ABU DHABI – GAC Underserved Regions Working Group
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 09:30 to 10:15 GST
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PUA HUNTER:	Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the session for the Underserved Regions Working Group. My name is Pua Hunter, I'm the Co-Chair for the Underserved Regions Working Group. And up here with me is Julia Charvolen, our ICANN support staff to the GAC, and on my right is Alice Munyua, who's providing support on our work, even though she's stepped down from her role as a Co-Chair of the Underserved Regions during the last meeting in Johannesburg.

For the sake of our newcomers, this is on regions that are underserved by the Domain Name Service and the least developed economies and small island developing states; particular focus is on Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

We only have 45 minutes this morning, so I'll shoot straight into our agenda. First on the agenda is to discuss the evaluation framework for endorsement. You will recall, we had this noted in the Johannesburg communique that the working group is working with the government engagement and with the Development and Public Responsibility Department, DPRD, to

establish an evaluation framework to continuously evaluate GAC capacity development activities.

The evaluation framework has been developed and I recirculated it to you yesterday, and I hope you have had time to go through. It was circulated to the leadership on 3rd of August -- of October I think. And no comments was received, and so it was shared with the Underserved Regions Working Group on the 13th. And again, no response was received. However, if someone did respond, I apologize for my oversight and I assure you that we will check and incorporate your inputs.

The objective of the framework is to provide a clear process to [inaudible] and evaluate the performance of our capacity development activities in order to objectively assess impact.

In addition to the framework, we developed two templates, one for planning and one for reporting, and these will be appended to the evaluation framework. I circulated this to you last night. And again, I hope you've had time to go through because we won't be putting this up. The framework itself is about eight pages long and we don't want to go through the whole thing, and have decided that you go through it in your own time. I will leave the floor open for any comments or questions. Thank you. Nigel.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Thank you, good morning all. Nigel Cassimire from the CTU. I did have an opportunity to go through the documents, the framework and the other ones, and my impression is that they're basically adequate.   One could quibble about say the organization or the format, that type of thing, but I think if one looks at the content and the aspects that I would expect the framework to have, I think I found in there the aspects I wanted to see. So, I think it's probably something good enough for us to get started with and maybe reframe as we go along. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Nigel.   I forgot to mention that this is a living document. A lot of our documents in the working group are living documents because there's a lot of changes as we go. And you're right, we will improve based on our experiences with each of the workshops. Thank you, Nigel.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you, Pua. I would like to add -- and thank you, Nigel, for those comments regarding the evaluation framework. I think the substance is good enough.   If there's any other way we can improve it because the purpose here and rationale is to make sure that as we're conducting this capacity development workshop and support for Underserved Regions, that we're doing

that and taking into consideration the very important aspect of measuring impact and perhaps changing because the whole value of an evaluation is to measure impact and then to see to what extent we need to make changes, or whether or not the initiative needs to change direction or, you know, put more emphasis on some aspects.

And also feeding into this broader framework, we have for the planning and reporting templates that are very helpful when it comes to reporting and especially feeding into the broader evaluation framework, and the planning asks questions regarding the scope and stakeholders. And the reporting templates also contribute to the broader evaluation framework.

But also, in addition to that, we have surveys, pre and post workshop surveys that we use to ensure that the workshops are demand driven. So it's not the GAC Secretariat or the Co-Chairs of the Underserved Regions that are determining what members from the Underserved Regions at the regional level require. Rather, it's the other way around.

For example, for Nepal we're going to be sending out the pre workshop survey to all members of the GAC, requesting specifically members from Southeast Asia and South Asia to complete the survey so that we're able to understand what approach to take with the workshop, whether it should be -- and

who should be there in terms of: is it a panel; do we need a tutorial on DNS Abuse, or do we need an introduction to ICANN.

