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LOS ANGELES – Election of GAC Chair  
Tuesday, October 14, 2014 – 10:30 to 11:00 PDT  
ICANN – Los Angeles, USA

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: Thank you, everybody. The Australians I've been listening to all week speak very loudly. I'm sorry about that. I'll try and work on my mic skills.

The GAC election for chair and vice chairs is under way. This morning we will be voting for the GAC chair. This afternoon, we will vote for the GAC vice chairs, but this morning it is just for the GAC chair.

GAC members are eligible to vote. GAC observers are not.

If you are a GAC -- Every GAC member has an official GAC representative. They are listed on the GAC Web site.

If your name was listed on the GAC Web site as an official representative before September 26, your name will be on the list.

If your name is not on my list, you cannot vote. Don't cause a scene. I'll make you eat more cake.

[ Laughter ]

In a moment, when I've finished speaking, and I'll ask for questions as well, I'm going to get everyone to make a queue to come to me, and I will ask you who do you represent.

You'll tell me who you represent, and I'll look you up on my list. It's by country in alphabetical order. Give me a minute. And then I will ask

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

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you your name. Even if I know who you are, I am ask your name. Please don't be offended. Then I'll take you off the list and I will give you a ballot paper. The ballot papers look like this.

There are two candidates names' on the ballot papers with a box beside each candidate's name. All you need to do is tick the box beside the name of your preferred candidate. There are pens here on the table for you to use but you can use your own pen. You can use a pencil, you can use a crayon, you can use lipstick. I don't care.

[ Laughter ]

You can mark your ballot here at the table. You can take your ballot away. You can sit in the corner like at school and do it back at the table. That's fine. You might want to bring a notebook or a book to rest it on and just do it while you're standing up here. That's fine. I don't care where you mark your ballot either.

When you have marked your preferences, fold your ballot paper in half and place it in the red box. Tom is guarding the red box. No funny business with the box.

That's it. Then your vote is done. Okay? And we'll be trying to get the ccNSO in here as quickly as possible after the vote is done.

I will take the ballots away and I will count them under the supervision of the outgoing vice chairs who are not standing for renomination.

I hope to come back just before we break for lunch and make the announcement of the winner of the election. And when I make that announcement, I will do it like this. I will read out the names of both

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candidates in the order that they are listed on the ballot paper. I'll read out their name, and then I'll read out how many votes they received. And then I'll read out the second person's name and read out how many votes they received, and then I will redundantly announce the winner.

Then you've got all afternoon before we vote for the vice chairs to think about the issue of geographic diversity. That's why we split the two elections so you can make your choices knowing who the GAC chair will be.

I think that's all. Does anybody have any questions?

Olga.

OLGA CAVALLI: Thank you, Michelle, very much. Can you give us details about those votes and by email?

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: We've had this question before. A vote is a vote. I won't be separately listing the votes by email as opposed to votes by ballot paper. When I read out the number of votes, it will just be the total number of votes.

Spain.

SPAIN: Thank you, Michelle.

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When people queue in front of you, if someone turns up and he belongs or she belongs to a country that has already voted by email, could you tell them not to vote?

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: Yes.

SPAIN: Okay. Second question. Would there be some group of people scrutinizing the reading of the votes?

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: As I said, the votes will be counted under the supervision of the outgoing vice chairs who are not standing for reelection as set out in the operating principles.

Iran.

IRAN: Thank you, Michelle, for this session and this voting. No problem. But in future, we need to work more systematically and more legally.

The session should have a chair. You are executive secretary of that. The voting should have tellers, not under supervision of vice chair who are not tellers, from five regions nominated and they supervise the reading, and so on, so forth. Then there should be an announcement how many vote have been cast, how many votes are valid, how many votes are in favor, how many for in favor the other, and what is the minimum which should be -- There should be some principles. I hope

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that in the next step for the next election, we would have to have something in a written form, in a more logical manner rather than going to this arbitrary. But for this one, I have no problem.

Thank you.

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: Thank you.

Yes.

UNDESCERNIBLE: Thank you. One question on the voting on electronic. I think it would be appropriate that we know the names of the countries who have been voting both by ballot and also by email, so we have a little bit of transparency, not what they have voted on but at least we know who are in the voting procedure.

You thank you very much.

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: I've been asked that before and my answer was we didn't announce beforehand that we were going to say who voted by electronic mail, and so I don't -- I'm loathe to change the process partway through, but I can take advice from the supervisors and get back to you on that, but I suspect we won't be announcing the names of the people who voted by email because we didn't tell them beforehand that that's what we would be doing.

Yes.

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UNDESCERNIBL: So will the candidate chairs be able to vote for the vice chairs and the vice chairs be able to vote for the chairs? Or....

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: Yes. The candidates are eligible to vote. The outgoing chair and vice chairs are eligible to vote in both elections.

Okay. If there are no other questions, please form an orderly queue.

Let's go.

[ PROCEEDING OFF MIC ]

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: Is that all? Would anyone else like to vote? Do we have any more voters?

Last call for voters. If anyone else would like to vote, it's now or never.

