
MARRAKECH – GAC High Level Governmental Meeting
Monday, March 07, 2016 – 10:00 to 18:00 WET
ICANN55 | Marrakech, Morocco

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Dear fellow ministers, dear Mr. Chairman, the CEO of ICANN will be here in a minute. He is with cameras and with the media. He will be here in a minute.

Dear General Director of ICANN, fellow ministers, in the name of my Majesty Mohammed VI, I would like to welcome you to the Kingdom of Morocco and specifically to Marrakech. We thank you for having accepted our invitation to participate at the third High-Level Governmental Meeting of the Governmental Advisory Committee, the GAC, that is sponsored by His Majesty, our King in Morocco.

I have the honor of being the chair of this meeting, and I'm glad to do so with Mr. Thomas Schneider here to my side. He is the chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee. This is our third High-Level Government Meeting simultaneously with the 55th ICANN meeting. It is the first ever to be held in Africa and in the Arab world, which proves that ICANN is willing to be more open towards the world and to go on with its inclusive project.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

This meeting, which is held every two years, has the main purpose of working on the outreach towards higher-level government representatives of the democratic, cultural, and strategic level of governance of the Internet. And we wish to increase the support and the participation of governments in the multistakeholder process that ICANN follows.

In this meeting, governments show their will to participate at essential discussions which will have major consequences on the governance of Internet throughout the world.

Today it is a true pleasure to see so many ministers and so many representatives take part in this meeting which translates into the support of ICANN in its work, and it shows the collective will to consolidate, enhance, and improve the contributions of this organization to the world's Internet governance.

This also proves how important it is to us, representatives of our governments within the GAC, to contribute to the collective efforts, wishing to adapt and evolve the multistakeholder Internet governance model to serve our citizens and our communities' interests.

Ladies and gentlemen, this third High-Level Governmental Meeting takes place within the framework of our discussions on the governance of the Internet, which started in 2015 in Brazil,

and after the General Assembly of the United Nations last year, which reviewed the results of ten years of work after the WSIS.

The transition under way should further enhance ICANN's works to take into account the state's legitimate interest and to guarantee a common management of resources by respecting cultural diversity and the balance of the different interests of developing countries.

The evolution of Internet in the world represents a fundamental driver for this resource which has gone from 100,000 people connected in 1998 to over 3 billion people today. The negotiation process that we all participate in since March 2014 is a real platform for cooperation to communicate and decide to exchange experiences, to enhance our mutual comprehension, and to create more common grounds to respond to the interests of all of the parties, all of the stakeholders.

ICANN's accountability efforts show real concerns, and the work that's been done is important and will allow us to go on with this process of evolution and inclusion. Developed and developing countries could both learn from one another and focus on the benefits of the Internet resources and their impact on the economic, social, and cultural development.

The Kingdom of Morocco joined ICANN early on after its creation in '98 and measures the importance of the work that's been

done, of the summits held, and all the work that's been realized in order to foster the Internet. The Kingdom of Morocco shares the expectations and the worries of the different governments that form the GAC and the way in which they act for the public interest, for it to be taken into account within the framework of the transition process that's under way.

Morocco, having shared with Africa one of its priorities on the inclusion and following the orders of its -- his majesty, is a party to this meeting. We had a meeting of African ministers yesterday at which we discussed matters related to the importance of Internet, to the governance of Internet, to the contributions of Africa and to the importance of participation of our countries within the GAC.

Ladies and gentlemen, the schedule that we have circulated will have four sessions, each dedicated to a key subject that revolve around the debates on the transitions. That will allow us to make recommendations on the relevant subjects to the different governments.

The presentations will analyze the discussions that we will hold throughout the day, and they will be elements that will allow us to add precision and clarity to these matters.

We expect to discuss other subjects regarding the evolution of the Internet which will prevail as a way of life and which will

allow us to think of different economic, cultural, and social systems.

I would like to thank the members of the panel for having accepted to contribute to our debates today.

Let me remind you that the High-Level Governmental Meeting is an event that was organized in collaboration with the Governmental Advisory Committee. And I would like to add three comments on the way we will work today. Firstly, the audience can follow our debates in real time, whether by being physically present at this meeting or else via the Internet. The transcripts will be publicly available to the audience, to the general public. You can also talk to one of the people who are available here, and then at each session after the panelist presentations, we will have a list of people wishing to take the floor.

Finally, if the speakers go too fast for the interpreters, I will let them know. As you know, we have interpreters who are translating everything we say into the U.N. languages and Portuguese. Right?

So we have a schedule which is very full. The agenda for today is full of subjects to be discussed, and I hope we will manage to get to the end.

For practical reasons, the time that each delegation will have should be no more than three minutes so that all the participants have a chance to contribute to the debate.

As discussed, (indiscernible) ministers will have priority in taking the floor. And before we start with session number one, I would like to invite the former host of the two High-Level Governmental Meeting that were held before, Canada and the United Kingdom, to share with us their considerations and what was done since Toronto and since London and to tell us about why they think the Moroccan meeting, the meeting of Marrakech is so important to Internet governance.

I will now give the floor to the Vice Minister of Canada, Mrs. Kelly Gillis.

KELLY GILLIS:

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have the pleasure of being here today, and I am here in the name of the minister who couldn't be here himself.

Canada thanks the Kingdom of Morocco for having welcomed us so warmly to hold the third High-Level Governmental Meeting organized by the GAC.

High-level meeting, we consider these meetings important for the strengthening of a collective understanding and awareness

of ICANN, and the various public-policy issues relating to ICANN's tactical role.

The GAC committee has been meeting since 1998, but since its first meeting in 1998 it's become an important committee and now has a major consulting role for ICANN. We are advisors with an important role.

The different governments are now over 150 participating at the committee. The advice given by the GAC to the ICANN Board are more and more considered, and that reflects the importance of our consensual advice.

The discussions of the GAC for the TLDs, the gTLDs constitute important matters and the aim to solve the problems that have been existing for a while now. So I encourage the GAC to go on working towards this aim, and I commend them for going on working with the different governments to agree on a common solution.

Come online. It will be important to ensure that together, with their governments, they can contribute and influence outcomes as part of ICANN's multistakeholder decision-making processes. The work in developing a proposal to transition the U.S. role and enhance ICANN's accountability is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of the multistakeholder model.

As a well-functioning, transparent agile GAC anchored in ICANN is a key component of this model. Let us work together to achieve concrete outcomes.

Merci.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. If you will allow me, I will now give the floor to minister of State and the digital economy of the United Kingdom.

ED VAIZEY: Thank you very much, I am very glad to be here.

First of all, it is a great pleasure to host the high-level meeting in London in 2014. I thought at the time I should have a farewell video like Fadi just had, having worked for four years on these issues, because we had a general election coming up. But I'm grateful that the British public reelected me and my government and that my Prime Minister put me back in position in order to say farewell to Fadi, which I will say in a minute.

I want to say thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to bring us where we are today, particularly I want to say thank you to His Excellency the minister and to the Mikey O'Connor Moroccan government for hosting such a successful meeting. It

exceeds what London achieved in terms of ministerial and delegate attendance, so it's a great achievement of the Moroccan government. But it also recognizes where we've come with this extraordinary process of the IANA transition and the new role for ICANN, and it's been two years of very hard labor and millions and millions of air miles and hundreds of thousands of emails. And I'm very much hoping that we'll conclude the process today.

We are, I think, 99% of the way there and I think that we are in the process of getting to 100%. And I'm pleased to say that we've made such important process -- progress.

And I'm pleased to say that we made such important progress on the role of GAC within ICANN. And it's interesting to hear different people's views on that role. But I, for one, am extremely comfortable with the ability that the GAC now has to engage at all levels in ICANN's processes. And I hope that that is recognized across the piece.

So I just want to say that I think today's meeting is going to be extremely important. But we are within touching distance of the successful conclusion of a process that I think maybe three or four years ago people would have said couldn't have been achieved.

And I want to take my opportunity, as I wasn't in the video, Fadi, to say thank you for everything that you and your team have achieved in this work. Steve Crocker mentioned your work on the top-level domain names. Again, I remember that process vividly with a lot of people saying that it would be a catastrophe. And, in fact, it went incredibly smoothly. And it's gone smoothly ever since it's gone through.

And also the way that you have turned ICANN into an outward-looking organization with a global presence. And those things are extraordinarily important.

And it was a great pleasure as well to meet your wife today. Very nice to see a person who has, obviously, had to put up with a great deal over the last four years.

And, finally, I want to say that, although I am unstinting in my admiration for Fadi Chehade, you have to watch your back with him. You know, when he became the head of ICANN, I had two wonderful people I worked with on these processes in my government environment. He took one of them. So just be careful, whichever organizations take him on. Keep hold of your officials very closely. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you, Mr. Minister. If you will, we're now going to start with the first session, if that's okay with you. The first session will deal with the IANA stewardship transition outcomes. I'm going give the floor to Mr. Thomas Schneider.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Your Excellency, ministers, and representatives of governments and of international organizations, dear colleagues, I would first like to thank his excellence, the Minister of Morocco and his team, which includes Redouane Houssaini, for all the efforts that they've made in order to enable this meeting. It was a lot of work for them.

I was a part of the organization of it, so I know what I was speaking of. I was impressed by the big names of participants who are here today. It is a very high-level meeting. And it's truly a positive surprise for us as well.

It is an honor for me to present the first subject that's on the agenda for today. The agenda is quite full. It's packed. And we wish to maximize the use of our time, so I won't take long to present this subject. I wish then to give the rest of you the floor to share your views on the subject with us.

I will first give the floor to Fadi then who will talk to us about the transition of the IANA stewardship. Thank you, Fadi. You have the floor.

FADI CHEHADE:

First, my sincere thanks to the chairman for inviting me. Minister Elalamy, thank you. And my thanks, obviously, also to King Mohammed VI. May God protect him for inviting and having us in his beautiful country here under his patronage.

Before I share a few words about where we are on the transition, I'd like to thank, myself, someone. I know that I'm going to spend a week being thanked. But I'd like to thank someone who has made a huge difference at ICANN and a huge difference in many of the things you attribute to my success. And I mean that in every way.

I want to thank Thomas Schneider for being a very, very good partner, an excellent GAC chairman, one that put his heart into his job and his mind and his cool Swiss way to keep things moving forward. So thank you for that, Thomas. You've been a superb partner.

[Applause]

And I cannot thank you without thanking also your government, represented here by Philipp Metzger and others who have done

a remarkable job playing that role. So thank you for that. And I hope ICANN will be blessed with many more of your years and many more GAC chairmen and chairwomen that can follow your example.

The last four years have been a clash of vertical and horizontal models. Governments belong in a very well-structured and established and proven vertical model. ICANN and the multistakeholder model are horizontal models. They're transnational. They're different. They're not better. They're just different.

And so we see that clash all the time. And nowhere more than right here in a room of governments, governments that care deeply about their citizens, about the good support of the publics they're responsible for, and an ICANN community that comes transversely in a way, horizontally, to actually build the resource that does not understand borders and vertical lines.

And how do these two work together? And the first question is do they work together? Or is one to be declared the winner; and, therefore, the other one is not to be aligned with it?

I think at ICANN today, especially with this wonderful gathering here, we can say that these two models can co-exist. These two models can co-exist. We can have a multistakeholder dialogue

that engages and includes the vertical dialogue of governments. One cannot eliminate the other.

And it is in that intersection that ICANN lives. The role of governments at ICANN is essential. It is important. Without it we do not have a multistakeholder community.

And today I am here to join you to say that the transition of ICANN, whilst by some viewed as, on one extreme, independent from one government, and by another extreme as the end of the role of governments in ICANN, is neither. It's neither. It's actually a point where we're starting to understand the respective roles of all parties in building a true transnational policy model for the management of a critical resource for the world.

And history -- and, again, I promised myself I won't use the word "historic," because it's overused. But I will say history will record what we are doing this weekend. Are we able to actually find that intersection and define it and make it work? Because it's been working for 20 years. Obviously, when is the last time you typed www.ibm.com and ended up at siemens? It works. It works. What we are responsible for works.

The question is: Can we continue doing this without one government giving us that mandate? And to do so we need to establish new mechanisms of accountability where all parties --

and I hope that is unequivocal that "all parties" includes governments -- all parties participate in how that accountability works. I cannot fathom -- that's Fadi speaking now -- how are we going to have community powers handed to some people but not to governments as well? They need to be part of that equation. That is important. Now, within balanced approaches that everybody gets their role played as they should. And the governments have been an excellent advisor to ICANN. You have guided us. You have shown us when we were off the track. We have taken your advice most seriously with great attention, as we should, as we should. And we shall, hopefully, continue to.

So, please, as we get into the details of page 356, Section A, fourth line on Tuesday and Wednesday, today, on Monday, let us rise above this moment. Let us understand what we are doing.

And I assure you, heading from here to be also spending some time at Harvard's Kennedy School and at Oxford, I will be there working with many academics and students to figure out how are we going to take this amazing -- what I called this morning magical place called ICANN and -- of which you are part, of which you are part, have been and will be, how do we take this and apply it to the next layer of issues that are not ICANN's? How are we going to deal with cybersecurity issues that are growing, cyber warfare issues, issues of child protection, issues

of human rights, all the non-ICANN issues that also need to be handled somewhere and somehow?

And I hope what we achieve today becomes a beacon of how, of how governments, the private sector, civil society, and others can come together in an intersection and work on providing good global transnational public policy that solves real issues for people that we are suffering from today and will grow.

Today 15 billion sensors are connected to the Internet today. Stanford predicts that by 2030, 100 trillion things will be connected to the Internet, including probably my heart and your hand. Everything will be on the network. What is the framework to governments? What is the public policy to govern this?

So the model we are agreeing here may not be "the" model. But it's a reference model. And guess what? It's worked. Not perfectly. But it's worked. Let's make it complete. Let's prove to the world that a model that is not legitimized by one contract or one government but rather legitimized by all of us coming together is possible, is feasible. So thank you. And good luck to all of us today. And, once again, I cannot tell you how this room makes me happy as I step away from ICANN. Watching all of you engaged and the team sending me every day, "Oh, we have one more delegation, one more delegation. We're at almost 100 delegations." Plus all of you from the IGOs that grace us here

with your presence, your attention, and your advice. We need you. We thank you. And we hope you have a wonderful day here. Thank you.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much, Fadi.

We're going now to give the floor to Mr. Larry Strickling, State Secretary for Communications for the Department of Commerce of the United States.

LARRY STRICKLING: I'm pleased to be here today at the third high-level governmental meeting at ICANN. And I would certainly like to thank the government of Morocco for the invitation to speak and, in particular, Minister Elalamy for his hospitality and generosity that he's extended to every one of us. I'd like to thank Kelly Gillis from Canada and Ed Vaizey from the United Kingdom. These meetings are the result of the work of ICANN's first accountability and transparency review team, which recommended holding these meetings to increase the level of support and commitment of governments to the ICANN multistakeholder model.

Canada, as we heard, hosted the first of these meetings in Toronto in 2012 where participants affirmed the importance of the multistakeholder and made recommendations for improving ICANN's accountability. These recommendations were affirmed in the second accountability and transparency review team report in 2013.

We came back together at the second high-level meeting in London in 2014, which provided ministers and senior officials the opportunity to announce their support for the IANA transition which we had just announced in the United States in March of that year.

And, since that first meeting in Toronto, and the second meeting in London, we've seen ICANN mature as an organization and take important steps to improve its accountability and transparency.

Today in Marrakech we are at an important crossroads as the stakeholder community completes its proposal to transition the stewardship of the United States government over the IANA functions that has existed since the creation of ICANN 18 years ago.

At this historical moment, I want to recap why the transition of the U.S. government stewardship role of the Internet domain name system is so important for the Internet.

From the inception of ICANN in 1998, the United States government envisioned that its stewardship role would be temporary. At that time we made a commitment to privatize the domain name system because we recognized that a private coordinating process based on multistakeholder governance would be more flexible than government control and would change rapidly enough to meet the needs of the Internet and Internet users.

The Internet has grown and thrived largely because of the multitudes of folks who have come together from around the globe through multistakeholder processes to solve technical and policy challenges on a consensus basis.

The U.S. government has been a strong proponent of this model. And we believed in 2014 and still believe today that transitioning our stewardship role is the best path to preserving and strengthening the multistakeholder model that has worked so well. This model has demonstrated over the years that it is a powerful mechanism to protecting the Internet as an engine of economic growth, job creation, innovation, and free speech. Two years have passed since we announced our intent to complete the privatization of the domain name system. And much has happened since then, as the community has risen to the challenge to develop a transition plan that has broad community support.

The efforts to date represent the largest multistakeholder process ever undertaken. Stakeholders have spent more than 26,000 working hours on the proposal. They've exchanged more than 33,000 messages on mailing lists, and they've held more than 600 meetings and calls.

Now, by its very nature, the multistakeholder process is not easy. It requires the commitment of stakeholders to work together to reach consensus decisions. They need to operate in an open, transparent, and accountable manner. The proceedings can be contentious and, indeed, chaotic at times. There's give and take. And rarely does anyone get everything he or she wants. But, at the end of the day, it's about reaching agreement after taking all views into account.

Over the last two years, the members of the IANA transition coordination working group and the ICANN cross-community working group on accountability have worked tirelessly to develop the two elements of the IANA transition stewardship proposal. Scoping the issues, understanding the challenges, working through the various scenarios, and then engaging with the various ICANN constituency groups along the way was not easy. But both the ICG and the CCWG showed incredible determination, focus, and then the flexibility to adjust as conditions required.

For its part, the CCWG has considered a series of options to empower the community ranging from a multi-member model to a sole-member model before finally setting on the current proposal of a sole designator. They've done this without ever losing sight of the overall goal to provide the community with meaningful governance protections.

I applaud all those who participated in and contributed to the ICG and CCWG processes, which worked through a set of very complex issues. ICANN is stronger today as a result of this effort. And a successful outcome here will serve as a powerful example to the world of the power and capability of the multistakeholder model to solve difficult issues regarding the Internet.

Looking back on this two-year effort, let me ask is there any question whether we were correct to call on the multistakeholder community to develop the transition proposal? I believe without a doubt that we were correct.

Could any other process have brought together the views and ideas of so many people in such a short period of time to solve such complicated and important issues? I don't think so. The collaboration among diverse interests that is on the verge of receiving final community support is a true testament to the multistakeholder model.

So what's next? Assuming final approval of the plan by chartering organizations in the next couple days, we expect the Board to transmit its proposal to us this week. Once we receive the transition proposal, we will review it, hopefully, within 90 days, to ensure that it meets the criteria that we outlined when we announced the transition. And let me remind you of the specific conditions that we said the plan must satisfy. First, the proposal must support and enhance the multistakeholder model of Internet governance in that it should be developed by the multistakeholder community and have broad community support.

More specifically, we will not accept a transition proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or intergovernmental organization solution.

Second, the proposal must maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the domain name system. Third, it must meet the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the IANA functions. And, finally, it must maintain the openness of the Internet.

As promptly as we can, we will carefully evaluate the proposal and measure it against these criteria.

In this effort we will be joined by other agencies of the U.S. government that will be impacted by the transition.

The U.S. Congress has a strong interest in this proposal, and we expect Congress to closely monitor and review the proposal as well as our evaluation of the plan.

As I look back on the past couple of years since we announced our intent to transition our role, I am even more confident in the ability of the multistakeholder community to continue to successfully resolve the many pressing policy and technical challenges of the global Internet.

I also believe our announcement two years ago has helped to catalyze and build support for the model around the world.

One month after our announcement, Brazil hosted the successful NETmundial conference. That conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including technical experts, civil society groups, industry representatives, and government officials who agreed that Internet governance should be built on democratic, multistakeholder processes.

As I already mentioned, Minister Vaizey hosted a high-level meeting at the June 2014 ICANN meeting in London in which ministers demonstrated their support for the transition and for the multistakeholder model in general.

And then at the end of 2014 the International Telecommunications Union's plenipotentiary conference in

Busan, Korea, concluded with a consensus outcome that the ITU should remain focused on its current mandate and not expand its role into Internet and cybersecurity issues.

We saw this momentum carry over into 2015. India, the world's largest democracy, announced its support for the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance at the June ICANN meeting in Argentina.

