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BEIJING – ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement Staff Briefing to the GAC
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ICANN – Beijing, People's Republic of China

[AUDIO MALFUNCTION 0:00:00 – 0:00:18]

INTERPRETER: [Mandarin 0:00:18 – 0:01:17]

TAREK KAMEL: …glad to receive this invitation and to address the GAC this morning together with the team members of the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team, as Heather has mentioned, Sally Costeron and myself are leading the overall Global Stakeholder Engagement.

I am focusing more on the environmental and inner-environmental issues as well as [I stars 0:01:44] and – are coming today with actually the whole team in order to introduce the whole team to the GAC members to make sure that really that the team is being introduced, especially that many of them are working on original level, on the fields, together with governments, as well with private sector, and the civil society.

So let me start by introducing the regional vice presidents that we have. We have Pierre Dandjinou, he is the Vice President for Africa. We have Jamie [Headlind 0:02:17], our Vice President for North America. We have [Jao Dong Li 0:02:22], he is in a transition period. He has been the Vice President for Asia-Pacific, and now he's been handed over by our chairman a couple of days ago to the Minister of China as a CEO of

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[KONAC 0:02:36], but he is still working with us on a transitional period until late May, yes?

Until late May, and until we have a new Vice President, hopefully for Asia within the next couple of weeks. To his left, we have Savenaca. Savenaca is the Vice President for Australia and the Pacific Islands, Oceania. We have Veni Markovski. Veni is our Vice President for Russia and Eastern Europe, and the CIS country.

To his left, we have Rodrigo de la Parra, the Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean. And to his left, we have Everton, he is our manager for engagement in Brazil, a recent hire that joined the team. And in front of him we have Andre, also just started this week. He is the regional manager of Europe, reporting to Nigel Hickson.

To his left, we have Chris [Mondini 0:03:34], he is our Vice President for Industry Engagement, but he is with us today here in the GAC. And to his left, Nigel Hickson, our Vice President for Europe, and is doing a lot of work in IG issues and international forum as well.

To my right, we have Baher Esmat, our Vice President for the Middle East, and he's also very engaged in many international forums. And next to him is Nora Abusitta, she's the Senior Director for IGO and IO Engagement.

And to the back we have Mandy Carver, he is our Senior Director of the Department as such. So anybody else? So I think that's the team we have in the room. So, let me start by giving a vision by, why are we engaging with IGO and IO?

We are collaborating with inter-governmental organizations, and international organizations, to promote a single open and secure and uninterruptable internet in the multi-stakeholder model. And also very important, to secure consensus on the role of ICANN, that ICANN plays within the overall IG ecosystem.

Very specific goals that we are trying to achieve from our strategy of engagement with IGOs and IO, to achieve recognition of roles between ICANN and many IGOs in the global internet governance landscape. And I think this is one of the very important objects that we are focusing on. And has been recently also reflected in the dialogue, I would say the constructive dialogue, that has started between ICANN and ITU at the IGF back in Baku, the global IGF back in Baku.

And we have all been following up ICANN's president, Fadi Chehadé has been invited by Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary General of the ITU, to address the [wicket 0:05:44], and many other occasions as well. Who are now having a dialogue together with the ITU.

And I think also for the time we have heard from Hamadourn Touré publically within the [wicket] in the opening ceremony, but also at closing ceremony, expressing very clear that ITU has no desire to take over the role of ICANN and recognizes the role that ICANN is doing in naming and addressing very specific internet naming and address.

I'm not saying that this is the end of the work, there is still many work to be done in this direction, but at least this statement publically from the Secretary General of the ITU, in an ITU event, in the opening ceremony and the closing ceremony, has been something that we look positive

upon, because it has been the first time a clear recognition from a Secretary General of ICANN's role, very clear.

But again, we need to build on that. There is a long way to go, and will come later on to talk about the WTPF as well still have several challenges. We also secure the acceptance for the ICANN model within the IGU ecosystem. It has been very clear that we need to promote the ICANN model and the multi-stakeholder model within the IG ecosystem.

Not only the ITU, but within [? 0:07:05] and within other organization that need to learn about ICANN, what is really ICANN doing in details? And to explain how this multi-stakeholder model works. And surely to provide support to the GAC and their engagement with IGOs and IOs.

We are full aware that the GAC is having a big role in engagement as well, and interfacing and interacting with the IGU, IGOs and IOs. And we make sure within our government organizations, and the IGO organizations, that the chair of the GAC is well-informed about what's going on. And we have started recently together with Fadi a monthly call, who is the chair of the GAC, and a monthly report that is provided by the group, very specifically focusing on government engagement and IGO engagement.

And making sure that the GAC is in the full picture on a monthly basis what's happening, and what's the plan for the next month as well as in terms of engagement with IGOs and IOs. And we promote together with the [I Stars 0:08:09] and with our allies, the involvement as much as we can of the IGOs within our IG model, in order to preserve one open, secure, and globally interoperable internet.

And the current engagement, I'm going to list them very quickly that we have with the IGOs. We have, a starting engagement with World Bank to help us in many regional projects that I will mention later on, that we have in Africa, and in Latin America, and the Middle East, and in other developing countries.

We have an engagement with [U S CODE 0:08:44] that has already for many years [? 0:08:47] care of it, related to the IDNs and the work that has been developed specifically for the IDNs. In addition to that, [U S CODE] has, the apparently, special role in the WSIS plus ten follow up together with the ITU [coughs], UN DP, and the [? 0:09:08].

The CSTD very specifically, we all know that it is now in charge also of the enhanced cooperation committee and that has been built. We are glad that it is a multi-stakeholder committee because we think that enhanced cooperation should be a multi-stakeholder enhanced cooperation, and not government only enhanced cooperation.

