

**ASO AC Teleconference  
Wednesday 13 January 2021  
12:00 PM UTC  
Minutes**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Observers</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
<p><b>AFRINIC</b> Wafa Dahmani Zaafour (WD) Mike Silber (MS) – Vice Chair Saul Stein (SSt)</p> <p><b>APNIC</b> Nicole Chan (NC) Shubham Saran (SSa)</p> <p><b>ARIN</b> Kevin Blumberg (KB) – Chair Martin Hannigan (MH)</p> <p><b>LACNIC</b> Ricardo Patara (RP) Jorge Villa (JV)</p> <p><b>RIPE NCC</b> Filiz Yilmaz (FY) Nurani Nimpuno (NN) Hervé Clément (HC) – Vice Chair</p> <p><b>Secretariat</b> Germán Valdez (GV) Laureana Pavón (LP) – Minutes</p>	<p><b>ARIN</b> Sean Hopkins (SH)</p> <p><b>ICANN Staff</b> Carlos Reyes (CR)</p> <p><b>ICANN Board</b> Maemura Akinori</p> <p><b>Community:</b> -</p>	<p><b>LACNIC</b> Esteban Lescano (EL) Louie Lee (LL) Aftab Siddiqui (AS)</p>

**New action items from this meeting:**

**New Action Item 210113-1:** KB to work with GV to prepare a Doodle poll to define the details for the ASO AC virtual f2f meeting, including potential dates, time commitment availability (i.e., see whether ASO AC members would be able meet for 2, 3 or 4 hours, etc.).

**New Action Item 210113-2:** GV to circulate the 2021 Work Plan to the ASO AC and if there are no changes or corrections publish the Plan on 20 January 2021.

**New Action Item 210113-3:** ASO AC chair and vice chairs to confirm the status of the 2020 Transparency Review and, if it is absent, to write this the review and then circulate it.

**New Action Item 210113-4** ASO AC to confirm regional representatives to the PPFT.

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**Agenda**

0. Welcome
  1. Agenda Review
  2. 2021 ASO AC Chair Election Results
  3. 2021 ASO Vice Chairs Appointments
  4. Review Open Actions
  5. Approval Minutes December 2020
  6. ASO AC Virtual Meeting
  7. 2021 ASO AC Teleconference Schedule
  8. 2020 ASO Work Plan Review
  9. 2021 ASO Work Plan
  10. Annual Transparency Review
  11. Form the Policy Proposal Facilitator Teams (PPFT)
  - 12 AOB
    - ICANN Board Election Update (CLOSED SESSION)
  - 13 Adjourn
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## **0. Welcome**

KB welcomed the attendees and started the meeting at 12:05 PM UTC.

He thanked AS for chairing the AC over the past couple of years and JV for co-chairing and volunteering their time. He also thanked HC for running for chair and for the work he has done, as well as everyone who in 2020 committed their time to the ASO AC.

## **1. Roll Call**

GV performed the roll call and declared quorum.

## **2. Agenda Review**

No agenda items were added or modified.

## **3. Approval of Minutes - December 2020**

KB moved to approve the minutes from the December 2020 teleconference as circulated, BJ seconded the motion, there were no objections and the motion carried.

## **ASO AC Chair Election Results**

KB asked GV to explain the ASO AC chair election process.

GV explained that two candidates had been nominated and confirmed their participation before the deadline; that the voting process had started on 1<sup>st</sup> January and ended one day before the deadline once all the votes had been cast; and that he had sent a report to the list with the tokens assigned individually for review. He added that, by simple majority of votes, KB had been elected 2021 chair for the ASO AC.

KB mentioned that there was some discrepancy between the work plan and the procedures regarding the appointment of ASO AC vice chairs, despite which he would follow the procedures.

He said he had analyzed the election results, trying to find a balance between working with the chair and what was good for the group as a whole. He added that he'd had a fairly long conversations with two people who had verbally accepted, so he would like to appoint HC from the RIPE region and MS from AFRINIC region to serve as ASO AC vice chairs. Both HC and MS accepted.

GV noted that he would include HC and MS in the alias they use for communications with ICANN, which includes the ASO AC chair and vice chairs.

#### **4. Review Open Actions**

**Action Item 201202-1:** KB to send virtual meeting plan to the mailing list so that the ASO AC can analyze how much can be done in a virtual environment and see how many days they potentially need to put aside for the ASO AC Virtual Meeting 2021. **CLOSED**. Replaced by **Action Item 210112-1**

KB commented that he'd sent to the list information from last year, as that was what he would like to do: first, a session related to the GPDP, a multifaceted review to make sure that there were no issues between how the ASO AC's procedures operate and the MoU; second, a mock-up of how the ASO AC would operate in case of a global policy.

KB said that about 18 months ago they had had a run-through when there was the possibility of a global policy, that this had brought up many questions, and that the idea was to go through the procedures related to global policy development so that they would be better prepared in terms of their procedures.

KB observed that the only other thing was a closed session regarding the ICANN Board and other nominations. He said that he had talked with HC and MS to ask for their thoughts, and suggested that, in relation to the procedures, they could do something separate before March, and then use the time in March to look at what had been done. He said that more than six hours wouldn't be practical and noted that things were not looking too optimistic in terms of the timeline.

