ICANN78 | AGM – GAC Capacity Dev Workshop (3 of 10)
Saturday, October 21, 2023 – 1:15 to 2:30 HAM

GULTEN TEPE OKSUZOGLU: Hello, and welcome to the ICANN78 GAC Capacity Development Workshop next GAC HLGM planning session being held on Saturday, 21st of October at 11:15 UTC. My name is Gulten Tepe Oksuzoglu and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standard of behavior. During this session questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put it in the proper form as noted in the chat.

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into Zoom sessions using your full name. With that I'll hand the floor over to Tracy Hackshaw. Tracy.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Gulten. Welcome back to those who are here and I hope those who are coming back will hear me. So we're going to have a very important session starting now. Welcome back to those online as well. We are discussing the high-level governmental meeting that will be happening in Rwanda at ICANN80 in the middle of the year and to do that -- it is actually in June 2024 in Kigali. Now this is a very important event that will have very detailed planning and arrangements.

The last one I believe was in Barcelona if I'm not mistaken, maybe I'm wrong Barcelona but detailed planning and requires a lot of assistance from GAC members to make it successful and we really would like everybody support this fully going forward. To do this I'm going to invite my colleague Laurent to lead us through the session along with I believe colleagues from Rwanda and others. So over to you Laurent and your colleagues from Rwanda.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much Tracy. Good afternoon, everyone. Yes, we have for this session we will talk about the HLGM and as mentioned by Tracy the high-level governmental meeting will be organized next year in June in the margin of the ICANN80 meeting in Kigali. So for right now I would like to give the mic sorry to our colleague Charles who will give you a short presentation about the venue and the HLGM and then we will talk more about what the HLGM is about. The past HLGM we had

because it would be the fifth I think HLGM and we will spend some time to start talking about potential topic high-level topic for the agenda of the HLGM. The idea is not to go too much into detail but just notify three or four topics so the Rwandan government will be able to send some invitations to high-level prepositive very soon.

So again, the idea is to present the HLGM, explain to you what the HLGM is about, what we can expect from the HLGM and then discuss the potential topics and again high-level topics the idea is not to go too much into detail right now. Thank you. Charles.

CHARLES GAHUNGU: Thank you so much. Good afternoon, everyone. It is a great opportunity to be in this session and I'm very happy to be here. Just with the few minutes we have to discuss about the coming ICANN80 as well as the high-level government meeting. My name is Charles Gahungu. I'm the general manager in charge of ICT from the Regulatory Authority in Rwanda. At the same time, I'm GAC representative. It is very good I have been quite engaged with the ICANN activity some years back specifically when we were trying to repatriate our country top level domain.

That was almost since 2009 then definitely after that I got engaged with the other government responsibilities. I know it is not easy. Even some of the countries are still struggling to get their own country top level domain. And specifically, that is, if I can say also, some of the people they don't know much specifically in those countries, including the role of the high level or the role of the government. And that's why we want to talk about this session, specifically how we can engage and evolve

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the government to be part of this kind of sessions as well as the technology. So, previous high level government meetings, as you can see from the presentation, if I committed a mistake, I have the expert here who could correct me.

But from the history, there was a high-level government meeting back in 2012 when there was the ICANN45 that was in Toronto. Then in 2014, it took place in the United Kingdom. Then ICANN55 that was in the Kingdom of Morocco. And the last high level government meeting took place in Spain, Barcelona. That was 2018. Definitely after that, there was the pandemic. And now, if I can say, we are planning to resume and have the high-level government meeting next year, 2024 in Kigali. First of all, I really want to welcome everyone who is in this room. I believe we will meet in Kigali during that session.

So, from the planning. Next slide, that will be the venue. Some of you, I'm quite sure you are familiar with this venue and probably some of you last week, we hosted the Mobile World Congress Africa Leadership Forum, which just ended up yesterday. That was basically this week. So, it was great as well as we believe also to have this forum on the policy in this venue, which is already confirmed, and the government has also confirmed to host this event. We believe it is going to be successful and it is going to be an occasion where all of us, we are going to really mobilize our high levels government leaders to know exactly their role when it comes to ICANN activities.

Next. As you know the ICANN Policy Forum on 22nd June 2023, ICANN announced that Kigali Rwanda has been selected at the location for the ICANN80. Then the dates are from 10th to 30th June 2024. In

conjunction with this ICANN, we decided to host the high-level government meeting on 9th June. That is like one day before the ICANN80. That is going to take place in the same venue, which I just showed on the map on the previous slide. So, this is going to be a meeting which is going to take place, that will be on Sunday if I'm not mistaken. Then Monday, we'll immediately proceed with the ICANN80 summit.