And again, we are glad to have a participant from ICANN and a member of the enhanced cooperation committee, Baher is there. We have started an open channel as well with [UN DESA 0:09:44] [UN DESA} is an United Nation Department for Economic and Social Affairs in New York. They are overlooking the work of the IGF at the time being.

So we have started also to open a dialogue with them in order to make sure that they are aware about what we are doing. ITU have mentioned at the beginning, the invitation by the Secretary General to Steven Crocker our chairman, and invited to attend the [wicket] event.

And now as you have heard Fadi on the opening session mention that he has received another invitation to address the WTPF in mid-May in Geneva, and that is intending to respond positively to this invitation, and to participate in this event.

And one of the main reasons for ICANN's participation in this events, that we are addressing their community that normally do not come to ICANN meeting and [I Star] meetings. Many head of regulators, many telecommunication policy advisors, many ministers even, in the developing country attend this ITU meetings, but normally don't come to ICANN meetings.

So this community needs to know about ICANN, needs to know about the multi-stakeholder model, needs to know about the achievements that ICANN is doing in the outreach and plans of ICANN. And the best thing is to go to them, and to address them, and to explain what we are doing, and invite them to participate as much as we can in our constituencies in the GAC, but as well in the other constituencies of ICANN as much as we can.

And in addition to that, we are following up with the IGF. We are committed to support the IGF as much as we can. And ICANN and Fadi have decided to increase the financial support that we are providing for the IGF by 50% starting next fiscal year, fiscally at 14 in July, because we are convinced that it is still the only multi-stakeholder, real multi-stakeholder platform to discuss IG issues within the UN umbrella.

And it needs really to be supported, and it needs really to be moved forward. We are also very proud that it has now regionally IGFs and

national IGFs.   This shows that the process is vibrant, is lively, and it really ought to be supported on a regional level as well.

The WSIS very specifically, we are also following up on what's happening. We want to preserve all the achievements within [Tunis 0:12:27] agenda, the clear recognition of the multi-stakeholder model and the current functional multi-stakeholder model since 2005, successfully functioning since 2005 as a multi-stakeholder model to build, innovate, and develop the internet.

We want to build on that and want to secure this is well preserved. In addition to that, we are also working with economic and business development organization, the World Economic Forum very specifically. It has been recognized that this is also an important platform to address the world, maybe not necessarily government leaders alone, but also private sector players, CO, CEOs from Fortune 5,000.

And as well as many leaders from the civil society. So we are becoming an active member of the wealth in Davos, and we will increase our participation within their committees as well in areas related to internet development and internet governance.   OECD as well, Nigel is presenting us within the ICCP and the [I-Tack 0:13:39], and it is one of the areas that we are very proud of.

[More is 0:13:43] very active, who is the WE, who is the World Economic Forum in Davos, and has attended recently, with Fadi, last January. The ICC is also in our priority list because it includes a lot of private sector players, and Chris and Nora, our fellow – Chris [Modini 0:14:01] and Nora are following up about cooperation and engagement with the ICC, because we are inviting new players within the ICANN

model, not necessarily the registries and registrars, but other players also that show interest in ICANN's work and ICANN's model as such.

The political, and cultural, and educational organization include the commonwealth telecommunication organizations. We are working with them very closely, specifically in areas related to cyber security and participating in their conferences and events. The organization, [French 0:13:37], as well, and [Dip-Low 0:14:39] Foundation will have an excellent role in capacity building, specifically when it comes to IG issues.

This gives a quick overview about the our relation to IGOs and IOs. And the main goals from the engagement and we look forward definitely to a constructive work within the GAC in the future to deepen the cooperation with the IGOs and IOs. And make sure that we really embrace the collaboration between ICANN and between the IGOs and IOs.

Let me move to my next part of the agenda which is related to government engagement, very specifically. The main goals of our government engagement as a team, is to promote active participation of governments in the GAC. And the Board has been very clear, and Fadi has been also very clear, that this should be the main goal for the participation for our engagement plan with governments to support active participation in the GAC, and active representation in the GAC.

Explain, whenever we meet government representatives, what the GAC is really doing, and explain the model of the GAC, and the relations to the Board, and the achievements of the GAC. And make sure that we invite participants as much as we can within the functioning GAC model.

And this has also been included with our regional strategy that I'm going to be touching on very soon. We have realized that there is a need for regional engagement strategy because of lack of participation from the different regions in ICANN's model.

Maybe the GAC was not that effective because there are representations from Africa, and Latin America, and other parts of the world, Asia and Eastern Europe. But we want to increase this participation, and we want to activate this participation, and empower it as much as we can.

But it was realized that we have a severe problem when it comes to other constituencies, for example the GNSO. The number of accredited registrar from Africa that participate in the GNSO is very, very limited, as well as from Latin America, as well as from other places in the developing countries.

And the eye opener for that was last summer when the deadline came for the application of the new gTLD. It was clear that there was a very poor participation from the developing countries, and weak participation was in the new gTLD program. And this was an eye opener for us, that there is something wrong.

Even the JAS, the Joint Application Support program, that has been provided by the Board in order to remove the financial barrier of the $185,000 for the application, has been only used by three applicants, total three applicants, out of the developing countries that has applied.

So it has been clear that there is a problem in communication and awareness, but there is also a problem in capacity building, there is a

lack of number of accredited registrars, there is not awareness enough of the markets in the developing country, the DNS markets in the developing countries.

And that as long as we have weak participation from the developing countries in the main ICANN constituencies, the GNSO, the At-Large, and other constituencies as well, the question stays, "Is ICANN really a global organization? Are the interests of the developing countries really well represented? Are the voices of the developing countries really well heard? Are the business interests from the developing countries really well represented within ICANN constituencies?"

