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SINGAPORE – GAC Plenary 6  
Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 – 10:30 to 12:00  
ICANN – Singapore, Singapore

>> If I could have your attention, we'll be starting very soon. Could GAC delegates please take your seats? Thank you very much.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Good morning, everyone. If you could take your seats, please.

Okay. Good morning, everyone. Just a couple of points before we move into our discussion following the announcement from the NTIA.

We were going to talk about the strategy panels at ICANN and their reports. Please note that there are sessions tomorrow to discuss these issues. And those that are working in those strategy panels are very keen to hear from GAC colleagues about the reports and issues raised in them. So they are really hoping that we will join those sessions and contribute to those discussions. And it's also a useful way for us to get caught up on that area of activity which we haven't been able to pay a great deal of attention to previously. So please take note that there are sessions tomorrow to look at those strategy panels.

And, on another point, I'm really pleased to be able to welcome two newcomers. I think in one case it's perhaps a return after an extended absence. But we have the honorable minister for ICT from Grenada with us. That's Minister Dabreo. So, if we can please welcome him to join in his first meeting of the GAC.

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

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[ Applause ]

And as well I'm really pleased to also inform you that we have Ms. Bernadette Lewis here who is the Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. I understand that -- this might not be your first meeting, but it's been a long time. So it's really great to have you back.

I would ask that colleagues seated at the main table, some of us may have more than one representative for our delegation. If you could show some flexibility to allow our guests or our newcomers to be seated at the main table, that would be really appreciated. And, just as a reminder to the room, this center -- this central area is for GAC members. So, if anyone has seated themselves here and they're actually not a GAC member, then as well, if you can accommodate our guests, our newcomers, then that would be really appreciated. Okay.

So -- we have a couple of empty seats, perhaps. Okay.

All right. Lovely. Well, the secretariat, if you can assist. Great. Thank you very much. So we can now move on to our discussion. And I am really pleased to introduce you to Larry Strickling. For those of you that do not know him, from the NTIA. It's part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. And Larry is going to give a brief introduction following the announcement from about a week ago. And then we have an opportunity to ask some questions to Larry. And then I propose after that that we have a GAC discussion about these issues. So, without any further delay, if I can turn over to you, Larry, please.



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LARRY STRICKLING: Well, thank you, Heather. I'm pleased to be here. We are making the rounds among various of the supporting organizations and advisory committees to just answer questions about our announcement from a week ago.

And then allow the groups to go on and have their own discussions in preparation for the public sessions that will start tomorrow morning at the opening session of ICANN. And I hope that many of you are able to participate in that.

So, as Heather mentioned, and I'm sure as all of you know, a week ago Friday, the United States announced its intention to transition out of the IANA functions contract. And, in doing so, we have requested ICANN, as the contracting party for the IANA functions, to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition our role in the coordination of the Internet domain name system. I think it's clear to anyone who has been part of this process for any length of time that this has always been envisioned from the creation of ICANN. The original documents, the study documents back in the late '90s, made it clear that the U.S. government role was intended to be temporary and that would eventually be transitioned out so that the private sector and the community would be able to take over these functions and operate without the stewardship of the United States government. The current contract we have with ICANN for the IANA functions lasts until September 30th, 2015. So it will be status quo until then. But it will give the community the time necessary to sit down and work through how to move forward and replace, if necessary, the role that we have played in the IANA functions. And I would have guessed that most of you understand that our role has been fairly administrative in the sense that we will -- we're in the chain where we receive requests to change the root zone file from ICANN. We verify their accuracy, and we pass them on to VeriSign for their implementation. In the history of the root



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zone, the United States has never blocked a change to the root zone, despite fears and concerns by other governments that we might do that. In fact, we never have. And I do think -- and I think the record shows that our stewardship has helped support the rapid growth and innovation over the Internet over its many years.

But I think we're at a point where the time has come for the U.S. now to step aside. We are guided in that by the maturation we've seen in ICANN in terms of improvements in their technical competence, in terms of their attention being paid to being more accountable and transparent to the Internet community. And we're also encouraged by what we see as growing international support for the multistakeholder process of Internet governance. So we've asked ICANN to convene that community, which they will do starting tomorrow.

