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COPENHAGEN – GAC Commonwealth Meeting  
Monday, March 13, 2017 – 12:00 to 12:45 CET  
ICANN58 | Copenhagen, Denmark

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 12 PM to 12:45 PM, ICANN 58, Copenhagen, Hall A2, GAC Commonwealth Meeting.

MARCEL BELINGUE: All right. Good afternoon everybody. My name is Marcel Belingue from the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization. Welcome to all of you. I believe everybody has been sent a copy of the agenda for this meeting. It will last no more than three-quarters of an hour.

And as you know, it's now a tradition for Commonwealth member countries to meet in the margins of ICANN meetings. And so, the last meeting took place during the ICANN 57, and we ask Mark Carvell, who is one of the GAC vice-chair elects, to give us some comments on the year ahead with the GAC, drawing from the last meetings, and perhaps also eventually, lead onto the second item on the agenda, on how to increase participation in the ICANN.

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But before I do that, I don't know if everybody has seen this agenda, is there anything anyone would like to add on the AOB, or by way of comment?

MARK CARVELL: Just to say that we will have an update from the African Union Commission on dot Africa under AOB.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you, Mark. Well, without anything further, I will ask Mark to update us on item one. Mark, please, thank you.

MARK CARVELL: Yes, thank you, Marcel. I'll just run through, briefly, the sort of key issues and opportunities over the next few months. I expect many of you will be aware of the meeting schedule for the ICANN and GAC meetings following Copenhagen. The next meeting will be in South Africa, in Johannesburg, on 26 to 29 June. So, we'll have a Commonwealth meeting there, in a Commonwealth country.

And then there is the following meeting in Abud Dhabi on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. We'll have GAC chair and vice-chair elections there, as many of you will be aware. And

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then the first meeting of ICANN and GAC next year will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean region, of course.

So, the opportunity for many Commonwealth stakeholders from that region to participate in person, I would expect, that's on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. To prepare for Johannesburg, putting my vice-chair elect hat on, please note that there will be a GAC agenda setting call on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April. There are two calls to hemispherical calls. So, that's your opportunity, as stakeholders in the GAC, to contribute to the agenda setting process for the GAC meeting in Johannesburg.

What are we going to be working on over the next few months? Well, you've already had a test of how much stuff is going on. I would just point out, and underline, the significance for call or stakeholders of the work on gTLDs geo names. There is a cross community working group on country names and territories, that has an interim paper out for comment by 21 April.

There will be the wider community webinar on geographical names on 25<sup>th</sup> of April, which we heard about yesterday. So, I think really important to put that into your planning calendar, the webinar on 25<sup>th</sup> of April. That will then identify the issues for the wider community session on geographical names in Johannesburg that we've heard about from the PDP team.

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Secondly, there is the CCT review team, the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice review. We've heard that the draft report is out now for public comment. The deadline for comments is 27<sup>th</sup> of April. So, that's a key opportunity to react to the review on the new gTLDs program.

The opportunity, the what didn't quite work out, the lack of participation, or opportunity for stakeholders in many countries, I think is a key element to that. So, we should all focus on that. comment deadline is 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

And the expected of publications of the final report of the CCTR is in the third quarter of this year. On the PDP's front, the Policy Development Processes, we've heard how really, in this new era of much more cross community working, GAC representatives should contribute to the work of the wider community in policy development. And you've got the new gTLD subsequent procedures PDP working group.

You've got the right protections mechanisms PDP working group. The registry directory services PDP. So, these... I just underline that these are important policy processes, where the GAC really had to engage at an early stage, as we've all agreed to do. And then on accountability, the work stream two under the cross community working group agenda, there are a lot of things going on, on jurisdiction, the question there, on human rights,

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there is the draft framework of interpretation, that's going to issue very shortly.

