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ICANN80 | HLG – Session 2: Cooperation and Governance  
Sunday, June 09, 2024 – 11:15 to 13:00 KGL

BAHER ESMAT: Welcome back. I hope you enjoyed the break. Our next session focuses on the importance of cooperation in addressing current challenges and avoiding internet fragmentation. Please join me in welcoming to the stage our moderator for this session, Ms. Susan Chalmers, Internet Policy Specialist at the US Department of Commerce.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, and good morning. May I please invite our speakers for this session to come to the stage, both subject matter expert speakers and panelists. Please come and pick a seat, anywhere you like. I will just get started as our speakers join on stage.

This is the second panel session of the ICANN80 High-Level Government meeting. The topic of this session is cooperation and governance. This session will address some of the main challenges faced by the internet community, including digital connectivity, cybersecurity, and the value of cooperation across the institutional landscape of internet governance. We will also hear from our distinguished speakers on digital public infrastructure, and legislative approaches to digital connectivity. So, there will be something for everyone in this session.

I would like to introduce our panelists, and then we will turn to our subject matter experts to set the scene for the session. For our

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panelists, we have Ms. Tripti Sinha, Assistant Vice President and CTO, University of Maryland, and Chair of the ICANN Board. We are also joined by Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. And we are joined by the Honorable Catherine Mumma, Member of Parliament from Kenya. Thank you so much for being here. Remotely, we will be joined by Mr. S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India. May I just check if we have the Secretary online?

SHRI S. KRISHNAN: Yes, I'm online. Can you hear me?

SUSAN CHALMERS: Yes, we can. Thank you. We will also be joined remotely by Mr. John Crain, the CTO of ICANN. May I check if John Crain is online?

JOHN CRAIN: I am also here. Good morning.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Wonderful. Okay, welcome. We are all set to begin. I'm going to turn it over to our first speaker, our first subject matter expert, Mr. Danko Jevtovic, Vice Chair, ICANN Board. Over to you, Danko.

DANKO JEVTOVIC:

Thank you, Susan. Good pronunciation. So, I will give the brief overview of the ongoing and upcoming UN discussions that are touching on the ICANN mission. But first of all, I would like to thank the organizers for having us in this wonderful facility. This congress center is something really that we find very effective to use but also really impressive.

Okay. So, from the UN side, there is a number of activities that are happening, and some of those that I want to mention are touching on the ICANN mandate. And I think the first and the most important is the process regarding the World Summit on Information Society that has been mentioned a number of times in this today. And first, this is 2003 in Geneva, and later in 2005 in Tunisia, that was a two-phase summit, and it was driven by the UN member states.

But one of the most important points from this summit for our multistakeholder model is the summit has actually recognized that multistakeholder participants in the process are governments, technical community, businesses, civil society, and academia. And ICANN is obviously an organization that is part of the technical community. So, what that does mean in our practice?

So, if you look at how we technicians call it the stack in the logical structure of the Internet, we have cables and telecommunication operators that actually carry the data, and customers and users and businesses are on the Internet mostly because of the content. But in between content and networks that carry the information is this technical layer that ICANN is part of. And ICANN is coordinator of the

global Internet domain names and IP addresses, and in that way functions as this middle layer that is kind of maybe not that big as content at the telecom operators but is critical for the functioning of the system. And that was recognized by the UN.

So, after the WSIS process, next year in 2025 the US General Assembly will host the WSIS+20 review, and one of the important points that we expect to happen is that there will be decisions about how IGF, the Internet Governance Forum, that was established by the WSIS process in Tunisia, how the IGF should continue. And we hope that all countries participating in this high-level governmental meeting will support the continuation of IGF, because we think that in the UN setting this is the key result and the key process that is driving the Internet forward.

Summit of the Future will be happening in the US General Assembly September this year, and we accept that it will adopt the Global Digital Compact. Zero draft has recognized the importance of the IGF and the multistakeholder approach, and Zero draft has decided that there is no need for specific multilateral forum to discuss digital cooperation. It can be handled within the IGF and improvements and evaluation of the IGF. Also, the IGF Leadership Panel, appointed by the UN Secretary General, has also issued the position that the IGF, the only multistakeholder platform that we have within the UN system, can do more, and this is the question for the WSIS+20 to discuss how to evolve the process.

ICANN, as a part of our multistakeholder effort, has provided the WSIS+20 outreach network and mailing list that is a platform with

hundreds of people all around the world that participate and discuss in these processes, and our regular briefings and updates and workshops that we are giving, some of those in cooperation with the UN member states in New York and Geneva, are providing information to diplomats.

So, the key message from ICANN technical side is to give objective and factual information how internet functions on the technical level and what is needed to support the internet as one of the key platforms for the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We think that ICANN's involvement with UN system is an example of how the member states can have a neutral technical and factual information and how we can work together.

Also, I wanted to mention, as was also noted by the previous speaker, Doreen mentioned that ICANN has excellent cooperation with the ITU, and we are the ITU sector member. And this is also one of the examples how the ICANN multistakeholder model functions and can encompass all that is needed. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you kindly for that overview, and indeed the technical community's input and multistakeholder approach into these multilateral processes is extremely valuable and important, so we appreciate you providing us with that overview. It is certainly a busy season. So now we'll turn to our other subject matter expert, John Crain, the CTO of ICANN. John, please, the floor is yours.

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JOHN CRAIN:

Thank you very much. Good morning, everybody, and thank you for allowing me to speak here. So, I've been asked to talk a little bit about fragmentation, and I want to start by talking about a phrase that ICANN uses, and that phrase is One World, One Internet. It's a catchy phrase for sure, but this concept of one global interoperable internet is part of our DNA. It is core to what we do on a database basis at ICANN.

It describes a network where no matter where someone connects to the internet, be that in Kigali, here in Los Angeles where I am, or even on the International Space Station, the user has a predictable experience. That's what users are looking for when they're using networks, that they want to go and do something on the network, and they expect a certain experience. They expect to go somewhere.

Now core to this are the internet's unique identifiers. These bind the network together. These include things like the domain name system, IP addresses, and actually many other types of identifiers on the internet, many of which the users are unaware of, but they're all key to making sure that this predictable experience occurs for the users.

A good example of this is when somebody wants to do something like send an email. If somebody wants to send an email to john.crain@icann.org, they want to know that that is going to be sent to the John Crain, myself, @ the ICANN.org, and not somewhere else, a different ICANN.org, somewhere else on the network. This basic principle of predictability and the uniqueness of these identifiers that ICANN captures in the phrase One World, One Internet, has allowed the internet to grow, and has allowed for billions of people around the

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globe to connect to each other. It has allowed for the very existence of the internet as we know it today.

