
MARRAKECH – GAC: Working Groups Plenary Meetings (HRILWG and USRWG)

Monday, June 24, 2019 - 13:30 to 15:00 WET

ICANN65 | Marrakech, Morocco

JORGE CANCIO:

Hello, everyone, dear colleagues. You may have heard this morning, now you see me here on the podium. My name is Jorge Cancio, I'm the representative from Switzerland in the GAC, and I happen to be the co-chair of the working group on human rights and international law. This is the session which will be starting right now so those who are interested, please be seated and please also engage actively with the session.

The first thing -- next slide, please -- would be to go over the agenda we have today. First, we will be continuing our discussion on what has been on our agenda and has been the focus of our attention during the last meetings which is the possible implementation options of the new ICANN human rights core value which was included in the bylaws in 2016. And there we will talk about two things, on one side we will inform about the progress we've made in the so-called options paper on this issue, an options paper where we discuss what GAC can do in this future implementation of the core value. And the second thing will be also a point of information on the possible organization of a cross community session or high interest topic session on human rights

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to discuss precisely the implementation of the core value in ICANN 66 or even later on.

Then as a second point of the agenda we have a briefing by ICANN org. I think it will be my colleague from ICANN staff Benedetta who will be presenting some slides on the human rights impact assessment that ICANN org has published very recently. Then we have a third point, where Suada, my fellow co-chair from Bosnia and Herzegovina but who is participating remotely, will present some information on gender diversity on one side and on the other side on accessibility for persons with disabilities especially of information produced by ICANN and by the GAC.

And finally we will try to devote some minutes to any other business. So if there are no comments in the room, I would understand that this agenda has been accepted. I see nodding from our chair so that must mean something. So we would go to the first point, and I think next slide then. Okay. So on the options paper you will perhaps recall the background of this work we have initiated here in the human rights and international law working group. We had made a questionnaire before the Kobe meeting where we had laid out very broadly four options on how the GAC could have a role in implementing the human rights core value of the bylaws. And we received some feedback from our working group members and also from GAC members. And on that basis in Kobe we had an additional discussion. We collected

the feedback from the working group and with that we prepared a draft options paper which was circulated to the GAC and to the working group in May and asked for feedback from all of you.

So we received a couple of responses and basically, they supported the direction we were taking in the options paper. And I think if we go to the next slide, okay, the responses go in the direction that we investigate further or work further on the options 2, 3, and 4. I don't know if we have a slide where the options are explained. That's easier to understand. Otherwise you don't know perhaps what the options are about.

The first option which didn't find a lot of support and in principle we won't pursue anymore for the time being is that we would have a standing item in the communique. When there is advice let's say on the EPDP, we would have a question there that we would need to respond to the advice or direction of the advice whether that item has human rights impact and/or relevance. But most of the colleagues seem to think that this is too burdensome a thing to do in the communique drafting which is already quite a complex task so in principle we are not pursuing this.

Option 2, let's say it's related to the previous one but it's not tied to the pressure we have, the time pressure we have when we are discussing the communique, and this is whenever we for instance

draft a letter or a communication from the GAC to the board or also to other constituencies that we reflect whether the topic we are discussing has a human rights impact or not. So for instance if we were to instead of writing communique we were writing a letter to the board on some issue related to GDPR and WHOIS implementation, we would have kind of a marker there reminding us that we should look into the human rights impacts of what we are discussing there. This option has not been discarded, it has found support from working group members and from GAC members so in principle it's still a possibility to consider in this options paper. And the same goes to option 3, which is something that in a similar sense of similar topics is sometimes made in other international organizations, for instance you have a gender [indiscernible] in the council of Europe and that tries to analyze whether the proceedings of the working group or the expert group at issue and also the results have any gender impact or what the gender impact is. And in this case the idea would be to have kind of a human rights rapporteur within the GAC that would flag issues that have human rights impact. And this doesn't need to be one single person, it could be a number of people. So this is to be discussed. And which for the time being it also found some support. So it's not being discarded.

And finally option 4 is really the option that found more support from GAC members from working group members which is in the

end this human rights core value will have to be implemented in a different community effort, and the most important community several times when we are developing policy. Especially in the GNSO but also the cc [indiscernible] and there is work, especially through the [indiscernible] and corporate social responsibility which is looking into how this human rights core value could be considered when a PDP policy development process within the GNSO is being taken forward. And then this option, this means that we ask the GAC would participate in such an exercise has been the one which has been supported by more members of this group and from the GAC.

So I will stop there for a moment in case you have any clarification questions and also to take some breaths. This is a hard timing after lunch, I guess everybody is a bit sleepy after having had his or her lunch. I see Ashley has waken up.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

Ashley with the US. Yeah, and I apologize I missed the first part, because it's hard to eat quickly in Marrakech. But with respect to the options, I wanted to note that where we are in terms of has this been decided from your perspective or a decision based on input you had received? It's not always clear from the United States when we provide input what exactly we're asking for, but we actually had concerns with all four options, and it's not that

we don't think human rights is important, in fact we think it is, but it's whether or not we as GAC representatives have the right expertise to undertake such an effort. Also are we as a group aligned enough to be in a position to do any kind of consideration of these issues?