In doing so, we've made it very clear -- and ICANN is quite accommodating of this point -- that this discussion isn't just with ICANN. It needs to be held with all of the Internet technical community, including the Internet Society, the Internet Engineering Task Force, the Internet Architecture Board, the RIRs, and other members of the community. I think you will see tomorrow at the public session in the morning all of those groups represented and playing a steering role in the process as we move forward.

In proposing this transition, we did indicate that we felt certain standards needed to be followed by the community in developing a plan. So we've tried to provide as broad a frame as we can for the work that will be undertaken. And, frankly, I don't believe any of the conditions that we have expressed should provide much controversy in the community. We expect that a plan to be presented to us will support and enhance the multistakeholder model. It should maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the domain name



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system. It needs to meet the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of IANA services. And it needs to maintain the openness of the Internet.

And, again, in the response we've seen so far, we've seen no indication that those are in the least bit controversial in this community. And we hope and expect that they will guide the discussions that the community will have. We have made clear -- and I'm sure this may be a sore point with some of you in the room -- that we will not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an intergovernmental solution.

Now, in doing so, there's been some confusion as to whether or not we're suggesting that governments have no role to play in this space. And I want to emphasize and make very clear that's not the case. Governments are stakeholders as are businesses and civil society and technical experts. And we fully expect and welcome the engagement of governments in the process that's going to be undertaken. And I hope all of you again participate in the public sessions tomorrow to get this off the ground.

I think what ICANN is planning is to have these public sessions tomorrow and then out of that lead to a whole series of community consultations over the next many months to develop a plan. Beyond that, I don't really know the details. And it's not my place to know the details. We've asked the community to come back and develop a plan, and we will leave it to the community to do just that.

But, based on what we've seen of the strength of the multistakeholder process and how well it can work, we fully expect we will get a strong, credible proposal within the -- within an appropriate time frame that will allow us to complete the transition on or before the expiration of the IANA contract next September.



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So I'll pause there. And I can take a few questions, but I know Heather wants to get on with the discussion.

Let me say one thing, though. I want to thank so many of you and your governments who have issued strong statements of support for this action of the United States. We have seen very powerful and supportive statements from all regions of the world. And I want to thank all of you who might have helped participate in that. I think it's very important, as this discussion continues on both internationally and for our own domestic politics, that everyone see the support and how this is going to bring together this community both in terms of the different sets of expertise as well as all the geographic regions of the world in terms of crafting what comes next for the IANA functions. So, with that, thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Many thanks, Larry, for that. So do we have any questions or comments from GAC colleagues? France, please.

FRANCE:

Thank you very much for this presentation. I can assure you again that the French government is very supportive of that decision and of the process that you have decided to open.

I have one question about the VeriSign part of the IANA function. Does the announcement mean that in the future the contract with VeriSign will be open to other possible bidders around the world or in the U.S.? I don't --



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LARRY STRICKLING: Thank you for the question, David. And, again, let me personally thank you and your government for your support of our announcement.

All that we are putting into discussion is the United States' role. So we are not suggesting that the role that ICANN currently performs or the role that VeriSign currently performs need to be re-evaluated or adjusted in any respect.

We do have a cooperative agreement with VeriSign under which it performs the updating and maintenance of the root zone.

Obviously, that will need to change at the appropriate time. But I think that's, for the most part, a clerical task that will come once the community decides how they want to proceed and move forward.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, France.

I have Indonesia, Italy, China, and the Netherlands. So Indonesia, please.

INDONESIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I would like to appreciate the NTIA program to pass the IANA functions to the multistakeholders. And, before that happened, of course we understand that ICANN has to sit up the system regulation to receive the functions.



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Now, during that time, I just want to make sure, as you mentioned in your speech, that the NTIA will keep the Internet open, will not block the server, and so on.

I just want to make it sure. Because yesterday I read in the television news that the U.S. government is ordering MasterCard and Visa to block financial transaction for some people in other countries. So, in this case, I just want to make sure that that will not happen in the Internet activities. Thank you.

LARRY STRICKLING:

I can only speak to our role in terms of the IANA functions. And, in that regard, as I said before, we've never blocked any updates of the file. And I wouldn't expect that we would in the next 18 months.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Indonesia. So next I have Italy, please.

