Summary Notes- CEO Meeting with RALO Chairs

**DETAILS**

**Date**: September 1, 2020

**PARTICIPANTS**

Göran Marby (ICANN CEO);

Satish Babu (APRALO Chair)

Sebastian Bachollet (EURALO Chair)

Eduardo Diaz (NARALO Chair)

Seun Ojedeji (AFRALO Chair)

Sergio Salinas Porto (LACRALO Chair).

**NOTES**

**High level notes** [these notes are only intended to capture the high-level themes raised during the discussion]:

**Times zones issues, concerns re low participation, volunteer burn out.**

The CEO addressed community concerns about time zones during ICANN Public meetings which may impact on participation, volunteer burn out of both the community and ICANN org.

Göran Marby acknowledged that after nearly 6 months since the start of the health crisis there is “Pandemic fatigue”. He expressed his upmost appreciation for the community participation and work despite the challenging circumstances

Göran Marby pointed out that ICANN org is looking not only at the issue of time zones, but also at exploring solutions such as stretching the meeting time in two weeks, another idea is to equalize the time zone pressure through rotating meetings.

Göran Marby stated that the Board is working on a proposal for a process for discussion about an updated meeting strategy. The community needs to be involved in this decision as the meetings are for them. The draft paper will also talk about engagement given that the problem is bigger than just meetings times. It goes beyond timezones in that it encompasses “engagement, so the regional perspective is extremely important.

**Geopolitical issues, US regulation Clean Network Program.**

The CEO explained that this is more than a US initiative and that several countries around the world are analyzing the topics related to content on the internet. ICANN is proactively monitoring developments, through active participation in the ITU, which may impact an open and interoperable internet.

Göran Marby asked RALO Chairs to bring to ICANN’s attention any issues in their regions which they think may have an effect on the internet.

**EPDP Phase 2 recommendations and next steps**

Göran Marby provided a brief update on the next steps of EPDP Phase 2 noting that the Board is waiting for the GNSO to review the results of the public comment on the EPDP Phase 2 Final Report. The CEO pointed out that the GDPR regulation has been subject of several legal interpretations, possibly due to the way the GDPR regulation is written which left room for different perspectives. Göran Marby also stressed that the Multistakeholder model has not failed but has resulted in productive discussions.

**ICANN Pandemic Internet Access Reimbursement Pilot Program.**

The RALO Chairs welcomed the ICANN Pandemic Internet Access Reimbursement Pilot Program initiative. They raised a concern whether it will adequately address the situation.

The CEO explained given the desire to implement the pilot program prior to ICANN69, the Board needed to make a decision on the program without public comment.

**CEO vision for Africa.**

The CEO pointed out that African Internet penetration is around 30% and that ICANN org is aware that Africans need to access internet in their local languages. Göran Marby noted that one of the reasons for IDNs is because the internet is also very local and that people want to access local content. He also noted the African strategy, which was developed in a bottom up process, which takes into account all of the issues impacting the internet access and development in Africa. The CEO expressed his views that the internet has the ability to bring information to all, connecting the poor which has the potential to lift them out of poverty.

**Request for zoom Rooms for RALOs**

A request was made for Zoom rooms to be available to each RALO for use by ALSes.

**ACTION ITEM:** David Olive to look into the request for Zoom rooms to be made available for each RALO.