And, finally, in December the international community provided another boost to the multistakeholder model when the United Nations' high-level meeting on the 10-year review of the World Summit on Information Society agreed to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for an additional 10 years. This extension is twice the length of IGF's original 5-year mandate. The final outcomes document includes language that affirms of the primacy of the multistakeholder approach to developing the information society.

This year marks the final year of the Obama Administration. In our remaining time we will remain active and engaged around the globe whether it is at ICANN, the IGF, or in any other venue where these issues will be debated and discussed.

The OECD ministerial in June will provide yet another opportunity to reflect on and assess the OECD Internet policy

making principles which depend on the multistakeholder model and are linked to the NETmundial outcomes document.

So, in closing, every one of us has a stake in ensuring the continued growth, job formation, and wealth creation that an open Internet brings.

I urge all of you to work to preserve and grow this vibrant platform of innovation, economic growth, and free suppression. Thank you for listening.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: Thank you very much for your intervention. Now we're going to debate, and we already have a few people that registered to speak eight speeches. So let's start right away.

Mr. Prasad, Minister of Communication and Technology -- Information Technology from India, could you please take the floor?

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Elalamy, distinguished minister of the government of Morocco, my thanks to you for the wonderful hospitality in your lovely country. Mr. Steve Crocker, Fadi, distinguished minister, it is for the first time that I'm attending ICANN conference. I spoke

to technology in Buenos Aires where we conveyed India's support to the multistakeholder model. Let me now begin with some of the experiences of India and explain as to why I chose to support this model.

India today is home to one billion mobile phones. The subscriber base of Internet is 400 million. And it rose to 400 from 300 in just one year. In India we are experiencing a big digital identity of Indians, where 980 million Indians today are on digital identity platform for delivery of services including subsidiary other programs. Under leadership of our prime minister, (indiscernible) Narendra Modi we have undertaken some very transformative programs designed to empower India and create a knowledge economy. Digital India, making India, skill India, start-up India, smart cities all have a common theme, to use the Internet to make an inclusive society powered by new digital economy. And we are here today to bank upon that experience, including promoting innovation, coming with further programs like banking the unbanked, funding the unfunded, pensioning the unpensioned, securing and unsecure, and also supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Based upon our own experience of India, we have been following multistakeholder model where we respect the views of stakeholder across the board. The large pool of technical people, the private enterprise, the academia, and the very

vibrant civil society of India powered by democracy and free speech. And we want to share that experience when today we are supporting that model as far as the new architecture of Indian Internet governance is concerned.

We firmly hold the view that Internet is one of the finest creations of human mind, and it should not remain the monopoly of few. We instinctively value Internet as free, open, plural, and inclusive and the access must be without discrimination.

Having said that, it is equally important that while this finest creation of human mind is there it is sought to be abused by few to foment terror, to cause cybercrime, to unleash violence by abusing dark web and other instruments. Therefore, the role of the government as an important stakeholder is relevant because it is their obligation to give security and safety to the people of India. Therefore while -- and anybody in the world. Therefore while fully supporting this model of multistakeholder, Mr. Chairman, we would like to ensure the government's role as an important stakeholder needs to be recognized. What is the beauty of Internet? It is available for all. It is used by all. Yet it is owned by none. If Internet is global, it must have a linkage with the local. Both in terms of content, in terms of local languages. And diversity of representation ought to be ensured because the

next billion of Internet users is going to come from developing and emerging economies. That we need to understand.

We can share the experience of India because the shared diversity of India is phenomenal. Yet we manage it with the platform of democracy and sharing of ideas. Critical resources also needs to be well spread and properly shared.

We fully support the transition of IANA. We wish the process to conclude at the earliest, taking all the stakeholders on board. We also want accountable -- accountability process also to conclude where sustain a third of the global Internet community is required to be recognized. And lastly, today we would like to have a constructive engagement with a new architecture of Internet governance. And Mr. Chairman, I want to assure very clearly to all my colleagues and friends present here that the voice of India would be one of moderation and of conciliation to seek a better world created by Internet.

A word of my personal thanks to Fadi. I met you a couple of times but I must tell you, you left a very lasting impression. Your role in the spread of this movement I have seen myself. My warm greetings, and also, my warm good wishes to the new CEO and president, Mr. Goran Marby. Thanks a lot.

(Applause)

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I just want to remind you that we're going to have to limit the interventions to three minutes. I am sorry about that. We have a long list. So please, no more than three minutes for your speeches.

I'm going to give the floor to Dr. Choguef Kokalla Maiga, Minister of Digital Economy from Mali. Please, no more than three minutes.

CHOGUEF KOKALLA MAIGA: Going to follow your advice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I'm going to go to the core of my speech. Our technologies, new technologies, information communication, is a great opportunity for Africa so that we have a strong development and transformation for education, health, good governance and human development. Our critical resources for Internet for domain names and IP addresses do represent a key for access to digital economy for Africans, and I would like to talk today as the president of African -- the African Union group of ministers. For us Africans to distribute those resources is extremely important. It has to be fair, it has to be transparent, and it has to be secure so that we can build a trust, a strong trust in the use of Internet. And so that we can develop our economies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, two points are very important for me. And a key point .AFRICA, .AFRICA and .ML which represent my country of Mali. Regarding .AFRICA, I am very happy that the Board, that the ICANN Board, adopted a decision so that we are going to be able to go forward with .AFRICA. And I would like to thank the Board, the ICANN Board, by saying it is extremely important for the African continent to not delay it anymore. Because we did delay this .AFRICA issue for a long time, which was not good for Africa and for the people of Africa that wants to contribute to digital economy. Our friends, our ministers, do agree we need to have more ccTLD and better ccTLDs. That's why I would like to talk about my country .ML for Mali. It was transferred and activated in September '93 on the IANA servers and then it was transferred from the operator, the first operator to another agency, and when you do -- and you try to find better solutions for domain names, the agency had a contract with a private company --

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: I'm sorry, sir, you're over three minutes, so please conclude, sir.

CHOGUEF KOKALLA MAIGA: So let me conclude. I want to say that it's extremely important for us that the ICANN Board and higher authorities work with the African Union and the Francophonie organization so that Mali

has this important tool and be able to manage .ML. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: Thank you very much for your intervention, sir, and we're going to give the floor to Mr. Conny Wahlstrom in charge of urban development and information technology from Sweden.

CONNIE WAHLSTROM: Mr. Chairman, first my thanks to the government of Morocco for their great hospitality and for hosting this important conference. My thanks also to all the members in GAC and in the other working groups. Everyone has worked very hard to make this possible, to come as far as we have today. And, of course, we all know the enormous importance of the Internet for our societies today for innovation and economic development, for social prosperity and inclusion and for democracy and human rights.

We have come a long way since 1998 and the NTIA white paper that's incorporated ICANN. And we are so grateful for everything that USA has done for the handover of manage the DNS to the private sector. The initiative on the transition for oversight of the IANA functions is only the most recent example of this. This would increase the global trust ICANN's multistakeholder model.

We have taken great strides in building a properly-balanced multistakeholder model. Yet this is very much a (indiscernible) in progress. Even after the IANA transition is completed, we should continue working to improve the system. In fact, we can start thinking right now about how to best review the new system.

One instrument we already have at hand are the ICANN accountability and transparency reviews. I believe today we can start to put the case to begin with such a review. So I'm very glad that the work is moving in the right direction. But I'm also sure that all of us realize that this is a part of an ongoing process, a process for positive change for ICANN that does not and should not end in September. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause)

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: Thank you very much. Thank you for being under three minutes. I'm going to give the floor to Mr. Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice Minister of Japan.

YASUO SAKAMOTO: Thank you very much, Chairman. The current development of the Internet is, needless to say, greatly achieved owing to the multistakeholder approach in ICANN which has supported the

management of the Internet for more than a decade. The IANA stewardship transition process which has been realized with NTIA's brave decision is a complete and ambitious action. We are sure it will strengthen the current framework of Internet governance. And therefore, we would like to iterate our support for the above-mentioned process.

On the other hand, not all people fully recognize the importance of the multistakeholder approach. It is our responsibility to create and show the concrete best practices of the multistakeholder approach with the transition.

I'd like to share such recognition and goal with all of you. Enhancing ICANN accountability remains a challenge in ICANN 55. There are divergent views among stakeholders where we sometimes face challenges. However, the practice of the mature multistakeholder approach can be shown as a result of intensive discussion on this important issue of the transition. To show such best practices of the multistakeholder approach, we are expecting all stakeholders to reach a consensus in this meeting, based on the spirit of mutual respect for each other. The speed is also an important aspect. We hope that the final proposal will be successfully implemented in early days after ICANN review and U.S. government processes. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: Thank you very much. I'll now give the floor to Rachid Ismailov coming from Russia, Federation of Russia.

RACHID ISMAILOV: I would like to express my thanks to the Moroccan colleagues for their hospitality and warm welcome. Exactly two years ago in March 2014 NTIA made an announcement about the transfer of stewardship formulating the main principles for their process to begin. This was indeed a revolutionary step. At the time everyone understood that the contract of IANA functions creates an asymmetrical Internet governance situation. The NTIA announcement formulated it like this, that other governments cannot interfere with the governance. We had to accept the terms, although we never shared the concern that the governments would present a threat to democratic Internet governance.

Then the contract was renewed for another year because NTIA was not sufficiently satisfied by the proposal and by the development of the necessary procedures for the transfer for the transition to take place. We were very concerned by the debates in the U.S. Congress around these issues because they demonstrated many contradictions. Let me emphasize internal contradictions that exist inside the United States. We became

even more concerned by the statement made by Ted Cruz when he -- when he condemned what was said in Beijing in 2015. It appears that ICANN will remain a U.S. corporation and will -- and will be a U.S. actor so that the functions NTIA will somehow be dissolved within the ICANN procedures and be totally applied on the U.S. ground. We hope that this will be a temporary situation because at this moment ICANN is not an international organization. However, we are still hopeful in regard to the transfer of the stewardship and we have talked to the U.S. representative and we are very hopeful that international mechanisms will be involved and ICANN will truly become an internationalized organization. There are still many challenges, and I would like to offer all my best wishes for transforming ICANN so it could meet the challenges with the balance, with the multistakeholder model. We would like to invite you to recall that Internet is a global resource which should be governed democratically on a true international basis.

MOULAY HAFID ELELAMY: Mr. Ed Vaizey, the Minister of State and of Digital Economy of the United Kingdom. Would you wish to take the floor, Mr. Vaizey.

ED VAIZEY: Thank you very much indeed, and thank you for all the contributions so far. Just to reiterate what has already been

said, we welcomed, as is well-known in the announcement in March of 2014, of the NTIA's intention to move the stewardship of the key Internet functions. And as I said in my opening remarks, I think that we are 99% of the way there. The core proposal to reestablish IANA as a separate legal entity with a customer standing committee and an IANA Function Review process. And that has been ready since October. That was impressive work by the three communities on names, numbers, and protocol parameters, and the ICG as the coordination group also did an equally impressive job to bring these proposals together into a single, coherent package.

So as I said when I was allowed to make some opening remarks, this meeting really, for me, feels like the last 1%, the last few steps, the final piece of the package about agreeing accountability dependencies relating to the naming functions.

I fully understand it's a sensitive and it's a complex task, and as we've already seen people have different views about the way forward. But we are -- that's understandable because we're venturing into new territory. And really, it's extraordinarily innovative to bring together this proposal for global community empowerment mechanisms. And it's going to involve a lot of different stakeholders, and it does include the GAC. And a lot of stakeholders means a lot of complexity.

So I'm not surprised the accountability proposal has taken longer than anticipated. The GAC has a long-standing advisory role to the Board and that has served, I think, the community as a whole very well.

But we do understand as well that its role, the GAC's role in the community is changing, following the recommendations of the accountability and transparency review. And the GAC is now engaging more transversely in the ICANN community. It links directly with the GNSO early, for example, in the policy development process. And that's going to enhance the bottom-up community process and ensure that the voice of governments is heard on public policy and legal issues.

So our task here as governments at this meeting is to look at the new way of working for the GAC as a participant in the community empowerment mechanisms as set out in recommendation 2. And we should bear in mind that our final decision on participation has implications for defining the thresholds for community decisions.

So this is the remaining 1%. I know that the GAC has been busy looking at the accountability recommendations over the weekend. I think we can be confident that 10 of the 12 recommendations can be approved without further discussion. I know I've run out of time, but I just want to briefly say we're

going to discuss the transition in some detail shortly. But as I say, I want to say how impressed the U.K. has been with the whole process. Thank you very much, indeed.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. We're now going to give the floor to His Eminence Mr. Feng, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information of China.

ZHANG FENG: Distinguished His Excellency Moulay Elalamy, Mr. Steve Crocker and Mr. Fadi Chehade, Your Excellencies, ministries, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I'm very delighted to come to Marrakech to attend the ICANN High-Level Governmental Meeting to discuss the issues on global Internet governance. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the host, the Kingdom of Morocco, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement. It has been 22 years since China connected to the Internet with full function. At present, with rapid development, China has 670 million Internet users, 32 million registered domain names, and over 4 million Web sites.

The Internet has been penetrating almost all aspects of economy society and people's lives. Chinese government put

high attention in Internet development with a guideline of active use (indiscernible) development, management in line with laws and ensuring safety. The Chinese government set up effective public policies to enhance the Internet universal service to promote universal services and catalyze the economic transformation and upgrading. The Internet has been playing critical role in building digital divide and promoting social welfare.

In regard to IANA stewardship transition, we would like to thank all the stakeholders for their devotion and efforts in developing the transition plan and accountability proposal. We would like to thank Mr. Fadi Chehade for his work during the process of IANA stewardship transition.

We also witnessed that in the discussion, a lot of efforts were made by all governments and all stakeholders, and we noticed there are differences in accountability issue.

We should -- We believe that the government should play its due role in public policies issues. We hope that in the spirit of construction, all parties can work together so IANA stewardship transition could be done this year.

Thank you.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: ---

TAHANI ABDALLAH: Mr. Minister, Mr. Elalamy, all the distinguished visitors, I am joining now with all of you in Marrakech 55, and thank you to Mr. Crocker, may peace be upon all of you: I am very happy with the government of Sudan to congratulate the Kingdom of Morocco, people and government, for this great success in hosting this amazing international event in this wonderful country. And we thank you for this hospitality.

And this is what we have been used to from the people of Morocco and its government.

Now, we are very happy with the recognition of the world that the Internet is of most importance for the role that it does to developed societies. And, therefore, we have, as in the world, to make sure that this model is best in trying to manage the Internet.

Nowadays, with the one country being in control over the network of the Internet is not going to help the development of the network in the future. And Sudan has been demanding forever that we should try to change and relook and review the way of the governance of the Internet. And to be honest, the

success of the Internet and the success of the network and --
From its inception goes back to the Internet and the desire of the American government from the use of this network. Therefore, to ensure the continuation of this network, there should be an organization, a sole organization, that is in charge of running and managing Internet. And from the other side, any other model that does not rely on this point, it will face a lot of challenges in the future. And I believe that the world knows this reality very well.

And from our point of view, the Internet is an international network, and we have to manage it from an international organization that does not fall under any beneficiary from anyone.

Therefore, we can make sure that there is objectivity in the way the resources are being distributed, and there should be no organization. Maybe we can put an organization that falls under the United Nations, perhaps, that is very objective.

Therefore, Sudan can participate through a group like ICG to reach the best model to govern the Internet, and we thank you very much for listening to me and thank you very much for this hospitality once more.

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. We're now going to give the floor from ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho from Brazil.

BENEDICTO FONSECA FILHO: Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the government of Morocco for hosting us this week. Your hospitality and ambience you have provided to make this meeting possible is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Chair, Brazil was one of the countries that enthusiastically welcomed the announcement made by the U.S. government in March 2014. As already stated by the NTIA administrator, Mr. Larry Strickling, this announcement was made just a few weeks before NETmundial, which Brazil was honored to host in April 2014.

I recall that on that occasion, the prospect of the imminent beginning of the process towards the elaboration by the global Internet multistakeholder community of a proposal for the IANA functions transition further energized NETmundial.

So NETmundial's outcome document, therefore, contained some very important messages and recommendations addressed to this process, representing broad consensus from the Internet multistakeholder community extending beyond ICANN. I recall one of those referred to the wish that this process

would evolve into making ICANN a truly international organization.

One of the lessons we learned in organizing NETmundial refers to the need to ensure that each stakeholder will have the opportunity to organize itself according to its own practices and culture. We are concerned in that context that some mechanism is being proposed not adequately respect governments, traditional ways of making decisions, for example.

In that context, we have serious concern about the fact that besides retaining a purely advisory role, governments are being asked to operate under rules that impose on governments some restrictions, and those restrictions are not the result of internal GAC discussion but, on -- or, rather, from external impositions.

We are therefore concerned that the ability of governments to fully exercise their roles and responsibilities within ICANN's multistakeholder bottom-up model, which we uphold and we wholeheartedly support, may be impaired.

Let me, by saying this, just reiterate, Mr. Chair, Brazil's commitment to contribute to the successful completion of the transition and, beyond that, we strengthen the multistakeholder approach within ICANN. Our 25 years of experience in working with the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, a truly multistakeholder body, has convinced us, our government, of

the benefits of generated by such framework. So you can count on us to pursue and to discuss the transition, to be part of the transition. But I reiterate our concerns in regard to specific aspects of the proposal in regard to government's participation.

Let me assure, therefore, Mr. Chair, just to conclude, my delegation's willingness to contribute to pursue this cause, not only within ICANN but also in all Internet governance-related fora processes and dialogues.

Thank you.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. I'm now going to give the floor to Mrs. Manal who represents Egypt.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Honorable ministers, distinguished delegates, in the name of His Excellency Minister ElKady, allow me to start by thanking His Excellency Minister Elalamy representing the government of Morocco, our generous host. I also thank all ministers and delegates for their valuable remarks.

Egypt has always supported ICANN globalization and called for its independence. Two years back, the government of Egypt has welcomed NTIA's announcement and the criteria set forth, and I would like to reiterate this here again today.

Egypt applauds all community efforts and cooperation to reach this stage, and highly appreciate the huge amount of time that was dedicated to this multistakeholder, bottom-up process, which demonstrates that the community is capable of working together, sorting their differences and delivering.

The government of Egypt fully supports the transition, has closely followed all discussions and actively participated to the process. As a community, we should all benefit from this positive experience, build on its strengths and draw from its lessons. Egypt particularly applauds the transparency and decentralization of the process, as well as the smooth cooperation and coordination among the different groups through their chairs, liaisons, members and participants. More generally, we believe the community-wide working groups serve as an excellent vehicle that should be looked at and utilized to exchange and converge views among the different stakeholder groups and enhance to serve and benefit from the multistakeholder nature of ICANN.

The government of Egypt recognizes the efforts exerted to reach out beyond ICANN community, yet the pace of the process and its complexity may have hindered getting more new faces to engage and participate actively.

At the end, Egypt looks forward to the final proposal being submitted by the end of this week and invites the U.S. government to continue with their commitment to ensure the transition takes place as per the anticipated timeline.

We hope Marrakech meeting would mark the end of the community preparations for the transition proposal but not the end of the community's continued dialogue and cooperative spirit.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone again and extend Egypt's continued commitment to advance this work further through the implementation phases.

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. We have two more speakers, Mr. Pedraza Ricardo, from the Ministry of Technology and Information from Colombia.

PEDRAZA BARRIOS-RICARDO: Thank you. Let me speak in Spanish, please. The Colombian representative is now holding the floor.

The Colombian government thanks and applauds the Kingdom of Morocco for their hospitality as the host of the ICANN 55 meeting and also for hosting this third high-level governmental meeting.

The Colombian government is fully committed to the multistakeholder process, as expressed in the high-level governmental meeting to review the WSIS results in December 2015.

In this regard and fully cognizant of the role of the government sector within the multistakeholder model, we would like to thank or appreciate this opportunity to engage in this stewardship -- IANA stewardship transition process.

In this regard we fully support the IANA stewardship transition process from the NTIA to ICANN. We understand this is a unique moment per the NTIA announcement in that this stewardship will be transitioned providing certain conditions are met and the unique identifier systems of the Internet remain reliable and stable.

Therefore, our government expects that this change process will evolve in a collaborative manner inclusive and also mindful and

respectful of all the stakeholders involved, paying a special attention to the special role given to governments in their relation to ICANN.

