
HYDERABAD – GAC Asia Pacific capacity building meeting
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ICANN57 | Hyderabad, India

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Please take your seats. The meeting is going to start right now.
Thank you.

We are starting.

Thank you all for coming at this late hour to the GAC Asia Pacific meeting at Hyderabad. This is, if I'm not mistaken, the first time that this is taking place. And I'll just make the introduction to make you understand where this comes from. You know that we have some challenges in the GAC that some regions of the world are usually further away from where meetings take place and they're usually given the time schedules time zones, so some governments struggle more with time zones than others just because there are fewer from different time zones. So there was an initiative to specially promote the inclusion and facilitate the participation of countries from the Asia Pacific region into the GAC's work. And this is part of an exercise or a bigger goal to work for the countries with special needs or special situations as part of the so-called GAC underserved regions working group, which is a working group that is there to support countries that

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are underserved technically or economically but also that have special needs in any way.

And the Asia Pacific region is -- given the time zones they're in and the distances they have to travel, of course, this is a special situation. So this is just to explain to you the framework in which this initiative is set. It's an attempt to be inclusive and to facilitate participation in the GAC through the GAC working group on underserved regions. And we are happy to have Tarek's team with Anne-Rachel and others who support the working group and tends to do outreach and to be as inclusive as we can from ICANN staff side. With this I want to hand over to one of the co-chairs of the meeting to start the session actually. Thank you very much.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much, GAC chair. And welcome, everybody. I would like to start us off by having the Indian host and representative, Rajiv Bansal, to make a few introductory and welcome statements. Thank you.

RAJIV BANSAL:

Thank you, Chair. It's my privilege and honor to welcome all the GAC representatives of the Asia Pacific region to this evening's deliberations. We're happy to host the ICANN 57 in this beautiful

city of Hyderabad and to be a part of this congregation of this region.

Let me begin by saying, as geography binds us, our challenges bond us together, bond us together as underserved regions. We have a lot to learn and gain from each other, from our experiences, from our failures, and from our vision and missions.

While we understand that each country's challenges are unique, we do feel in India that our challenge is mind-boggling. We have today the second largest number of people who are connected on the Internet -- close to 400 million people -- and the largest number of people who are not connected to the Internet.

So we find ourselves placed in a very unique position. And we are happy to collaborate as well as learn from all the members, countries in this room. We feel that capacity building is one of the core areas that can collectively help us move forward. We have taken some baby steps. We started the first India Internet School of Governance just last week. This was just the initial step. And we feel that, with the help of the ICANN, we can take this forward and replicate this on a larger scale, not only in one city but in multiple locations in the country and at multiple time slots around the year. Going forward, we feel that the issues of diversity and accountability are going to be important for us in a post-IANA situation.

We again look forward to working together with the various working groups within the multistakeholder system and seeing how our dreams, our hopes, our visions, our missions can turn into reality in the shortest possible time.

With these few words, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much, Mr. Rajiv Bansal. And thank you once again for hosting us. I appreciate it.

And now I'd like to invite the ICANN CEO, Goran Marby, to give us introductory remarks. Thank you very much.

GORAN MARBY:

Thank you very much and good evening. Thank you very much for inviting me.

First I would like to congratulate you on this first meeting. And I'm personally very happy, and we're very happy that you're here.

I met some of you walking in. I understand that, even if I complain it was a long flight, you had -- some of you have been traveling from very, very far, even if we see it as the same region.

ICANN is really our shared responsibility and even more so after transition.

And, for anyone here who has been involved in that process and transition, I would like to thank you very much.

But I want to go back to something I've said several times over the last couple of days. And that is that I came in very late in the transition process.

But just in the last couple weeks we were actually captured or hijacked by the special interests. We were actually very close of losing it.

That didn't happen. But that doesn't mean that it won't happen again. And we have to make sure that no organization, no special interests, no country, no person ever should be able to hijack what we do again.

And my formula to make sure that that doesn't happen again is that we have a very open, very active, and very diverse community to safeguard the whole model and also ICANN.

And I think that you know better than anyone else that Internet may have started as a Latin-based sort of way of communicating. But you also know if you know -- I think we now have 3.6 billion users. I don't know even have to calculate it. People just give me numbers. But that's a fair amount of people.

That means that most of that growth actually is out in countries that is not based on Latin language.

Come to think of it, Internet is real really a fantastic thing. Because it is both global -- you can reach anyone on the planet -- but it's also very local. If you're looking forward to a way to get more people online, it's actually to be more localized. Because you need -- if you want people to come into Internet, it has to be localized.

That means that for you to come here and talk about your experiences, your languages, your culture, it's going to be very, very important for you to reach everybody, even more people get connected. I think it's an obligation for me and an obligation to you to serve the next-generation Internet users. And you are going to be very important in that.

So, therefore, I'm really here to encourage you to participate and teach me how I can support you, work together so we can make things happen for the next-generation. Because what I've said many times is that, until transition, we just wrote the first chapter of book of Internet. Together with our other friends in the Internet community, now we're going to write the next. Thank you very much. And, unfortunately, I have to leave because I still have two speeches, drinks, dinners and something until 9:00. So thank you very much.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you very much for giving us that time. We appreciate it.

Now GAC chair, Thomas Schneider, to just give us a brief introduction to the GAC. Thank you, Thomas.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Yes. Hello to everybody. My name is Thomas. I come from Switzerland, which is a small country in Europe. And I'm currently the GAC chair. And I just would like to, for those who don't know it -- some of you may have heard this 100 times -- try to explain a little bit what the GAC is about. The GAC is the Governmental Advisory Committee. So I guess you know that about ICANN's role. ICANN is a multistakeholder organization under private sector leadership and is one element of the broader Internet governance ecosystem. Its mission -- I don't cite it -- is basically to manage the domain name system, IP addresses, and some functions with protocols.

And I'm citing one of the core values that I think is especially important for the GAC for governments in all of this that we have in the new bylaws that says the following -- it's core value 2.

That ICANN should follow seeking and supporting broad informed participation reflecting the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision making, to ensure that the bottom-up multistakeholder policy development process is used to assert in the global public interest and that those processes are accountable and transparent.

So this is, I think, the core value that is very important for governments and where they think they have a role in many of these elements regarding bringing in diversity, geographic cultural diversity, and so on and so forth and accountability and transparency of this bottom-up model.

And the role of the GAC, the main role of the GAC in this organization is also, if you look at the bylaws, is described there.

And it's a role of giving advice to the Board.