When we talk about internet fragmentation, we're referring to situations where this predictability may no longer hold true, where a user no longer knows what to expect when he tries to connect to somewhere on the internet. Now this doesn't always occur by design. There's often an unexpected byproduct of changes in the system. For example, emerging technologies may introduce new or conflicting identifier namespaces. This may cause a lack of predictability or confusion for the users of the network. Some of these technologies may require bespoke gateways between namespaces, which then create even more unpredictability. Also, policies may come with unintended consequences. For example, causing domain names to resolve differently, or not resolve at all, depending on where you connect from.

So, fundamentally, when we talk about fragmentation of the namespace, from an ICANN standpoint, we're actually talking about unpredictability of the identifier systems, where technologies or policies are set, and for some often unintended reason, that causes the user experience to change so that the user can no longer rely upon the network to work in predictable ways.

And we see this happening on occasions already today. If you travel a lot, you may see that depending on where you are, you may or may not be able to get to certain services on the network. Sometimes this is a consequence of decisions made because of policies or technologies. So, it's a very basic concept at the heart of it. It really is about

fragmenting in such a way that the user experience is no longer predictable.

So, if I could leave you with one thought, it would be something that you've already heard from others today. When you're making decisions that may affect the network and its users, think about how that may change the way the user experience occurs. And think about the other stakeholder groups you can consult that will inform your decisions. Let us all work together to avoid fragmentation, so that we indeed can continue to have one world with one internet for the future generations. Thank you very much for your time.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you kindly, Mr. Crain, for that very approachable overview of internet fragmentation. Now we're going to ask all of the panelists the same question. And so, I would like to begin with you, Senator, if that's okay. From your perspective, what are the primary challenges to the internet community in your region? And how can better cooperation among stakeholders help address those challenges?

CATHERINE MUMMA:

Thank you very much for that question. First, allow me to appreciate the government of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting this meeting and for the beautiful arrangement for this meeting. Allow me also, because I speak on behalf of the African Parliamentarians Network on Internet Governance, a newly formed, not too new, but a new network that was formed in 2022, to bring together parliamentarians from the African

countries to try and engage on the issue of internet governance. And to bring the greetings of our Chair, who could not make it, Neema Nugangira. We are attending as observers. I think the team is sitting on the other side.

And I wish to immediately state that we sought to engage around meetings of ICANN because we support the multistakeholder model, but we feel so far, the parliamentarians have not been usually properly involved. When you define government, we notice that government for this space means the executive. But I'd like to bring it to the attention of all of us that policymaking is not just a function of the executive.

Policymaking is a function that is shared between the executive, the legislatures, and even the judiciary. Judiciaries will make decisions once a matter is brought to them, and that decision shapes policy. So, even as we begin and support the multistakeholder model, I wish to bring to our attention the need for active involvement of the wider government, which means the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary.

Now, matters internet and digital technology are extremely technical. And for us to be able to appreciate what kind of policy we would make, whether it's legislation or a decision, if you are a judge on the bench, you need to have capacity. So, what is happening even as you ask the situation of the internet community? The true situation across the world is that the scientific communities, the tech communities are running ahead, evolving very fast, but policymakers are left behind. And policymakers are there for not moving in tandem and coming up

with policy that would actually support the internet community in what they're doing.

And why is this? This is because it's a technical field. When you're making a law, you need to make a law from an informed position. The speaker just before me said we need to be careful about the impact of the policies that we pass, because they may fragment more than they would unify. But how would we do that if you don't have that capacity? So, the first thing I would want to do is thank ICANN, at least, for involving the African Parliamentary Network in this meeting. What we are doing is learning and trying to deal with the different issues.

I don't know whether I can continue. We still have some challenges. The internet is extremely facilitative. The internet is good for development, but the internet also has been abused and has caused harm. And as representatives of the people, our business is both to facilitate growth of technology, but also to ensure that we deal with the harmful aspects of it. So, the question would be what kind of capacities can we have in order, as we pass any policy, to make policy that is facilitative and policy that is also protective of the rights of our citizens whom we represent, and proper definition of what inclusion means.

For African parliamentarians, we would want a greater conversation on what inclusion means, so that even as we are talking about creating an environment, for whom are we creating that environment? Who is being included? And for us, it comes down to how well can our citizens in Africa, how well can our countries in Africa be properly included in the gains that come with digital technology. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you so much, Senator, for your valuable remarks, which I think really tie in very well with some of the remarks that we heard earlier on the earlier session, but a very valuable perspective from legislators. Thank you. Mr. Taylor, may I please turn to you and ask the same question, which is, from your perspective, what are the primary challenges the internet community is currently facing in your region, and how can better cooperation among stakeholders help address these challenges?

RODNEY TAYLOR: Thank you very much, Susan, for your expert moderation so far, and to the host Rwanda government for the excellent meeting facilitation, and also for the opportunity to bring a perspective from the Caribbean.

We have challenges within the Caribbean. We are small island developing states, and what we've been seeking to do within spaces like ICANN and within the UNIGF is to build coalition with other like-minded small island developing states. And within the United Nations framework, there is an acknowledgment that small states have unique challenges, of course, related to climate change and sea rise, vulnerabilities and issues around sustainable economic development.

And so, within ICANN, within UNIGF, we've been working with the Dynamic Coalition on Small Island Developing States. And in fact, we held our second SIDS, Small Island Developing States Internet Governance Forum as a side event within the SIDS, United Nations SIDS

IV conference in Antigua and Barbuda. And we have the Honourable Melfred Nicholas here from Antigua representing the Caribbean.

Given the small size of the many of the countries in the Caribbean, we have in fact ranging from Montserrat with a population of just over 4,000 people to Cuba with a population of just under 12 million and the challenges become the cost of laying infrastructure to provide Internet access. So, Internet infrastructure is an issue, in particular the costs, economies of scale because of the small size of these countries. I spoke of Anguilla with 4,000 but many of our member states are under 1 million in terms of population size and so it is an issue.

We also have issues around cybersecurity, securing that infrastructure as governments move towards implementing digital services. Many of the attacks in fact occur within the Caribbean and within small developing states as you would expect because of lack of resources, technical and financial resources to secure. There are regulatory challenges as well and I will speak to that maybe later in terms of how we are seeking to harmonize regulation within the Caribbean to help address the issue of economies of scale because as individual markets we are small but collectively, then it becomes more attractive to investment and harmonization. Regulation helps to drive down the cost of doing business in the ICT sector and so we're making moves in that regard.

The issues of course with capacity building, in particular around the areas like cybersecurity that I mentioned, but in also across all other aspects of the ICT agenda. So, we know that the larger more developed

countries in fact effectively pay more and so the markets are more attractive. And while we understand that there's a global shortage for say cybersecurity experts, that shortage becomes more acute for small states that don't have the resources to be able to attract and maintain that talent.