And many, many questions that were coming up with the new gTLD program that we realize that we need to have very focused engagement strategies. With Africa very specifically which started last summer, in a bottom up approach, real bottom up approach, was a work group that represents the different African sub-regions, and represents the community from civil society government and private sector, with the full support of AfriNIC, the RIR in Africa.

And together with other regional organizations like the African Union, have developed this strategy, announced this strategy in Toronto, started implementation whenever Pierre has been hired earlier this year, and had the workshop, training workshop, about DNS industry from business and technical aspects lately in our regional engagement event in [? 0:19:30].

And it is moving forward very aggressively. In Durban, we will demonstrate further achievements about the African strategy, includes an award for best practices in the DNS. It includes an incubator

program to increase the number of accredited registrars in Africa, to participate in the GNSO.

And we would like definitely your support more and more for the African strategy implementation in Africa. But it's not only Africa. Latin America as well. Rodrigo de la Parra, our Vice President, has been doing an excellent work as well, on a bottom up approach with the Latin American community, and with the support of [? 0:20:10], the RIR.

And today, afternoon, they will announce in the presence of Fadi and Steve Crocker, the first draft of our Latin American strategy as well that includes excellent new ideas for the engagement of Latin America, and for strengthening ICANN presence in Latin America.

And strengthening Latin American participation within ICANN constituencies as well. The very specifically, the GNSO, the ccNSO, and the various other constituencies as well as the GAC. But the Middle East is also coming along. And Baher is leading also a bottom up approach together with the group from the Middle East, to develop a Middle Eastern strategy along the same lines as they have been presenting and discussing the draft last Monday.

And it will be ready to be announced mid-May, and to be the implementation plan will be presented in details in Durban for the Middle Eastern strategy. We have also very special focuses for a couple of countries, Brazil, Turkey, and other countries like India as well.

And we look forward, in addition to what Fadi has mentioned the other day, about the three regional hubs. One in Los Angeles [coughs], operational hubs in three time zones, the other in Istanbul, and the

third one in Singapore. Sally is opening engagement offices on different scales, which started with China but will follow up with India as well, and will follow up with other countries as well, very soon, Japan and as we did in Brazil, and as we did in Europe.

And we make sure also in Africa that we provide Pierre with the right support in order to be able to do the work on a regional level. So we look forward to the support of the GAC, the representatives, and the interaction with our Vice Presidents, to help us implementing the African strategy.

To give us your guidance, your feedback about the strategy, implementation, what needs to be done. And from our side, we commit as well in each country that we are going to be working at in the strategies, implementation that the GAC member will be in full picture of what's going on concerning the implementation.

And will be well briefed about the implementation steps, even if some activity run with the private sector and civil society, and [I-Sock 0:22:40] chapters, and RIRs. So this is also another commitment from our side that I am doing on behalf of the team.

With that, Madam Chair, I would like to hand you over. Thank you very much for listening, and I look forward together with the team to answer any questions. Thank you very much.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you very much for that presentation, Tarek. So do any colleagues in the GAC have any questions or comments about the proposed strategy for ICANN? Tanzania please?

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TANZANIA: Thank you chair, and thank you ICANN for the brief.   Perhaps my question is just a simple one, and has been even asked yesterday on the outreach, in particular for the African region.   Yesterday when it was announced that there will be an office and increased address in saving both Europe and Africa.

Perhaps my question is, why don't we have our own office in Africa, which can serve the continent as a continent, as we do have AfriNIC for our resources?   So perhaps if we can get clarification on that.

TAREK KAMEL: I think there is a misunderstanding.   We are talking about the operational hub in Istanbul.   The operation hub in Istanbul from an operation point view, which is security support, legal, compliance, [I-Anna 0:24:19] services, and other types of services that ICANN on a global level now only from Los Angeles, will have representatives for support the world and regions in Istanbul, as well as in Singapore.

So this are not engagement offices or representation offices.   But these are operational hubs in all the, really to make sure that we are serving the different time zones of the world all over 24 by seven.

But in addition to that, Africa – the Vice President may can say about his plans to hire new people and to empower his team in Africa.   Pierre?

[AUDIO BLANK 0:25:04 – 0:0:24:14]

PIERRE DANDJINOU: ….your opportunity. As far as Africa is concerned, I think the end result is to be a kind of – deepen ICANN's presence in Africa. And I would start

it by hiring some staff. We are planning to have regional manager soon, and that will be followed by six engagement staff that we will be having in each of the African, six region in Africa.

And then we will be thinking about where to have offices. But this point in time, we have not really decided, but definitely will be thinking about a few areas in Africa, contemplating where to base certainly an office.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you for that.

TAREK KAMEL: I also want to make clear that the Brussels office will continue, and the DC office will continue, as engagement offices on a European level as well as a North American level. So that no misunderstanding exists.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. As I was saying, I think there is a difference, as I understand it, between the kinds of regional offices. So some are focused on engagement, and some of those already exist. And others are more related to the ongoing running of ICANN.

What you're calling operational. Is there an example of a particular aspect of ICANN operations that you can give to help illustrate how that is different from this stakeholder engagement offices?

TAREK KAMEL: The stakeholder engagement as such, are areas related to outreach, meeting people, promoting ICANN's presence, promoting the multi-

stakeholder model, inviting people to participate in ICANN's constituencies, and ICANN events.

And coordinating with the related entities that exist in the region. On an operational level, things are completely different. We need someone who is there from security for example. Because whenever there is a security incident that someone needs to refer back to ICANN, for example, on a Sunday where the Los Angeles office is closed.