There is the SO and AC accountability subgroup work. The draft recommendations on transparency. I think there are up for comment by 10<sup>th</sup> of April. The diversity questionnaire, I'm not sure exactly what the time plan is, but I think the questionnaire on diversity is going to be inviting comments by the end of April or early May.

So, you could... It's incumbent on all of us, in the Commonwealth community, to look at these opportunities to participate, to disseminate the information to our stakeholders in our nations. And of course, be followed on this morning from a meeting of the working group of the GAC on underserved regions, and all the work of the underserved regions working group is highly relevant to the interests of the Commonwealth stakeholder community, Commonwealth administrations.

So, that's a quick run through. As much as I can cover in the time that we have for this, but I hope that's helpful as a perspective on the months ahead. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you, Mark. Are there any observations from the room?

All right. So, moving on to the next item. A discussion on how to increase the participation in ICANN from other stakeholders from Commonwealth countries. I think we have here, within the Commonwealth, in some ways, similar challenges to the wider international community in the sense that, among the underserved groups, but more generally, there is a challenge in participation.

And we we'll get a quick update from the recent African workshop on GAC that took place about three weeks ago. But generally, there are issues around the extent to which we engage with this process. There are also historical parallels to this process. Years back, we worked on a program to give, allow the voices to countries that were not otherwise heard clearly enough in processes like the GAC one that we're talking about today, and therefore it is extremely important that participation from all is secured.

We do understand some of the challenges, back at country level. Most of those countries are perhaps not even in the room with us here today, but this is a general discussion to think about how we can engage others. We certainly at the level of the CTO, we'll make sure that we address this issue as part of our regional programs. And therefore, starting with the Pacific region, where we will be in July for a broadband forum, we will be putting some times aside to make sure that issues around the GAC

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process are clearly understood in the region, and that there is more buy in from the region in terms of engagement.

Which by the way, does not have necessarily to be physical, it can be just by way of mailing list and online forums. But this is a general discussion. If there are very [inaudible] challenges that we need to help address now, we can talk about that.

This is a recurrent question, by the way. This is not the first time, Mark, correct me if I'm wrong, this question is being asked. But we're totally open to support, greater participation by all. Would you like to add anything Mark?

MARK CARVELL:

Well, just to say, it's a highly pertinent question. The multistakeholder model must ensure that there is full and diverse participation from across the world, and there are constraints of compacity and sometimes technical barriers actually to participating, and this is one of the issues that we all need to address as a matter of urgency.

And we know that on the ICANN side, it's a very important priority for them, to ensure that there is active participation from all regions and sub-regions. So, this Commonwealth session is an opportunity really to reflect on what progress there

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has been made. Your own personal experience, and identify in particular barriers or constraints that we can help to address.

So, I invite you to comment now or submit comments subsequently online to the Commonwealth GAC mailing list. Interested to hear any views now on this issue. Thanks.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Yes, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: This is [inaudible] from Pakistan. Thank you very much. We are the member of Commonwealth, we are also member of ICANN and GAC. I'm happy to see that the Commonwealth is adding on. I think that the [inaudible] in Africa. We welcome Commonwealth, in particular in ICANN [inaudible] which is regarding the cybersecurity.

So, we are the government, and we work together, and we directly make a collaboration to make some capacity building programs in [inaudible] areas. Thank you very much.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you. Any other comments?

Yes, please.



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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. [Inaudible] from Cook Islands. Mark, thank you for acknowledging that the work of the underserved regions working group is highly relevant to the CTO, because we seem to be talking about the same time every time about increasing participation in the GAC and in ICANN ecosystem.

And the way we see it, it's like we're working in our own silos and if anything, we should be coordinating our efforts to ensure we progress and address this from a bigger group rather than in our own individual groups.

I heard yesterday during the CCT review, that the report that was sent out, published by the CCT review team, they understand, they know what the challenges are, but they don't know how to address it. I think that's the problem here. We don't know how to address these challenges. We know what are challenges are. I can talk about it again and again, but I think right now, it's looking at solutions at how to address these challenges.

