

Heather Dryden: ...is this concept of a high level meeting for government, and we had a bit of discussion this morning in the Joint Working Group about that. So I would like to take a bit of time now to further elaborate what the level of interest would be among the GAC. Is this something that we want to pursue, and then we can discuss what an Agenda might look like, and what we need to do to make it happen.

So there will need to be some sort of request I think to ICANN, and maybe we would express that in communiqué and maybe you would ask the Chair to make a particular request to ICANN's staff in support of that. So we can think along those lines.

So to begin with, I think a couple of GAC members expressed their interest and their support that would be interested, you know in general what do we think of this idea? United States?

Suzanne Sene: Thank you, Heather, actually we support the idea and think it would be exceedingly useful. As you know, we were supportive of the initiative to try to have a comparable senior level exchange with Board Members in June, which a lot of us were I think mindful of, had a certain political dimension coming before the Planning Potentiary, and unfortunately, we weren't able to coordinate schedules with the Board at that time. So we were not able to do that.

I do think, this is just one suggestion to throw out, I would certainly welcome colleagues' views on perhaps we can further flush out the Agenda and a statement of purpose in a small working group, but then the larger GAC could think of. But it strikes me in terms of timing, that we will be completing our joint working group report, that will factor in some of the accountability and transparency recommendations, and since several of them are very significantly go to the very important issue that all of our respective managements care about, and that is the role of the GAC and ICANN.

So it could well be that completing that report might provide us with a good solid foundation for building an Agenda around that. Just a suggestion. Thank you.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you for that suggestion. Malta please.

Joseph Tabone:

Thank you very much Chair. I think that in a way my Commonwealth had, you know, this time, I see a very great of scope for the - an event such as that. I'm just in the process of really completing a series of you know regional meetings with (inaudible 0:03:01) Commonwealth countries. And you know one of the things that really appears to come out in very many of these places is really the - possibly the need certainly for the governments and to an extent senior officials and administrations to be more aware of the internet of ICANN and policies and designation that you need to have in various countries that are sort

of conducive to connectivity and the very impact that this would have in developmental unit terms.

So I think that it could be very, very important opportunity to really do this, provided I think as Suzanne said that you know we're very clear on the objectives, and you know we have a structured Agenda objectives, and really outcomes that we want you know for this meeting. I think that is a very, very good idea. Thank you.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you for that. Italy and then UK.

Stefano Trumpy:

Can you elaborate a little bit more about the possible Agenda in the sense that there should be an Agenda specific for this group, or this group is also invited to the GAC meeting or what that - then because I think that in order to convince from our side to talk to the Minister - Ministry - or Ministering Board we try to attract the participation of high level representative, then these people would like to know what is the Agenda, and what is the participation. They might like to have the GAC representative together with him, because apparently he in many cases doesn't know much about the ICANN problems and so on.

And then I add also the fact that perhaps if this meeting is one day, if there is a possibility to organize or to have some other event in San Francisco in this period, in this case that we want to do it in San Francisco in order they are more attracted because if one high

level representative says why should I come over for a half a day program, it is so far from home. And so it's something that has need to have a valid, very concrete, otherwise, because if their presence would be very reductive, then this is a failure.

So we have to prepare something like that very efficiently and otherwise the risk is that the majority will be GAC representatives that say okay, I represent the high level, and I'm here, if there is a meeting that is specific for within an Agenda, not connected with the Agenda of ICANN in the next March.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you. I think the short answer to your question is that there would be a specific program designed, aimed at high level officials so that perhaps you'd have a day or a day and a half designed with their interests in mind. And they would meet - I think the EU Commission talked about the importance of meeting with the Board and targeting them for an exchange.

And that's really the basic idea, the GAC meetings would be held as usual and would continue for the rest of the week, as they ordinary do, and presumably if participants in the high level meeting which to stay and observe those, then they would do so. So next I have the United Kingdom and then Netherlands.

Mark Carvell:

Thank you Chair. I just feel a little bit non pressed really about the question we have now, which is - okay, there's a proposal for a high level meeting, but there's no understanding of what the

objective of that would be. In the context of the accountability and the transparency review, I heard one explanation was that there is this issue of raising visibility within government administrations. I think as I said in my intervention in a previous session, for what maybe not all GAC members, but certainly the active GAC members of the colleagues here, we are already through the very nature of our work raising the profile of ICANN and the issues and the impact of the Affirmation of Commitments and so on at a very high level within government through briefing Ministers, reporting to Parliament and also for us in Europe, there's the Council of Ministers who get updates and briefs and so on.