For example, Turkey in this case, could be available, could have a team for example available. During Christmas time, Turkey is not necessarily celebrating Christmas time, or closed during Christmas time. So then there is available while the Los Angeles office is closed when there is a security incident for example, or any issue related to operations.

And with the evolution and the growth of the new gTLD program, this operational demand will increase. People will need more and more to call ICANN and to have a call center support, 24 by seven globally, in order to say, "We're having this or that problem, operational problem, that needs to be solved."

The engagement team is not necessarily… Should not be necessarily available 24 by seven, but the operations people… And that's the vision that Fadi put forward to the Board. With the growth of the new gTLD program, needs really ICANN's presence 24 by seven all over the globe.

So in this case, the call happens, whether it's being answered from Singapore, or from Turkey, or from Los Angeles, nobody will know.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. So I have Singapore, EU Commission, Argentina, African Union Commission, United States, and Mexico.

SINGAPORE: Thank you Chair, and thank you Tarek for your very comprehensive and detailed report. We appreciate it. I was reading the two page, the briefing papers circulated by the GAC Secretary of the, on the Global Strategy Engagement Briefing paper, and I noticed that the Asia Pacific engagement strategy don't seems to be factored in the paper.

And I do understand that on Monday, there was as Asia Pacific engagement strategy session, which was attended by Fadi and he spoke at the session. Perhaps in the paper you can [reframe 0:29:52] the Asia Pacific strategy because no other GSE Asia Pacific members were at that session.

So it's something can be reflected in the paper. I think that will be very helpful to the Asia Pacific GAC members. Thank you very much.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you for mentioning that. As I have mentioned at the beginning, concerning Asia Pacific, we are in transition of management. [Zao Dong 0:30:14] is leaving us, and we are in the process of hiring a new Vice President to take care part of the Asia part, while we have [? 0:30:22], as I have mentioned, taken care of Oceania as such.

But Asia Pacific is on top of the [? 0:30:27], definitely of ICANN's global stakeholder engagement team. As you have witnessed on Monday, and

Fadi has attended, and we there, Sally and myself, and spoke as well in support of the strategy.

But from a development point of view, we are still waiting until the new Vice President comes together, works hand in hand with [? 0:30:52], agree on the sub regions, sub regional issues, that has been mentioned during the session on Monday.

And then start the work with the support of the [AfriNIC 0:31:04] as such. So we are committed, the plan is there, we have a full commitment and the resources as well, but we are waiting really for the Vice President to start to put the work group together and agree on the sub regional issues that has been mentioned by Chris [Pen 0:31:23] and some other colleagues on Monday, during the Monday session.

But we will compliment it in the paper. Thank you for saying that.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. EU Commission please.

EU COMMISSION: Thank you very much Chair, and thank you very much for the interesting presentation. The Commission welcomes very much the Board's and the ICANN's increased engagement in regional IDFs. We think this is certainly the way to go.

We also very much welcome your statement that you will double your contribution to the IGF. And I take this opportunity to urge other partners to put their money where their mouth in support of the multi-

stakeholder model. As you know, Europeans, the commission and member states, pay a substantial part.

But given the situation in our part of the world, we cannot guarantee that our contributions will be at the same level after 2015, so therefore it's very, very important that other partners step up. But again, thank you very much for this announcement that's very important indeed.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. So next I have Argentina, African Union Commission, then Mexico, United States, UK, and Lebanon.

ARGENTINA: Thank you Madam Chair, and thank you Tarek for a very interesting presentation, for all the announcement that you have done. I want to specifically from being a South American country, I would like to commend our regional director, Rodrigo, for his great work in building with our team the regional strategy.

He has done tremendous work. I really want to, in the name of my country, Argentina, and I think in the names of the countries in the region, I want to really congratulate his work. He has done a tremendous job and we all work with his guidance and leadership was relevant to our outcome that we will show this afternoon.

Also I would really like to commend ICANN for appointing [Everton ? 0:33:33]. I had the pleasure to work with him here in the GAC years ago, and we also work together many proposals in between Argentina and Brazil at the time, and he is really high qualified professional.

And so I'm really happy he is in this team for our region. Also I would like to thank ICANN for having paid a little bit more attention to one program that me and other colleagues from the region organize every year in Latin America, which is the South School of Internet Governance.

This year ICANN will have more time, and not only [Everton] will come, also a Board member – a member of the Board of ICANN. And we will have more time, the whole afternoon, to talk about ICANN and have a debate with 150 students or young professionals from Latin America.

This will be in Panama in two weeks from now. So thank you very much, and thank you for all of this new initiatives and the announcement. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you Argentina. Tarek?

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you Olga, and if you allow me, Rodrigo, can you in very brief telegraphic form, give us the main highlights of the strategy? Very quickly so that the distinguished GAC members will not be able to attend your session, know what we are talking about?

RODRIGO: Thank you. Hello? No. Okay. Thank you Tarek, and thank you Olga for your kind words. I have to say that the team and the steering committee has really been the ones that have been making all of the tremendous efforts.

And Olga is, of course, one of the members that's coming here from the GAC. We also have Mexico that's working in that steering committee from the GAC. And also Tracy from Trinidad and Tobago.

So just to provide highlights, start mention we are working in a multi-stakeholder group, including the members of the GAC, as I mentioned. But we are working with the ccTLDs organizations, particularly with the regional organization, [Lack TLD 0:35:58]. And of course [Lack NIK 0:36:01], working hand in hand, the At-Large organization from the region, the [Lack 0:36:06] RALO has been particularly also involved in this effort.

People from the business constituency from the region are also participating from it. And we are also asked for advice for previous Board members from this region, which are working very actively. Today actually, if I may announce, we are presenting the strategy in a session at 4:30 PM at the auditorium.