And we can't work in silos. We need to work together. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you very much. Nigeria please, thank you.

MARY:

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mark and Marcel. And I'm Mary [inaudible] from Nigeria. And we have [inaudible] this Commonwealth ICANN meeting for a very long time now, and I don't know whether we have statistics of the number of countries that are from Commonwealth in the GAC, and as soon as the day we started holding this meeting, whether we have decreased or increased, or we are still where we were.

Now, I think there has been an increase in the number of countries coming from Commonwealth. But the challenges are still there, the resources. I think... I don't know whether Commonwealth would be able to raise some resources for some countries, that would not be able to send their [inaudible]. Apart from the workshop that the sub-region that ICANN in collaboration with GAC have been doing, I think we should also look at...

I know there are some other group that do fund their people to come. There are grouped come. So, if we can raise resources, some of them, they raise resources to make sure they are here to participate. So, I think one of the things that would help us to increase participation, then the...

I think there is going to be another workshop in Fiji or somewhere in Pakistan or somewhere. I think it would also have

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that the issue of ICANN and GAC issues, and the internet ecosystem issues are brought to people from the Commonwealth to know that they need to participate. Not only participate, but participating effectively and going to put into the work of ICANN. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you very much. Yes, Mark?

MARK CARVELL: Thank you, Mary, and thank you. It's... That is the issue, isn't it? How do we find the mechanisms for overcoming the challenges of being able to participate actively with the appropriate level of capacity, and for the identifying areas of support? The Nairobi workshop on capacity building for the African members, that had the cooperation of ICANN.

ICANN was heavily involved. I wasn't there, but... And I just wonder if there is the opportunity for another dialogue as the Commonwealth community with ICANN. We don't have ICANN staff representation here at this meeting. I don't think Nigel Hickson from ICANN staff, the global engagement team.

He's based in Geneva. He's been very supportive, and continues to be supportive. And I think he had a meeting conflict so he couldn't join us. I wonder if we can articulate some message to

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ICANN, first of all. And then secondly, a message to the Commonwealth Secretariat on this issue, as a persistent recurring challenge, which we've also discussed in the Internet Governance Forum.

We had a Commonwealth Forum in Guadalajara, but at the last UN Internet Governance Forum, you know, we've discussed this issue, and it's a matter of actually challenging the message out to the right entities that will be able to assist with the resourcing. In addition to the support that the Commonwealth Telecommunications organization provides. It's incredibly important.

But there is the Commonwealth Secretariat, and maybe there are other entities that we can make, transmit this message to, as well as ICANN. So, those are my immediate thoughts. From this meeting, we reinforce this message that we have to find solutions at the global level or the regional level, to ensure that there is the capacity and realize the potential for participation that is still not within our reach at the moment. Thanks.

MARCEL BELINGUE:

Thank you. I certainly agree with the calls for raising more resources, and certainly more importantly, most of all, a solution to this challenge. And I think at the level, CTO we certainly will explore every opportunity to perhaps co-host GAC

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related, or Commonwealth GAC related activities, with some of the regional activities we have.

There certainly is an opportunity, as I said, the broadband Pacific event in Soma in July. And we reflect on how we can perhaps have an element of the Pacific GAC stakeholders taking part, to set an extent as part of this. I certainly agree also with the louder message to ICANN, as a parallel, the work we do on the margins of the ITU as a Commonwealth group is extremely helpful to the ITU as an institution.

And therefore, they do support and provide space for that interaction within the Commonwealth. And we see great parallels here...

MARK CARVELL: ITU providing support, is that what you mean?

MARCEL BELINGUE: Not necessarily in terms of financial support, but they provide a space for that work to take place. And ICANN does pretty much the same with providing space as they do here today. But I think the challenge of having everybody engaged is what we need to address. In some ways, perhaps we're preaching to converts here because it is those who are absent to a large extent, who needs to hear this message.