So I just cite one other article that the Governmental Advisory Committee should consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to concerns of governments, particularly matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues. So we're supposed and expected to bring in advice to the extent that they have an effect on public policy issues or they're related to public policy issues.

But also bring in the expertise about laws on national and international level and, to the extent they matter or -- well, relate, ICANN should know about them with regards to ICANN's mission that I explained before.

So this is the main role. We are an advisory body. We are currently 170 members from all over the world. That has not doubled like in half a year's time like the CPU speed and capacity of computers. But it has doubled in less than 10 years, I would say. So we keep growing.

And we have 35 observers. These observers are normally intergovernmental organizations, regional ones, global ones like other institutions that governments have a role in. And so we are together 200 members -- over 200 members and observers.

Not everybody is able to come to all the meetings. We normally are somewhere between 70 and 100 delegations present physically. There is also the possibility to participate remotely, of course, with like -- in all the ICANN meetings, I think things are Webcast and streamed and so on and so forth.

So we try to be inclusive to facilitate participation. This is also one of the reasons why this working group exists and this meeting exists.

Because it is a challenge. It is a challenge. The further away of a meeting you are, it is a challenge -- there's a bigger challenge. The more limited your resources are, the bigger your challenge.

So we try to, with the support of ICANN, to facilitate participation of as many governments in the GAC as possible. And we are not yet there where we want to be, i.e., to have everybody on board. But the attendance is positive. We are having more and more participation. And, of course, it is important that within regions but also across regions we all support each other, that we share the burden, that we -- maybe not everybody has the resources to go through every issue for every document that we work together and distribute the work in a good faith and in a trusted way so that we can share the burden and nevertheless be informed without having to deal with every single issue in detail but be able to make our voices heard nevertheless.

So this is a permanent challenge. There's nothing unique in ICANN. You have this in every other global institution, whether it's a U.N. institution or other private institution, that you have different cultures, different people with different situations. But we try to support people, to the extent possible. And also I think through the working group but also through myself as the chair, our support staff from Tarek's team, but also the GAC support team, we're all there to -- in case you have special needs that we

may not know of, that you inform any of us about them. And we will try and find solutions or at least give you support.

So this is an important element of the attempts to be inclusive to the maximum possible.

And participation is one thing. Once we've achieved this, we need to make sure that we actually understand each other. And in the GAC with these 170 countries and coming from all over the world, even if we speak -- all speak English or if we all speak one of the six U.N. languages where we have translation, given the differences in culture from where we come from, it is not a given that we actually understand what we mean, that we have no misinterpretations or misunderstandings. And this is also something that I'm trying to raise awareness, to the extent that I can, of course, including also myself. I have my background that is limited because I come from one country in the world, that we support each other in trying to communicate in a way that we hope that the others understand. And, if we don't understand each other, that we say it, that we say it before accidents occur. Because we thought we understood each other but actually we didn't. So this is a very important thing, I think, for people in the GAC and then again for people from the GAC to the other constituencies. Because governments have a special way of talking to each other. Most of us have some kind of diplomatic

experience also in other international fora where governments talk to each other.

People that come from businesses and participate in ICANN in other fora like the GNSO, for instance, they may not be used to the way we speak. And, even if we speak the same language, they may have no idea what we mean. And this is something that occurs quite frequently. And this is something. The first step is to realize that this is the case, that we need to do some capacity building mutually to understand each other and that we also -- everybody needs to take an effort.

I'm spending quite a long time of my speech on this one because this fundamental, and particularly in a region that is as diverse in itself as the one that is gathered here. I think you all know what I am talking about but not everybody else is aware of this. So please be aware that they may not understand what you mean even if they understand the language because they come from a completely different environment. And this is just an encouragement to be aware of this.

I'll stop here, and also, I'm afraid I have a lot of work to do so I will have to leave soon and do some other work, but I wish you, of course, a very good exchange, and I'm happy to be informed about any decisions or outcomes or insights that come out of this meeting.

Thank you very much.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much, Thomas, for that. And also for acknowledging the difficulties in understanding each other because of the sometimes cultural differences or capacity and skills differences and all that. And that is exactly why the underserved regions work group was created. And a very brief history. It was created as the GAC capacity building working group, but then it evolved to then be called the developing region working group, and now it's called the underserved regions work group. And, in fact, we want to change that so that it has a more positive connotation, because I think "underserved" has a very needy or negative connotation. So, actually, I'm going to request all of you to help us come up with a new title for this working group.

And there have been quite a number of suggestions, but we're still not happy with them. So as we continue having these discussions, I'm hoping we can be creative and come up with a new title.

Okay. My name is Alice Munyua. I forgot to introduce myself, with the African Union Commission, and I am the co-chair of the Underserved Regions Working Group.

Briefly, as the GAC chair mentioned, this working group was created as an acknowledgment of the challenges that government representatives have in engaging meaningfully in ICANN processes in GAC and ICANN processes generally. And the objectives are increasing the number and participation of GAC members from least developed economies and small island developing states; increasing the knowledge and understanding of GAC and ICANN from regions in order to enable participation and engagement, encourage growth and development of the domain name industry. And we target specifically -- we tend to use the U.N. definition, targeting specifically at the Caribbean, Pacific, and Indian Ocean islands, Central and South America, Southeast Asia and Africa. And we've organized several capacity-building sessions, and this is one of them, that we are trying to engage with in terms from a regional perspective. So this is going to be the first one. The second one is going to be for the Africa region in Nairobi in January. And this is all done in collaboration with ICANN's global stakeholder engagement team and the government engagement team, and follows -- and speaks specifically to the Underserved Regions Working Group work plan in terms of reference.

Having said that, and I think I'd like to very, very quickly share with you current aspects of the work plan so that we can understand where we are at.

I mentioned the issue of the first one there, endorsement of the definition of underserved regions. And to this effect, we think we may want to consider this definition not just during this session here, but we have a session tomorrow evening, a high-interest topic session that is also going to be looking at this with the rest of the ICANN community, to see whether this definition really fits the kind of work we are doing, whether it fits with the current status of ICANN, of post-IANA transition. Whether we want to change the title, and whether the way it's defined really fits what we want to do.

So this -- the reason why it's to be determined because we want to have that discussion not just at the GAC level but with the community from tomorrow.

Next slide, Julia.

We facilitated a ccTLD survey, and this was mainly to understand the relationships between government and their ccTLDs. And that was completed. And we have the survey results available on the GAC website.

We're also looking at researching the number of countries defined as underserved and identifying their needs so that we are able to develop a focused approach in addressing those needs. And that is one of the activities. Today is one of the activities, and Pua is going to lead a session, an interactive

session where we begin to identify some of these challenges and ask those questions. What makes it so difficult for us as participants from the Asia-Pacific region and other developing countries that are here? What are the difficulties in participating? And not just GAC policy processes, but ICANN generally.

