SAN JUAN – GAC Discussion: HLGM Preparation
Thursday, March 15, 2018 – 10:30 to 11:30 AST
ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, everyone, for being back at the room. Please start taking your seats. We'll be starting shortly. Thank you.

Welcome back, everyone. We're now starting GAC Session 35 on the High-Level Governmental Meeting. The session is scheduled for one hour on Thursday, March 15.

I'm accompanied here by Jose. Would you like to introduce yourself since this is your first meeting?

JOSE LUCEA: Yes, thank you, Manal. This Jose Lucea from the Spanish delegation, for the record. This is my first meeting here, also my first time on the stage. How lucky. I will introduce you and I will tell you about the logistics about the Barcelona event, and we will discuss about the agenda. But please, Manal, start.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Jose, and our generous host for the next high-level governmental meeting. As you may know the high-level governmental meeting is organized once every two years. It usually takes place, of course, in conjunction with ICANN

meetings and the usual GAC meetings. This was a recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Review team as early as the first one. It took place in Toronto in ICANN 45, London at ICANN 50, and Marrakech at ICANN 55.

So if we go to the following slide please, mainly the objective of the high-level governmental meeting was really to bring to the ministers and the high-level senior officials of the governments the work of the GAC and of ICANN so that they can spare their delegations the authority to take decisions here at the meeting, the required resources, the time to follow up the work of the GAC and of ICANN. So it's basically to help GAC colleagues here.

The high-level governmental meetings provide the opportunity to reaffirm the critical role that governments play in providing advice to ICANN board on public policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the domain name system. Also, to enable all parties to gain a clear understanding of the role of governments within ICANN and discuss current policy issues and challenges at the senior level and also expose senior administrative officials and senior elected officials to ICANN allowing them to gain greater understanding of the organization and the issues under discussion. And finally, to reach out to administrations and governments who are not yet members of the GAC.

JOSE LUCEA: Sorry, but this is not the latest version of the presentation. Do you have? In the meanwhile, I would like to thank all of you for staying here after yesterday's [jam] session and afterwards. I thought it was going to be empty, but now I see it half full so it's good. I hope we get some feedback.

MANAL ISMAIL: Maybe, Jose, if you have it in front of you, we can get started until it's back on the screen. Thank you.

JOSE LUCEA: Okay, welcome. [inaudible] to Barcelona. I think Barcelona needs no introduction. For us, it's our beautiful, lovely city, a city that is famous worldwide not only because of the powerful soccer team and [inaudible] and so on but also for its rich history. It's a city that was founded more than 2,000 years ago by the Romans. It's well-known for Gaudi's masterpieces like the Sagrada Familia and its Gothic Quarter, a plethora of cultural activities, and its welcoming people of course.

We are working in deep collaboration with ICANN so that we have a great event in Barcelona. I would really like to encourage

For the logistical highlights, I will hand over to you, Jose.

you to immerse yourself in the city before, during, or after the meeting. Rest assured that I will do the same. I will take the opportunity myself.

Coming [back to the] meeting, as you all know, ICANN 63 will be held from 20 October, Saturday, to 26 October, Friday. The venue and the suggested hotels are already chosen by ICANN. The venue will be the Barcelona International Convention Center. If you know a bit about the city, there is this big avenue that runs from the southwest to the northeast, and this is just at the end of the northeast of this avenue. It's just five minutes' walk into the city, so it's a nice place. Also, it's [15] minutes by metro to the main landmarks in Barcelona like La Rambla, Place de Catalunya, and others. Also, [inaudible] and the Gothic Quarter.

We will have in the meeting in this venue on 24 October, that is Wednesday, we will have our gala dinner in the same venue. So no shuttle buses. You will be all in the same place.

Coming back to the high-level governmental meeting, this will be held on 22 October, that is the Monday. Our minister for energy, Teresa [inaudible], will be opening the ceremony and will be participating in the meeting. We will have also as part of the agenda there will be a lunch for ministers and head of delegation and ICANN high officials also in this during the day.

What is important to you is that we have already sent, I think it was on Wednesday, the host invitation letters to all countries. We will send an e-mail in which all the GAC members will be CC'd. And we will send it in around seven or ten days, so there will be enough time for the postal mail to reach the destination. Next slide, please.

What will be in this letter is what we can see on the left column. These are the main high topics that emerged from the Abu Dhabi meeting. Since we thought that it was good to start sending them by now so that you have the time also to reach out to the high-level officials, we have included in the letter these high-level points. Okay, but the final agenda is something that we as a GAC group have to decide between ourselves what do we want there to be.

On the one side we have these five points of the [letters]. The first point is about the role of the domain name system in combatting cybercrime, the challenges for privacy. Also, I think the GDPR and the impact of the national and regional policy [inaudible]. We can also [be allowed] the balance between privacy, security, and freedom of expression.

