KOBE–GAC: Governance & Accountability Processes (2 of 3)
Sunday, March10, 2019– 08:30 to 10:15JST
ICANN64 | Kobe, Japan

PUA HUNTER:

Hello, everyone, welcome to the GAC underserved regions working group session this morning. My name is Pua Hunter. I am the co-chair for the underserved regions working group and here on my right is Shelly-Ann Clarke Hinds. She is also the co-chair of the working group. And Shelley-Ann is already an active participant before her first ICANN meeting which is this particular meeting today.

I want to acknowledge the remote participants and invite them to ask questions through the GAC support team who are moderating the Adobe connect page. Next slide, please. Thank you. Since Barcelona meeting, the working group has been doing substantial work, and I want to acknowledge the assistance from our GAC colleagues from Canada, Luisa Paez and Rita [indiscernible]. I want to acknowledge the support from the GAC support team, especially Julia, Gulten, and Rob, and also the support from the government engagement team, Dr. Tarek, [indiscernible], thank you very much.

We continue to work on reviewing the capacity development evaluation report that was developed by the government engagement team. The report provides a substantial background of the project and details the eight workshops held both regionally and during the ICANN meet, from January 2017 to June 2018. It provides the methodology applied to evaluate the capacity development project

and provides details of the findings. It outlines the outcomes, and these are supplemented with a set of recommendations. In summary and as provided in the conclusion of the report, the workshops have been an overall success with positive feedback received from the participants who have clear expectations of future workshops to take place in their regions at more frequent rate.

We intended to have this report and those here at ICANN64 but there are inputs from yourself, the working group members that we have yet to address -- and I sincerely apologize and at the same time, I thank you for taking time to review the report. We are working in collaboration with the government engagement team to incorporate input and hope to have it shared with GAC before ICANN 65. Any questions? If not, you can save your questions to the end.

The next on our agenda is preparation of the ICANN 65 capacity building workshop. Initially the working group had proposed to convert and migrate the materials produced from the workshops into that ICANN platform. This is still a work in progress but from the post workshop surveys -- sorry, can you go back one slide, please. I just want to talk about the ABR, additional budget requests. So yes, we intend to convert and migrate the materials produced from the workshops to the ICANN learned platform, still a work in progress but from both the post workshop surveys and verbal feedback it was evident that there's a strong need for the capacity development initiative to be continued. At the same time there are members within the GAC who have indicated keen interest to participate in the work of the GAC but feel they do not possess adequate understanding of the

processes to be able to do so, and as a consequence re efforts towards completion of the budget request for the financial year 2020. The request was primarily aimed at the resourcing of five capacity development workshops to be held during the 2020 financial year. Three of those workshops will be in the margins of ICANN meetings. ICANN 66, 67, and ICANN 68. And with the remaining two workshops to be held during a multi-stakeholder regional meeting in partnership of course with the host country or with regional or international organization.

We will have a response from the board, and we are hopeful it will be a favorable response. The capacity development workshops held outside of ICANN meetings were very successful according our report and targeted to the needs of the GAC members of those regions, for example the workshops held in Nairobi Kenya, Fiji, Kathmandu, Nepal -- and Dakar, Senegal. If we are to continue regional workshops outside of ICANN meetings it's critical that partnerships are now established with other ICANN communities and with regional and international organizations. The government engagement team is supporting the working group with this effort and we would like to acknowledge and convey our sincere gratitude to Dr. Tarek and his team for their tireless efforts.

During this current financial year, the government engagement team and the GAC support submitted additional budget request for the funding of the high-level governmental meeting held in Barcelona end of last year and for capacity development workshop to be held in this financial year. I understand that the full amount requested was not

approved but the small amount approved may be sufficient for one workshop to be held during an ICANN meeting this financial year. The government engagement team is pursuing this work if an economic development workshop to be held during ICANN 65 in Marrakesh. Thank you all for that work.

Before we conduct a workshop, we invite GAC members to complete preworkshop surveys to assist us with drafting the agenda topics for the workshops and after the workshop, we invite responses from participants to complete post workshop surveys to determine its benefits and suitability to the participants.

Julia, please.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, we have a question in the Adobe chat. From Pakistan –

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Julia and Pakistan for the question. We don't have a criteria in place. What we look at is potential partnership with the country, the host country or with an organization to assist with funding the workshop. Thank you [indiscernible].

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is an ICANN financial year? When does it start and end?

