
MICHELLE DESMYTER: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. Welcome to the At-Large Operations Finance And Budget Working Group call on Thursday, the 9th of November 2023.

On today's call on the English channel, we currently have Holly Raiche, Avri Doria. Vanda Scartezini is now joining. Bill Jouris, Hadia El Miniawi, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Claire Craig, Judith Hellerstein, Maureen Hilyard, Ricardo Holmquist, Shah Rahman, Sivasubramanian Muthusamy. I believe Eduardo Diaz is also on the call. Thank you, Eduardo. We have no one on the Spanish or French channel. We have received apologies from Satish Babu. From staff today we currently have Heidi Ullrich, Claudia Ruiz, Andrew Chen, Carlos Reyes, and myself, Michelle DeSmyter, on call management. Our Spanish interpreters today are David and Marina, and our French interpreters are Jacques and Isabelle.

A friendly reminder to please state your name before speaking and to please speak slowly and clearly for our interpreters today. And with this, I will turn the meeting over to Jonathan Zuck. Please begin, Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks a lot. Thanks, everyone, for coming to the first OFB Working Group meeting since the big change over at the Annual Meeting, the AGM. As you know, this is the group on which we discuss issues related to how we operate within the ICANN world. So that's sort of the distinction between the CPWG and the OFB Working Group is CPWG is focused on TLD policy, and OFB is focused on issues such as budgets, the

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multistakeholder model, and other areas about basically the At-Large relationship to the ICANN organization and community.

About a year ago, Holly and I had a conversation about blending the OFB Working Group and the Finance and Budget Subcommittee into one working group under the auspices of the OFB Working Group, and have been working towards that. And now with the transition away from ABRs, I think it's even clear that that transition that Holly proposed way back when makes sense. She and I have had numerous conversations about the future of the OFB. Given the time of change and the transitions that are taking place, Holly's going to be stepping down as the chair of the OFB Working Group. We're going to have two co-chairs of the workgroup, both Ricardo who's been ably working with Holly for a number of years on this workgroup, specifically on issues related to the budget, and then also my new co-vice chair of the ALAC, Claire Craig. So, those two will be taking over the work of the OFB Working Group and the chair duties for this group. We will be working on transitioning the work of the FBSC into it. I'm very excited to get this new era started. And with that, I would like to hand the call over to Ricardo.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you, Jonathan. I hope you can hear me well. Thank you, Jonathan. Thanks for this change. Now, I'm co-chairing here instead of my chairing it. Thank you very much to Holly for leading since two to three years ago. It was a great job in these two, three years, leading this group. For the aim of the meeting and the idea of this meeting was to hear the comments for the ALAC response for the Pilot Holistic Review. I hope Bill can give us a tentative of these comments. I know in the meeting is

Vanda, Cheryl, Sébastien that were in the group that produces most of these Terms of Reference, so I hope we have a productive conversation.

Then the other one, it was announced prior the beginning of the ICANN78 that the ABRs were no longer just a [project] from ICANN, and now it will change name or the way it was being [inaudible]. We'll hear from Carlos Reyes and see what this is about and where we can ask for the money, if there is money or not, how the project can be funded. That's the important thing.

Then, yeah, about a month, we have the new Operational Plan and Budget form. ICANN come in and from IANA PTI also. And although they will end up to February, it's good to begin this discussion on how are we going to comment on this other than the numbers, as I mentioned, in the working group meeting in ICANN78. The important thing is not the numbers here in the projects and how we fit in the projects. So with this, I leave the mic to Claire Craig from [inaudible]. Sorry, Sébastien. Let me present Claire Craig and then go back to you, if you don't mind.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. Thank you, Ricardo, for the introduction. And thank you, Jonathan, for the confidence that you have shown in me to co-chair this working group with Ricardo. This is my first time in this capacity so I am going to be relying on a lot of you for your assistance. I have sat in on the meetings previously when I was secretary of LACRALO. I know the tremendous amount of work that gets done in this working group. I am looking forward to working with this team of persons who are a part of this