And then engaging in discussion with relevant areas of ICANN, including the current activities that are going on, ongoing. For example, the subsequent procedures for new gTLDs, looking specifically at what went wrong with the Applicant Support Program, for example. What were the lessons learned. You know, as we heard earlier, our regions you know have not really participated that effectively, not just with policy-making but also with the business aspect of it.

So we'd want to understand that. And this group is going to engage in some of those PDP processes and policy processes, and also, you know, try and build your capacity -- try to assist you so that you're able to participate in those processes as well.

Liaising with GAC leadership to ensure that the output of this working group also translates to perhaps additional support for not just travel to ICANN meetings but also understanding some of the processes, because we need resources for governments from underserved regions to be able to participate effectively.

And it's not necessarily travel, some of it. As we've seen, for example, with the Africa region, it takes resources where somebody has to sit down and translate some of the policy processes going on to fit within our context so that then our governments are able to understand them within that context and be able to contribute effectively. So that's another aspect. And perhaps here, maybe travel -- focusing only on travel support is something we should delete and just say, you know, general support, resources.

We may want to also request for the review of the domain name industry in the regions currently underserved. Again, that ties into the subsequent rounds to understand why we did not have applicants -- as many applicants just by the fact that there was an applicant support program. As well as engaging with the various reviews that I mentioned earlier. Subsequent and then the reviews, understanding the challenges. And as well as participating in the Cross-Community Working Group on auction fees -- auction proceeds and how those could benefit some of the activities that are being proposed by the Underserved Regions Working Group, and also benefit underserved regions in engaging more effectively.

Conducting the survey. We're going to start doing that hopefully in a few minutes when I hand over the microphone to Pua to begin to ask those questions so that we see what will go into this

survey and how -- if -- how we can make it as effective as possible so we understand what the challenges are.

And then capacity building. We really need to engage in capacity building and engage in capacity building in a sustainable way. So rather than one-off sessions like this, we would want to see that it's sustained in a way that we are able to ensure that there's sustained participation in the various activities of the GAC, and where the GAC is required to participate in ICANN policy processes. And especially PDPs and Cross-Community Working Groups.

And with that, we are working very closely with the ICANN global stakeholders engagement team and the government engagement team to ensure that resources are allocated. And again, not necessarily travel. It's resources are allocated to help our regions participate effectively.

So that's it for the work plan. It's a very general and very broad overview of the work plan for this. And the reason why I'm presenting it here to you is for discussion, to see whether you agree, to perhaps propose if there's any area that we may have missed that needs to go into the work plan. And also to actually request ICANN Board member who is sitting with us and the GE and GSE team to begin to think about ways of, you know, what level and kind of resources we will require to implement some of

these activities, because the GAC cannot implement most of them on its own.

So I'll stop here and perhaps invite any questions, suggestions, comments from you on the work plan.

Thank you very much.

Kavouss, Iran.

IRAN:

Thank you very much. I think from the beginning up to now we are just talking of generality, capacity building and so on, so forth. Let's get into the real issue: Whom you want to reach?

You want to reach government, people dealing with Internet or you want to reach people using the Internet? And where you want to reach these people? Underserved countries. Where it is defined which are underserved countries? At least you have somewhere to begin and that is United Nations least developed countries and developing countries, listing all those countries, at least for beginning to see.

Then we have to see how you want to start it. Starting with giving them fellowship, bringing them to ICANN meeting doesn't help. They will be lost. Because you talk about PDP. There are many, many people. They doesn't know what the PDP stand for,

and what is the purpose of PDP. Then you have to explain the people PDP is something that the two SO produce in order to provide recommendation to the Board to approve to tackle a subject. And the counterpart of that is GAC advice to include issues relating to the public policy mainly and other things. And these are two things balancing each other, and so on, so forth and both of them go to the board and Board will treat the matter.

So first we have to explain to these people what is the issue on the table. And you have to explain them in the most simplest manner.

If you want that the people understand, you should talk to their own language. I'm not talking the language they're speaking. The language of understanding.

If you talk to complex issues, all of those acronyms being and so on, so forth, they will be lost. You have to start with something very simple.

I look into the court decision of United States with respect to the topic, and they quote a text of something simple description of what is DNS, because they wanted that the people dealing with that have a preliminary idea what the DNS is. When you type www.itu.int, how it start until reach the website and establish communication?

In that book, it is few pages, 10 to 12 pages, written by someone from the rear peoples in Europe, it gives you preliminary information.

So first we have to start to provide some preliminary informations and then distribute or send or go and explain that to the people. Starting with the fellowship doesn't help.

ICANN does not have unlimited resources to provide fellowship, and so on, so forth. And fellowship sometimes in some countries are nothing all. It's just one time per person; next time with another one. So there is no continuity.

So you have to establish some principles, how this action should be done and whom you have to do that, and starting from the government side, starting to the people side, whether in their country there is some multistakeholder arrangement, whether you can reach these people with it, you can start them -- start to provide information. I'm not saying teach them.

So I think this issue is not quite clear. We are tackling from all aspect without going to the heart of the issue. So we have to go to the heart of the matter, and so on, so forth.

And more importantly because you are talking of the people in the country, there are other entities also doing capacity building. You have to see what they are doing. There are many

international or intergovernmental organizations. They have capacity building, and so on, so forth, and there are some regional organizations, ICT, they also do some capacity building.

So we should put the resources together, share the resources together, and share the element and knowledge together in order to reach these people.

If you start by your own, they start by their own, and, therefore, yeah.

So that is the issue, and you see first what the people want. There should be some sort of questionnaire or some sort of the thing going to the people that you want to reach that what they want to know about the issue. What level of the knowledge they have.

If you have different category, you have to prepare different type of the people, you have to give different information. These are the things requires some sort of actions. And you cannot do that in this particular single meeting. You have to start the work. You have to start with some mechanisms, and through that mechanism to see how you can do -- how you can tackle the matters.

So I stop here. I don't want to monopolize the microphone, but this is something I can give you as a developing countries'

participant and having some experience? The matter for 42 years.

Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much, Kavouss, for those very, very constructive recommendations, suggestions. In fact, we totally agree with you. And you notice that one of the areas that we're looking at is actually developing a survey that going to be asking exactly these questions. We also acknowledge that we cannot do this on our own as a GAC working group. So the importance of partnerships is very critical for us, you know, looking at all the other actors in this field including, you know, the other constituencies within ICANN, as well as what I mentioned earlier, that I think we really need to seriously consider a very sustainable approach to this. And travel support is not sustainable, as we have seen. And that's the reason why we are beginning to look at this now from a completely different perspective.