Next. So, I don't want to repeat much on the objectives and the aim of the high-level government meeting, but we know it is more to raise the high-level political awareness about the ICANN's role and activities in the broader internet governance. Next. This will enable all parties to gain a clear understanding of the role of government in ICANN processes, including the government representative.

Next. For this, once again, I believe that during this session, we are going to discuss and even align on some of the critical topics that is going to be focused on during the high-level government meeting next year. So during this session, we are going to exchange ideas on some of those critical topics and definitely we need your inputs.

After this event, in a few weeks, you will receive or the government, or your respective government will receive the invitations, inviting them for the high-level government meeting to take place next year. So basically, we have been just waiting for this event to take place. Then after, send the invitations and we hope you will all join, you will engage your government to attend. At the same time, even our government is very ready to receive you, to host you and ready even to engage all government leaders to be able to attend such kind of very important

meeting. So let me stop from here. Then we will continue discussing with colleagues as well as share ideas.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much, Charles. I think I didn't send you my presentation, but you have it? The presentation prepared by Rob, I think. So this is a very special ICANN meeting, very different from the GAC. The idea is not to have a GAC plus meeting. The aim of this meeting is to help high level officials such as ministers, head of regulators to better understand the role of ICANN in the broader IG ecosystem. Because we know that ICANN is not on the radar of many ministers. In the past, it was different because we have this recurrent every two years meeting. With the pandemic, we are not able to organize this kind of meeting.

So as mentioned by Charles, thanks to Rwanda, we will be able to resume and to start again. This is a very important meeting for ICANN. It's a good way as well for us to have more governments involved. Some of them are not GAC members, not that much, but we still have some governments which are not GAC members so far. So this is a good way for us to invite them and to better understand what we are doing as ICANN and what ICANN is doing in different areas.

So next slide, please. So where does it come? The idea of this HLGM comes from two recommendations of the accountability and transparency review team, ICANN. This review team the aim of this review team was to provide some recommendation to improve ICANN governance, ICANN accountability, and ICANN visibility. So we have two recommendations. The recommendation 14, which is mentioning

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the need to have this early work to raise a report to go over these activities. And we have a second recommendation.

Next slide, please which mentioned these two years period between two HLGM. So you, as GAC representative, you have a role to play, of course, because you are the intermediary between us and your ministers or head of the regulators. Again, the idea is not to have a classic GAC discussion during this HLGM, but more talk about high level topic. In the past, we had, at least two HLGM focused on the IANA transition. I think it was London and Marrakesh. So this time, we will not need to go through this because the IANA transition was seven years ago now. I don't need to talk again about this, but we're used to have discussion about digital divide, what ICANN is doing, because, of course, we have a very specific mandate, but it doesn't mean that ICANN is not active in the fight against digital divide.

The same thing for security and resiliency of the internet. Of course, we have a specific mandate, but ICANN and the ICANN community are trying to play a role in the safer internet. And so we have some ideas to have high level discussion. The format in the past, we had like three or four sessions. So it's a full day meeting with four main sessions. The idea is to have a moderator and a panel for each session. And the composition of the panel should reflect a bit the multistakeholder governance model. So the idea is to have, of course high level officials on the panel. But we are expecting to have a representative from the technical community, from the business community, from the internet user community.

Next slide, please. So that's next slide, please. Next slide. So, yes, Charles already mentioned the last HLGM we had, I can say that and correct me if I'm wrong, but we had very successful meeting in the past. The last one in Barcelona was quite successful, I think, in terms of attendance. I think that we have a lot of ministers and high-level officials attending this meeting. As I told you, so it's not the first one. So you can access on the website on their GAC website to a guide drafted by the former hosts of the HLGM. So there are a lot of information about the HLGM on the website.

And next slide, please. It's important. Not the statement, of course, but this is important. But one question is, what kind of outcome we can expect? There is no -- we will not try to negotiate in a text. The idea is to have a chairman report of the of the of the meeting and the chairman report is a summary of the discussion held by the different high-level officials during the four sessions of the meeting. And so next slide, please. You have different examples of reports HLGM report on the GAC website, that we have all of them. Thank you. We have all of them.

So the thing is, next year in June, we don't have a lot of time to prepare this meeting. What we are trying to do today and during this ICANN78 meeting is try to identify main topics of discussion. And again, the idea is to have a very high-level topic. The idea is not to go too much into detail right now. We just need to have some topic of discussion in order to be to help our colleagues Charles to send an invitation to the different high-level officials. We need your help as well to reach out to your bosses or your ministers, head of regulators, and to inform them about this meeting and the importance of this meeting for the ICANN community and especially for governments.