working group. So thank you so much for accepting me into this group. As I said, I will be leaning on all of you as we move forward. Today Ricardo will be taking charge and I'll be looking on, and if I have anything to add, I will. But that's it for me for now. Thanks a lot.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Claire. Sébastien, the floor is yours.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you very much. Welcome back, Ricardo, and welcome, Claire. I'm sure you will do great. I just wanted to say that now we evolved the leadership, we have to do the work at the level of representation by the region as it was not done. At the same time, for some of the people, member of this group, to have responsibility within RALO or within ALAC, it's time to do this work. I guess that the point seven and eight are still working on. But maybe Holly will be concluding the meeting. I don't know. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Sébastien. Yes, please go ahead, Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much, Ricardo. Welcome to the team, Claire. Looking forward to working with both of you in your co-coordination role and following on, of course, with Holly's leadership over the last couple of years. I must say it is the right time to make the switch this refreshing of our direction. There's my absolute support. Surprise. I just wanted to

mention that following on Sébastien's intervention, one of the things I've been particularly keen on in recent times, and I'd like to strongly endorse and promote to your consideration for the at least short term, if not medium term future, is indeed that when we break up into small teams or activity-based groupings, some of those have longer lives than others, that we are always careful to not only be very open and inclusive even to have members or people join us who are not necessarily part of the core OFB Working Group. Not everybody finds spreadsheets terribly sexy. I know. Who would have thought that apparently that happens? Strategic planning is not what everyone wants to do on a Friday night. Again, who knew? But that being said, we have always been very, very careful to ensure a good cross-regional balance. So right back to the prioritization workgroup, we ensure that whilst there weren't quorum rules, there was always balance from each and every one of the regions. I'd like to promote that as a model for you to continue to consider as a good idea. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

I don't know if I can have the help of Jonathan here. I asked Jonathan to have all the ALAC new members and all members to attend the OFB Working Group and the CPWG. They're supposed to attend there but also to attend this group. Of course, ALAC is a representation of all regions. I hope that after one, two, three meetings, still they're here, at least one by region. This will be great if they stay one by region.

I understand that we have a problem with the hour, that we are not rotating hour, but something that we might try in the future. I don't like it either. For me it's a very uncomfortable hour. So yeah, I mentioned the

hour. We got Satish and Justine are one of the people that usually are not in the meeting because of the hour. So that's why I mentioned that.

But the idea is that the ALAC members began to attend most meetings, and as part of the duty of ALAC members, at least at the beginning. Also, I strongly recommend that all the ALAC members attend the next session of this planning, if they haven't done so. I guess 13 of the 15 haven't done so. It's a message that I hope Jonathan can pass them. I don't know if you can comment something on this, Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Sure, Ricardo. I've begun a mantra at ICANN78 to remind all the ALAC members that they are expected to either attend or listen to the recording of both the CPWG and OFB Working Group meetings, that that's part of their duties as ALAC members, and we will be tracking it. I think failure to do so will have consequences. So it's going to be a very serious encouragement. And yes, Michael Palage will be tracking the attendance of both the CPWG and OFB by the members of the ALAC. So that's what we're talking about. We will be looking to keep track of that and remind people.

As you say, Ricardo, if we need to do rotating time for the OFB Working Group as it gets busy, we'll do that. But it is an expectation that people will stay up to date on the work, and that is the only way that we'll get the regional diversity that we seek. So that's definitely going to be something that I remind people of constantly. Thanks, Ricardo.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Jonathan. I see no other hand so we can go with the point number four. I don't know how do you want to approach this? I have Cheryl, Sebastien, and Vanda here. Also I have Bill. I don't know if Bill wants to be the first one and give his first comment.

BILL JOURIS: I may as well start. I've been made the penholder for this apparently because all of the other people have been deeply involved in it for a fairly long time. So I have been scrambling to try and get up to speed on what is going on. And just picking up on the fact that the Pilot Holistic Review is not in fact the pilot, but even the simple things like that Terms of Reference, does that mean glossary like it would in normal English. So I've been scrambling a little.

I have started going through the document and comparing it to the e-mail from Avri back in early 2022. I seem to be finding a few issues that the Board raised and asked us to address which, at least as far as I can tell, don't appear. So we may have something useful to say. But at this point, I don't know what those things will be. So I'm hopefully hoping that Cheryl or Sébastien or Vanda will have something to contribute. Otherwise, we're going to come way short of the time that's been allotted to the meeting. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Bill. We have the hands of Cheryl and Marita now. Please go ahead, Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you very much, Ricardo. Bill, I do appreciate the fact that you stepped up with just the tiniest little bit of nudging from us all. And yes, you are right. The core group that you have from the development team of not only the Terms of Reference, but to a great extent, the Accountability and Transparency Review Team 3, which gave the sort of precursor birth to the recommendations that have ended up with this very important and really does need to be timely and expedited process, if anything could be expedited at this length of time after it was recommended.