So if you have some time, please do stop by and you can able to see in detail what we are going to do, or planning to do, for our region. We are moving now to the implementation phase. It's important to say that the draft that this steering committee finished doing in, I believe it was a couple of months ago, was subject to a public consultation, a wide open consultation to the wider community.

We received some input. We evolved the document and you will be able to see, let's say, the product by this afternoon. I'm happy to take questions if you please. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you for that Rodrigo.   Okay.   So next I have the African Union Commission please.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION: Thank you Madam Chair, and good morning.   Thank you Tarek and your team for this interesting presentation.   We are very pleased to have, and to have Pierre, working with our region specifically.   I would like just on behalf of the African Union and the African member states, to ensure you with our support.   And we will be glad to work with you, and to implement those strategic elements and objectives you have set.

It's been quite a long journey from Dakar, where I had the pleasure to present to you, to the Board, the African [? 0:38:21] Declaration on the requirement from ICANN.   It's also been an honor and a pleasure for me to share that meeting where we decided in Prague to have that African strategy, and to have Pierre and to those people, to implement it.

I must say that we are learning quickly and it's very good, it's a very good thing, and the member state with you [? 0:38:48] was actually quite a good example.   Now, I just wanted to come to that issue that has been raised yesterday by South Africa, and probably Tanzania today has a little bit.

It's with regard to the operational hub.   And some may say that it's kind of early to talk about having an operational hub specifically to cater to Africa.   And probably you may say that the [? 0:39:23] is not ready for that.   As it has been kind of said yesterday, in terms of legal, and human resources, and so on, readiness of Africa to have that.

Some did understand that yesterday and I hope that's not the case. I would just like to remind you of something about the, why Africans are insisting to have that operational hub as soon as possible. It's not just the hub itself as an operation, but it's the whole ecosystem that will be created, our own net hub in term of infrastructure to be built, in terms of capacity building, in term of internet exchange point system, and of caching, a lot of things that will happen that not only the hub itself is serving, but also creating that [government letter 0:40:12].

And Africa has been always ready for this kind of things. In 1975, [intersect 0:40:20] created the first, actually monitoring, satellite monitoring in [? 0:40:27] in the Cameroon. And as NASA wanted to launch their *Challenger* in 1980s, in the 80s, they created the hub in Dakar that we are now using for other satellite systems for [? 0:40:40] and education and so on.

So Africa is ready potentially for this kind of things. And we hope, without anticipating a lot of things or pushing for something to be done quick, we would like to have that operational center dedicated to Africa in order to have that ecosystem created for the benefit and the development of internet issues and systems in Africa.

That's the purpose of that. Thank you very much.

TAREK KAMEL: Yeah. Thank you and indeed, I want to clarify, it's not a matter of this region, or that region is not ready from a legal point of view, or from infrastructure point of view. And by the way, the requirements for an

operation hub is not that big in terms of capacity, in terms of internet exchange points, and things like that.

But they are much different from a purely technical point of view. But I want also to assure you that even if we don't have an operational hub in Africa, our capacity building programs will exist. And it is by far better to put the investment, and the money, in programs and implementing engagement programs, and capacity building programs, and to take this full work and then just in offices necessarily where services could be provided from somewhere else.

So the priority isn't in capacity building and readiness in incubator's programs, and awards, and empowerment ccTLDs, that's our priority in Africa, and Latin America, and other parts of the world. And the operation can come later on whenever there is a really a need for that. So I want to ensure that we are put in full resources at the right time, but also at the right place.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you very much. I have Mexico, United States, UK, Lebanon, and Egypt. And then I will try to wrap up and Turkey. Okay. So Mexico please.

MEXICO: Thank you very much Madame Chair. Good morning everyone. Thank you Mister Tarek for this update. I would like to congratulate ICANN for running this important activities, for it to more global, to the new engagement activities. And also, I would like to raise that it's necessary

to [improve ? 0:42:57] …developmental conditions in many parts of the ICANN activities.

But simple… You mentioned the lack of participation in the GNSO for Latin American countries. We are talking that, if necessary, to develop conditions to promote this participation. As you know, there are some applications for new gTLDs, and perhaps the opportunity to take special attention in that application.

Other simple is this, [? 0:43:28], I know that some in Latin America, the stakeholders presented a proposal where it was very difficult, the competition with the big companies. And for that reason, we believe that it is very important to the [? 0:43:47] implementation of the [RALO 0:43:48] strategies are finally joined to the comments made by my colleague from Argentina. Thank you very much.

TAREK KAMEL: We would like to have a bureau everywhere, but we have to evolve it step by step, so it started now by the three that have been announced. But I'm sure, in the future, other regions will join.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. I have the United States next.

UNITED STATES: Thank you Madame Chair, and thank you Tarek for your very comprehensive overview. Clearly this is a substantial effort, and I think it's very gratifying to see how seriously you are taken this issue of outreach, and global engagement, and particularly with governments.

Also very helpful to sort of see the staff, it is a substantial staff. There are a few points, and some questions, which if we run out of time is fine. Perhaps you can return to us. It's very interesting what you have sort of laid out, raising awareness of and promoting active participation in the GAC, supporting the role of the GAC.

Do you have documentation? Do you have texts that you circulate to governments who are not yet members that we can perhaps review? Because it would be very helpful, I think we would be a pretty solid source, for you, of expertise, and experience, those of us particularly who have been doing this for a time, to help you sort of develop that message.

And I'd be more than happy to contribute to that. it's not always easy. We have some new members at the table today, and it's not always easy to understand the GAC and what's on its agenda. But I should think that you would like to start with the GAC itself before you reach out and sort of try to encourage additional participation, since we are the members who are actually at the table.