And so those are some of the issues. And even where we have good deployment of infrastructure in the case of say Barbados and some of the other countries that have fiber to the home and the question of affordability based on income and so on is a challenge for us. So those are some of the main challenges that we face. And as I said, we've been seeking to address them not just on our own but building coalition with other small states, seeking to impact policy here within ICANN, within the ITU, within the UNIGF, building partnerships with the ITU through like partnership partner to connect initiatives GIGA.

Also, we've been working with the United Postal Union on a Connect.post initiative to be able to leverage postal services to bring connectivity to rural communities and I can maybe speak to that a little bit more, but I'll end there. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you so much Mr. Taylor. I would like to turn to Secretary Krishnan online. I just want to check in. Oh wonderful. And Mr. Secretary, from your perspective what are the primary challenges the internet community is currently facing in your region and how can better cooperation among stakeholders address these challenges? Please the floor is yours.

SHRI S. KRISHNAN:

Thank you very much. Good afternoon to you all. I regret not being able to be present in person because the new government assumes office here in India today, but our delegation is joining these meetings.

On this question itself I think as we are aware internet has one of its largest spreads across the world in India. Currently the total number of subscribers has gone up from about 252 million in 2014 to about 936 million in 2024. The cost of data, and most of the internet spread in India has been through mobile telephony not so much through fixed line connections, and the cost of data usage has actually fallen from about \$3.23 per GB in 2014 to just about 11 cents per GB in June 2023.

Further we've connected about 200,000 villages across India through a network of services called the BharatNet project. And in addition, for those who cannot afford or do not have access to various devices, there are about 500,000 common service centers across the country to provide internet access. And as you're aware, India is a diverse country. There are about 22 languages which are spoken across the country. And the under universal acceptance the top-level domain .Bharat is available in about 15 Indian scripts covering the 22 languages.

For this kind of a spread there are certain issues that we face. And for the internet community, the first and most important concern is an open, safe, trusted and accountable internet where privacy, safety and misinformation, disinformation are all issues. These require to be tackled on a priority basis. Likewise, there are a number of

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cybersecurity issues including DNS security issues and phishing and malware. All of these are concerns as well.

The lack of information that law enforcement agencies have on the domain registration system for cybersecurity breaches and cyber crimes is also a crucial concern. Likewise, strengthening the existing governance mechanism to meet the needs of internet governance, avoiding duplication of efforts, streamlining conversation about these issues and greater cooperation amongst various stakeholders I think is important.

India, representing such a large number of users, requires that kind of representation to address all of these issues meaningfully. And within the country, we believe that there's potential to go further if the digital divide is addressed and meaningful access is provided particularly to vulnerable populations like the elderly and also to account for linguistic diversity across the country.

Then we as representing the largest digital user base promote open internet and therefore have a significant stake in the governance of the internet and which means that a greater voice and governance is essential to ensure internet resilience. If the internet is not to fragment and if it is to provide, if it is to stay as one internet to preserve the kind of linkages across the world, then I think representation in the governance structures becomes very, very important and voice of the government structures.

And then in view of the challenges being faced by internet users in the country, ICANN may also consider moving on from the slightly less fair

approach that we have currently which was good to sort of get more people connected into the internet towards making some things a little more a little more formalized. For instance, know your customer approach for domain name boulders, verification and validation of domain names, WHOIS accuracy which would reduce DNS abuse and faster implementation of universal acceptance to bolster access for more users.

These are some of the key issues that from our region we think is important to tackle within the overall framework of operating the internet and also for internet governance. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. So, this has been a very, very broad and useful set of contributions. We've heard from the Senator on the importance of capacity development for regulators or legislators on emerging technology to be able to develop responsive policies and the importance of including the perspective of legislators within the internet governance discussion. I know that the IGF does have a parliamentary track and so that is one example of how that is beginning to emerge.

Speaking of IGFs, we just heard from Mr. Taylor about the small island developing states IGF which I believe recordings are available to access, and also just a host of different challenges amongst these smaller countries in the Caribbean, for example, retaining talent and also some infrastructural challenges. And then we just heard from Mr. Secretary, from MeitY, about various challenges faced in India such as the digital

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divide, meaningful access, challenges relating to misinformation on the internet and trust and some positive suggestions for ICANN.

And so now I would like to turn to you Tripti. So, I know you're not necessarily representing a region, but we'd like to hear from you on some of the challenges facing the internet community and how cooperation can help address these challenges.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you, Susan. So, I'll speak from the perspective of engagement of the technical community and its contribution to achieving in particular the WSIS agenda and action lines. So, let's start with the obvious.

The UN processes are intergovernmental ones. Other stakeholders are not allowed in the negotiation room. There have been attempts by the co-facilitators of the Global Digital Compact to open them for other stakeholders, but they are limited by the rules of procedures of the United Nations General Assembly. So, we hope that the member states will find ways to keep all stakeholders involved in WSIS+20 review process. One way being to invite their representatives to be part of their delegations.

So, some countries have done it during the WSIS+10 and the GDC, so perhaps the distinguished high-level officials here would be able to persuade their respected colleagues, ministers of foreign affairs to include their GAC members or just experts from the different stakeholders in their delegations. The technical community is a key

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stakeholder which is engaged in the day-to-day operations of the technical underpinnings of the Internet.

While I can't speak for the members of the community, I can say that ICANN is engaging in its work with all other WSIS stakeholders, governments, businesses, academia, civil society and the other organizations from the broader technical community to make sure all Internet users continue to benefit from the global single and interoperable Internet.

The Internet secure, stable and unfragmented operation at technical level is absolutely indispensable for it to remain a global resource for humanity, achieve an inclusive and equitable digital transformation, achieve the WSIS action lines. ICANN coordinates the Internet's unique identifiers which include domain names, the domain name system, IP addressing space and the protocol parameters. This coordination ensures a single global Internet.

The multistakeholder approach is the governance model that has made it possible for the technical community to continuously ensure a global internet. Through an inclusive approach, the multistakeholder approach enables the global internet by ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders and shielding it from intended or unintended consequences stemming from geopolitical tensions and regulations for that matter.

With regards to our contribution to the WSIS action lines, ICANN is working on several tracks like the new generic top-level domain program, next round international domain names, universal

acceptance, etc., which will help connect the next billion users. And as you just heard from Secretary Krishnan, in India they're doing an amazing piece of work with using universal acceptance and bringing it to the 22 official languages.