I don't want us to see it too much to look for scary things and shadows under the bed and behind closed doors on this document with Avri in particular as well. So we've got that grouping from not only the community-based input into this document, its meanings, it can change, and the whole thing that gets wrapped around it in terms of the recommendations from ATRT3 and the Holistic Review when it becomes enshrined in the Bylaws, which, of course, is our intention here. We've also got Avri as well, who goes right back from the very original ATRT3. She is a absolute subject matter expert on all of this.

So we've all worked together. We have all authored, re-authored dotted I's and crossed T's, and all those sorts of things. So I believe that we as a group—and I hope I can include you here, Avri—can be really quite confident in recommending to this group to look at this document without trying to find scary things and tricks, but to help us if there's any sort of fine tuning clarification, ability to make it more clearly and simply understood, I'm sure those comments would be welcomed. But to recommend to the ALAC in perhaps not a lengthy comment, but an importantly supportive comment, that just getting on with this as soon

as practical, as smartly as possible. And probably, at least for my biased point of view, and I suspect, certainly Sébastien as well, in a way that doesn't have it approached in a serial planning methodology, but a parallel-y plan set of actions so that we can get on to getting this pilot, as it's euphemistically termed, over and done with and get the next steps started to the benefit of our organization. So this is one of those let's just make sure there is no obvious polish needed on what I personally would recommend to you all as a very strong and very good document. But we really need to make sure that when the ALAC looks at whatever is drafted out of this working group, that it has the confidence that's gone through the review and scrutiny of the wider community at least via our representation. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you, Cheryl. I have Marita and then Sébastien.

MARITA MOLL:

Hi. I'm just wanting to say that, even for me, and I've been around a little while, how this is going to actually evolve is still a mystery. And I see this all kinds of—this is unclear and that is unclear. I guess there's a reason why it's a mystery to me. I'm hoping there's going to be maybe some webinars or maybe specific focus meetings that are going to clarify what our input could be and how this is affecting us. Because I know it's a big deal. So we all ought to be really quite clear on why that is so and should be focusing on. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Marita. Next, Sébastien.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you, Cheryl, and thank you, Marita. I would like to agree completely with Cheryl the way to go. Even I would like to underline or really stress that the calendar is very important. Therefore, as much as we can push for parallel things will be great. Because I do a little exercise to put different events before the start of the Pilot Holistic Review, and the date for the moment, it's at the end of the ICANN meeting in Africa. Then it's in June. Okay, we already wait for two years, we can say, "That's okay. Six months more, it's nothing," but it's a lot. Because if we don't start and if we don't do the job, the other reviews will be stuck. And one day it will come back to ICANN and say, "Hey, you are supposed to do accountability and transparency. You are supposed to do things for security and so on and so forth." All the things you are put in place are on hold and nothing happens. Therefore, it's not just because it's important to the first Pilot Holistic Review, and one day a Holistic Review. But it's also important because of all the other breaks in the review system.

Marita, I get your point. But frankly, get to the last webinar organized on this Pilot Holistic Review and you will get the answer. I will say it's very simple, very simple. It's this group, the Pilot Holistic Review Team will be in charge or define in depth how the Holistic Review will be organized. And I hope that it will be also possible to take at least one piece of that and to do it to demonstrate that it's working well. And with that done in 18 months, I hope that we can evolve the Bylaws and have the Pilot Holistic Review embedded in the Bylaws. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Sébastien. Bill, I hear from Cheryl and from Sébastien that there is hurriedness in this, for this to happen as soon as possible or we are going to have forums sooner than later, having all the reviews, coming back. One of them is ALAC review. But we're overdue in the time but also, I don't know if ATRT4 at the pace we are going, maybe it's at the back of the corner. I guess that's the one. That's not a lengthy comment, but hurry up, everyone. We need this to happen very soon.

I see no other hands. I don't know if Vanda or Daniel want to comment something. I don't see Daniel in the meeting. Vanda, do you want to say something? If not, we're going to Bill with the hands up.