So as I say I'm not - I'm not convinced that we're in a good position at the moment with the proposal for a high level meeting, but there is no objective, no vision of what needs to be decided in terms of concrete outputs that - relating to issues that warrant the resource and commitment of high level people in government, that might be Director Generals and Vice Ministers and so on. So I feel slightly sort of odd that we're now trying to construct something to justify the proposal in this way.

I think Malta's intervention was a relevant one in terms of the internet governance for development agenda which we've seen in the internet governance forum elevated to a main session theme, and the development issues as they relate to the management and coordination of the domain name system may be something we can examine in terms of outreach of the kind which the review team

has recommended and which, as I said, the UK does very much support that need for outreach.

So those are my sort of initial comments at this stage. I'll certainly work with colleagues here on trying to focus down on what it is that is going to shout out in a submission to Director General or Admission as to the crucial importance of your participation in a meeting in California which is long haul travel, very costly and at a time when governments are clawing back on an expenditure of this kind. Thanks.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you for that UK. I think it does need to be a compelling Agenda that we come up if we proceed. Okay, so next I have the Netherlands and Portugal and Kenya.

Thomas de Mann:

Thank you Heather. The same as Mark. We have some hesitations and the major hesitation is that I think if we have Director Generals or even Ministers, we should understand that at least in our administration we deal ICANN as a sole subject, but we deal it in the context of internet governance together with other organizations. So I would think that it's not - it will not be any, it will not be substantive if we only talk about ICANN and what's doing - been done within ICANN.

I think it would have some added value if you could position ICANN within the whole international arena and for example have issues like what's the best cooperation with ITU, since the Planning

Potentiary has also made some progress in starting or getting instructions to start cooperation. So I think we should take account probably many governments are showing the European Union we deal with this in a high level internet governance which we deal with IGF, ICANN, ITU and other things. So it would only have sense I think if we can couple it in the bigger picture. Thank you.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you Netherlands. Portugal?

Luis Magalhães:

Well, as a matter of fact I am going along very much about the intervention of Mark. I already had alluded in the previous session to this. The meeting of this type would only be justified with an appropriate Agenda to bring the people you are talking about to the meeting. There are several of the representatives at this table who are Director Generals, so it's up to the member states to represent at that level or not.

But so if we are talking about high level meeting to bring members of government, so Ministers, Vice Minister, whatsoever, quite frankly I'm very pessimistic. I don't see what to bring them to an entity whose job is the management of assigned numbers and names like ICANN unless there is a very critical issue to be dealt with which is it's accountability to governments. And I don't think it's a good idea to deal with this question this way.

So I believe first we'd better talk about the possible Agenda, the possible important topics to be discussed and if we have a clear

idea of what to do about them then we can consider how to advance but frankly, I'm not very excited about this idea, because I don't think it will lead anyway.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you, Portugal. Kenya, please.

Alice Munyua:

Thank you, Chair. I would like to concur you know with the colleagues who've spoken about getting - ensuring that the objectives are very, very clear. And also to keep in mind that while we may have a clear objective at the very - you know at that level, that some of us are regions - are in very different places.

Like one important objective perhaps for the East Africa region would be you know so-called outreach and awareness creation around you know internet governance in general. And I would - you know I think - I would want to see - you would want to see this meeting placed within that context of you know the internet and internet and development and perhaps how you know ICANN then relates as my colleague said to the ITU and all the other processes and not just have you know a meeting that looks specifically at ICANN.

I think I'd rather go the other way of looking at internet governance more broadly - you know just internet more broadly, looking at the internet and development rather than focusing specifically on ICANN and the fact that we're all in different places. Thanks.

Heather Dryden: Thank you Kenya. Are there any others? New Zealand please.

Frank March: Thank you Heather. I think the comment from Alice on behalf of Kenya is very, very appropriate. I've been struggling to think what sort of memo I would send to my senior management to excite them about the possibility of a trip to San Francisco within an ICANN context. It would be very difficult. In the wider context of internet governance and an appropriate role for government, yes, I can see that being a possibility, but that may well go well beyond the source of issues that perhaps the people who putting this idea forward may have in mind for it. Thank you.

Heather Dryden: Thank you New Zealand, I think you might be right. Switzerland please.

Thomas Schneider: Thank you. Well basically, I think there is a merit in discussing this because there might not be enough awareness on the issues we are discussing among let's say high level politicians, but I share the concerns with the people that if we would deal technical issues or talk about technical issues, that might not be something that we could win Ministers to travel to San Francisco or wherever, but if we would put the political and economic issues that might be the consequences of so-called technical decisions on the Agenda, then I'm sure that some Ministers would come.