Finally, we would like to encourage all participants to continue trusting the way we understand this process of change and also to move forward towards an IANA ICANN renewed governance. Thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. We're now going to go to the last question, the head of the delegation of Cook Island.

TEPUA HUNTER: Thank you, Chair. In the interest of time, the Cook Islands would like to echo the kind acknowledgments extended by previous delegations in relation to the wonderful arrangements and hospitality accorded to all participants by our host, the government of Morocco, since our arrival into this beautiful country. While recognizing the multistakeholder model of ICANN, a model boasting inclusiveness at all levels, where multitudes of voluntary individuals and collective efforts have each contributed to the diverse and often complicated policy and technical processes such as the IANA transition process that

we support, it is imperative that we both acknowledge and remain mindful of the multitude of challenges at the national level, particularly for smaller island developing states in terms of inadequate resourcing and capacity limitations that consequently constrain or hamper the opportunity for full and effective participation at the global level.

As much as the Cook Islands -- and I believe other smaller island developing states -- are desirous to participate and engage fully and effectively either remotely or in person in the work of ICANN within the various working groups, unfortunately, we face ongoing challenges and hurdles which prohibit us from doing so.

Our remoteness or isolation for long distances from major international centers, for lack of regular international transportation services, the high cost of travel, the lack of adequate Internet speed, and the lack of reliable and affordable Internet throughout our small countries are just a few of the numerous challenges or obstacles that we, as smaller island developing states, continue to face on a daily basis.

At the same time, our severe capacity constraints at the national level for long distances involved and lengthy time it takes to attend these meetings does, in fact, place a considerable burden on and challenge to ourselves that the bigger countries do not have to concern themselves with to the same degree.

In saying that, however, and regardless of the numerous challenges and constraints that we confront as smaller island states, I can reaffirm that the Cook Islands remains both fully committed to and supportive of the multistakeholder model albeit this model may not be perfect in terms of ensuring full and effective participation, there is much merit in supporting it.

Towards this end, I am pleased to confirm that the Cook Islands will endeavor to continue to be an active participant of the ongoing work within GAC and ICANN which we attach great importance to. Thank you.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I must congratulate everyone who took the floor, because we're only two minutes late. I congratulate you all. We're now going to take 15 minutes for a coffee break. Not another minute. We're going to take exactly that time because we have to start at 11:45. We resume at 11:45. We've already got 11 people who have signed up in the speakers list. So, please, we're going to start at 11:45 sharp. Thank you.

(Coffee break)

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Ladies and gentlemen, we will start in just one minute. Please do leave the sun outside and please do come in in the shadow of the room.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to start this second session. And I would like to ask all of the speakers to truly be very rigorous as far as the timeline goes, the three minutes. Because we do have a lot of people who wish to speak.

Before we start, I would like to welcome Mr. Zhao, who is amongst us, who is the general secretary of the ITU. I would like to welcome him and also to tell him happy birthday because it is his birthday today.

[Applause]

As you can see, all of this meeting will be a lot of fun. So, as far as session 2, enhancing accountability within ICANN and the role of governments within the new structure, before we start or, actually, as we start, I will give the floor to Thomas Schneider, president of the GAC.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you. And, as you have been informed by your representatives in the GAC, I guess, this issue that we are going to be discussing here is a very important issue, not just for governments but for all stakeholders. And, in particular, of

course, in addition to the questions of enhancing accountability, it's the role of governments in this model which is something where there are a number of divergent interviews, have always been since the first World Summit on the Information Society.

And I will not speak any longer again here because we have a large list of people who would wish to express their opinions. So I will stop here and wait for your interventions curiously. Thank you.

I will give the floor to Dr. Steve Crocker who is sitting on the right. Thank you.

STEVE CROCKER:

Thank you, Thomas.

And let me thank everybody here. You've already heard all of the introductions this morning about how important this meeting is. And it's quite impressive how many senior government officials have come and what that means in terms of level of support.

I want to speak about two things. But first I must add my own congratulations to Houlin Zhao for his birthday. It will be a pleasure to congratulate him. And, speaking of senior officials, his support for this process has also been very heartwarming.

I have the -- I see. I have the privilege of speaking on behalf of the Board of ICANN. But I'm just one of the roughly 20 board members that we have.

Let me ask that those board members who are here -- some of us are spread out in other meetings working with the CWG and other processes around here. But let me ask for my fellow board members who are here to stand up for a second.

[Applause]

I can almost see that far. There's Erika and Rinalia at this end and, ah, Lousewies, ah, Asha. Thank you. Lito. One of our new board members and a few more that already sat down.

The Board is very, very attentive to all of the processes that you have been hearing about. The -- a lot of the work on accountability has come with the suggestive undercurrent that the Board is resistant to this or doesn't want to be held accountable or that it's trying to hold on to power.

Quite the opposite is true, in fact. We are as committed as anybody in this process to building a strong, robust, and responsive ICANN. And we're very conscious that our time involved in the process is limited by our terms and want to leave behind a strengthened institution. And we come out of the same community that everybody is in and go back to it as well.

So we're paying very close attention. We speak as carefully as we can, and we try not to intrude very much. But we're highly invested in this; and we're very, very supportive.

With respect to the accountability process, I think most of the things that need to be said have been said. This is a two-year process that's been going on. We're reaching the really excellent point, the really memorable point in which the proposals are going to come together and, as a matter of form, come to the Board. And the Board will pass them onto the U.S. government.

A huge amount of work has gone into all of this.

One element that is marbled through this whole process is what is the role of governments currently and what will the role of governments be as we go through this process and come out the other side? Governments remain an important part of the multistakeholder process.

The nominal plan is -- I mean, the desire is neither to diminish nor increase in any substantial way, the role of governments. We've been very, very fortunate to have extensive involvement through the Governmental Advisory Committee, in particular, and through other means for governments to be involved in this multistakeholder process.

As you have heard, more than once, the ground rules for the transition are that ICANN not be sort of taken over by governments. The U.S. government is trying to get out of its role and not have it be replaced by some other single or multiple sets of governments. But, at the same time, the Governmental Advisory Committee and other channels for governments remain very important. And your involvement here only emphasizes that and enhances that.

We look forward to working closely with the Governmental Advisory Committee. We have gradually over the years improved our processes, improved our communication. And I believe that it has greatly improved the effectiveness and relevance of the GAC to the advantage of everybody. Certainly, to the advantage of the governments, but also to the advantage of ICANN and to the Internet as a whole.

Down at the level of the details of how advice is given, how it's processed and so forth, we actually spend a lot of time trying to improve these processes, make sure that what's communicated is understood, make sure that what's understood is analyzed carefully, make sure that what's analyzed carefully is considered as to whether or not there are any issues with respect to accepting GAC advice. If there are, then we go through a very careful deliberation process and consultation process. And, much more to the point is that advice which we accept, which is,

on the whole, the same as what we accept from all advisory committees as we take advice very seriously, is to make sure that we then follow through in execution, in implementation.

That has turned out, not unsurprisingly, to often have some challenges just in terms of resources and attention.

And what has gotten, I think, less attention than the political and philosophical aspects are the sort of nuts and bolts of how to make this work and how to make it work smoothly, efficiently, and responsively to everybody's benefit and, on top of that, how to make the whole process more visible than it has been. And that is our continuing goal. It's a level of detail down below the extensive amount of consultation on the accountability process. But I think it is extremely important and certainly one area that I personally have been attentive to.

So, with that, I'll turn the floor back over. And this has been a very solid set of contributions here. I look forward to the rest of the discussion today.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Steve. We are glad to have with us here today the three co-chairs of this working group that have spent almost day and night in the last one and a half years working with everybody on enhancing ICANN's accountability. They do a

remarkable job, but they are under pressure from all sides. And I'd like to welcome them warmly here. It's Mathieu Weill, Leon Sanchez, and Thomas Rickert. The floor is yours. Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Excellency, thank you for letting us join this meeting. Representatives of governments, of international organizations, delegates, thank you all for allowing us to join you for this session.

I would like to start by giving you a quick overview of the work that we have done. Let's move on to the next slide, please.

When we started this process, the transition process, a concern was raised by the community regarding putting an end to the historical role of the U.S. government with ICANN based on a contract as well as the perception that the government has always been an obstacle or a block to the community's wishes and that is why we in the ICANN community raised the need to reinforce the accountability and transparency mechanisms at ICANN, given the fact that the historical role of the U.S. Government was going to come to an end. Next slide, please. Next slide. Thank you.

As part of the effort undertaken to enhance ICANN's accountability and transparency, we set up a working group that

started working in December 2014. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants, members of GAC that join us throughout this process. Your participation has been fundamental, and it will continue to be crucial for the implementation of all these measures in case you approve our report.

Through this chart you can see that as part of that work we established the parallel workstreams. First, the CWG work responsible for leading the names community proposal, the ICG as the coordinating group, and the ICANN accountability and transparency working group that was going to put together a proposal to enhance ICANN's accountability. We have already delivered the proposal to our chartering organizations and our consulting communities for approval, and these will be sent to the ICANN Board so that they, in turn, can transfer these proposals to the U.S. government, to the NTIA, for its approval. Next slide, please.

To organize our work, we decided to divide the tasks into two workstreams. The goal was clear. We wanted to put together a proposal that would strengthen ICANN's accountability and transparency system for all stakeholders. This was at the core of our proposal. So we split the work into two phases. The first one focusing on the mechanisms and steps tending to enhance ICANN's accountability and transparency because they should

be put -- they should be implemented or committed to be implemented by the time the transition took place.

The second phase or workstream focused on those issues that could take longer and could be discussed and developed beyond the transition date. We have concluded the first workstream in our group and we are planning the second workstream for our job, for our work.

Just to give you an idea of the amount of work involved in this process, I have this slide. We have had more than 200 participants in this effort distributed from a geographical standpoint quite evenly, although we still need to improve the participation of Latin America and Africa. We had 111 observers in our mailing list. It is important to note this because this work was done 100% in an open, inclusive, and pluralistic way. You have all the records. Everybody can access those records. We have had more than 12,400 emails exchanged, more than 205 calls and meetings, and more than 400 hours spent in meetings. In terms of voluntary hours, we have more -- we have thousands of hours invested in this process. So we need to applaud this as a community. Next slide, please.

These efforts resulted in a final proposal by our group on the Work Stream 1 recommendations, it is a 52-page document with 15 annexes that have the details of each of the

recommendations made. And 11 appendices that collect all the documentation, the background documentation for this proposal. The translations for this document are already in Arabic, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, and Portuguese. So we invite you to refer to these documents. Next slide, please.

As of today, we are pleased to announce that we have three out of the six chartering organizations approval for this proposal, ALAC, ASO, and SSAC as these have been the organizations that have already approved our proposal. In addition, we have received a confirmation from CWG of the fact that the accountability dependencies that they had identified in their own work have been taken care of and addressed and they are duly safeguarded in our report.

Now I would like to give the floor to my co-chair Thomas Rickert for the next part of this presentation. Thank you.

THOMAS RICKERT:

Thank you very much, Leon. Excellencies, ministers, high-level representatives of governments and international organizations, distinguished colleagues, I would like to give you a very high-level overview of what we have included in our report. And when we started this exercise, we were looking at governance models that could be used to provide for adequate checks and balances for ICANN. And you will be glad to hear that the model

that we found and that we build on is a model that's been deployed by governments, by states, for centuries and that is to have four component parts, what you see on the screen in front of you, and those are the Constitution which are the bylaws, the principles upon which ICANN would operate, an independent judiciary which is the independent appeals and review mechanism. It is the ICANN Board of Directors which would resemble the executive in a state model, and the empowered community. And that is the community that takes over the authority that was previously and still is at the moment with the U.S. government. You will remember that when the U.S. government made its announcement it indicated it would release its authority over the IANA functions, and the question was, where do we put that authority? And we thought it would be best to place this authority at the fingertips of the global community, consisting of the seven communities which we find in the ICANN environment, one of which is the GAC. So we will -- we offer with our report to embed all these seven communities in the empowered community and give them all the opportunity to -- to chime in when it comes to making important decisions for ICANN's governing model. Next slide, please.

The first component is ICANN's Constitution, the principles, the bylaws. There were some concerns that ICANN could mission creep into other areas and therefore we made clear what

ICANN's mission is. And that is actually a limited mission and we had a few areas that ICANN should explicitly not do amongst which is content regulation. We also updated the definition on ICANN's role in domain names, numbering resources, and protocol parameters and we did one thing and that is include the AoC reviews, such as the ATRT2 review that have proven to be very efficient in ICANN continuously improving, into the bylaws and perpetuate them by doing so.

Last but not least, we included a commitment to human rights which is going to -- going to go into the bylaws. There was quite some debate to get to -- to get it thus far, and further details will be worked on in Work Stream 2 where a Framework of Interpretation for human rights is going to be developed. Next slide, please.

The independent judiciary, the independent appeals and review mechanism, will be redesigned so that the IRP, as we call it, is not only focused on procedural flaws that can be identified but actually this would be the test whether ICANN's Board, with its resolutions, has acted inside or outside ICANN's mission. We're looking for a standing panel that's going to be recruited at the global level with experts to help with disputes and we're following diversity requirements, and out of the standing panel of at least seven panelists, three will be picked for disputes and those decisions will not only look at procedural aspects but

actually on the substance of the case in question. Next slide, please.

The ICANN Board of Directors. The role of the ICANN Board of Directors has also been clarified and we think that it's beneficial for the Board to have a clearer -- constitutional clearer set of bylaws to operate under. We've also clarified the role of the Board in responding to consensus GAC advice and we've included the review of SOs and ACs in terms of their accountability to be reviewed on a regular basis. Next slide, please.

The empowered community, that's the core piece of the -- of enhancing ICANN's accountability because that allows for the community, the empowered community, to come together and exercise a limited number of community powers, what you see in front of you. And this is important because we felt that these powers are needed in order to allow for the community to shape ICANN, to help ICANN rectify things that are in violation of the bylaws so that ICANN can't go rogue, that ICANN is safeguarded against risks that the organization might face.

So these community powers are to reject the budget, strategic plan and operating plan so we would give the community the authority or the possibility to chime in when it comes to financials in particular. There is the possibility to reject bylaw

changes after the Board has taken a resolution on a particular bylaw change for what we call standard bylaws. And then we have another set of bylaws which we call fundamental bylaws, and those are the bylaws that are essential to ICANN's operation. Those would include the mission and core values but also the existence of the independent judiciary. So the Board could not easily get rid of an independent review by changing the bylaws. So that's the only area where we give the community the authority to approve bylaw changes before they are being enacted. Then the community will have the power to remove individual directors or recall the entire board. It can launch community Independent Review Processes to have determined whether or not the -- the Board has acted in violation of the bylaws, and then there's a seventh community power relating to the IANA functions.

The community will come together to exercise those community powers, but our approach was to be least invasive when it comes to ICANN's day-to-day operations. So ideally you will never see these community powers invoked and therefore we've made what we call an engagement process mandatory. The ICANN Board already does engage with the community on a voluntary basis, but we baked that into the bylaws, hoping that a robust engagement process between the community and the Board will limit the risk of friction between the community's

wishes and the Board's actions. But if there is a misunderstanding or a dispute over whether or not the Board has, for example, set up the budget in accordance with the community's wishes, this can undergo an escalation process that has to follow separate stages and only if that fails and only if the community reaches a certain threshold to act -- to enact a community power and if the Board wishes to not honor that decision then there could be an escalation -- an enforcement phase of a third area in this EEE model that we call Engagement, Escalation and Enforcement. Hopefully we'll never see this enacted. Next slide, please.

And with that, I'm at the end of my little overview of the presentation. I would like to conclude by saying that it is -- that the GAC is baked into our proposal as a decisional participant to be included in the empowered community. So the GAC has the opportunity to be part of all the community deliberations, it has the opportunity to advise the empowered community --

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: I am sorry to let you know that you have to speed up a little bit because you are behind your time.

THOMAS RICKERT: ... when it comes to GAC advice when the power for the -- the GAC to be a decisional participant is excluded. But we are more than happy to answer your questions on that. And I would like to briefly hand over to Mathieu.

MATHIEU WEILL: Thank you very much, Thomas. Your Excellency, dear ministers and ambassadors and members of the GAC and dear colleagues, I'm going to be very quick on the few slides we have so that we can hear our colleagues, and I don't want to take too much time. It's important to underline that our group is only part of a larger work and that we thought it was very important that we linked between the two parts of the work and the two branches worked together. One part is technical, the IANA functions, and Thomas Rickert just talked to you about it. We have to -- it's really important to work together. It's a sine qua non condition so that all of the communities interested in the process agree.

Regarding the timeline, I'm not going to say much about the timeline. Steve Crocker talked about it. We have an extremely important week ahead of us. As a group we did submit to most organizations the charter organization final report which must be ratified by each and every organization. Three out of six did ratify that report, and we hope, including the GAC, that those organizations are going Tuesday or Wednesday at the latest

ratify those decisions so that on Thursday, when the Board meets at the end of the day, so that the Board can take this proposal and transmit and send it to the U.S. government so that we really start our transition.

It's quite important to underline that our proposals are only one step, one step in the long-term process, continuous improvement process to always improve the accountability of ICANN. It's quite interesting for governments' diversity inside ICANN for instance, human rights jurisdiction issues. This is a process that is going to keep going. This is an important week, essential week, but it's going to keep going.

I know I have very little time so I'm going to go to my last slide and just to tell you that two things that we do propose is to improve responsibility and accountability, to have separation of powers, that's what Thomas talked about, and you have to make possible the next improvements to be implemented, even if we always resist to change and to change our structure. There is always a risk of capture, and we have to make sure it doesn't happen. We have to make sure ICANN becomes more and more accountable, and Mr. Minister, I will conclude here. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much for being short with 20 interventions and speeches, now we're going to have to close the list and limit it to 20, and to the three minutes per person. We're going to start with Ravi Shankar Prasad, the minister from India.

AJAY KUMAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am Ajay Kumar, and I will be making the intervention on behalf of India and my honorable minister.

First of all, let me take this opportunity to congratulate and express my gratitude to each and every one of who have spent countless hours with incredible determination and dedication to develop the proposals for the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability.

In the last two years, Internet community has worked hard and round-the-clock to bring us to this historical moment in time in this beautiful city of Marrakech to arrange the final pieces of the puzzle. Based on the incredible work done not only by the CCWG Accountability members and the participants, but also the ICANN staff, we have finally arrived at a stage where we can almost be ready to hand over the IANA stewardship transition outcomes to the ICANN Board.

We should not lose steam, and since we still have a long way to go. In this regard, I wish to highlight a few points as we go forward with Work Stream 2 of ICANN accountability process.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all agree here that the CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2 has to deal with key issues which are crucial in implementing the IANA stewardship transition. The issues in the Work Stream 2, such as ensuring a higher standard of diversity within ICANN, making SOs and ACs more accountable to the respective communities, increasing transparency by further improving ICANN's existing documentation and information disclosure policy, and the various aspects of the jurisdiction question are directly connected to the work already done by CCWG Accountability Work Stream.

I hope we can all work together to ensure that we not only bring more diverse stakeholders to ICANN but also actively seek engagement from them on important issues.

I understand that CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2 will be covering specific issues of diversity at various levels of ICANN, and we make progress on Work Stream 2. We should aim to make sure that stakeholders from emerging economies also get a fair chance to express and represent.

Let me make one final point, Mr. Chair. The governments in the new ICANN accountability framework have obviously been subject of much contention. To my mind, it is important to consider that GAC's specific role within ICANN framework is to advise on public-policy issues. There's no doubt that public-policy issues will continue to increase in prominence in the context of Internet and even within the scope of ICANN specific --

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Please conclude, sir.

AJAY KUMAR: ...in the discussion to keep these thoughts in mind as they go forward with their wonderful work with respect to CCWG Accountability framework.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Ms. Kelly Gillis from Canada.

KELLY GILLIS: Acknowledge the immense efforts of the global community that has brought us here today. This is a testament to the success of

the multistakeholder model. Canada is a strong supporter of an open Internet, governed by the multistakeholder model. This model is based on private sector leadership, bottom-up policy development, and it is what has enabled the Internet to develop into an unprecedented platform for innovation, entrepreneurship and knowledge-based economies.