BILL JOURIS: I just would like to urge anyone who has a vision for what we're supposed to be drafting here to share it because I'm sort of groping in the dark here. So I'd appreciate it, any help anyone would care to give. I'm all in favor of getting this done sooner rather than later. It's just a matter of me not being clear what I'm supposed to be doing with the pen that I'm holding. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Bill. I hope there are volunteers here that are voluntold might want to add to Bill's language in the comment that's been shared from Heidi. If you don't have it, to give your share and your thoughts. I think that staff can share it among this group. I have the hands up of Avri Doria. Please go ahead.

AVRI DORIA: Hi. Thanks. Just an offhand comment. I'm still going through reeducation and learning how to speak properly. But just an offhand comment that the more you put, the more we put, the more anyone puts in the comments that's not, "Yeah, let's get on with this. This is good enough, let's go," will slow it down. So the more you want to slow it down, the more stuff you put in. And if you put in too much, who knows? ATRT4 could indeed happen sooner than this. So use that as a criteria perhaps when you're writing it to what effect do you want. Thanks.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Avri. I guess the comment will be hurry up, please. And that's it.

AVRI DORIA: If that's right, if that's what you want to say, sure.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you. I have no other hands. So I will end this point. We need to finish this. We only have 90 days left to finish these comments. Prior to this, we need to vote on the ALAC. So we have about 15 days to finish it. So anyone that might want to add one or two lines to the comments, so people can go there and give the final comments to be sent to ALAC, it will be great. Sorry. Go ahead, Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thanks, Ricardo. This is one of those things where we all have a huge amount of investment in what's happened to date. And so many of us are going to have a huge amount of investment in wanting to see it through successfully to whatever it ends up being.

One thing that I might just suggest, Bill has done a very important thing as far as I'm concerned, and that's taken an unbiased, unindoctrinated eye, and looked over the document. So we are well aware, as is perfectly common in the interesting world of ICANN, that we are speaking an entirely new and probably foreign language. We are very good at obfuscating things by using terminology that is able to be interpreted in several ways or assumed to be meaning one thing when, of course, within ICANN ease, it means something else. So we're all very aware of that. I think in the chat, we've looked at at least one method of how we can make sure that the new ALAC and the regional leaders, etc., all the interested parties, can be brought up to speed and reassured that they know what it is, the intentions are, with regards to this in this period of time.

That being said—sorry, Michael, I know you can put together a very nice paragraph or two under reasonably short to order—I wondered if we might also see whether from this group, if we, and I believe staff already probably has, put a blank document up. If we could just get the beginnings of a hail, well met, good fellows, we like all of this. We like where it's heading. Traditionally, remember, the ALAC has fully supported and endorsed all the ATRT3 recommendations, absolutely has been supportive to Holistic Reviews, and has been not critical but an integral part of ensuring that these Terms of References for the pilot, which we have to have, is a success. So we've already invested all our

comments, all our statements are in the affirmative. If we could just have an affirmative paragraph that we can then all start to edit and comment, I think we should be able to mutually draft something up that we're fairly comfortable with, and run that asynchronously through the Google Docs system. But we just need someone to just get it started even if it's just with very much a statement of where amongst the At-Large Advisory Committee believe that and endorse that, and we'd like to see that. If that can be done, then I think those of us who quite literally written it will feel more comfortable making some minor adjustment comments or answering clarifying questions. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you, Cheryl. I have the hand of Claire, and then from Bill Jouris. Please go ahead, Claire.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Thanks, Ricardo. Just a clarification question. I'm seeing in the chat that Heidi has indicated some timelines, meeting the 17th of November to finalize the statement, with voting taking place between the 20th and the 24th. That is, I assume that's ALAC voting. I note that we also have an ALAC meeting on the 21st of November. So is it that with this timeline, it is to have this draft completed before the ALAC meeting and probably distributed to the ALAC members and discussed at the ALAC meeting, and then we can have the vote? I'm just trying to understand the process. Thanks.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Usually the vote does not require a meeting. It's usually through an e-mail and a vote online. So ALAC does not need a meeting for this, nor this group. If the comments are there and it's submitted for voting, it would be okay. But it's great if we can share the comments at the end prior to the vote. Go ahead, Bill, then I have Sébastien. And I will need to stop there because I have Carlos Reyes waiting to hold a presentation.