So in the coming weeks, I think that Rwanda will send invitations to the high level officials. We will need to find the agenda between now and ICANN79, the sooner the better, because we need to we need to find some speakers, we need to develop a flow for the discussion and we need to be sure that every high level officials will have the opportunity to speak and to have a slot, a speaking slot. Of course, we will not have everyone on stage. We have a few of them on stage, a lot in the in the room, but there will be an opportunity for each delegation to take the floor, make a statement, ask questions, et cetera. So yes, the role of the GAC representatives and thank you, Rob, for the presentation.

We need to help Charles to notify the appropriate contacts in your government or regulator could be both. As I told you, we need your help to promote and inform your colleagues at home and high-level officials at home. Next slide, please. Next slide. So that's the last list of topics we had from the -- that's the list of topics we had from the last HLGM, which was held in Barcelona. So that was the list of topics. It was a long time ago. So this is a list of topics is not maybe very relevant right now. I think that we discussed with Charles already about a potential list of topics.

So next slide, please. As I told you, it's very high level. So for example as ICANN we are trying to develop the connectivity, get more people connected. It's all big revolution. It's not AI. Sorry, it's more how you can connect people who are not connected. There is a theme discussed in many for UN and UN agencies forum which is a meaningful connectivity because the connectivity is not -- digital device, is not just an infrastructure issue. We need to get people online in different countries, people are covered by 4G, 3G or 4G, but they're not

connected because of the cost of the data and the lack of incentive for them to be connected.

So this is something that ICANN is trying to tackle with different organizations, especially in Africa, with the Coalition for Digital Africa. And I will go back to that at the end. So if we want to stick to the social agenda when it comes to ICT related issues, development of meaningful connectivity is a big theme. What ICANN is doing we are not doing that much in terms of content, I told you, already told you, but ICANN is involved in how we can reach local content with artificial domain names and universal acceptance. We have, of course, a gTLD that could be used by different communities to develop their presence on the Internet. And we have the work we are doing with different partners to support ccTLDs.

ICANN is not used to intervene in the way the studies are managed by different countries, but we are used to provide technical assistance, technical support to ccTLDs and it's having a good ccTLDs is key if you want to develop equal services and a strong national digital economy. We have cyber security, of course, as well. There is different things ICANN and different part of the ICANN community are doing in terms of DNS security and resiliency. So this could be a theme as well. A topic, sorry. We have, of course, the potential impact of emerging technologies. We are aware that the DNS is a quite old technology, and we are surrounded by new emerging technologies such as blockchain. And you will have a will have a tech day tomorrow about this, the impact of this kind of emerging technologies on the DNS.

So we can have a session on that, but I think that it's important for governments, edible officials, to understand that this is not that there is a potential impact of these technologies and what we are doing here. And because it's in Africa and because we have some concrete examples of how we can use the multistakeholder model to solve problems, local problems in different countries, we can have a focus on the coalition for digital Africa.

I think that some of you are not very familiar with that. The coalition for digital Africa is a coalition of different organizations, mostly technical organizations, which are trying to develop connectivity in Africa. We are working on several programs with different organizations, and it will be, I think, a good opportunity for us and for our partners to showcase what we are doing. We launched this coalition in December 2022 during the IGF in Addis Ababa. So we can do this top taking after 18 months of coalition.

Again, you will need to select three or four topics, high-level topics. That's we have some examples here. Of course, we need to find a title for each of them. But for the moment, we really need to focus on this. We don't have that a lot of time to focus on the other substance of the agenda. We will do that through webinars between now and ICANN79. And the idea is to have everything ready. I think I hope before ICANN79 because we need to invite people. We need to we need to have moderators, speakers, etc. So we need to invite these people were in advance. So that's it for me and Charles, we can maybe start a discussion about the selection of topics. What do you think it's important to have on this agenda?

Again, the idea is to stick to high level topic and the aim of this meeting is to explain what ICANN is doing in different areas. So it's not the kind of discussion you have in the GAC, you are used to having the GAC. It's more audible. So thank you very much and you can please, Tracy.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Question time, question time. You don't ask, I will ask you. I see one from Manal. Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Tracy, just to break the ice and I have a couple of questions first regarding the timeline. I think maybe we need the timeline to work with. So when is the deadline to inform Charles about the names of the list of invitees, ministers or head of regulators? Second, whether within this invitation, we need a high-level agenda attached to it or is it just going to be just the invitation? Because if we need an agenda, then at least we need to identify the sessions and then -- But you mentioned two webinars and...