So I think the closest to what we're comfortable with is option 4 but from our perspective it's not clear that it should be a specific formal GAC involvement in a PDP. I think this requires more discussion and conversation. I think what we feel the most comfortable with is definitely having governments who may or may not be reflected here in the GAC be involved in the PDP's but not necessarily as a formal GAC representation. So that being said, I'm happy to continue having this conversation but just wanted to make the views of at least the United States a little bit more clear with respect to how we see the four options. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you so much, US. Any other comments on this at a general level? No? Well, just to answer quickly to Ashley, this is absolutely a work in progress and actually as co-chairs of this working group, we are in your hands so it's up to you to engage into the process to make comments to the options paper. This is not closed, we will keep on discussing and let's see what we decide now at the

end of this point, but I see what makes more sense is to continue to fit in what is discussed today into the options paper, recirculate it because I didn't mention it in the -- in my introductory remarks also because we have a tight agenda but the board has not decided yet on the framework of interpretation, and only when they decide on the framework of interpretation, the core value really kicks in and enters into the force, so we have some leeway, some wiggle room still and we don't have to rush to any conclusions. So be assured that this is just a work in progress.

So I don't know if we should go back to the former slides one second just to refresh my mind. I think this has been covered already and so perhaps we can jump forward. Okay. This is the next point. But let's finish on the options. In the beginning of this session there was a link to the options paper. It was circulated as I said before, in May. It's really up to you, to the GAC to decide for this working group to decide what direction you want to go. We asked co-chairs to channel this effort but we are not going to prescribe anything. And as I said, there is some preference for exploring further the option 4 which in the end means that we engage be it as the GAC, the working group or as individual GAC members into the efforts or procedural efforts for having that human rights impact assessment whenever policy is being developed. Because in the end the core value will be there. It's a commitment subject to a number of limitations but it is a

commitment by ICANN to abide by international human rights standards, and the GAC also according to the bylaws in our operating principles, we have a role in advising the board and also helping the community in seeing the interaction between ICANN policies and international law and international policy or public policy in general. So I see there a role but as I said, we need to flesh this out together. I think I saw [indiscernible] from Finland?

FINLAND: Of course I have colleagues in our ministry that are experts in the human rights issues, and I can certainly pass their views, their recommendations to the process, if that's helpful.

JORGE CANCIO: That's very helpful and please do so. We will do the same thing also from our side. And we did it in the past for instance when we had the discussions on the framework of interpretation of course as Ashley said maybe we are not prime experts in human rights, but we are here the representatives of our governments and we are supposed to coordinate, generate and find their feedback. But I saw that Manal our chair wanted to take the floor?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Jorge, and just a question regarding options 1 and 2 and why you see them different or handling them differently. I understand the reason that the communique drafting is already a complex process, but I mean even the letters in the communications, most of the times they are done inter-sessionally, sometimes in a very tight time frame. How effective would be this process? And again it depends on who would be our reference in this and whether he would be really engaged in every communication that has been issued by the chair.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you very much, Manal. And I think these are the questions we have to discuss and to take on board. So because in the end the preference or the distinction comes from the feedback of this working group and from the GAC which made a distinction between options 1 and 2, they are very similar. The one thing is specifically the communique; the other thing is all other formal communications. And I see your point. So this is something we need to discuss further.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah, and for sure it's for whoever provided the input of course, but I'm wondering if we see this as burdensome, I see the other one as even more -- unless there's another reason -- I see the second one -- puts more burden on the process, because the

communique is done once here but the communications are ongoing throughout the year. But I leave it at this. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, point well taken. And I have our colleague from Indonesia and then we will have to wrap up this point.

INDONESIA: Thank you. I think here when we discuss about this, as we have the working group on human rights in the ICANN, that's one thing that should be taken care is the fact that human rights in cyberspace might be rather different than human rights we also know in physical space. For example in Indonesia we got passed a law about the right to be forgotten, for example, because if you do something wrong -- if you are doing something that the police thinks are wrong, and you are investigated, your name will be in the news everywhere. And the next day the court decides it's nothing wrong with you, you had nothing to do with it, but after a few years your name is still there. So those are things we have to identify and sometimes it is not easy to identify those rights to be forgotten, the right under what is called personal data protection, who is looked up and so many things and I think we have to be able to identify those things and I'm not sure if there's already a status on the cyberspace human rights type, perhaps our friends here in the GAC or ICANN can inform it to me and I personally will

be very interested to get it because it's related to the Indonesia regulations in that field.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you so much for the substantive comments. Very last comment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you for the mic. We came in with a replay rather late in process and sorry for that but from our point of view, we do not have the expertise in this group and frankly we are not favoring to set up more structures. Sometimes human rights of course, it's very important but I haven't yet seen the problem which we are going to solve. Have we any past experience where new structures would have helped us? I'm not aware of that. So I will favor that we look into the option 4 and see what could be in that option from our point of view we think it's important that GAC members are involved in the cross community working group, and those who have expertise in human rights, I will guess that they will have their concerns or agreements with certain things. So we would not like to see more jobs created or structures being created. I think we have plenty of things on our agenda already. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you, so I take it you don't want to be [indiscernible] human rights. Thank you. Then I will conclude this point with what I said before, we will continue with the options paper. We will fit in the discussions we had today and we will circulate it to all of you inter-sessionally and see how we go further and hopefully we can put more flesh on the bones.