Okay. Thank you, everybody.

The GAC -- The official election for the GAC chair is now closed. I'll go away and count the ballots, come back. See you soon.

The vice chairs and chair can come back to the table now.

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TOM DALE: Thank you, if the vice chairs and chair, or at least the chair will come up. I don't want to look as if I'm coming over the GAC. Someone who is an office holder in the GAC, could I then invite the members who are here for the ccNSO meeting please come take their place at the table. Thank you.

My apologies for the delay.

**[ TRANSCRIPT RE ELECTION OF THE CHAIR RESUMES WITH ELECTION RESULTS AFTER INTERVENING AGENDA ITEMS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. ]**

CHAIR DRYDEN: Okay. Before we break, Michelle, do you have results to report?

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: Yes, I have some results to report.

Dr. Imad Youssef Hoballah, Lebanon, 37 votes. Mr. Thomas Schneider, Switzerland, 61 votes.

The new GAC chair is Thomas Schneider, Switzerland.

[ Applause ]

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Congratulations.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Michelle.

So congratulations to Thomas for this result, and thank you to both candidates for running in this election and for your willingness to come forward and take on this role.

Would you like to say something? Lebanon.

LEBANON:

Yes, please. I know I'm between us and lunch, but I believe after what has happened, you probably could indulge me and listen to me for a few minutes, couple minutes.

Now that the GAC chair elections are over, I wanted to share with you a few thoughts.

Internet governance is going through a transformation phase that requires listening, engagement, trust, and respect of all and by all stakeholders.

It's a phase filled with emotions and infested, amongst other things, with personal agendas. We could ask what's the GAC's views of other constituencies, but we better ask ourselves how do other constituencies and stakeholders view the GAC.

Others, honestly, view the GAC as a very, very big problem. Very slow, polarized, holding onto to dissipating power, and above all, non-

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cooperative and non-constructive. No one should be shocked with my statement.

We have major challenges that can be addressed only if steered around the public's wider interest. One of these challenges is the answer to the questions of where is the GAC really for multistakeholders and where do governments really stand with respect to multistakeholderism. Especially when many governments talk multistakeholderism but act from the point of view of, well, "My stakes."

We are stuck in silos of individual governments and along the wishes of individual representatives sometimes. But GAC colleagues, recent developments have clearly demonstrated that the GAC is far more challenged than we have been willing to acknowledge.

We all have lived the challenges, but you're probably too nice to mention them or repeat them in public. These challenges have become especially clear during the events leading up to the elections of the GAC chair and vice chairs, leading up to today.

Many of us seem to have forgotten the principles of public interest and a truly open Interneted connected world.

When I accepted the nomination to the responsibility of the GAC chair, I had great hopes that we together could do great things using a crystal clear version and vision of listening, cooperation, determination, openness, engagement with respect and, above all, helping all end users to better their lives.

I had hoped that we could work in a healthy environment and reach out to other non-represented governments and other constituencies and

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build real multistakeholder consensus where the public, the consumers, the end users, all users are at the center.

I had hoped for all of us to have better outreach towards developing countries and look at the issues globally rather than the way we have been doing things. I had hoped that we will not be defending the very limited or different special interests with unhealthy politics. However, we have built silos.

The GAC is the one that needs urgent support to function properly. We need it.

To my dismay and to the dismay of many others, the GAC ended up living divisiveness and polarizations that we are supposed to eliminate and not reinforce.

It is unfortunate that the election process overlooked the platform, the skills, the listening, the engagement, the advancement and turned into camps, divisiveness, polarization and procrastination. This is not by the way, to take away from Tom's platforms at all or his skills. Please don't misunderstand me.

It has not been very healthy and I'm glad it's over. We cannot work with other constituencies this way. Heck, we cannot work together this way.

Like many of you, I, for one, definitely am happy that this is over and we need to rebuild and reconnect the GAC. I have been and will continue to do what is necessary for the little person, the little man, the little woman; however, I cannot be my own man if I did not represent and defend the wider, not the limited, public good.

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We all know that democracy is the name of the game, but let me be clear that polarization has delivered us what it has delivered. The challenge to myself, to Tom, and to the whole GAC is to rise above the emotions and divisive matters and engage together, and with other constituencies listening, trusting each other, and behave in a manner to deserve the trust and respect from each other.

I honestly thank everyone who supported my platform on engagement, and Tom has good qualities that, with proper support, guidance and engagement, could work towards moving the GAC forward. But he, supported by every GAC member, has major challenges that we must and he must find ways to overcome.

It is the responsibility of each and every GAC member, and even other constituencies, to help him overcome that.

Congratulations, Tom, and may God help us.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Many thanks for your words, Dr. Hoballah.

Okay. Thomas, would you like to say a few words?

THOMAS SCHNEIDER:

I'm sorry for actually being the one who is standing behind you and lunch, but I think it's time to also say a few words.

First of all, I want to thank everybody here who trusted me and appreciated the work that I have been doing so far and thinks that I'm a person that might help in moving this institution forward.