LAURENT FERRALI: It is. Sorry, for this meeting, for the ICANN78 meeting, the idea is to come with three or four main topics to build the agenda, just the main topics and try to find a way to phrase it. Not to divide them, you need to find a way to phrase it, but in order to be able to attach to the invitation, a very short agenda of the meeting.

MANAL ISMAIL: Exactly, because I think it's important to attach the topics.

LAURENT FERRALI: This is why we are trying to just to focus on the topic right now in order to be able to send the invitation. I think that Charles would need to have some names in the coming weeks, the two coming weeks, I think, something like that. But it will be easy for you to notify people, I think, because it's high-level official. But it's more something maybe a word. What do you think about the invitation? The idea was to be able to send the invitation at the end of the month, the beginning of November.

MANAL ISMAIL: And meanwhile.

LAURENT FERRALI: After you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL: I was going to talk about the topics, because when you mentioned the topics, I had three things in mind. And then when you put this slide, I see already the ICANN work part is already covered here. And emerging technologies and strategic vision is already also covered here. What I don't see here is the ICANN role within the global ecosystem. And I think this is a hot topic as well. And it's good to have government know where exactly does ICANN fall within the global ecosystem, where the technical community in general fall and where topics are linked to other fora and where they are not. So it's a good opportunity also to have this

as an additional topic. If agreed by everyone, of course, thank you. I'm brainstorming.

LAURENT FERRALI: Yes, of course. And this is the aim of this meeting. And in the past, we were used to have this kind of session at the beginning, I think, of the HLGM, this kind of high-level discussion about all of ICANN and what ICANN is doing in the different because ICANN is not the only organization in the IG ecosystem. We have, of course, a military organization such as the UN, etc. So we need I think that many governments -- many ministers and regulators are fully aware of what ITU is doing. It's not the same thing when we talk about ICANN as well. So I think it's important to have this session. But it's just my...

MANAL ISMAIL: It's not just the ITU. There is the global digital impact and many things going on. Before handing back the floor, just to thank Rwanda very much for offering to host the long-awaited high-level government meeting. And thanks to ICANN government engagement and GAC support staff. We've been trying to do this for 40 years now. Thank you.

CHARLES GAHUNGU: Thank you very much, Manal. And I like to add that some of the future in 2024 as well. So that's very important that this will be in the lead up to all of that as well. So it's part of the agenda, the global agenda.

TRACY HACKSHAW: So questions, Rob, you wanted to -- first before Rob, I think I would have responded on the letter invitation.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you very much, Tracy and Manal. The last HLGM was agreed to and the process had started before I had joined the GAC support staff. So I was doing some research just to identify timing and the rest. I think one of the things that Charles and Laurent have pointed out is that there is usually a much longer lead time to prepare. At least that's the common understanding that, gee, you should at least have a year in advance to prepare. When I actually looked back at preparations for the ICANN63, 2018 HLGM in Barcelona, though, I saw that for that meeting, the invitations went out about eight months in advance of the meeting, not a year.

So if you do the math for June of 2024, you're looking at no later than the end of November to get out the invitations, realistically. Would you like to do it before that timeframe? I think so, just because you all know how long it takes your governments to go through the budgeting process or get additional approvals. I think the goal would be no later than the end of November to get out the invitations. However, in the rest of the conversations today, if you make great progress, provide feedback on the suggested topics here and include your suggestions from you, Manal, from others, you may be able to accomplish that much faster.

Laurent had anticipated, depending upon the results of this conversation, is that there might be an additional GAC call that would go out to the full committee and we would have a webinar or some

other full committee conversation, maybe two weeks after this meeting, to confirm whatever suggestions come out of this conversation. I think that's the hope. I do not know, but we'll work with Laurent and some of the rest of you who are more experienced in the process and how successful it was to get every GAC member to share what contact or to whom they wanted the invitations to go.

For me, that's still somewhat of a black box. I anticipate that it could be accomplished by a simple request to the full committee, saying as a follow-up, we would like all of you to share with us who you want Charles to invite and go very quickly through that process, give you all a couple of weeks to identify that. Many of you are becoming much more responsive to some of those requests, so I'm hopeful that we would get pretty quick turnaround on that. And we'll commit as staff, Laurent and Charles, to get that request generated this week so that it's not only a reminder for those of you here in person, but for all of the GAC representatives and delegates attending remotely. So we'll get that started during this week's meeting.

