

## 115th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting Unapproved Minutes of the Meeting

Online, 7 of November 2020

The agenda and backup documentation are available at:

<https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=16913>

Items in these minutes are numbered according to the agenda.

### 1. Procedural – Call to Order

Region 8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma calls the committee to order and opens the 115th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting welcoming all attendees.

### 2. Procedural – Roll Call / Guests

Region 8 Secretary, Ana Madureira calls committee members. After the roll call, Region 8 Director asks Region 8 Secretary to confirm the quorum, which she does.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Heiss, Austria Section Chair; Ali Zolait, Bahrain Section Representative; Mark Bentum, Benelux Section Chair; Dusanka Boskovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Treasurer; Maja Matijasevic, Croatia Section Chair; Constandinos Mavromoustakis, Cyprus Section Chair; Frantisek Mach, Czechoslovakia Section Chair; Yongheng Yang, Denmark Section Chair; Ahmed Hassan Youssef, Egypt Section Chair; Peeter Ellervee, Estonia Section Chair; Pascal Lorenz, France Section Vice-Chair; Ingo Hahn, Germany Section Chair; Georgia (Iria) Saridaki, Greece Section Representative; Levente Kovacs, Hungary Section Chair; Karl Sölvi Guðmundsson, Iceland Section Treasurer; Hadi Moradi, Iran Section Chair; Shmuel Auster, Israel Section Chair; Bernardo Tellini, Italy Section Chair; Vincent Egessa, Kenya Section Chair; Nadezda Kunicina, Latvia Section Chair; Bachar Elhassan, Lebanon Section Chair; Dalius Navakauskas, Lithuania Section Chair; Conrad Attard, Malta Section Chair; Neecharl Ramprosand, Mauritius Section Chair; Nasser Assem, Morocco Section Chair; Oyewole Funso-Adebayo, Nigeria Section Chair; Pero Latkoski, North Macedonia Section Chair; Mohammed Bait Suwailam, Oman Section Chair; Adam Dabrowski, Poland Section Chair; Ana Trigo, Portugal Section Vice-Chair; Lucian Toma, Romania Section Vice-Chair; Sergey Bankov, Russia Section Chair; Sergey Shaposhnikov, Russia (Northwest) Section Representative; Vasilii Borisov, Russia Siberia Section Chair; Mohammad Al-Muhaini, Saudi Arabia (East) Section Chair; Boris Dumnicevic, Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair; Andrej Trost, Slovenia Section Chair; David Oyedokun, South Africa Section Chair; Óscar Martínez Bonastre, Spain Section Chair; Samarth Deo, Sweden Section Chair; Maria-Alexandra Paun, Switzerland Section Chair; Adel M. Alimi, Tunisia Section Chair; Hasam Fatih Ugurdag, Turkey Section Chair; Mona Ghassemian, UK and Ireland Section Chair; Felix Yanovsky, Ukraine Section Chair; Fatma Taher, United Arab Emirates Section Chair; Hafidh Alsamarrai, Western Saudi Arabia Section Vice-Chair; Simon Muwowo, Zambia Section Chair; Magdalena Salazar Palma, R8 Director; Antonio Luque, R8 Director-Elect; Margaretha Eriksson, R8 Past-Director; Ana Maria Madureira, R8 Secretary; Adam Jastrzebski, R8 Treasurer; Adeel Sultan, R8 Vice-Chair Member Activities; Maciej Borówka, R8 Vice-Chair Student Activities; Sohaib Sheikh, Vice-Chair Technical Activities.

### 3. Discussion – Introductory Remarks

R8 Director conveys her warmest thanks to all for attending the 115<sup>th</sup> Region 8 Committee Meeting.

R8 Director gives several instructions to the attendees and presenters/speakers, mentioning that some best practices learnt on how to run successful online meetings have been incorporated: R8 Committee meeting is held in two parts

on Saturday, November 7, and Saturday, November 14 with a compact agenda allowing more time for questions. The slot for the 2021 R8 OpCom open positions elections will follow a new format as well as the Awards Ceremony.

#### 4. Motion – Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consists of the approval of the minutes of the 114th Committee meeting, as well as the approval of the OpCom member reports, the Sub Committee reports and the Section reports. The motion to accept the Consent Agenda is presented by the **Director elect Antonio Luque**. The motion passes.

#### 5. Motion – Approval of the Action Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda is put forwarded by Director Salazar Palma. The motion passes.