BILL JOURIS: I just wanted to say in response to Cheryl's suggestion, I will be happy to write an initial paragraph about how important we all feel this is. I am having a little challenge getting authority in Google Docs that I'm sure the staff and I can get that sorted out. So with any luck, I will have something on in the next day or so for you all to look at. I will e-mail you when that there so you don't have to keep checking regularly. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Bill. Next, Sébastien.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you very much. And thank you, Bill. I'm sure that you will do great. Just to talk about the timeline put by Heidi, we need to finalize this comment by the next week meeting for the data quite right, and then the ALAC will take the lead on that. But we will have done our job next week. It's the date we need to finalize the document. Thank you very much.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Sébastien. So we hope with the work of Bill, we expect some words to be in the comments next week. Let's move to point number five. Let's hear from Carlos with the new ABR, how it's going to be handled. Please go ahead, Carlos.

CARLOS REYES: Thank you, Ricardo. Hi, everyone. It's Carlos Reyes with the Policy Team. I'm based in Washington, D.C., for those of you who don't know me. At the SO/AC chairs roundtable in Hamburg, we provided a briefing to the SO/AC chairs. Basically, we looked at with the history of the Additional Budget Request process, and noticed over the last few years some significant trends. So if we can go to the next slide.

We've observed a few things, the team that manages the ABR process. We've observed a 58% drop overall in the number of groups requesting ABRs. There was one year where it went up but that was right after the pandemic. But the trend has been consistently downward. So that's one trend I'd like to highlight today. Next slide, please.

The next trend, which makes sense, is if your groups are requesting ABRs, overall requests have also gone down. So, again, we see that drop off since 2017, really. It picked up a little bit right after the pandemic, but then it continued with the downward trend. The drop in requests from the high in 2017, again you can see the trend line there, it's downward. Next slide, please.

So consequently, if you have fewer groups requesting projects and fewer requests in general—next slide, please. Sorry, I think maybe we skipped a slide. Could you go back one? There we go. That means there are

decreasing allocations. So since 2017, the allocations have been roughly halved. Again, we saw a little increase right after the pandemic, but then it has stabilized. And what's actually notable in the last two fiscal years, the allocations did not even meet the envelope. So the ICANN Organization proactively proposed two projects to meet that gap. In 2023, we proposed a \$200,000 project to meet the \$300,000 threshold, and then in FY24 we proposed a \$109,000 project.

So what I think is important to know is the ABR process, if we look at it holistically, it's been effective in helping the Organization and the Board identify the needs that existed early on before the ICANN planning process had evolved itself. So a lot of those projects have been incorporated into the budget already, and the regular annual planning process works well now.

But to Cheryl's point here, a lot of those rejections were—and Cheryl made a point in the chat here—a lot of the projects were not crafted well. We assess all of the requests based on their own merits. We have templates, we conduct briefings, we conduct webinars, we answer questions, we have an inbox where people can share questions with us. And unfortunately, the requests that were rejected often were because they simply did not meet the criteria. So we're trying to remove a process here that seems to have largely been the victim of its own success.

So what we're proposing is removing the ABR process so that requests now in the future can just go through the regular process. ICANN has evolved its planning. The community has evolved how it plans its budgeting. Obviously, the At-Large community has this working group to

discuss resourcing matters. Then the focus is on centralizing all requests through the Annual Operating Plan and Budget, which all of you are familiar with. So we're proposing eliminating the process for ABRs, but requests are still possible. So that does not change. The ICANN community still has the opportunity to submit requests. It would just be through the regular annual planning and budget process.

So I'll pause there. I'd like to catch up a little bit on the chat. And then I can answer some questions. I'd like to spend most of my time on questions. So thank you for inviting me. Like I said, I'm happy to answer questions. Ricardo, I don't know how you'd like to manage questions based on the chat or queue. I'll defer to you as the chair for this call. Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Carlos, we usually wait for the end of the presentation, and after that, we follow the queue that's there for the questions. Usually, it's very simple. You just hand up and that's it. You make your question. So far, we have Judith Hellerstein and Sébastien Bachollet in the queue. But I guess you will need to finish. Maybe some of the answers are in the presentation. I'm not sure.

CARLOS REYES:

Sure. Next slide, please. I think this is just a high-level slide. Really, what we're talking about is an envelope of \$300,000. From the staffing perspective, and I think all of you can reach out to the At-Large Support Team as well, having a complicated process for something that represents 0.2% of expenses is not the best use of time and resources,

which is why we're encouraging community groups to use the annual planning and budget process.