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PUA HUNTER: Good question. I think the ICANN financial year is from the 1st of June to the 30th of July.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: The 30th of June to the 1st of July. So fy20 would start on the 1st of July 2019 and would end on the 30th of June 2020, correct, Nigel? Yes, okay, that's it.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you Julia and Nigel for confirming that. Now to assist us with the topics for the Marrakesh development workshop, Julia Charvolen GAC support staff sent out a link to the preworkshop survey on the 27th of February this year to date and quite unfortunate we have received no response. Julia will resend to you and I'm requesting you to please fill in the survey. Otherwise we will be putting together an agenda that doesn't suit you. GAC members from Africa are very much encouraged to fill in the survey because this will be in your region. I will quickly go through the questions so you have an idea of what you will be responding to. I took the survey to give it a test and I think it took me six minutes. Six, seven minutes to complete. So this is the first page of the survey. It asks about how long you've been in ICANN, how you identify your gender, the stakeholder group you are involved in and how familiar you are with the GAC.

And then it asks which language you're most comfortable with. There're questions about what you hope to get from the workshop, which topics most interest you, which topics related to ICANN

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[indiscernible] most interested in, which topics to local issues and which topics related to technical skills you are most interested in. There's also an option for other if you feel it doesn't cover what you feel in the responses listed. Which of ICANN's policy development process you are interested in there are many, but these are the main ones, and these are the ones that actually sit on our topics. And there's other questions of -- wow. What aspects of knowledge about ICANN multi-stakeholder you are most -- would be most helpful to you -- sorry, I can't read and these two others here, if you have good eyes... next slide, please.

The types of capacity development materials most useful to you, capacity development materials before and after and barriers that prevent from participation. Okay. Thank you, Julia. On a final note, we have revisited our work plan and we're actually very, very pleased with the progress made so far and that said, I wish to take this opportunity to also acknowledge the valued commitment from the working group members, in particular to our GAC Canadian colleagues, Luisa Paez and Akriti Bopanna, they have been behind us pushing us to get the work done. Between the space of our Barcelona meeting and now and I really appreciate the support and assistance from of course from our co-chair here, Shelley-Ann. And I would like to kindly invite Shelley-Ann to provide you all with an update of the work plan before she closes our session for the day. Thank you.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Good morning, everyone. So the work plan is hoping to take a more strategic approach to the work being done for the underserved region working group, three pillars, knowledge, policy engagement, and relationship building and based on those three pillars we have come up with three strategic goals, number one being knowledge, aimed at knowledge and capacity of the working group strategic goal policy engagement, enable the working group to mainly participate and the third goal is relationship building, seeking to strengthen the working group's relationship with the GAC and ICANN community and other organizations.

Based on that we have identified a number of work topics, as well as expected outcomes. Julia, I don't know if it's possible if you can have the actual plan. And just to echo what Pua said, I would like to thank the members who have provided comments those will be incorporated and we will seek to have the members endorse the plan. Can we get it any… great. So if we look at strategic goal 1, increasing the knowledge base and capacity of the GAC underserved regions, -- and new members, we have a number of work topics and those include capacity building workshops, ICANN earn, ICANN boarding. I would like to maybe make a special mention of ICANN learn. We are looking at using the ICANN learn as a really strategic tool for capacity building. So it would not just looking at the capacity development workshops but using it as a tool to ensure that the underserved region working group members as well as new members can have access to information on general ICANN knowledge, the role of the GAC, global

and regional issues and challenges of the DNS industry in the underserved regions.

We can then go to the second strategic goal. Just before I get to that, we also are hoping that we can have a pilot newsletter and that will just ensure that we can have information at hand and have great engagement of our working group members while providing them with information they need on various development, within the policy development process or other issues of interest to the working group. With respect to strategic goal two, policy engagements aimed at enabling the working group to participate more meaningfully in ICANN development processes, we are hoping to have an ICANN policy process looking at the new gTLD subsequent for policy development process and the working group in that area and looking at auction proceeds in the cross community working group. The computation consumer trust and consumer choice review. As a newcomer, I have to admit I have to get used to all these acronyms, it's quite a mouthful.

LUISA PAEZ: For the record, this is Luisa Paez with the Canadian government. Key points in terms of key deliverables, could be important in terms of policy processes, in particular under the competition consumer trust and consumer choice, that's easy to review, this review examines the extent to which the extension of the generic top level domains, promoted competition, consumer trust and consumer choice and assessed the effectiveness of the new gTLD rounds of application and

evaluation process as well as safeguards and what is of interest to the working group.

