

## High Level Government Meeting - Kigali:

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

(v"5.7" – June 2024)

### Sunday – June 9th:

08:45 – 09:05: Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- Ms. Paula Ingabire, Chair of the HLGGM & Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation, Republic of Rwanda
- Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Secretary General (ITU)
- Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Ms. Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Chair
- Mr. Nicolas Caballero Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

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There will be a group photo after the Introductory Remarks.

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Each session will begin with a brief overview of the session topic followed by a panel discussion (around 60 minutes) and an open floor (40 minutes).

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09:10 – 11:00: **Session 1. ICANN and the Multistakeholder Model**

**Timing:** 60 minutes of panel discussion and 40 minutes for interventions from the floor

**Objectives of the Session:**

- Explain the role of ICANN in the global Internet Governance ecosystem
- Discuss ICANN's evolution and contribution in supporting the growth of the Internet during the last 25 years
- Discuss the potential impacts of emerging technologies on the DNS and on ICANN future policy development

**Chair:** Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation, Rwanda & Chair of the HLGGM.

**Moderator:** Ms. Christine Arida, Strategic Advisor to the Executive President, National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt.

**Scene setting remarks:**

The multistakeholder model as a cornerstone of digital governance:  
H.E. Dr. Volker Wissing, Federal Minister for Digital and Transport, Germany.

**Panel:**

- Mr. Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information & NTIA Administrator, United States of America
- Mr. Juan Ardisson, Vice Minister for Information and Communication Technologies Paraguay, Republic of Paraguay
- Mr. Dawit Bekele, Vice President for Africa, Internet Society (ISOC)
- Mr. Wes Hardaker, Member of the Internet Engineering Task Force's (IETF) Internet Architecture Board (IAB)
- Mr. Paul Wilson, Director general, Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)

**Potential discussion points:**

- Accomplishments of the multistakeholder community over the last 25 years
- References to emerging technologies that may impact future DNS policy development
- Government involvement and participation in ICANN; its impact and potential for stronger cooperation ?

11:00 – 11:15: Coffee Break

11:15 – 13:00: **Session 2 Cooperation and Governance**

**Timing:** 60 minutes of presentation/panel discussion and 40 minutes for interventions from the floor

**Objectives of the Session:**

- Stress the current main challenges the Internet Community is facing
- Emphasize the value of a strong cooperation between UN, ICANN, ITU and all relevant stakeholders to successfully address challenges and avoid Internet Fragmentation

**Chair:** Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation, Rwanda & Chair of the HLGGM.

**Moderator:** Ms. Susan Chalmers, Internet Policy Specialist, US Department of Commerce, NTIA.

**Subject Matter Experts:**

- Overview of the ongoing/upcoming UN Discussions:
  - Mr. Danko Jevtovic, Vice-Chair, ICANN Board
- Internet fragmentation and the value of single internet ecosystem:
  - Mr. John Crain, CTO, ICANN

**Panel:**

- Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary General, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
- Hon. Ms. Catherine Mumma, Member of Parliament, Kenya
- Mr. Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India
- Ms. Tripti Sinha, Assistant Vice President, and CTO, University of Maryland & Chair of the ICANN Board

**Potential questions for the Panel:**

- Main issues to be addressed (digital divide, cybersecurity,...)
- The future of Internet governance?

13:15 – 14:30: Lunch (for Ministers, Heads of Delegations and ICANN high officials)

14:30 – 18:00: **Afternoon Meeting Sessions:**

Each session will begin with a brief overview of the session topic followed by an open floor and exchange of views.

