ABU DHABI – GAC Chair Election results
Tuesday, October 31, 2017 – 09:30 to 09:45 GST
ICANN60 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Okay, this is the 30 second switch off records, turn on record break. Transition. So let me ask, we are going to have the election session, so for this we decided that it's maybe better just to have the outgoing team and those who are working on the elections with us here.

So I would like to ask Rob -- and of course we have been asked to give five minutes for a presentation by our Indian colleague, and we decided that we'll give India the opportunity at the beginning of Tuesday, of today, to give us a very quick presentation of the upcoming big event in India, and then we'll officially start the session on the elections. Fifty minutes may not be enough. So we may run a little bit into the next session if that is necessary.

INDIA: Hi. Good morning. Good morning, chair, and good morning everybody. I'm Sanjay Rakesh, GAC representative from India. I'm right now a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and

Information Technology in the ministry. I'm here to invite all my friends and your friends to a global conference on cyber [Indiscernible] 2017 which is going to be held in New Delhi from 23rd to 24th of November. So you are aware this is one of the largest congregations of policy makers, industrialists, researchers, activists on the earth on this issue.

So, you know, the Genesis, it started in 2011 in London with the purpose to establish the global guidelines and principles of governing the behavior in cyber [inaudible], and since then it has moved much forward. There have been four conferences of this nature in the past starting from London, and each conference had a different team and there is an outcome. So London had a team and there is an outcome which set up a youth forum.

Similarly, the second was in Budapest in 2012, which also had a team discussing the relations between internet freedom and internet security, and an outcome. Followed by Seoul in 2013, and then the last was in Hague, Netherland. This will be the 5th in the series in New Delhi [Indiscernible] with the team "Cyber For All". Safe, secure and inclusive cyberspace for sustainable development.

The goal is all written there. I will not read it, but I do believe that the session would strive to work towards this goal during the two days of session and two days of [inaudible] and activity; a lot of

[inaudible] and activities are already going on within India and across the world, but that will be the period of intense activity in New Delhi.

So this, against the media team, there are four subteams for which there will be plenary sessions. These are: cyber for growth, cyber for digital inclusion which is to reduce the digital disparity; attempts to at least. They will try to work out how to reduce the digital -- and then cyber for security and cyber for diplomacy. [Inaudible] these plenary sessions, there will be many other sessions and many other activities which will come.

Some highlights are that our prime minster will inaugurate the session. It will have at least about 50 ministerial delegations and participants from 100 countries who will be participating. And you may be aware that under digital India, India has a very large program of digitalization and spreading the foot prints of digital economy within the country. So it will also explore the possibility of synergizing the GSS objectives with the Digital India objectives.

There will be participation from the industry leaders, academia, think tanks, and more than 5,000 people are expected to participate, and there will be more than 40 sessions which have already been planned. They include plenary sessions, [inaudible] sessions, side events, [Indiscernible], et cetera. The event format that [inaudible] events which are already going on, current and
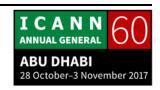
[inaudible] events will take place on 20th and 22nd of November, 21 November, 22 being off for preparing the mega show. And 23rd, 24th will be the main events.

The inaugural function will take place on the 23rd, then plenary sessions will take place and [Indiscernible] side events will all take place on the 24th. These are the lists of some partner organizations which are spread across the country and they are already actively working on this. Then Academic partners, this is the list which I just indicated, there's more to work. And some events we are just mentioning which are going on. We are taking up the events, trying to spread the message so that there is a wider participation, more involvment and we come out with an agenda or an outcome which leads us to a better cyberspace, a more inclusive cyberspace.

So this is the sequence, some held and some to be held. Mostly in India, but a few outside the country. So, these are the lists of [inaudible] which will take place on 20th and 21st. So you can see there is a whole lot of things mentioned there. Then this is the list of side events where there will be more intense discussion.

So, at the end with this, I request all of you to please register at the website. The moment you register, the way it's [inaudible] that within seven days you will get the approval; with the approval there will be a few information which will come to you.

It will come a registration card, a unique ID and a voucher from Air India in case you want to travel. Air India, the national carrier of India, has agreed to give a 35% discount on fares for international travels and 25% for the domestic travels.

Plus, if you have this UID, the Indian embassy has been asked to facilitate your visa process. So with this, I request all of you to please participate with your colleagues just at the side events; the [Indiscernible] New Delhi at this point in time are excellent. So it's good to this place [inaudible] nearby, so you come, participate here and take a tour, visit India. I welcome you all to India. Thank you.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much. Perfect. Thank you. So with this, let's move over to something that probably a number of you have been waiting for to get to this moment. Before I give the floor to Rob, just some preliminary remarks from me as somebody who has gone through this three years ago. I think it is good for the GAC that there has been a choice, that we have had for the second time now more than one candidate for an important role. I would first of all like to thank both of the candidates for their courage to stand up and say I'm ready to do this knowing that this is not the easiest thing to do.