So those are the questions that the pre workshop surveys ask and the post workshop is to, again, evaluate whether or not the objectives of those workshops were met. So we're consistently, from the very first one, measuring, monitoring and evaluating the work of the Underserved Regions, specifically when it comes to this capacity development initiative. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Alice, for that comprehensive explanation and clarification on our activities. Thank you. Pakistan.

PAKISTAN: Thank you, Pua, Alice, for introducing this program, it's very useful. There is a suggestion with respect to the last Capacity Building Program in ICANN60, I attended this workshop for the Underserved Regions. But the topics selected are very general and just theoretical; basically, these things are available on the GAC website at ICANN.

I am attending the ICANN GAC meetings since 2010, but still there are a lot of critical challenges which we need more support, more knowledge and more input because the things are verynational

interest. Like, you know, after the first round of new gTLDs, there are already challenges for us.

Now, the new gTLDs, especially the brands, are approaching us for the permission to use our country name, our geographic name at the second level. And we do not know how we proceed, if there is any PDP processes, if there is any lists and what are the parameters of this list, and for the last two to three days I usually meet with the ICANN people, some senior GAC members, and now I have some background on how we proceed for the country name as a second level.

I think instead of just explaining the name of our ICANN, GAC and their roles is insufficient, and the matter is very serious because you know GAC is putting the things in front of the ICANN board, ICANN Working Group. They are just giving us feedback, okay we're working, but in the background they approve the things, the things are moving fast, but the countries, particularly the government, are facing various challenges, and this forum is very useful if this capacity engagement will be taken in real scenarios instead of just describing what is ICANN, what is GAC, how ICANN works, ICANN operating procedures.

The matter is very serious. And the things should be put in the practical manners. I see in developing countries like there is a gap between the academy and the IT industry. The same things I see

in the GAC members; I mean the comment and the processes. So by utilizing this forum which you introduce in meaningful manners. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Pakistan. Lance.

LANCE HINDS: Thank you, Chair. My colleague from Pakistan, his comments only highlight that within the Underserved there's Understand and there's Underserved, and so for the requirements our needs are different.

If I can go back to the evaluation framework for a second. I don't know whether I'm missing it, but I'm just wondering whether some larger goals could be put in. For example, if you're going to a geographic area and if you've done two interventions, is there a way to go back in year two or year three and see whether those interventions were impactful? Just seems as we are evaluating the activity itself, and even though I note that there are outcomes and impacts short-term and some long-term, but I'm hoping that within those outcomes, there's a way to measure impact along that line to see whether you're really doing good.

One, from the perspective that there is for example an increase in usage or increase in penetration, an increase in government appreciation; whatever it is that you're measuring is to do it from that perspective to make sure that you're getting what you need to make sure that you're effective. Thank you, Chair.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Lance, I really appreciate that. Indonesia.

INDONESIA: Yes, Pua. When we're talking about the capacity development and so on, one thing I think we can take into account is how the capacity development can also take into account as how the country or the region can make use of the ICANN resources given for the country, to maximize the benefits for the country; whether it's the ccLTD or whatever.

There are many countries that have ccDTL and they can sell it abroad and they can get lots of money off of that one. So not only give access to the internet, but also how the internet resources can benefit the country and give more and more income to the country. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Indonesia.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you very much. I'll start by responding to the comments by my colleague from Pakistan where he noted that the Middle East workshop was very general and that's because we were made to believe from our colleagues from the Global Stakeholder Engagement that that's where we needed to begin because most of them do not attend GAC meetings.

So once again, most of these workshops and the agenda is demand driven. We do not decide what should go on the agenda and how we should approach it. In other regions for example, we'll be going back to the Africa region, to Senegal, and specifically the request is to understand areas around DNS Abuse, Whois and the issue of the RDS and the GDPR and how that impacts some of the African countries. So it depends from region to region and that's why the pre-workshop surveys are extremely important so that they can determine the agenda, the approach and the content.

