LONDON – GAC Meeting: High Level Governmental Meeting - Pre-Meeting Overview
Sunday, June 22, 2014 – 14:00 to 14:30
ICANN – London, England

CHAIR DRYDEN:	Good afternoon, everyone. If you could take your seats, please.
	Okay. Let us get started. We have an opportunity here to spend a few minutes talking about and preparing for the high-level meeting of governments to take place tomorrow. So we have our colleague from the U.K., Mark Carvell, who will take us through plans for the sessions tomorrow and, as well, Nigel Hickson who is from ICANN staff who would like to make a few remarks as well about the high-level meeting.
	So I hope this will be a useful information session for colleagues, and if there are questions and so forth, I think we should have time to deal with some of those as well in this briefing.
	So with that, I will hand over to Mark. Please.
MARK CARVELL:	Thank you very much, Heather.
	Just very briefly, what the origin of this second high-level meeting is, the first one was held at ICANN 45 in Toronto in October 2012, and that was chaired by the Industry Canada Associate, Deputy Minister Marta Morgan. Some of you were there for that first meeting.
	And this is the second one, so they are periodic meetings. I think the general expectation is every two to three years. And it comes from the first report of the -- sorry, the report of the first accountability and

transparency review. And that stated that the Board of ICANN should endeavor to increase the level of support and commitment of governments. And working with the GAC, should establish a process to determine when and how ICANN engages with senior governments on -- senior government representation on public-policy issues.

So we are fulfilling that mandate by hosting the second meeting here in London. It will be chaired by the U.K. minister with responsibility for Internet policy; that is, Ed Vaizey. Some of you will know him from IGF meetings. He has been a speaker at the last four Internet Governance Fora, the global U.N. fora, and he has been very heavily committed to the ICANN and ICANN's processes and so on. And we thought it was the time now to hold this second high-level meeting.

So he will chair it. And you have got the program for it on the screen, and I hope most of you in the committee will have had the chance to review the program, and so on.

And you will see that the program reflects at the global level in terms of, you know, strategic processes and events that are going on. Some -- all of them directly impacting on ICANN.

So the morning session, in terms of substance and specifics, will consider the transition of the stewardship of the IANA functions. And there we have invited Assistant Secretary Larry Strickling to introduce that topic for NTIA. And then Theresa Swinehart will come as well to explain the ICANN processes, and so on, following through the NTIA

announcement and decision, similar to what we have heard today in the committee.

And then after the lunch, we will have a discussion about the role of governments and how the GAC has evolved. Its membership, as we know now, is well over 140-plus. So there are challenges ahead for the role -- for governments to fulfill their function and responsibilities in terms of the public-policy issues that we are all here to secure and advance. So it is an opportunity to look at how governments perform their responsibilities and contribute to the GAC, how the GAC can extend its reach, as well, to nonparticipating governments, and so on.

And then the session following that in the afternoon will be on the NETmundial outcomes, and Professor Almeida will be introducing that, the principles and the roadmap agreements that were secured in Sao Paulo in April.

And then the final session, which is kind of very hot session, because it is looking at the report of the high-level -- the -- ICANN's high-level panel on global Internet cooperation and governance mechanisms. Now, we have not had a lot of time to digest this report, which was published in -- last month, but its recommendations are looking ahead to how cooperation and alliance building amongst the main components and entities in the Internet ecosystem can develop.

So that is an important session to conclude on, because it really is looking ahead and how -- and ICANN's place in that whole system of decentralized, distributed Internet governance.

And then there will be a conclusion.

The outcome of this will be a chair's report, so it will be Ed Vaizey's report, and we are assisted in the preparation of that by the GAC secretariat. Tom and his colleagues will be taking note and effectively minuting the session.

So we are hoping to get this outcome document produced as quickly as possible. I have rather ambitiously, maybe recklessly; set a target of trying to get it ready by the end of the ICANN meeting on Thursday. So that may be a challenge, but we will see how that goes.

It is Ed Vaizey's report, so it is not a text that we are going to circulate for agreement. It is his report as chair of the meeting.