In this effort, ICANN partners with organizations like the ITU and UNESCO. In Africa, we are particularly proud that two years ago we launched the Coalition for Digital Africa. Its aim is to bring like-minded stakeholders to enhance Africa's domain name industry. The coalition focuses on local challenges and opportunities, supporting Africa's digital economy, expands connectivity representing African communities, and supporting local innovation.

And as we just heard from Senator Mumma and also from Mr. Taylor, there's similar challenges that they're experiencing as well. We're also working with the ITU partner to connect digital coalition. It is my firm belief that ICANN and its community have the expertise, experience, and willingness required to address more efficiently and effectively the technical challenges we face today. Thank you, Susan.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Ms. Sinha. So, we appreciate that overview. I heard some challenges are ensuring meaningful access to and participation in multilateral processes by the technical community. We've also heard examples of cooperation that ICANN is participating in right now. So, thank you very much for that.

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Now we are going to turn to specific questions for specific speakers. And I would first like to turn to you, Senator Mumma. How do you see the role of legislators in the development of digital connectivity and local content in Africa?

CATHERINE MUMMA:

Thank you very much. As I said earlier, legislators are very important in shaping national policies and even international policies, because through the government, many of our countries have a legislative framework that defines how you ratify international treaties. So, legislators are absolutely important in helping in this process.

What I see for African legislators is the need for us to better engage, be more active in the space of internet governance, to acquire the necessary knowledge to ensure that we contribute to positive policy, both for the internet community and for our citizens. Legislators represent, they also legislate, they also oversight. So, applying all those three, we can find ways of ensuring that the internet space is made safer for our citizens across the world, the internet space is made more inclusive, including for countries like those in Africa which are now lagging behind.

The connectivity in Africa is low, especially in the rural areas, and this is occasioned by the economic development situations in our countries. But we need now as legislators, because we appropriate budgets, it is time now that the legislators are able to appropriate budgets towards enabling our different sectors to spend more on technology in order to facilitate greater access. It is also our role to ensure we put in place the

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necessary law for regulation that would do away or would deal with harm that comes with the internet, and there is a need for us to represent the citizens to ensure that even the most vulnerable is included as we define access, whether through gadgets, infrastructure, or other means.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you so much. And I'll just note that there will be a session during the policy forum focused specifically on DNS abuse and the harm that results from it in Africa, inviting African perspectives and policy solutions.

Mr. Taylor, your question is, what are the specific challenges faced by the Caribbean region in terms of digital connectivity and cybersecurity? Can you give an example of how CTU is trying to tackle these challenges through regional cooperation?

RODNEY TAYLOR:

Thanks again, Susan. And I think I outlined many of the challenges that are applicable to the Caribbean in the first intervention. And so, I'd just like to point out in terms of regional cooperation, the Caribbean is home to the oldest internet governance forum in the world, the CIGF, and in fact we celebrate 20 years this year. We have one of our pioneers here sitting with us, former Secretary General Bernadette Lewis, one of the pioneers of this. And I invite all of you to Guyana to join us for the 20th Internet Governance Forum.

And I mention this because coming out of this process, we have an internet governance policy framework which is in its fourth edition, and that policy framework speaks to the issue of regional cooperation. It makes a number of policy recommendations regarding things, for example, around the infrastructure, like internet exchange points, which when we started in 2005, there were actually no internet exchange points. Today, I don't know the exact number, but I know it's beyond 13. Things that developed countries take for granted, but we have made a concerted effort to collaborate and develop internet exchange points.

We've been promoting issues of national ICT policies, national broadband policies, to help drive connectivity. At the level of CARICOM heads of government, we've also agreed on a policy for the CARICOM single ICT space, and that is seeking to address the issue of economies of scale, where we can treat the Caribbean as one homogenous market, because there's harmonization of policy and legislation, and therefore companies that operate at the pan-Caribbean level are able to standardize on technology, there's consistency in regulation and policy, and therefore they have access to a bigger market as opposed to small markets.

We've been collaborating, I mentioned initiatives such as Connect.post with Universal Postal Union to ensure, especially for rural communities, because despite the small size, there are still rural communities within our Caribbean space, and we recognize that postal services provide an avenue through which rural communities can access the internet and can access digital services.

I mentioned the partner to connect initiative, we're working very closely with the ITU. We're also working with the CARICOM IMPACS, which is the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, on the implementation of a regional cyber security action plan, recognizing the challenges with respect to resource constraints and skills, and therefore allowing us to share resources such as certs and the cybersecurity skills.

So, there is some cooperation, I would say, on the issue of internet governance and connectivity. A lot of that cooperation happens within our internet governance space, which as I mentioned is in its 20th year. There are other mechanisms that we have to support cooperation, such as the Spectrum Management Task Force. We recognize the role that spectrum plays in terms of driving connectivity. Of course, the proceeds from spectrum can be used to help provide connectivity to rural areas, and so we're working to ensure that there's harmonization at the level of spectrum allocations within our community.

So those are just a few of the initiatives that we're working, but I would encourage you to have a look at our internet governance policy framework, which addresses comprehensively a lot of the challenges that we face within the region, within the internet governance space. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you so much, Mr. Taylor. I am going to move on now to Secretary Krishnan. I have a specific question for you. India has made significant strides in digital public infrastructures. What lessons can be shared

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with the international community on digital public infrastructure, or DPI?

SHRI S. KRISHNAN:

Thank you. India has been a bit of a pioneer in digital public infrastructure. DPIs have been a catalyst in India to inclusive and sustainable digitalization and also an approach to development. DPIs present an inclusive and sustainable method wherein the public and private sectors innovate together and provide scalable, people-centric and development-oriented solutions to users within broad, established guidelines.

In the recent G20, there was a consensus on DPI, which brought DPI to the forefront of the global developmental discourse, but also shaped the discourse by building a common understanding of the issue and enabling all stakeholders to speak a common language. The UN's continued efforts combined with increased national uptake present DPIs as a promising solution for persistent challenges such as enhanced accessibility, digital inclusion, transparency and digital trust.

Now, the development of the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, GDPIR, has been one of the recent measures that has been taken up by my ministry, in the Government of India. This is a comprehensive resource hub which pools essential lessons and expertise from G20 countries and other guest nations, and currently, there are 54 such DPIs from 16 countries which are part of this repository.

The repository itself is designed to be a resource for key lessons and knowledge, enabling easy discoverability aimed at addressing the existing knowledge gap around the right practices to design, build and deploy population-scale DPIs. We have also created a Modular Open Source Identity Platform, MOSIP, which is currently adopted by 11 nations with more than 100 million active users. The Prime Minister has also announced a fund, a specific fund to support the rollout of DPIs across the global south.