I think that touches on just about everything that I was asked, Laurent. I'd only point out one last thing, which is that the agenda work was very intense for Spain, for that meeting in Barcelona, and there was some really good back and forth. As Laurent said, these are high-level topics, but then an actual agenda with speakers and timing and everything else gets put together. You'll note that from Charles' slide, the ICANN meeting, which is a policy forum, starts on like the Monday and is a three or four-day meeting. The plan for the HLGM is the day before, which is a Sunday in Rwanda, so you'll all have to do a good bit of

planning and cajoling or convincing of your bosses or more senior folks about that.

Wrapping all of this up, even though Spain, the invitation went out relatively late, we based upon the four previous meetings, record attendance. Had over 200 senior officials show up in Barcelona for the HLGM and had a point where we were trying to find additional seats. So we will be following up with all of you very proactively to get confirmations once the invitations do go out. That's all, I think. Thanks, Tracy and Laurent.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you. Laurent, you want to respond to that?

LAURENT FERRALI: I want to add something.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Go ahead.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much, Rob. It will be a Sunday because there is a choice for us. We are planning to maybe organize a side event on the Saturday as well to attract ministers. So meeting on the Saturday, but I will for the moment, there is no confirmation. We are just start talking about this with different people. So we're trying to find a way to make this event more interesting for many high level officials. And we are planning to have some parliamentarians as well on the Saturday. So

they will stay for the HLGM because it's not just government, it's government regulators and we can have parliamentarians as well. And we have a very dynamic group of parliamentarians in Africa on the state governance.

They are used to participating in many meetings, sorry, not ICAN, but many meetings. Really the aim of this meeting and there is a global agenda. We will be just one year before there was this first 20 discussion and it's a good opportunity for us to showcase what ICANN is doing and the importance of the multilateral cooperation with concrete examples. It's not just about political discussion. We will talk about very concrete examples of what ICANN is doing, what ICAN community people are doing, organizations are doing, et cetera. The idea is to really to have a very good overview of the functioning of the multilateral model on internal governance with concrete examples and discussions.

So it's a Sunday. We are trying to have something on the Saturday. And in the meantime, it's one year before a very important discussion in the UN about internal governance. I think that we'll be able to attract some people, even if it will be on Sunday. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much, Laurent. So Gulten can you just help me with any questions online as well? Thanks. So we have Nigeria and UK in the queue. Anybody else who wishes to jump in? Just let me know.

MISTURA ARUNA: Thank you very much. Mistura, again, Manal actually addressed one of my concerns because most governments are actually IT-centric than ICANN-centric. So we should look for a topic to cover that side. Then another question is what criteria will be used in choosing those that are going to speak, the speakers for that day, the representative of government coming?

LAURENT FERRALI: First, we need to -- thank you for your questions. Regarding the selection of speakers, this is something we will do with you and with Charles, with the local host. The idea is to, when we will be able to fine tune a bit more the agenda, we will be able to identify potential speakers. And the idea is to have a good balance between a rational distribution of speakers and speakers from different stakeholder groups, not only from governments. We need to have the idea, again, is to show how the multicellular model is functioning on the ground.

And so the idea is to have speakers from the technical community, from the business, from internet users, governments. But this is something we will discuss with you. We will fine tune with you when we will have a more precise vision of the agenda. But it's transparent. My role as government engagement team is to support you in the drafting of this agenda and to find speakers. So you can suggest speakers. I can suggest speakers. It's transparent. We have a common goal, having a successful meeting. And when I say successful, it's a meeting where we will have a lot of high-level officials and good discussion based on concrete examples. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much. UK.

NIGEL HICKSON: Thank you, Nigel Hickson, UK GAC. Thank you very much, Charles. Really, really excellent that Rwanda has put their hat in the ring to host this high-level government meeting. And not before time, as others have said, it's been some time. But for understandable reasons. Let me just make four points if I can. First of all, London. I was involved in the preparation for the London high-level government meeting. And as others have said time is of the essence. But time has to be balanced with predictability and understanding of what's on offer.

If I go to my minister tomorrow and say, come to Rwanda, I'm sure he would say, I'd love to go to Rwanda. But he'd say, why? What can I get out of going to Rwanda? So for high-level government officials, for ministers, and we want ministers there. It is ministers that really do make a difference if we can get them there. They'll want to know what's the offer. And so that is very important indeed. And the agenda is important, but also who else they'll meet while they're in Rwanda. And what else can they accomplish? So that's, I think, the first point.

The second point is in terms of the actual event itself. Obviously, we're constrained by practicalities. And the ICANN meeting starts on the Monday, as I understand it. So a Sunday meeting is perhaps appropriate. But what we found in London, and I can only talk for what worked in London, was that we had a mixture of the high-level government meeting and the ICANN meeting itself. Because ministers were quite keen to understand what happened at this meeting. And this is also important for the GAC. We come to these meetings, and I'm sure

it's the same for all of us. We ask our bosses in advance, can we go to this meeting? And the boss says, perhaps justify it to me.