ITALY:

Thank you, Chair.

So I confirm that this was an expected move since a long time.

But, as Larry said, we had to go through several years just to reach this declaration that actually starts -- a project starts as something that has to be accomplished possibly within September next year.

And it is very important to talk about this as a process that started -- we start tomorrow, including involving ICANN and the multistakeholder community. This is a very important because many commentators,



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even in Italy, that welcome warmly this move. They want to know which will be the result. But, in order to define this result, we have to go step-by-step and then having the approval of the multistakeholder community. So this is very important. And I think that you, U.S. government, we have to be proactive in this. Just explaining that you are stepping out, but on the same way you are highly interested in what next. And what next will not be a multi-government control of the IANA service. Thank you.

LARRY STRICKLING:

So, Stefano, you're making an excellent point. In fact, domestically inside the United States this decision has attracted a certain amount of criticism from people who have said the United States has not been clear enough, has not been specific enough in terms of what should replace it. Again, I think a recognition of the fact that so many people don't understand the multistakeholder process and the fact that that process has to be given a chance to work. The community has to be given the opportunity to share its views on this. And, to the extent that we dictate an outcome, then why bother with the multistakeholder process? But I think everyone needs to understand the whole world's going to be watching this in the sense that people who are detractors of this process are going to look at some of the chaos and some of the dissension that the process can involve and say, aha, it's not working. At the same time, we have many countries in the developing world who are still not necessarily convinced that the multistakeholder model is the appropriate model. They're going to be watching this carefully to see if it can work and serve as a model for them as they decide how to participate in these discussions.



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So we really want to give the process a chance to work its way through and not be in any way prescriptive about this beyond the four conditions that we laid out. But it will be important for the community to take a hold of this and move promptly and responsibly to develop a plan that will meet the needs of all of the stakeholders.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. Next I have China, please.

CHINA: Thank you, Miss Madam. First of all, I want to thank the secretariat from ICANN that you provided to help us. And now I want to speak in Chinese.

The Chinese government and the Chinese Internet Society have paid attention that the Commerce Department of the United States NTIA have published announcement intending to provide the management function to the global multistakeholders community and the DNS. Now, the Internet is the basic facility that globally is adopting, it's relating -- it's relating the multi-interest of all governments and all interested parties. Their method and then their approach of the United States is very beneficial to all parties involved in the management or the management function of Internet and the Internet work, and we welcome the ways that the United States is engaging in.

The Chinese government and the Chinese Internet society, and we're willing to work with all parties, all countries to widely discuss the management principle of Internet Webs and also the future Internet management performance and progress, and to participate in



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developing the transfer program of Internet -- Internet Web system management function, and also engage in the relevant international discussion.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, China.

Larry, would you like to comment or shall I continue through our speaking order?

Okay. I have next the Netherlands, Iran, Japan, Brazil, and Switzerland.

So Netherlands, please.

NETHERLANDS:

Thank you, Chair. I also want to appreciate the step. I think I won't repeat other colleagues.

And also, I appreciate the stewardship of the United States. And I think that comes -- that makes me come to this point I want to make.

I heard you saying you want to have a proposal, and before the expiration of the next -- of the contract, the IANA contract, which I think from the Netherlands point of view, we very much attach importance to the stability and continuity which is basically the thing you showed stewardship, doing nothing to harm this system.

What I'm a little bit worried about is if you put a deadline on this and there is not yet a kind of procedure which has always the checks and



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balances needed. I would say, given also the time which you have already performed this function, I think foremost, the most important thing is that there should be a good replacement of this -- let's say the organization that's going to take over. If it's not done in time, I think for us it prevails that it should be a good procedure there in place. Which comes, I think, to one point from the Netherlands which we think is very important.

We have now a kind of separation of the oversight function, which is technical oversight, basically, administrative oversight, which is in a different organization.

If plans are going to be made to put it, for example, in one organization, in ICANN, we'll have to face the complexity of questions that you need checks and balances, because you have policy, you have implementation policy, and you have oversight.

So I think these are, for us, one of the main questions to be addressed.

Thank you.