I agree with you that it's time to begin to look at thematic areas, and unfortunately this is one of the roles that ACIG, our independent secretariat used to play extremely well, Tom and Michele. And we did that for nearly three years with the African Union Commission helping African member states take on some of the policy issues that the GAC was dealing with, and Tom would

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provide that policy brief and then would take it and make it available in a one page and conceptualize it towards an African context that the African member states could understand.

Now that we're not sure where the independent Secretariat -- you know, what kind of role and how we're going to be dealing with that, I think that's something perhaps maybe the Underserved Regions could consider how we can ensure that we continue to provide that kind of support. And I think Pua alluded to it during the GAC board meeting where we noted that ASIG has been playing an extremely critical role in this, in distilling all the policy processes that are ongoing within and across ICANN, and providing them to GAC members in an objective manner just stating that this is going on, the public comment period and what it means.

And that work does need to continue. Especially to support underserved regions. For example, as you mentioned, the two-character code and new gTLDs, and auction process, all the PDPs that are ongoing, it's important that perhaps the working group continues to provide that support.

In terms of Indonesia, and the capacity development, and making use of the national resources, that's something that we also consider; when we're planning the capacity development workshops, we always work with various stakeholders and the

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ccLTD community is one of them through their own region. For example, when we go to Southeast Asia, the APRICOT are going to be working with APTLD.

In terms of the question from Lance regarding the framework, the evaluation framework as Pua mentioned, is a live document and we'll continue to add on and to evaluate the impact. When you're evaluating impact, you're evaluating impact at various levels. So it's at the level of, you know, did we achieve the objectives that we set out to achieve at the beginning, which are part of the Underserved Regions' terms of reference. They are also part of theUnderserved Regions' work plan, so we're going to be looking at that and also they're part of the capacity development in terms of reference that were provided by the GAC.

So we're going to be measuring those, and for regions -- for example Africa that we've gone, this will probably be the third one. We'll going to be measuring to what extent, for example, we've had two law enforcement, [inaudible] Capacity Development Workshops, the second one being the upcoming one on Senegal. How many law enforcement agencies have joined PSWG and to what extent they're contributing to the work of the PSWG, to the GAC and ICANN generally when it comes to that. So we're going to be measuring that. We're measuring that as we go on with a post evaluation framework but we'll measure

that more broadly towards the last of the regional workshops, which will be in Panama. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Alice. Anymore comments from the floor? Okay. We'll move on to our next agenda, the frequently asked questions on delegation and redelegation of ccTLDs, the country code top-level domains. And I'll hand this over to Julia to give you an update. Thank you, Julia.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, Pua. I'm going to be very quick because for the sake of time. As you saw on the mailing list, a frequently asked questions document on delegation, redelegation of ccTLDs was circulated. This document is another living document and we are looking to have this document endorsed by the GAC by this meeting.

As you know, many parties were involved, such as the Underserved Regions Working Group and ccNSO, as well as the PTI. We just put this on the agenda to make sure that if you had any comments to make to this document, if you could make them at this meeting, if not we will send it to the GAC for final endorsement by the end of the meeting. Thank you.

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PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Julia. Comments?

Okay.   Moving on.   We've got our Capacity Development Workshop update, and I'll hand this over to Alice to update us on the workshop held on Saturday and the upcoming proposed workshops for the rest of the current financial year for ICANN. Thank you, Alice.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you, Pua. We had one that took place on Saturday for the Middle East for half a day.   The challenges were due to the religious holiday that was Friday so we were not able to hold a much longer one. We're hoping that we can review that. The next one is going to take place in Nepal for Southeast Asia and that's going to be on February 23rd, 24th and 25th. And this is [inaudible] is going to be held in conjunction with APRICOT, AfriNIC, and APTLD.

The next one is going to be for the Caribbean states in San Juan, and we're hoping to work with CTU, so I'm looking at Nigel so that we can start preparations as soon as possible for invitations, and pre-surveys, and preparing the agenda; and that's going to be in March during the ICANN San Juan meeting.