So thank you very much. We have taken those into consideration.

Yes, please. And then China, then Nigeria.

LEONID TODOROV: Thank you. Leonid Todorov of APTLD. Partly some of my concerns and some of my questions have already been addressed and answered.

I have a couple of them. First of all, how the preliminary decision to embark on this mission was made. How was that decision made? And were there any preliminary consultations with the community on this matter? That's just one question, and then --

ALICE MUNYUA: I will just respond. This is a Governmental Advisory Committee initiative. And the GAC does have provisions and it's in its operating principle to create working groups.

LEONID TODOROV: Absolutely. So this is the GAC sponsored initiative, not ICANN's.

ALICE MUNYUA: This is a GAC working group initiative.

LEONID TODOROV: All right. Well, thank you.

Then my next question, who will be an implementer of this work?

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you. This is what we are trying to establish now by having these discussions.

LEONID TODOROV: Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: So any suggestion is welcome. Thank you.

LEONID TODOROV: No, no. I'm just curious because that's not clear from the table we've seen.

My next question is is there any intention or decision to evaluate previous projects, let's say technical assistance projects, implemented to date under the auspices of ICANN? By which I mean, for example, delivery of hundred dollar laptops to Africa, tripling registrars -- the number of registrars in Africa, NETmundial, and some others. I mean, by evaluation, of course, I mean, you know, their value, their efficiency, whatever, you know --

ALICE MUNYUA: I'll have to stop you there because we are now going off topic and that is not within the mandate of the Governmental Advisory Committee, neither ICANN. So laptops for Africa. So we are looking specifically at building the capacity of Governmental Advisory Committee, government participants from underserved regions so that we can increase participation in the GAC and in ICANN processes.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So the GAC --

ALICE MUNYUA: Please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- and the GAC only.

ALICE MUNYUA: Yes, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: I would like to now go to China and then Nigeria. Yes, please.

CHINA: Thank you, Alice. I will take the advantage of interpretation.

Thank you, Alice.

I would like to share with you some of the opinions, my opinions, as to USR, underserved region.

In my opinion, USR is an important work because, in terms of GAC, we do have underserved regions from the GAC perspective. And it is an existing problem.

GAC has been discussing important public policy issues concerning the Internet; therefore, we do need effective participation of different governments for effective discussion. And I agree with Kavouss. I agree with his very good suggestions. He believes that the work plan of the working group should be problem oriented. We need to improve our work plan and, thus, the efficiency and effectiveness of our work so that we could adequately spot the realistic problems that we are facing now and to come up with solutions to those problems.

I believe, depending on GAC alone and the results of the working group is not sufficient to address all those problems. We could utilize the resources that could be provided by GAC and ICANN to address the problems that we face.

I believe with the good work plans and sustained efforts to promote the relevant work, it is sure that we will be successful in the future.

I would like to add that so far we have gained quite good progress. For example, the GAC secretariat has provided us with very good help, especially on some very important issues. They made very good preparations, for example, documents. And those are very helpful for the members and observants to follow the progress of problems and the issues.

And the translation and interpretation service provided by ICANN is very useful. And it would help the members to follow the meeting more closely. And I personally attended in the past the U.N. conferences. Their interpreters work -- their work finish at 6:00. But now our interpreters are working. And these interpreters services is sure a very helpful factor for our work.

And just now I noticed that Mr. Low Jia-Rong, VP of the Asia Pacific region -- and he has helped us facilitate our work to promote the Asian Pacific outreach. And he has done a lot for this Asia Pacific region. And I'm sure that with his help, we would do a better job in terms of promoting the Asian Pacific region work. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you very much, China. And also thank you for those very constructive suggestions and comments. And yes, indeed, from what I'm hearing, a very fast activity will be to conduct this survey to actually find out what the challenges are so that then we can perhaps improve on the work plan. So thank you. Nigeria and then Indonesia.

NIGERIA: Good afternoon. What I have from the equation, from the list of the underserved countries, what metrics do we follow to identify the underserved regions? That is my first question.

And my second question is a comment. How do we come closer to the people or closer to the communities? I believe we can only come closer to the communities through organizing like original forums and also liaison with other organizations, other local organizations within the regions, especially during the meeting.

And my third comment is: How do we mobilize resources to sponsor these activities? Because recently my country, Nigeria, has organized a DNS forum -- DNS and IPv6 forum by the APRINIC. And I note the amount of resources we spent. So how do we sponsor such activities in the underserved areas? These are my comments and questions. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much.

The first one regarding the definition, the GAC had used the U.N. definition. And we're still working on it so that we can see whether it's appropriate for our own setting or we need to improve on it.

The other question is regarding resources and how to work with other organizations. I think I will leave that to the GE and GSE team. We can respond to that during the next session.

So Indonesia, please.

INDONESIA:

Thank you, Alice.

First off, we have to identify things that, yes, Kavouss, mentioned previously. And Asia Pacific countries are so many, many of them from big to small. So we can identify those countries. And I believe this kind of supporting the underserved regions will be very useful. Because the members whoever come here can be some sort of not only GAC member. But he or she can look like the liaison officer back to the country for discussing many problems.

And it is in this respect that I think a particular problems that appear in their countries can be solved or can be found out how to improve that. For example, just very simple, Indonesia has already using a lot of IP numbers. If we want more IP numbers, we cannot get it from the Asia Pacific. We have to get it from somewhere else. In this case, Asia Pacific is already finished the IP number. Perhaps we can get it from AfriNIC, for example. Or we have to build IPv6. This means more funding, more investment, and so on. And we cannot do it at the moment. So it is more cheaper or more competitive if we can buy some IP numbers, which are not -- which is not used from the AfriNIC, for example. These kinds of things that we can find out a way. Not only that there are many others, I can give you more and more examples.

And another one is how to bring the importance of this ICANN to the country itself. Many countries will see only the content which is important in the Internet, which is not -- it is important, but it is not the only one which is important.