LARRY STRICKLING:

So, Thomas, two points I'll make on that. First, the contract has an expiration date of September 30th, 2015, but built into the contract are two two-year option periods. So I think it's good for the community to have a target to aim at, but there's no cliff here that if we get to September 30th and the community is not ready, we can just continue on business as usual by exercising one of the options.

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So we believe maintaining security and stability of the Internet is absolutely paramount in all of this, and there's nothing we would do to jeopardize that or to impose artificial deadlines on this community to get something done in anything less than a fully thought through and tested fashion.

On your second point about the policy-making aspects of this and the actual operational aspects of it, you may recall that the community, when we sought input on the last contract, made it very clear that this was a concern. And, indeed, in the contract that we negotiated with ICANN two years ago, they are required to keep the policy-making separate from the IANA operation.

So that principle has been established. I'm sure the community will want to continue to talk about that as to whether the degree of separation that was established in our contract is up to the task or needs to be reviewed. And that's perfectly fine. The community ought to take up that question and look at it. But I wanted people to know that the starting point is that there ought to be separation between those, as it is in the existing contract.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you.

Okay. So I now have Iran, Japan, Brazil, Switzerland, the African Union Commission, India, New Zealand, and Turkey.

Iran, you are next.



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IRAN:

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

First of all, I would say the wise and historical decision of United States is very much appreciated everywhere, even in those country who have not sent you formally their support.

So it is implicit support, because Internet today is inclusive, so covers everybody, and so on and so forth. Maybe the, please, support need to be taken into account, as....

And in fact it was mentioned that it was expected, but perhaps you made the decision at the time that there was more readiness to accept that responsibility.

Now, I have few small question. What was the timing element that you decided at this particular time to do that? Before the Sao Paulo meeting.

One of the issue in Sao Paulo in many of the 187 contribution to that meeting, including ours, contribution 122, refer to this issue. And we have spent several pages to discuss this matter.

What was the reason that you announce it now, not waiting after Sao Paulo and before London meeting?

Yes, just maybe you answer that, but there are a few other question. If I still keep to question later on? Okay. You answer before me, that is very, very important.

Was it putting Sao Paulo in some sort of fait accompli or not? Thank you.

LARRY STRICKLING:

No, not at all. But we felt it was important to do it at a time at which this community, which relies on the IANA functions, would have an opportunity to have a full, open and public discussion about it. So we felt we needed to do it in front of the Singapore meeting.

In terms of Sao Paulo, I think all of us are looking forward to that meeting. And, in particular, I know in the United States we're very appreciative of the role the Brazilian government, and I want to thank their representatives here, for organizing a discussion on the global multistakeholder process which covers issues far beyond the ICANN IANA functions.

We have very important matters to discuss in Brazil, and I'm glad we're going to have the opportunity to go do that, which is, in my mind, at the top of the list I would put how do we engage the developing world in this ecosystem? How do we understand the needs of these countries? How do we find ways to help these countries solve the problems they have of investment sustainability, of development, of even things that might seem mundane to us like spam. We know those are important issues in the developing world, and I'm hopeful that we'll be able to spend the two days in Brazil to have a very deep and thoughtful discussion of how to engage the developing world more. That's what we need to be talking about about Internet governance in Brazil. We don't need to be talking about how do we replace the U.S. in its performance of the IANA function.



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So I think we should all be appreciative and glad that that issue in effect is off the table and won't distract what is a much more important discussion that we need to have in Brazil.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you very much.

Do you have a follow-up question, Iran?

IRAN:

Yes, Madam, I have follow-up questions. Unfortunately, up to now there are three terms which are all mixed up together: multistakeholder approach, multistakeholder process, and multistakeholder model.

In our contributions and discussion with many other people, there is a general -- at least, almost general agreement of the multistakeholder approach. But talking of model, there might be various model. One model is what currently ICANN is doing. There might be other models.

If you want to have a proper course of action, we need to address other issues. If we address the accountability issues and who is the accountable with respect to whom and what is the entity to which the ICANN, or whoever manage the Internet in future, should be accountable, that may not be achieved to the existing model.

So we have to be very careful to refer to this model approach and process.