Canada supports the open, inclusive, consensus-based process by which the accountability proposal was developed. The proposal preserves GAC's prominent role at ICANN to provide high-level public-policy advice to the ICANN board of directors and recognizes the value the board of directors attributes to receiving this consensus-based GAC advice.

The proposal also provides opportunities for GAC to engage even more fully with the ICANN community, strengthening the multistakeholder model. The stewardship transition presents an immense opportunity to support the further globalization of Internet technical organizations. Canada supports the accountability proposal moving forward to allow the transition to take its course.

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Mr. Conny Wahlstrom from Sweden.

CONNOR WAHLSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As heard today, in the next few days the Internet community will be handing over our collective proposal to the U.S.A. and the NTIA. It is a proposal we can be proud of, what is most important is the balancing of the legitimate interest in the multistakeholder model.

With this proposal, no single group has increased their role or can gain more influence at the expense of any other. No one has lost influence. We have -- what you have done will make the quality of how we govern Internet names and numbers much stronger. For all of us, implementing the transition will mean a new situation. We will need how to learn how to best make use of it working together, because just as I mentioned in the last session, this is not the end of change.

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Mr. Yasuo Sakamoto from Japan.

YASUO SAKAMOTO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Firstly, Japan recognize that the framework for enhancing ICANN accountability will play a very important role in the management of the IANA function after the transition, and we are supportive of this framework.

What is important is that Board fulfill its accountability and build a mutual trusted relationship with respective communities.

Secondly, GAC should continue to engage itself in the activity of ICANN as a member of multistakeholders and maintain the current role as advisor to Board.

The prospective development of the Internet has been owing to the multistakeholder approach in ICANN and free flow of information across borders. It is not wise to let government strictly regulate the Internet. This idea is also applicable to the relationship between ICANN and GAC.

The balance among communities, including GAC, should be maintained after transition.

Lastly, we welcome GAC participation in the proposed empowered community because GAC can contribute to the activity of the community on issues of public policy. What is most important in this meeting is that GAC, Board and other

communities will mutually understand and as a result send a positive message to the world.

People all over the world are focusing on the concrete outcomes of the matured multistakeholder approach. On the basis of the mutual trust, let us create the new historical framework in (indiscernible).

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Mr. Rachid Ismailov from Russia.

RACHID ISMAILOV: I would like to address not the ICANN leadership but the ministers, the honorable ministers. This is our session.

All the principles of the Internet governance and the multistakeholder model was defined during the world forum in Tunisia, and we don't need to ask any questions about which ones of the stakeholders are responsible for the development of public policies or give the government policies in the issues of the Internet. All these principles were reaffirmed by the participants of the process of negotiations of WSIS+10 which was ended during the General Assembly of the U.N. on the

general review of implementation of the decisions WIO. This was in New York in 2015. And here in ICANN, in this forum, we still continue to discuss the role of the governments. I believe that that is caused by the fact that we need to rethink the exclusively consultative role of the governments in ICANN. While the other stakeholders are participating in developing policies, they're participating in the committees that make decisions on nominating candidates among ICANN leadership, they elect Board of Directors for the Board, they have the right to vote on the Board, the representatives of government do not have this right in the framework of the ICANN as a corporation. So we think it is not acceptable to limit the ability and the contribution that the governments can make in the participation in the discussions and in the mechanisms of empowerment of communities and to connect the actions -- or limit the actions of the government by one rule, which is means making decisions on the basis of consensus, especially considering the very serious and ambiguous issues of considering various points of view.

I am saying this so that to convey to you that ignoring the role of governments and insufficient involvement of the governments in the Internet governance is related to the risk of bringing in the values that are not really in multistakeholder interest but more of corporate interest.

So thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Professor Paulo Ferrao from Portugal now.

PAULO FERRAO: Thank you very much, Mr. Elalamy.

...digital economy of the Kingdom of Morocco, chair of the of the ICANN Board of Directors, High-Level Governmental Meeting, Mr. Chair of the ICANN board of directors, Mr. CEO and president of ICANN, Mr. Chair of the GAC, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I will start my speech in English and I will finish it in Portuguese.

First of all, allow me to address the Kingdom of Morocco, our neighbors and friends, on a very special thanks for hosting this outstanding meeting. We all know that information and communication technologies have had a massive impact on economies, societies, and individuals at worldwide level. The new ICT's challenge and emerging trends ahead that we are currently facing, such as the Internet of things, cloud computing, big data, machine-to-machine systems or human-machine interaction, will have a deep impact on society, industry,

organizations and business and on people's behaviors and conducts.

Consequently, it is of utmost importance to preserve the Internet as a single, open, people-centered, multilingual, secure, reliable, robust, and not fragmented network supportive of social, cultural and sustainable development.

It is no coincidence that the World Wide Web has been developing one of the most important international research laboratories, CERN, as an open instrument with free access to world researchers all over the world. Also for that reason, for quite some time Portugal has been advocating an ICANN's role based on multistakeholder model within an accountable international framework.

Multistakeholder cooperation has shown positive benefits contributing to shared best practices, knowledge transfer, capacity building and common international understanding between and with stakeholders and between -- with developed and developing regions.

I will now turn to Portuguese, one of the most spoken language in the Internet.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, governments are the only ones that can preserve public interest in general and

create the conditions for academic and technical communities, the private sector, and the civil society to develop in the best possible way their role in Internet governance. Capabilities are quite disruptive, and they will become more efficient the more benefit we have for knowledge, the role of democratically elected governments is incomparable because they have single characteristics. They open this to public participation, and they can also include the proposals of different stakeholders as a key element in decision-making processes. Their characteristics, therefore, need to be addressed as strengths and not as weaknesses as part of the Internet governance system.

Portugal, and all the Portuguese communities, all over the continent can have closer contact, and we believe that this should be enabled.

I would like to thank you all for all the efforts you are making to enhance accountability and transparency.

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: ---

FRANK CARRUET: ---

As a vice minister for cooperation and development and digital economy.

I would like to first start with a quote. What is difficult can be done now. What is impossible takes a little bit longer. This is George Santayana.

Pessimistic people do not necessarily believe that we can agree on the future of accountability, on the future of a new ICANN. So in the worst situation, worst-case scenario simply means that we need a little bit more time. This Internet governance is a long-term project, but we are very close at this point. And now we are dependent upon a world consensus, an international consensus on the CCWG recommendations. The work that we need to do is huge, and we need to first congratulate the ones who have got us to this point. The challenge is enormous. What we are now discussing is the place of governments within ICANN. The CCWG Accountability plans to stay within ICANN in assembly within the ICG that takes care of topics having to do with laws and political challenges. The idea is to advise on certain topics.

I believe that the future is positive. The future ICANN should take into account the advice of governments when it has to do with public policies and recognize the responsibility of governments on that point. Those principles are explained in the fundamental bylaws.

In the details and in practice, the governmental authorities within ICANN need to be strengthened. It is very important for different states to have at their availability the means to be accountable and to defend their societies within the framework of the future ICANN.

I believe that it is what we are aiming for within the work of what was done at the CCWG. The Board needs to pay particular attention to that point. And also, ICANN should not become a governmental organization. On certain points, the community is still searching for a compromise that would allow it to have global consensus.

I believe that we have at our availability the means to negotiate on that, and I would like, in the name of the Belgium government as well as for the ICANN, my best wishes. I would like to leave you with my best wishes.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Mr. David Martinon, Ambassador for Cyber Diplomacy and Digital Economy from France.

DAVID MARTINON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I will start by telling you France truly shares what you expressed, the beliefs that you have expressed this morning in your opening speech, and I would like, in the name of France, to thank the governments of the Kingdom of Morocco and the king himself to have welcomed us in Morocco. This meeting is extremely important and it is very good that it happens in Africa.

Also, you give us the magic of Marrakech, which is a great bonus.

I would like to just give you one citizens to recognize the work of Fadi. Fadi, I'm looking right at you, and I can tell you that I will regret -- I will miss you, actually.

What I would like to tell you is that the history of Internet is such that the management of the DNS was done by the American government. It was productive, it was effective, and it also greatly contributed to the development of the Internet, and I believe that we need to thank the American government for that. Because the Internet is now global, the situation is now different and that situation cannot be justified any longer. That is why France has taken the position that we need to internationalize ICANN, and that is why I would like to express my satisfaction as well as my hope, as I hear the announcement of this transition, that in my opinion is indispensable. And it is

paired with the modernization of the mechanisms that are now those of ICANN.

There is no surprise here. Because of certain concerns that were expressed, France is disappointed, amongst others, I believe, after reading the proposal, and that has to do -- the review panel, that is a good thing. But whatever you might say, states are marginalized within the ICANN system because the reform proposal imposes upon them their rules for decision-making, and I believe that this should be improved upon.

Also, states are not recognized at the same level of other stakeholders within the new appeal mechanisms that are available for the community when there are decisions made by the Board that states do not agree with.

Faced with this risk that.

SUE OWEN:

Dangers the multistakeholder model, France still would like to remind you that we had a minority statement that has been -- that was signed by several, about 20 countries, does not really understand the reform or agree with it, even though we do want success in this transition and we do want to take into consideration the objective of diversity within ICANN. That is a goal against special interests.

And so any reform process means that we, as France, want to be constructive. We need to get to a compromise, especially by accepting the compromise that was proposed by Brazil during the Dublin meeting, and that compromise which was consensual was rejected. And so as a conclusion, I would say, Mr. Minister, that we can't pretend that we are trying to build consensus but not take into account objections. So I do believe that there is an issue. I believe that has an impact on the multistakeholder model that ICANN claims.

Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much for your speech.

Mr. Finn Petersen, Director of International Relations from the Denmark authority.

FINN PETERSEN: and thank you for arranging this important meeting. This is a significant time in history of the Internet and its governance. The transition of the IANA function have been called for by government and others for many years.

Denmark fully support the proposal on the table, and we are looking forward to the transition taking place later this year.

We would like to commend all the hard work related to the transition and the necessary improvement to the ICANN (indiscernible) accountability carried out by the community. And I would like to give a special thanks to our three Musketeer on the front tabling, Leon, Mathieu, and Thomas for the great work.

[Applause]

It has been a challenging process, but the community took the challenge and make it reality. And it has been very positive that so many governments representative have participate actively in this important work.

Governments have an important role to play with regard to public-policy issues and general politic interest. It is why the active participation of governments to help solve problems effectively together with the community at an early stage is essentially to the post transition ICANN.

However, ICANN is a private corporation and government should not participate in decision which are of operational nature.

As such, the GAC should continue to be an advisory committee. There are now a new and significant ways by which the GAC will be able to carry out its influence in the future, and it's up to us to

agree upon the most effective procedures for engaging and giving our advice.

For example, the proposal give the GAC increased role mandate to participate as an advisory capacity, both towards the ICANN Board and the empowered community.

It is now up to the community including governments and ICANN to show that it is, indeed, mature and accountable and take upon itself the responsibility to ensure that the Internet continue to be an open, secure, stable, and resilient infrastructure and resource for a global growth for everybody.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Mrs. Qi Xiaoxia from the Republic of China.

QI XIAOXIA: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I would like to thank the Morocco government and the Internet community for the excellent organization of this important conference in this critical moment in the history of ICANN. I would also like to express our great appreciation to Mr. Fadi Chehade for your

great, strong leadership in the stewardship transition process. You made a difference.

I am speaking on the role and responsibilities of a government in the Internet governance ecosystem in general and in ICANN in specific based on the experiences of China. Mr. Zhang Feng, the head of Chinese delegation, has, in the first session, presented to you the extraordinary development of the Internet in China. If one were to condense our 20 years' experiences in one sentence, it would be that it is the Chinese government that provides both the direction and the impetus for the growth of the Internet. Fundamentally, without the reform and opening up pioneered by the Chinese government, there would be no such development of the Internet in China.

Ladies and gentlemen, China is an active supporter of the reform of a global Internet governance ecosystem. In December last year, the CAC, Cyberspace Administration of China, hosted the second World Internet Conference with the same and interconnected world shared and governed by all, building a common community of common future. In his opening speech, President

Xi Jinping put forward four principles -- namely, respect for cyber sovereignty, maintenance of peace and security, promotion of openness and cooperation, cultivation of good

order -- and five proposals. These four principles and the five proposals provide us a (indiscernible) account of the thinking and the positions of China for the governance of the Internet. We have some copies of his speech with my colleagues in the back of the room.

Currently, the global Internet governance has entered an important stage. The Chinese government is of the view that the global Internet community should recognize that the governments, especially governments of the developing countries, are indispensable in leading the progress of the countries and societies. ICANN would be well served when the important contributions and advice of GAC are duly noted and the role of GAC is respected and strengthened.

Lastly, on behalf of CAC, Cyberspace Administration of China, I would like to invite you all to the third World Internet Conference which will be held in autumn this year in Wuzhen, China. Thank you for your patience.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. We're going to give the floor to ambassador Dirk Van Eeckhout, from the Council of Europe.

DIRK VAN EECKHOUT: President, Honorable Minister, ladies and gentlemen, I speak here today on behalf of the Council of Europe, where I am the diplomatic coordinator for the information society. The Council of Europe is a global benchmark for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

As an observer in ICANN and in GAC, we would like to underline that the right to freedom of expression as a human right is a public policy issue which needs to be safeguarded.

It is the position of the Council of Europe of its 47 member states that freedom of expression applies to the domain name system and that states must ensure that restrictions applied to the domain names meet the requirements of legitimacy, necessity, and proportionality of international human rights law.

The Council of Europe has contributed with expert opinions on human rights, implications of ICANN decisions. The organization will continue to support the GAC with its inputs and contributions to promote human rights.

Council of Europe would like to invite the GAC and all the stakeholders in the context of their safeguards advice on new gTLDs to include safeguards for freedom of expression.

And at last, but not least, we'd invite the GAC to mainstream freedom of expression in GAC working group on human rights and international law.

Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Mr. Geert Moelker, the Netherlands.

GEERT MOELKER: Thank you for giving me the floor. First, let me congratulate the whole Internet community for finalizing this tremendous work and delivering a final accountability proposal. It was well-explained by the three co-chairs. If we agree on this proposal, we have now a complete set of measures for the transition of the stewardship of the IANA functions. And this will mark an historic moment.

It has not been easy. It needed intense cooperation and almost two years of negotiation.

The first step, getting to a common and shared understanding of the problems that had to be resolved, was already a complicated effort.

But the second step, devising solutions and mechanisms that work, was equally difficult. And, during that process, flexibility and willingness to compromise was a key factor.

Let me explain this. We are working in a multistakeholder organization, and new mechanisms should not only be practical but also should be implementable. But they should at least have to be acceptable for the diversity of the stakeholders involved.

That is the reason that the principle of consensus, whether full or rough, is such an important cornerstone of the complex multistakeholder environment.

Perhaps the outcome does not follow exactly all the requisites we formulated in the last communique of the GAC in Dublin. Therefore, it may not be optimal.

But, looking at it from a high-level perspective, we as the Dutch government, see that the main principles we adhere to still keep firm.

Firstly, the proposal will not give undue influence to a single or small set of stakeholders in a decision-making process. For the accountability work stream this was a main requirement. And we expressed this earlier.

Secondly, the role of the GAC remains advisory but will extend to also the new accountability last-resort mechanisms. We think this is needed because a decision made can have a big impact on the public interests and, potentially, the continuity and stability of the Internet.

Thirdly, and finally, GAC's advice, when taken in full consensus, will have more weight and cannot be rejected by the board unless with a 60% majority.

We do not think this will diminish or limit GAC's influence. In practice we already work by consensus, and this is not without a reason. It is the preferred practice, especially in a multistakeholder setting, as I explained earlier.

So, concluding, the proposal we have to adjust these days is a balanced set of mechanisms. We all support the multistakeholder model. We defend this model in the international arena. So let's also act in the spirit of this model and agree upon it. This will mark an historic moment, a moment we cannot slip out of our hands. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Mr. Ricardo Pedraza Barrios, Council of International Relations and Communication, Colombia.

PEDRAZA BARRIOS-RICARDO: I'd like to switch to Spanish, please.

The Colombian government appreciates ICANN's openness and flexibility by introducing changes in its accountability mechanisms and in enhancing the transparency of the organization's processes. The community empowerment mechanism and the other recommendations that may have this total enhancement of ICANN's accountability in the view of the IANA stewardship transition are a step in the right direction towards a new structure of engagement that we hope will be inclusive, balanced, and respectful of differences among the many stakeholders involved.

We governments have been protagonists of Internet governance since its inception at the Geneva and Tunis summits, information technology summits.

The multistakeholder experiences in the last years have been a testament of these concrete benefits. And at the time they have been a testament of the need to make some adjustments in terms of the operation of this model. Consequently, we believe that the special role played by governments should be preserved in the pre- and post-IANA transition stages, being mindful of the public policy responsibility and the protection of the public interest that we have been entrusted with in our capacity as governments.

We understand that there have been several adjustments made to the proposed accountability enhancement mechanism. There are those who consider that these enhanced governments influence as they engage with ICANN or within ICANN. And there are others that think otherwise. Our government hopes that this change within ICANN's accountability mechanisms will move forward in a spirit of cooperation, flexibility, and tolerance of differences among the many multistakeholders involved.

Finally, the Colombian government is willing to support any initiative toward this end in the understanding that the implementation of the accountability enhancement recommendations will call for further consensus. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. The floor is given to Dr. Shahhoseini, University of Science and Technologies from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

SHAHHOSEINI: Excellencies and distinguished delegates, honorary minister. As the senior advisor of Iran's technology organization and member of Iran's delegation at ICANN, it's my pleasure to address the GAC high-level meeting here in Marrakech. I would like to thank government of Morocco and the Ministry of

Industry and Digital Economy for hosting this important event and their wonderful hospitality.

I also would like to thank Mr. Fadi Chehade for his hard work in management of ICANN community in past four years.

Iran as one of the youngest populations in the world and highest educated people with about 20 years of access to Internet is considered as an emerging economy in the region. There is no doubt that Internet regulation plays an important role in such fast-developing environment with expansion of next-generation of network infrastructure.

During the past decade advanced eServices such as eBanking, eGovernment, and eHealth services are expanded throughout the country. Iran has been and will remain committed to all vision and mission that can brighten the future of connected world.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of CCWG, ICG, CWG related to transition of the IANA function and preparation of CCWG accountability supplemental recommendation draft and Iran has invested considerable amount of time and manpower in this process in last 14 months.

Although a considerable amount of work is done, however, we would like to emphasize that some further refinement might

have been reminded to be addressed in Work Stream 2. We believe we can reach to optimal resolution by enhancing synergy and cooperation among all concerned parties and preserving sovereign rights of states with respect to their role and responsibility in regard with Internet governance. Thank you all.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. We're going to give the floor to Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho from Brazil.

BENEDICTO FONSECA FILHO: Thank you, Mr. Minister. In our view, the proposal falls short of reflecting the vision conveyed by the World Summit on Information Society recently reaffirmed by the United Nations general assembly high-level meeting on the 10-year review of the WSIS outcomes held last December in New York in that Internet governance should be based on the full participation of all stakeholders including governments within their respective roles and responsibilities.

In that context, although the proposal has many merits, some portions of the proposed text for recommendations 1, 2, and 11, lead us to the unfortunate decision of not being able to support the proposal as a whole. To do otherwise would be the

equivalent of contradicting positions the Brazilian government has held consistently not only in the context of the transition itself but also in other Internet governance related international fora and processes sometimes in very difficult circumstances, such as in the WSIS+10 process last year.

In all those meetings we have consistently defended the vision of conveyed by WSIS of the multistakeholder approach in conjunction with different roles and responsibilities and the ability of all stakeholders to fully exert their roles and responsibilities.

In that light, I'd like to align ourselves with the statement that was made by Ambassador David Martinon from France.

The good news is that there are, however, ongoing discussions within the GAC in order to find an appropriate way to deal with different perspectives in a way that would adequately document those different perspectives and, therefore, allow the GAC as a whole to convey its views on the CCWG proposal. Brazil intends, as always, to participate constructively and responsibly in those discussions alongside with all of the governments. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: I'm going to give the floor to Mr. Syed Ifthikar H. Shah from Pakistan.