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But we'll certainly start at our level to see how we can co-host some of these activities. We will start the security forum, which is an annual forum taking place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month in London, will also have some elements of engagement, the engagement process with ICANN.

And in fact, it has for the past four or five years. And that hopefully helps partly address issues of resourcing. But I do get a sense, and correct me if I'm wrong here, that there is also a strong element of the left hand not necessarily talking with the right hand at the country level. And therefore, that minimum grassroots coordination at country level is also required.

But again, I expect that somehow the message has to leave from this group to those various stakeholders to raise that awareness, make suggestions as to who is best equipped to take part and consider that this is an open process, invite all to take part. And I think when I give an update on item four, you perhaps understand a bit more where I'm coming from with this.

But if there are no further comments, thank you very much for those contributions, we take note. Excuse me, sorry. One more comment.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: This is [inaudible]. I'm the regional vice-president for GSC, working in [inaudible] Oceania region. So, I just wanted to raise some of the activities that we've had, being based in the Pacific Islands. We understand that when we engage with governments, there is also other regional governmental organizations like the Asia-Pacific tele-community, the Pacific Islands regional regulators center.

And they do provide for some of the, in their meetings when they bring together governments, and most of the time, because of the small island countries, they, the same GAC reps that are in the GAC list, are also represented in those meetings. And so, we have the opportunity to talk to them directly in those forums.

And I think it's great that CTO also wants to have a role and participate in the region. And we recognize that CTO recently hired someone from the Pacific to do its activities as well. There is always room for us to work together, but just to let the GAC reps here know that some of those activities have been ongoing from early days.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you very much. Mark.

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MARK CARVELL:

Thank you for that. I think that's a good example of how, at the regional level, there can be very valuable outreach that you are providing from the ICANN side, and I wonder if that would extend, for example, to having, helping for remote participation, possibly for ICANN meetings here for people who can't actually get to these meetings, who may have difficulty with communications actually to sort of dial in or connect with the discussions here.

Would those regional forums or regional support mechanisms actually provide the mechanics of assistance in that way? Is that...? And I'm also thinking also of the regional Internet Governance Forum. Maybe they actually could look at this issue of how to foster the capacity and facility for participation. Any thoughts on that? Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE:

Well, as we know that at ICANN, we have provided these facilities for remote participation like Adobe Connect, and people could connect through those, using those tools. But I think one of the big challenges from the region is the time zone, and the ability for people to really come into these sessions and participate.

We do announce to the regions that these meetings are now on, and if they have interests to participate in these sessions, but there is always a challenge on the timing and whether they are



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available. I think Paul may also be able to talk about that, because they had some experiences when there was GAC, I think, some GAC meetings that they had where it was targeting the region, and some of the challenges they had.

PAUL: Thank you very much.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you [inaudible]. Despite our trying to engage our GAC members to participate in the remote, remotely in GAC meetings, there was one particular meeting that was held in your time zone, but even then, there was minimal participation. And the reasons were some of them, the wake of ICANN or GAC is secondary to their principle responsibilities.

And the other thing is their connectivity is not as great as those of our colleagues from developed countries. So, even like for myself, when I connect throughout the meeting, I can drop off every now and then depending on the speed. And so, we can talk about remote participation. It's still not a solution for us from the underserved regions. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Yes, please.

NIGEL:

Nigel [inaudible] from the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. In our Caribbean experience, the CTU has been running regional Internet Governance Forum for about 12 years. And we have been offering, in more recent times, remote participation, which has helped to improve the participation.

In fact, the last one we had was last year. It was in Belize, and we had remote participation from a significant group in Barbados, as I recall, in addition to one or two speakers who presented remotely. What we have found is that this regional forum has been used, and been able to improve the capacity building in the region, but we've found that we need to go beyond that, and we've taken that approach now, in fact, over the last three years, where we will pushing and supporting the development of national internet governance forums, to build up the quantity of people involved in the space, to build up the expertise around the Caribbean.