#### 6. Discussion – IEEE Region 8 Director’s Address

R8 Director presents her address, reporting the most relevant activities since last committee meeting and some membership statistics. R8 membership has been affected by the pandemic disruption of operations, especially student recruitment. The society membership was affected only by -1.5%.

R8 Director summarizes Region 8 Operational Units (OUs) status, since last meeting: IEEE Members: 64,804; Society Members: 39,561 (61%); OUs: total of 2,031 and growing! (from 1,987, last March, i.e., +2.2%). Next, R8 Director presents the summary of activities since March 2020, namely:

- R8 flagship conferences:
  - Educon 2020, Porto, Portugal, 27-30 April – Online
  - Melecon 2020, Palermo, Italy, 16-18 June – Online
  - Energycon 2020, Tunis, Tunisia, 28 Sept.-1 Oct. – Online
- R8 vSYP 2020, Gothenburg, Sweden, 14-26 September 2020 – Online
- WIE International Summit, Kampala, Uganda, 15-16 October 2020 – Online

R8 Director makes some considerations on how the pandemic has affected our operations during 2020 and the progress made towards R8 goals achievement. She presents and describes her calendar since last meeting and also reports some of the topics dealt with during the IEEE BoD and MGA meetings attended. She also presents the New R8 Visual Identity as result of a collaboration with IEEE Digital Creative and Innovations team. She also presents the 2020 IEEE Annual Elections results.

Finally, R8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma makes one last tribute to members that passed away, Toomas Parve IEEE Estonia Section IM/ED/BEM Joint Chapter Chair (2014-2018), Walter E. Proebster, Germany Section Chair (1979) and Region 8 Director (1981-1982), Istvan Vajda, Hungary Section Vice Chair (2010-2014), Mojtaba Khederzadeh, Iran Section, Odieari Obuabereibama Oruye, Nigeria Section, Peter Excell, UK & Ireland Section and Ece Alpugan, Middle East Technical University Student Branch, Turkey Section.

#### 7. Discussion - IEEE President’s Address

IEEE President, Toshio Fukuda presents his vision for IEEE as a global network that provides unique opportunities and engages/empowers technical experts from around the world.

President Fukuda makes some considerations about:

- Providing More Value to our members and attracting new ones.
- Our New Normal.
- The Reaching Locals Project - Local language activities to reach wider audiences and new members.
- IEEE Academy - New ways to provide member value through education.
- Value of a Cooperative Environment - Working together to increase the value of IEEE membership.

Finally, President Fukuda concludes his presentation thanking all volunteers for what they do, day in and day out.

#### 8. Discussion - IEEE Executive Director and COO Address

IEEE Executive Director and COO, Stephen Welby, gives an overview of IEEE COVID-19 response and IEEE global operation status concluding that IEEE remain agile - Global offices have all adopted periods of work-from-home to protect staff; returning to office based on advice of local authorities.

He presents the launch of IEEE COVID-19 Member Hub News & Resources (IEEE on the Front Lines Member Resources, Free Resources, IEEE Virtual Event activities: a date-sorted list of conferences, Distinguished Lecturers, tutorials, webinars, etc.).

Then, Stephen Welby identifies several external and internal factors that created risks/opportunities for IEEE. For external factors beyond IEEE control the focus is on predicting their impact, mitigating any resultant risks, and positioning IEEE to succeed in a dynamic environment. For the internal factors within IEEE control, our focus is on responding to volunteer leadership priorities, improving IEEE mission impact and positioning IEEE for continuing long-term success.

## **9. Discussion - MGA Chair Address**

IEEE VP and MGAB Chair, Kukjin Chun, conveys his sincere thanks to all global OU's ExCom and MGA Board, Committees and MGA staff. After that, Kukjin presents IEEE membership statistics by region: as of August 2020, total membership has declined by 5% while student membership declined by 20%. He presents some best practices and opportunities to face the current challenges identifying some Global IEEE initiatives (Member Get a Member, Gift of Membership, IEEE Into Focus Photo Contest, IEEE Day) and YP/WIE/LM/SAC developed initiatives.

He describes some aspects of the 2020 MGA Strategy: Sections Congress (SC); Potential Changes to membership dues (MGA/TA); New Engagement models and opportunities (IEEEApp: MGA/TA); Improving chapter support (MGA/TA); Geographic technical activities (MGA/TA); Sustainable development (MGA/SA/TA); and Region Realignment.