After that, the next region is going to the Latin American region and that's going to take place in Panama, two days before or after, depending on the meetings team during the Panama meeting. And once again, we're going to work with the various ICANN departments, the GSE and others to determine the agenda for that.

And I forgot, towards the end of March, beginning of April there's going to be a third one for in Africa in conjunction with the Africa internet Summit and AfriNIC, and we're going to be looking specifically at issues to do with DNS Abuse. That's during the AfriNIC [inaudible]. And that will be the end of -- I think in the last Panama one, we will have done nearly all the ICANN regions.

So after that we're going to focus on evaluating this initiative and evaluating the work, and depending on whether or not how it's been helpful, impactful, changing cause, reevaluating it, that's going to be happening between -- after Panama, until the next meeting in Barcelona, we'll be able to have a report we can bring back to the Underserved Regions Working Group and to ICANN.or, and all the other stakeholders to see to what extent this has helped provide the level -- or rather, help with some of the ICANN strategic areas, especially lowering barriers and enhancing diversity. So that's all with the Capacity Development Wordhop updates for now. Thank you, Pua.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Alice. Any comments or questions from the floor? Yes, please state your name.

AMPARO ARANGO: I'm going to speak in Spanish. My name is Amparo Arango, I come from the Dominican Republic and I would like to congratulate you for this excellent task, for this excellent material, and I would like to mention something for ICANN, to express my concern for the ICANN meeting in Puerto Rico and Panama.

I would think it would be interesting to coordinate together with you and Nigel better or more participation with Spanish speaking countries from CONTELCA and I believe it would be really interesting that, you know, that the Dominican Republic is sharing the island with Haiti.

So I believe this would be two scenarios that are really important for these Capacity Building Workshops together with a suggestion by Pakistan, and that is to include the region and have more Central American and Latin American countries involved. We have Cuba, Haiti. So thank you very much. It's really good material that we see here, these guidelines of questions that were drafted by Julia.

I believe this is a very good material, simple material but it is really important because sometimes it's difficult to find in the ICANN website these questions which are simple, but which are really key for us. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you very much for that. Any other comments? Nigel?

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Thank you, Nigel Cassimire [inaudible] to you again. I agree, we do need to start as soon as possible to plan the program, the planned program for the Caribbean region, and I think we can take on board the comments just heard from the Dominican Republic as well. Given that it's two meetings in our America's region, we could see what might be the best way to sequence the content that we address over those two meetings.

I just wonder though what might be the most appropriate mode of cooperating, collaborating in order to figure out what would be the best agenda content and that sort of thing over the next couple months.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you, Nigel. As mentioned earlier, we have a planning template that asks a lot of those questions and we can use to help

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with the planning. We've already had a fast internal meeting with global stakeholder and government engagement to begin to plan around this. So we're going to be coming back to you to engage you and others in the region so we can start determining the members that we reach out to and also send out the survey so that we can begin to determine the agenda and the approach to the workshop.

Because again, as you say, we're lucky we have these two meetings taking place in the region. So yes, we'll come back to you before the end of this meeting. Thank you.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Okay, just a quick follow up. The target group that we're looking at for this initiative in the Underserved is the government stakeholder. Am I right? Okay. Thanks.

PUA HUNTER: But it's still open to any others who want to join or to participate. Pakistan.

PAKISTAN: Thank you, especially Julia for preparing the redelegation of ccTLDs. Pakistan has recently submitted the redelegation of its own dot pk domain, ccTLD. I also give a lot of input to Julia

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because we passed this transition and to collect the answer and the feedback from different websites and different documents, we put Julia in one document, we take at least two months; Pakistan takes these steps, what steps are important for the delegation.

I think it's a good process and good document. If some common countries need some redelegation, they get the information in one document. Thank you once again to Julia.