If I recall, the working group about six months or a year ago submitted some comments in certain areas, for example the applicant support program so as we see we have highlighted -- so the recommendations, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 34, assuming the applicant support system, it would be important to zoom in in that recommendation as one of the recommendations of the CCT review is to look further to enhancing the applicant support system so from underserved regions perspective that's somewhere we could zoom in more as well they were looking at trying to define -- they are using the term global [indiscernible] but that's where the working group members can look into what is the best way of defining the underserved region and what type of terminology would be best used. So that's all, I just wanted to zoom in and hopefully we can have some members of the working group joining in terms of this policy processes and -- we will try with the ICANN learn to build on working group members' expertise, and as Shelley-Ann mentioned, requires complex issues and a lot of history but the idea is that with the ICANN learn platform we could be focused with the capacity building lens with of which to the [indiscernible] and also the [indiscernible] PDP again with the focus of the applicant support system, that's just one but I will leave it there. Thank you.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Thank you, Luisa. The third goal, relationship building and some of the topics there were the ICANN fellowship, seminars with ICANN

constituencies, connecting with community -- and increasing high level political commitment. So we would wish to have the endorsement of the work plan. And if there are any comments. So if there are any comments or amendments that members would wish to make, we can then take those on board and have the endorsement of this plan inter-sessionally between this meeting and Marrakesh.

The floor is open and if there are comments, we would welcome those. Thank you. I'm seeing a lot of interested faces and expressions but not seeing any hands raised. So therefore -- Julia, please.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you very much. Julia, for the record. I'm just thinking that we did receive comments and we have them on the -- as you can see on the screen right now and there were comments from Lance who is actually with us. Lance, would you like to -- comment [laughing] and there was a comment on the working group pilot newsletter and the description says create a newsletter for GAC underserved region members sharing relevant information to all, GAC [reading], and I see there's a comment suggesting maybe quarterly is more realistic. Do we agree for this comment, for example, or...?

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: If the working group members are in agreement with Lance's suggestion, I think we can accept that. So silence is agreement. Good. Before closing, I wanted to take the opportunity to encourage working group members to participate more actively in some of the policy

development processes. We do need to -- yes, not sure if I should take my glasses off. So there are a number of developments in which we do believe there needs to be a greater presence and more active participation by the underserved regions working group and those would be report the policy development processes. Looking at the new detailed program is one such area and we do think this is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our interest in the work being undertaken in the wider GAC and ICANN and be sure the interests of the underserved region working group are being pursued. Want to take this opportunity to encourage all members to be more active, to identify areas on which they have an interest and in which they think they can make a contribution and as we have pointed out, we will be using the ICANN learn and other capacity building efforts to ensure that we will come up to speed as quickly as possible.

Pua and I as co-chairs, we have been taking on quite a bit of the work and thankfully have had the assistance of Canada and the [indiscernible] support teams but we think we can have support as well from individual working group members. So we are making this call to have persons maybe volunteer to have persons volunteer, identify areas of interest and perhaps lead in those particular areas so that is a call to all underserved regions working group members to step up and assist. And we look forward to a response. Please.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, Shelley-Ann. Just to make a comment to what you were saying, I think that the participation of working group members in PDP

Working Groups is and for the underserved regions working group especially, would be very welcome and just to remind everyone that there is GAC support presence here to assist with any questions or requests. Not only me but my team and there is also the government engagement team who are happy to help as well for any questions you may have. So yes. Just wanted to follow up on another comment made to the work plan since we're here in Kobe and talking about the work plan, and that is a comment on the webinars and ICANN policy processes and since I'm with Lance right next to me and he made the comment, I will read the description in the question and he will develop on this if that's okay.

So the description of work topic number six on webinars and ICANN policy processes is develop interactive webinars that provide the necessary background and forms the underserved regions working group members with the ICANN PDP and CCWG's relevance and how they can participate, and the comments added this, all areas in terms of relevance should be explained. Would like to give the floor to Lance.

LANCE: Lance [indiscernible] for the record. The experience has been that ICANN doesn't [indiscernible] in the various communities, there's always additional work you have to do in terms of explaining what ICANN does. ITU an example, far more visual, computers, equipment, connectivity and thanks certainly in the underserved regions they relate to that a lot more, ICANN seems to be the esoteric nerd like

beast that people don't understand, so you have to see it and especially in the summits, it's to make the case how relevant understanding ICANN is and relevant development. As a clear connection between ICANN and how you evolve as smaller nation and that's how you can use it is something that you should probably indicate clearly, it's there but hidden so certainly in the webinars there must be a way to make the connection between the work of ICANN and the directly how it affects user Internet access and just [indistinct] in general. So I thought I would put that to see if there's a way to add relevance, ICANN -- made the connection in terms of help in the education you want to give. Julia.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: And just to make the connection with what you said with one of the work topics under strategic rule 3, increasing high level political commitment, need executives to understand the importance of ICANN and its role and what it does. So I think perhaps we can try to hit those two targets as well, so yes, on that thank you, Julia.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: One last thing and that is actually regarding strategic goal number 3 that you just talked about and one last comment made by Lance was about the description says raise the profile and exposure of the GAC and ICANN both internationally and regionally as a key organization