So those are the essential fundamentals of what this meeting is aiming to do and how it be conducted.

We have not sought to invite ministers to make set statements, but we wanted to ensure there was a free flow of discussion that would also involve the ICANN side, and Nigel will touch on that shortly, no doubt.

But we did canvass for indications of topics that ministers would like to intervene on and speak on. So we did compile a list for Ed Vaizey to refer to and invite people to speak who have registered an interest in a particular agenda item.

So we will do that.

He -- he has to leave, I am afraid, to say, at one point. It is after the lunch. There is suddenly, towards the end of last week, a parliamentary commitment came up. He has to go to the House of Commons and respond on something. So he is going to drop out temporarily after the lunch and come back for 4:00. That is the plan if all goes well in the House.

And in his place will be our permanent secretary from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. That is my ministry. And she will take over as chairing of the session.

Okay. I think those are the main points I wanted to get across. Logistically, there are only two places per delegation, so please do give thought to how you want to populate your two seats. Obviously the head of delegation, plus one. Additional colleagues from administrations, you will be able to find places, I hope, in the surrounding seating as you have got here today for the GAC meetings.

It will be basically the same format. There will be more rows to accommodate the delegations. I did not give you figures, but from the latest calculation we have got from confirmation, there will be 175 representatives of 77 governments, of which 11 are not members of the GAC. So our outreach -- and we used all our diplomatic resources from the U.K., with the help of the Foreign Commonwealth Office, to promote participation through our embassies and high commissions.

We will also have representation of 11 IGOs here and taking part in the meeting as well.

So we have got quite a lot of people to fit in, but hopefully there will not be any problem. But there is this constraint of only two per delegation. So please assist us with your -- with helping out to ensure that everybody does have their set place.

Okay?

I have probably talked far too much, but I will basically leave it there for now, and please ask any questions straight after or catch me later on if you have got any questions.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you very much, Mark.

Nigel, did you want to add at this point?

NIGEL HICKSON: Yes. Thank you very much, and good afternoon. Can I add my welcome to London as well. I am sure everyone has welcomed you to London, but given that I was born here, I feel able to welcome you as well.

Just a couple of points following on -- By the way, I am Nigel Hickson. I am part of the ICANN staff. I know a lot of people here. It is very good to see you all.

Following on a couple of points from what Mark has said. High-level government meeting tomorrow. It starts at 10:30, as you know from

the program. Of course, it is preceded by the ICANN opening ceremony itself, so the opening ceremony of the ICANN meeting itself, which is 8:30. And that is -- it is taking place in the other -- in the west wing, so this is -- you are in the east wing now, and the opening is in the west wing. It is very confusing, isn't it? We have done this because we thought you -- you know, you would like this sort of variety of going from the east wing to the west wing.

So one thing about the opening ceremony is that after the opening ceremony, you will obviously, for those that are going to the opening ceremony, will come to here.

The ministers for the opening ceremony, so this is the 8:30 ICANN opening ceremony, there will be a space down the front for ministers or for ambassadors, et cetera, and there will be reserved seating. It will not have their names on, but it will have -- it will have chairs with "Reserved" on and there will be people like myself to guide the ministers there. So that is the first point. There will be reserved seating at the front for ministers, ambassadors, commissioners, et cetera.

In addition to that, at 8:00, before the 8:30 opening ceremony, Fadi Chehade has invited ministers, ambassadors, deputy ministers, commissioners, to a welcome coffee being held on the 23rd floor. This is the restaurant, the Minako restaurant on the 23rd floor of the hotel.

So if you have coped with the east wing and the west wing, between the east wing and the west wing is the tower wing. I hope you are understanding all this.

So the 23rd floor of the hotel. So those of you that have stayed in the hotel, you will know that the rooms are in the tower. It is the central bit of the hotel. On the 23rd floor of the hotel is a restaurant called the Minako restaurant, and your ministers, commissioners, deputy ministers, et cetera, are welcome there for an opening coffee at half past 8:00. No need to confirm -- Sorry; at 8:00. No need to confirm but its 8:00 there at that restaurant.