14:30 – 16:15: **Session 3. Toward a Better Digital Inclusion**

**Timing:** 60 minutes of presentation/panel discussion and 40 minutes for interventions from the floor

**Objectives of the Session:**

- Stress the importance of a holistic answer to the Digital Divide issues (connectivity, local content and security/resiliency)
- Provide an overview on Meaningful Connectivity initiatives and current challenges

**Chair:** Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation, Rwanda & Chair of the HLGGM.

**Moderator:** Ms. Theresa Swinehart, Senior Vice President of Global Domains and Strategy, ICANN.

**Panel:**

- Ms. Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO)
- H.E. Mr. Boukar Michel, Ministre des télécommunications et de l'économie numérique, Republic of Chad
- H.E. Mr. Belfor Fabio Garcia Henao, Vice-Minister of Digital Transformation, Republic of Colombia
- Mr. Brigadier General Kazi Mustafizur Rahman, Director General (Engineering & Operations), Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Bangladesh
- Mr. Hossein Mirzapour, Commissioner in Communications Regulatory Authority and Advisor to the Minister of ICT, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Iran

**Potential discussion points:**

- Connecting the next Billion, current initiatives and challenges?
  - The development of local content (Internationalized domain names/Universal Acceptance, ccTLDs)

- The need to ensure a single, stable, secure and resilient Internet
- The development of “digital economies” in Africa and other underserved regions
- New round of generic top level domains applications, Applicant Support Program, Universal Acceptance (UA)

16:15 – 16:30: Afternoon Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00: **Session 4. Support the Development of Meaningful Connectivity in Africa**

**Timing:** 55 minutes of presentation/panel discussion and 35 minutes for interventions from the floor

**Objectives:**

- Overview of the current State of Play (Challenges, Initiatives)
- Report on main Coalition for Digital Africa initiatives

**Chair:** Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation, Rwanda & Chair of the HLGGM.

**Moderator:** Ms. Gloria Atwine Katuuku, Acting Director for Planning, Research and Development, National Information Technology Authority Uganda.

**Subject Matter Expert:**

- Overview of Digital Divide challenges and Meaningful Connectivity initiatives in Africa:
  - Mr. Mactar Seck, Chief of Section, Innovation and Technology, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

**Panel:**

- Dr. Catherine Adeya, ICANN Board Member
- Mr. Emmanuel Manasseh, Acting Regional Director for Africa, ITU
- Ms. Thelma Quaye, Chief Digital Infrastructure, Skills and Empowerment Officer, Smart Africa

- Mr. Serge Sanou, Chair, Africa Top Level Domains Organization
- Eng. Digima Babagana, Head, New Media & Information Security, Nigerian Communications Commission

**Potential discussion points:**

What are the main challenges African countries are facing in terms of Digital Divide?

What are/can ICANN Org and ICANN Community do to support African countries in the development of their digital national ecosystem?

18:00 – 18:15: **Closing Ceremony**

- Summary remarks from Nicolas Caballero, Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
- Closing remarks by Sally Costerton, ICANN Interim CEO
- Chair's Report/Summary and Closing delivered by Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation, Rwanda & Chair of the HLG

18:30 – 20:00: **Reception for High-Level Officials**

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## **Operating Considerations:**

### *Requesting Meeting Speaking Opportunities -*

Attending delegations are invited to seek specific comment/discussion slots in the topic areas of interest/objectives outlined for each session.

Delegations are kindly requested to plan for one three (3) minute statements for any session in which they have an interest. Efforts will be made to accommodate all requests.

Due to overall meeting time limits, if a delegation has an interest in requesting sessions time slots for more than one session, the delegation is asked to indicate their topic order of preference - as preference will be given to delegations who have not yet spoken during the program.

Requests for speaking slots should be directed to [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org) (cc [maeva.devoto@icann.org](mailto:maeva.devoto@icann.org) ; [laurent.ferrali@icann.org](mailto:laurent.ferrali@icann.org), [charles.gahungu@rura.rw](mailto:charles.gahungu@rura.rw))

(Email addresses to be confirmed by host government and speaking requests will be shared between host government and ICANN GAC Support staff only.)

### *Impact of Speaking Requests -*

Meeting planners will be flexible in managing the timing of each session to accommodate the interest level of attendees. Based on the current timing of the HLGGM agenda, each of the three plenary sessions will generally be able to accommodate 20 speaking slots – allowing for a brief 9-minute introduction to each topic and transition time between speakers. Available slots may be further reduced if additional content or “dynamic” discussion is anticipated. Session timing for the meeting day may be adjusted closer to the actual meeting date to reflect the overall interest in each topic – as indicated by speaking slot requests.

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