SYED IFTHIKAR H. SHAH: Thank you, Minister. This is the Minister of Information Technology government of Pakistan. Respected minister kingdom of Morocco, president and CEO of ICANN, Mr. Fadi; chair GAC Thomas, high excellencies; and respected colleagues from other ministries, it's my pleasure to attend the third ICANN meeting and represent the government of Pakistan.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and advising the third ICANN high-level meeting which is taking place since the moment of the Internet governance at the worldwide level.

The Government Advisory Committee as a GAC is the bridge between the governments of all the countries and is intended to connect all the countries across the world. And the governments are playing a critical role for the better management of domain name system.

Really, the role of the GAC and the ICANN is very important. And the government representative (indiscernible) on the place of the benefits of their respective community. GAC will continue its role for better management for the state-of-the-art Internet governance system.

Pakistan is a member of GAC since 2004 and actively participates in the ICANN initiatives and, particularly, on the gTLDs, IDN ccTLDs, and the last ICANN accountability matters.

ICANN said that Internet has turned the world into a global village where people from all over the countries are well-connected. There are no geographical country-wide boundaries in online information flow. But there are indeed domain in cyberspace. We had challenges. There is a dire need to work together.

Regarding the IANA transition, I appreciate the efforts of ICG; ICANN board; and Mr. Fadi, CEO and president of ICANN, on this initiative.

Being a member of GAC, I believe that the current system works well. It's free from outside influence. It's purely an administrative function. And the customers of the IANA and customers of the IANA oversight has been generally pleased.

Regarding the ICANN transitions, I propose that it will be support the multistakeholder model; maintain the security, stability, and resilience of the domain name system and also maintain the openness of the Internet.

Pakistan also appreciates the ICANN cross-community working group on enhancing ICANN accountability on their work towards

enhancing ICANN accountability and propose that ICANN accountability group may promote the government role in the subject proposal to safeguard the national test and also review the (indiscernible) statement of the subject proposal. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. We're going to give the floor to Mr. Azhar Hasyim from Indonesia.

AZHAR HASYIM: Excellency, distinguished participants, on behalf of the Ministry of Indonesia, I would like to congratulate the Morocco government for hosting this event successfully.

I would like also to thank Mr. Fadi for all the successful work to bring ICANN to a great and important position as we have today. In addition, Mr. Fadi was also full support for the IGF in Bali. Thank you, Mr. Fadi.

Indonesia is of the view that this high-level governmental meeting should support the multistakeholder approach governments and, hence, the transfer of IANA from ICANN to new independent multistakeholder organization.

However, as was not yet discussed in the 8th IGF in Bali and other international meeting like ICANN high-level meeting in London, WSIS, DCSS, ITU, and NETmundial, et cetera, in which it has the view that every country should be able to operate Internet under the national law respected by other country and stakeholder.

Indonesia is also in the view that while eCommerce, eGovernment, eTransaction, et cetera, are priority areas and important to be developed, it is even more important that all countries should be able to develop their own technical expertise according to their capabilities.

The development of Internet should ensure that it's useful prosperity of the country, increasing the economic and not only increasing the importance of Internet-related hardware and software including content. International cooperation should be developed so that Internet-related technology from telecommunications (indiscernible) as well as application and content can be developed locally.

Finally, I hope that this ICANN 55 meeting fully backed up by High-Level Government Meeting participant can come to agreement on advancement of the Internet for development of all countries, society, and people. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I would like to now give the floor to Stefan Schnoor, who is the head of delegation from Germany.

STEFAN SCHNORR: Let me start by thanking our host country, the Kingdom of Morocco, for excellent organizing this meeting.

It takes place at a decisive moment at ICANN when ICANN's community decided on the transition of IANA stewardship to a multistakeholder model.

As perhaps many of you, I am reminded of the negotiations in New York reviewing the words I made on information society. I would like to recall and reaffirm the commitment made by German government at the high-level meeting.

We believe that, rather than perpetuating fundamental discourses over the last two decades, we now need a smart use of ICG adequate for everybody's need.

From Germany's point of view, the Internet should never face the risk of being controlled by just one set of stakeholders, be it business, governments, or any other groups.

A mitigation between different interests is also the task governments are mandated to perform.

So this process of engaging in multistakeholder negotiations has posed a challenge and solved a solution.

The challenge for governments is to position themselves among stakeholders while also serving as their representative. We think the responsibility of governments is that of making sure everybody can have their say and will be heard. The solution to the challenge posed by the multistakeholder model lies in the model itself. As long as everybody can adequately represent their interests, there is no need for governments to step in on their behalf.

For Germany it is worthwhile to ensure that there is a level playing field for all users, providers, and creators in the Internet.

This is the reason why I greatly value the hard work done by the CCWG. It's a remarkable example of the multistakeholder model in action.

Germany considers the United States administrations initiative of transferring the stewardship to the IANA functions at ICANN to be an important step. This transition creates opportunity for all stakeholders to play an active part. In our view, the success of this undertaking depends on close and regular communication with all stakeholders. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I will now give the floor to Olga Cavalli who represents Argentina.

OLGA CAVALLI: Thank you very much. I will now speak in Spanish. Authorities, distinguished delegates, Argentina thanks the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this meeting and for their kind hospitality. Argentina appreciates and recognizes the work done by the three co-chairs and the entire ICANN community in this transition process.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Fadi Chehade for his dedication and his approach to our region.

Argentina participated from the very beginning in this transition process, except they initially established conditions. Because we firmly believe in an open, secure, and resilient Internet based on the multistakeholder model. At the same time, we firmly believe that every stakeholder should have the freedom to choose the way in which it makes decisions. The role of governments is relevant in the participatory ICANN structure. And there should be no limitations for its participation within the new ICANN framework. Argentina hopes that this transition will respect these conditions that are the core of the multistakeholder model. Our concerns regarding the restrictions for the participation of governments in ICANN after

the transition have been reflected in the minority statement presented by myself on behalf of a group of countries. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I would now like to give the floor to Madam Manal Ismail who represents Egypt.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, honorable ministers, distinguished delegates, in the name of His Excellency, Minister ElKady, and after reiterating our thanks to our generous hosts thanking all ministers and delegates for their valuable remarks, co-chairs of CCWG for their representation and tireless efforts, and the entire community for their tremendous amount of work, allow me to share with you a few points for the sake of today's discussion. First, Egypt stresses the importance of the vital role of governments pre-and post-IANA transition being an essential part of the community that brings a unique perspective of public policy issues.

Second, we should not undermine the importance of the GAC continuing to work through consensus, which allows all government's voices to be heard and considered, gives more weight to GAC advice, and facilitates the Board's role in implementing GAC advice.

At the same time, the GAC should be allowed to maintain its autonomy, in making its own decisions and deciding its own working methods.

Lastly, as an overarching principle, we would like to express the importance of neither overempowering nor excluding or diminishing the role of any stakeholder group.

ICANN should remain an exclusive venue where all stakeholders stay invited and welcome to participate in a balanced multistakeholder setup where all stakeholders respect each other's different working methods, different views, and different interests and still come up with a common way forward.

Finally, we hope the details will not distract us from the overall goal of transitioning the IANA stewardship role to the global community and hope that, as we implement this new model, we give it enough time, allow it to evolve, and fine tune it as deemed necessary, appropriate, and as agreed by the community

At the end I would like to put on record Egypt's appreciation and thanks to Fadi for everything he has done to ICANN, the community, as well as our region.

So, Fadi, you'll be missed. And we wish you all the best. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

One last speaker, Mrs. Milagros Castanon, who represents Peru.

MILAGROS CASTANON: Peru, speaking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I represent Peru, a country with 40 million inhabitants. I don't represent any company.

This is a sovereign, independent country.

In line with the comments made by my colleagues from France and Brazil, I would like to express Peru's commitment to the multistakeholder model.

But also I would like to express our disappointment with a project that intends to limit the roles of governments. Even more so a project that is creating this figure of a referee or an arbitrator, a country that has the power to veto the decisions made by each of the GAC members.

Each GAC member also represents several millions of inhabitants. So, as this project entails so much effort, I believe that everything can be improved. And this part of the project is not acceptable to Peru. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much for your intervention.

I would like to now give the floor to Mr. Thomas Schneider, who is the president of the GAC so that he might give us a little bit of a conclusion now.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: I just wanted to assure you that, as you have heard, we still have some divergence of views on the proposal, in particular with regard to the role of governments, how that should be organized and what exactly that should be in the future of ICANN, which is not as absolute surprise. There have always been divergence of views on the role of governments in the history.

I just would like to reassure you that, as the facilitator of governments in this environment, I will do everything I can to make sure that we find a way to express our final opinion as the GAC as a chartering organization to the co-chairs of the CCWG in a way that everybody should recognize, every member of the GAC should recognize himself in this final opinion that we will give.

But I would like to urge you to not start with the diverging elements of our views but to build on the common ground that we do have. We have agreements on some element and try to go from there and try to be as flexible and pragmatic as we can

to go for as much consensus as we can while maybe highlighting, wherever necessary, elements where we may not have support. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. I would like to now give the floor to Fadi for a few words.

FADI CHEHADE: Thank you very much all of you ministers. And I would like to express my gratitude to all of the delegates who are present for all of the work that I have witnessed. It was great work to get to the point where we are now.

I think that, as I listen to you all, as Thomas just said, I believe that we have a path ahead of us. We have two days to engage on this path. But we need to get there. We have to get there.

We are at a very important moment in our history. And this moment will become the past.

It is true we do not all agree necessarily. We're not all on the same page. But we are writing this book together. And we will get there together.

So let us try tomorrow and the next day to get to a consensus. You know, this moment will pass. Make it a great moment. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: I would like to also thank all of the participants for this very fruitful session with many interventions, very good content, very rich content. I would like to thank you because you truly respected the timelines, the three-minute timeline. And I think we did very well. The debate is very constructive. And I can tell that we're moving forward step-by-step toward consensus.

Of course, there's always work to be done. And the sessions that we have over the next few days will help us get to our -- a conclusion at this meeting.

So we will meet again at 3:00. The secretariat will have announcements to make. Would you like to make them right now? If you could please inform us as to what we'll do next.

OLOF NORDLING: It will be a pleasure. So His Excellency, Mr. Minister Elalamy, would like to invite you, all of the ministers as well as other heads of delegations, for lunch. The lunch will occur in the Grand Blue room next to the pool as you exit through the garden.

I would like to highlight that, due to the size of the room, this lunch is only for ministers and/or heads of delegations. So bon appétit. And we will meet again at 3:00.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: So just one point before we leave. I would like to call Mr. Zhao, if he could please come up, the secretary general of the ITU, because it's his birthday and also because he would like to address us before we leave.

HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you for your kind invitation for me to join you at this very important gathering here.

I really enjoy my stay the second time I'm in Marrakech. I was here first time in 2002 when ITU held its plenipotentiary conference. I was re-elected here as director.

So it reminds me of a very good moment. So thank you for your kind invitation to join this conference but also for your kindness to remind me today is my special day. Birthday. And I'm very, very happy to spend my birthday with ICANN family in Marrakech.

And, of course, this meeting is absolutely important. It is the time, you know, that after two years intensive consultations in

ICANN community we finalize the proposal to internationalize the IANA functions. And I like to take this opportunity to praise my dear friend Fadi. He was nominated in 2002, right? 2012. And that was the year he was the invited to join ITU's conference of International Telecommunications Union. That meeting was very, very sensitive meeting. But he took risk to come to join ITU meetings and give us a very strong message to look for cooperation.

Then later on he spent new efforts. Tried to increase cooperation between ITU and ICANN families. And he came to ITU several important meetings such as WSIS meetings. And I think that this is I think that the real right moment for me to come to join this conference to say goodbye to him for his wonderful achievement over last four years. He left a legacy behind him. Because over last four years he spent tireless -- spent efforts just to promote ICANN family, to promote this important transition.

And we are very happy now to see this morning everybody seems to be quite optimistic. Now we just finalize the last one percent over the next few days. And I think that we will have this historic document be transmitted to the U.S. government for their further actions.

So let me take this opportunity to praise Fadi's historic, unique contributions to a global family for Internet connections.

And I also like to praise my friend, dear friend, Larry Strickling. Because I understand with the U.S. government not everybody shares the same views. And this initiative he took to invite open consultations of internationalized IANA functions, started two years ago. I can tell you last year at the Davos meeting there was a voice from very senior individuals that this is not that easy job, that the U.S. has different opinions than government. But we're very pleased to see that Larry encouraged the people to continue to work over last two years. And I just asked him what is your opinion. He said he's quite optimistic.

So let me also wish Larry and the U.S. government good luck to have this by the end of September that we can see a new situation that ICANN, as you said, would become stronger and more mature.

So, Excellencies, I'd like to take a few -- because I will have to leave immediately after this meeting. I'm supposed to join you for lunch. Unfortunately, I cannot join you for lunch, because I have to go to the airport now. I have to go to Sydney to participate at the very important annual meetings there for the spectrum issues. You know, ITU take care of spectrum issues. And also ITU world radio conference last year approved a very

important spectrum assignment to facilitate mobile broadcast. Mobile broadband connectivity to support the future development of Internet.

And after that I will have to go to Dubai -- so the rest of this week I'm traveling -- to also to join the U.N. broadband commission meeting jointly established by ITU and UNESCO.

We promote broadband deployment to support the connection for next 1.5 billion online and to connect those not connected yet. So quite busy.

Now, let's just try to say a few words about some kind of historic moment. We talked a lot about the multistakeholder. We appreciate very much the WSIS, World Summit Information Society, which was in United Nations last year to be continued. And we also enjoyed very much the multistakeholder as a platform like IGF.

WSIS created IGF. Now, WSIS we organized two times, 2003 in Switzerland and 2005 in Tunisia. WSIS was initiated at the moment when ICANN was created in 1998. It was ITU at the (indiscernible) conference at 1998 in Minneapolis proposed -- agreed resolution to propose to United Nations to organize the WSIS. Why? Because ITU fully realized that if engineers talk to engineers, if (indiscernible) telecommunications authority talk to them, say, it is not sufficient.

So we needed to engage the multistakeholder. So that is the moment ITU suggested that WSIS be organized by United Nations.

We are very pleased. You, indeed, organized that one. And also that year was very important for me. Today we see Fadi here. We see also Goran Marby. Where is he? The new nominated.

Let me take this opportunity to offer him best wishes. And his nomination is absolutely a great event for us. And we all try to work with him. Now, it was 1998 at an entrepreneurship conference in Minneapolis when I was elected. The same evening I received a message from then CEO of ICANN, Mike Roberts, together with CEO of IETF, Mr. Phil Breck (phonetic) and some others.

And, as they told me, I answered. I said, "Thank you very much." You know, a couple days later I heard that they said, "Oh, it's great. The newly-elected director for ITU now can answer emails." That means never they get to be contacted with any director by emails.

In 1999 it was me who, on behalf of ITU, signed an agreement together with IETF, with ETSI, with W3C, to support ICANN as we form a group of so-called technical liaison group to support ICANN.

And we had a very good cooperation since then. And then ITU always sit in that seat together with the W3C IETF. So all this is very good.

And then 2002, when I was re-elected here, that year is also very special year for me. Because, in the spring of 2002, I exchanged a visit with the then CEO of ICANN, Dr. Lee, *

He visited my office in Geneva. I visited his office in California. And then also I published a document to talk about ICANN reform, which was anonymously appreciated by all ITU members.

And then, in the summer, I was nominated by ICANN community as one of the three individuals to choose as a member of the independent review board.

I spent two months in the summer. I did not spend holidays. Just work with (indiscernible) try to have. And then I was awarded by re-electing as the director of TSP in Marrakech. So Marrakech is very good place for me, and I think that I like to keep all this good memory in my mind and wish Fadi great future after your retirement from ICANN. But he told me that he will continue to work with anything linked with ICANN.

And I also like to take this opportunity to also express my goodwill for everybody to you because this morning when I

come to this room I find a lot of friends. Just before I come here, you ask me here. My friend (saying name) told me this seems like ITU meeting. Lot of the procedures, opinions, all like that.

I think it's great. It's like ITU meeting, and you are active in ITU, you are active in ICANN, so if you are happy here, I think I am happy.

[Applause]

And I am looking forward to cooperation between ITU and ICANN, between ITU family and ICANN family, because we are working for one goal: to provide the best technologies to our people to connect everybody together.

I thank you very, very much and wish you great success of this meeting.

[Applause]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: For those who are invited to the luncheon, go to the blue room, and the staff, the hotel staff, will take you to this blue room.

[Lunch break]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming back nearly on time.

We're going to start our session 3, gTLDs and public policies. We're going to have a presentation by Akram Atallah, chair of ICANN's Global Domain Division.

AKRAM ATALLAH: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I will speak in English.

Okay. Next slide.

I will try to be brief and get the presentation done in as little time as possible before everybody naps from the lunch. So I will cover a little bit about the digital economies and the effect of the new gTLD program. We'll talk a little bit about the GAC advice and the outcomes of the public policy from the GAC advice, and we'll talk about the future of the new gTLD program as we move forward.

Next slide, please.

Next slide.

So it's very important to note that in 2010, the G20 reported that digital economy was about \$2.3 trillion. In 2016, the same G20 reports that the expectation is for the digital economy to be about \$4.2 trillion. This is a huge increase, and that is no small

feet when measured only by the G20, and we expect that this number is even much bigger as we include the rest of the world. And also, a couple of notes in there is that as vents start from a lower base, the growth in the developing countries is over 18% while in the developed countries, it's only 8%. So this is an opportunity that is huge in front of us, and we need to make sure that we participate in it.

Next slide, please.

The Internet is helping small and medium businesses grow revenues at a substantial rate. And this graph shows you that basically countries where they have heavy Internet use have an advantage of 7% over countries with medium or light Internet use.

So SMEs are benefiting from the Internet in many ways when they have -- when people in the country have the ability to access Internet and reach -- and the SMEs have the ability to reach their customers through the Internet.

Next slide, please.

A main advantage to the Internet is that it helps these small/medium businesses extend their geographic reach, not only to sell product but also to buy product at lower and more

competitive rates. So the ability to be online benefits these SMEs both ways, at the expense level as well as a revenue level.

So these benefits are very obvious to everybody, and we want everybody to participate in that. And that's why I think the new gTLD program was meant to help bring this equality across the world with the reach of the Internet.

Next slide, please.

So the new gTLD program was made to address three main issues.

[Sneezing]

Bless you.

Competition, innovation, and choice. So we've seen basically the choice expand very rapidly as the new gTLDs have come alive, and we've seen a lot of competition grow as we've seen more and more players in the domain name industry, including back-end providers, hosting providers, of course registries and registrars, but a lot more in the ecosystem have -- a lot more investment has come to the ecosystem and created more competition and more choice across the board.

Innovation, we've seen it also in the ways that the new gTLDs were applied for, where we see now brands move from brand

dot TLD toward a dot-brand presence on the Internet. This dot-brand presence is becoming more and more important as the world moves more toward the digital world and digital space, and so your digital branding is becoming more critical than your normal branding. And so companies are seeing that. That's why we've seen a large number of applications for brands. And we're already seeing today pressure on ICANN to open up the next round of TLDs for brands that did not apply that want to participate.

So the demand is there for that, and we think that this is a -- one of the signs of the success of the new gTLD program.

Next slide, please.

So it's important to mention that the GAC has been participating in this program from its inception. The program has taken over ten years to get us where we are today, and the GAC has been instrumental in shaping the new gTLD program from the beginning.

I remember when I first joined ICANN, we went to Brussels and we had a meeting and the GAC and there was a scorecard of 90 items, requests, and I think we've -- you know, 80-plus of these items were accepted, and we implemented those in the program. And so the GAC had a early participation in the program and was very instrumental in developing the program.

And one part of the development was actually the early warning segment. So when the applications were received and we unveiled all the applications, there was a period where the GAC provided early warnings. There were 187 early warnings. The applicants had to come up with a process to address these early warnings, and the GAC asked us to make a mechanism for accepting these mitigations that the applicants came up with. So we developed a public interest commitments process where we allowed these TLDs that made concessions to the GAC to put these in their contract through these public interest commitments, or the PICs.

So we created spec 11 that was attached to the contract to do that, and we then, later on, received multiple GAC communiques, and with over 70 advice. We -- A lot of the effect of this advice were also inserted into the public interest commitments, spec 11, and attached to the contract so that all the TLDs are obliged to make sure that they commit to.

Now -- Next slide, please.