And we have a liaison officer there that can do talking with other organizations. Not only within the government but also non-government because ICANN works with many non-government organizations which bring in organizations with internet service provider and so on. Now, from the Asian region, for example, we have two on the Board. We have Asha from Singapore. You're

from Singapore, right? And Rinalia from Malaysia. You're from Malaysia, right? But others we don't have. The closest to Indonesia is Singapore, of course. So that's why I asked the other day that during our IGF meeting next on 15 of November, I would like to have one ICANN to come. And we arrange for them to talk about what ICANN can support Internet development in Indonesia and solve the problems. Not only IP numbers. We finish IP numbers, but we can still find something. But not only that. We find more security, for example. Public -- public -- what you call it? Public interest that our problem is talking about in the GAC and also in the high interest topics. The kind of things that we have to exchange information with the interested people there. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much, Indonesia. I would first like to acknowledge two board members, Asha Hemrajani and Rinalia Abdul Rahim. We're going to call upon you to say a few words. But, if you don't mind, I'd like to go straight to inviting the GE and GSE team to take us through the various ICANN constituencies and walking briefly what are the current policy areas that the GAC should be -- GAC Asia Pacific members should actually take into consideration. And then we can go into the IANA transition with Kavouss. So GE, Anne-Rachel and Tarek, please.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you, very much, Alice for your presentation and the framework. And we look forward definitely, as a government engagement team and the GSE team that Sally Costerton is leading and we have with us from the region here several regional vice presidents like Jia-Rong Low and Pierre Dandjinou for Africa and Xavier for the Oceania region and other vice presidents from different regions. So we look forward to the discussion. We look forward to the input that we are getting in this session concerning this work plan. And we will then work together with the leadership of the GAC as well as with Alice and the co-chairs of the work group on an implementation plan of this framework in order to see the priorities that we are getting from the GAC members in those regions concerning the requirements for capacity building.

So on the resource issue, very specifically, that Alice has brought up, we'll make sure with the ICANN leadership team as well as with the executive team, that we provide the right resources since this is a GAC requirement and since this came in the GAC Helsinki communique that has been also communicated to the board and communicated to the public. So we want to make sure that we make our best efforts in order to provide any necessary support that is required and that the community agrees upon when the discussion of this work plan is over.

So we are there to help. And we are there to support. And maybe, Anne-Rachel, if you want to --

ANNE-RACHEL INNE:

Thank you, Tarek. Thank you, Alice. I'm actually very glad Kavouss brought up some of the things we're trying to do. I am going to give the floor to my colleague, Jia-Rong Low, from the region so he can explain, for example, some of the ways that we work with the communities to render what is happening at ICANN and to make sense out of it so that it happens. Some of you might remember the guidelines that were developed in a prior GAC working group on actually how we can help members of the community, GAC members included, in terms of appreciating but also, you know, participating more effectively. So we do webinars. We go in country when, you know, we go to meetings. We participate into national activities sometimes when possible. These are all opportunities. We do quite a few different -- even hand holding, for example, on the telephone. I am sitting in Geneva. These are some of your colleagues, for example, that are represented in the permanent missions in Geneva. I get calls on a daily basis for people who would like to know, for example, how do I protect a geographic indicator in my country? What does it mean? What is the UDRP? You know, I heard about this thing. How do I protect names that are, for example, in my country? Who works on the DNS in ICANN in my

country? So I do my homework. And often times these are all questions that we actually try to -- I go to -- when I go to them, I give them the opportunity to know who is the GAC representative. I work them through the GAC Web site but also activities at ICANN so they see what is happening.

I would really like now to give the floor to Jia-Rong so that he can tell us concretely what some of the activities that some countries are doing in his region. Jia-Rong, thank you very much.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you very much very much, Anne-Rachel. My name is Jia-Rong, and I'm from ICANN staff. I'm the vice president for stakeholder engagement in Asia.

So there are a couple of common themes from this discussion. So, of course, on the issue of capacity building, a common theme, of course, is lack of resources, limited resources. And another common theme I'm hearing from the comments is regarding how do we go closer to the people.

I don't have a direct answer for this. But we should leverage on the multistakeholder approach not just in ICANN but also within our own countries.

For example, if the GAC wants to improve -- a GAC member within a certain country wants to improve their capacity to understand the various ICANN issues and to also understand the perspectives of their various stakeholders, one good way is to actually work together within their own community and to be bringing them together to discuss the various ICANN issues.

For example, in your country, who are your registries and who are your registrars? Your registries would be on the ccNSO as well as the GNSO. And the registrars would be also be in the registrar stakeholder groups, for example. And the various business communities, today the telcos would be -- and the ISPs would be very relevant to the conversation and also the various industry players who are interested in the security topics. And, third of all, it's very important. It's also the at-large community who actually do a lot of outreach to get people to understand the various topics related to ICANN.

Now, one concrete example I have regarding working together with your local community is what we call the ICANN readouts. ICANN readout, basically, are debrief sessions. For example, not everyone can come for an ICANN meeting. But, after the ICANN meeting, everyone from this particular country who attended the ICANN meeting can get together and do a debrief session for your own local community to get them to understand what was discussed and to share your perspective of the meeting.

We took this model from Japan. And I would like to credit Japan very highly. Japan's community, after every ICANN meeting, they will host an ICANN readout meeting. And the various members attended the ICANN meeting including the GAC member and the JPNIC, the JPRS, the registries who are involved in the ICANN meeting, as well as the other registries who are involved in the GNSO. They would share their takeaways from the meeting and share what key updates are there that their local community, Japanese community needs to know and also discuss, from their perspective, how can they respond or work together?

And this readout has been very successful, and as a result, we've taken that model, and also gone to China and tried to use the same model to conduct ICANN readouts.

So just now our China GAC member, thank you for your compliments.

The -- We have worked with China, and we have ICANN readouts after every ICANN meeting have become a regular staple post ICANN meetings. And at ICANN readouts, it's very clear to me today that the Chinese community members sometimes, very often, know of the discussions much better than ICANN staff. And it's very clear why: because they participated in the

discussions themselves, and they could share their take-aways with their entire community in their own language.

So in Japan, the ICANN readouts are conducted in Japanese; in China, the ICANN readouts are conducted in Chinese.

And it helps not just the community members but the GAC members who are there would be able to understand all the various issues the different stakeholders have from the various constituencies, and they would raise their perspective, and which helps to increase the overall understanding of the various topics that can often be very complex.

Now, for underserved countries, I know that you may not have as many representatives coming to an ICANN meeting, and you might not have representatives from the registries or the registrars or at large. And from the ICANN staff, from the organization, this is why we have the regional strategies to try to work with the various communities in your countries to foster the development of the DNS industry. And also to work with various communities to outreach to get people to know about ICANN.

And we also hope to work with you, the GAC members, to hopefully work with you to foster an ecosystem -- a multistakeholder ecosystem where we can bring the relevant stakeholders together and get them to know about the various

topics and get them to participate. Then from there, we can foster the discussion and hopefully raise the capacity.