There is some more addition proposal that in question number 11 it is mentioned who decides how ccTLD is managed. Basically, usually because ICANN is totally based on the multistakeholder model and I think the initial text is fine, but we may recommend that the multistakeholder model for the management of the ccTLD is preferable.

Another question maybe we may add that like in question nine, we write that what is the role of the government in the management of ccTLD? A similar question is required for the community, because I heard in the meeting with IANA, with the other ICANN board, with other members, and ccTLD manages, and the countries who redelegated their delegations the big challenge is that -- and ICANN, and IANA, the redelegation basically should be the will of the community, not of the

goverment. So in case of redelegation, the community's role is very important.

So like we write what is the role of government basically in ccTLD, so we make a question with respect to community. So the focus is by IANA and with respect to ICANN entities, the community will, not the comment for redelegation. Thank you.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you. I'll make the suggested changes to the working group in the GAC. I had a feeling from previous comments that you make on other subjects that you had questions about specific topics.

I don't have them in mind right now, but I think that iff the working group and GAC members think that documents like this are very helpful and you have questions, we can certainly develop other documents and work on that, if that could help the community.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Pakistan, and thank you, Julia, for responding. Any other questions or comments?

CRIDEN APPI: Thank you. It's Criden Appi from Nauru. First of all I would like to thank the ladies upfront for the work they've done related to this working group. My query is a real general one. Somebody else mentioned earlier on that there are underserved regions and there are underserved regions and where I come from we are the least of the underserved regions, I guess.

My question is, is this working group an avenue where each region sort of puts in a wishlist? And what's the next step from that? I mean after compiling all this sort of wishlist, what is the next step to be taken? Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Criden. Just on the Capacity Development Workshops, Alice has already clarified and elaborated on what you've just mentioned. But if you want, she can also clarify specifically to what you mentioned. Thank you.

ALICE MUNYUA: Thank you. If I understand the question, it's regarding the regional focus? Right? Yes, when we developed the capacity development concept once the Underserved Regions Working Group was endorsed and created by the GAC, and it part of the terms of reference, we felt the best way to approach capacity development was to fast start by having regional workshops.

And the very first one that offered was the Africa region and Kenya to [inaudible] that responsibility. The Kenya government hosted it and provided all the support that was required. The second region that offered was the Pacific islands and Fiji, kindly offered to host it and it was in conjunction with another regional meeting that was taking place. This third one, the Middle East, was because the ICANN meeting was happening here and we felt it was really logical to have the meeting here.

The next one that's going to be held in San Juan, it's because we are focusing on the Caribbean region and governments, both the GAC members from the region and even those who are not GAC members -- because the idea here is to outreach governments who are not members of the GAC as well. And that offer came from the CTU during the last meeting when they said they would be willing to help coorganize a meeting in the first quarter of 2018. Then the Latin America one is going to happen during the Panama meeting. So it's regional and we try to follow the ICANN regions to the extent possible.

But at the same time we do get -- because they are becoming increasingly critical, we do get some regions that request for more thematic, more in depth workshops, and a good example is the Africa region that then requested for an additional workshop for the SADC, the Southern Africa region for SADC during the

meeting in Johannesburg. And we had a meeting that was specifically targeted at law enforcement agencies from the region. And the focus was on DNS Abuse and cybercrime and Whois, and the approach was slightly different.

There's going to be another one during the AfriNIC week, the Africa Internet Summit in Senegal, and once again, that is going to focus not just on the ECOWAS region, but all the African law enforcement who are able to make it to that meeting, and it's going to look again at issues of Whois Abuse, the RDS among others.

So yes, it is regional and the requests come from GAC members, and we try and follow generally the ICANN region. But now I think that the last region is going to be the Latin American region in Panama, and after that depending on how the GAC evaluates this initiative together with ICANN.org and the other departments, we're going to see how we approach the next phase of this initiative, whether it's going to be perhaps more thematic at the regional level or subregional level, so we're going to have to determine that. Thank you very much. I hope that clarifies.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Alice. We'll move on in the interest of time to our next agenda item, Work plan and call for active engagement of the

working group members. There are several policy development processes and CrossCommunity Working Groups that the Underserved Regions Working Group is involved in as a member and appointed member and observer or an active participant, and SO participant.