The way that the Board organized its response to the GAC advice was through three different ways, let's say. So there were specific -- application-specific advice that we put in a certain bucket and were implemented on a case by case. There was a category 1 set of advice we put in spec 11 to make sure that the

safeguards for broad categories are in place. And then there was category 2 addressing exclusive access for generic TLDs that we also asked affected applicants to either change their application to be nonexclusive or to defer their application to the next round. As you can imagine, many of the applicants did not choose to defer their applications to the next round and they signed up to the contract as it is. But this issue of nonexclusive, the Board also asked the GNSO to look into it for future rounds as a policy matter.

So we addressed the issues in the current round, and a lot of the questions and concerns were also posted for the next round to be addressed.

Next slide.

Please skip the next three slides. These are examples of how we implemented the GAC advice, but I think for the sake of time, we'll go to slide 14.

So on the safeguard advice, there were four categories of topics: WHOIS, mitigating abuse activities, security checks, and complaint handling.

As you can see, we've accepted all of these advice and we've implemented them in a way that is actually not only implementable but also enforceable. So on the WHOIS, we

actually already did two periodic accuracy checks and we posted the results of those two and are working on the third one. So we're doing at least two a year for now. We're taking large samples of WHOIS records and we're comparing them to see the accuracy rates, and hopefully over time we can see an improvement in accuracy of WHOIS records through this program.

On the mitigation of abuse, we have incorporated in spec 11 a prohibitions so that the registry includes those in their registrar agreement, which is then included in the registrant's agreement so that when somebody makes abusive actions, their domain name could be taken away by the registrar.

On the security checks, it was also incorporated on the spec 11, and all of the registries have to perform these security checks as well. And we are working with the registries on finalizing a norm of what's expected there for them to do.

On the complaint handling, we also ensured that there is a mechanism for complaints to come to every registry so that it can be acted upon and remediated.

Next slide, please.

On the category 1 advice, as you can see, we accepted the safeguards and implemented them into regulated sectors and

highly regulated sectors. I'll go to the next slide, please, to talk about that.

So the GAC advice was not very specific on TLD by TLD, but it gave some sectors where they put a bunch of TLDs under each sector. So this graph is to show that you there were a set of regulated sectors and they had certain requirements, and a set of highly regulated sectors that had a broader set of requirements, and then there were a couple of special TLDs that also had special requirements. And all of these things were included in the spec 11 so that the TLDs will have to abide by all of these requirements that you see on the list.

So all of these safeguards were implemented and are committed to by the TLD, and they are part of their contracts. So a lot of the questions that I get is are the public interest commitments enforceable? We made sure that the public interest commitments are enforceable by being in the contract. The minute that they are in the contract, they become contractual obligations, and every TLD is obligated to meet these contractual obligations.

The reason we developed the public interest commitment process is because some of these requirements are beyond ICANN's mandate. So there are certain things that ICANN cannot be judge and jury on. And we developed the process so that

there is a panel outside of ICANN that, if a complaint comes in, we can work through that process and get a determination from that panel, and then make sure that the registry meets its obligations.

Next slide, please.

So as I mentioned earlier, the excluded generics were excluded from the contract, and the majority of the applicants who are asking for exclusive generics changed their application so they're no longer exclusive, and the exclusive issue will be addressed by the GNSO in the policy review that they are doing.

Next slide, please.

So as we look at the future round or future rounds, some of the public issues, public-policy issues that came from the GAC addressed national, cultural, geographic and religious significance, they addressed the string confusion and communities, and all of these things, we've asked -- the Board has asked the GNSO to look into and the GNSO has also formulated a list of items that they're looking into in their process, in their PDP process for next round.

Next slide.

Now, in our Affirmation of Commitments, we have committed to do a competition, consumer trust, and consumer choice review.

We also committed to do an effectiveness -- test effectiveness of the current round for the application and evaluation process, and test the safeguards put in place to mitigate the issues. So all of these commitments were made ahead of the program starting.

Next slide, please.

So the first thing that we've done is we asked ICANN operations team, who actually performed the program, to take a review about the application process itself and the evaluation process, and they came up with an implementation review that highlighted all of the ongoing work, engagement with the GAC, feedback, including globally recognized procedures outside of ICANN to see if we can improve things and leverage the ICANN's global stakeholder engagement team to promote awareness of the new gTLD program. And that report is available online. We wanted to keep that report in effect an operational analysis of the performance of the program, done by the people who actually perform the program.

We received public comment. These public comments were actually added as an annex to the evaluation to make sure that we keep the purity of the evaluators who were actually the staff that performed the program.

Next slide, please.

On the review processes, we have launched the CCT review. We've done a -- now we've seated the review panel. The review panel is already taking on the task of evaluating the measurements that the previous group did and making sure that these measurements are what they wanted to look at and that they have everything, all the data for them to be able to work on. And if they need anything else, we will -- the staff is here to support them to get what they need to evaluate the program. And they're on their way to perform their task.

The trademark clearinghouse independent review is also being done, and the root stability review is also being done. And it's important to highlight the trademark clearinghouse review and the root stability review were also requirements or advice from the GAC as well.

Next slide.

In addition to these reviews, there is, as I mentioned, a policy development process that is ongoing. The new gTLD subsequent procedures issue groupings has formed and has actually now gave their recommendations to the GNSO, and the GNSO has formed a working group to actually start the PDP process. So all of that is ongoing, and we expect them to review a lot of the contentious issues and the issues that got a lot of our

attention during the current round, and hopefully we can get more clarity on these issues.

Also, as we move forward in the rights protection mechanism, we are reviewing the UDRP and we are looking at startup protections as well as ongoing protections, like the URS and post-delegation dispute resolution procedures. So all of these things are being looked at right now in the policy developing process.

Thank you.

Next slide.

So it's very important that we engage early and we engage often. If we think that there are issues that need to be improved, if we think that there are better ways to do things, these are the ways that we can shape the next round, is through the CCT review team, through the policy-making of the GNSO, through the study of root server system, trademark clearinghouse independent review, and there are many other mechanism that we will keep you updated on that are available for you to actually participate in shaping the next round as it starts folding out.

With that, I finish my presentation and I hope it gave you enough information and answers to some of the questions that we've heard the GAC had. And I'm available if you have any questions.

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I don't believe we had a lot of people who would like to speak to this topic. We had only three at the beginning so now we are ten, so a lot more people have decided to talk.

First of all, His Excellency, Mr. Ndlangamandla, Minister of Information and Technology as well as communications, and he is from Swaziland.

DUMISANI NDLANGAMANDLA: Thank you, Honorable Minister, Your Excellency. As Swaziland we support .AFRICA, and we take it as a program rather than as a project. And the delay in implementation will have an impact on the continent. And we just support ICANN in the program.

One more question one may ask is on the issue of generic top-level domains is based on the cost of application. Looking at the price to be paid for the application, which is about 180,000 U.S. dollars, and looking at the economies here in Africa combined

with the exchange rate of the currencies to the dollar, is there anything or something ICANN can do to extend to applicant communities on the application for the gTLDs? And it is common knowledge that the price of something is also determined by the potential returns so you are going to get from an enterprise.

So can ICANN possibly look closely at this issue?

Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. I would like to now give the floor to Mr. Phillip Metzger, general director of the federal bureau in Switzerland for communications.

PHILLIP METZGER: Mr. Minister Elalamy, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to first thank warmly the country of Morocco for having put together this meeting in such a wonderful place. As we gather today and as we are reminded by the CEO of the ICANN organization.

I would also like to thank Fadi for all the work that he has done ever since 2012.

We are at an important juncture here as we need to assess the results of the first round of new gTLDs that started in 2011, and this will allow for adjustments in the future.

In our view, the first round has produced some remarkable success stories, including in my own country, and despite the great many changes and expansions the system keeps working smoothly.

Nonetheless, we have also experienced significant challenges from a public interest perspective that, in our view, need to be addressed going forward.

First, the benefits have been unequally distributed. While a small number of companies from industrialized countries have won hundreds of applications, there have been too few from developing and emerging countries.

Likewise, the application and string contention processes have favored powerful commercial applicants over community applications with only a handful of successful community TLDs compared to around a thousand delegated new commercial gTLDs.

Second, the processes to balance different rights and other interests in a string for a top-level domain have proven incomplete in our view. We need mechanisms that allow

everybody who has a stake in a name to voice it and that are serving the global public interest to its fullest extent. And third, there is still no adequate permanent protection of the names and acronyms of international organizations, which diverts part of their funds and their resources from helping people in need. And there is also still a pending task providing the Red Cross and Red Crescent and its national societies, which are protected by universally accepted norms of international humanitarian law, with appropriate permanent protections.

So governments have an important role to play in this regard and should work hand in hand with ICANN and the GNSO, providing clear, meaningful, and constructive advice, and early engagement with a view to creating benefits for the global public and not just for a few well-organized special interests. And in this regard, the GAC should develop more efficient feedback and interaction methods and instruments with the rest of the community, and at the same time we think that ICANN and the registries of new gTLDs would benefit from following GAC advice more closely, especially on safeguards for consumer protection and against risks and abuse detrimental to the public interest.

Finally, to appropriately perform its role in this ever-challenging environment, the GAC is dependent on an professional, independent and efficient secretariat. Its funding is key. We are

very grateful to Brazil, The Netherlands and Norway for their generosity, and I am pleased to announce that Switzerland will contribute to the funding of the GAC secretariat as well.

We do encourage all delegations to consider doing the same to ensure the sustainability of the GAC's work.

Thank you very much for your attention.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. As we heard that there were -- there was financing, and, of course, we give you a little bit more time because you addressed that topic. Now I would like to give the floor to Jean-Paul Philippot, the Broadcasting Union from Europe.

JEAN-PAUL PHILIPPOT: Thank you very much. I would like to speak in the name of the European Broadcasting Union, and I would like to first congratulate you for the work that was done. Congratulate you, Fadi, as well as all the teams that have led us today to a proposal to modernize the entire system.

We also appreciate and we support similarly to other participants the recognition of a management model based on a multistakeholder system.

We also recognize that over the years, the public interest has been promoted. Protection of the citizen has been promoted as well as a transparent governance system.

We would like to stress three points. First of all, the place of the media system within ICANN. Internet is a world of technology, of innovations, of world of infrastructures and applications. It is also a world of content and creation. For the most part, communication, production, and comments on the Internet depend upon audiovisual content sharing, and audiovisual content is done through the media.

The media industry is a creative cultural actor. It is also a determinant player on the Internet.

We would like, in the future, an evolution of the ecosystem that takes into consideration the audiovisual player.

The second thing I would like to mention was also mentioned by other speakers. During the last round for the allocation of gTLDs, only 3.6% of requests came from communities. A third of those demands -- requests were challenged, and amongst them only one to this day came to an operational status.

This means two things for us, two issues. Communities are challenged when they introduce their requests, and also, we

need to make sure that there is a balance so that all interests of all communities are represented equally.

Second thing that we would like to share with you that is of concern has to do with a little bit of a wider area. In the media, we know that one of the conditions for prosperity and growth is trust. We do believe that within the Internet there are a certain number of principles that require -- that are required in order for trust to be established. We do believe that they are universal values that need to be watched. Hatred speeches, for example. We also think about child pornography and the access issue, and we also think about copyright issues.

Thank you very much for your attention.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Mrs. Olga Cavalli for Argentina.

OLGA CAVALLI: Thank you very much for the opportunity. Thank you very much for the presentation, Akram. Very valuable.

You mentioned that the new gTLD purposes are three: competition, innovation, and choice. These are very bilevel purposes but the interests of countries and regions and communities should not be forgotten.

GAC has established a working group focused on the protection of geographic names to analyze the experiences of the first round and to develop best practices and proposed text and ideas in order to lower uncertainties for the next round. These uncertainties are for countries, for communities, and also for the applicant, which should result avoiding these uncertainties, saving time and money for all parties.

Argentina expects that the next round of new gTLDs should have the flexibility to consider not only the interest of companies, brand owners, form a list of name and legal frameworks but also consider the interest of countries, regions, and communities in relation with the use of names which are of high relevance for them but they happen not to be included in any specific formal list.

In the first round, the applicant book -- applicant guidebook, sorry, included specific rules and references to these geographic and community names, but these references and texts were not enough. It was experienced as it was experienced during the first round.

Some members of the GAC are engaged in analyzing these possible new elements of new rules with the purpose of avoiding future conflicts for all parties. GAC is following closely the different developments that are happening within ICANN and

hope these ideas will be considered for the rules of the next gTLD round.

Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Mr. Henri Kassen who represents Namibia.

HENRI KASSEN: Thank you, Honorable Minister, chairperson of the High-Level Governmental Meeting. I take the floor to also join my colleagues in congratulating and thanking the American government and honorable minister for hosting us and the hospitality extended to us when we arrived here. We look forward to add our voice and make Morocco another -- Marrakech another milestone in the development of the Internet.

I wanted also to raise -- or to thank Atallah for the presentation. I have noted that the main aim -- the three main aims of the new gTLD program was -- is to encourage competition, innovation, and choice. We have gone through about three or so years now with the first program, and I think we have learned a lot of lessons. One of them being to uphold those three principles.

I raise my voice now to -- in support of honorable minister from Malawi -- from Mali as well as Swaziland and other colleagues who feels the same in respect of one of the gTLDs, .AFRICA, that had started I think also right at the beginning, April 2013. With one month short, we will be now three years trying to get the domain name delegated. We do thank ICANN for the unwavering and diligent support, especially with the Board decision on the 3rd of March where it has indicated that we can now proceed with the delegation. However, in the democratic nature of the ICANN processes, the applicant has launched court proceedings now in the U.S. court -- U.S. courts to unfortunately cause a little bit more delay but we are hopeful it will be sorted out soon.

We would want to say that we do not want any further delays because we need to take our rightful place among the nations in the cyberspace, and we thank the Board and ICANN for their support, and we will continue to get the matter done.

Secondly, we also think it's essential that we balance commercial interests with the public interest, because the .AFRICA project is a program, not only a gTLD.

Thank you very much.

MINISTER MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY:

Thank you very much. This is Rita Forsi, general director for the Ministry of Economic Development from Italy.

RITA FORSI:

Good afternoon, distinguished ministers, distinguished vice ministers, colleagues of the ICANN communities. I'd like to begin by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco for the hospitality that we are all enjoying. I bring you greetings from the Italian Minister of Economic Development, Federica Guidi, and the Undersecretary of State, Antonello Giacomelli.

During these years Italy has been promoting a culture of true multistakeholderism for the governance of Internet in the relevant fora.

In particular, in the CCWG we work through the GAC and with other constituencies to make multistakeholder and transparent Internet governance happens.

In this multistakeholder framework, governments have a primary legal and political accountability for the protection of a public interest regarding public policy issues at the national level.

The new gTLD program, which is now reaching the end, raises some concerns among governments. The future gTLD rounds

must address the significant public policy ones. For example, in the review, we are not talking about commercial matters but extreme political sensitivity ones. For example, in the review process, we believe it is necessary to define special policies for child protection and receive safeguards to protect intellectual property rights. Italy would like that the future delegation of gTLDs gives the consumers a reliable and safe place on the Internet.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of those mechanisms, it could be useful that the rightholder support the ICANN communities in reviewing the entire delegation process.

In accordance with the WSIS+10 outcome document, which last December was supported by 193 member states of the United Nations, we reaffirm that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Dr. Isais Barretto DaRosa from the economic community from West Africa.

ISAIS BARRETTO DAROSA: Honorable ministers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I'm taking the floor this afternoon on behalf of the economic community of West African states, the ECOWAS, the regional

intergovernmental organization that encompasses 15 West African member states.

As we are all aware, the next billion Internet users are indeed coming from the developing world. And, therefore, from many African countries. We take good note of the ICANN board decision regarding the .AFRICA issue. However, we are very much aware that the problem is yet to be completely resolved. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to launch two appeals. Number one, we would like to appeal towards the lifting of all RIRs to the full resolution of this problem as soon as possible. Indeed, the delays in resolving this problem definitely has not been helpful to the Internet industry in Africa. Finally, number 2, appeal that the necessary measures be implemented so that these kind of problems can be avoided in the future. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. Mrs. Charlotte Lindsey from the Red Cross.

CHARLOTTE LINDSEY: Thank you minister and colleagues. I thank the government of Morocco for giving the Red Cross the floor and for hosting such a well-run and welcoming meeting in Marrakech. I would like to

refer to Fadi Chehade's eloquent and moving speech on purpose and spirit at this morning's ICANN opening.

The Red Cross was founded in international law in the 1800s to bring relief and assistance to the wounded and sick in wartime. Its important to remember the purely humanitarian purpose and spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as the role of governments in ensuring respect and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, designations, and names. Whilst recognizing the important steps taken by ICANN to accord temporary protections to the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and names and the continued support given by the GAC over the last years to call for this protection, we take this opportunity to ask again that these protections be made permanent at the top and second levels in the current and future rounds of gTLD applications.

Specifically, we refer to the designations and full names and identifiers including the ICSC, the 190 national societies, and their International Federation based on universally agreed norms of international humanitarian law and global public interests. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Mr. Teta, general secretary for Angola.

PEDRO SEBASTIAO TETA: Your Excellency, Mr. Minister, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to start by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco for everything that was made to welcome us warmly. And I think all African ministers talked already about .AFRICA, which is a real issue for African countries.

We have to resolve this issue to make sure that in the future we do not have the same type of issues.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Fadi Chehade and his team for the entire work he did for ICANN. In my country we do have a transition as well. We do agree with the transition. It's not a perfect document, but I think we made some good progress. We want in Africa more legal help in order that we can defend our sovereignty and defend our country names. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. The last intervention, Mr. Arch Sunday Echono, general secretary of the Minister of Communication of Nigeria.

ARCH SUNDAY ECHONO: Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, first, on behalf of Nigerian government, I also want to add my voice to

thank the government on people of Morocco for the depth of hospitality bestowed upon us and the arrangements for this conference.

I also want to commend Mr. Fadi and his team for the excellent work they have done in the last three to four years.

Nigeria's intervention is twofold. First, on the issue of the gTLD .AFRICA, we believe that a dispute resolution mechanism is too long. And we want to see a situation where ICANN can be strengthened and repositioned as an apex of proven authority. So we will have a situation where, whenever it takes its decision, it should be accepted and binding rather than being contested in other jurisdictions as is the case with the .AFRICA.

And the second issue of the ensuing IANA transition, we want to observe that there should be room for compromise on the subject having gone very far.

I would suggest that ICANN look at possible redesign of its governance architecture to bring confidence to all participants and to treat all its stakeholders equally through the adoption of uniform standards in the operations. I will believe, once we do this, we should be able to cross a bridge and come to some agreement. I thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. Before closing this session, I would like to give the floor to Mr. Akram Atallah. There were a few questions. And he's going to answer your questions now.

AKRAM ATALLAH: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Very pleased that most of the issues that were brought up are not surprises. There are things that we are continually working on. And I think that most of the concerns are being addressed through the review mechanisms or the PDPs. And I think there is plenty of room and time for us to, if we engage early on, to address all of these issues and come to a conclusion where the next round would be a much better round than the current one given all the knowledge and all the experience that we now have, including the .AFRICA issue.

I cannot agree more with the African delegates that brought up that the delays in .AFRICA application have been extensive and hurting to the community in Africa.

And you have my commitment as well as the entire staff's commitment and I assure you the Board has also committed through their action on Thursday that we want to move as swiftly as possible to get the delegation done.

As you mentioned earlier, the -- you are all people of government and you understand that the laws are the laws and we have to abide by all laws. And we will do everything that we can to get through the few difficulties that we have in front of us. And we feel strongly that we can actually move fairly quickly and get to the delegation as soon as possible. And, hopefully, before you can actually start preparing for the next ICANN meeting, you will be all happy and the results will be there for you. Thank you very much. And looking forward to hearing from you again. Thanks.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

We can do two things. We can take a break or go straight to our session four.

I suggest that we hear from Mr. Tarek Kamel, if he's in the room. Mr. Kamel is here. So I'm going to ask him to present session four now, and we're going to go a little bit faster. Do not be concerned.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: If you may, Mr. Tarek Kamel is the government engagement advisor to the ICANN president. And he's going to present session four.