And we find that effort at building national forums, gels well, or fills well with the efforts of the international level, of the global internet governance forum. So, we've also join our efforts with them, in terms of contributing to the development of a guidelines document, which I think they call a toolkit for developing national internet governance forums.

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And we will be using the guidelines, thus developed to, again, push and support national IGF development. So, through our regional efforts and through the supporting of the national efforts, we are attempting in the Caribbean to build up the level of expertise and the quality of expertise available to take part in things like ICANN and internet planning generally. Thank you.

MARK CARVELL:

That's very interesting. That's... You mentioned ICANN there, and you get some ICANN support for that, or participation to help develop the pool of contacts, and so on?

NIGEL:

Yes. And not just ICANN. What we have been able to do over the more than 10 years that we've been running this regional forum is, develop a group of sponsors, people to whom we go every year that are involved in the internet industry in the Caribbean. We have the international organizations like ICANN, like the regional registries, but ARIN and LACNIC cover the parts of the Caribbean.

The Internet Society. We've also even got support from some of the big internet players like Google and Microsoft on occasion. And in addition, wherever we're hosting, whichever of the

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Caribbean countries we're hosting, we also seek and often get some local support from a player in the ICT industry.

So, what it does is it helps us to cover the costs of venue and that sort of thing, and to some extent, also subsidize the cost of getting some speakers in, but that by itself, more would be required in order for us to get the level of participation from the general public in the Caribbean totally.

So, this is why we've introduced the remote participation, which is another opportunity for people to follow without actually, physically being there. And it, that has certainly helped to increase the regional participation of all forums.

MARCEL BELINGUE:

Thank you very much. I think in the interest of time, we'll move on to the next item, but we've taken note and think the national efforts in terms of involving more stakeholders and having them ungraded caucuses at national level helps to make a stronger representation legitimately, and hopefully, eventually deliver the GAC as a whole. Thank you for that.

The next item is an update on, speaking of regional activities, on a workshop that took place in Nairobi. Essentially on building the region's capacity in relation to GAC, and they raised quite a lot of issues there, but also came up with some practical actions.

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We have here Alice, if you don't mind me saying this, Alice, who was part of that process, and I would like to ask her to say a few things about the Nairobi workshop, the key takeaways if possible.

ALICE:

Thank you very much. This workshop is part of the underserved regions working group work plan, and one of the activities that the under-served regions identified as an important one to take forward in terms of ensuring that this higher engagement of underserved regions within the GAC, and not just in the GAC, but broadly within ICANN.

After having identified the challenges that we were experiencing as the GAC in terms of contributing to ICANN processes generally as the GAC. So, this was the first of its kind, held in Nairobi, and it's important to mention here that lacking, that it was critical to have had the support of government of Kenya, having providing the hosting facilities and all the other facilities that are required to ensure that a successful workshop, the conferencing and all of that.

It's also important to mention here that we worked in collaboration with the government stakeholder, government engagement and government, and the global stakeholder engagement ICANN teams, as well, as the security and stability

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resiliency team. So, it wasn't just the underserved regions, we requested for resources beyond just the GAC and had that support.

In addition to the government workshop, we also had a two-day workshop that was specifically targeted at law enforcement agencies on the Africa region. We had about 15 law enforcement agencies from various African countries that came together to understand the ICANN ecosystem, but we also... One of the things that we realized, and I think that speaks to what Nigel has spoken to here is that, when it comes to [inaudible] in just understanding ICANN generally, that we can't do it alone.

So, the second we invited industry stakeholders, so we had Facebook, Twitter, Google, AfriNIC, and RIPE NCC, and other stakeholders that made a very successful meeting. So, one of the takeaways that we discussed quite generally is... What we learned is fast... We had overloaded the workshop. I think because we really were really keen to make sure that ICANN was understood, so we had all of that was too much. And some of the participants noted that it was difficult to actually follow, but what we felt is it was a good introduction to what generally ICANN does, and the GAC.