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But what you mentioned, that within the 18 months from now, the community in whatever model need to be ready for that, however you put these two years of fall-back positions or supplementary positions or moratorium positions that still the United States government will continue, if that multistakeholder, whatever you call them, may not be ready to take that approach.

So this issue of the model or approach or process and whatever it should do that is one of the important issue. But in all of these things, the function of the DNS and the root servers, location of the root servers, protection of the root servers, and all of these are important issues that would lie within the principle that either we discuss or we agree in Sao Paulo.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you for that, Iran.

Next I have Japan, please.

JAPAN:

Thank you, Chair.

First of all, thank you very much for your kind explanation on NTIA announcement. We, Japan, also welcome this announcement which is one of the concrete actions for multistakeholder approach in Internet core issues.



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On the other hand, we think that we should -- should find the function around the workable mechanism on behalf of the current mechanism from transparency and accountability point of view. This consideration is most important issues for the stability operation of the Internet.

So this is not a question. This is our intention. We are very interested in the discussions, so we would like to participate in this discussion and cooperate with GAC member on proactively.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Japan.

I have Brazil next, please.

BRAZIL:

Thank you, Larry. And definitely Brazil welcomes the NTIA announcement. We believe it was a very timely announcement, and we support it.

And in a sense, and having the Sao Paulo meeting in mind, we think that the announcement was already a result of the Sao Paulo meeting that came before the meeting. So it's the beginning of a process.

And as you well know, the Sao Paulo meeting is a broad meeting. It will be a high-level meeting.

And we deem it that it will be inevitable that this issue will be discussed among others in Sao Paulo. And we look forward to continuing this discussion in Sao Paulo. And, as you said, not only about this transition



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that we are about to begin but about among other things that will be at the table as well in Sao Paulo.

But given the high level of the delegations you have there and the timing of this meeting in Sao Paulo, we consider that this issue will definitely be at the table. And it's our intention to help in this discussion.

Thank you.

LARRY STRICKLING:

So to your first point, in some of my public comment since the announcement, earlier today I mentioned that one of the factors in proceeding was the growing international acceptance of the multistakeholder process. And I have specifically referred to Brazil's leadership in hosting the high-level meeting in April as proof of that.

So, yes, I think in some sense, you should feel some credit for this.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you.

Next I have Switzerland, then the African Union Commission, India, New Zealand, Turkey, European Commission, and then Germany. And then fringe we need to -- ah, South Africa, Lebanon and Canada. Okay. And then we'll try to wind things down.

Okay. Thank you.



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SWITZERLAND:

Thank you, and good morning to everybody. We welcome the announcement of the U.S. government, in particular because we think it's an important symbolic gesture that shows -- it's a sign of trust in a multistakeholder model, a sign of trust that model of shared responsibilities has worked and will continue to work also in this field.

We would agree with those who say that this should be done with greatest care in terms of securing stability and so on of the Internet, but we see this as an opportunity of the multistakeholder model for the community to prove that this also works in this field, noting that there will be mechanisms of inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, due process and so on that will decide upon the success of a future model. And we just wanted to signal our commitment as a country with a long experience of different cultures living together in a participatory way with a culture of understanding and bottom-up processes and checks and balances that we are very happy to cooperate with the rest of the community on developing such a model.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Switzerland.

Next, the African Union Commission,.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Larry, for that presentation.



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The African Union Commission, through our commissioner Dr. Ibrahim, welcomes this historic announcement from the U.S. that is likely to change the course for ICANN and Internet governance generally.

We believe it is a big step towards a new Internet governance ecosystem where all stakeholders will engage as partners.

We are really looking forward to contributing and participating in the process to replace U.S. oversight with multistakeholder mechanisms, and we are also looking forward to participating in producing what we may look the as new blueprint for Internet governance and a roadmap to provide hope for a new Internet governance ecosystem based on common principles.

We look forward to finding ways to ensure that our region and, indeed, to speak to what you've discussed at several occasions, ensuring that developing countries are able to participate and contribute to the various public consultations and discussions regarding this important transition.

So we thank you very much.

LARRY STRICKLING:

Thank you, Alice. And I want to thank you and Makdar (phonetic) and Edmund for the wonderful statement of support from the AUC that was released last week.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Okay. Next I have India, please.