He concluded by saying that he hoped to get three to six hours to look at the GPDP process and that they would discuss this later under agenda item 9.

**Action Item 201104-1:** ASO AC to update the policy slide deck, which will be published towards the end of the year, once the five RIRs have held their meetings. **IN PROGRESS**

KB informed and GV confirmed that AFRINIC and RIPE had already sent their updates. KB added that LL would do this for the ARIN region.

KB asked whether anyone from each of the regions that had not updated their information yet would volunteer to make sure that their region was able to do so.

RP said that he and JV had started working on this and that they would finish it during week. RP said he would take it upon himself to see that this was done in the LACNIC region.

SSa said he would work with AS on this action item.

**Action Item 201104-2:** HC to circulate the Draft 2020 ASO AC Work Plan Activity Review before the December teleconference. **DONE**

HC confirmed that the action item had been completed and that all the changes discussed in the meeting had been applied.

KB noted that the Action Plan for 2020 was ready to be published as completed.

**Action Item 201104-3:** MS to circulate the draft 2021 ASO AC Work Plan before the December Teleconference for finalization in January when the new ASO AC is in place. **CLOSED**. Replaced by **Action Item 210112-2**

KB inquired whether the comments on the wiki had been considered and asked MS to quickly review the comments on the wiki and notify the list, provide a seven-day comment period, after which the work plan would be published.

**Action Item 201104-4:** AS to circulate the draft Annual Transparency Review before the December Teleconference. **OPEN**

KB will follow up with AS on this and make sure they have it ready in the next seven days.

**Action Item 201104-5:** AS to resend the original work plan that the ASO AC had prepared for the f2f meeting in Cancun for all to analyze, set priorities and decide the number of days/hours needed for the virtual meeting that will replace the f2f meeting. **CLOSED**

KB said he had resent the AS's email relating to the work items for the March 2020 in-person meeting which focused on the GPDP process and that he hadn't seen any more items suggested on the list. He suggested closing this action item as this had been discussed as part of Action Item 201202-1.

**Action Item 201104-6:** AS to send a note to the NRO EC stating that, because the Cancun ICANN meeting will most likely be held online, the ASO AC will not be meeting f2f in Cancun, adding that the ASO AC plans to analyze whether it is possible to meet f2f later in the year. **DONE**

GV confirmed that this notification had been sent and that there had been no reply, which was to be expected as it was merely a formal requirement.

## **5. Approval Minutes December 2020**

HC moved to approve the minutes as circulated, WD seconded the motion, no objections or abstentions were heard and the motion carried.

## **6. ASO AC Virtual Meeting**

KB opened the discussion by saying that there was no hard deadline and that the date was for the ASO AC to decide. He said the question was how to prepare for something like this and how to delegate the work that goes into setting it up.

KB said he had two areas of interest, the GPDP and ASO AC policies and procedures, each of which would probably require a 3- or 4-hour block. He asked if there were any suggestions regarding other topics that they normally would have discussed in person and would be useful to add.

No topics were added at this time.

Regarding the GPDP, KB asked who on the call had been present during the last one. HC replied that he had.

KB asked HC if he would be willing to be the lead on two things: first, coming up with a way to compare the MoU and the ASO AC procedures; second, a mock GPDP, i.e., coming up with a completely nonsensical policy that they could run through and do a mock trial, setting the agenda and so on, but not doing the actual work.

HC said he would.

Regarding policies and procedures, KB said that he'd discussed this with MS and that, over the years, they had introduced changes as needed to the operating procedures and policies. He then explained that, because of this and the terminology in the procedures, the AC is starting to lose institutional knowledge on why certain things had been included, having to resort to past members to understand them. He said that, if the wording is not plain and simple, with time, the intent is lost.

He observed that he had suggested to MS having a group of people to see if reimagining the procedures was a viable way of doing this or if editing the procedures for clarity would be easier. He added that they could even completely redo the procedures or say that it would be too complicated and a waste of time. This group could have some time to look at the procedures holistically and then discuss this topic in the virtual f2f meeting in March.

KB asked whether MS would be willing to lead this, and MS accepted.

MH and SSt offered to work with MS on this.

KB then asked MS to send an email to the list to see whether anyone else was interested in joining the group and then going from there.

NN then asked whether a date and timeslot had been defined for this meeting, noting that, because they are all quite busy, the sooner they knew the time slot, the better they would be able to organizer their schedule

KB suggested not holding their virtual f2f meeting during the ICANN meeting and sending out a Doodle poll on potential dates. He noted that, in his opinion, the time zone of the ASO AC meetings would be the best option and added that, depending on what the majority of AC members were able to do, they might do the more important things in two hours and also allow for additional work.

**New Action Item 210113-1:** KB to work with GV to prepare a Doodle poll to define the details for the ASO AC virtual f2f meeting, including potential dates, time commitment availability (i.e., see whether ASO AC members would be able to meet for 2, 3 or 4 hours, etc.).