The other points -- and if we can go to the respective slide -- was this idea of cross community session or high impact session on human rights to discuss precisely this idea of option 4 where the, CCWG is working it but unfortunately if there's [indiscernible] stand up but yeah, could you give short feedback on whether you have had any news in this organization of cross community session with Montreal, because we tried to get in contact with Colin but didn't get any feedback. If you could come to the microphone. Sorry for putting you on the spot but you stood up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Hi, everyone, [indiscernible] when I spoke to Collin last we had gotten sort of a formal interest in having a session, [indiscernible] but from what I spoke ten days ago, the plan is to have a session in November, I don't know the exact people she had spoken with about this but it seemed like more of a possibility than not.

JORGE CANCIO: That's great. Thank you so much for coming forward. So now we have this information and I have Manal requesting the floor.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, just very quickly, as you may know, we normally kick off the discussion for planning for the following meeting at the very last day of this meeting. We're supposed to meet in the planning committee on Thursday and the first thing they ask about is any ideas for cross community sessions because this is the first thing they nail down in the schedule because this needs coordination, and then each and every SO/AC works out their schedule around those sessions. So it's good to know there's interest in having this session, if you can please confirm this I would share this interest during the meeting. And if we have just one sentence or two sentences, just the idea behind the session so that I can pursue this further.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, that's very useful. And to liaise and get back to you. And I take there is no objection. I don't see anyone objecting. And in the interest of time we would need to go over to the next point. The presentation that Benedetta is going to make the work that ICANN org has made precisely and human rights impact assessment which is kind of already taking up something that's

not in force but where ICANN org has already taken already steps.
So Benedetta, if you can introduce that study.

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Of course, thank you very much, I'm GAC support staff to the HRIL working group and I'm presenting the human rights impact assessment portion of this presentation on behalf of the ICANN org's public responsibility support team since unfortunately they weren't able to join us face-to-face. So for this portion if you have any questions we will be able to collect any questions and submit them to the prs team responsible for this project and then we can share any written responses with the GAC once we receive them from the team.

So just bay way of background, the ICANN organization is committed to respecting human rights within ICANN's mission and for this ICANN org contracted learning human rights and responsibility business to carry out an internal rights impact assessment or HRIA which examines the human rights impacts of ICANN org's business operations, identifies and prioritizes impacts, provides analysis of how managed and includes recommendations for improvement. The recommendations prioritized based on the severity of impact and ICANN's leverage to make changes and each recommendation accompanied by actionable remedies. Scope does not include analysis of the

[indiscernible] work stream 2 frame of interpretation or the global community's policy development process.

The learning team based their analysis on well-respected human rights instruments which include but not limited to those listed on the slide such as the human nation's guiding principles on business and human rights. And the scope of the HRIA is limited to processes and procedures related to human resources, procurement, event planning and the security operations. In terms of examples of recommendations, you can see some examples on the slides for the kinds of recommendations provided in the report. So a general recommendation to develop and publish is human rights statement, recommendation to raise awareness surrounding mental health and avenues to seek support for health concerns, procurement recommendations to develop a vendor code of conduct, to utilize existing human rights impact reporting, develop mitigation plans for any potential –

In terms of what is next, broadly the outcomes of this analysis are positive highlighting ICANN's good business practices across all four functional areas, most geared towards formalizing practices into policies and increasing training and awareness efforts. You may access and download the full report on the ICANN website, and ICANN org already working on needed improvements, some of which are already completed and the operations department will manage the implementation of the HRIA.

So this concludes the HRIA presentation. If you have any questions, feel free to raise them so we can collect them and submit it to the team for written answers, and I will turn it back over to you Jorge, to moderate this.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you so much, Benedetta. This report was circulated to the working group some weeks ago, at least as soon as it was published so you will find it there, if you want to have more information or you don't find it, please don't be shy, contact me or Benedetta herself and we will get you in touch also with the team in ICANN org who has been working on this. And in the interest of time, if you have any questions please send them by email so we will get back to you on that. Because we have Suada, I think she's in Italy right now and she has some slides to present you on diversity. So I hope she's ready to go, and I would pass the virtual floor to her. Do you hear us?

SUADA HADZOVIC:

Yes, I can hear you. Good afternoon. My name is Suada Hadzovic. I'm representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. And this presentation is designed to give you the information about the state of diversity, this is one of our paths from ICANN64. The presentation divided into two parts, the first is about the gender diversity, while the second part is [indiscernible] for persons with

disabilities. [refer to screen] so with this presentation about gender diversity, we will present two of seven key elements according to the recommendations of the cross community working group [indiscernible] work stream 2, they recommend seven key elements. So on this slide you can see, we can start with the overview of ICANN attendee profile by gender. We use data, the technical data reports and obviously the male participants are significantly [indiscernible].

Recently ICANN organization conducted a vendor diversity and participation survey from the 9th of June until 8th July, 2017 to gain insights of gender diversity, to identify potential barriers of participation [refer to screen] so from this slide we need to have in mind -- the next steps on the issue of gender diversity are to be determined by the community. So it's up to us to determine the next steps if we need them. You can see the recommendation from the survey. We have diversity data and after that we have to consider approaches how to report perceived [reading] [refer to screen] [indiscernible].