The second one is about the new gTLDs. As I said, this is open, so it can include about the geonames.

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The third one is the assessment of the result of the post-IANA transition and the pending issues.

The fourth point would be about the roles of governments in ICANN and how they can influence in ICANN policies by injecting their public policies perspectives.

Finally for the last point, it's about the impact of emerging technologies in the DNS, like blockchain, artificial intelligence, 5G, or IOT.

So this was about the high-level topics. What we sent to you a month ago was the first draft, first preliminary version that we thought about also with the help of Manal. Basically it's the five points of Abu Dhabi, but in these four sessions we think it is worth actually the time available in the agenda is four sessions. We cannot have five.

So starting with this, I would like to hear your feedback because what we expect from here is to have some consensus if there are some topics that you think are good to be in the agenda because they are more interesting, more attractive to your high-level officials. And at the same time, if you think there are some of these topics that are already outdated and that we can drop out, please do tell us.

Intersessionally, we will circulate a new draft and we will have a finalized version before the Panama meeting so you can, as I said, have enough time to reach out with the final agenda.

Please, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Jose. Just to seek clarification, the letters of invitation that went out included the topics listed under Step 1 or Step 2?

JOSE LUCEA: On Step 1.

MANAL ISMAIL: Okay, thank you. Because I thought it's going to be the very high-level thing without any details until we had this discussion. But anyway, just for the sake of background, how this developed and to kickstart the discussion on the agenda, topics listed under Step 1, those were presented to the GAC by [inaudible] during Abu Dhabi meeting. Then we had some discussions within the leadership, and we more or less categorized them under those four pillars shown under Step 2.

But now we need to start talking here about the agenda and we need to agree on this because despite the fact that there is a

version that has been shared on the invitations, it is a very preliminary agenda and the intent of the invitations was mainly to book the calendars of the ministers as early as possible. So we still need to work out the agenda of the meeting.

So I understand this is going to be taking place on the day of the opening, right? The high-level meeting?

JOSE LUCEA: ICANN 63 starts on the 20th and this is on Monday the 22nd.

MANAL ISMAIL: So again, we need to brainstorm on the agenda and see how we can update it, make it appealing for the ministers and also make it more recent. I mean, a few of the topics are not. Maybe introduction of new gTLDs. I mean, the introduction happened in 2012, so it might not be that recent. Maybe we want to rephrase some of the headings or any suggestions? Yes, please.

AMICIA MUSSENDEN: Yes, Amicia Mussenden, St. Kitts and Nevis. Probably it can be rephrased to look at the implications of the introduction of the new gTLDs as opposed to just the introduction. Thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL: Yeah, generally speaking, what would we like the ministers to discuss? Thank you for the suggestion. We will consider this. But again, I want you to look at the overall agenda. France, I'm sorry. Did you have your hand up? Yeah, please.

FRANCE: Yeah, thank you, Manal. Just a clarification. The idea is we have to choose within the four, or there will be four issues of discussion during the day for the ministers? Is it like, for instance, each issue would be roundtable? Or how exactly is it structured because it's not very clear.

MANAL ISMAIL: We will have four sessions. We need a broad title for each session. If I understand correctly and following previous high-level meetings as well, ministers will express interest to have a speaking slot in any or more than one of the sessions. They will be allocated a speaking slot. Again, this is following what has been in previous high-level meetings as well. So that's why we need to look at the agenda, make sure the topics are appealing, and as well that ministers are interested to speak about those topics. Last meeting, we had I think one on the IANA transition, one on the accountability. I can't remember all of them. Yeah, please.

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MADAGASCAR: Delegate from Madagascar. I would like to speak in French. Thank you very much. Taking into account the first draft of this agenda, you talk about a value added of governments in Bullet 1.4, but this is not included under Step 2. So I think that particularly for French governments, the ministers should be speaking about what they consider important.

There are four proposals. There are those included in ICANN's mandate. But I think that we should ask the ministers what they think [if] ICANN [has] not participated in that, taking into account that we are focusing ourselves on the developing of the strategic plan of ICANN. So we have to wait for the next high-level meeting, and it will be too late to say or for the ministers to speak out and say what they want from ICANN. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL: If I just seek clarification, Madagascar, which point in Step 1 that you were referring to that is not in Step 2? Which bullet was it? I'm sorry?

MADAGASCAR: Four.

MANAL ISMAIL: Four? Again, we're going through iterations and Point 4 was seen to fit under Pillar 1 in Step 2. But again, we were trying to get the headlines of the sessions first. So I have Switzerland.

SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Chair. Jorge Cancio for the record. First of all, I would like to thank Jose for the presentation. As to the agenda, I feel that the agenda described in Step 1 was already good basis for discussions. So I see some similarity, of course, with what is described in Step 2, although I don't know exactly what the differences are apart from simplifying the names and also taking perhaps out the issue of the value added for governments of participating in ICANN.

On this latter issue, I guess that it is perhaps a transversal issue that could be included in all the topics that are finally on the agenda. But I think it's, especially after the discussions we had yesterday at the beginning of the communique drafting – I don't know if Milagros is here. I don't see here in the room. But I think that the levels of participation in the GAC merit perhaps some reflection at the higher political level. And I don't know what is the best way of introducing that discussion, but I think it would be interesting. It would be valuable that the high-level meeting

also serves to raise the awareness of [our] political supervisors of what is being done here and what is the added value.

For instance, all this week we have been witnessing how important it is what we do here for law enforcement, for brand owners, in the end for cybersecurity, trust, stability, and the well-functioning of the DNS. So that's a key issue.

So I don't know how to link it exactly, but of course as a second general comment I would suggest that in developing the agenda, informational presentations are avoided as much as possible. Introductions on how ICANN works or how the DNS, that is not interesting I think for our political leaders. That can be prepared with papers, with fact sheets that are prepared beforehand.

But I think what is interesting is to see the added value of participating in the GAC, in the ICANN community and perhaps linking it very much to the different pillars you have proposed in very interactive dialogues where our politicians are able to actively engage and where we also [stray] away from giving three-minute slots of unrelated statements.

So interactivity, a clear link to the value added of the GAC and of the ICANN environment, and discussions that are really political and to-the-point, and avoid introductions and lengthy explanations. Thank you.

MSI

Thank you, Switzerland. And thank you, very useful suggestions. I think we can use this session to brainstorm, and then we can try to make a new version, circulate it to GAC members, and then have it adopted intersessionally. We're not finalizing this here now.

But the objective of Step 2 was really to have very high-level highlights that could be shared in the invitation for the sake of not sharing a detailed agenda that was not yet thoroughly discussed within the GAC. But anyway now that the invitations are out, we can still revisit the agenda. And the pillars, they intended to cover everything that's under Step 1 as well. So there is no big discrepancy.

And thinking out loud to make those titles more up-to-date and more appealing for the post-IANA stewardship transition, for example, this could be the Empowered Community and how the government is involved. And then it could also touch on the point of government participation, the number of governments, how to attract more governments to participate.

Cybercrime and privacy, here we can include [legal] protection, of course, and this would definitely touch on GDPR issues and other hot topics despite the fact that we're not clear by the time

of Barcelona how things would look like. So that's why it's important as well that the title is kept generic.

Again, those are mere suggestions. So maybe one on the Empowered Community, the role of the GAC, the involvement of the governments. And one on privacy and data protection, including of course the GDPR thing.

And for the future of the Internet, this intended to cover the very last bullet under Step 1 which is DNS evolution in the light of cybersecurity, blockchain technologies, and Internet of Things. So basically, this is the evolution of technologies and the role of ICANN within this evolution.

I have Germany.

GERMANY: I just want to suggest that we put, and I think that's a very good point for the ministers, about the value of the multi-stakeholder model for the development of the Internet. I think many, many governments have events or topics and they are on their own agenda.

For example, Germany has in 2019 the Internet Governance Forum in Berlin. And I think that could be a good thing to talk about these Internet governance versus multi-stakeholder issue. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Germany. Any other suggestions? Back to Switzerland's point, I think we will be having setting the scene at the very beginning, very quick introductions and setting the scene. And I assume the whole session will be left for the interventions, again following previous best practices.

Denmark, please.

DENMARK: Thank you, and thank you for the presentation. We are looking forward to come to Barcelona, the beautiful city. When looking at the agenda here, I think that perhaps some of these things are too detailed and not really the political angle. What do we want with the new gTLD or the common grounds or what is there for politicians to look into? I don't think we should repeat anything about geographical names and so on.

But I have difficulty to see the political angle at this moment. Perhaps also will privacy, cybercrime, I don't know the GDPR is there. [inaudible]. We have the [new] WHOIS or at least the temporary WHOIS. But what do we want the political leaders to look into?

I think perhaps the broader thing, as Switzerland and Germany suggested, could be a way forward. Also looking into what the

issues ministers will discuss, one should think about is it four sessions or less sessions? There might be things the ministers would like to touch more upon, depending on the agenda. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Denmark. CTU, please.

CTU: Thank you. Nigel Cassimire, CTU. Two points. One is maybe there could be discussion of items related to developing the digital economy. The last point in Step 1 which talks about DNS evolution in light of certain things, [inaudible] Internet of Things or the Step 2 Future of the Internet, I'm thinking that [inaudible] point could probably fall in there. What steps or what is the role of government in developing a digital economy in their countries? What are the maybe environmental factors or attributes that need to be developed by government in terms of doing that?