So, because it's for the benefit I think of everybody that we have a choice, and of course we know that both candidates are long standing GAC members, they have been very actively participating in the GAC in whatever role they've had so far, and I think this is something that is also very good that we see that we do really have the choice between two very competent, experienced women; and I think this is a very good situation for the GAC and whoever will get more votes, have gotten more votes than the other one, we will not see as winner and loser and definitely not as a competition in the negative sense, but rather somebody that is a little bit more the winner than the other person.

So in this spirit, I would like to hand over the floor to Rob to present to us the small presentation about how we did this. And that actually -- but not before thanking Mark, our outgoing Vice Chair, and Rob, and Julia, and Tom, and whoever worked on this. It was done with the highest possible diligence and care. Everybody knew that this is an important thing and we really had a very good and very frank and transparent cooperation among ourselves. And this is something that I think is something that we can build on as the GAC in cooperation with our support teams and for this, thank you, and Rob, it's yours.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you very much, Thomas. I have three goals for the session this morning. First is to generally review the election effort for 2017, secondly to announce the results of the GAC chair election, and third to explain to you generally what the transition efforts will be going forward.

The election effort is something that we've spent a good bit of time briefing and communicating to all the committee members about over the last several months. As you know, there is essentially the potential for an election every year because the terms of the vice chairs are one year terms, and so there's always an opportunity or possibility for an election to take place.

There's also been an emphasis as I've learned over the last couple of years within the GAC to encourage more participation within the election process. And so there was a move determined by a change to the operating principles, I believe, and certainly interests from you all as members of the committee to have a more elaborate electronic voting opportunity. So that individuals who could not be here in person at the annual general meeting also had the opportunity to cast votes on behalf of their GAC members.

There was also a very important consideration with the new process to maintain the secrecy and the privacy of the voting process so that individuals had the opportunity to cast votes in

secret and you all were in the position to control telling someone who you were going to vote for or to declare your support or intentions.

Now, as Thomas explained, we've had a couple of roles in administering this election. My understanding is in the past that Tom and his colleagues through the ASIG independent secretariatsupport conducted the elections, but some of you who are veterans may recall that eight or nine months ago as there was a cutback in terms of those services, the ICANN GAC support staff took on the role for handling the elections.

And so, in an administrative capacity for the election for 2017, Julia Charvolen and myself played that role in terms of administering the process. We were supervised, as Thomas indicates, by Thomas and Mark as the operating principles recognize they are outgoing members and in the best position to oversee the work of the staff administering the process. And Julia and I spent a good bit of time briefing Thomas and Mark as the election went forward.

Now, we had a number of learning aspects with respect to the election this year that may be instructive for all of you as you think about future elections and how we conduct things. First, we've confirmed and knew this going in that the tally tool is a secure and reliable tool. One of the reasons for going to it was that other

ICANN communities had used it in the past successfully, and that prior experience was very helpful for us in administering this election.

Secondly, it is a very secure and appropriately I have the phrase both flexible and inflexible in just the right ways. The flexibility part came into play because a number of you, despite our long efforts of announcing before once folks focused on the information on the website, there were a number of instances where the representative had changed. We had the member in the system, but the individual who would be connecting to the voting platform was different. And so the tool gave us that capability to make that substitution so that the member would have a representative voting for them appropriately.

Secondly, it was interestingly enough inflexible enough that it was very helpful and demonstrated to us the security of the system. We had one instance where due to a clerical error, a GAC member was not on the email list. And when this individual didn't receive their tally notification, they approached staff, we recognized the error and we were able, consistent within the operating principles, to enable that member to vote electronically by a direct email system.

As many of you experienced, the tally system is in and of itself basically an elaborate email system where there's a protected

and very secure randomized ballot ID that enables you not only to vote once, but to go in and potentially change your vote if you thought that there were a change of circumstances or a change of mind.

We did have instances in this election where individuals availed themselves of that opportunity and you'll see where I go through the numbers that apparently some of you did go in and change your vote. Anecdotally, someone approached us and told us at one point, "Yeah, I did it multiple times just to make sure that I was confident that the system was working." So we viewed that as a positive as well.

What's going to be helpful I hope for some of you after the election is within the next hour or so we'll be sending out an email announcement to the entire GAC membership announcing the election results because obviously not all of them could be here. And appended to that message you will all see the ballot report that the tally system generates where basically you will see every click that voters exercised throughout the balloting process.