INDIA:

Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Larry, for the statement.

Government of India notes the announcement of the U.S. NTIA of its intent to transition its role on coordination of Internet DNS as the first step in the right direction in attempting to reform one of the aspects of Internet governance.

In continuation to India's commitment to maintain an open, safe and secure Internet, and as a key stakeholder in the global Internet space, India will engage constructively and actively with other important stakeholders to develop a transition proposal that is representative, democratic, and transparent.

The announcement in recognition of the widely held view that this aspect of Internet governance, as also others, needs to be made representative, democratic and inclusive, and the institutions responsible for managing and regulating the Internet need to be internationalized. In their beliefs that the transitional proposal should have a proper international legislative authority for it to have legitimacy, credibility, and acceptability by the international community.

Efforts to frame a transition proposals are an initial move towards addressing only one aspect of Internet governance. While India would actively participate in this process, we do not see it subsuming discussions and considerations that are taking place elsewhere in multi-lateral fora and international mechanism on the management of the core Internet resources and an entire range of international public-policies in the cyberspace.



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As we, along with other stakeholders, work to develop a transition plan, ICANN shall ensure the process is representative and democratic. There should be full participation of all stakeholders in the process in accordance with the Tunis Agenda.

Thanks very much once again, Chair.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, India.

Next I have New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Chair.

I asked for the floor immediately following the comments from Netherlands because I wanted to emphasize New Zealand's support for the sentiments that were expressed in that statement.

New Zealand's concern with Internet governance is that the resilience, the stability, reliability of the Internet should be maintained on the same level as it has in the past. As a small isolated country in the South Pacific, we are totally dependent on a safe, resilient Internet.

So therefore, we, while welcoming this announcement, urge a certain amount of caution.

I think that our colleagues from Iran and India have indicated in their own ways some of the complexities that the community faces with this proposal, which I'm absolutely certain, Larry, you appreciate. And I'd like to join with others in thanking you for turning up for this, for the



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time of the announcement, and put on record New Zealand's strong appreciation of the role played by the U.S. government over the years.

Finally, I'd just like to say that New Zealand will fully participate in the process, and look forward to being part of it.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, New Zealand.

Next I have Turkey.

TURKEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to express my feelings on this. And I think this is a very historical moment for all of us. The decision of NTIA is very welcome news, and it's a very important one. And it also shows that the multistakeholder model and community has matured enough to carry out this new process.

There will be so much work and responsibilities for ICANN and GAC in terms of following this -- following up this mission.

Again, congratulations to NTIA and ICANN, including GAC, for this. I wish you success. We'll do our best in our contributions.

I would like to add one more thing. This move gives us more importance in our GAC responsibilities and our GAC work.

Thank you.



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CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you for that, Turkey.

Next I have European Commission.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Thank you very much. I will be very short because everybody has to congratulate you for this step. Of course the European Commission is very happy and welcomes very warm heartedly this decision.

I think it is a timely decision. It's the right moment, actually, to take this step, actually to build stronger trust, as you've said, stronger trust for the multistakeholder approach amongst all the nations here that are represented here today.

So for us, it's clear this is the right moment.

I also convey with many others that we have an important task now to actually replace your role with something which is accountable and a good accountability mechanism which actually can take over after you.

So thank you very much, again. I -- As you know, Neelie Kroes was one of the first ones to congratulate you for this, and I would like to convey also this message from her.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, European Commission.



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Okay. I have Germany, then South Africa, Lebanon, Canada, Egypt, Denmark, Norway, and Greece.

So Germany, please.

GERMANY:

Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for having this meeting, which is very interesting for us. And I think this exchange of views on this important issue of the IANA, future and the future of the IANA function, is very interesting and important for us.

Germany welcomes the announcement of the U.S. government from a bit more than one week. As I mentioned, principles are in line with our understanding how the future of the IANA function could look like.

Nevertheless, like other colleagues, we see several -- it's an ambitious goal, and we look forward for actively participating in the discussion on finding some kind of solution and some outcome where the multistakeholder community and also governments can live with.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Germany.