So, it was [inaudible] to organize... I think we've got three or four other workshops at the sub-regional level, that are going to

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be organized. The first one is going to be alongside the Africa Internet Summit that AfriNIC is hosting, but specifically for law enforcement, and it's going to really drill down to the specifics, because law enforcement agencies requested for more specific, more detailed understanding of, for example, WHOIS.

What WHOIS is about, so that's one of the lessons we learned. The second one is that we must find out the needs of the region before we actually go and conduct this capacity development sessions. To that effect, we had a very successful meeting this morning, with the ICANN team. It's called the [inaudible]... The team that focuses on research. So, we're going to be developing surveys first that are sent to the regional representatives, that ask very pointed questions regarding what their needs are, so that we can tailor those sessions to fit the needs of that region.

So, that's another lesson we learned. Another lesson we learned from this workshop is the importance of engaging the country, or the government that is hosting that meeting. So, we've had meetings with the governments that are hosting the next capacity development sessions, and the next one is going to be in April in Fiji, with the Fiji government.

And then in Pakistan in November... With South Africa for the Africa government again, for the African law enforcement, and then with Pakistan in September, no, in September with Peru,

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and then with Pakistan and mostly likely Nepal as well. So, that's something that [inaudible].

And then also developing an induction pack that demystifies or simplifies some of this, or explains some of this acronyms and processes. And this is part of the work plan or activities of the underserved regions working group, so we are going to make sure that is part of the next series of capacity development sessions.

Thank you. And the reports are there. They're publicly available. The details of some of the recommendations and the findings, and we're also going to be conducting a much more detailed survey, just to understand, to identify the gaps and the challenges. And this would then inform further work that's going to be done by the GAC underserved regions, and ICANN teams as well. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you very much for this. Yes, question from Pakistan, please, thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Regarding the Commonwealth [inaudible] forum which is held, will be held in London, you know in developing countries, underserved countries, there are



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very difficult for the people to participate in this forum in such cities and countries. So, it is proposed that Commonwealth may consider the regional [inaudible] forum like in Pakistan.

If you organize it in Pakistan, you can invite the participate from [inaudible], Bangladesh. And being the government, we assist you for hosting this type of events. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you. Suggestion noted, thank you.

Right. In the interest of time, on this, is there another comment?

[SPEAKER OFF MICROPHONE]

We have not to hear from the African information, who I think, wants to update us on dot Africa, since we are on the subject of Africa if you don't mind. One minute please, if you can. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you, Marcel. Thank you, Mark. Actually, as you say, that will be very short and sweet, the purpose of my intervention is to first of all, to fund the informal participant that the dot Africa domain name has been delegated to the sponsored applicants from the African Commission. And that, we are now entering

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into a phase where the, certainly the domain name would be available by July 1<sup>st</sup> to the general public.

Or so we are into those planning phases now. I will see the opportunity to take everyone who assists to get this done. It has been a long journey, it's actually an eight year journey full of [inaudible], issues, challenges, and so on, and everybody continued to somehow, Africans themselves and the finance of Africans in general.

And they were interested to... I would like to thank everybody for having supported the African Union Commission. And we are open to any suggestion for the future operation of dot Africa to serve Africa and Africa partners the best way. Thank you very much.

MARCEL BELINGUE:

Thank you very much. One piece of good news, which is much welcomed. Thank you so much. I now want to talk to you very briefly about the cybersecurity forum this month in London. We've been running this event for the, well, since 2011. And it's an open forum. It's not limited to the Commonwealth only.

But this is going to take place, it is hosted by one of our members, BT. And it will take place at their headquarters in the UK, called the BT Center. We hope to see as many of you there

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as possible. We have a very, very comprehensive program this year, and as I said, we will touch on collaboration with ICANN processes, GAC being one of them.

And if anybody wants to have more information about this, if you will approach me, or to go directly to the BT website. It's going to be three days, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. More information at CTO dot INT.