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that keeps the Internet secure, stable, and interoperable by high level GAC meetings as well outreach programs locally GAC reps and the question is common conjunction with GAC reps in these regions so can we confirm this.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Yes.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Okay.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: If no further comments or questions, we can close. Thanks for your attendance and participation, and have a good morning.

 [33:26]

JORGE CANCIO: Hello, good morning everyone. My name is Jorge Cancio, I'm the Swiss representative and Co-Chair, together with my colleague Suada from Bosnia of the Human Rights and International Law Working Group. We will get started in one minute. So, if you get seated or call your colleagues who are outside waiting eagerly for this session, in one minute we start.

Hello, good morning again, this is again Jorge Cancio, for the record from the Swiss government, Co-Chair together with Suada of the Human Rights and International Law Working Group. While I'm loading my Adobe Connect room, we have five extra minutes today, so I hope that we can give them good use. Welcome everybody to this session of the Human Rights and International Law Working Group. If you are just GAC members and you are not part of this working group, you are of course invited to stay here, and moreover, you are invited to join this working group. The more we are, the better it will be, the more things we can accomplish. So, please send me or Suada an email or get in touch with Julia or with Gulten, or with Benedetta from Staff, and they will direct you to what is needed to register to this working group with full compliance with all data protection regulations. Next slide, let's see if this works.

Okay, I say hello to Benedetta who is working from home. Due to personal reasons she couldn't make it, but she is supporting from the Staff Support this working group in a very able and effective fashion. She is now working at 1:30 AM from Italy, I think. So, thanks for that. We have our agenda on screen for today's session. So, I will go over it very quickly. We have first five minutes dedicated to the updated work plan which has already been finalized. Then we will go into more substantive discussion on the implementation of the ICANN Human Rights Core Values and the Framework of Interpretation, there we want to spend around a quarter of an hour. Then we have discussion on the possibility of organizing in forthcoming meeting a Cross Community Session or High Interest topic about this work, how the

community can implement the core values and human rights. After that, we have the privilege of having our colleague from ICANN Staff here, Ergys, who will inform us on how the work of ICANN Org is progressing as regarding the Human Rights Impacts Assessment. And finally we hopefully will have some short time for AOB and I know that there is already one idea on AOB to be brought forward. So, if there is no objection I will take this agenda as adopted. Okay, I see nodding, interest in going into the agenda.

So, let's go for the Work Plan, Point 1 of the Agenda. And I will turn over to Suada who will carry us through the updated work plan which has been adopted intercessionally after several rounds of consultation. Suada.

SUADA HADZOVIC: So, we can open discussion updated working group work plan. I just want to remind you that our working group sent an invitation for comments to GAC membership with the updated work plan for GAC review and a call for volunteers for areas within the work plan. No comments were received by the GAC in disfavor of adopting the updated work plan, so the work plan is thereby considered adopted. So if you look at work plan on slide, everything is the same like the version in Barcelona, except the last one, it is at Point 8, we have a new issue, it is Diversity issue and it's about primarily gender issue. So what was the reason that we put this new issue? At the High-Level Governmental Meeting at ICANN63 Barcelona, widespread concerns

were expressed by various ministers and government officials regarding inequality in geographic and gender diversity.

The Human Rights and International Law Working Group proposed to add diversity as a new issue to address within the scope of this working group and proposed adding it to their work plan. The Working Group hopes to collaborate with the Underserved Regions Working Group for the geographic inequality portion of this discussion. So, that was the reason that we have now Point 8, Diversity issue. Our first plan was to have today a short presentation about last gender survey report, but our agenda is full, so we are planning to have that presentation for next ICANN meeting in Marrakesh.

We would like to ask you again to look at our agenda, and if we have some volunteers for work plan to support our work, we would be very grateful to have new volunteers. So we invite you once more, is there somebody who would like to volunteer to support us in our work, so we have Point Task 2, Participation of Working Group Members in new gTLDs PDP. We have Task 3, Participation of Working Group Members in WHOIS related EPDP. So it's all about inform regularly the working group and propose some inputs to our working group on human rights international law aspect which could be brought before the GAC, if needed. We have Task 4, Task 5, so if there are any volunteers? Okay, you could send to us email later, if you change your mind. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: So, if there is any question for clarification on the items of the Work Plan, or if you already have made your mind up on participating, this is the moment to raise your hand, or either, as Suada said, just get in touch with us by email. The items on the Work Plan are really there as potential possibilities, but we will only be able to cover them if there are enough volunteers.