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I also want to particularly thank Imad because we have been able, on a personal level, not to fall into this divide and to keep a friendly relationship throughout this period, which is something I appreciated very much.

As you know, that we have not put ourselves forward as Switzerland. We have been asked by a number of other delegations to accept the nomination. We discuss this internally in my government, including the top of the government, and accepted this because Switzerland has been, for a very long time, and still is, very committed to development of the Internet governance ecosystem, to Internet governance processes -- I will not repeat our commitments and the diverse fora that we are active and supporting -- with a special focus on capacity building and on inclusion of developing country stakeholders and other stakeholders that are in some, many ways, disadvantaged and have not so easy access to these processes. And this is something that is worrying us and that we would want to contribute to improve.

We are also very supportive of a multistakeholder approach that is applied to find solutions to the challenges and to seize the opportunities that the Internet and its governance poses to us. And -- But we do not understand a multistakeholder approach as a scenario in a wild west movie where those who have the strongest and best guns win, but we understand this as a concept where all stakeholders work together, respect each other, work together on shared principles, and with the attempt to mutually understand what their issues, their views, their needs are, and also work together in their respective roles.

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Those who have been participating in the discussions in WSIS and whatever followed thereafter know that this notion of respective roles is at the core of the challenges that we face in particular when it comes to respective roles of governments. We think these roles still need to be further clarified here in the GAC, but elsewhere, but that we have to have a frank and inclusive debate of all stakeholders about what these respective roles, of every stakeholder himself but also of the other stakeholders, should be.

As a Swiss and representative of the Swiss government, I'm committed to contribute to clear rules, transparency and accountability and fairness in the multistakeholder model so that everyone, irrespective of the color of your skin, of your language, and of the economic power of the country you represent, can participate and have the voice and is heard.

Maybe it's good to know for you, since we are going to work together intensely in the next years, a little bit of my background.

I come from a country that has a political culture where all views are integrated in the government. We force each other to work together. Even if we do not agree, even if we do not even like each other, we commit to work together because we are convinced that only if we work together and respect each other we will find solutions that are acceptable to everyone, that will bring us peace and prosperity.

In my case, we have four cultures with four languages that live together. One culture, the German one, has the large majority in our country. We have a direct democratic system. If we do not agree among the cultures, the German culture would win every time. But we are aware

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of the fact that we have to voluntarily sometimes cede to minorities in order to make them accept the rules, in order to make them feel part of it and not just governed by the majority, by the strong ones. And this is a fundamental understanding that I'm also carrying myself personally, that we need to strengthen minorities. We need to help the weaker parties to be equal with the stronger ones. And in my country, if we wouldn't do this, Switzerland would fall apart. We would fragment the country into pieces, and all of the pieces are convinced that we're stronger together and we have a better life together, and I think this also applies to the Internet.

And with this spirit is how I see my role here in the GAC; to build bridges, to help create an atmosphere, an environment where people speak together, listen together, invite each other to participate, and invite others who are not here to participate, facilitate the entrance of them, and to build bridges among each other, create an environment where we can talk and not only talk but actually find solutions in the GAC, but also between governments and the other constituencies and communities outside the GAC, we need to make our role understood with the others. We need to understand their roles and their needs, and we need to improve and strengthen with the challenges growing and the opportunities growing to strengthen the relationship between the GAC and the rest of the community. This is something that is also very important for us.

As Imad has said, it's going to be a little bit of a challenge. It's not going to be easy and I won't be able to do this alone, so I need all of you here, those that voted for me, those that didn't vote for me -- and I don't just say that; I mean it -- because if we don't work as a team, we will not

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succeed and that will not just be probably bad for the GAC, it might not be good for the rest of the Internet and the community either.

So this is the spirit in which I grow up, where I come from, and what I hope will help us in the next period to successfully face the challenges that we are facing.

I want to end with a few practical remarks on practical issues. The Swiss government, as I said and has been stated also by our minister and former president, is fully committed to put at the disposal the necessary resources for this task. You need to know that we are a rather small administration. We have taken steps to replace myself in case I was elected in my functions that I have within my government, in a number of other fora, regional and international ones where I represent Switzerland, which is quite a challenge for us as a small administration. We have done this with the view to have this operational after the Marrakech meeting in February and to be ready to take over at that time.

We have been informed very recently of the decision of the current chair to depart at the end of this meeting. We will do all we can to, if necessary, be ready before the end of the Marrakech meeting, but for my administration, it is simply not possible to let me go from all of my responsibilities and functions by this Friday. I ask you to note this.

So we will need -- and this is probably the first teamwork that we are going to engage, as a team of all outgoing and incoming officials with the rest of the GAC and the secretariat, both secretariat, to work together to find a solution for the GAC to function from now until February.

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I thank you for your understanding, and I want to end with telling you that I'm looking forward to working with you in my new function in the same team, which is the GAC. And I thank you for your attention.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you very much for those words, Thomas. Good luck to you.

Okay. So now we are breaking for the lunch period. Please return for 2:00, and we will restart.

Thank you.

[ END OF TRANSCRIPT ]