The second point is kind of related but is a little more specific I that we have certain countries where maybe they can make better use of or derive greater value from their ccTLDs. Again, what might be government's role in encouraging greater value to be brought from the use of their ccTLDs?

So digital economy and maybe the ccTLD and government interface.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you. Yes, please?

[ALEJANDRA RAMOS]:   I'm [Alejandra Ramos] from Uruguay. I wanted to take the floor to show our support to Germany's position with regard to the fact that in this meeting there should be a discussion on the role of governments within these kind of multi-stakeholder [corporation] mechanisms. I believe that this is a very important topic. We need to see how the model is working and what is the role that governments are going to have within that model. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you. I think taking notes, and we also have the recordings of the session. I believe we can work on compiling, in light of the discussions here, we can work on a quick new iteration that we can share with the GAC. I think the ultimate goal is to agree on the agenda by April at most. I can see Morocco, please.

MOROCCO:	Morocco speaking, thank you. I agree with Denmark's and Uruguay's comments. I would like to say that the political aspects are those that are of interest to ministers. And overall in ICANN, there is a discussion about the role of governments within ICANN. In Marrakech, the ministers talked about the IANA stewardship transition and they showed their approval to it. But then we find ourselves in this position in which governments need to be aware of the relationship between governments and ICANN.
	Some topics are of interest to some countries, particularly those countries that have trade relations with the European Union. And they have been directly affected by the high-level governmental meeting. This is the right forum to discuss these topics [how] this will develop. Because we know that after the entry into force of the GDPR, we will have a period of three months. We will have to see what happens with the interim model proposed by ICANN. Governments will have the chance to hold a discussion on the experience with this model as well as what the challenges are for governments and countries. Thank you.
MANAL ISMAIL:	…Morocco. So I think we're having good suggestions here. So the multi-stakeholder model, the role of the governments, also

the political aspects of the suggested topics rather than the technical details of course. Any further suggestions before we move on with the rest of the slides? I think there are still a couple. The GAC leadership probably along with the host, of course, we will take the discussions and the notes from this session and share with you an updated version. But again as I mentioned, I urge you for a quick interactive discussion intersessionally so that we can get the agenda out [soon].

So over to you, Jose, for the rest of the slides.

JOSE LUCEA: Next slide, please. This is just the next steps and to-dos. As we said, again, we plan to finalize the agenda intersessionally and [inaudible] the invitations. I would like to [raise] to you GAC members to help us in, [first], confirm that the invitations have been delivered to the appropriate parties and, if not, we will please reach to us and tell us which is the appropriate party.

Then again I also encourage you to reach out to the high-level officials and [inaudible] and help us make the case for the importance of the high-level meeting for your own countries.

Also, we will need to know when you do get our e-mails to get the information of who is coming. We will need this information and also, as we said, once we have the final agenda if there is

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interest in your ministries or high-rank officials to take a speaking role in one of the sessions.

Finally, just to remind that if you need to get the visa arrangements, to do it as soon as possible. And that's all from my side. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Jose, for the updates. Please stay tuned for the invitation letters, and please let us know if you or your ministers have not received the letters. I understand that the physical letters have already gone out. Now an electronic one will be circulated shortly to GAC members individually. Please if you don't have your contact information updated on the website, please do so because this is where the electronic version of the invitation letter is going to be sent.

Any questions? Yes please, Jamaica.

JAMAICA: Hi. Good morning, everyone. Jamaica, Wahkeen Murray, for the record. Just an observation, and I know the planning with respect to this is far advanced. But immediately after this ICANN meeting, there are three weeks of ITU meetings and it's the same ministers that are going to be participating in ITU that you are inviting to a one-day event at ICANN. I'm thinking about the

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logistics in terms of their actual participation in the context of this meeting that is following.

It's just an observation, and I hear you are saying that this has already been planned for the 22nd and then you have an ITU meeting which starts on 29 October, which might be problematic I'm thinking for some ministers who will then be required to be out of country for maybe two to three weeks in the context of this ICANN high-level meeting just being one day. So just an observation.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Jamaica. The ICANN dates are preset a long time ago, unfortunately. We have very limited options, and that's why we try to have the letters go out as early as possible for sort of "save the date" or procure calendar. I hope it will work out after all.

Any other comments? If not, then this concludes our session on the high-level governmental meeting. As I said, we have already taken notes from the discussion. We will be listening to the recordings as well. We will try to get something compiled and provide you with a proposed agenda. I hope to have this interactive discussion intersessionally so that we can get a solid agenda out as soon as possible.

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Thank you, all. Do we need to wait until 11:30 to start? Okay, I see yes. So we'll be reconvening at 11:30 in ten minutes. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]