For the time being we have some coverage of Item 5, which is what we are focusing more, also today, on the ICANN Human Rights Core Value and its implementation. So, feel free and as Suada said, I think there is a very interesting addition to this work plan with the new item on Diversity, especially, also on gender issues. So, if there is nobody raising his or her hand, we will take this point as closed, and we will continue with the next point of our agenda.

So, the next point is the Implementation of ICANN Human Rights Core Values Discussion on the possible implementation of these core values. As you may recall and you will have seen in the briefing that has been circulated to all of you, the ICANN Human Rights Core Value was adopted in 2016 as part of the IANA Transition Process in Workstream 1, accountability improvement, so that core value is already on the bylaws. I will defer to your reading the text of the core value, because it has some intricacies, and it has some let's say limitations.

The most important condition for this core vale under the bylaws was that it is conditional upon the adoption of a framework of interpretation for becoming really effective. This framework of

interpretation was developed by the community and the CCWG Accountability Workstream 2 discussions, and now the framework of interpretation as part of those recommendations coming from Workstream 2 is before the Board after the different supporting organizations and advisory committees, including the GAC, had endorsed the Workstream 2 recommendations, at least in the case of the human rights recommendations by unanimous support. So, really, we are not yet there in the sense that the Board still has to take a decision on whether to adopt these recommendations, including the human rights one, and as soon as they take a decision, I guess there will be also an implementation plan on the side of the Board.

But it's useful to start preparing and discussing what could be the role of the GAC in the implementation of this core value. In the end, we have to be mindful that the GAC has a very special role in the community. We are the advisory body to advise, I don't know it by heart, but it's more or less on public policy issues and the intersection of ICANN activities with international law, and international law, of course, covers international human rights. So there is, I think, an obvious reason why we should take part in that implementation phase of the human rights core value. But, of course, the options to do so are very different.

You see on the screen the first slide on the questionnaire, we circulated as Co-Chairs to the GAC and to the working group. We have 11 responses. You see that most of the responses came actually from GAC members, people who mainly identify themselves as GAC members, and the minority from the working group members.

Perhaps this is again a reason for you to ask for registration this working group if you feel interest for its activities. Next slide, please.

In this questionnaire we had offered four very broad initial options. First option was to include a question during the Communiqué drafting in the sense does the issue we are considering, doe it have any human rights impact or relevance?

A second option was similar to the former one, but not related to the Communiqué, but to all kinds of communications from the GAC, be it lectures, be it advice intercessionally, be it inputs to other constituencies, because those are sessions in which we intervene in community matters.

A third option, and this is more or less taken from similar experiences in other forum, where for instance you may have gender issues of a rapporteur, the idea would be to have some person or small team of persons in the GAC to act as human rights rapporteur who would be leading the work of flagging issues that may have human rights implications whenever the GAC is discussing something.

And finally the fourth option is to provide that the GAC inserts itself into wider community actions directed to assess or to analyze human rights implications of policies or actions taken by the organization, by ICANN, be it on the policy side or be it more on operational sides.

So, those were basically the options which were not mutually exclusive, but can be complementary. Next slide, please.

To sum it up very quickly, it seems that the appetite for the first option to insert this in the Communiqué was more limited than for the other options, perhaps also out of reasonable fear to complicate the Communiqué drafting more than it is already. So, I have some understanding for that, of course.

On the other three options, there was more or less similar support from about 50% of the respondents of the 11 members who took the time to respond to this questionnaire. And then at the same time, we have comments, which you have here in full that caution or raise some concerns on whether the GAC really should be engaging into this and too much steps, because according to this view we don't have the necessary expertise to make determinations on whether there is a human rights impact, or not.

So you have these results on screen and this is not, of course, fully represented survey of the membership, but I see some traction on Option 4, because also those who had cautioned about the GAC role, the GAC expertise, mentioned that they were open to look into GAC's participation into community wide efforts in designing the implementation. So, we can see this on the next slide.