So this slide leads to us the second part of the presentation to accessibility with persons with disabilities. When we talk about a person with disabilities, then we talk about one billion people or 15 percent of the world's population. And when we talk about accessibility, we talk about the implementation of the UN convention of rights for persons with disabilities. So it is our duty,

we need to ensure that the [indiscernible] and all GAC materials, and the communique [refer to screen]. [reading]. We put efforts of cross community but unfortunately don't have time to present the work. And we have this initiative, it's about ICANN informing [indiscernible] and we have some GAC final report for [indiscernible] and recommendation in that report that any new website must comply with accessibility guidelines [indiscernible] and of course we have the new GAC website as the new ICANN org resulted in new platform [indiscernible] and we can find this sentence two on the Web page that this milestone means that the new GAC website officially launched, there is work still to do because we can see one example on the next slide. Well, we tried to implement one of the tools for evaluation of accessibility. So we have this link with more than 100 tools available on the Internet and when we applied this test we found that our ICANN communique was 64 had some barriers. We need to have in mind that this is just one example, maybe this is not the right one because the real evaluation could be done only by person with disabilities. Thank you. That brings me to the end of this presentation, and thank you for listening and for your attention.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you so much, Suada. Are there any questions or comments to the presentation? We have one minute left. Indonesia?

INDONESIA: In the look at the report, most is related to the human rights of the ICANN events whether the ICANN staff is secured or not, whether they have maternity leave or things like that. What I would like to know is this study, the one I mentioned previously, if the human rights of people in physical space [indiscernible] now within cyberspace it has not been, as far as I am aware, it has not taken care comprehensively, so wondering if this assessment will expands it into the human rights into the cyberspace as part of the studies of the UN human rights or perhaps they can work together. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: We will take note of that question and pass it onto the colleagues of ICANN org. And we have Manal for a comment, question?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Very short intervention. I got to know that starting the meeting in that Montreal there will be a pilot for childcare at ICANN meeting. So this may help more maybe mothers who are not able to leave their -- or fathers, of course. But I was trying to address -- maybe address the gender balance, but in all cases, it's a good thing so I thought to bring it town everyone's attention. It's already on the

ICANN's website, and I would encourage everyone to have a look.
Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: That's good news. And if we want to stay on time, I think that we have to close now unless there is any other business from any of you? I don't see, so thank you very much for being here at this time and for having engaged activity. Please do so also inter-sessionally, as I said, as co-chairs we are in your hands and the content of this working group and the progress and also in the issues mentioned by Suada on accessibility, diversity, it's up to you for us to make it happen. So thank you very much and this part of the session is closed.

[applause].

NEXT SESSION

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Jorge, Manal speaking here. I think we have next the Underserved Regions working group, so please remain seated.

PUA HUNTER:

Good afternoon everyone thank you for staying for the Underserved Regions working group session. I am Pua hunter the co-chair of the working group. Here with me is our GAC colleague from Canada Ms. Luisa Paez. She has been involved and have been supporting the work of the working group and I am grateful. Also with us is our GAC support staff Julia Charvolen. She's the one that keeps us on our toes, and again I'm grateful for her ongoing support. We have 4 main agenda items for this afternoon. The first one is the GAC Underserved Regions working group capacity willing workshop that was held recently. The proposed topic for discussion with the ICANN Board, and the joint GAC ALAC capacity building initiative. Second is the working group's Work Plan. Third is GAC's travel support rules, and the last is the thank you the last is the group and subsequent procedures for new gTLDs.

Next slide, please. Okay yes. Yesterday afternoon the working group conducted a capacity building workshop that was aimed at GAC members from the African region although it was open to other GAC members, and also non GAC members.

We had 23 African GAC participants, and we were fortunate to have the support of the Moroccan government and also the Moroccan national telecommunications regulatory authority. ANRT, and I want to extend our sincere appreciation to Redouane for again hosting the workshop and closing reception. Thank you.

The topics covered during the capacity building session were based on the pre workshop survey that was shared with the GAC, and those are the topics that's on the screen right now. Understanding the ICANN policy development process, security and resiliency of the DNS. CcTLDs and also best practices and key challenges that our GAC members from the African region face.

We had expert panel and moderators both from within the GAC and from within ICANN and for me personally I found the workshop was interactive to the point where our moderators were shortening the time slots to both our panelists and also shortening the questions from our participants. However, the participants were assured of contact with the panelists and the availability after the workshop. What we want to see from the workshop is more GAC members from the African reasonable joining the working groups and actively participating in the work of the GAC, and I'm optimistic.

For your information the presentations are also available on the GAC site. I will pause there if there's any comments or questions from the floor? None. Next slide, please. Okay yesterday, or I think the day before Robert Hoggarth shared with us the latest proposed topics to be presented to the ICANN Board for our discussion on Wednesday at 11 o'clock, and as you know, the working group proposed the topic of GAC capacity building sustainability efforts. I mentioned during a call with the working

group that the rationale behind this proposal was referencing the endorsement of the Board at the outset to start a GAC capacity building program which began in January of 2017.

There was a pilot initiative that proved popular and the demand for more capacity building workshops was highlighted in the GAC capacity evaluation report. And I feel that with the Board's involvement since the start of this initiative, it is important, and critical that they give consideration towards making capacity billing for the GAC a sustainable effort, also because we know that within the GAC there's a high turnover of GAC members in ICANN, and I also feel that the working group or the GAC support team or the government engagement team should not be committing efforts on sourcing resources or sourcing funds to continue in initiative, and as you know we applied for an additional budget request for financial year 2020 for this effort, and although our application was successful, I do not think it is a sustainable method.