JONATHAN ZUCK: This is Jonathan. Can I have a question, Carlos?

CARLOS REYES: Yeah, of course.

JONATHAN ZUCK: I know there's a queue. But I think that this isn't way too much information, and that's what's generating the questions. I think what would really lend clarity to this is to be specific about what the process will look like going forward to make sort of a new request as part of the budget process. And when that would happen, how it would happen, presumably it's not even something new, it's a process that has always existed but hasn't been used because the ABR process has been in place. On its face, this is something people are worried about, and I feel like they shouldn't be. I think that's because of a lack of clarity about the process that they should be thinking about instead.

CARLOS REYES: Yeah, I'm happy to entertain that. What's a little striking to me is that the annual planning budget process, my understanding is that the At-Large community always feeds into that. That's basically when the budget is published for public comment. That's the process. So I think most community groups already—

JONATHAN ZUCK: Carlos, are you saying that if somebody has something that is akin to an ABR type request, that it should be part of our public comment with respect to the budget? Okay, that's the question I'm asking. What will be the process if somebody has something that is not normally or previously part of the budget that they want to make part of the budget for the following year? What does that look like? We can figure out what our own internal process is to approve that. But what does it look like on your end?

CARLOS REYES: Yeah, exactly. It's public comment. My new year's resolution for next year is to stop saying and using the word "process." I think we overused it at ICANN. It's public comment, right? The draft budget is published in December for public comment. It is open at a minimum of 40 days. It's usually much longer than that. It's usually 50 to 60 days. So whatever internal process each community group needs to have in place to consider requests from your different constituent groups, obviously will defer to the group's community, the SO/ACs to do that. But then ultimately, that is submitted to the Public Comment proceeding. The Finance staff compiles all of that into the Summary Report, and then works with the Organization and the Board in the overall consideration of the budget.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Okay. I think that that's clear in the abstract, but it's going to need work to be concrete because it hasn't been the way that we have reviewed

the budget in the past. We've looked at allocations and things like that, and commented on them. But a special project or something like this has come to the ABR process and not through the regular budget commenting process. I think the community eventually will be broadly supportive of eliminating a specialized byzantine process like the ABR, there will still be a set of expectations or something like that when making a request for something new to be added to the budget as part of the budget comment. So that's not something we've been doing. It's something that will need specifics of what those expectations will look like so that it's not something that is easily dismissed by those reviewing the Board. So I think that's something I want to put back in your inbox is the idea of setting expectations for what such a request as part of a public comment might look like. Thanks.

CARLOS REYES:

Ultimately, this isn't something that I can answer because it's the Finance Team that reviews requests. I take the point about managing expectations. But I think the intent here is to purposely let this be completely open right now because we don't know what it's going to look like. Let's see how this goes. The planning process has evolved a lot over the years. I think there's way more trust now between the community and the organization about how to adequately plan resources for ICANN community work. This is going to be a transition. But what we're trying to do here is remove a process within a process. So I think it'll be a collaborative effort. And that's something that Xavier and David recognized in proposing this in their blog post.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Okay. Thanks, Carlos. I apologize to everyone that I've jumped ahead of in the queue. I just wanted to really drill down to what I think is the key issue here. So what we may do, as part of the OFB Working Group, is come up with our own internal process for something that we think needs to happen in a particular year and our own template for what type of information we think we need to provide to the Finance Team to do that. Then hopefully, we can have a conversation with the Finance Team so that it's not later on regarded as insufficient information or something like that. So I just want to kind of give a heads up that we'll probably try to come up with a methodology internally, which hopefully will not be as complex as the ABR process was, but that is sufficient for it to be well regarded and well evaluated by the Finance Team when it comes. Thanks, Carlos.

CARLOS REYES: Ricardo, would you like to go back to the queue?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Yes, please. Judith, you're the first one.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Hi. Thanks. My question also is that things before we had the ABR process, and then we put forward, like I put forward the RTT—and I apologize because I'm on the train so hopefully I won't lose connection. But then it got into the plan but we only allowed certain minimal things. Is there a way of—how do we go about expanding captioning to have

more hours? I'm talking about human captioning, human RTT, not AI. How do we go about expanding that?

JONATHAN ZUCK: Judith?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yes?