Now, one last point I would make is two other examples that we are going to take forward. One is we are going to do a similar kind of outreach activity in early December in Cambodia, and it was at the request of the Cambodian GAC representative. And they wish we can go and share about ICANN more. And hopefully this is the first step to be able to get the multistakeholders within Cambodia to have more discussion.

Another example is (indiscernible) Ashwin from Indonesia. He mentioned about the Indonesia IGF being organized in mid-November. We are participating in that also, and we will be sharing about the ICANN readout as a model, and we hope to work with Indonesia from there going forward. So this is one concrete example, and I hope that it could be a reference point.

Thank you.

ANNE-RACHEL INNE:

Thank you very much. Alice, if you will allow me, I am going to -- so this is pretty successful in a region that is not where you can still travel around and be with each other. I would like Save, for example, to tell us, you know, the type of hardship she is suffering in terms of just reaching, you know, his constituencies,

because he takes care of Oceania Islands. So, Save, thank you for telling us.

SAVE VOCEA:

Thank you, Anne-Rachel.

My name is Save Vocea. I'm the regional vice president for Oceania, and I am based in Brisbane. So my role really is to engage all the constituencies and stakeholders in the Oceania region, especially from the Pacific Islands.

So the Pacific -- the Oceania region has 27 country code top-level domains. So you can see that they're also diverse countries where population starts from maybe a thousand, and then Australia with about to 22, 23 million. But for the biggest Pacific Island countries, the biggest Pacific Island country is 7.5 to 8 million population in Papua, New Guinea.

When it comes to engaging and trying to enhance engagement in the GAC, one of the early strategies that we tried to adopt was to make sure that we could get all the Pacific Island countries in the GAC and that they could have representatives. We achieved that last year in October where we can say comfortably that every country in the Pacific has a representative in the GAC.

But one of the things that we have to work really importantly with the GAC secretariat support is to make sure that the GAC

representation remains current. In small island countries, people do move around as well in terms of responsibilities. So make sure they are current and they are reachable through email.

We understand through the GAC secretariat they will receive email communique, but whether they read it or not, that's another thing.

So one of the things we have done recently through the working group was to -- and from the support of Pua, one of the co-chairs of the working group, was to start a mailing list for the Oceania or the Pacific Island countries so that they can start to discuss at their own level what they're comfortable with in discussing their issues that they can bring up to the GAC.

So one other thing that we do in the region, especially for me. I have to work with partners who are like the IGOs who do draw together the governments in their own workshops and meetings that they do in the region. So I use that opportunity to have a session to also talk to the governments who are there. And most of them are also participating as GAC representatives.

I think I'll stop there. But one of the challenges, really, as a final point, is the travel, access for them, and also because of so many demands from various organizations, that ICANN is not the only

organization that they have to look to because they are under-resourced.

So we would try and do our best to make sure that they are involved and that they are receiving information about the ICANN activities.

Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much, global stakeholder engagement and government engagement, for that.

Because we are running out of time, I would like to go straight to exploring or hearing Kavouss who is the GAC Iran representative on the CCWG on accountability, who has been monitoring that for us. And he can have -- present on the IANA transition and the impact it has on the Asia-Pacific region.

Kavouss, you have the floor.

Thank you.

IRAN:

Yes. I think, first Asia-Pacific is a very, very vast region. 76 countries, about. Different culture, different level of understanding, different level of state of development and variety of language, and so on, so forth. This is something that

may not be in other countries -- other regions. Different from other regions.

Just I would like to know, apart from services provided by the Geneva office whether any of the Asia-Pacific together have, up to now, contacted Iran. Apart from Geneva.

You have done some services here, but whether other they have contacted us to see what we do, whether we have problems, what is the structure in our country, who takes care of what, what we need, and so on, so forth. This is something.

Moreover, I would like to know that the other offices of the ICANN, in Singapore, in China, in other, they all should take some responsibilities. The contact. It's very difficult to put everything on the shoulder of the two persons, one is Pacific, the other is Asia. Very, very difficult.

And then I have make a question. I hope that the distinguished board member will forgive me if I'm not authorized to take that. Sometimes it was discussion of what or how the money taken from the auction will be spent. Would -- part of that could go to these activities?

I saw that 135 million has been collected -- or not collected. Taken from one, .WEB. How it is given back? Is it distributed

among those who lost? Or some of that should go to this capacity building?

And then coming to the how to do the job. I think, Alice, it might be good that you make, or your team, a checklist what we can do. What are the things we have to do. It doesn't mean that we do all of them, but at least make a checklist.

I propose that among those checklist is preparation of a handbook, a very simple handbook of some 20 or 30 pages. You start in one or two language, then you ask other people to translate in their own language for their own people.

For instance, if you put up something in English, you ask the Iranian to translate it into Persian and make it available to the people, at least for the beginning until they become acquainted to understand fully what the other languages is.

So these are the things that we can do. We do it in other organizations.

Last week I was in another meeting. We prepared a handbook on the digital communications. 320 pages. I don't want to prepare 320 pages. But something would help the people to understand this very important issue that the minister of India mentioned.

We are talking of comprehensive transformation of society to digital empowered community. This book is the beginning of that to use digital for everywhere. It is not for particular ICT. For everywhere, and so on, so forth.

So preparation of handbook. Could we examine that, whether it's possible? You have many expert. Ask them. GNSO, ccNSO, and so on, so forth, and GAC to write something with respect to their own parts, put them together to (indiscernible), go through the sort of editing and make it simpler to understand.

So I don't want to go into too much, but these are the things. But I would like, if possible, that question be answered. If possible. The money taken from the auctions.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you very much --

IRAN: Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: -- Kavouss. Regarding the question of the handbook, we are going to prepare that. It's on the work plan. I'll let Dr. Tarek and Asha, and Rinalia respond to the issues around the auction --

TAREK KAMEL: Yeah, thank you very much. Very briefly. Concerning the resources and the money, they are not coming from the auction money. This is what I assure you. What will happen with the auction money, I will let our distinguished board member Asha talk about it because she is heavily involved in it. But the resources, whenever the final -- the plan is finalized, at the time being are not going to come from the resources concerning the auction. There are other resource.

Concerning the question about the contact of -- of Iran, there are contacts with the Iranian government. As you know, I met yesterday the advisor of the minister, as such, that was -- that is here, or the vice minister, and so I don't understand what is -- Baher is handling -- our vice president for the Middle East is handling -- is handling Iran, and there has been already a visit from Fahd Batayneh to Iran. So maybe I'm not getting the question right.