I think the working group under this proposal or this topic is seeing a sure answer of a sustainable resource allocation from ICANN or from ICANN barred for capacity building. You also know we had a discussion in Kobe where we committed to having a joint capacity billing program with ALAC. To date we've had our first call after the Kobe meeting and our first face to face meeting this morning, and basically, we exchanged what we are currently

doing in relation to capacity building and we will be continuing this discussion to formalize future capacity building under a joint arrangement. And you would have seen an e mail I sent about an hour ago about ALAC's capacity building sessions here in Marrakech. I will pause here in any one has any questions, comments or reactions? Thank you, Luisa.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you. This is Luisa Paez with the Canadian government. So I am chatting with Pua and other colleagues I think highlighting the importance of the sustainability effort for GAC capacity building is quite important. It would also help us to use more efficiently, to allocate the funds that are allocated to be able to use them more efficiently, and as well to ensure that all regions get to have get to host a workshop and it was the first one I personally participated yesterday, it was quite, enriching as Pua mentioned. Quite interactive and I think there is a demand for these types of activities and this way we will continue to strengthen the GAC as well as the legitimacy of this committee. So I think this is really important, and with Pua we wanted to raise this with the ICANN Board, and obviously thank them for the support we have received.

But as Pua mentioned there's no sustainable methodology that is currently in place to continue the effort and as well to ensure we

are using the fund efficiently. So I just wanted to echo Pua's comments and to make sure everybody is aware, and thank us while Julia from the GAC support staff as well as... have been crucial in organizing I mean every time a workshop is put up there's a lot, a lot of behind the scene work that goes on. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER:

Thank you, Luisa. Next slide, please. Okay our Work Plan. We have we have 3 pillars as you can see. Number 1 knowledge base and capacity, and this strategic goal focuses on increasing the knowledge and understanding of the working group members and new members as well. Number 2 is policy engagement and participation, and this focuses on enabling that the Underserved Regions Working Group meaningfully participates in ICANN policy processes, and number 3 is relationship building, and this focuses on strengthening the Working Group's relationship with the GAC and the rest of the ICANN community and other organizations. We shared the drafting detail during our meeting in Kobe, and we continued to make amendments to the Work Plan between then and now. At the beginning of this month, we had a working group call to reveal the final draft, and we will share this with the GAC for further review and for endorsement after this meeting. Any questions or comments? Next slide, please. please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. We are talking about the Underserved Regions activities in this cyber space. Perhaps you see I received one of Julia e mail that there will be some capacity building or something like that? Or if I'm not mistaken, I might be wrong.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: That is for European GAC members.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, European something like that. Pua, my point is if European countries still need capacity building can you imagine the others as well Indonesia for example. No I'm not saying about the person, I'm talking about the technology or knowledge and the country, so in this from this point of view, I think this what you call it Underserved Regions whatever you would like to call it might need to boost the human resources development capabilities. That's number 1. Number 2. If you look at the current technology development for example I'm not a specialist in technology but see for example the different in specifics. They always say that okay next year everybody in the world will have the direct connection with a satellite and you can go to... very easy and cheap and something like that. And whether I am not

sure whether it will be right or not. It will be carried out or not. I'm not sure.

The technology development is such that all the countries in the world will have a more direct connection with the Internet, with connect with better price and so on. What does it mean? It means we will be everybody will be living more in cyber space than before if that satellite constellations are really happening. Not mentioning about the Google balloon or Facebook drones and so on that will provide at least what they said they will provide cheap Internet connections. So I think in this point of view we have to be ready. The world has to be ready for the future. Not the future near future I'm saying about 20 or 2021 is tomorrow you see, and in this case the capacity building for many countries has to be boosted for development. Thank you

PUA HUNTER:

Thank you. I don't need to imagine about our challenges. I actually live it, and I your comments takes me to another part where we haven't captured in our agenda items, so we applied for additional budget request, and our application was successful, so because we have the budget, we can now plan for two capacity buildings during ICANN meetings, will be ICANN 67 and ICANN 68, and also two capacity buildings in the region.

For the latter we haven't decided on the regional ones but it will have to be in the Underserved Regions, so our initial plan was to hold 3 capacity building workshops during the ICANN meeting will be ICANN66 ICANN 67 on ICANN 68, but we agreed that because ICANN66 is going to be in Montreal and Montreal not being considered an Underserved Regions we decided to push the ICANN ones to ICANN 67, and also ICANN 68 and then have two regional meetings, so thank you for your intervention because in I'm able to talk about that part of our work.

If there are no other questions or yes thank you please sir say your name

COMOROS:

Okay, Maoulida Mmadi [Interpreter Speaking] I am the representative of COMOROS. I would like to extend appreciation to the working group for all the work they have received and the work carried out yesterday. It was an interesting workshop. It enabled us to get to know more about how GAC operates, and the active engagement that our countries may have. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you for more. To ask more from GAC members because the countries in Underserved Regions need to strengthen their capacities because they have huge needs.