JONATHAN ZUCK: I'm sorry. I think this probably isn't a question for Carlos. Let's take that on as a project of the OFB and formulate a proposal as part of the next budget cycle to expand that. I think it's a perfectly reasonable project for us to use that way. And if we need to convene a meeting with Language Services to make sure that our proposal is executable, let's do that, because you have some experience with where it fell down before. So let's take that on as an action item for the OFB rather than such a specific question for Carlos. I think he's just not in a position to answer that. Thanks.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yeah, no problem. I just was wondering. Because now there's a new process, I don't know how do we go about getting this thing done.

JONATHAN ZUCK: We're going to develop it. That's what it is.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Okay. Thanks.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Sébastien, can you take the floor?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Yes. Thank you very much, Ricardo. Two points. The first one is that after some years, some of the ABR requests were integrated into the budget, and maybe part of the answer to that, Judith, is what could be already translated as the normal way of working with ICANN on such things. Not just what Judith suggests, but maybe other points on ABR. But if I remember well, this thing, ABR, I don't know, 10 years, 12 years old. The first reason, it was supposed to be called Advance Budget Request. And one of the reason of that was the budget by ICANN was at the end of June, and that's a normal process. But if we wanted to organize the activities during July and eventually beginning of August, it was not possible because the answer was no budget yet and we can't allocate things before we have the agreement by the Board of the budget. Therefore, it's something that would disappear a little bit because it was more Additional Budget Request than not so more Advanced Budget Request. But it may be something you need to think about how we can be sure that if, for example, EuroDIG, the European IGF, is not taking place in June but in July the year after. How we can deal with that budget-wise? Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Sébastien. Cheryl, please be—

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I will be very brief, fear not. Thank you, Ricardo. I just wanted to endorse Jonathan's proposal of us as the OFB Working Group coming up with some sort of established plan for At-Large. Notice I'm saying At-Large, not just ALAC, but ALAC and At-Large. With regard to these changes, let's look at the opportunities that these changes are going to bring. But I am very well aware that even the way budgets are managed are vastly different than when this system went into place a decade or more ago. So it is a good time to rethink and reframe. But what I do not want to have happen is the confusion with anybody who is not part of the At-Large community. Everybody else who thinks that ALAC is At-Large, At-Large is ALAC, don't understand the difference between 15 people appointed and the rest of us as the end user communities and representations of their best interests, etc. I don't want a system where my great Aunt Mary can put in something blatantly bloody, stupid, and ridiculous, and do reputational harm to the rest of us because it's seen as the ALAC when it's just my mad Aunt Mary. So I think we do need to develop something that we then can work within our community that is robust, resilient, and above all, well understood by everybody who's not us. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: Cheryl, I think that's a good point. This is something that in general that the Organization considers as part of its review of public comment submissions, right? Submission from one of the groups that's chartered

in the Bylaws is reviewed differently than an individual. So thank you for that. Ricardo, back to you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you, Carlos. Thank you for the presentation. Sorry for cutting you like this. We only have four minutes left. And yes, we all need to establish from here to December, no later than early January, a way to put these comments related to what used to be the ABR in the total comments, so we don't have any Mary's comments in there. And yes, we'll need to figure out how things work next meeting.

I'm giving the floor to Claire so she can explain what are we going to do next week. I'm very sorry, the point number six, we don't have time for it. And yes, we don't have the operational planning budget yet released so we have more to think about this. Thank you.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Thanks, Ricardo. Ricardo and I have been having some offline conversations with regard to the comments for the Holistic Review and what is the best way moving forward. We were thinking whether a meeting next week might be appropriate to discuss the comments. But what we decided or what we're suggesting is that it can be done offline round robin. The document can be done in Google Docs and circulated, and the OFB Working Group reviews it and then sends it to the ALAC for ratification.

So that's what we're thinking should be the best steps moving forward. If there is anyone who has a disagreement with that, rather than saying,

“Who agrees?” it’ll be good to hear. Thanks, Cheryl. I’m seeing that you agree. I’m not seeing any hands up saying that they disagree so we can move forward with that. Thanks, everyone. Thank you, Ricardo.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: I guess the meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much for the great attendance today. Hope next time we have more ALAC members in here. Thank you. Bye.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, everyone.

MICHELLE DESMYTER: Thanks for joining today. The meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]