So, here there were some of these comment who tended, as I said, more in the direction of Option 4. And with this, I think I've covered the first part of this agenda point, which was to inform about the results of this small survey this small questionnaire. I think now it's the moment to have a short discussion, if you wish, on these options. Benedetta, if we can go back to the slide where the options are

mentioned, yeah, that's perfect. So, with this, I would like to open the floor. I don't know Suada or Ergys, or I see Collin is in the room, if you have any feedback or opinion on this, we have 7 minutes for this discussion.

COLLIN KURRE: Hi, good morning, Collin Kurre for the record. I just wanted to elaborate a little bit more on some of the mechanisms that are coming out of the community and the potential role for the GAC there. So, one thing that we as the cross-community working party on ICANN and Human Rights have been working on is develop a new impact assessment model for policy development processes. And this is something that we will showcasing in our session on Wednesday. We talked about it quite a bit in the subsequent procedures session yesterday. I'm going to put a link to it in the chat now, for those of you who are there. Hold on, just a sec, there we go.

So, if you're able to navigate to this assessment, what it is, is it's a spreadsheet. It's designed to try to identify pertinent issues in the ongoing PDPs. It spells out negative impact scenarios of the human rights, and then it's geared towards making recommendations. So what it's meant to do is make informed and robust public comments that can then influence the course of the policy development process. The role that I think that the GAC could play here is in column I, it's highlighted. It says Applicable Human Rights Law, because you will remember that the human rights bylaw is that ICANN should respect internationally recognized human rights as required by law.

So I think that the GAC in its expertise of its own national legal frameworks would potentially be able to identify either binding agreements or treaties or things that might applicable to the individual scenarios that are identified in this assessment. So, as I said, we will be discussing this more on Wednesday and the specific results that we've gotten so far from the subsequent procedures, PDP, that's work tracks one through four for clarification. And then they said yesterday that there might be a second public comment period on this PDP. So this would be a really great time to try to get involved. And then I'll just give a little hat tip the Council of Europe, they've been incredibly helpful with their public comments and helping us to identify human rights impacts. Thanks.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you very much, Collin. This very helpful. I've posted the link of the Google docs on the general chat, so everyone can have the look at this, but we will follow up intercessionally with more information about these efforts from the CCWP. I see Ashley from the US.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN: Thank you, yes, Ashley from the United States of America. I just have a question with respect to Option 4 in terms of could you provide a little bit more detail with respect to what is intended by participation of the GAC and implementation assessments? It would just be good to understand what is the intention here in terms of our participation and what you kind of foresee that being before we proceed down that path as a potential option. Thanks.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you for that question. If there is any other related questions, so I could take them together? I don't see none. Well, as I said before and as we informed when circulating this questionnaire, these are kind of very broad initial options so there is no flesh on the bones yet, on how this would work out. In fact, I am more or less following as closely as possible what the CCWP is doing and they are looking into how to sum it up, and please forgive me, how to insert into the PDP process moment where you can make an analysis of what are the human rights impacts of those policies that are in the making.

So, in that phase for possible potential future phase, the idea would be that that assessment is not only made by other parts of the community, but that the GAC also takes part in that. But it's at this stage. And really if we want to take a deeper look into this, this would need to be worked out in the coming months, so we are not taking any decision today.

I think this is a first discussion and then with the volunteers we are having on Item 5 of the work plan, and of course if you have the time, EPDP allows for that, you can of course join that effort. And ideally we would be presenting an options paper in Marrakesh. So that would be more or less the plan from the Co-Chair side. So, I wonder if there are any other comments? If I answered your question, Ashley?

ASHLEY HEINEMAN: Yes, thank you very much, you have answered my question and if I understand correctly, we're still kind of in exploratory phase and this doesn't commit us to take any action at least substantively and that's the part I'm potentially concerned about. So, thank you, I think I understand. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: That's right, okay, thank you, thank you so much. So as our agenda is tight and we have already consumed the five extra minutes we had before, we would now go to Point 3 of our agenda. So, it's this slide Benedetta is showing us. This is about, as I said before, the possibility of organizing cross-community session or high interest topic session in a forthcoming meeting, where as a community, so together with GNSO, ccNSO, we could discuss who do we see the implementation of the human rights core value?

This comes a little bit from discussions we had at the governance forum in Paris where there was a session organized by CCWP colleagues on what is happening in ICANN on the Human Rights Core Value and its future implementation. And we did find this idea very interesting, that instead of doing our approach in each of the RALOs we could think about such a session in one of the forthcoming meetings. Being aware of where the Board stands, as I said before, they have not taken a decision yet on Workstream 2 recommendations, probably it would make sense to envisage such a session for the Montreal meeting for this year.