In addition to that, in the evening, as you know from the program as well, there is a reception.

So there is a lunch, which no doubt you have heard about from Mark for the heads of delegation at lunchtime. In the evening, there is a reception for everyone. So not everyone here, but all the GAC members, all the officials, et cetera, with their ministers. You are all very welcome to the evening reception, which is being held at the Grand Union restaurant, which is just opposite the hotel. There will be people guiding you there from this building, from this Palace Suite. The restaurant is just across the road from the hotel, the Palace restaurant, and that is at 6:00.

Finally if I may say, because I know there have been some concerns, so as you heard, Minister Vaizey, the U.K. minister, is chairing the session tomorrow. The first item after the introduction is a session where Fadi Chehade and Steve Crocker will say a few words at 10:50. They then have to depart for a press conference between 11:30 and 12:30. They will then be meeting with your ministers again at the lunch and they will be here for at least the first two sessions in the afternoon. So they will

be here at least, if not more, for the session on the update on GAC, the achievements on GAC and the role of GAC in the ICANN, and for the session on NETmundial. So they will be here for those sessions in the afternoon, as will other senior ICANN officials.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you for that. And since there is a session related to the GAC, so that you are aware that my aim is to talk about some of the successes of the GAC, some of the improvements. Mark mentioned the current status of the memberships, so reporting on these kinds of facts I think would be a good way to start off that discussion. So that's how I aim to introduce that particular part of the program, and I do hope we will have a really good, constructive exchange among colleagues and with ministers about the importance of the GAC and its evolution over recent years within the ICANN structures and with a positive view to the future and continued evolution of this committee.

So I hope that is useful guidance to you in preparing your senior officials or for your participation in that exchange tomorrow.

Okay. So are there any questions for the U.K. about the program?

France, please.

FRANCE: Thank you, Mark. Just a question on organization. Will the seating be already arranged when the ministers get into the room? Or will we have to make sure they have their seat and name, et cetera?

MARK CARVELL: Thanks, yes. There will be name plates with the head of delegation name on it. So they will be put out on the tables so that it will be clearly marked.

                              And consistent with the GAC conventions, we could not actually put country name plates out, unfortunately. So look out for the head of delegation name, and there will be colleagues of mine guiding people. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Next I have Namibia.

NAMIBIA: Thank you, Mark. I wanted just to inquire, I think one thing that politicians do not like sometimes is surprises, and you just mentioned there are some talking points or some probing points. Would you mind to share one or two with us so we can warn them beforehand?

                              Thank you.

MARK CARVELL: Well, thank you, Namibia. That's -- The aim of this discussion, of this meeting is to facilitate discussion about recent developments. And it is really no -- not a question of having a preset set of questions, really, but the extent to which governments and administrations generally can take forward some of these key developments. The NTIA stewardship transition, the NETmundial outcomes, and the high-level panel report are three recent developments that are kind of converging in this Internet governance ecosystem.

And so it is really an opportunity for sharing ideas and then establishing areas of common agreement. And this is what the Minister Ed Vaizey will reflect in his report.

So there are no surprises. It is really an opportunity for ministers and senior officials to come forward with their own perspectives on things, on these recent developments, in particular. And also, as Heather said, when she talks after she's presented on the GAC and the role of governments, taking these issues forward in a constructive, positive way, contributing to the various discussions in all the key fora.

The timeline is quite interesting. It is against the context of the WSIS+10 review. We have got the ITU plenipotentiary coming up in Busan in October. You have got the Internet Governance Forum in Istanbul in early September.

So this is an opportunity for governments really to come together and share views and establishes areas of common approach to determine if there are any questions that we need to pursue in these other fora, to

see, you know, if there are points of disagreement. Let us see what those points of disagreement are and then we can take those forward in future discussions as well.

So I hope that is helpful, really. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. Are there any other questions or comments about the high level meeting? Okay. I see no further. Okay. So thank you, Mark, and thank you, Nigel, for coming to brief us about this meeting, and we look forward to a successful day of discussions on a number of very topical items of interest to governments. So thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]