Then, he presents some considerations related with Sections Congress 2020 – Virtual Event considering the pandemic situation. He comments the work of three committees. the Virtual Recommendation Process in charge on identifying the Top 3 Recommendations; the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on the SC 2020 Top 3 Recommendations Implementation; and the MGA Ad Hoc Committee on the Sections Congress Strategic Path.

## **10. Discussion - MGA Managing Director Address**

MGA Managing Director and Secretary, Cecelia Jankowski, presents "IEEE Member Segmentation 2020". She describes the methodology followed: the survey instrument, the sample, and the report. Then, she presents some of the membership findings as a result of the statistics. She concludes her presentation with a systematization of the key takeaways from the 2020 membership segmentation survey.

## **11. Discussion - Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report**

R8 Director Elect, R8 Strategic Planning Subcommittee (SP SC) Chair, Antonio Luque, organizes his report in two main topics: Region realignment and New strategic initiatives for 2021 and beyond.

He updates the Region realignment topic since last R8 meeting and gives some metrics to characterize each region. Then, he describes the 3 options proposed by the external company in charge of analyzing Region realignment.

Then, he describes the new strategic initiatives for 2021. He speaks about the budget and finances for R8. Then, he identifies the challenges for the near future and some possible actions.

Finally he requests R8 delegates to bring their suggestions to the brainstorming session on November 14th.

## **12. Discussion – Treasurer Report**

R8 Treasurer and Finance Subcommittee Chair, Adam Jastrzebski, presents the main operational aspects of the Treasurer position. In summary, everything is working well: reimbursement payments are done promptly; R8 budget reports may be generated automatically directly from the Sage software; the IEEE internal audit was completed successfully; there have been no financial penalties for cancelled meeting contracts but flights cancellation cost.

Next, he informs on the 2020 IEEE Region 8 budget execution (Income and Expenses) and concludes with a summary as of 24/10/2020 from which it may be concluded that Region 8 is well positioned to face future challenges.

He finishes proposing some actions for improvements and describes the Financial Strategy for 2021-22.

Some questions arise from the audience.

### **13. Discussion - Member Activities**

Region 8 Member Activities (MA) Vice Chair, Adeel Sultan, starts his report by revising the MA Key Focus & Objectives: Member Satisfaction, Engagement, Appreciation & Growth as key priorities. He mentions as objectives to establish efficient coordination among the various sub-committees whose primary goal is to engage members by providing them initiatives and programs of non-technical nature and also to encourage and facilitate volunteering among all members, so that new activities and programs can be initiated and maintained.

Then, he talks about MA scope and achievements during this year. After revisiting the MA team, he presents the various Subcommittees activities: Membership Development, Women in Engineering, Humanitarian Activities, Young Professionals, History Activities, Publications and Communications and Life Members). This was a year of working from home offices and of Webinars, Social Media and Virtual Networking.

He concludes his report with a word of thanks to the entire MA team.

### **14. Discussion - R8 2021 elections: Q&A session**

R8 Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee Chair and R8 Past Director, Margaretha Eriksson, describes the R8 2021 elections to be held during this meeting for the open R8 OpCom positions and how the Q&A session is going to be held.

All candidates for the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair for Member Activities, Technical Activities and Student Activities have sent a 5-minute video presentation, available at the R8 committee meeting web site. Questions to the candidates have been collected beforehand and selected by the moderator. Former R8 Director, Costas Stasopoulos, acts as moderator, and presents the questions to each candidate for the various positions. All candidates for a given position are presented with the same questions and are given the same time to answer.

### **15. Discussion - R8 2021 elections: Instructions for the voting platform**

R8 N&A Subcommittee Chair and R8 Past Director, Margaretha Eriksson, informs that the elections for the open OpCom positions and for the three elected members of the N&A Subcommittee will be conducted through vTools. The voting members for OpCom are all R8 voting members (i.e., OpCom members and Section Chairs) while for the N&A elected members are just the Section Chairs. She introduces the IEEE staff member in charge of facilitating the voting procedure who describes the voting process and the use of the vTools platform. The R8 2021 elections process will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **16. Info - Group Photo**

### **17. Executive Session- R8 2021 elections: Executive session: Discussion on candidates**

R8 N&A Subcommittee Chair and R8 Past Director, Margaretha Eriksson, coordinates the Executive Session for discussion on the candidates for the open OpCom positions. Only R8 voting members, the R8 Director-elect, IEEE Directors, Director-Elects, and Past Directors, participate in this executive session.