And I hope you'll see that it's a very interesting and flexible process, not only for us as administrators, but most importantly for you as voters. We certainly recommend that we use this tool again in the future. Other than our own staff error, the electronic
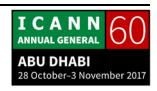
aspects and technical aspects of the program worked very reliably, securely and consistently.

Now, there's a final issue that a number of you may want to take up with us and we're certainly going to discuss with the leadership going forward. It was something that one of you raised in Johannesburg which was the concern about the retention of the data. You've all submitted votes through an ICANN server system and it was very important for a number of you to have the option for us to delete or purge that data.

There hasn't been a decision made yet in terms of how long we will retain that data, but we thought it was important certainly to keep it for a period of time in case anyone had questions or wanted to double check the results just to assure themselves personally that everything was fine. But, at some point in the future, it may be a value to do that purge. We've learned that other communities don't do that. But that's certainly something that we're prepared to do in this instance. Thomas.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: We discussed this briefly with Mark and our proposal would be that we should keep the data for something like six months to give time to GAC members to -- if they think there's a problem, to actually have the data available for additional checks. But after

six months, that's the proposal, the data should be deleted because it doesn't make sense to store it further than that for the sake of privacy reasons. That will be our proposal to that particular question. Thank you.

ROB HOGGARTH: Great. Thank you. Now, let's first turn to the Vice Chair circumstances. As I mentioned earlier, Vice Chair serve one year terms. So there's an opportunity for an election every year. There are five Vice Chair seats. So there are five seats available each election round. In this case for 2017, we had five nominations. So as Thomas declared to everybody in his September 13 announcement about the election and the end of the nomination period, there was no need to hold an election for the Vice Chairs.

The five nominees who were submitted will, after the ICANN61 meeting, officially become the new leadership component of the Vice Chairs for the leadership. And we have the names of those individuals up on the screen, and thank you all for agreeing and committing to serve. In my short time working with the leadership, it's a lot of work and we really appreciate that commitment.

Now, with respect to the chair, there's only one available seat, and in this circumstance, we had two nominations. One for Olga

Cavalli from Argentina, and the other from Manal Ismail from Egypt. In terms of numbers to give you a perspective, and you'll recall what I just said in the previous slide, the number of ballots cast were 123. But the number of recorded votes was 109. The difference reflects individuals going in and changing their votes or testing out the system.

So from an official vote perspective, the number of votes that were recorded were 109. And the results of that election are that Olga Cavalli from Argentina received 50 votes and Manal Ismail from Egypt recorded 59 votes. So, Manal is recognized as the winner within the context that Thomas has described of the election.

Now, you're not finished with me yet. And by the end of today, you'll be tired of hearing my voice. But a few more things for you. Because this circumstance of Thomas' departure took place in the middle of his term, that has some impacts for the makeup of the leadership team over the course of the next several months, and frankly the next year.

From ICANN60 through ICANN61 the leadership team will include Manal Ismail as Chair, and the Vice Chairs I previously mentioned and Mark who will remain because his term does not end until after the ICANN61 meeting officially.

In other circumstances, the Chair would have also had that transition period, but in the case of Thomas departing, almost immediately Manal will take over at the conclusion of this meeting. Then, after ICANN61 officially, Mark will fall off the list and will return to his private service. And I don't know if you want to make any comment about that, Mark, right now?

MARK CARVELL: Yes, thank you very much, Rob. Good morning, everybody. As many of you know, I'm leaving the GAC as the UK representative. That's a sad occasion for me. I've dedicated many years to the service of the GAC and I was very pleased to act also as A Vice Chair in the last year. The reason is there's a reconfiguration of the team in my Ministry in London and I'm having to pass on the responsibility for ICANN affairs and GAC representation to a new colleague. And I have to do that from January.

So I just wanted to add that I will continue to serve as an active Vice Chair for the rest of this year, but I will have to finish before my term is actually due to expire at ICANN61. So that's my situation. I hope that's a clarification that is useful for you to know. And my colleagues on the leadership team and the incoming leadership team as well might find that helpful. Thank you.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you, Mark. One final slide for you all. There will be continuing leadership transition efforts through the remainder of this week. The current onboarding philosophy within the GAC recognizes that the new elected members basically immediately join the leadership team to sit hand in hand, observe what the leadership team does, and I think the general sentiment in the past is that they participate fully in the conversations. So we appreciate [inaudible] devoting some time this week to some of those transition efforts, and there will be a meeting of the two teams at lunchtime tomorrow and then on Friday in a working and planning session, the group will be getting together as well.