Very interesting also to know about your deliberate outreach to IGOs, which we also find equally helpful. Of course, we are members of IGOs, and so the interactions you have inevitably come back to us as member states of those organizations. So again, I think opportunities for greater cooperation with us is certainly now broadening.

But if you could help us understand how you are presenting this material, how you are engaging with IGOs, on which subjects, I think it would be very, very helpful to us. As I noted, when you go to an IGO,

you're dealing with the staff of an IGO and when they communicate inside their own houses, it goes to the member states.

So it comes back to us. So again, it would be very, very useful. I would stress I think, the importance for further collaboration with the GAC itself. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you Suzanne for two valuable comments. I will start with the last one. Indeed, whenever we start a couple of month ago, the monthly report that we are providing, Fadi and myself, whether it includes the collaboration with the IGOs.

We can then put additional material about the message that we send and work on with the IGOs when we collaborate with them. So that the GAC members are in full picture what are we really interacting about with the IGOs, there very specifically.

Nora is doing an extensive work in that direction with the [work 0:47:23] as well as many other organizations. So it helps if the GAC members are in full picture about what is going on, and also giving us feedback about the messages that are there.

But more importantly the first one, that you have mentioned, and here we seek your support as such. You have been there in the GAC for a long, for many years and I'm pretty sure you can help us in developing the messages that we reach out to the global community when we invite them to participate more and more about the GAC.

Because ICANN in general, and let's be frank, for newcomers to engage in the different constituencies is not easy as such. I have seen that in my own country, Egypt, in the past. So I mean, [Man-al 0:48:10] is a big exception, but there are other cases that found it very difficult to engage within ICANN's constituencies.

So let's make this easier. So if I may propose, together with our different – Jamie [Head-lynn 0:48:25] if you would help us please to have some material to use as an engagement team in our outreach about the GAC, this would be superb and really would tailor the right message.

So that people see when we participate, what are we getting out of it? How to get in? What are the barriers? What are the issues as such?

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. I would certainly support having communications and reporting to the GAC so that it is a way for the GAC to be made aware of these activities that you outlined. Okay.

So we have UK, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, and [Na-roo 0:49:14], and then we really do need to, I think, conclude this session for today. So UK you are next please.

UK: Yes thank you Chair and good morning everybody, and thank you Tarek for your review of all the initiatives related to ICANN's reorientation of its international strategy outreach and capacity building initiatives. All

of which the UK very strongly supports and are very, very appreciative of that, and standby ready to assist you.

During this meeting, the UK has commonwealth member we convened an informal sort of coordination with fellow representatives from commonwealth member states.   And I work closely with the commonwealth secretariat on its internet governance initiatives, including the commonwealth internet governance forum, and the commonwealth cybercrime initiative.

ICANN is a partner in that initiative, that was really important component in capacity building to tackle cybercrime, to have ICANN with us. So that's fantastic.

And if there is any way that you feel the commonwealth can assist with the outreach and initiatives that you have, and plan, in the setting up of regional representation and so on, if there is any way that you feel the commonwealth can assist, I'd be happy to be a conduit to the commonwealth secretariat on that in pursing any ideas where we can help out.

I'm very keen to help you out on that with my commonwealth hat on. If I could just turn to the [wistis 0:51:05] review, this is the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005, the ten year review. I wonder if you can just say a little bit more about ICANN's strategy to ensure that all the review related events, and the General Assembly itself, are fully informed of ICANN's role in the internet ecosystem, and these key changes that you are implementing to ensure that ICANN is truly international, inclusive, and serving the global public interest?

We had a very good review of [NT NESCO 0:51:52], as you know, you were there and Fadi was there. We got the [wistis] forum coming up, and then there are other events, the planned high level meeting in [? 0:52:05] next year. But there is also the second committee in the General Assembly will be looking at this issue of the review and the future of the internet governance multi-stakeholder model later this year, in anticipation of the annual ICT for development resolution.

As I say, I just wonder if you can say a little bit more about how ICANN can engage as effectively as possible in all of that review process. Quite a complex distributed review if you like, a lot of events going on which governments need to get involved in and track, and also organizations like yourselves, rather than to the critical infrastructure of the internet, need to be there too.

So a few words about that, I would appreciate it. Thank you very much.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you very much. I'll start with a short answer and then ask Nigel to compliment with some more details. We have, for every event of this events, that you have mentioned a clear mission and a clear objective that we have tried to achieve as much as we can.

And for the WSIS very specifically, and as you said, the second committee, the UN General Assembly in 2015, we want three things: the IGF to continue beyond 2015 as a multi-stakeholder platform for internet governance and to be empowered; we want to keep all achievements about the multi-stakeholder model in the Tunis agenda and don't want any setbacks about the multi-stakeholder model.

Because it has really been the first time in the history of the UN for recognition of a functioning multi-stakeholder model, specifically paragraph 55 as such. And on the enhanced cooperation, we want a multi-stakeholder enhanced cooperation, not a government only enhanced cooperation.

For the rest, I will, what are we doing in each event? Nigel maybe you can say in details, and also commonwealth question, what are we doing with the commonwealths?

NIGEL HICKSON: Yes thank you for the question Mark, thank you Tarek. The commonwealth is clearly important to our overall strategies, and as Tarek said in the beginning, we take part in commonwealth initiatives. We work particularly closely with the commonwealth telecommunications organization, and we're taking part, as we have done, for the last couple of years in the cybercrime forum.

This year it's in Cameroon in a couple of weeks' time, and myself and Pierre will go and present with other community members at that important event. We also have a dialogue with the commonwealth secretariat, in terms of broadening our outreach in the commonwealth.