Let's make an effort to think about other ways of assisting these countries, other methods that perhaps are not necessarily capacity building workshops. Our countries need lots of things, and we, as representatives of these countries within the GAC, need to insist on the need to have some other alternatives to provide us with care, going beyond capacity building activities, thank you

PUA HUNTER: Thank you very much. I will hand over to my colleagues who will be able to respond to you in French thank you.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: [Interpreter Speaking] Julia Charvolen speaking. Thank you very much for your comment. I saw you yesterday here in the workshop, and during the last part of the workshop we had a long discussion about the needs that the members of the Underserved Regions have, and what are the potential solutions to those needs. We came up with a list that was circulated among the participating members, and it would be interesting to see what is your opinion about the Work Plan that we are developing because we are trying to look for solutions that go beyond the workshops. Perhaps you have some other ideas that can be useful if you have any suggestions we are open to taking them

into account in order to try to come up with other solutions for the Underserved Regions countries. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you Julia. We have another question from the back. Please introduce yourself.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Thank you, it's Blaise Azitemina from Democratic Republic of Congo. I have a question concerning the U.S. working group membership. I will ask my question in French please. [Interpreter Speaking] I would like to know about the members in the underserved regions working group. This working group was created once we identified that the representatives of this country's having very little participation in ICANN activities so the goal here was to allow them to have a more active engagement, and in particular to be present in person in these activities. In order to be a member of this working group do you need to live in a country that belongs to an underserved region according to the United Nations standards, or can we be members of the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group even if you live in any other country? Can any GAC member country be part of this working group?

PUA HUNTER: Thank you Blaise. I understand that your question is about whether any member of the GAC can participate in this working group? The simple answer is yes. I even encouraged the participants at yesterday' workshop to join any of the working groups in the GAC, and there's no limits. No criteria for joining the working groups that are currently active in the GAC, but if you're not a member already, please join. I welcome you. Thank you. Yes thank you. Introduce yourself please.

[Speaking in French]

SENEGAL: Thank you good afternoon I am the representative of the government of Senegal. I was not here yesterday, and I apologize for my absence. My flight was delayed and my luggage didn't arrive, so that is why I couldn't make it to the workshop. Let me say that in addition to the capacity building workshops, which are aimed at GAC member countries, I think that the Underserved Regions also need some awareness raised in activities aimed at people who make decisions at government level.

I would like us to think together how we can raise awareness among top level officials in governments so that they can assist GAC members for them to work better, because we have identified a lot of issues I'm not going to go through them now,

but how can we make sure that top level decisionmakers in governments understand the ICANN related issues? Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Okay. Cherif, I will hand over to Julia to respond in French. Thank you, Julia.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Julia Charvolen speaking. Thank you Cherif, your comment is very well taken. It's very valuable comment. I will speak about the Work Plan that we are drafting in the working group once again. We have spoken about this topic, or we spoke about this topic in depth in yesterday's workshop, unfortunately, you were not there but we will be more than happy to share the documents with you.

Going back to the Work Plan, this is a document that is written in English, however, the main idea of the document is to increase or raise awareness, and with a focus on government officials so I kindly invite you to read the document, and we will be more than happy to take your questions. Or comments. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Manal? Thank you, Manal?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Pua, and thank you Julia, and it's good to know about this document. I do also apologize for missing the capacity building workshop yesterday but I had some other conflict in meetings and sorry to have missed it. Just to the point that was raised by Cherif also one of the things that we try to do is to address this point is the high level governmental meeting, so and we were actually discussing this morning our next venue for the high level governmental meeting so I'm just bringing this again back to the attention that this was one of the main purposes for holding those high level meetings, is to bring to the attention of the high level the officials the work of ICANN and GAC so that they can spare their delegates the necessary time, authority and resources, so thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Manal. If there's no other questions or comments we will move onto the next slide.

Thank you. Okay, we have the GAC travel support rules. I will hand over to Julia to speak on this. Thank you, Julia.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, Manal. To give you an quick update which we did update the working group on a call before the meeting, we thought that it was a good idea to again have a quick

conversation about this because it was decided in the ICANN at ICANN63, and confirmed – no confirmed I'm sorry at ICANN64 during the Kobe meeting that the travel support GAC travel support rules needed to be updated to be consistent with the ICANN travel support guidelines that were updated in 2018. So since the GAC travel support rules were last updated in 2017 it was high time to take a look at that.

And in Kobe it was agreed that the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group who – the members of the working group are those who actually received travel support the most so it was a good idea to mandate them with reviewing those guidelines – rules, I'm sorry, so the rules all of them are definitely worth reviewing and there are several sections within those travel support rules that are really for your attention, and in particular the eligibility criteria. The selection criteria and the privacy policy because there's information regarding the final list of supported travel that might be available to the public but just first and last name but it's worth considering. So I'm – changing slides on left and ride.

Okay. So I'm – I have a couple of slides really to highlight the important sections, right there just before I dive into the other sections, this is the application process, and it's really for GAC members and observers to understand who does what, and that is from you – applicants GAC members or observe others to the

selection committee, which is the GAC leadership, as well as GAC support, so if you want more details you can look into the GAC travel support. While I'm very happy to share by e mail with the entire GAC.

So the selection criteria, and that is the eligibility criteria more in detail, the information on the slide here will enable GAC support and the GAC leader then to draw a preliminary list of GAC leaders to request travel support and to see whether there are eligible or not. So by the yes or no. Are those criterions. The criteria are when somebody applies we take a look at it and see whether it's yes or a no. It helps both GAC leadership and GAC support. And that is if the applicant is listed on the GAC membership list, or if the applicant holds an official position and a pointed or alternate or advisor representative's representative. Also have they have been allocated travel support for the last 3 consecutive meetings fracture. Again this purpose here is to cross check whether travel support applicants may supply or be eligible for travel support according to the list right here.