The new gTLD subsequent procedures or Policy Development Process Working Group for example is in session at the moment and in parallel with our session, and we would have liked to be in that session at the moment. I think I want to take this opportunity to announce that I am very pleased to be joined by Trinidad And Tobago as the new Co-Chair for the Underserved Regions Working Group, and I'm determined to progress our work with her and the working group as a whole.

Realistically however, as you all know, the workload is quite overwhelming and I would be grateful, grateful for members of the working group and members of the GAC to volunteer to support us in our activities. We've had enthusiastic members express interest. Lance from Guyana, Syed from Pakistan and others, and I would be happy to see you work with us, actively participate in our work, and I know that the ICANN support staff to the GAC: Julia, Robert, Fabien, Gulten, will be very happy to engage with members to assist them if they need support. Thank you.

Any questions or comments? Yeah, Trinidad And Tobago.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Good morning, Karel Douglas from Trinidad And Tobago. Firstly, thank you very much. And I want to quickly recognize the work done by Tracy Hackshaw who, also from Trinidad And Tobago has done a lot of work in this working group, and as indicated to you individually, we are also committed.

I'm relatively new to the GAC, not the first time at ICANN. And I, together with Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds, has given that commitment that we will continue to work assiduously hard to ensure that we contribute to the work and progress in the working group. So I just wanted to give you that public commitment. It's a pleasure being here. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you. Thank you, Karel, and we welcome you. Thank you. Any other comments or questions from the floor?

JULIA CHARVOLEN: I'd just like to clarify a quick question. Will Trinidad And Tobago help with Pua to work on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group and on the Wok Track 1 applicant support specifically?

KAREL DOUGLAS: Karel Douglas, for the record. Julia, let me not go too far ahead of myself. The commitment is a general commitment. I think we're certainly willing and as far as possible able to assist in some of the issues [inaudible] identify at this point and I would not want to be brave enough to say those are the very same issues you will, but I'll give you the general commitment.

And most certainly offline I will discuss it further with Pua. I know Alice is moving on, but definitely with the working group to see how we can best assist. But you can put it as a very -- a maybe.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you. Maybe is good enough. We'll move to the last agenda. Sorry, Alice.

ALICE MUNYUA: I'm sorry to keep talking. To the question and the discusiion between Julia and [inaudible], I wanted to maybe ask a question and perhaps we don't have to answer it here, now;; we can do it online.

It would be helpful -- and here I think I'm going to be looking at our future GAC chair, Manal; whether it's going to be helpful for the working group to actually go back and provide a list of all the
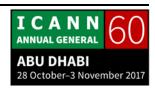
cross-community work that is ongoing where it will be good for the GAC to be part of, and I know that my colleague, Kavouss, and I have had these discussions for the longest time where several of us were in several PDPs and working groups. I know that [inaudible] was in nearly 10 of them, so whether it would be helpful for us and for me specifically to provide a list of what's going on.

And Tom was really, really helpful with this, where those groups are, so it's a matter of just getting that information out. And so then members of the Underserved Regions and the GAC can then offer to replace some of us who are leaving or to join some of these working groups and PDPs on behalf of the GAC. So I don't know whether that is something that would be helpful very quickly, perhaps after this meeting.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Alice, for the offer and yes, surely I think this is going to be very helpful compiling a list of all the ongoing PDPs, and maybe also highlighting the timeline and any deadlines for public comments or anything of the sort also would help colleagues plan their participation or submitting any comments. So thank you for the offer and yes, it's going to be extremely helpful, I guess. Thanks.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Alice, for that, and thank you, Manal. I know this was already circulated and I think that will be a basis to start this document that we will work on that was circulated from Tom. And I think Julia wanted to say something in addition. Thank you.

