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BARCELONA – HLG: Closing Session  
Monday, October 22, 2018 – 17:45 to 18:00 CEST  
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it's been a long day but this is a really short session, so....

I would like to thank all the delegations for the valuable interventions and remarks given throughout the day, guiding the future agenda of the GAC. It is through the participation of your delegations that we hope to address those matters.

We have heard very important messages during the four sessions of today from government officials who regularly attend ICANN meetings but also from government officials attending for the first time.

I would refrain from going into details of those messages now for the sake of time, but also because you'll be receiving a chairman's report covering the whole day.

So I've been told we had 128 delegations attending the meeting today. I thank you all for your interest, attendance, active participation, and valuable remarks. Your kind participation as well as your delegation's continued participation to the GAC is crucial to ensure GAC's success in its mission. In fact, this is what ensures GAC's credibility and empowers its advice. So we count on you.

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With this, I thank all once more, thank our generous host, the Spanish Government, thank all moderators, speakers, invited discussants.

I'm sorry.

I would also like to thank ICANN support staff, GAC support staff, interpreters and technical support without whom we have not been able to put all this together. I wish you all a lovely evening, a good and fruitful rest of the week, and a pleasant stay in the beautiful city of Barcelona.

So with this, allow me to hand it over back to the chair.

Thank you.

DAVID CIERCO:

Thank you very much, Manal Ismail.

Now Cherine Chalaby, Board chair of ICANN, will say a few words.

CHERINE CHALABY:

Hello. Hello? It's working. Okay. Thank you.

Good afternoon, everyone. I wish to begin my remarks by thanking our hosts, Nadia Calvino, Minister of Economy and Business of Spain, who unfortunately was unable to attend, and Francisco Polo, Secretary of State for digital advancements.

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I also wish to thank Secretary General Houlin Zhao for his lunchtime address, and Manal Ismail, chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee. You set the tone for a very productive dialogue. Thank you.

I want to express my gratitude to the GAC for its continued and extensive participation in ICANN. Without the involvement of governments and their leadership on public-policy issues, the ICANN multistakeholder model of governance would not function as well.

You may have heard me this morning in the opening ceremony discussing the trends identified by the community and that will inform the ICANN next strategic plan. I'm very pleased to see that several of these were addressed in various ways today in your meeting. Allow me, therefore, to reflect very briefly on the importance of your discussions to ICANN.

With regards to your first session, the role and opportunities for governments in ICANN. ICANN and its community are keen to preserve the single, open, and global Internet, and to avoid fragmentation. Hence, it is fair to say that our objectives are twofold. First, to improve our dialogue with governments so that we can better plan for and assess the potential impacts of new legislation and regulations on the Domain Name System. And, secondly, our objective is to share with you our technical expertise where useful and to inform governments where appropriate about ICANN's role in the global Domain Name System.

With regard to the second session, thematic challenges in the Internet governance ecosystem, I can believe that there is an urgent need to find a balance between the desire to protect privacy of individuals and the

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need to combat crime, cybercrime. This is extremely relevant to the WHOIS system that ICANN administers.

With regard to session three, the role and impact of Internet technological evolution on ICANN, clearly ICANN's remit is specific and focused, but we cannot and must not become complacent nor operate in a silo. ICANN will, therefore, evolve with the Internet technical evolution, follow closely advancement in technology, and assess their impact so that our role as the trusted steward of the Internet's unique identifiers remain relevant and effective.

And finally, with regard to session four, global digital agenda and Internet policies, ICANN is keen through its multistakeholder model of governance to promote a more inclusive Internet. Together we must tackle the issue of the digital divide.

Today, therefore, is an example of the role the GAC is playing in ICANN -- excuse me.

Excuse me. I've been giving too many speeches, and I apologize for that.

Today, therefore, is an example of the role the GAC is playing in ICANN post the IANA stewardship transition. It is the first time that governments have been actively involved in shaping the ICANN future strategic plan, and we are very grateful for this new level of participation. Your contribution and participation in ICANN is much appreciated. I hope many of you will stay engaged. We know the work is not done in one day, and not just at meetings such as these every two

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years. I invite you as high-level government officials to continue to participate in the months and years to come.

Thank you again for your time, interest, and support to ICANN. Let us carry the dialogue forward throughout this week.

Many thanks.

[ Applause ]

DAVID CIERCO:

Thank you very much, Cherine Chalaby. Thank you, ICANN, for your work, your support, and your commitment. Now I will speak in Spanish for the closing words.

Undoubtedly, this has been an excellent day. We have made history here. Throughout the day, we have had the opportunity to address transcendental issues relating to Internet and the Internet governance. We started by asking ourselves how we could improve the dialogue between ICANN and government, and we reflected on the regulatory and (indiscernible) impact on an organization like ICANN. We have also discussed current topics such as cybersecurity, data protection and data privacy and transcendental challenges for Internet governance that have a decisive impact on the life and the rights of citizens. I think it has been clear that we are coming closer to a fully interconnected world, where today we have the increasing need to have a collaborative model in which ICANN will have to play a leading role in the future. The incorporation of emerging technologies whose discussion we had this afternoon, the Internet of Things, 5G, blockchain, for instance, are a

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reality that we cannot avoid. We all agreed that data development will have a direct impact. It will improve the life of people, and it will contribute decisively to put an end to the digital divide. But new technologies should also help us build a more secure and reliable Internet.

Undoubtedly, this poses a challenge to us that requires a commitment from all the organizations working within Internet. And I think in this mission we will be working together in the next few years.

Likewise, we should not lose sight of the need to build a more inclusive and accessible Internet for all as a source of equality and social progress. This is a discussion that we had in the last session of the afternoon. The policies implemented in the coming years will have a key role. The digital divide is undoubtedly one of the priorities that we need to work on and devote efforts to. Nobody, no citizen, no nation should be left behind in the digital progress, understood as the progress of wealth. And the development of skills, digital skills, should be our key mission.

We need to have significant infrastructure that will enable us to attain this level of progress.

The government of Spain has done a wonderful job as we can see from the data published by the European Union in terms of digital transformation.

We are also working in different plans. We are calling for proposals for the deployment of 5G technologies.

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I would like to conclude by thanking all the participants, the high-level officials and ministers as well as the experts and facilitators and discussants for their contribution to the ICANN63 meeting. Thank you for coming to Barcelona. Thank you for joining us for this meeting. I hope this has been a productive day for you as it has been for us.

Finally, I would like to thank the organization, ICANN, the Secretary of State for digital advancement, and the team of red.es for the months of work that they have put in to make sure that this meeting was successful. That is all. Thank you.

Now I invite you to a cocktail party hosted by ICANN.

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

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