TAREK KAMEL: Excellency, I would like, on behalf of the government engagement team and the GSE team, to welcome you all to this presentation. And this presentation and this session is actually going to take place in two parts in cooperation with our colleagues at the GAC.

The first part includes myself as well as my colleagues, Baher Esmat and Pierre Dandjinou, the vice presidents for the Middle East as well as the vice presidents for Africa.

And the second part is mainly focusing on the workgroup for underserved regions at the GAC. So, while we are waiting for the upload of the presentation, we will be mainly talking about the developing countries and the DNS and capacity building activities. What is exactly the role of ICANN in order to present to your excellency the activities that we're doing and hear from you the feedback specifically about what we are doing in areas of capacity building and development and in the different regions as part of our globalization efforts.

So the presentation is coming. Yeah.

Thank you.

Yes. Okay. Next, please.

So, as I said, this is the first role and the first part. And it has three parts. I'm going to talk about setting the scene in the developing countries at ICANN. And then my colleague, Baher Esmat, will talk about the entrepreneurship center that we have established together with the government of Egypt as an example of development activities in the Middle East.

And my colleague, Pierre Dandjinou, the vice president for engagement in Africa, will talk about our African engagement strategy.

Let me start -- next slide, please -- by saying that here is a brief agenda for the first part about setting the scene. We'll talk about our mission. And this is important to reemphasize the mission and to remind ourselves what we do and what we don't do. Specifically, these days, while in the CCWG accountability process, there is a lot of talk about the mission of ICANN and the role and the remit of ICANN. Then we'll talk about our strategy for development very quickly and some progress examples so far and opportunities ahead. And practical examples will be given by my colleagues Pierre as well as Baher in the Middle East as well as in Africa. Next, please.

When we talk about our mission, again, it is very important to remind ourselves what ICANN's mission is, what we do and what we don't do.

ICANN, to start with, is not an ICT development agency. And I'm focusing on it and repeating it. We are not an ICT development agency.

But we have a mission. In order to ensure an open, interoperable, and stable global Internet. And reemphasize the word "global Internet." And I will very soon say why.

Secondly, a role of coordination of supporting the unique identifiers was our sister organization, the RIRs, as well as with different constituencies such as names and IP addresses across the world. And I'm reemphasizing "across the world." Thus, we cannot say whether we're meeting our mission and fulfilling it unless we have a functioning and strong global DNS system. And, again, I am reemphasizing the word "global DNS system."

And it has been part of our globalization strategy since day one and since we started with the tenure of Fadi four years ago, the Board has been very clear in giving the mandate to this group that this has to be part of the globalization programs that we are working on to make sure that our DNS is becoming global. Next, please.

Having said that about the mission and the need for globalization and further global globalization effort, what is the strategy that we are seeking or seeking in order to implement that?

The ecosystem -- let me first start by the development of the DNS system. We started to leverage the experience that exists in the business community in the U.S. or in Europe or in Asia or in other parts of the world. And, honestly, I have to say that they were very receptive, the global business player, to cooperate with us as well as some ccTLDs that already have excellent experiences and to help us in providing in-kind support and services within our development strategies to the developing countries in different regions. We're also reveling that we have now 161 governments that are members in the GAC. This is definitely a very respectful number that we're happy of, and it provides us with the links in 160 countries in order to start working together with GAC members, not with the same level until now of activities, but at least it provides us with the opportunity and points of contact work.

We also need to say that part of our globalization program we have established three operational hubs that has been mentioned at different occasions. In addition to Singapore, we have one serving the Middle East and Africa, the EMEA region;

and Europe in Istanbul; as well as another in Singapore serving Asia and Oceania.

And presence in eight engagement offices. The last one was announced this morning by Steve Crocker and Fadi in Nairobi. And presence at least with one man in 30 countries, one ICANN staff member in 30 countries. All of this is part of the overall ecosystem that we have and that we are building on in order to ensure that we are providing enough outreach and making sure that we are reaching to our stakeholders whether governments or from the civil society or from the business community, because the ecosystem is not only restricted to one single constituencies. But it involves the different players in order, really, to have and to develop the DNS on a global level.

And through the DNS developing, actually, we seek the following. We seek the participation of the different countries at ICANN becomes more effective and meaningful. And this will only happen the more they have a stake in the development of the policies at ICANN, the more they see that there are business opportunities at ICANN. This makes them participate actively in different constituencies as such and provide, really, a network of experts in order to be able to make a meaningful effect on the decision-making process at ICANN. And, when I say gladly that we're at 160 members at the time being through efforts of outreach that Fadi has started and the GSE team and the GE

team and with the help of my colleague Sally Costerton and her team of the regional vice president in different regions and with the help of the GAC and the GAC chair, this is something to be proud of. Because it provides us, really, with a reference point to start with in the different countries. But, again, I'm trying not doing this just to increase businesses. But we're doing this to have effective and meaningful participation at ICANN that really, in the process of policy development, which makes the DNA of this organization to become really global and enhance, definitely, the involvement of different governments in the policy development process as much as they can.

Progress so far -- we have definitely the regional strategy. Today we'll be talking about only two of them, Africa and the Middle East, since we're in Marrakech, our wonderful hosts. But we can ensure to you that we have also a strategy for Latin America as well as Asia and other parts of the region. And I think many distinguished GAC members that are here have participated in the bottom-up process of building up this development strategy. And part of it is developing the DNS ecosystem for the reasons that I have mentioned, more meaningful and effective participation at ICANN's development of policy making.

Today also has been another illustration that part of the progress so far we try to make very sure and very clear that we work with the IGOs effectively.

The participation of the ITU Secretary General reflects that there is a respect -- common respect and mutual respect for the remit between the ITU and between ICANN.

This does not necessarily mean that we agree on everything. But there is a mutual respect of the different limits which help us to move forward our message when we talk about policy development of naming and numbers in addition to the protocol parameters with our sister organizations, the ISTARs.

Our offices in New York and Geneva help in building those bridges together with the IGOs and enhance the messaging in this case.

We work on the development of the IDNs, and we have seen that the IDNs have taken in the new gTLD program in the utmost priority in delegation at the beginning. I know that in some cases it did not yet take up with the numbers that we wished to see. But it is another message of globalization of the DNS ecosystem to see registrations whether on the gTLD or gTLD -- next, please -- in Arabic, in Hebrew, in Cyrillic, and in different languages all over the world.

The DNS industry is not an industry that is floating alone, as we have heard from Akram. It is more and more being integrated within the multilingual content industry and the integrated services industry.

So, when we talk about the DNS development industry, we're not just making it like this flying in the air alone. But we are building a network of experts that can really help us at ICANN and can help develop this industry within the bigger ecosystem. That includes today different services and within the overall ICT industry that it is being shaped globally in different directions and more and more globalized.

So we want to see the global integrator in different parts of the world, in Asia, in Africa, and in the Middle East, as well as in Europe, including the DNS industry as part of their programs and part of their services and part of their business plans while we move forward and specifically in IDNs.

Next, please. When we talk about this was -- next, please. When we talk about the opportunities ahead, I think that definitely we all know that 2015 in the last quarter has witnessed several occasions where reflected importance on the global level of the ICT industry. The sustainable development goal summit in September 2015, despite there are no separate goals for the development of ICT itself, but we see that the ICT is there on a horizontal level on the 17 goals as a catalyst which provides us with an opportunity.

And we will work together definitely on our colleagues on this development.

We work with the ISTAR organization and the wider technical community on providing the necessary capacity building program. The WSIS+10 forum in December was another opportunity to ensure really that the multistakeholder model is the best model to develop a global DNS industry as well as to engage in Internet work. And, again, we are working very closely to make sure that this industry comes closer to home. We help ensure it becoming diverse, becoming global, and take up in order to ensure, when we start the next round of gTLD program, that my colleague Akram has been talking about, then we have enough buy-in from the developing countries. And we don't repeat, then, the limited number of applicants that we have seen in the first round.

The last message is in the next slide, which is some practical examples that we are using the programs of capacity building very specifically in order to build a network of experts in governments, in the private sector, and in the civil society. Those experts should participate and represent the different parts of the world at ICANN. They should have enough knowledge about the policy development process, about the DNS industry, the DNSSEC, and the different aspects and policy development aspects within ICANN. And we will be giving your excellencies, within the next 15 minutes, some examples from two regions, as I have mentioned, Africa and the Middle East. My

dear colleague, Baher Esmat, the vice president of the global stakeholder engagement in the Middle East will talk about the DNS entrepreneurship center. We have visited yesterday with his excellency, the minister of ICT in Cairo -- they're both here -- together with the CEO of ICANN, Fadi Chehade, as well as incoming CEO Goran, and Steve Crocker.

So thank you very much for your attention while I was giving this introduction. I look forward to Baher to complement and Pierre. And then we'll hear part two from the workgroup at the GAC for the underserved region, Alice Munyua, and her colleagues. Thank you very much.

BAHER ESMAT:

Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Tarek. This is Baher Esmat, for the record. Good afternoon, excellencies, ministers, heads of delegations, and members of the Governmental Advisory Committee of ICANN.

Can we move to the next slide, please. So I'm going to talk about an initiative that represents a two-month stakeholder engagement.

It emerged from work that has been done by community members in Africa and the Middle East to develop engagement strategies for ICANN in both regions. And in both strategies it

was clear that the earlier domain name industry requires further development and enhancements. And the center has an idea of, you know, a place or repository for expertise, knowledge sharing, capacity building came through this process.

Next slide, please.

It's a partnership with the government of Egypt, the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Egypt, which is also the entity that runs Egypt's IDN top-level domain, .masr. And it also is a partnership with many stakeholders from within the region from within Africa and the Middle East as well as abroad who contributed to the establishment of the center. The key goal of this center is to develop a network of experts in DNS aspects, various DNS aspects from policy, business, legal, technical, operational aspects, and so forth to establish this network of experts across Africa and the Middle East. And the center would work as a resource to coordinate, you know, the utilization of those expertise across the region.

This center is incubated at NTRA premises in Cairo. And, if we go to the next slide, we'll see that this is a three-year project that started a year and a half ago with a memorandum of agreement signed at the ICANN meeting in London. And the implementation phase started last year mainly focusing on capacity building and also on starting to, you know, hiring staff

to get the center operational. So the center has recently hired a program director to, you know, develop its strategic plan, business plan, and so forth.

Phase 3, which will start next year, you know, will -- by then the center will be sort of ready to lend its expertise to the various, you know, beneficiaries from registries, registrars, ccTLDs, potential businesses who might be -- or who might become part of this ecosystem. Next slide.

So, as I said, it's a partnership. And on the screen you can see the names and logos of organizations who have contributed to the work of the center either in the form of hosting training and workshops or in the form of contributing information, materials, and content to the different training sessions. Those partners come from within the region. Many ccTLDs from the region have expressed interest in what the center could deliver to them and their communities; hence, they hosted a number of activities. Some of the ICANN accredited registrars, some of the new gTLDs have also contributed to this work in addition to some ccTLDs as well.

So far, over the past year, nine workshops were held in five different countries, more than 150 participants took part in those sessions in more -- coming from more than 15 countries,

workshops, you know, formed under different tracks of the center from business policy.

Some of the workshops focused on business development, DNS business development. Some of them focused on the relationship between registries and registrars and how to develop this relationship further. Some were more focused on national ccTLD markets. So we had sessions with ccTLDs and the local registrars and resellers working on SWOT exercises or SWOT analysis of their markets, trying to identify key challenges and opportunities in those markets, and coming out with recommendations on what needs to be done to enhance those markets.

Some other workshops were more on the technical side of the DNS -- DNSSEC, DNS operations, and so forth.

And one key track there is also what we call the train the trainer. So, as I said, the objective is not only to do trainings. But main objective is to see experts coming out of those workshops and those trainings. So we've done several workshop sessions on training trainers as well. And the good news here is that we started to see trainers from within the region coming from these programs. So right now we have four trainers coming from countries in the Middle East who participate with ICANN staff in some trainings as co-trainers. And very soon they will be able to

participate on their own as lead trainers and provide trainings to their communities.

Next slide. Also the good news is the center itself is present here in Marrakech. They have a booth at the convention center. So, if you're interested in learning more about this initiative, you can visit them and get more information about that. And I think this is my last slide. Yes. So, with that, thank you very much for listening. And I'll turn it over to Pierre. Thank you. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to quickly highlight some of the things we've been doing in terms of engaging with Africa. But, of course, the DNS center which Baher just spoke about is also part of the whole engagement strategy in Africa. Because we have also been using that center. We've been training people over there from subSaharan Africa. Now, maybe, specifically, on subSaharan Africa, what we did quickly, in terms of the strategy, is that now (indiscernible) three years ago as a way of engaging with Africa.

So we had a group of Africans who actually came forward. And the idea was to see exactly how ICANN could better support Africa.

To respond to two questions: One of them is how do you make sure that Africans really participates to ICANN? And the other issue was how fast would ICANN be present in Africa?

And then the group of those who actually developed that strategy found out that one of the things that's missing in Africa is the DNS industry. And the figures are there that really show that we have more to do in Africa.

The third, I would say, part of that strategy was about capacity development. How do you really beef up capacity so that people are also in a position to really contribute properly to policy development within ICANN, for instance? So that they just don't come, you know, and then go back home without really contributing.

So we lined up a series of programs and projects. Want to highlight them quickly. But the most important thing that we concentrated, of course, on the DNS, you know, business.

Of course, we actually -- Our starting point is what the policy, the Africa strategy is saying. Well, the African environment, as far as the DNS is concerned, we need to secure that environment, so we put up a program that we call DNSSEC roadshow whereby we went to already 15 countries; you know, trained people. And as a result, five to six of them now have signed a zone file, which is good. We should (indiscernible) designation is secure.

We also have been doing what we call topical, you know, workshops. For instance, not many people are really talking about, you know, domain names or trademarks and data

property rights in Africa. So now we are actually starting those programs, and the lawyers (indiscernible) are quite interested in that.

What to say quickly. I feel, of course, after those three years, we can ably say that we were able to engage with more people within Africa, and as a result, of course, you can also see the presence of Africans here in Marrakech, and this is the number is growing. Now we look forward to an informed participation, that people really understand the issues and are able to contribute.

Presence of ICANN in Africa, you just heard today about, you know, the launch of the Africa Engagement Center in Nairobi. We are also going to deploy a few activities, engagement around this one.

The last --

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: If you could please conclude, Pierre, we are almost done.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Sorry, Mr. Chair.

Hand over to you, thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I would like to now give the floor to Mrs. Alice Munyua who is the co-president from the GAC working group on the underserved regions. And right after that we will move to you on the floor.

ALICE MUNYUA: Honorable ministers and distinguished guests, on behalf of the head of delegation, Mr. Moctar Yedaly, the African Union Commission thanks and applauds the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this 55th ICANN meeting and for this very productive and successful high-level meeting, the first in the Africa region.

Now, as most of you are aware, GAC operating principles provides for the creation of committees and working groups to address matters that relate to concerns of governments and where they may affect public-policy issues. And the Underserved Regions Working Group was created last year in recognition of the challenges that developed -- developing and small island states face in engaging meaningfully not only in GAC processes but ICANN as a whole.

Next slide, please.

Now, the objectives of the working group, as -- I think I'll speak as the slide comes up.

The objectives of this GAC working group is to develop a range of support, advice, and assistive mechanisms aimed at increasing the number and participation of GAC members from least developed countries and small island developing states as well as increasing knowledge and understanding and capacity of GAC members from these regions in order to enable participation and engagement during not only the current review of new gTLD rounds but any other future ones that might be launched, as well as encouraging the growth and development of the domain name industry, including registries and registrars in underserved regions.

Next slide, please.

We also focus on capacity building, targeted specifically at the Africa region, the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean Islands, Central and South America, and Southeast Asia, and the GAC through this working group organizes capacity-building sessions every two years and formalizes on-demand induction and ongoing briefing materials in all appropriate GAC languages. And in collaboration with the GAC and ICANN and other working groups within ICANN, we build capacity in areas to do with public safety, around cybersecurity and law enforcement, privacy and consumer protection, geographic names, Country Code Top-level Domain relationships with governments, as well

as other technical issues to do with domain name security, IP version 6, and internationalized domain names.

Next slide, please.

We also focus on the DNS industry development, and currently are engaged in being part and parcel of the review processes that are ongoing regarding the current round of new gTLDs and how they impact developing economies in collaboration with ICANN.

As you'll all note, only, for example, 1% of applications, which is 24 out of 1,930, were received from South America; less than 1%, only 17, from Africa; and none from Central America, Caribbean or the Pacific Islands.

And like has been mentioned before by quite a number of developing countries, the requirements for applications for new gTLDs for developing countries and small island states are quite a challenge. Not to mention the current challenges, for example, for those who choose to have participated in the current round of new gTLDs, like the geographic name .AFRICA that has been mentioned by several colleagues, which continues to face so many challenges that are prejudicial to the Africa region taking up its place on the global Internet.

I think I'm going to stop there and hope to engage with you over the question-and-answer.

Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

If everybody is prepared, we might as well move on to your interventions.

First, Mr. Ernis Mamyrganov, vice minister from Kyrgyzstan. You have the floor. And please do not speak more than three minutes.

Thank you.

ERNIS MAMYRKANOV: Ministers, colleagues, thank you very much. I asked for this -- to speak on this session on infrastructure because I wanted to share on the role of the Kyrgyz Republic in the recent years in the development of Internet in our central Asian region. If you are more or less familiar with our region, then for the last 15 years, Internet pretty much ended in our country. So basically we were the last country which was the Internet user and then it didn't continue on further. But in 2015, there was some historical events when the Internet gained access to China, to

Tajikistan, and from there we were able to establish connection to the other southeastern -- south Asian countries.

Now since that year 2015, we have been actively working with other countries: Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and the other countries in the central Asian region. We're negotiating on creating a unified system of a direction. And we would like to note the role Kazakhstan as a potential transit state.

From the very beginning, since we gained a sovereign status, we had rather flexible laws that have supported development not just of the Internet but of the operator of communication as a representative of business.

Since last year, we're members of GAC and it's very pleasant for me to recognize that in this forum we can discuss not just the needs of our country but of our entire region.

We represent our interest in gaining a domain name, and we hope that we can join the other countries that have a Cyrillic domain name.

We would like to note also that Kyrgyz Republic actively working and creating a platform and conditions so that through our country, the transit potential of not just the central Asian would develop. We have even came up with a slogan for our country

which sounds as follows: Connecting countries and uniting people.

If, in this respect, we're able to see a partner in ICANN which would be able to support us in furthering these initiatives, we would be very grateful.

Very recently, we spoke with Michael Yakushev, a representative in ICANN, on creating regional offices of ICANN, and this initiative could be supported in our neighboring countries in the same central region, and the Kyrgyz Republic is ready to support this initiative. We are ready to start the process of negotiations so that the role of ICANN in our central Asian region would be more significant than it is today and that we can imagine today.

I would like to express my gratitude to our host who have invited us to Morocco and created this wonderful platform where we can speak with other countries on our future opportunities.

Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

Second speaker, Mrs. Maryanne Mikaere Namakin, Vice Minister from Kiribati.

MARYANNE MIKAERE NAMAOKIN: I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the government of Morocco for hosting this important meeting and the tireless efforts of ICANN in making this meeting possible.

Firstly, the Kiribati government would like to echo and align itself with the statement made by our Pacific Island neighbor, the Cook Islands, on the issues and challenges raised as these are very much the same constraints shared by Kiribati. Cook Islands has touched base on a number of very important issues, and I will try not to repeat them for the sake of time.

The Kiribati government, being the main employer to its people, communication sector is one key priority area to facilitate its services. At this point in time, limited access to Internet is an issue, especially on the rural outer islands, and have been a limiting factor to the social and economic growth of the country. Limited access to the Internet has greatly hindered the remote community's ability to access basic information, such as educational, health services, and more critically, information relating to disaster warnings and alerts.

The Kiribati government recognizes the important role Internet plays, Internet to its development, and is committed to bringing more opportunities for the citizens, particularly the outer islands connections and now in the process of implementing its plan to

roll out Internet and mobile services to all the inhabited outer islands. Mr. Chair, allow me to acknowledge the efforts of friends and representatives from the Pacific region and small island developing states who have been working tirelessly within ICANN to be recognized and, more importantly, to share and learn from each other.

Kiribati believes that partnership at all levels for socioeconomic development, and we are so fortunate to participate in this global meeting.