IRAN: I was misunderstood. I said apart from activities of Tarek and his group. Whether from other part, with the Asia-Pacific people, in Singapore Asia-Pacific people, in China. Those are the peoples. In Istanbul, and so on. I don't want to put every burden on Tarek, and so on, so forth. You have done some and have seen the advisor to the minister. I am not talking. I want to

know the product of that. What is produced? Sitting with the people, talk with the people is something, and having a practical result is something else.

Thank you.

ASHA HEMRAJANI:

Okay. Hello. My name is Asha Hemrajani, and I'm on the ICANN Board.

So do you want me to just address this question first? And then we can come back to the other points later. All right.

So, Kavouss, I'm board liaison to the drafting team, the drafting team for the charter for the CCWG that will eventually be convened to decide on what will happen to the auction proceeds.

So right now, we have been working for about six months, the drafting team, and we have just completed the charter. And we will have a meeting next week on Tuesday, I believe, and I would really love for you to come. Because in that meeting we will discuss the charter of the eventual CCWG as well as start talking about how the CCWG will be formed in order to be able to -- and the CCWG will convene to look at the best possible way to come up with the mechanisms or the process by which the auction proceeds will be disbursed.

These funds do not belong -- are not going -- How these funds will be used is not going to be decided by the Board. It's not going to be decided by the staff. It has to be decided by the community.

And so while I notice on your work plan, Alice, that you mentioned the possibility of using those funds to fund the work plan, to fund these activities, by all means, I think that's a good thing to think about now, but this is not a decision that can be made in a very short term because we have just -- only just completed the charter for the CCWG.

After the CCWG is convened, they will figure out the mechanisms or the processes by which the funds could be disbursed. It could be -- It could be this one example, a foundation may be set up, and that foundation then will disburse the funds. And at that point, it would be the appropriate point for groups to come and apply for funds.

So I hope I addressed your question, sir.

Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much.

Kavouss, do you want to run us very quickly through the IANA transition and what that means, or....

Please, thank you.

IRAN: I think it is difficult to say what that means.

ALICE MUNYUA: Yes.

IRAN: And may not contribute to the underserved countries, and so on, so forth, unless you want to have some sort of a small handbook on that. There has been a lot of materials there. I think a lot of cases have been given by the CCWG community, the (indiscernible) presentation of the webinar, many webinar has been established. I don't think we need to go to that one. I think it is better we go to the remaining part that we have, and to address that questions and to go to the practical way and to take of what we have discussed and put them together maybe to have pursue.

Just one question for our distinguished board member that says that a CCWG will be established. I hope that underserved country could participate in that, either virtually or physically,

and so on. I have doubt. And I hope that those country would have the same possibility, not be overridden by the decision of those people who can attend and have a lot of knowledge, legal and financially. In less than ten minutes they produce ten pages of email to the others, whereas other people in more than two hours cannot put together more than two lines because of deficiency that they have.

I hope that would be a sort of the, let us say, balanced participations.

Madam, there is an imbalanced participation everywhere. It is not fault of anybody but is the fault of the system. There is really imbalanced participation.

Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

I just want to, I think, go back to the issue raised here about auction -- or work plan and the auction fees working group.

What it says here quite clearly is that we would want the underserved regions of the GAC to participate in any Cross-Community Working Group that comes up for the same reasons that my colleague from Iran, Kavouss, is talking about; to ensure diversity. And here when you're talking about diversity, it's for all -- acknowledging the challenges that some of us have

experienced in participating in ICANN Cross-Community Working Groups with our voices are not heard. We are there, but our voices are not really heard for all various reasons.

And in fact, those are the reasons that are going to -- we are going to explore so that we are able to actually help you when it comes to ensuring that these Cross-Community Working Groups are as diverse and inclusive as possible. Because just simply having -- asking the community to participate doesn't really mean that you're having inclusive discussions.

And now, Olga, I know -- You want to speak? Yes. A comment. Olga is on the -- on the -- Yes, please.

ASHA HEMRAJANI:

I want to address what Alice just mentioned and Mr. Arasteh just mentioned. I'm actually the author of the part in the charter which talked about diversity. So it's a passion -- It's something that I'm very passionate about. And there is a portion where we talk about making sure the call for volunteers is as wide as possible and extra steps should be made to get as much participation as we can from as wide an arena as possible.

However, this is not something that staff only can control. This is where all of you need to help.

I need your support, I need your help to encourage people in your countries to raise your hand and say, yes, I wish to be at the table. I wish to have my voice heard as part -- as a member or a participant or an observer of this eventual CCWG that will be convened.

I also want to mention one other point. This particular CCWG will be a little bit different in that we are looking for experts who we are also looking for people with experience with disbursing funds. You know, people who have experience with foundations and charitable foundations, people to know what to look out for when looking at what method to disburse funds.

I'm going to be giving the floor back to you to make comments. Thank you.

ASHA HEMRAJANI:

Okay. So, if it's okay, I'll start first. My name is Asha Hemrajani. I was born in Hong Kong, which is part of China. I was born an Indian citizen. I've lived in Asia most of my life, so I'm Asian Pacific through and through. I don't know -- I think I do qualify as an Asian. So I think I should be in this group.

I'm thrilled that we're having this inaugural Asia Pacific region GAC meeting. I'm really pleased about that. I -- when we were --

I wanted to make one point first before I go into my brief comments.

When we were -- when we decided that Hyderabad would be the location of our next meeting, I realized that Nepal was not a member of the GAC. And so I initiated a process. And with the help of Tarek and Thomas Schneider and our APAC team, we invited Nepal to be a member. And I'm so glad that we have Mr. Subhash Dhakal, the director of the Department of IT in Nepal, to be our newest GAC member. So please welcome him.

(Applause.)

He's from literally the top of the world. And I'm very, very glad, sir, that you are here.

NEPAL: Thank you very much.

ASHA HEMRAJANI: I just wanted to ask a quick show of hands. How many of you from Asia Pacific? I know we've lost some members. We have Mr. Dhakal. We have India. And we have people from the back. Okay.

Wonderful.

So the other thing I wanted to mention is I look forward to a time where this group will not be called underserved regions.

I really look forward. I mean, if you come up with another name which kind of says something similar, I hope not. I hope this is a region where everybody is served as equally as other regions. So that's my goal. That's my aim. So I just wanted to make some quick comments on the work plan.

I agree with what our Chinese GAC representative and what our Iranian GAC representative have said, that it might help to streamline and focus your work plan a bit more and maybe look at some specific KPIs and specific targets. That will help to kind of, you know, have a laser sharp focus on what you want to achieve. If every target you have very clear -- every -- sorry. Every line you have, every goal you have you have very clear goals defined, that would really help.