Across all these experiences, India has been building on some fundamental lessons. The first and most important one is that we must begin with foundational DPIs, that is, digital ID, payment and consent-based data sharing. This is very critical. If any country seeks to optimally use its resources, then implement digital ID and DPI payment first, and after that, you will be able to demonstrate the benefits of using different kinds of DPIs as you implement similar systems across other sectors. This is a key lesson that we have learned.

Another lesson is that there is a need for a very strong governance structure which is based on a mandate from the legislature. A legislative mandate is very crucial to execute the system and ensuring that the incentives of all stakeholders are properly aligned, and there should be a clear and continuing financial provision, adequate budgets or a revenue model which will sustain the DPIs. That is critical.

Another lesson has been the extent of the role of public authorities. While the role itself may vary depending on the nature of the DPI, but in most cases, public authorities should manage the core or should help

build the core and play a broad regulatory role. And for the rest, allow the private sector and innovators and others to innovate on this basic core and then build add-on systems which can work for everybody.

This is also very much in keeping with the democratic structure of the DPIs so that multiplicity of people and stakeholders can actually take part in it, and what happens thereafter is that the benefits of the digitalization are also more broadly realized. It also, of course, depends on the extent of public sector involvement and the maturity of the data governance mechanism in each country, so those would be key structures.

Now, that brings me to the need for well laid out data governance frameworks or structures, which is critical for success of DPIs. Data privacy, data security, protecting privacy is very critical, and that needs to be paid adequate attention, and government itself as an agency which retains a lot of data of citizens and others should be very accountable in the way that it stores this data and in the way that it uses the data.

Then there is a case for building multiple use cases, and India's DPIs approach has been built around shared systems which are used across multiple sectors and multiple services. These systems are not single use applications relevant for just one policy objective but are designed to be versatile and can be integrated with a broad range of public and private services.

Then interoperability is another key vessel, and this is achieved primarily through open standards, enhancing integration across

payments, commerce, and health amongst others. And India's approach also emphasizes open specifications, protocols, and APIs, which allows the ecosystem to easily adopt, integrate, and comply with technology. The thrust really is on open networks and specifications, which is a result which you can see in initiatives like UPI or ONDC, which deals with digital commerce or health, the unified health interface, just to name a few examples of what has been adopted in India.

Then the scalability of DPIs and their user-friendliness is very important, and that is something where the user experience and the user interface has to be given adequate attention to so that broader sections of the population can use it without too much of difficulty and adapt to it quickly. For example, India's UPI payment data interface today is built on a simple universal QR code mechanism, which allows any two people with a mobile phone and a payment application to exchange in quick and reliable and secure transactions.

Currently, more than about 12 billion transactions are taking place every month, and other methods such as Hello! UPI, etc., enable payments to be made, especially when literacy is an issue. Payments can actually be made through voices in any language. Again, in a country as diverse as India, we have a multilingual application called Bhashini, which enables quick translation of languages from one to the other, and that's another way in which voice-enabled services can be delivered, ensuring inclusivity, which is a big concern in a large country like India.

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So, these are broadly some of the lessons that we have learned through the DPI journey and which we are willing to share with anybody who wants to understand how we go forward. Thank you very much.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Ms. Sinha, if I may, I'd like to present you with a bit of a challenging question, which is, we've heard about examples of cooperation such as the African Parliamentarians Network on Internet Governance, Pan-Caribbean models to support economy of scale, and we have a national example of a DPI journey from Mr. Secretary. Do you see any emerging themes across these various regional examples that pertain to cooperation and governance that you would like to highlight for us? It's very tough.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you, Susan. No, indeed, I do see a lot of emerging themes. So, I'll start with scope and scale. As Secretary General Taylor was saying, you've got Montserrat, 4,000 people, and as Secretary Krishnan has 1.4 billion people, and we're onboarding this global community at an amazing rate. So, Secretary Krishnan just talked about standards and interoperability in open architectures. That forms the fundamental of this platform, and only will such an environment allow such scaling to occur.

So, the challenges are different, but some of the fundamental elements remain the same. We've talked a lot about the veracity of data. Secretary Krishnan repeated that over and over again because we're all

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worried about privacy and security and dealing with bad actors. So, we need to have veracity of data in how we register domain names and so forth. So, that indeed is front and center in taking a very important role in how we move forward as a global community.

Universal acceptance. If you look at it, the language of technology and science defaults to English, but when you productize new technologies and bring it to the global community, the global community is multilingual. So, it's extremely important that we maintain cultures and language, and we take that into consideration as we innovate and evolve the internet and associated technologies. And again, India is a great example of a country that is using universal acceptance to preserve its languages and to also bring services and some meaningful access to its 1.4 billion people.

Also, as Senator Mumma was saying, legislation sometimes is moving slower than innovation. The rate of technology innovation is staggering. There's no other way to say it. It is staggering. And at the same time, it's brought into our world community and it needs to be legislated. So, we need to think of innovative ways in how governments and legislators work with the technology ecosystem as it innovates and creates new technologies.

And the last thing I would say is that the internet, it's so obvious, is core to the progress of any nation state in the world now. And we each bear responsibility to ensure that we do this properly. And if anything, today has reconfirmed for me that ICANN's mission is ever so important that

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we maintain with resilience the unique identifier systems. Thanks, Susan.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you. Thank you very much. And so, now we're going to wrap up. Building upon Ms. Sinha's excellent observations of common themes, we're going to wrap up and ask each of the panelists to share some insights from the discussion that we've just had. And so, Senator Mumma, may I please turn to you?

CATHERINE MUMMA: Thank you very much for this session and for allowing APNIC to participate. On behalf of my colleagues, I must say we have learned quite a lot. And I would want to encourage the internet communities, particularly those working in Africa, to find ways in which we can work closer, we can engage more in order for us as legislators to do the two things that we need to do, which is support facilitative policy as well as support protective policy for the citizens.

We undertake to caucus and we already are caucusing as parliaments in Africa. We are caucusing at sub-regional levels, at the Africa regional level, learning from each other. I think we've had about four or five virtual conversations as legislators learning from each other and we would want to keep learning from each other. So, we want to encourage all of those who are working in Africa, academia, civil society, even governments to engage greater with the legislators in

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order for us to see what value we can add to this conversation. Thank you.

RODNEY TAYLOR:

Thank you again for the opportunity to present a perspective from the Caribbean. And I would say based on everything that's been discussed so far that I think it is important, of course, internet governance and the multistakeholder model is very important in particular for developing countries. I think it is important for us to focus on those for whom the multistakeholder model still presents challenges like small states.

I'd love to see more Caribbean representation here at the level of policymakers. And it's not for the lack of trying, but I think that we need to consider how we can address those gaps, those who are not here, so that we're not talking to ourselves, not preaching to the choir as it were, but that we are bringing new voices for whom this internet economy is very, very important and for whom without their participation, there's the opportunity or the possibility that we would broaden the digital divide.