And of course, we participate in the commonwealth ITU group and the commonwealth IGF setting as well. And I think it's important that we take a broad perspective on these issues and engage. In terms of the World Summit on the Information Society, I think what you said is, of course, very important.

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And it's a long term strategy building up to the UN General Assembly probably considering the whole review process in the latter stages of 2015. And as Tarek said, we're engaged in that process. I mean, clearly our strategy is that to, if you like, preserve what we believe in the Tunis agenda has enabled the internet to be open, to be secure, to be [inter-operatable 0:55:47].

And we're, as you say, taking part in the various events. We contributed to the [NSCO 0:55:54] event with the colleagues in the [I-Star] community and with a number of players around the table here. And I think that was a very successful event. We look forward to, of course, to the I2 event in [? 0:56:06] in 2014.

The [Wistis 0:56:09] forum, taking place in a few weeks' time in Geneva, in parallel with the World Telecommunications Policy Forum. We'll have a workshop there with members of the community and other [I-Star] organizations.

And I think it's this engagement. I mean, clearly we're just one part of this internet ecosystem, but working with colleagues around the table and others, we hope certainly to preserve what we think has been very important.

In addition, let me just conclude that we're also having discussions with attachés in New York, and we think the UN General Assembly Second Committee, as you mentioned Mark, is very important, it has taken some very important decisions. The European Commission, and yourself, and other people around this table where instrumental in securing an excellent decision in the last second committee

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deliberations last fall, which enabled the working group on enhanced cooperation to be assembled under the chairmanship of Peter Major.

We are very pleased about that, and we look forward to the deliberations this fall in terms of the format of the final review process. And we're sure you as governments will ensure that that's a sensible outcome. So thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you Nigel. Baher can you say a few words please about our engagement with the IGF? So that the overall picture is clear?

BAHER ESMAT: Thank you Tarek. Just very briefly, I mean I'm part of the IGF multi-stakeholder advisor committee, the [MAG 0:57:49] and the [MAG] has met a month ago in Paris, and we had the open consultation session as well.

There was a call for proposals for workshops for the Bali meeting. The [MAG] is currently looking into the proposals and doing this sort of assessment that is done every year. And the second meeting for the [MAG] would be in May 21st to 23rd. And so preparation for the next meeting are on their way in terms of agenda, program, themes, and all of this.

As Tarek said, ICANN has been and continue to support the IGF as the platform for multi-stakeholder internet governance discussion. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:	Thank you Baher. So these, I think, are really important examples of the various forums out there where we can engage with governments in particular. There are others that you might want to consider, like [? 0:59:07], I don't see our colleague from [? 0:59:09] here, but that's I think the kind of forum available to ICANN and to colleagues in the GAC to talk about some of these issues.

So…

TAREK KAMEL:	…[? 0:59:27] and our engagement? And about [? 0:59:34] as well please.

NORA ABUSITTA:	Thank you. I'll start with the [WEF 0:59:45] and then I'll speak briefly about the [? 0:59:46] and I'll pass on to Pierre, because he is our primary contact with [? 0:59:53]. We officially started to engaging with the [WEF] this year as members.

And the way that we are approaching this is in a very scientific, and very organized manner where we have a presence in [Dabos 1:00:10] and then we have a presence in the regional events of the [WEF]. And we will be playing a role in the research, and the papers that will be produced by the [WEF].

Our objectives in engaging with the [WEF] are very, very clear. We want to make sure that there is a discussion about internet governance, and about the multi-stakeholder model in those arenas.

Obviously the [WEF] is also a great opportunity to engage with businesses or with entities that we previously did not have access to, or that were not interested in us. And the third thing is, that it's – where ever there is a chance for us to be present and to educate about what ICANN does, we're not going to say no.

So they've reached out to us, they have a big interest in working with us, and we thought it was a good place to work. For the [? 1:01:05], we believe that it's a great organization to work with on mainly capacity building, but on other things.

We're currently discussing ways of formalizing that collaboration. And I think Pierre can tell you a little bit more about that. But again, our focus is on capacity building, joint projects, where can we help and where they can help us.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you Nora. Lebanon you're next please.

LEBANON: Good morning every one. Good morning Doctor [? 1:01:40]. Your outreach effort of the ICANN, I mean the ICANN outreach effort is huge. You've heard all the positive feedback and I'm not going to repeat it. But we need to keep asking the question whether something is missing, based on what's being said all over.

I mean I keep hearing vocabulary that is, "We're going. We're getting there. We're spreading it." As almost we're spreading the Gospel,

which is okay, but is there something missing about actually listening to the people who are not with you, the people that are not with ICANN?

Lebanon is a newcomer to the GAC, and our arrival coincided with the arrival of the new leadership. [? 1:02:30] supports multi-stakholderism [sic], we are serious. And my presence and the person with me, I believe it's a good indication that Lebanon is very serious about this, otherwise we would not be here and we would not be as engaged, even though probably have given my colleagues a lot of hard time in the last ten days, but I'm not going to apologize.

Depending on the outcome of this event, we will really decide how to continue, or whether we continue or not. People are watching what's going on. There are people who are still skeptic. And the skepticism is based on the fact that even though they're here, the question is, is the GAC really being heard? Is the GAC advice being followed, or being listened to properly?

And from interactions with a lot of people in the past ten days here, nine days probably, that's not necessarily true, or at least a lot of people are doubting it. My information could be wrong, but to please check into it, the processes need to be adjusted.

The people around the table usually represent a large number of governments around the world, and it's not for the governments but also in many cases the multi-stakeholder environment in their environment, in their countries. And to make recommendations that are being ignored to some extent, or not being followed by the ICANN is not necessarily a good thing.