And I'm here to help. I'm here to support. If there's anything I can do, please let me know. So Mr. Ashwin from Indonesia mentioned the upcoming event. I think you have our staff from the Asia Pacific region. They will be sending someone to speak at your event. If there's anything else you need, please let us know. Because nothing would make me happier than to see Asians coming to the table equally.

Yes. Oh, I forgot to mention my mother is from Jakarta. And my father is from Africa. So I think I definitely qualify as underserved region person. All right. With that, thank you so much.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you, Madam Chair, for the opportunity to share a perspective on the topic. I've never seen a meeting --- in the Russian -- oh, you can hear me now. Perfect.

Okay. Let me just start again. My name is Rinalia Abdul Rahim. I'm a member of the ICANN board. I am a Malaysian citizen. Thank you for the opportunity to share a perspective. My first job was with the Malaysian government. And I encountered a real experience of what it takes to build capacity within the government itself in order to engage in complex, emerging matter specific to technology.

And what it took for the government of Malaysia to build its capacity was to have the opportunity to have multistakeholder consultation at home where it brought together the expertise across the public sector, the private sector, and the civil society sector, which includes academies and think tank to come together and, basically, say there's something emerging in ICT and Internet. It possibly can support national development. We're not quite sure how. We need to talk about it. And that

environment actually helped governments to figure out what their positions and concerns would be moving forward. And that informed their position in international organizations and U.N. agencies.

So, with that experience and moving forward 20 years later, I would say the suggestion from the ICANN staff to leverage on the multistakeholder model moving forward in your own home country is actually a very effective one. If you can figure out who the stakeholders are at home and bring them together, that enhances and strengthens your capacity to participate in ICANN.

What I wanted to say earlier was I've never seen a meeting involving GAC members focusing on underserved regions, focused on its own members. And I really appreciate it. The ICANN environment is so overwhelming. Everyone who comes in gets lost, and it's really hard to find your way. It affects everyone. And particularly so for underserved region representatives. Because they need extra support and capacity. And it's possible that they can't be present at every meeting. So, during this conversation and our exchanges of perspective that you've had, I heard a lot of good ideas.

And I know from experience that most of them are likely to work.

And I just want to highlight three things. One, if you bring in someone from underserved region, don't distract them with a

lot of issues across the ICANN spectrum. Help them focus on issues that matter to them and build their capacity around that. Because, otherwise, it's too overwhelming.

The second one is to leverage on local and regional connections. So in our region -- of course, Asia Pacific is huge, like you have mentioned. We can also operate at the subregional level to make it more manageable. And within the APAC region we have the ISTAR organizations. They're all interested in engaging governments at some level. So, if you bring them together and coordinate between the Internet society between APNIC and ICANN, surely they can provide some kind of focused support for underserved governmental representatives.

So that's all I want to say. I know it's late. And I appreciate the chance to share this perspective with you. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very, very much, Rinalia and Asha. And especially for those comments regarding the work plan and for -- I mean, giving us the opportunity to be able to present it to you. At the GAC level all we could present at the very high level. So you, having asked us to go and come back with KPIs and actually activities, I hope you're actually giving us the opportunity to work with Tarek and his team and you perhaps provide those resources for us to be able to take this work plan further, to

develop the KPIs and activities and also to work on the survey to understand what the challenges are and perhaps have a team that then responds to that challenge.

I would like to thank all of you members from the Asia Pacific region and those who are not from the Asia Pacific region. I see some of my African colleagues. Because we opened this meeting. It's an Asia Pacific GAC meeting. We also invited all GAC members from underserved regions. So thank you very, very much for those very constructive helpful comments, suggestions, and questions that will help us develop the work plan further.

Many thanks to Tarek and his team, Anne-Rachel. The GE have been quite helpful, and we work forward to working with you to implement this work plan and some of the activities we proposed as a GAC working group. And thank you to the government stakeholder engagement team as well. And, finally, many, many thanks to Rajiv and the Indian government for hosting us and for this opportunity. I see there's several other people who would like to speak. You're welcome. But thank you. Yeah. Yes, please.

THAILAND:

Thank you, Alice, Pitinan from Thailand. I actually have quick comments and a request. If you are looking back to the slide

that you see the Asia Pacific map -- I totally understand is the template from the ICANN official and is maybe come up from the time with the RIR. So, basically, if you see, we are missing out Cambodia totally. Like the country has disappeared. And I have raised this issue with some of the working group that I've been working with because I use this slide background. I think it would be nice to have them back on the map. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: Kavouss, please.

IRAN: Just something. Any experience we could gain or any of objective achieved for the Asia Pacific should be used for other underserved regions. Because we are a member of the family. Most of them apply to them equally, if not 100% similar. So we should not repeat the same thing, and we should not overlap. That is something that's very, very important. And so on. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you Kavouss. Very important suggestion. And we have that in mind. And we're going to be looking into that as we go -- because we have another session with the Africa region in January. So thank you.

Wanawit, thank you.

THAILAND:

I won't take that long. I would like to echo Rinalia. And, as this is my last term, I think you have to take the problems of your own and you have to focus on that and distract it.

But the most important thing I also like to say is the HLM is a very effective means, the high-level meeting of GAC. Distract in the past with the IANA transition, because the intent to have the high-level meeting is because we want to communicate to the decision maker in the country to support the GAC where we are today. I don't have people. I don't get support.

The treaty, the people who work under the treaty have the support, have the travel arrangement. But ICANN no. It's a side job of somebody. Am I am losing a job next year. The term ends. I don't know whether I am still here. You keep losing people because the decision-makers are not aware of the ICANN and this is it. A beautiful plan what we're going to do. If the decision maker does not buy in the importance of the work, that the government needs to contribute to the ICANN. That is it. You only have one choice. You have a wish that you can make. Let the decision maker understand the role of us. Otherwise, at the end, you're losing your job. Your friend gets a promotion. And you sacrifice everything. No career path with ICANN if you're

government. Forget it. That's the truth. Sorry. But that is the truth.

ALICE MUNYUA:

Thank you very much for sharing those challenges. And we really do understand them. But I suppose those are issues at the national level. And the GE may be able to help when they talk to national governments.

We're running out of time because we're meant to have closed at 8:00. But I'd like to welcome all of you, because we're going to continue these discussions with the broader ICANN community tomorrow during the high interest topic session that is in Hall 3 from 5:00 to 6:30. So you're very welcome. We'll continue some of these discussions there, especially around the definition and perhaps coming up with a new name. So thank you all once again. And good evening.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]