Teleconference with RALOs Chairs

DETAILS

Friday, 26 February 2021
Briefing - 16:30 UTC | 08:30 PST

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]:

TOPIC 1: FY22 Budget issues.

The CEO addressed questions from NARALO's chair related to FY22 Budget requests prioritization, such as funding for several activities listed in the "Community Engagement and Services; Public Responsibility and Support section" of the draft FY22 budget which has some funds and staff attached, examples are: ICANN Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Programs.

Specifically, NARALO's questions are "who sets these priorities" and "how do RALOs fit into these priorities and how can the RALOs contribute?

Göran Marby pointed out that the ICANN Fiscal Year 2021–2025-year Strategic Plan initially did not take the unexpected COVID - 19 pandemic into account. He stressed that all of ICANN's Strategic plans are developed from a bottom-up consultation with the Community. Therefore, it is very important that the community contributes inputs from the early stages. Göran Marby encouraged At-Large participation in the upcoming FY23 Strategic Planning process.

Action Item: At-Large Staff to facilitate the preparation of a response to Eduardo Diaz's questions on the FY22 Budget issues and to copy Göran to continue this discussion via email.

TOPIC 2: Universal Acceptance.

Question: Is ICANN org on target in terms of Universal Acceptance in the Strategic Plan?

Göran Marby explained that Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) are two of his "pet projects" as UA is an essential element which greatly impacts the internet and when widely implemented in regions such as Africa, Latin America and other regions, it will increase the use of the internet in local languages. He hopes that the next gTLD round will be a chance to add extensions in local languages at the top-level domain. UA is one of ICANN's Strategic objectives and as such ICANN is doing a lot of work by allocating resources to UA and supporting the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. However, more needs to be done in collaboration with local and regional UA initiatives.

TOPIC 3: Engagement Resources for RALO leadership and At-Large Structures.

- **Stipend**: RALO chairs led by EURALO's Chair Sebastian Bachollet asked if RALO leaders could have a stipend.

Göran Marby pointed out that ICANN org, mindful of the financial constraints caused by the health crisis which may limit participation by some. He also noted that ICANN has implemented the "ICANN Pandemic Internet Access Reimbursement Program" which has already helped several members of the At-Large community.

The stipend question would impact greatly the MS model concept. Therefore, the At-Large community would need to have the support of the rest of the ICANN MS community to initiate a cross community discussion, Göran Marby pointed out that this topic belongs to the discussion on the evolution of the Multistakeholder model.

- **Zoom rooms for ALS use**

EURALO's chair raised the issue of ZOOM for free use by ALS. Göran Marby noted that ICANN Zoom rooms are subject to the terms and conditions of ICANN's Zoom license, which require staff support. There is a Pilot Program for ALS Zoom rooms with criteria for use at the disposal of RALOs.

As the RALOs wish to have a freer use of zoom rooms, they asked if they could submit the funding request under an "Additional Budget Request".

AI: Göran Marby asked RALO chairs to send the request for funding for ZOOM subscriptions as a formal Budget request.

TOPIC 4: Road map for ICANN face to face meetings and return to normal operations

Question: Do we have a Roadmap for ICANN meetings into the future?

Göran Marby noted that ICANN org is working very closely with the community. The question is not about whether there should be meetings, it is not a financial question, rather it is more about what to do in the meetings. Some proposals include having "regional meetings", but this is something we would need to discuss as the idea is not to create more silos.

Göran Marby said that the meeting surveys have provided some guidance on this topic. However, we missed the point that the ICANN meeting should be more about community sessions.

AFRALO's Chair pointed out that there is a new normal, as things stand today. The developing world will have great challenges to access meetings as the "Vaccines passports" will become the new visas. A lot of the end uses will have the challenge of getting vaccines in their countries.

Göran Marby noted that in his point of view it would not be fair to hold an ICANN meeting if we cannot get people from certain regions of the world. But this is not a decision for the CEO to make. He realizes that the community is missing the innovation part by not meeting in person, so it is important to continue a dialogue with the community to come up with the right meeting structure.

Göran Marby stated that ICANN org has a crisis management team which is monitoring the situation worldwide. Any decision made will take the worldwide context and particularly the developing world realities into account.

Göran Marby mentioned that there is a lot of substantial work ahead for ICANN org and the community, citing for example the various Communities Reviews recommendations implementation, the GDPR ticketing system, just to cite some, so he thanked the community continued engagement and commitment to the MS model specially in these challenging times.