Again, my request is to really add to the vocabulary something about listening. The word engaging comes every now and then but I'm not sure I hear the word listening, you know working with them. Just tell them almost, you know, get in there, but also at the same time listening to the GAC and following more with their recommendation.

You know, in this meeting here, we disagree with each other as government, as we disagree with anything anywhere else. Believe me, we don't necessarily all gang up on the private sector, or whatever. We really talk about it and that's it. Thanks.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you. You touched on important issues, but I want to clarify. Engagement definitely includes listening on a regional level, as well as advocacy, as well as inviting participants to come and participate within the constituencies. On a regional level, from our point of view as staff, I choose that.

You are talking more about structure, relation between the GAC and the Board, and it's not ICANN's stuff in this case that really follow the advice of the GAC, but it is a matter of a Board decision that accepts the GAC advice, or asks for clarifications, or whatever.

And as far as I know, in most cases this has been the case, and maybe Heather can correct me if I am wrong. But I also want to tell you that there has been a huge improvement within the last years. Look at the affirmation of commitment, look at the ATRT 1, and now ATRT 2 is following.

So let's look at the evolution that has happened. Let's look where we have been five, and ten years ago, and where we are today. Let's look at today accountability and transparency is by far much different than it was in the past. ATRT 1, there has been a whole section about the relation between the GAC and the Board, and the recommendations have been implemented.

I'm not saying everything is necessarily perfect 100% or rosy, but there has been a huge improvement. And I think ATRT 2 will definitely help in that. But also, the more you participate, the more you are in. You let your voice heard, and you bring your concerns. This helps us as well within the overall interaction.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you Tarek. I think that there is always is room for improvement certainly. But there has been improvements, and sometimes the challenge for the GAC, and for governments, is to receive information about how things really do work, and how things have improved in situations where that is the case.

So I think to really follow up on what Lebanon is saying, is that there really is an opportunity here for activities undertaking by staff to be mutually reinforcing with that of the GAC. Because governments are represented at ICANN here. And so we really need to be your partners in communicating that information, and in strengthening this body to be the voice of governments and IGOs at ICANN.

So that's my view, and I certainly take Lebanon's intervention very well because I think he's touching on some important issues that we deal

with in a sense we're both wanting to strengthen ICANN, but strengthening the GAC is critical to that.

So Lebanon, you had a follow up.

LEBANON: I'll make it very quick. Doctor [? 1:08:05], in your answer, I'm sorry to say that you tried to say that it is between us and the Board. I really, as far as I'm concerned, it's the ICANN structure, the whole thing, whether it works together or not. And we are really keeping up to date on what's going on.

Even though there are improvements, people need to make sure that this body is listened to properly. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you Lebanon. Okay. I have Egypt, Turkey, then [Naroo 1:08:34]. Egypt please.

EGYPT: Thank you Chair. And like my colleagues from Latin America, I would also like to commend the regional engagement strategy initiatives, and the multi-stakeholder bottom up approach that has been followed.

And to also acknowledge the help and the coordination that are being provided from the ICANN side. Luckily Egypt holds within two regions, Africa and the Middle East, so we are looking forward to the implementation of both strategies with the help of Pierre and Baher, and to ultimately have a well-balanced representation from the region

to ICANN and also a mature DNS industry within both regions. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you Egypt. Okay. So Turkey, you're next please.

TURKEY: Thank you Chair. Good morning everyone. And thank you, Tarek, again for your very comprehensive and inclusive presentation. What a change. I've been with ICANN GAC since 2007, and I can see that with this engagement plan, hopefully the new ICANN will be much more effective in terms of governance issues as never done before.

And I'm very optimistic and very excited to be part of the new understanding that will be placed with new leadership. We'd also like to thank the new leadership, the Board, and the staff, and the management of ICANN for choosing Istanbul as next operational hub.

And we will do our best to contribute and to make sure that it is a successful operation of ICANN in Turkey. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you Turkey. Okay. And [Naroo] please.

MAN: Thank you Chair. I know that between you and coffee, so I'll just make this brief. I come from an area from the Pacific, which is known more for its palm trees and beaches rather than its internet issues. And to learn of this new [? 1:11:24] is very encouraging.

There is a saying in our area that somebody in the developed countries needs will get the flu. So internet governance is no exception. So again, with this new initiatives, I'm looking forward to, along with all of the other [? 1:11:45] which I help and I'm speaking for.

Incidentally, I think this is the most representation we've had from our region in ICANN meetings. I think there is eight or so [? 1:11:58] are represented in one form or another. In just closing, I would just like to thank [? 1:12:05] for his assistance and I look forward to working with him in the future. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you. I mean, if you realize how important the Pacific Islands together with Australia, we have a dedicated vice president for Australia and the Pacific Islands.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Okay. Well thank you very much for coming to present to us today, and inviting staff to join. Hungary, did you have a brief comment?

HUNGARY: Yes. I would like to thank you for the briefing and the information you gave us, and I just want to confirm that I had the impression that the new management is listening to GAC. And in particular, to governments. And to be more informal, you listen to me.

We had a nice conversation last October with Fadi, with you, about engagement to RGOs. And we could hear that it's happening. Probably

I cannot but commend the engagement of RTU, the good relationship which is forming, and I happy to hear about RGF, your support for RGF.

And I'm just happy to hear Baher in the CDC working group, and I hope to be working with him quite often. Thank you again.

CHAIR DRYDEN: So again, thank you all. And if the GAC can just stay seated for a few minutes, I'll describe what are next steps are for today. So thank you for this presentation.

TAREK KAMEL: You're very much, again I was delighted to provide this briefing.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Great. Okay. We look forward to next time [laughs].