### **18. Discussion - Closing Remarks for day 1**

R8 Director expresses her gratitude to everybody for participating in the first part of the 115<sup>th</sup> IEEE R8 Committee meeting. A special thanks to MGA/MCE team; R8 Secretary and her team; R8 Electronic Communication Coordinators; and all speakers, especially those of very different time zones.

She also acknowledges all 2019-2020 IEEE R8 Committee members, Section Chairs, Subcommittee Chairs, and appointed members, among them the Africa Council Chair; all Subcommittee regular, corresponding and ex officio members; all other R8 volunteers, in particular Subsection Chairs.

A special thanks to Antonio, the incoming Director. She wishes him all the best for the incoming years.

### **19. Info – Recess**

## Online, 14 of November 2020

The agenda and backup documentation are available at:

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Items in these minutes are numbered according to the agenda.

### 22. Procedural – Call to Order

Region 8 Director, Magdalena Salazar Palma, calls the committee to order and opens the second part of 115th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting welcoming all attendees. She gives some instructions and emphasizes the use of the chat and of the raise hand feature to dynamize the discussion and communication during the meeting.

### 23. Procedural – Roll Call / Guests

Region 8 Secretary, Ana Madureira, goes through the roll call and confirms quorum to R8 Director.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Heiss, Austria Section Chair; Ali Zolait, Bahrain Section Representative; Mark Bentum, Benelux Section Chair; Dusanka Boskovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Treasurer; Kiril Alexiev, Bulgaria Section Chair; Maja Matijasevic, Croatia Section Chair; Constandinos Mavromoustakis, Cyprus Section Chair; Yongheng Yang, Denmark Section Chair; Ahmed Hassan Youssef, Egypt Section Chair; Peeter Ellervee, Estonia Section Chair; Dmitry Petrov, Finland Section Chair; Pascal Lorenz, France Section Vice-Chair; Ingo Hahn, Germany Section Chair; Georgia (Iria) Saridaki, Greece Section Representative; Levente Kovacs, Hungary Section Chair; Karl Sólvi Guðmundsson, Iceland Section Treasurer; Hadi Moradi, Iran Section Chair; Shmuel Auster, Israel Section Chair; Bernardo Tellini, Italy Section Chair; Ala Khalifeh, Jordan Section Chair; Vincent Egezza, Kenya Section Chair; Nadezda Kunicina, Latvia Section Chair; Bachar Elhassan, Lebanon Section Chair; Dalius Navakauskas, Lithuania Section Chair; Conrad Attard, Malta Section Chair; Neecharl Ramprosand, Mauritius Section Chair; Nasser Assem, Morocco Section Chair; Oyewole Funso-Adebayo, Nigeria Section Chair; Pero Latkoski, North Macedonia Section Chair; Mohammed Bait Suwailam, Oman Section Chair; Adam Dabrowski, Poland Section Chair; Catarina Silva, Portugal Section Chair; Ridha Hamila, Qatar Section Chair; Cristian Negrescu, Romania Section Chair; Sergey Bankov, Russia Section Chair; Sergey Shaposhnikov, Russia (Northwest) Section Representative; Vasili Borisov, Russia Siberia Section Chair; Mohammad Al-Muhaini, Saudi Arabia (East) Section Chair; Boris Dumnic, Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair; Andrej Trost, Slovenia Section Chair; David Oyedokun, South Africa Section Chair; Óscar Martínez Bonastre, Spain Section Chair; Samarth Deo, Sweden Section Chair; Maria-Alexandra Paun, Switzerland Section Chair; Adel M. Alimi, Tunisia Section Chair; Hasam Fatih Ugurdag, Turkey Section Chair; Mona Ghassemian, UK and Ireland Section Chair; Felix Yanovsky, Ukraine Section Chair; Fatma Taher, United Arab Emirates Section Chair; Magdalena Salazar Palma, R8 Director; Antonio Luque, R8 Director-Elect; Margaretha Eriksson, R8 Past-Director; Ana Maria Madureira, R8 Secretary; Adam Jastrzebski, R8 Treasurer; Adeel Sultan, R8 Vice-Chair Member Activities; Maciej Borówka, R8 Vice-Chair Student Activities; Sohaib Sheikh, Vice-Chair Technical Activities.