So I at least think this is a good idea. I think Suada also agrees. If you have any opinions on whether we should pursue this idea together with especially our CCWP colleagues, or whether we shouldn't, or what we should consider, please share your thoughts now. And also, I don't know, Collin, if you are interested in taking the floor for a minute, that would be great, if your thinking has evolved on this. So, seeing no working group member raising, I would invite Collin.

COLLIN KURRE: Great, thanks. And actually to kind of respond to what Ashley was saying earlier, as I posted in the chat, the work that we're doing now, because the human rights core value will only be adopted when the whole package of Workstream 2 recommendations is adopted by the Board, it looks like that's not going to happen swiftly, because there is still quite a lot of work that they need to do to do feasibility studies and things like that.

So the work that we're doing within the community right now is really just to test out new ideas and to trial things so that when the bylaw approved we will be able to say these are things that we've tested out, these are things that have a proof of concept to be able to deploy for implementation.

So, with that in mind, I think that it could be good to continue working on the various models that we've put forth over the course of the year and then maybe organize some sort of cross-community session for the Montreal meeting at the end of the year. By then, hopefully we will have been able to get active stakeholder involvement from the GAC

and other parts of the community and we'll be able to say these are things that worked and these are things that didn't. Thanks.

JORGE CANCIO: Okay, that's a very useful comment. So, if there is no objection, the course of action will be that as Co-Chairs, we will continue liaisoning with Collin and looking into what are all the process timelines needed to consider the file in the proposal of such a session in time in principle for the Montreal meeting. So, with this, I think that we can, on time, switch to the fourth point of our agenda, and I will hand over to Suada, who will introduce the Vice President, who is responsible for the human rights impact assessment work of ICANN Org, Ergys Ramaj. Thank you so much for being here.

SUADA HADZOVIC: I would like to invite Ergys Ramaj to present to us his presentation about human rights impact assessment.

ERGYS RAMAJ: Thank you, good morning. That's two people that pronounced my last name correctly, that's a first. First of all, thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's discussion. I would like to start with a bit of context, and if we can go to the next slide, please.

About 2-1/2 years ago, so around the June 2016 timeframe that Jorge was mentioning earlier, within the ICANN the organization, we began to have some initial conversations about the possibility of carrying out

an internal human rights impact assessment. And this assessment would specifically look at ICANN the organization's daily business operations. In parallel to this, the community was involved in human rights related work, and more specifically again as Jorge covered earlier, the framework of interpretation.

One of the things that I would like to make very clear from the beginning is that these two processes, the process that the organization has been involved in through this human rights assessment, and the work that the community is doing, are completely separate and independent of one another. So, fast forward, at the time we had agreed internally that this was a good thing to do, this is the right thing to do from an organizational perspective. This is not just a risk mitigation exercise, but it's also an opportunity for us to improve the way in which we do business. Subsequent to that decision, we had gone out with a request for proposals and had identified a third party to carry out this assessment on behalf of the organization and oversee the entire process from beginning to end.

A bit of information on the approach of the human rights impact assessment, and I believe that this holds true for most human rights impact assessments, the first step was to identify and prioritize the human rights impacts that ICANN org may have on its staff, so individuals like myself. Since we are considered the primary rights holders for the purposes of this exercise, and by extension, first parties and vendors with whom we do business.

The second component to this was to take a closer look at the mechanisms that are currently in place, to mitigate for some of these risks. So, what are the policies and procedures that are in place, and then based on that, identify if any gaps exist.

And last, but not least, is of course to come up with a set of recommendations and next steps. So now we know what we know, what do we do now? Next slide, please.

What I thought would be interesting to you in this audience is to go a little bit over the definition of human rights that was used in the context of this exercise, and there are just a couple of elements that I would like to go over. The first one is that human rights are universal legal guarantees and the second one is that human rights are equal and non-discriminatory, and of course it goes without saying that they are inherent to all human beings. Next slide, please.

As far as the instruments, what were the conventions that the assessment was based on? And this list that you see here is not exhaustive, but just a couple of quick examples. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are a couple of the examples. Again, this list is not exhaustive, it's just meant for you to quickly glance at it and get an understanding of the various types of conventions and laws that were used for this assessment. Next slide, please.

As far as the scope, and this is one of the areas where with the third party we spent a little bit of time on, because what we wanted to

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make sure is that the scope is substantive enough so that the findings therefore would also be substantive. And we agreed on the following four areas: Human Resources, Procurement, Meetings, and Security Operations. Next slide, please.

So, the third part that I mentioned earlier is Markus Löning - Human Rights & Responsible Business. They are based in Berlin, Germany. Markus himself served as Germany's former Commissioner for Human Rights, so he brings to the table a lot of experience and expertise, and so does his team, and I can say on the record that they have done a tremendous job to date and we've had a great collaboration.