Next, South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA:

Thank you, Chairperson. And thank you for the presentation. South Africa, the South African government knows the announcement by the



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NTIA. Like you have stated to us, it's not very clear what this means. The conditions attached to this are of concern to us, especially the insistence on the multistakeholder aspect of it. Coming from a developing country, it is clear who government is. And it is clear, to a certain degree, we know who business is. But we grapple with the civil society aspect of it. As you might be aware, most of the civil society organizations in developing countries have their headquarters in the west. The argument is who are these organizations representing and whose interest are they protecting? We believe, going forward, it will be important to clarify how the civil society is identified. We are not against the multistakeholder model approach. We just seek clarity.

The second thing is the statement issued also to say this is not a final decision. We still -- there's a process that's involved. What you want to know is what are the deal breakers excluding what is mentioned that this should not be -- it shouldn't be an Internet governmental organization that takes over or it shouldn't be government. We just want to know. Also the accountability issue is very important to us. Taking into account the impact that the Internet has on our nations or national security, on our social lives, on businesses. Who will ultimately be responsible to actually -- you know, to be held accountable if anything goes wrong. And, as South Africa, we'll continue to engage to ensure that the administration of the Internet and the management is transparent, it's inclusive, and that there is accountability at the end of the day. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, South Africa. Next we have Lebanon, please.



LEBANON:

Thanks, Madam Chair.

It is a true and great moment for Internet governance. It's with great pleasure that we receive the news from the NTIA of the Department of Commerce that it intends to transition and globalize IANA's functions and move towards a true multistakeholder model.

The model must be global, transparent, free of control from any government or company. We appreciate and intend to be fully engaged in the consultation process. That must be open, transparent, engaging, and representative. The process should lead to the definition of and the transition towards a fully engaging model where different people and nations from around the world have equal voice in the process of governing the Internet. By recognizing ICANN's successful stewardship in administering the domain name system and in the spirit of keeping the Internet stable, secure, resilient, and open to all stakeholders on an equal footing, we urge everyone around the world to be fully engaged in the process to make it more representative.

We call upon the convenor of the consultation process to make sure that all stakeholders, governments, private sectors, civil society, academia, technical community and any other interested parties from the different parts of the world to be fully engaged. And their views are fully respected as part of the consultation process. We ask for a transparent process that allows this engagement and participation and ensures that the process is open to all. Furthermore, we emphasize that the envisaged, ICANN, lead consultation process needs to well take into account the special needs of the developing countries and least



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developing countries, particularly in designing suitable models and formats of such consultation process. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Lebanon. Canada, you are next.

CANADA: Thank you. I'd like to join my colleagues in welcoming the announcements by the NTIA to transition the IANA technical functions to the Internet community. We support the guiding principles outlined by the NTIA. We think that ICANN is well-positioned to facilitate a broad and inclusive community dialogue through bottom-up, consensus-based decision-making processes. And we look forward to the outcome of that dialogue over the coming months. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Canada. Next I have Egypt.

EGYPT: Thank you. I'd also like to put on record Egypt's support of this much appreciated and timely step. In particular, I would like to reiterate Egypt's support of the four guiding principles not replacing NTIA with a government-led or intergovernmental organization as well as a convening of a multistakeholder process to develop the transition plan to which Egypt is also committed to actively and constructively engage in. At the end, I would like to ask whether it is yet clear how the final solution will be evaluated as to whether it maintains the four crucial guiding principles mentioned in the NTIA announcement. Thank you.



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LARRY STRICKLING: So I think what I will say to that is that, with the acceptance of the four principles, I'm confident this community will develop a consensus plan that will have no problem being adopted by us.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Egypt.

Just a note, since we're running over time, with Tracy's permission, who is the lead on the next topic that we were to discuss, he has kindly agreed that we can continue. And he has circulated some information about the cross community working group efforts. And there is a session tomorrow at 1:30 in the afternoon that we can go and still be updated about that issue. So thank you for that. Thank you, Trinidad and Tobago, for allowing us this additional time.

So I will be looking to close off the list. And I now have Denmark, Norway, Greece, Belgium, and Mali. Denmark, please.