And so, I would throw a challenge out despite the successes of the multistakeholder model in internet governance and building out internet infrastructure globally that we seek to address those who are not here in the room, and we find strategies to bring them on board so that it is not just open, but it is inclusive. I think the participant from APNIC spoke about this and I endorse his comments on the earlier panel with respect to taking action that is more affirmative rather than saying

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that the process is open. So, I just wanted to make that point. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you. And Secretary Krishnan, may I invite you to briefly share some observations on this panel discussion before we turn to our series of interventions from the floor. Mr. Secretary.

SHRI S. KRISHNAN: Thank you. There's the risk of fragmentation and the importance of maintaining a single internet ecosystem, I think was an important element. A single internet ecosystem which can enhance the reach of people who live in remote and vulnerable areas. I think that's another important element, the inclusivity, including all pillars of the state, the executive, the legislature and the judiciary within this framework of discussion in terms of multistakeholder, I think that's an important takeaway.

And the need to build an effective global coalition, what ICANN can do and the way that the IETF structure itself works with this, I think all of these are important takeaways that I saw in the session from the contributions of various panelists and experts which I think will be the takeaways that we would have. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you kindly. So now we are going to turn to the floor where we will have, I believe, 12 interventions. This is a popular session. If

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possible, please do keep your interventions limited to two minutes. And we will begin with the World Intellectual Property Organization. Yes, please. We will hear from Mr. Marco Aleman, Assistant Director General of WIPO. Please, the floor is yours.

MARCO M. ALEMAN:

Thank you, Ms. Chair. I'm very pleased to be part of this high-level government meeting organized by the government of Rwanda, the GAC and ICANN to discuss public policy issues that are crucial for the secure and stable operation of the domain name system and the Internet governance in general.

Today, digital general-purpose technologies such artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing and the Internet of Things are leading the way for the future of innovation. The growth of those technologies far surpass those of past breakthrough technologies. Indicators of technological progress in the field of information technology continue to show a very positive trend as the digital age and the deep science innovation wave are well on the way.

Indeed, the global innovation in the report shows that 70.5% growth of corporate innovation worldwide is driven by software, ICT service and ICT hardware. Indeed, computer technology emerged as the most frequently future published patent applications worldwide, accounting for about 11% of the world total. But let me focus on the subject of this session too, mainly on cooperation and governance.

Going back to the beginning of the commercial Internet, to address the tension between domain names and trademark, WIPO member states on the talk are an exhaustive consultative process which led in 1999 to a report that set out the blueprint for the UDRP that we know today. The UDRP was the first consensus policies adopted by ICANN and it has stood the test of time. The number of domain names covered by dispute managed by WIPO approached 130,000 of domain names. Its relevance is not only for global domain but also now used by 85 country code top-level domains and more work is on the way to assist registrar on this endeavour.

The UNDP has proven to be effective in addressing trademark abuse and preventing consumer confusion in the online environment which takes on increased importance in today's digital economy. But WIPO, as the Global Forum for Intellectual Property, Non-Setting Policy and Service, remains institutionally committed to the good function of the UDRP. Indeed, in the spirit of Section 13 of the ICANN by-laws, WIPO is undertaking a consultative process, carefully consider the 25 years of jurisprudence and operational experience. We expect that the report of this consultative process will inform ICANN policy discussions on the future of the UDRP. Many thanks.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Perfect. Thank you, WIPO. From Bangladesh, Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister of Post, Telecommunication and ICT.

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KAZI MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN: Okay. Mr. Palak, the minister is not here. On behalf of him, I'll deliver my portion. Thank you very much for your wonderful moderation and thanks to the panelists. They have mentioned many challenges. So, addressing these challenges require a multi-faceted approach, including fostering of international cooperation, especially addressing internet fragmentation requires a concentrated effort.

In this respect, from all stakeholders, government, corporation, and civil society, international cooperation is crucial to harmonize regulation and standards, ensuring that the internet remains a global commons, and we keep enjoying its openness. If we want to continue with this stable, united, and integrated and open internet, we need to collaborate among all key players in internet operation and governance, including ICANN, ITU, to address all the legal and technical and commercial aspects of internet fragmentation.

We cannot have the luxury to do fragmentation effort and cannot think that what we are doing in our jurisdiction well enough. We just need to address all aspects at the same time. We need to remember that what happens on the surface of the internet affects the roots and vice versa. So, we need strong, effective, and regulation collaboration amongst key policymaking and technical bodies to utilize the true potential and multistakeholder models. Thank you very much.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, Bangladesh. Australia, Christopher Ellinger, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission.

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CHRISTOPHER ELLINGER: Thank you. I welcome the opportunity presented today to discuss Australia's commitment to supporting the future of internet governance. As others have said, this discussion is very timely. Internet governance is increasingly reflecting geopolitical developments and ideological differences, underlining the need for a multistakeholder approach that prevents any group from exerting undue influence over the future of the internet.

The value of opportunities like this for open and inclusive dialogue cannot be overstated. It is only through dialogue and a commitment to listening and learning from each other, from governments, the tech sector, industry, academia, and civil society, that we can protect and realize the benefits of the digital domain. The upcoming review of WSIS and the GDC have the potential to shift the needle towards more multilateral governance in some respects. In some ways, it's easy to explain why.

The internet has gone from a novel communications medium for academics to share their research, to the network that underpins almost everything we do in our daily lives. That leads to many complex problems on a different scale that we have all to grapple with, none of them are easy. But that lack of easy answers is the best argument for the multistakeholder approach.

As we said in the last session, there's room to improve the multistakeholder approach, but we must never forget that it was the multistakeholder approach which has got us this far and enabled the internet to become the vital service it is today. We do not want to lose

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that essential dynamism. The WSIS+20 review in 2025 will be an important milestone for digital governance, including renewing the mandate for the IGF and reassessing the 11 WSIS action lines.

We would encourage the multistakeholder community to identify ways it can present a harmonised voice, a rough consensus to help governments leverage the community's perspectives and expertise. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Australia. From China, Mr. Kai Chen, Deputy Director General, Department of Information and Communications Administration, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

KAI CHEN:

Thank you. I'm Chen Kai, representing China from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. It's a great pleasure to be in the picturesque and breathtaking Rwanda participating in this high-level intergovernmental meeting. We gather here to discuss issues related to internet cooperation and governance. I extend my gratitude to the host for the efforts.