And it's really important for us to be able to get our high-level officials there, to get our ministers there, because it shows them what ICANN does. It shows them why it's important to keep on sending us to the Government Advisory Committee and being involved in this process. I think if we can, we do need to mix the high-level government meeting, at least with one or two sessions of the ICANN meeting itself. So that rather points to a Sunday-Monday meeting, rather than a Saturday-Sunday meeting. But that's in the hands of practicalities. The fourth point, or third point, or whatever, agenda is obviously important. But I think, and on the agenda, I think it has to look at two elements.

It has to look at what ICANN is doing, and the ICANN agenda, and why the ICANN agenda is important for ministers from our countries. And that, I'm sure, has to touch on SubPro in some way. Because by June next year, there will be further, if you like, further planning that will have gone on for the next round of gTLDs. And it seems appropriate that in terms of that, looking ahead to the next round, that we look at multilingualism, that we look at applicant support, that we look at developed, as you put on the screen, that we really do look to see what we want, where we're going in this next round, and how we can make ICANN a more diverse, multilingual community.

And also the point that was raised by Manal. The same ministers and the same high-level officials that will be coming to Rwanda, hopefully, may well be involved in the Summer to the Future, which is taking place in September, and will agree the Global Digital Compact, and might well

be involved in the WSIS+20 process. So again, some focus on how ICANN is involved and the importance of that might be appropriate as well. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much. Any further questions from the audience, insights, inputs, ideas for the agenda?

SHELLEY-ANN: Thanks, Tracy, Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds, for the record. Just following up on the previous speakers and looking at the agenda items, perhaps you might want to focus on maybe one or two primary topics, so that way you'll have more focused engagement of the ministers, but aligned with some of the international developments that are taking place. So just putting that on the record for consideration. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much. That's a very good suggestion, I think. I think that we can phrase, we can have different topics under the same theme, so it would make the agenda more understandable for people. Thank you for this suggestion.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Netherlands.

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ALISA HEAVER: Yes, thank you. This is Alisa Heaver for the record. First of all, thank you, Rwanda, for wanting to host the next high-level meeting. I agree with a few other colleagues that it should -- well, this high-level meeting should also look at how ICANN is based in the whole multi-stakeholder model and with regards to the WSIS+20 and the GDC, so everything that's going on in the rest of the world, so to say. And I was wondering, so will we in the next session go in breakouts and discuss this further amongst each other, or what will be the follow-up on this, and when will we kind of in the end decide upon these are going to be the topics, because frankly, that's at the moment quite unclear to me. Thanks.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you, Alisa. The breakout session is more about the issue of interest by region, is to have GAC members from different regions to be more involved in GAC discussion, because some GAC reps need to have interest in the discussion to be active. So this is, the breakout session will be more dedicated to the GAC work, not for the HLGM. The idea is to have a webinar in a two weeks' time to agree and it's not me to agree, it's more you, to agree on the different topics you want to put on the agenda, and we are planning to have a webinar in two weeks' time, in which you have some main topics for the agenda, so Charles will be able the one this government will be able to send high-level official, invitation for high-level officials.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Laurent. Any follow-up? All right, so there's a question coming. Go ahead, Hungary.

PETER MAJOR: Thank you, Tracy. I'm Peter Major from GAC representative of Hungary. This time I would like to make some statement as vice chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the UN. It has been said that we are having a high-level meeting at the UN. There is a summit of the future, and also we have the global digital compact coming up on the radar, and we have already launched in CSTD the consultations on WSIS+20.

I think the Kigali meeting will be an excellent opportunity for all those high-level people and the ICANN community as a whole to contribute to the WSIS+20 review, and frankly speaking, I just join Nigel on his idea that those high-level people are mostly interested in these processes, and probably ICANN should fit in as a contribution or a contributor to the internet ecosystem, and it should be taken at that.

So what I propose is eventually to have some kind of high-level consultation as well on WSIS+20 and the GDC and all the other topics to be included, and I fully agree that probably it would be interesting to have the high-level meeting just alongside with the ICANN80 in order that high-level people would have some ideas what we are doing here in ICANN. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much, Hungary. Just to respond.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much for this suggestion, and yes, I think it would be very timely for us to have the HLGM in the context of the UN discussion and I think that we have...

TRACY HACKSHAW: This one, Grenada. Grenada, yes.