Okay, while she's looking, I think we'll move to the last agenda, last topic on the agenda, Any other business. I want to introduce Rapid Sun, who's working hard on the onboarding program for newcomers in the GAC, and I'll pass the mic over to him. Rapid from Cambodia.

CAMBODIA: Good morning, ma name is Rapid Sun from Cambodia, and regarding the onboarding program, with Pua and Julia, and Tracy, we developed the onboarding material and now it's incorporated into the ICANN learn.

We developed a draft version of the GAC interaction in the ICANN learn and we also are working to develop some infographics for the GAC, and a roadmap for the new members that they are able to understand how to participate actively in the GAC's working group. And the infographic and the material and other illustrations I hope that it will be developed by the ICANN61 and

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then we can put into the ICANN learn and then release the course for the newcomers. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Rapid. Excellent work. Thank you very much. I'll now hand it over to Robert Hoggarth to introduce the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines and additional requests for the Underserved Regions Working Group to get involved in. Thank you, Robert.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you, Pua. Good morning, everyone. About a month ago, the ICANN staff alerted supporting organization and advisory committee leadership that the intent was to establish a community consultation to examine the ICANN Community Travel Guidelines, specifically focused on providing support for ICANN public meetings.

The GAC leadership team asked Pua and the PSWG -- I'm sorry, the Underserved Regions Working Group to take a look at this effort and to provide some guidance if that was possible to a questionnaire that the staff had shared, that would collect community feedback about the travel guidelines.

The timeline that the ICANN org is looking at is to get responses to the questions;just a general questionnaire to begin developing the proceeding by the middle of November, with a goal of drafting new guidelines by the end of this year. The plan that was shared then with community leaders was that there would be a public comment proceeding in the February timeframe, the standard 40 days, that would inform and produce new draft travel guidelines by the ICANN61 meeting.

The hope was from the GAC leadership that the members of this working group would be able to help develop answers to the questionnaire to provide guidance to the staff as it crafted these new draft guidelines. It's a very brief questionnaire, only 10 questions. And from a staff perspective, we looked at it and we're going to suggest to you, Pua, and others, that staff could perhaps answer the factual questions that are in the questionnaire. Things like what guidelines does your group have for supported travelers? Or how does your group allocate its community travel support slots? Very basic information like that.

But then, we would have some dialogue with you to help answer some more qualitative questions, things like, what aspect of the current ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines work well for your group. And more broad questions like, instead of a reimbursement for travel related expenses, would your members

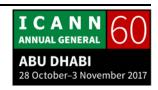prefer to receive a stipend or a per diem from the ICANN organization.

So I think the concept from ICANN org is that they would have a comprehensive sense of how the current travel guidelines are working, how they might be improved going forward, and identify other areas that could be added to this concept. So, I think we would very much appreciate engagement from you over the next several weeks. We'll share some materials with you that we have compiled that answer the factual questions, and then get your guidance on what sort of feedback you would like us to provide.

I want to emphasize that there's not a requirement that the GAC provide this feedback at this stage. But you may want to be looking carefully at the program and give some consideration to submitting comments when the public comment period opens in the February timeframe. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Robert. Any comments from the floor?

Thank you very much. I am happy to commit the working group to work with you on the Travel Support Guidelines and look forward to working with you on this. Thank you.

EN

We're actually out of time, but I just want to wrap up that at this session we indicated that we want to have these documents endorsed, the evaluation framework, which will be appended with the planning and the reporting templates, and we want to have the frequently asked questions on delegation and redelegation of the ccTLDs endorsed, and also the proposed capacity development workshops for the rest of the current financial year, which is up to June of 2018. That was nicely outlined by Alice.

And I also want to note at this session the new Co-Chair for the Underserved Regions Working Group that has been shared with the working group and with the wider GAC. Thank you very much for your attention and for your participation and engagement. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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