We appreciate ICANN's ongoing efforts to promote internationalisation, ensuring equitable participation of all countries and the stakeholders in shaping global roles. We commend ICANN's commitment to transparency and accountability in governance and root zone management, as well as its active role in maintaining a unified, open, and interconnected global internet.

President Xi Jinping emphasised that cyberspace is a shared space for humanity and its future should be collectively shaped by nations worldwide. To advance reforms in the global internet governance, we must adhere to the four principles respecting cyber sovereignty, maintaining peace and security, promoting open cooperation, and establishing a sound order. China supports multilateral and multistakeholder participation in international internet governance, allowing all countries to engage equally in shaping the international order and rules governing cyberspace via international mechanisms and platforms. Additionally, international organisations, international internet companies, technical communities, civil society, and individual citizens should all play their role.

Recognising the varying levels of internet development and governance approaches across different countries and regions globally, we urge ICANN to consider and address the aspirations of developing countries during the new round of gTLD openings and personal appointments, providing more policy support to developing countries who foster internet development in these regions.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you kindly, China. From Japan, Mr. Eigo Nomura, Director-General for International Affairs, Global Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication.

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EIGO NOMURA:

Thank you, Chair, for this opportunity. We all know the tremendous benefit brought by the internet. In this situation, Japan stresses the importance of multistakeholder approach to the internet governance. This would be the key to underpin the further development of the internet and its community. Japan continues to support this approach, and it includes our support to the activities of ICANN, as pointed before.

Last year, Japan hosted the IGF in Kyoto. Thankfully, the event was a great success. Approximately more than 6,000 people came to the site, and this made an IGF record. Of course, we are proud of the quality of the sessions. Thank you again for your participation, contribution, and support to the event.

At the IGF, Prime Minister Kishida stated, firstly, the internet is important as a foundation of democratic society. Secondly, a free and unfragmented internet is essential. Thirdly, Japan will continue to support and commit to the internet governance by multistakeholders, including addressing negative aspects in order to maximize the benefit of the internet.

Japan chaired G7 last year. Then G7 ministers convened, and ministers discussed the internet governance. The ministerial declaration spares eight paragraphs on the internet governance, and this shows how important this matter is for us. As an annex of this declaration, ministers endorsed the G7 action. The ministers are committed to work together with all stakeholders to contribute to the UN Global Digital Compact, GDC, to encourage, to reinforce, build on, and contribute to the success of the IGF and UISIS process.

Regarding the UN GDC, Japan provided several inputs through its draft circulation process. Our input includes, firstly, the importance of a multistakeholder approach, particularly that of the technical community. Secondly, to exclude duplications between GDC and existing organization initiatives such as IGF and WSIS. Last but not least, Japan promises a continuous contribution to ICANN activities and the further development of the internet. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Japan. From the Netherlands, Mr. Jos De Groot, Deputy Director General for Economy and Digitalization, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

JOS DE GROOT:

Thank you, Chair. Let's start by thanking the government of Rwanda for hosting this very important high-level governance meeting. It emphasizes the importance of the topic, but also reaffirms that in the multistakeholder model of internet governance, governments have an important role to play.

The Netherlands has always been and remains a strong supporter of the multistakeholder model for internet governance. The massive growth and continued success of the globally connected internet is a testament to the success of this model, a model that has cooperation in its heart.

The internet, from its very start, has been a story of cooperation, starting by connecting the networks of universities and growing by adding more and more diverse parties from commercial entities to

small community networks and government systems. It follows naturally that the only way to govern such a complex and diverse ecosystem calls for the cooperation between all those different parties.

That is where its first challenge lies. With so many different actors involved, each with their own objectives and ideas, finding consensus can be hard and often takes a long time. It is easy to criticize the way we work, but we should be proud of what has been achieved here in ICANN and in other multistakeholder internet governance institutions. I trust the same way of cooperating will also find the solutions for the challenges that lie ahead.

I started with referring to the role of governments in the multistakeholder model for internet governance, but it doesn't end there. Especially as governments, we also have an important role outside the multistakeholder model. We need to encourage others to participate in the dialogue such as here in ICANN and in the Internet Governance Forum. And, of course, it is our collective duty to protect the multistakeholder model and its established institutions.

We must also practice what we preach, as we agreed during WSIS. Back in 2005, we agreed that the multistakeholder model of internet governance is the best way to cooperate and to manage the public core of the internet. Now that we are looking towards the 20-year review of the WSIS agreement, we need to champion the success we all have in ensuring that the internet remains a single global network, or as ICANN puts it, One World, One Internet.

This, too, requires cooperation, not only amongst us at the international level, but also back home. We need to cooperate with colleagues in other departments and in our permanent missions in New York and Geneva. Colleagues who might not all be that familiar with the rather unique way the governance of the public core of the internet is arranged.

Finally, I also like to call upon ourselves to ensure that where multiple institutions and international organizations are involved, we need to create a collaborative environment close to ICANN's mission. We need to cooperate to ensure that everybody can connect to the internet in their own language and in their own scripts. Cooperation needs to be sought between registries and registrars, but also software providers and browsers have a role to play.

Thankfully, ICANN has also stepped in connecting the unconnected and cooperating with other key internet institutions in the Coalition for Digital Africa. We still have a lot of work to do in order to bring everybody online by 2030. I hope we will manage to overcome the linguistic challenge and bring all people to the digital world. Together, we have managed to overcome many challenges over the past 25 years in ICANN and the broad multistakeholder community. So let us cooperate to uphold this mission of one world, one internet for all. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you from the Netherlands. And from the United Kingdom, Mr. Paul Gaskell, Deputy--

PAUL GASKELL: Thank you. Sorry.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Oh, please. Go ahead.

PAUL GASKELL: I'm happy just to crack on. I appreciate time is tight. So, look, we spoke this morning about the importance of the global multistakeholder system for internet governance and ICANN's role within this. 2025 will be a crucial year with the WSIS+20 review quickly approaching with two crucial issues. One, it's a key opportunity to consider how WSIS can positively contribute to the 2030 sustainable development agenda. And also, we should also see the reaffirmation of the Tunis agenda underpinning a free, open and secure internet.

When I go to meetings of the ITU, the IGF and others, many of the same messages come across. One is about the importance of multistakeholder participation in internet governance, including especially developing countries. One is the importance of policy development in the spirit of consensus. And one is about the importance of prioritizing delivery of meaningful connectivity across the globe. Nonetheless, progress feels slow. It's not always clear that the UN bodies and other international bodies are pulling in the same direction.

I think there's also scope for technical organizations covering internet governance, ICANN, Internet Society, Regional Internet Registries, IETF, to develop a better strategic technical coordination process, perhaps. I'd also point as well to other fora we could use. So, for example, the Commonwealth. We have the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization, a shout-out to Bernadette Lewis, our Secretary General, who's here today. We also have a Commonwealth ITU group as well, for example, that could be a body.

