COPENHAGEN – GAC Underserved Regions WG presentation to GAC Plenary
Thursday, March 16, 2017 – 11:00 to 11:30 CET
ICANN58 | Copenhagen, Denmark

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Good morning, everybody. This is our last morning as -- of the GAC meeting. And our first session is a report to the plenary from the underserved regions working group.

So let me hand over to the co-chairs.

Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you very much, Chair, and good morning, colleagues. The Underserved Regions Working Group has been rather busy with a really packed work plan, and we set it off with the first series of capacity-development sessions in Nairobi in January 23rd to 26th. We had two days with African GAC members, African governments, and then two additional days with law enforcement agencies from the Africa region.

The first session with African governments were attended by the ICANN CEO and our chair here as well as our vice chair, Manal, and other colleagues from ICANN, the GE and the GSE and SSR teams. Very successful series of meetings. And then two days

capacity development for law enforcement agencies. And we managed to get several law enforcement agencies participating in the Public Safety Working Group. And our South African colleague from the South African police is here with us. They offered to host the next session for Africa law enforcement agencies prior to the Johannesburg meeting.

Julia is going to put up a slide where we can share with you what the next work plan and next activities are going to be, but I'll quickly start by mentioning our work with the ccNSO and PTI to discuss the various approaches that we could use to address the tasks that was assigned to us by you to be the contact point for ccTLD-related issues. We also met with the Development of Public Responsibility Department so they can help us develop a professional survey that's going to start identifying some of the gaps that exist for underserved regions' meaningful and efficient participation in not just GAC but ICANN generally.

We've had meetings with the other departments, the government engagement and government stakeholder and SSR to plan for the next series of capacity-development sessions. So the next one is going to be in April 28 and 29 in the Pacific Islands, in Fiji. And then May-June, to be determined. We're going to have another GAC Underserved Regions and Public Safety Working Group during the Africa Internet Summit.

In July, we may have a meeting in Samoa, collated with the CTO. And in September in Latin American, Peru. Southeast Asia in November, to be determined again. And then Caribbean. We still have to have a discussion with the member states from the Caribbean region to see whether we could have a capacity-development session in that region.

In terms of internal GAC work that the Underserved Regions Working Group is following, the new gTLD subsequent procedures, specifically work track 1 on support for applicants from developing countries, are working with the CCT review team on developing-country issues, new gTLD auction proceeds, and then accountability Work Stream 2 subgroup on diversity. And we're going to be reporting on that as required and as relevant intersessionally.

I'll end here.

Pua, maybe do you have anything to add?

Questions?

Any questions or comments?

Great.

Okay. Thank you very much. Appreciate it -- Yes, Indonesia.

INDONESIA:	Sorry, I just want to know, just curious, because I've never in a, you know, regional meeting of underserved regions. Is -- but when I talk to you and the others, to Pua and so on, is your really main problem only the Internet connections or is there any something else?
ALICE MUNYUA:	That's one of the challenges of participating effectively, but it's not the main one. You know, some of the issues that have come up to do with understanding what ICANN does or how it relates to the broader Internet governance ecosystem.

The survey that we're developing is going to expose some of those gaps and make, you know, in a more obvious way. But from the Nairobi meeting, there was not just simply lack of Internet access but the lack of understanding of what ICANN does and of the DNS and some of the -- you know, some of the areas that various constituencies focus on, including new gTLDs and IDNs.

 Thank you.

 Any other questions or comments?

Pua, please.

PUA HUNTER:	Thank you, Alice.
	Within the margins of this meeting, we also decided to send comments to the ICANN's draft financial year '18 operating plan and budget and basically asking ICANN to commission studies of the domain names marketplace for the underserved regions because this is consistent with our work plan, and this is following the study that was commissioned in Africa. Just -- this is just for your information.
	Thank you.
ALICE MUNYUA:	All right. If there are no other comments or questions, I'll hand back over to the GAC chair, Thomas.
	Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

ICANN
COMMUNITY FORUM
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COPENHAGEN
11–16 March 2017