FY said that, if she had understood correctly, KB was planning for the AC to work on the GPDP and the policies and procedures and that they were going to dedicate some time to those two things until March. She then asked whether this would be separate from the time they dedicate to the board selection.

KB said that end of March and April would also be viable and that none of the work that the AC does should take away from their work for the board nomination.

FY rephrased her concern, saying that their main task this year for their communities and towards ICANN was to elect board members, that their timeline for the board selection specifies that the selected candidate must be announced around 30 April, and that the interview phase was from 25 January to 30 March. She added that these were important tasks which would require significant time and she would like to prioritize planning this before going into other topics with less time constraints (GPDP, etc.), as these could wait until April after the election was completed.

KB asked whether FY was recommending moving the virtual f2f to later in the year.

FY replied that they needed to have dedicated time for completing their work for the ICANN Board selection and that they should define the time slots so could they all understand when they would be putting in this time. She suggested that, because this was a strange year, if a virtual f2f meeting was held in the next three months, then it should be to work on the ICANN Board selection, not on the other things.

KB said he expected that the IC members would inform the AC of the time slots for the interviews, as well as whether the IC recommended certain times during which the AC would be needed. He said this could be separate from the virtual f2f meeting, as they don't need to be tied together. He said they would discuss the matter further during the closed portion of the meeting.

NN observed that what FY had pointed out was very sensible and that they should prioritize their work. She said that it was not very clear what this virtual f2f was, that while the things that KB had mentioned might require the work of a small group, others might require the work of the entire group, and that knowing what they would be looking to do this year might help them prioritize. She suggested starting by looking at the work that needs to be done, seeing who is required for what, and then planning a face-to-face or virtual meeting as needed.

KB explained that the meeting to go over the board appointment was a must and that they should treat that separately. He said that the GPDP run-through was a "should", something that was left over from last year, not time sensitive, yet good for the group as a whole; that the procedures they need to review as part of their work plan, have a small group work on this and say either "this is a huge task, doing this in April or May is not realistic" or "this will only require a couple of hours with the AC." KB concluded by saying that the AC as a body should do the things that must be done and try to do the things that should be done.

SSt agreed, saying that they must do what they need to do and that the rest would be a bonus.

#### **7. 2021 ASO AC Teleconference Schedule**

KB asked whether anyone had any conflicts with the proposed dates.

No comments were heard.

#### **8. 2020 ASO Work Plan Review**

KB noted that this had been discussed under Action Item 201104-2. He asked whether anyone opposed to publishing the work plan.

No objections were heard, and KB asked GV to publish the 2020 ASO Work Plan Review.

#### **9. 2021 ASO Work Plan**

KB recommended tentatively accepting the work plan, setting a seven-day period for comments or objections, and then publishing the work plan.

No objections were heard.

**New Action Item 210113-2:** GV to circulate the 2021 Work Plan to the ASO AC and if there are no changes or corrections publish the Plan on 20 January 2021.

#### **10. Annual Transparency Review**

KB observed that this was an open action item for AS. He added that if AS was unable to produce it, it was incumbent on the chair and vice chairs to do so, so he proposed the following:

**New Action Item 210113-3:** ASO AC chair and vice chairs to confirm the status of the 2020 Transparency Review and, if it is absent, to write this the review and then circulate it.

No further comments or objections were raised.

#### **11. Form the Policy Proposal Facilitator Teams (PPFT)**

KB proposed a seven-day window for each region to share with the list who will be their PPFT member for 2021.

SSa asked KB if he could provide some background on the PPFT.

KB explained that the purpose of the PPFT is to be on the lookout for any proposal that may be considered a global policy and that there is a series of tasks that they must perform. He said that it is sort of an early warning of when a global policy is coming and added that he would send 6.3 of the Operating Procedures, the section which refers to the PPFT, to the list for further information.

**New Action Item 210113-4** ASO AC to confirm regional representatives to the PPFT.

## **12. AOB**

- ICANN Board Election Update (CLOSED SESSION)

Going back to agenda item 6, HC wanted to clarify that the ICANN Board selection process was the priority for the ASO AC and that the ideal would be to have a very clear agenda and process to organize who can attend the meetings.

KB said that the goal was to prioritize the ICANN Board appointment and that his suggestion was for this to be separate from the virtual f2f meeting they had discussed earlier, stressing that the priority was towards the work that needs to be done for the board appointment and that the virtual f2f would take second fiddle to that.

HC agreed.

No objections were heard.

MS proposed that, instead of referring to it as a virtual f2f, they could call it a workshop, adding that, despite the difficult environment, they should not completely put aside some of the work they should be doing, even when the most important work was the board appointment. Perhaps they could talk about this as if they were having a two-day face-to-face session, prioritizing the board work but keeping flexibility for the other workshop topics.

KB said he liked the word “workshop” as it aligned better with keeping the formality out of it and changed the thought process from previous years.

At this point, KB confirmed that there were no observers on the call and invited WD to leave the call so that the other members of the ASO AC could continue the discussion of the election for Seat 9 in closed session.

## **13. Adjourn**

HC proposed the motion to adjourn, SSa seconded the motion. There were no objections and the meeting ended at 13:12 UTC.