind of ALS or members or whatever relationship management, which is a process with WHOIS doing what between GSE, the RALO, and to have that continuously, not only the engagement, the re-engagement sometimes, because some people are leaving and then we don't follow no contact, to have something really regular.

And we have started at EURALO to have a plan to really call even the different ALS to have an interview about something interactive to better know each other and our common interest. And it's really that. We need to have and engage all the RALOs who have a relationship management with the ALS, tools and process and GSE. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Right. Thank you so much. I think everyone in this room has the same objective. It's just that we approach it in different ways, depending upon where we come from. But we have the common goal. And hopefully, if we do things and we share the best practices on how we do it, things will be easier for all of us. I think that's about it from our end. Samiran, do you want to say anything, the last words?

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Hopefully not my last words, but for this session, no, thank you for joining and very happy to push this on to your region and to Chris,

my colleague, for the next meeting. But enjoy the rest of your time at ICANN85. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. Thank you, interpreters.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]