And now, the last point, which is on CTO's work program on cyberspace, is very important because this is the angle from which primarily the CTO is engaged in internet related work, at the level of global policy. We have been working with member countries in supporting them, in addressing issues around cybersecurity, and we're moving towards promoting certain standards at a national level.

So, we started with what we refer to as critical information infrastructure programs, which we rolled a sensitization programs in about 10 countries or so. And we've moved on to two working with some of our member countries, dozen now in developing national cybersecurity strategies.

And it has been extremely informative for us as organization to, first of all, learn of there is so many different stakeholders at national level who have some say in a process such as one to deal with, national cybersecurity strategy. Just designing it is a

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lengthy process already. And then implementing it also has its challenges. And so, we looked at it from that point of view, first looking at critical information infrastructure protection, then moving onto NCS.

We're also working now to promote cyber standards, and that's another new area of discovery for us. We've never worked with standards, national standards agencies in the past, and for the first time, the CTO is working with those agencies at country level who are either the repositories, or the developers of standards.

And so that's quite interesting, because we see a huge amount of capacity need, dealing specifically with those standard agencies. So, this is where we are coming from, primarily. And cybersecurity is one of our strategic focus areas to the year 2020. And we've had a lot of support from the UK government, financial support that is, in more or less meeting at least halfway.

Some of our member countries were also prepared to make the effort to invest in national cybersecurity frameworks. Some, they're all more or less at different stages of development. Some have cybercrime laws, some don't yet. But it's a journey that we've prepared to do, support as much as possible.

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And this is important because, at the end of the day, a lot of the discussions that are taking place in the GAC framework, come down to one thing, which is trust. The extent of which we can build trustworthy cyber environments, or internet environments for our member countries, for obvious reasons. And given a chance to E-commerce and mobile governments to start with.

But also, to ensure that that requirement for trust is also met at the level of ICANN and the GAC. And of course, ICANN is doing a lot to promote trust at their level, but the optimum trust level will be achieved only when we all fully engaged as part of that process. And that's why it's extremely important when we look at the risks and the opportunity costs for some of our member countries who are yet to start in the E-commerce environment.

And that's just one example out of many. It is extremely important that we realize there is a lot at stake, and we therefore have to make sure that this is a race that is not lost from the start. And we need, therefore, everybody to be involved.

I think Mark made a very important point. We need to have, will articulate a message that goes out to those who can press on the start button, to ensure that those were still on the periphery, our part of this engagement process. But this form of disengagement is not unique to GAC, as we all know. So many of

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our member countries are, for example, not part of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

And so, this is an ongoing process of either ratification or otherwise. But for us, trust is important, and supporting our member countries in building an E-economy that is seen as trustworthy from the outside, is extremely important. We've talked about the dot Africa domain name, or top level domain name, as one example.

But it's extremely important that anybody who goes onto an online trading website from Papua New Guinea, from Trinidad, or anywhere else, can relinquish their personal financial details, and other details, with confidence that they are not exposing themselves to any harm. So, this is where we are coming from with this work.

But of course, issues around governance are therefore, extremely important to this. And we will therefore continue to support it in the best way we can. And hopefully, by the time we meet for the next GAC, as Mary said, we'll have still a bit more in most countries around the table. If there are one or two comments, we'll take them. But otherwise, I'll have to bring the session to a close.

I think it's lunchtime for all of us now. One comment please, thank you.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is [inaudible] from Pakistan. I am an ICANN Fellow. Looking at one of the slides, there was like this, we are looking to involving different stakeholders from the Commonwealth countries in the ICANN ecosystem. The discussion more or less appeared to be related to GAC only.