Through these ways, we could perhaps answer the question posed by Senator Mumma when she said, what does inclusion actually mean in practice for the developing world? Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you. We have nine minutes left and four interventions. I believe we can do this. So, we're going to go in the order of France, Brazil, the European Commission, and finally, Indonesia. Please introduce yourself. Let's begin with France.

PIERRE BONIS:

Thank you very much, Mrs. Chair. I will speak in French. Thank you very much for-- Should I introduce myself? Pierre Bonis, I represent the French government here, and I am the General Director of the .fr, the French ccTLD. Thank you for this excellent debate. Thank you for all of the speakers.

France believes that in terms of Internet covenants, cooperation is essential between the different organizations, whether it is technical,

political, international, and so forth. This cooperation should be strengthened between multilateral organizations and other organizations, and that is an approach that is necessary. As the ITU Secretary General reminded us, cooperation between the UIT and ICANN is essential. Let us not forget the importance of the role of UNESCO as well in the realization of a fully inclusive Internet where diversity, where the cultural linguistics should be promoted. As Jevtovic reminded us, the commitments of the WSIS should be taken into account, same for the Tunis agenda, and that can only be efficient if the approach is truly multistakeholder.

I would like to end to illustrate this approach by congratulating the initiative, Tripta Sinha for her initiative, the Coalition for Digital Africa, that gathers different stakeholders of the technical communities, of the international community, and that basically creates a peer network which gives value to the cooperation, because it is done amongst colleagues. And I would like to just simply congratulate you for this initiative, which I believe should inspire other similar initiatives to promote Internet governance cooperation. Thank you very much.

ARTUR COIMBRA:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Artur Coimbra. I am a commissioner at ANATEL, Brazilian Telecommunications Regulator, and also a member of the board of Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. It is a pleasure to represent Brazil in this important event, kindly hosted by the Rwandan government. We are very thankful for that.

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I would like to take this opportunity to raise some important topics about global Internet governance and the challenges we are all facing. We are in the middle of multiple competing processes, events, and fora, all of them with great importance to the future of our ecosystem. In this sense, Brazil, the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, and several partnering organizations and individuals tailored the NETmundial+10 event held in Brazil by the end of April.

NETmundial+10 had a fundamental achievement in terms of producing useful guidelines for multistakeholder processes at all levels. We believe the event was able to deliver a concrete outcome with clear guidance for what we aim for, furthering multistakeholder practice, methodologies, mechanisms to different relevant spaces throughout Internet governance and digital policy processes.

The final statement goes even further, as it sends concrete messages to all the relevant processes such as the Internet Governance Forum, the Global Digital Compact, and the WSIS+20 review, putting in very concrete terms important messages such as centrality of the IGF, the risk of overlapping and duplication within the digital ecosystem, the call for more diverse and meaningful participation in decision-making, etc.

For those that did not have the opportunity, I invite you to read the final declaration that is published in the NETmundial website and help us spread the word about the outcomes. We very much appreciate all the comments that have been made since the event in Brazil, as it's of great importance for the consolidation of the outcomes. I also thank the

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opportunity to talk about NETmundial+10 here, especially due to the presence of so many good partners who helped throughout the process, including ICANN that provided essential support to the event in multiple ways. Thank you very much.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you. European Commission.

PEARSE O'DONOHUE: Thank you. Pierce O'Donohue again, Director of TG Connect, European Commission. I would start perhaps by congratulating our Brazilian colleagues, but also the Brazilian multistakeholder community for their role in NETmundial and giving us a prime example of how the multistakeholder community can respond in an ad hoc manner to address current challenges.

As has just been said, the next 18 months are incredibly important for the future of the global internet with those overlapping processes. But ensuring that the results of those processes are coherent and improve coherence and cooperation while avoiding overlaps or duplication, that won't be easy. And the complex relationship between the GDC and WSIS+20 requires careful navigation as, by its broader nature, the GDC could in some ways cannibalize the WSIS+20 process, which would compromise the multistakeholder process.

So, let me stress that when we speak in those terms, we clearly view that we need to revise as well as renew the IGF mandate. It's necessary to enhance its influence and effectiveness, but to improve it so that it

can broaden and deepen its stakeholder outreach in terms of engagement, but also to focus on new and challenging developments in technology. So, the draft of the GDC needs to guarantee inclusive dialogue and diverse global perspectives and needs. And the solution is not to create further institutions or processes. We share expressed concerns about the potential to duplicate existing efforts, which could affect the mandates of existing institutions.

Now, that's not to deny the need for cooperation and coherence, which we're talking about in this session. We fully support the focus of the GDC on reinvigorating efforts towards the SDGs and harnessing the power of digital technologies. But the obvious path is to strengthen the multistakeholder process under WSIS+20. And that, of course, also allows governments to play fully their role in terms of infrastructure deployment, digital development, and cybersecurity.

So, we think that we should work to strengthen existing capacities and resources through innovation and stakeholder engagement, rather than setting up new mechanisms and entities. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you. And for our last intervention, Indonesia, please.

ASHWIN SASONGKO SASTROSUBROTO: Thank you. My name is Ashwin Sasongko from the Indonesian National ICT Council and also member of the GAC from Indonesia. Thanks. First of all, thanks to our friend Rwanda government for

allowing us to have a meeting here. And also, I like personally, I really like to see the clean Kigali, the clean city of Kigali.

For this government corporations, I would like to raise several items. First of all, until now, we have carried out several capacity buildings for the GAC members. I think to improve the governance of the Internet, capacity buildings can be developed to more in technical aspect is needed also. For example, in IPv6, AS number, request for comments, DNS secured, DNS, even to ISO IEC security standard like 27001 and so on.

Next, since there are many contents and applications in the Internet, which is why legal in some countries might be illegal for other countries. So, it is expected that all countries can consider supporting each other so that this type of illegal contents can be avoided to enter countries that consider those contents to be illegal. So, in the absence of global governance in the Internet, I think this is what we can do at the moment. This was discussed in the IGF 2013 in Bali, governance of Internet based on cyber ethics. I hope this can be rearranged and re-discussed again how to improve the Internet governance.

Finally, I would like to inform that ICANN Asia Pacific and Indonesian DNS operator will jointly host the APAC Asia Pacific DNS forum on 23-24 July in Bali. It will be appreciated if related team in your country can attend the meeting in Bali next July. Thank you.

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SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you. Thank you to our colleagues from the government engagement team for organizing our session. Thank you to our distinguished panelists in person and remote. And thank you to all of our colleagues who intervened from the floor. This concludes session two. Enjoy your lunch.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**