### 24. Motion – Introductory remarks - Approval of the agenda of today's meeting

R8 Director requests the approval of the agenda considering some slot changes.

The motion to approve the agenda is put forward by Director-elect, Antonio Luque. The motion passes.

### 25. Discussion - Technical Activities

Region 8 Technical Activities (TA) Vice Chair, Sohaib Sheikh, starts his report by emphasizing the work developed by the various subcommittees (SC) and highlights the Technical Activities 2019-2020 focus considering the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 restrictions and the need to provide support to R8 Sections.

He identifies some opportunities for Sections: the R8 Flagship Conferences and call for organizers; the Professional and Educational Activities Subcommittee (PEASC) Speakers Program; the Region 8 Mentorship Program run by Action for Industry (Afi) SC; and the various Standards Speakers events.

Then, he informs about TA COVID-19 response: adapting the existing program and activities portfolio; volunteer engagement through the support for potential chapters and the performance of existing chapters, the guidance and support for conference organizers; and member engagement.

Then, he summarizes the various TA Subcommittees reports and achievements: Chapter Coordination Subcommittee; Conference Coordination Subcommittee; Professional and Educational Activities Subcommittee; Action for Industry Subcommittee; and Standards Coordination Subcommittee.

He concludes his report emphasizing that all SC have been working hard in terms of adapting to 2020 circumstances, as challenges, but with some opportunities. Virtual and hybrid events provided the opportunity to organize events with limited financial impact and improved the existing portfolio of programs and introduced new relevant programs.

## **26. Discussion - Student Activities**

Region 8 Student Activities (SA) Vice Chair, Maciej Borówka, thanks all SA Subcommittee members for their engagement, professionalism, and dedication. He highlights some important dates: 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2020 as the deadline for R8 Student Paper Contest and 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2021 for the Student Branch (SB) reports and MGA Student Branch Awards nominations. He encourages section chairs to support SBs to submit their officers reports and to apply to the several SB awards. He describes R8 students participation in IEEEExtreme Programming Competition, IEEEadC and IEEE Day. He presents a review on R8 metrics relative to: Student Branches (669); Student Branch Affinity Groups (146); Student Branch Chapters (425); and IEEE-HKN groups (10).

Then, he highlights the positive results of Student Branch reports. He also mentions that due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic the Student Membership experienced a decrease of 18%.

He concludes his report with a reference to a student fee reduction as planned by MGA.

## **27. Discussion – vSYP 2020 Update**

The chair of the IEEE Region 8 Virtual SYP 2020, Gerard Duff, gives an update on the virtual event describing some key points for its success and tries to identify good practices and points to improve. He mentions the platform requirements (easily accessible, multi-platform, capable of minimizing delays with a reasonable price), and describes the interconnectivity needed to support online talks and workshops with broadcast through crowdcast, and all the materials uploaded to the R8SYP Youtube channel available on all platforms. Then, he describes the vSYP 2020 tracks: Humanitarian Activities, Students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, and the respective speakers. The R8 virtual SYP 2020 had around 100 speakers from all around the world and around 900 attendees from across the region.

He concludes by emphasizing the role of all members of the IEEE Region 8 vSYP organizing team and identifying the lessons learned for the future.

## **28. Discussion – Africa Council update**

Africa Council Chair, Vincent Kaabunga, starts his presentation with some comments about the demography in Africa based on the estimated growth in the next decades and the support of the expansion of the engineering capacity in Africa from IEEE. He identifies the sections, subsections, and membership distribution in Africa.

Then, he states the role of Africa Council and its composition. After that he identifies some expanding opportunities for African researchers to enhance membership value, to strengthen the IEEE community in Africa through the promotion of African sections vitality, and to support IEEE strategic partnerships (Smart Africa, UNESCO and AUDA-NEPAD/WB/SAA).

## **29. Discussion – 2021 R8 Election results**

R8 N&A Subcommittee Chair and R8 Past Director, Margaretha Eriksson, presents the 2021 election results for:

- OpCom positions: Treasurer: Adam Jastrzebski; Secretary: Ljupco Karadinov; Vice-Chair Member Activities: Sara Barros; Vice-Chair Technical Activities: Péter Nagy; and Vice-Chair Student Activities: Simay Akar.
- IEEE Region 8 Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee: Evgen Pichkalyov; Levente Kovacs; and Tiziana Tambosso.