To conclude, I would like to encourage ICANN to consider more assistance; in particular, capacity programs, capacity-building programs to small island developing states and the Pacific region on Internet governance and connectivity.

The Kiribati government will continue to support the work of ICANN through GAC and multistakeholder approach and keen to continue participating and engaging in more.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

I give the floor to Ms. Liliane Massala, General Secretary of Ministry of Communication from Gabon.

LILIANE MASSALA:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. This is Ministry of Digital Commerce, and I would like to speak in the name of our minister who would have liked to come to this meeting but was not able to. Unfortunately, he was very busy. We have some upcoming elections in Gabon, and, thus, our minister couldn't come, and I do represent our minister. And it's my utmost pleasure to express my thanks for Ali Bongo Ondimba, our president, president of Gabon. We do thank His Majesty Mohammed VI from the Kingdom of Morocco who welcomed us so warmly in this beautiful country of Morocco, in this beautiful city of Marrakech as well. Just like it was said this morning, it is a country with so many palm trees and beauty.

Today we're talking about the future of Internet governance. This is something very important for Gabon, who works much on developing Internet and information technologies in order to make sure that the citizens of Gabon have access to the Internet, and the companies in Gabon have access to the Internet as well.

We worked on the IANA transition, and we think it's very important to increase the responsibility of ICANN and to have a new structure for ICANN.

What I want to say is that the government of Gabon, just like other governments that we heard today, supports the IANA

transition. We want an Internet for everybody. That is why we rely on ICANN and a new ICANN for development for a stronger Internet ecosystem that is being set up in Africa and in Gabon, thanks to a stronger governance of the Internet for a stronger legal process for more Internet security as well.

Mr. President, I would like to thank you and I would like to thank Mr. Fadi Chehade for his work. He was very professional in modernizing ICANN and put an accent on developing Internet in Africa. We wish him the best in the future and welcome his successor, Mr. Marby, with whom we hope to work together.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much, I'm going to give the floor to Mr. Hassan Abdoulay Taroung from Chad.

HASSAN ABDOULAY TAROUNG: Thank you. I would like to speak in the name of His Excellency, our Minister for Information Technologies in Chad.

In the name of the Chadian delegation, since we meet here in Marrakech in the Kingdom of Morocco, we want to talk about Internet governance. His Excellency Mr. Itno was very busy and couldn't come to Morocco so he give us his best wishes and best wishes to everyone present here. He hopes to come to the next meeting.

This is an opportunity to thank deeply the chairperson of the GAC who worked with the Republic of Chad to make sure we are present here today as a member of the GAC.

We also thank Mr. Emmanuel Adjovi who is in charge of programs for information -- communication and information society. He worked diligently to help us out, to help Chad come to the GAC. That was a long process that we did appreciate deeply in our country. I would like to thank in the name of our Chadian delegation the authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco for this warm welcome.

Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. Ms. Megan Richards, Principal Councillor for the European Commission.

MEGAN RICHARDS: In order not to spend too much time, I would just like to join in the generous and heartfelt thanks that have been expressed by all the previous speakers, both to all the Moroccan stakeholders for this meeting and to ICANN staff and particularly Fadi Chegade for his support to this area of work.

The WSIS+10 review outcome document that was adopted in December last year clearly underlines the importance of reducing the remaining digital divides in the world, not only for developing countries but also within and between countries, to ensure that the benefits of the Information Society and digital economy can be brought to all people in the world.

WSIS+10 reiterated the importance of enabling policy environments and the role of international cooperation in addressing these digital divides. But capacity building and multilingualism are two of the other factors mentioned. And I would like to address these aspects, how the DNS can help to build capacity in developing countries, how the European Commission and ICANN can also contribute to those efforts.

In its communication of February 2014, the European Commission called upon all stakeholders to engage in Internet governance capacity building in order to establish and promote multistakeholder processes in countries and regions where they're either not yet established or are less developed. Furthermore, the commission committed to strengthening its own development stains programs in support of media development and freedom of expression as well as technological, policy, and regulatory capacity building related to the Internet. It's particularly appropriate to address the issue of capacity building at this meeting in Africa where young, growing,

dynamic and innovative populations will have an even more important role in Internet use and governance in future years. There's still a large gap in ensuring inclusive participation of all stakeholders to Internet governance. They all need to have better access to information and know how to process that information, and the tools for engagement and participation.

Strong governance systems need to be applied globally as well as at national, regional, or even local level.

To boost access to knowledge and information, the European Commission has been developing a capacity-building tool that we call the Global Internet Policy Observatory, or GIPO. GIPO is an easy and accessible tool for stakeholders everywhere in the world who want to know more about Internet policy and governance. Given the increasing importance of the digital economy everywhere, this is an area that is attracting increasing interest and political attention. But it's extremely complex and many suffer from either information overload or information vacuum.

Thanks to advanced I.T. technologies, GIPO will provide a practical automated tool to navigate through the maze of issues and documents related to Internet governance.

We must also acknowledge ICANN's efforts in developing capacity building through ICANN internships, educational

efforts, support for participation in the GAC and global outreach efforts and regional office representation expansion. The addition of an ICANN outreach office in Kenya is very welcome in this context. In addition, the increasing development and advancement and introduction and acceptance of Internationalized Domain Names and scripts other than Latin and the multilingual expansion of the DNS have also helped to improve access, build capacity, and generally expand the remit and extent of the Internet around the world.

The money is coming. Shall I continue? I speak about the money, then.

All of us have an obligation to work together to help all stakeholders and to promote the rollout of best practices for enabling regulatory, legal, and technical environments, and I'm pleased to announce today that the European Commission will contribute 50,000 euros in 2016 to help finance the independent GAC secretariat as an additional signal of our commitment to ensuring that independent, objective advice and support is provided to all GAC members, thus contributing to capacity building that leads to even better and more governmental participation in ICANN. And we hope that other members will join us in this effort.

Thank you very much and I apologize for the time.

[Applause]

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I think we understood what it was all about. We need some financial contribution, and we have a few more minutes given to you.

Thank you very much.

We're going to give the floor to Mr. Victor Lagunes, General Director for Strategy -- Digital Strategy from Mexico.

VICTOR LAGUNES: Congratulations to the Kingdom of Morocco for its hospitality and organization of such a relevant event. Thank you to ICANN and, specifically, to Fadi Chehade for his leadership, not only within ICANN but to the betterment of society through the building of a more open, robust, and safer Internet. I will speak on behalf of the Mexican government, so I will shift into Spanish.

Internet has certainly been interoperable, and it has been strong. So we have to work for these principles to become stronger. It doesn't matter where we're coming from. So these principles have been translated to a governance model, so that we here present, as well as those that we represent as interested parties in these ecosystems may boost the development of the

Internet. This is why Mexico is recognizing the work of ICANN in this IANA transition process. And Mexico is strengthening its commitment and support to this as well as to the multistakeholder model.

Mexico is confident that the approval of the proposal prepared by the cross-community working group in ICANN 55 will launch a new era when we talk about how to manage resources. And the global community would then be responsible, having a clear purpose in mind.

It's very important for Mexico to be aware of how we can build capacity as fast as possible led by ICANN. While, in the meantime, our DNS is still robust and stable for all the members of this ecosystem.

We participated in the IGF. So Mexico acknowledges and recognizes the significance of this model as well as other multistakeholder models for the governance of the Internet. We are confident in this bottom-up multistakeholder model so as to face the future challenges of the development of the Internet.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much. I give the floor to Mr. Antonio Correia, president of the National Authority for Timor Leste.

Thank you, Chair. Firstly, I would like to thank the government and Kingdom of Morocco, especially Minister Elalamy for being an excellent host for this ICANN meeting.

Timor Leste appreciates ICANN's recognition of the special needs of developing countries and the GAC's timely attention in organizing a special session to address the interests of countries in dealing with the domain name system.

This morning we heard Mr. Fadi in this room discussing how the domain name has become a critical resource of the world.

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues, it is not an overstatement. It is perhaps (indiscernible) to suggest that, like telephone number and frequency spectrum, domain names are a scarce resource of the cyberspace. It is (indiscernible) scarce resource.

And, given the critical role Internet plays in the world of digital economy, the business of managing this scarce resource will become critically important for developing of a country, more especially in the context of developing country.

I say so because a number of developing countries face this struggle. The statistics show here this morning and afternoon about the low participation rate from developing countries demonstrated this issue.

We also hear from minister about difficulty with the tools to manage the dot email domain.

So, excellencies and distinguished colleagues, in the spirit of getting everybody on board on this Internet wagon so as to achieve the truly inclusive society supported by digital economy, in addition to contribute discussion here, I propose the GAC advocates the creation of a ccTLD for developing countries to help those who need help to get started with the management of this critical resource in the world. Thank you. And I wish you success.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. I give the floor to Mr. Wajdi Alquliti representing the Islamic Cooperation Association.

WAJDI ALQULITI: Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset let me convey to all of you the greeting of the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Corporation or the OIC. Our appreciation goes to ICANN community for inviting the OIC to this august meeting in the beautiful city of Marrakech. The OIC has been an active participant to the previous high-level meetings of ICANN.

We hope and expect that the current meeting will bring added value to the previous meeting. We also hope this would substantially contribute towards fulfilling its yet-to-be-fulfilled objectives with a particular emphasis on the issues of technological governance and new top-level domain names and the policy challenge that we continue to face in this field.

Indeed, the challenges in front of us are quite serious. And they become more and more crucial by the day. However, we believe that the embracing and constructive and consensus-based approach all constituencies and stakeholders we be able to certainly to ease the world towards more transparent and accountable governance of the Internet ecosystem.

Dear participant, cyberspace today needs to be bridging platform that will promote mutual understanding and remove misperceptions from the minds of peoples from different culture, religion, and ethnic affiliations. Unfortunately, we see quite the opposite in many cases. However, it is felt more strongly in case of Muslims and Islam.

At this backdrop, the OIC and its member states maintain the position that, due to their sensitivity, the registration of Islam-related domain names -- dot Islam and dot Halal -- need to be limited to OIC member states. This position was asserted during

our brief deliberation in ICANN meetings and was officially relied on ICANN chairmanship.

Please be sure, Excellencies, that be calling for such limitation, the OIC has never advocated for any Islam-centric exception, rather we call for the need to ensure that the registration of any domain names under top-level domain names should not abuse, denigrate the beliefs or the ensemble of any community, religion, or culture. There should not be any doubt that the OIC is for freedom of speech, be its real life or in cyberspace.

Our organization has consistently upheld the principle of a freedom of expression. However, for us and for all rational beings, this freedom should be exercised with a sense of responsibilities and accountability. Ladies and gentlemen, though I see membership includes a good number of the developing and underdeveloping countries who need better access to information, as such, our organization endeavors to improve access to Muslim communities, to the Internet, and, hence, to information. To achieve this objective, the OIC and ICANN could collaborate in initiating a set of outreach projects that would include OIC member states. Beside the issue of gTLDs we can start the issues like building Internet infrastructure and domain system.

We hope that soon ICANN would be able to successfully navigate the Internet management transition and facilitate the global multistakeholder environment where all concerned, including the OIC member states, would have a dual role. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you. Thank you very much.

I'm going to give the floor to Ms. Nicola Treolar representing New Zealand.

NICOLA TREOLAR: Distinguished delegates, we meet again by joining my colleagues in conveying our thanks and appreciate to the government of Morocco for the organization of this meeting.

New Zealand supports the maintenance of a global Internet which ensures that all users are able to access, create, and share information regardless of their location. This openness underpins the unique value of the Internet allowing it to act as an enabler of social and economic development.

New Zealand's distance from the rest of the world, our geography and our population density, make connectivity both important and challenging. Because of this, we are very conscious of the unique characteristics, challenges, and

vulnerabilities faced by small island developing states and the impact these have on their ability to achieve sustainable development. We're also a small country, and we are an island state. Many of our closest neighbors are small island developing states. We rely for our own development on cooperation with others and on a fair and fully representative global system. Our support for these states, therefore, reflects our own place in the world. ICANN's strategy recognizes the importance of developing processes and structures that enable broad, inclusive, multilingual engagement. Today we have heard about the challenges small island developing states still face which constrain the full and effective participation of states, those states that can benefit the most from improved connectivity. Some of these challenges are also faced by small countries and larger island states and the countries that the GAC working group on underserved regions seeks to support.

There are many steps ICANN could make to support these needs. For example, our strategy and work plan should be developed with an awareness of the resource constraints of our community members. ICANN communities should all have working methods to support participation from around the globe. And we need to recognize the travel distances many states have to face and the additional challenges these can bring.

In acknowledging these challenges, we wish to emphasize that it is the small island developing states themselves and not others who are best placed to lead consideration of their most pressing needs and help shape and implement the responses. Our multistakeholder system allows us to engage with experts and draw on their experience to come up with the solutions to these challenges we face.

If ICANN is to -- if we are to bring ICANN and the Internet to the world, the frameworks that support this community must take into account the differing needs and resources of users and their representatives so all states can benefit from the social and economic development that the Internet can provide. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

As far as the last intervention, last speaker is the representative from India. If you can go ahead, sir.

ARVIND GUPTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the head of my delegation, I want to make an brief intervention. Essentially, I want to raise two points. Every second three new Indians experience the Internet for the first time. And many of them are

not fluent in English. And the languages they read do not use Roman characters. This is not true only for Indians but for a vast majority of the next billion who will be coming online soon.

For all of these people coming online, it is essential that there is high-quality local language content available and that the services which we all take for granted such as email work seamlessly.

This is possible only by making sure that IDNs are rolled out and are supported fully by everyone. In other words, what is essential is universal acceptance, which is an area where ICANN can play an important facilitating role.

In India we are rolling out our own IDN, .BHARAT, in seven different scripts. As you can imagine, universal acceptance is, therefore, an important issue for us.

The second issue I want to raise is the high fee for a new gTLD application. I believe it's in the neighborhood of \$185,000.

And this was the case in the first round.

It's very high for applicants coming from emerging economies. This is one reason why there is a low level of participation from India and other emerging economies.

This needs to be corrected. There is no one solution to this problem, and we have to look at multiple approaches. Encouraging more community applications would be one way of addressing this; although to do this, we need to remove some of the hurdles currently there before community applications because of which most of the current community applications are still held up.

We must also explore lowering the fee or developing system of needs-based financial assistance in order to make the playing field more even. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much.

We do not have any other speakers at this point. And I would like to give the floor to Thomas Schneider, who is going to conclude our meeting.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: First of all, I would like to thank all of you for coming here and sharing your views and coming here also to listen and to learn what others' views are. And that shows that the interest and the importance of the work of ICANN is still rising. And we think that is a very positive sign.

Then I would like to tell you that, of course, we will continue in the days remaining to work on a good outcome for the GAC with regard to the accountability proposal and the feedback that the GAC is -- will be going to give in the coming days to the CCWG co-chairs.

And, finally, I want to sincerely thank the government of Switzerland and of the EU Commission for contributing to the funding of the Secretariat of the GAC and also Peru who has announced already before that they will join the current three donors -- Netherlands, Brazil and Norway.

Because that work that the secretariat of the GAC is doing is of fundamental importance to the quality of our work. And it's a big support to all your governments, representatives who work in the GAC with limited resources from the capitols and are extremely well-supported by the secretariat through briefing papers and participation in working groups in calls and so on and so forth that they participate and report, proposals that they make.

And I just want to strongly, strongly recommend all delegations with whatever amount they can to think about joining to support financially the sustainability of the secretariat.

Because, if you ask your GAC representative, I don't think he would want to miss it. I'll end here. Thank you very much.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you very much, Thomas. Fadi Chehade. All of the speakers talked about you. Most of them did. And so I imagine that you have a word for them.

FADI CHEHADE: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Yes, indeed. Many of you were, I think, very generous in thanking me and my team for the things we accomplished, the promises we kept for the last four years. I'm very thankful to you for the commitment you give to ICANN, the commitment you give to this model. Thank you very much. You were, I think, very generous.

And I'll take all your comments as encouragement for the work that I will continue to do in the area of Internet governance. And I'm certain we will meet again in different places.

I do want to share with you, for all of us who are watching this proposal and thinking this is different, we're not so sure how all of this will work, when I went recently to both Harvard University and Oxford University schools of government to describe this proposal to a number of professors in government, their answer to me was, "This is different. We're not sure this will work even. This is completely something new."

And it is. It is something new.

We are actually here engaged in a process of governance innovation. That's what we're doing. And, yes, some things may feel different. May feel unusual. We're understanding how the roles will play. But, you know, I encourage us to be kind of in a Silicon Valley mode about governance, in an innovation mode in thinking that we are breaking new grounds together. We're learning together how governance, in a world that is increasingly globalized, can work in the 21st century.

So thank you for braving the day. Thank you for all the contributions. And I can't finish without thanking our host again. And, especially Minister Elalamy, who -- I think you would agree with me -- ran a first-class meeting for all of us today. So to him ...

[Applause]

Thank you all. Thank you.

MOULAY HAFID ELALAMY: Thank you.

I think we would like to conclude with a summary read by the president. I will read it to you in a few minutes, if I may.

I had the honor of presiding this High-Level Governmental Meeting in the presence of high government officers with

different NGOs on this March 7th, 2016 in Marrakech during the ICANN public meeting. This meeting was organized in a very different type of environment because it had to do with Internet governance.

We are at a key time because we are finalizing the transition process as the U.S. government announced the transfer of the IANA functions to the multistakeholder community.

The Marrakech meeting was an opportunity for governments to exchange, to dialogue on a number of issues having to do with strategy, Internet governance, and the transition process of the IANA stewardship with members of the ICANN model. These debates follow other multilateral meetings of great importance, such as the NETmundial meeting in Brazil or the high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on the review of the WSIS review.

I was quite impressed by the high level of participation and involvement, with the presence of representatives from almost a hundred governments who are or are not members of the GAC, and of 22 intergovernmental organizations. This high level of participation, this high level of representation during this meeting today is a testament to our desire, our common desire to transform ICANN into an inclusive, global organization.

I will give you my report shortly, but for now, I would like to share with you some of the ideas that I gathered from our debate today.

First of all, governments and intergovernmental organizations have an important role to play and do play an important role within the ICANN community, and they contribute to the policy development process within ICANN through their belonging to different committees and, in particular, the GAC.

Secondly, the contribution of the GAC within ICANN is evident. Many countries are not present. With 162 members and 35 observers, governments need to continue to be an integral part of ICANN, of the global system, so that this multistakeholder system might really work in the interest of the wider public.

Also, the transition process of the IANA functions required an incredible amount of work. The different working group were truly committed. The GAC was involved and worked on consensus and compromise.

Also, as far as accountability within the transition process is a fundamental question as we examine ICANN's performance on those key aspects having to do with governance. The debate having to do with accountability is a continued process and should continue to inspire us so that we might have an

accountable ICANN, a transparent ICANN, a responsible ICANN for the good of all parties involved.

Fifth point, over the past few years, we saw the addition of a number of TLDs, gTLDs, and the GAC has committed in this process and would like to continue to be involved in the different debates related to the new gTLD program.

Sixth point, and it will be my last, developing countries are getting more involved into ICANN activities and all Internet activities was highlighted. In particular, it is important that we work on capacity building within these countries.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of my colleagues in intergovernmental organization and governments who were involved in this High-Level Governmental Meeting. I would like to appreciate my gratitude to all of the speakers who truly were prepared and contributed to the discussions.

I would like to congratulate our interpreters for excellent work, and also all of the members of the ICANN staff.

As far as I am concerned personally, because this meeting in Marrakech will be the last one that I will have the pleasure to see Fadi as CEO of ICANN, I would like to thank him for the work that he has done for the organization as far as the different multistakeholder parties and for the development of the

Internet. I would like to also wish him the best in the future, and I'm sure that he will be successful in his career.

I would like to welcome the new CEO, Mr.Goran Marby.

I would like to thank you all, and I would like to wish you the best in your future work as you go on during the week working together.

We are almost there. We are at a decisive time in the transition process. Governments need to seize this opportunity, it is historic, and they need to position themselves for the future for the good of the multistakeholder Internet community. I am very optimistic, and I wish you good luck. However, do not forget to also enjoy your time, spend some time, go to Marrakech, go to the city, to this Red City that is one of the imperial capital of our kingdom.

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]