VINCENT ROBERTS: Thank you very much. Vincent Roberts from Grenada. Now, at present, digital transformation and the introduction of digital IDs is a current focus of many of the governments in the Caribbean region. However, we've found that building trust among the users is a great challenge, and I think for many of the governments who are introducing digital IDs, this seemed to be one of the issues. I think for our government, our high-level government representatives, who very often are not technical, discussing WSIS especially when we speak about DNS security and resilience, how in a non-technical way they can embrace this digital governance and how they can get it to be accepted by the people who want to use it, the general population. I think this is one of the challenges, which would be good to deal with. Thanks.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you, Grenada.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much, Grenada. Lebanon.

ZEINA BOU HARB: This is Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon. Actually, all the topics that are proposed here on the screen, they are very much important to everyone but I have a concern regarding topic one with development of meaningful connectivity and digital divide, and the last one, coalition of digital Africa. What I would propose here is to merge these two into one setting the scene session. From there, we go into two tracks, one related to the IG ecosystem, including the place of ICANN within this with all the procedures and all the tracks that we have, and another segment related to the really substantive topics related to ICANN work, which are the new gTLDs, the ccTLDs, the cyber security.

Maybe we would have two kinds of background of representatives. Some people will focus on the sessions related to the IG system and connectivity, and other more technical representative from the government will follow up on the other track, which is related to the technical issues.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Lebanon. Your response, Laurent?

LAURENT FERRALI: Again, I just put that on the screen for you, just to start with something, but of course, you are free to suggest whatever you want. I think that it's a good idea to start with this broader discussion about the place, the role of ICANN in the broader IG ecosystem. The thing with meaningful connectivity is that it's a very large the definition of meaningful connectivity is very large, so you can put everything in that. It's an issue for us, because you can put local content, you can put security and

residency, because people don't want to go into that if it's not secure and safe. We need time to rephrase all of this.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Don't you think that the coalition for digital Africa can be like a best practice model?

LAURENT FERRALI: It was just the idea. We would be in Africa, so maybe we can. The idea was just to showcase what we are doing in this context. It's not a session based. The idea is not to have a session on the coalition. The idea is to use the work we are doing there, because it's very concrete work with concrete outcomes to fuel a discussion in the different sessions, because we touch on cybersecurity, we touch on ccTLDs, we touch on different things with the coalition. So the idea is not to have a session on this. It's to fuel a discussion on a different session with some examples.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much. Any other inputs or questions on this topic? Yes, Mauritania.

MOHAMED EL MOCTAR: Mohamed El Moctar from Mauritania. I'm just thinking out loud with you as well. A point I thought of is that since it has been some time that this meeting happened and the ICANN has been through the IANA transition, maybe it is a good point to, while giving a presentation about

the ICANN, where is it in terms of governance and what is expected from the government through GAC. I think that is also something that is used. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much. This is something we can cover on the first session. Mentioned by Manal, by Zeina, by Nigel, et cetera. So I think this is something we can definitely mention. And as mentioned by different GAC members, GAC reps, sorry, we can mix this high-level meeting with a GAC session so they will be fully aware of what we're doing. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Are there any other questions? Yes, at the end of the session.

GUO FENG: Guo Feng from China. First, perhaps I may miss some part of your presentation. My first question is how long will it take for this high-level meeting? Perhaps one day or two days? That's my first question. And next, a small comment. Looking at the screen, we have several topics. So I would suggest perhaps another potential topic is AI governance, which is a very hot topic during the past Kyoto, although I wasn't there. But I heard that there was a lot of discussion on the AI governance. So that's my comment. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much. Yes, it's a one-day meeting. It's difficult to keep our ministers busy for two days on ICANN, which is an issue, I think, even if it's high-level. So it's one-day meeting. Regarding AI, we have an issue here with the mandate of ICANN. I'm not sure that we'll be able to share a lot of information of what ICANN is doing in terms of AI. But of course, the internal governance model built around ICANN and other organizations can give some ideas to the people who are working on AI governance. But I think that it will be a session on IG.

We are thinking about having a session on IG and all of ICANN. It can maybe fuel a discussion in other forums about AI governance. But I don't think that we will be able to have a specific session on AI governance. Take into account the very specific mandate of ICANN. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Did you all know that Angular runs .ai? So that could be something that we could -- Just joking. So any other questions before we wrap up and go to a break? Any other feedback or comments? It doesn't look like it. So with that, I think I'll hand back to yourself and Charles for final words. So you have the feedback coming in from the audience. Any thoughts, any summary you'd like to take away? Go ahead.