DENMARK: Thank you very much. Denmark welcomes this timely announcement from the NTIA to globalize further the IANA functions to the global community. We believe in a free and open Internet on the basis of the multistakeholder model. It will most -- it will be most important to ensure the security and stability of the operations as well as an inclusive, accountable, and transparent governance mechanisms. And Denmark is very much looking forward to engage in this process with the Internet community. Thank you.



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CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Denmark. Norway, please.

NORWAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And also thank you to Larry Strickling for giving us this presentation. Norway would also like to express our support to the U.S. government announcement for the further globalization of the IANA function. We look forward to contributing to this process ahead, acknowledging then the consideration that must be given to the security and stability of the DNS. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Norway.

Next I have Greece.

GREECE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Greece would also like to welcome the timely announcement by the United States government of the -- it would transition the domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community. Greece is supporting the principles, the below-mentioned principles. The principle to preserving of a single open unaugmented network. That maintaining and strengthening the overall security and stability and resilience of the global Internet continue to be our prerequisites for any proposed changes to the current inter-governance model, fulfill commitment to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance consistent with an open and free Internet, to promote credibility and transparency in the whole process, to facilitate the



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further globalization of ICANN ensuring that any changes to the execution of this IANA function do not compromise the security and stability of the DNS. And, finally, Greece is looking forward to contributing to the process as always. Thank you very much for this.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Greece. Next we have Belgium.

BELGIUM: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Belgium also welcomes the announcement of the United States government regarding the IANA function. It's the right thing to do at the right moment to strengthen the global trust in a multistakeholder model for the Internet and its governments. We agree with the U.S. government on the need to safeguard the security and stability of the DNS system and the Internet. Furthermore, we think it's essential to strengthen the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. And, therefore, also the process led by ICANN will need to be launched and made truly inclusive for any proposal to be considered legitimate. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Belgium.

Next I have Mali.

MALI: Merci, Madam President. Please I will speak in French.



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Mali thanks the United States government for the role played in Internet governance so far. Mali appreciates this decision. This decision comes at a very important moment in terms of DNS management. However, given the role of the DNS right now, is there an implementation strategy? And, if so, how is this strategy going to be implemented? This announced transition, how long will it take to be implemented? Thank you for your attention.

LARRY STRICKLING: Starting tomorrow morning I think at 10:30 when ICANN convenes the community to start talking about how to proceed on the transition.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you.

Next I have Jamaica.

JAMAICA: Thank you, Chair. I'd just like to take the opportunity to register Jamaica's support for this very significant move. At the same time, however, one cannot help but ask the question why no? Why not before? I think it is a very, very, very, very good move. One that I'm sure everyone endorses. I'd also like to ask if major industry players such as Cisco, Microsoft, Google, AT&T, and the like would have had any influence in this particular decision? Thank you.



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LARRY STRICKLING: So most of those companies that you've mentioned have issued statements supporting the decision, but the decision was ours and ours alone.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Jamaica.

Next I have Sweden.

SWEDEN: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Larry, for this presentation. Sweden wants to join colleagues in welcoming this timely and thoughtful initiative. It is a sign of trust in the multistakeholder model. And Sweden looks forward to discuss substantive issues that have been raised by colleagues here in the GAC and elsewhere.

Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Sweden. So I think we have one last request from the person from Taiwan.

TAIWAN: Thanks, your Honor, Chair. Basically, Taiwan supports any approach to making and promoting the openness of Internet development.

So, as long as the transition is going on it's the right way, we totally support this measure no matter how tough it would be. Thank you.



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CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you. Okay.

So this has been a really useful session. And so I would like to thank you very much, Larry, for coming to speak to us about this important announcement. And to thank colleagues for engaging in this discussion with Larry today. So, with that, we can let you off the hook for this morning.

And for the GAC, I think the easiest thing for us is to break a bit early for lunchtime. Please be back in the room at 2:00. And for the 2:00 start, Peter Nettlefold from Australia will be chairing, as myself and the other two vice chairs are going to go and be updated about the IGO protections mechanism. So we're going to sit down with the leads from the NGPC and the IGOs to receive an update on progress with that. So that's where we will be at 2:00. But you'll be in good hands with my colleague from Australia.

And have a good lunch, everyone. Thank you.

[ LUNCH BREAK ]