### 30. Discussion – R8 Awards & Recognitions

R8 Awards and Recognition (A&R) Subcommittee (SC) Chair, Margaretha Eriksson, starts her presentation by presenting the SC members and stating the mission of A&R SC. Then, she describes the available awards in R8 for volunteers, sections students, YP, and WIE.

After that she presents R8 section anniversaries: Bulgaria section (25 years) and Greece Section (50 years).

She then presents the Student Awards (R8 Student Paper Contest and IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor and Branch Chapter Advisor Awards); the MGA Exemplary Student Branch Awards; the R8 Student Branch Website Contest; the Region 8 Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award; Larry K Wilson Regional Student Activities Award.

Next, she presents the Region 8 Chapter of the Year Awards (considering the categories large, medium and small chapters); the R8 Young Professionals Awards and the IEEE Region 8 Outstanding Section Awards (considering the categories large, medium and small sections).

She mentions the certificates of appreciation for Action for Industry mentors.

Next, together with Ana Cigarán Romero, Women in Engineering Subcommittee Chair, she presents the Region 8 Women in Engineering Awards: Region 8 Women in Engineering Affinity Group of the Year Award; Region 8 Women in Engineering Student Affinity Group of the Year Award; Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Section Volunteer Award; Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Student Volunteer Award and the Clementina Saduwa Award.

Then, she presents the Region 8 Volunteer Award 2020.

Finally she presents the Certificates of Recognition to the outgoing Region 8 OpCom members.

Margaretha Eriksson concludes her presentation with warm congratulations to all awardees.

### 31. Motion – Motions Presentation, Discussion, and Voting

Antonio Luque, R8 Director-Elect, conducts the presentation, discussion, and voting of the following motions to approve:

- The change of the R8 visual identity to adopt the proposal for Region 8 provided by the IEEE Digital Creative and Innovations team. The motion passes.
- The resolutions on behalf of the following R8 volunteers as given in attachment in the agenda tool:
  - Toomas Parve
  - Walter Proebster
  - István Vajda
  - Mojtaba Khedrzadeh
  - Odieari Obuabereibama Oruye
  - Alexander Markhasin
  - Peter Excell
  - Ece Alpugan

The motion is voted and approved unanimously.

### 32. Discussion - Looking forward to 2021-2022

R8 Director Elect, Antonio Luque, states some aspects looking forward to his mandate as R8 Director (2021-2022). He first presents the R8 Opcom team. The he mentions the Region priorities from 2015 to 2020 and proposed to “adapt and reboot” them.

He presents some ideas per area (Volunteering, Operation and Governance of the Region, Member activities, Student activities, Technical activities, Section vitality and development of units, Africa and other underserved areas, and N&A and A&R).

He concludes his presentation with the definition of some next steps considering that 2021 will be a challenging year and the need to overcome the difficulties imposed by the present situation.

### **33. Discussion - New initiatives for the Region. Brainstorming Session**

R8 Director Elect, Antonio Luque, coordinates the brainstorming session about new initiatives for the Region. The idea of this session is to look for new initiatives or projects that will better serve members and potential members. The need to do things differently, try new approaches and focus on ways of collaborating and cooperating is emphasized. Some discussion occurs, and some suggestions are identified for the future.

### **34. Discussion - Closing Remarks - Celebrating R8 during 2019-2020**

R8 Director, Magdalena Salazar Palma, thanks everybody for their collaboration during the meeting, especially MGA/MCE teams, R8 secretary and team, R8 electronic communication coordinator and all the speakers and attendees.

Then, she mentions that the tentative date for the incoming R8 Committee Meeting is March 20-21, 2021.

After that she expresses her gratitude to the 2019-2020 R8 Committee, referring everyone: OpCom members; Section Chairs, Subcommittee Chairs and appointed members, among them the Africa Council Chair; all Subcommittee regular, corresponding and ex-officio members and also all other R8 volunteers, in particular Subsection Chairs. And a special word of thanks to Antonio Luque, the incoming Director.

Magdalena Salazar Palma finishes welcoming the new OpCom members.

To celebrate the mandate of the outgoing OpCom (2019-2020) a video with some photos of R8 Committee and OpCom meetings as well as other SC meetings and R8 activities during those two years is shared at the end of the meeting.

### **35. Procedural - Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned by 6:00 pm.

### **End of Meeting**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ana Maria Madureira  
IEEE R8 Secretary