CHARLES GAHUNGU: Thank you so much for your contribution as well as very constructive inputs. This really shows that we are together in the preparation for the coming event. As it was highlighted, we have very, very limited time in terms of preparations, specifically when it comes to sending the

invitation to the high level. As you know such kind of invitations, definitely it has to come from also high-level government, not just from like the regulatory authority or the GAC representative. So it has to go through all government protocols, specifically from the ministry in charge of foreign affairs so that it really goes from, if it is addressed to the high level, definitely it has to come from the high level.

So with all those processes, we have very limited time and I believe we will be able to align on this agenda. As you said, it is very, very important to send an invitation, at least with a high-level agenda topic, even though it may not be broken into details on how each session is going to be handled. However, the high-level agenda must be included. And we take note, definitely as well as the leaders, we are together here, finalizing this high-level topic, which has to be really clear as well as with the importance which will really attract the high level to attend this forum.

I believe we are going to exchange also emails will be reminding about the contacts. We know there have been changes. I remember in the morning session, one highlighted that many changes, even on the current database of the contact, you may find that some of the GAC representatives who are on the list, they are no longer there. So we need to have a quick response and the accurate list of the contacts. But at the same time, I believe also through our ministry of foreign affairs, they always have also counterparts' addresses. So together with the ministry in charge of ICT innovation, as well as the regulatory authority and the minister of foreign affairs in our country, we will work together with your support and inputs to come up with the updated, if I can say,

database of the contacts of the people, the right people to be invited, then immediately we will send the invitations.

So that is what I can say in summary. Otherwise, the inputs specifically on topics were very, very important. And we hope within two weeks, we'll be able to finalize it by end of November. I don't know, perhaps even before end of November, we should have released the invitations.

LAURENT FERRALI: I think that maybe in time of timeline it will be very good if you can send the, all of you including those who are not here, if you can send the contacts of your high-level officials, you want Rwanda to invite HLGM. In the meantime, we can agree on the organization of a webinar to discuss and validate the main themes. And you are free to intervene on the GAC list. We can start a thread on the GAC list about that, about the discussion, about the agenda. This is something we can discuss between now and mid-November. Mid-November, we can have this webinar or a full GAC, a call with a full GAC just to agree on the main themes. So at that time, we will have the contacts and the main themes. So the one, this government will be able to send the invitation. Any question? No, I think, wait, yes, questions.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Good afternoon. My name is Pierre. I do not fully represent Haiti, because I'm still waiting for a confirmation letter. But I work for the ICT Council in Haiti. I wanted to take the floor, because we still did not send a letter to officialize our representative at the ICANN. And we will send this letter shortly. And we will be able to vote. So this letter should be

sent by my boss. But I will give you his details, so you can send him the invitation for the high-level governmental meeting. Thank you very much.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much, Haiti.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: You're welcome, always. We are there.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Excellent.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: I don't think there are any more questions or feedback coming in. No. So I'd like to be getting ready for a very interactive session coming up. So I'd like to hand over to my colleague, Karel, who would introduce you to what's happening next, and to send you off to maybe a break. Karel?

KAREL DOUGLAS: Thank you, Tracy. And of course, thank you, Laurent and Charles. Please give them a round of applause. And we certainly look forward to the HLGM next year. Sounds like it's going to be quite exciting. So this takes us to another 30 minute break. And when we return, we're going

to have some quite exciting discussions. And those discussions we will extend or we will have to devote the next two sessions to breakout sessions.

Breakout sessions to give you an opportunity to discuss matters that are important to you. During the sessions, you will work together to identify current and upcoming issues that are important to your region of the world. We hope the discussions may create some regional synergies that have outcomes for discussions to provide input for future strategic planning. So we look forward to that. And Tracy, is there anything I missed there?

TRACY HACKSHAW: Just to let that we will be, for those who are in D.C, Washington, D.C, we did a multilingual breakout. So we're repeating that this time. So you'll be breaking out to discuss these issues in your native language or the language you're most comfortable with, whichever is up to you. We're not forcing you anywhere, but there will be, if you look at the strategically placed flipchart boards, you'll see two English groups, one Arabic, one French, one Spanish, one Chinese. I think that's it. If there's enough Portuguese, we'll make that happen too. So you'll break out in those multilingual groups and we will endeavor to discuss regional priorities. Find a way.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Thank you so much and see you in 30 minutes.

TRACY HACKSHAW: It'll also be an online group, by the way. Online, please stay in the Zoom room. There'll be an online group online in Zoom. Karel, we're asking you to help moderate that group, just letting you know.

KAREL DOUGLAS: I will see what I could do. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]