I'm just pausing to see if there are any questions? Okay, now the applicant requirements, those are already on the original on the current rules we have. I just highlighted in bold two, two points, and that is additional requirements to GAC members to either complete ICANN learned courses prior to the start of the meeting, or potential requests for GAC membership to provide a written

agreement from GAC members the mirror high level authorities confirming that the supported traveler has been granted travel support and is allowed to attend an ICANN meeting.

So this is more in detail, the selection criteria scoring, there's 100-point scale that is not necessary, but so long as the criteria balances GAC priorities and the result is in ranking of applicants, on the current rules the selection criteria is what is staff and the selection committee again the GAC leadership will follow to select the final travelers and it's a very simple list. The list as you can see on the screen has been separated on 5 criteria and was actually I'd say inspired by the fellowship selection criteria scoring which I invite you to take a look at.

You will find similarities with the eligibility criteria that we saw earlier, but there's additional criteria that will really help you better understand what the process GAC leadership is following. I'm going to pause here to see if you have any questions. And lastly the privacy policy that has yes, please. Question. If you can introduce yourself?

BURKINA FASO:

Thank you, Julia. I would like to speak in French, [Interpreter Speaking] well, I see different criteria, and if I understood correctly, we must file a government issued document authorizing us to submit our application or to file our application.

In general when it comes to our administrations, once we meet these criteria, ICANN's confirmation that we meet the criteria is what gets our government's approval for us. So this would be a little bit of a hurdle for us. So perhaps we should work a little bit more on these selection criteria.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: If you understand correctly. What you're saying is that if a government representative receives travel support, the GAC leadership team might request a confirmation, a letter of confirmation but after the candidate has been selected. Am I right? U.

BURKINA FASO: The representative speaking excuse me, I did not introduce myself. I remember Burkina Faso. My comment had to do with the administrative process that we have to follow in each of our countries. I am telling you about Burkina Faso in particular but I suppose the same might apply to other African countries. So what I'm asking is for you to take a closer look at this procedure in order to avoid increasing the different administrative hurdles that we have to face in our own administration's perhaps I might draft a proposal to.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Julia Charvolen speaking. Yes, of course.

BURKINA FASO: The representative of Burkina Faso speaking. There are different selection criteria we have to meet and this government authorization shouldn't be part of the selection criteria because if we have a letter issued by our government that already gives us permission to be a GAC representative, I believe that that in itself is enough. That is my view.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: I will reply and then give the floor to Francis. If this is part of the selection criteria this means that in the past we faced certain issues because certain members got travel support, and unfortunately, maybe a couple of weeks prior to the start of the meeting, they canceled their trip because their government didn't give them permission to attend the meeting.

So we spent money on, on airfare. On hotel bookings and unfortunately, we couldn't reallocate the funds to help another GAC member, so it is very important that we receive a confirmation from your government. I appreciate your comment. It is very well taken, and we will see if any further change can be made.

BURUNDI:

Francis speaking and I will speak in French. I am Francis, and I am the representative of Burundi. I agree with my colleague from Burkina Faso and I do understand your situation, Julia.

The document that the official document that grants us permission to leave our country is a highly sensitive document. For instance in my country, it is the president himself who grants permission or who issues a document that confirms that I am a delegate attending an ICANN meeting, so it is my administration that issues this order on behalf of my president. So there's a highly sensitive administrative process, and it also applies to getting a visa.

We do need this official document issued by our governments to get a visa, so going back to your example, I believe that the GAC leadership team has to take these cases on a one by one basis. Otherwise we might be facing difficulties in some countries, administratively for instance this is quite a mess, and if you will excuse my language I am also if I have, or if I gave you my official document, the document issued by my government and then I do not get travel support that creates a problem for me. I'm sure you will understand. And since we are government officials, we, for example, may have some issues, somebody may fall ill and we need to have contingency plans in place such as reimbursements

etcetera because you have already paid for our airfare. Our hotel booking so you are entitled to a reimbursement.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, Francis, I will give the floor to Luisa Paez to address the last point on our agenda.

LUISA PAEZ: We have around 5 minutes we might take a few minutes from the, I believe coffee break but we probably might need it as a lot of us are jet lagged. I wanted to bring to your attention possible input and review from the Underserved Regions working group members than has to do about the applicant support program which was launched as part of the 2012 round of the new generic top level domains, and in a nutshell this program was created to make sure there was accessibility and financial resources to underserve the regions in 2012, and to give you a snapshot the program included access to pro bono services to start up detailed E registries through the applicant support registry particularly with a focus from emerging economies.

There was also a focus on financial assistance, which means reduced fees were provided to applicants as well as the applicant support fund so more or less a quick overview of what the 2012 applicant support program was. Now looking at the potential

new round of gTLDs there is a policy development working group that has been initiated in 2015, I will be talking a little bit about that later. But there is an opportunity here for the Underserved Regions working group members to look at this program and see how we can make it even better, more catered for the Underserved Regions, make sure there's more accessibility and diversity, and there is already through the CCT review the competition consumer trust and consumer choice reviews it's one of the many good reviews was that ICANN delivered the report does include already some very good recommendations that we could take into account. So for example one of the recommendations from the CCT review was to look at reducing fees as well as doing a better job at outreach on communication.