In terms of the inputs that went into this process, they looked at thousands of pages of the various policies and procedures that ICANN Org has across the four functional areas, so that was step #1, Research. The second component was face to face interviews as well as side visits, including Los Angeles, Singapore, and Istanbul. The third component was an org-wide survey that was answered by 183 individuals within ICANN Org, so that's about half of staff in terms of statistical significance to give you just an idea. Next slide, please.

Again, this slide here is meant just to give you an example of some of the topics that were assessed, I will not go through every single one of them in the interest of time. On the right hand side column what you see are the questions and most of these go back to point #2 that I had mentioned earlier, which is what are the mechanisms that you guys current have in place? And then we ask questions or they ask questions in the four functional areas including Equal and Fair

Treatment, Harassment, in the case of Procurement, what are the expectations that ICANN Org has from vendors?

In the case of meetings, what are the accessibility features? For example, when ICANN Org goes to a meeting here in Kobe, what are the measures that ICANN Org takes to ensure that the accessibility features are in place or that we are covering everything that we need to be doing as an organization to ensure that we are compliant. And last but not least, in terms of physical security of ICANN Staff, as well as the protocols in place for events. Next slide, please.

So, in terms of the findings, we have received a draft report as of last week, and the findings at a high level are good, as far as the scope and the breadth of the policies and procedures that are currently in place cover some of these potential or mitigate against some of these potential risks. However, there are areas of opportunity, and there are two key areas I would like to highlight for you today. The first one is in formalizing some of the good practices that we have into policies, and the second one is, of course, raising awareness and increasing training opportunities across all four functional areas. Next slide, please.

Where we are now, in the next few weeks the report will be published, at which point the community will have an opportunity, of course, to provide feedback, but not through, at least the plan currently is not to form public comment, but if there are any questions specifically I am happy to address. I think I breezed through these in the interest of time, and I hope I wasn't going too fast, but I would like to have an

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opportunity with anyone that would have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Do you have any questions? Okay, in that case we can go.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you. I think we need to take this opportunity to make some questions. I think that the report will be published shortly, so more than a question, it's a comment, I think that we will be looking intercessionally also at that report, it was circulated here in this working group, also to the GAC, I think it's interesting to the whole community and if there is appetite for any feedback whatever it is, we will let you know. In any case, if there are no questions, no comments from the audience, I would like to thank you very much for being here. It has been very informative. I think we appreciate it very much. Thank you so much.

ERGYS RAMAJ: Thank you very much. Thank you for having me.

JORGE CANCIO: Okay, so then, very timely, we switch to the last point of the agenda. Any other business. Is there any other business in the room? I know about one proposal next to me. Suada, go ahead.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you. We have a related work plan of our working group, new item is Diversity. One of the elements of Diversity is disability. So as a working group member, I would like to give one proposal. That proposal may be in a position to request the GAC leadership to request ICANN Staff to implement accessibility standards in all our projects, especially in communiqué document which is the most important document which we deliver.

So what I would like to explain what is my point. If I can remind that accessibility is identified in Article 3F of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as one of its eight General principles and accessibility including access to ICT is established therein as a condition that will enable persons with disabilities to exercise their fundamental freedoms and human rights. So it's about designing for accessibility which means that the content of online forms, images, graphics, tablets, photos can be accessed with assistive computer technology.

For example, for people who are blind, that can use software that reads the pages and documents out loud. So we have many PDF checker tools on internet and if I applied one of them without this or any other tool developed for checking accessibility. It's about a tool which is in European internet inclusion initiative and if we put our GAC communiqué for example the last ICANN62, we can find nine barriers and with ICANN63 communiqué we can find four barriers.

So, of course we can ask ICANN technical support to fix this, but we can just have our documents involved which is the most preferable

option for persons with disabilities. It is very easy to implement accessibility technology to convert Word documents in reading document. So, that is my proposal.

JORGE CANCIO: Okay, thank you very much, Suada. So, to sum up very quickly, if I understood it correctly, the idea is really to reach out to GAC leadership and to our support staff and to see how we make sure that any materials we produce, especially the communiqué, abide by accessibility standards. So, I guess although this is under AOB, no formal decision has to be taken, we can do this in our own capacity as Co-Chairs of this working group.

Any comment on that? Any other business? Otherwise, we will give you back two minutes for your coffee break, so you can line up before the rest. Okay, thank you so much for being here, and I wish you a very fruitful morning. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]