One final reminder, again, within the next hour or so we will get out an official announcement to you all via email so that your colleagues who are not here will also have the ability to see that, and if you have any questions, please reach out to any of us certainly up here and at any time whether it's during this week or subsequent years. It's been I think a very smooth and helpful process. We appreciate very much, Thomas and Mark, your guidance and help, and I'll turn the mic back to you, sir. Thank you.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you, sir. Just to say that some people may comment on this or want to make an address to the GAC in particular, the candidates, this is not about myself. The only thing I will say is that of course although I will be formally out of office at the end of this meeting, I will not completely be gone also in my function that I'm having already since April. I will be continuing to be responsible for the Swiss representation, not as person but in the GAC, and I will be at the disposal of the future team, the Chair, the Vice Chairs, and the whole GAC whenever there's something that you would wish to contact me.

And of course in particular to the future Chair, I will be always available and whenever that is wished to share my experience and support the Chair, because I have the experience when coming in that there are many things that Manal has the advantage, she's been here for so long and she's been working with so many people, so there's not that many unknowns to her, but still there may be some things where it's good to have a contact to previous chairs which was a little difficult in my situation at that time.

So I will do my best to allow for a smooth transition, so you can count on me and congratulations, of course, to Manal. I think we have had two good candidates and both of you take every vote that you got as a sign of trust, and one needs to get more votes

than the other one. This is the system. So congratulations to you, Manal, and respect to you, Olga, for being available, and yes, this is all I have to say at this stage.

So if somebody wants to say something now or later about this, then there would be a possibility. Otherwise we'll do the 30 second -- yes, African Union Commission. Thank you.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION: I would like to say first of all that I would like to thank you for all your efforts throughout your term. You have been excellent in your task and you have been up to the circumstances. We Africans, we are aware of this and we really thank you for this. When it comes to the leadership, I would like to see the measurement of your responsibility, because if someone has not been elected this does not mean that that person is not suitable for the position.

The winner is not the best in all cases and therefore my congratulations to you, and before congratulating Manal, I would like to say that she has to do better than Thomas. Thank you very much, Thomas, for your work. We will have some time of course. And I would like to make my final remarks tomorrow during the afternoon. So, if you have any questions or any ideas or any comments, that would be the right time. Now it is not the right

time because we have a new team with new responsibilities. So, Manal, you have the floor.

MANAL ISMAIL: Actually, it has been a pleasure serving with you and a learning experience as well serving on the GAC leadership with you, Thomas, and your dedication despite your so many busy schedules. I hope I will be up to the expectations of those who voted for me and hope more to exceed expectations of those who didn't vote for me. I hope we're going to work as one team.

I look forward to collaborating very closely with Olga, being such a long standing GAC member and a dedicated and very active GAC member. And looking forward to working with each and every GAC member and observer here within the room. And look forward also to working closely with the GAC leadership and the GAC Secretariat and ICANN staff as well. So, thank you.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Manal. Yes, Olga.

OLGA CAVALLI: Thank you, Chair, I will speak in Spannish. I'm very happy and thank you to the ones that voted for me. I would like to thank Manal for being in this voting and I would like to congratulate her

for her success in the election. I know she will be a great chair. She's a very experienced person, so I would like to collaborate with her.

I would like to especially thank Thomas, you can see him here for his work. But I would like to remind you that GAC has a recent democracy since 2014 and he has achieved because he was the first elected chair. He was a person -- even in the most complicated moments and in the most difficult debates he was always able to keep a kind professional environment and a serious environment. And he was always able to create this kind of environment for our task. This is not easy in a such diverse group with so many interests and diverse interests. So thank you for your work. I think it will be difficult to continue with your foot print, with your way of working, and Manal will do that, but it will be difficult for us.

I would like to thank the host of this meeting, of this wonderful meeting. We have a wonderful venue. I would like to thank the Argentine government for trusting me and for electing me as the representative of my dear country in ICANN. I would like to thank the government of Peru and the government of Brazil for publicly expressing support, and to COTELCA, the telecommunications commission for supporting me, and I would like to thank my colleagues from the region. I would like to thank those who voted

for me, thank you for your trust; I will continue working here, so if you think that I have to keep on working, I will be here.

And to those who sent me messages saying that they will not vote for me but that they thought that I was offering a good service to the GAC and that if I were elected the chair I would have a good role, so I would like to thank the Secretariat, Robert, Gulten, Julia, Fabien, all of them, and Tom. To the interpreters, my friends over there, I love you, to the organization as a whole, to my family, and this is my second family. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you, Olga.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much. So this will then be the 30 second technical break to start the next session. And this is session number 20, I think. And for this, let me hand it over to Rob, he will introduce this to you. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]