From my understanding I think for the 2012 applicant support program there were very few applicants that applied, I don't have the number but I think less than 10, and then you also have to meet that criteria so I think there is an opportunity here for those that are interested to ensure that for the if you can go to the next slide I think there is a next slide much this is just to give you an overview of the 2012 round of new gTLD ICANN receive around 9,300 applications of about 1032 were delegated so new domain names why introduced into the Internet and to give you an quick overview of the regions, very quick snapshot around 900 applicants from North America. 600 Europe. 300 from Asia

Pacific. 24 Latin America Caribbean and 17 from Africa which we hope not sure why. We asked ICANN to give us more information to include Middle East and another region. But there is a big opportunity here, and there will be more discussions about the work of the new gTLD PDP and how GAC members have get involved from an Underserved Regions region's perspective one important entry point or action or input would be to review the applicant's support program.

So I will stop there and see if there's any questions but also looking at the time, and so we it's also a call for members to get engaged with the working group and we obviously have support from the GAC support staff to review documents, to perhaps draft something together and I know even the co-chairs of the ICANN PDP working group have asked GAC to provide more granular inputs in terms of making better the applicant support program. Thank you. Manal, please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Luisa. Just to complement what you said on the applicant support program, if my memory serves me only 3 applications were received for the program, and I believe maybe one or two didn't even qualify at the end, so we ended up by a very low number as you mentioned.

LUISA PAEZ: Yes, please.

INDONESIA: Just a short comment. Pua, I went to... for your program for Underserved Regions last year. You were not there because you were somehow you were sick home if I'm not mistaken but what important is that I although I have been following ICANN meetings several times I still find the meeting in... is very useful to increase my understanding. That's number 1. Number 2 which is the Underserved Regions region the countries we also discuss our problems on the regulation. Just for example how to on fake news for example. Which is perhaps in developed countries it's not a big problem but in the developing countries it becomes a problem you see because fake news can be accepted by the people as real news, valid news when it is not like that. You know that's kind of thing.

So with the increase connectivity of Internet, as I mentioned previously with technology, development of satellite constellation and lower orbit satellite constellation we will have more and more Internet connectivity, and this is supported by UNSWI agreement where everybody should be connected to Internet or something like that so what does it mean? It means that most UNSWIS(sic) and development will get us to get more and more connectivity with Internet. And at the same time if our

capabilities to do regulations or policy development related to Internet is not an accommodated then we will have I don't know what kind of problems we will have in the future. What we want is to how to increase the positive impact of Internet connectivity and reduce as much as possible the negative impact of Internet connectivity. We do not want that better and better Internet connectivity suddenly we have more problems just like fake news in Indonesia is a big problem. Even the president has to come personally to overcome that fake news, and last year in the IGF meeting Indonesia make an open forum about the fake news because we have problem. On the true international operations or perhaps by intensive blocking we can overcome that kind of problems. It's a social problem a technical problem and so on, so I believe that the human resources development regarding that is really necessary. Thank you.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you very much, and I'm just looking if there are any other questions or comments so this is a call for those members of the working group that are interested to get involved in this particular item to please e mail Julia, or Pua, and then we can take it from there, and work inter sessionally, and then the idea would be to then the work from within the working group would then feed into the GAC focal group which then feeds the whole GAC membership. Just seeing if I've missed any one? And I'll pass

it next slide, please. Not sure if there is another slide. This is a quick visual glance again showing the regions of the most contested top-level domains everybody the geographic names. Community applications. But I'll stop there and just give the closing remarks to Pua because we are already over time. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER:

Thank you, Luisa. Since we are over time, I think I will close this session. Actually, sorry. Any other business? Is there any one 30 seconds? Corral did you want to make a statement.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

Okay, hello Karel Douglas.

Again thank you on the committee for the excellent work that has been done. And let me quickly indicate that Shelley Ann Clark Hines who is on the committee is not here today. And we are sorting out some issues, so in the interim I will be filling those shoes. Those very large shoes I might add and certificate informing the capital after the she has been serving so I will fulfill her role, until further notice, if that's the best way to put that. And having said that I want to thank the committee, and, of course, I work tirelessly. Yesterday I just want to add to yesterday's meeting was so interests. The same issues that we hear time and

time again are being raised concerning the engagement and I think that's one of my pet issues, I don't want to belabor the point because I do know tea is waiting and nobody likes cold tea.

So but again, the we do hear the same stories time and time again, as to thousand get people involved, and I do encourage just like I went to a session a while ago at the fellowship, and the questions that were coming there fast and furious are the same questions that we have here. And we are always looking to ideas, how to get people more engaged. Come and see us, your fellow members who are more seasoned. Under coffee breaks. Feel free to ask questions if that's any issue that you don't know that you want to know about ask us. But the idea is that you would have the ability at the end of the day to be free to make comments as they say, and I really do look forward to any initiative, so this is my short intervention. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER:

Thank you very much, Karel, and I welcome you with open arms, and before closing thank you to each and every one of you for your attention, and also for your contributions. Thank you.

[Applause]

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Pua. Please be back, try to be back in the room by 15 past as we will be receiving the co-chairs of the new gTLDs. So try to be punctual.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]