So there are more constituencies, for example, the business constituency, intellectual property constituency, non-commercial users constituency. So, what exactly are your plans towards working with those other constituencies? So as to actually involve communities from the Commonwealth countries not just governments from those countries. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you. I take it as a very open-ended question. But in short, and not just at the CTO, by the way. The Commonwealth Secretariat is doing some work in that respect also. We've done some work in supporting parliamentarians, either as CTO or in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

As recently as November, I was in the meeting for parliamentarian workshop on cybercrime, cybercrime law drafting, cybercrime investigation and the like. And so, there are

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pockets of efforts being done, depending on where their needs are. Beyond this, as far back as I can think of, we've been involved with getting the views of Civil Society groups, of different kinds, as part of the work that we do.

Not necessarily from an internet governance point of view, but from an E-commerce point of view, from an access point of view, and so forth. We did a lot of work, not so long ago, we did a lot of work not so long in Europe on the Space Agency, on the use of satellite for health applications.

And so, there are various efforts being done, and perhaps we need to do more to make them known, but in short, we are open to doing as much as we can with all of those other interest groups. Thank you.

MARK CARVELL:

Yes, I would just add as a very important question, and I try to promote this particular forum, this Commonwealth Forum, as not solely for GAC representatives, that we get the participation of other stakeholders, and I think we have a job to do to promote that opportunity through the help of ICANN, to you know, make this Commonwealth discussion, that we the GAC facilitate actually an open one, where we get more stakeholders able to participate.



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So, we'll give some further thought to that. As I say, ICANN has been very supportive, and I'm sure Commonwealth, non-government stakeholders who are here, or are potentially able to participate online, would find this a valuable forum, where you've got their government representatives speaking on issues about opportunity and multistakeholder process, and opportunities to participate.

We should have all stakeholders from Commonwealth countries active in other constituencies, contributing to this discussion. Maybe we ought to schedule that as a possible topic for the next session in Johannesburg. We'll give that some thought. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE: Thank you. One very last comment, and then I'll have to bring this session to a close. Thank you, please go ahead.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm [inaudible] Smith, I'm GAC representative from Jamaica, apologies. I was coming from another meeting. You may have answered this question already, and given what my colleague from Pakistan just indicated, I'm actually going back to the aspect of the GAC.

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I noticed that onscreen, you have that there with the, well, that a workshop happened in Nairobi essentially, to ensure that you could improve and harness the participation of African countries within the GAC, within ICANN, I'm so sorry. And I just wondered whether or not, CTO would certainly be working with ICANN to ensure that within the Caribbean, we have greater participation of Caribbean nations in ICANN.

Generally and in the process itself, we have some countries who have only recently joined the GAC. And some countries who are yet still to become very active within the GAC itself. And I think such a particular workshop would be critical and not just for LAC, but for the Caribbean in particular. Thank you.

MARCEL BELINGUE:

Thank you. What I can certainly say to you is that consultation at the level of the CTU executive committee and council on regional engagement on GAC matters is definitely on the agenda. As to the very specific initiatives, with respect to the Caribbean, I'm not aware of any. However, what I do know is that Caribbean stakeholders are being invited to take part in the London annual event.

And therefore, we hope that they will have a strong voice from that perspective, but we certainly are of the view that, and we agree with the statement made by [inaudible] earlier, that a lot

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more happens when we are, when action is closer to where the needs are. And therefore, we will try and support as much as we can.

We are engaging with CTU on a slightly different subject which has to do with DSO. And we will be with them in Jamaica in June, and certainly that would be a good opportunity, if not before, to see where we can join our efforts. But it's an extremely good point, we raised the same point for the Pacific. You were not here when we talked about it.

And these are effectively three areas, geographically wise, where in some respect, it's not necessarily an issue of technologies, it's an issue of coordination and greater communication between the, with the obvious stakeholders that remain under the radar for some of us. So, thank you, very good point. Noted.

Having said this, thank you very much to all of you for having sustained another 45 minutes before lunch. We certainly would put some notes together, which will circulate to all, and we very much look forward to further the regional updates on this matter. And let me thank you once again for your contribution. Thank you so much to everybody.

MARK CARVELL:

Thank you very much, thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**