But I think it's an idea that merits thinking that what has been said by Alice from Kenya. We might also use the IGF or something

like this to have a high level meeting with high level participation of ICANN and maybe ITU and others who think that they have a role in internet governance and discuss political aspects of internet governance.

This is something that we could think about, but I think some awareness raising about the political and economic consequence of technical decision is something that we would generally welcome. Thank you.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you Switzerland. Malta?

Joseph Tabone:

Yes, thank you very much. I think that to qualify - my first reaction to this and really supporting the event, I think does the value of it, I think has been pointed out by some of my colleagues really looking at this from - internet governance really standpoint, but most particularly I think where I was coming from in this that I see this as an opportunity to reach out to each of those countries who are not normally on this table. That's where I saw the major value of it. But then if we can combine it with really something where we can get really even a broader audience, but that's where I'm coming from in this that I saw it as a very good outreach opportunity. Thank you.

Heather Dryden:

Thank you Malta. Are there any other - France please?

Christian Tison: Thank you. I also believe that the main question is the question of the Agenda. We have to, if we do something we have to be in the - we have to offer attractive Agenda to Ministers with global and very political issues. Thank you.

Heather Dryden: Thank you for that. Are there any additional comments at this time, in particular on the Agenda? Brazil please.

Jose Hansem: Thank you. I think we are not totally convinced yet about the idea about having all this input is important to have that verification about that. For me it's particularly difficult to think on inviting - an invitation for a high level meeting when at the same time we are discussing with the Board when - if the way that the GAC advice should be considered or not.

Maybe these willingness and efforts of GAC of inviting the high level meeting, this should be seen by the Board as a - and take into consideration by the Board regard - and also make some understanding about that regarding the importance of considering GAC advice and so on.

But except from this, we would like to express our - our agreement with the idea proposed by Switzerland about discussing a possible Agenda would be discussing to impact of the technical decisions that are - that are taken here in - by the ICANN. I think that we should keep within the scope of ICANN, within the scope of the neutral and technical aspect of - of this organization. Thank you.

Heather Dryden: Thank you Brazil. Okay, ah, you Commission.

Michael Niebel: Thank you. We do think it could indeed be an opportunity but the challenge has been outlined. It's no use to try to get people there if they don't have the feeling that they're there makes a difference. So we have to make the case it makes a difference, and I think there has been endeavors to do this by expanding the subject matter and that doesn't mean that there's nothing politically to be discussed in the ICANN context.

On the contrary, the issue is only that it's expanded beyond the ICANN context to internet governance. But the real issue is also - we all know, we need a critical mass of if we talk high level political of Ministers to be there, because otherwise it's a risky operation, you have a couple of Ministers and that's it, then it might even fire back.

So the real issue is then having an agenda that is attractive that is something that couldn't be dealt with in the same effective manner at the working level, and that makes a difference and convinces and attracts enough people to come at that kind of level.

Heather Dryden: Thank you, I think that's very helpful. All right, are there any more requests on this topic? All right. So there seems to be tentative openness to the possibility of holding such a meeting. We have a range of suggestions for what might go on that Agenda.

But I think there is agreement that it needs to an appropriate and attractive agenda, and in terms of ensuring that we have high level people attend, it's a matter, I think of getting invitations out in time and giving suitable notice to various GAC members, and those that don't participate in the GAC to consider.

So in terms of what we do next. We could set up a working group or we could do it as a GAC on the GAC list to further discussion of an Agenda. If we can come to some kind of general agreement as to what that may be and that the objective of - of increasing the profile of the work that's conducted in the GAC and at ICANN whether it's the technical aspects or the accountability and transparency, that kind of thing, whether that is a strong enough attraction for what we're proposing, then we could move ahead after that.

So can we perhaps create a working group to come up with a proposal perhaps in the next couple of weeks, mid January, something like that? Reactions or alternative proposals on what to do next? You, Commission.

William Dee:

Yes, I think the idea about the working group, but both working group and off line and maybe the - if there is a working group, it should already start here and now almost, that's number one.

The second thing is it came to my mind when you said invitations have to be out. Who's going to - and the person that invites, is it the Canadian Minister as the kind of the appropriate level of the GAC or what is your thoughts about that? Thanks.

Heather Dryden:

Well, I haven't considered that in great detail. But presumably the Chair could invite, or the Chair could invite jointly with the CEO or the Chair of the Board of ICANN, something like that, but I mean that's something that the working group could consider. Because we have a few days still in Cartagena, let's discuss informally among ourselves and create time as part of our discussions Tuesday morning, just to check in on where we're at, where we think we might have agreement or a way forward on this. Does that seem reasonable?

Okay. I have a bit of nodding, not a great deal of nodding, but okay, all right. So let's reflect a little bit more on that. Okay.

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