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ICANN80 | PF – GAC Operations and Wrap-Up  
Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 15:30 to 17:00 KGL

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. So welcome back, everyone. Please take your seats. We're about to start.

DANIEL GLUCK: Hello, and welcome to the ICANN80 GAC Operations and Wrap-Up session on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, at 13:30 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During the session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you'll be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. And please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking. You may access all available features for this session in the Zoom toolbar. And with that, I will leave the floor over to GAC chair, Nico Caballero.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Daniel. Welcome to the Wrap-Up session. We made it in time with a communiqué. I'm very glad, and congratulations to everyone. And thank you for your flexibility. Thank you for your contributions. Thank you for your help. Thank you so much.

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So let's get started. And for that, let me give the floor to Rob for some housekeeping details, as well as many other very interesting issues he has to share with us. Rob?

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thank you for all staying around for this final session. The purpose of the Wrap-Up session is to identify upcoming activities for you all to be prepared between now and the next ICANN public meeting of the GAC. And so what I'll be doing is going through just a number of general areas here. We've got information about the next GAC election, talk about some ICANN80 follow-up work, talk about and identify some key post meeting dates for you all to be aware of, and then give you all an opportunity to discuss lessons learned from the HLG and from this meeting.

So at the end of this day, probably in a couple of hours, I will be transmitting an e-mail to the entire committee, announcing the start of the nomination period for the GAC vice-chair/chair or chair/vice-chair election for 2024. Next slide, Dan, please.

Basically, the nomination period will be open from today, technically, June 14<sup>th</sup>, where it's already in some part of the globe, until the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. There are six positions for nominations that will be open for the nominating period. There will be the GAC chair position, a two-year term for which Nico is eligible for a second term. And there will be five vice-chair positions, all of which will be open for one-year terms. But unfortunately, three of our current vice-chairs are term-limited. So essentially, three of the leadership team will be eligible for re-

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nomination and three brand new individuals will be joining the leadership team in March of 2025.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Can I interrupt you right there? Because this is something we need to talk with the full GAC, because as a matter of fact, it's something I will I would like to change. This is something we will need to talk with the GAC Operating Principles Working—what was the name? Is that the acronym?

ROB HOGGARTH: Yes, GOP, the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Evolution Working Group. Thank you for that. And the idea being, to extend the tenure of the vice-chairs to two years and eventually the tenure of the GAC chair to three years. Not for me, maybe for the next GAC chair or something. The reasoning behind is that the learning curve is so steep, so to say. In my opinion, Liz and I stand to be corrected here, that the bottom line is that it would be good to have at least the vice-chairs to have them there for two years. Back to you.

ROB HOGGARTH: Great. Thank you. So, nominations will open upon the moment I send out the e-mail. Next slide, please, Dan.  
And then, at any point between now and September 25<sup>th</sup>, you'll have the opportunity to present names. We have a webpage already set up

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to receive those nominations, a very simple process for submitting nominations. These are self-nominations or third-party nominations. We look forward to your thoughts, interests, and those who may want to contribute to the work of the committee in a more directed way here over the next few months. Again, as I noted earlier, Nico, the current leadership team is in place for still a considerable period of time until March of next year. But over the years, the committee has established this rolling election period to really help onboard new members to the leadership team. Typically, once the election period ends, and that's beyond the nomination period, but an actual balloting period will extend into the ICANN81 meeting and conclude during that meeting in Istanbul in November. Then the individuals elected will join the leadership team in an unofficial capacity, more of an optional capacity, until they take their seats next year. So watch for the e-mail. Next slide, please, Dan.

Next area of focus is follow-up work. What we try to do during the week is identify either topics that are mentioned, work that's identified, or otherwise, to flag things that have happened during the ICANN meeting or close to that for you to be focused on or thinking about over the next couple of weeks, next month or two. As usual, throughout the period, all sorts of additional aspects of the work come into play. But these are some that we've identified and we welcome all of you to identify other ones that we have not.

First is even though it's going to be five months away, ICANN81 planning, some of the discussions today I think demonstrated the value of suggesting topics as early as possible. The GAC support staff asks for those topics probably in the next few weeks. And then there

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will be some agenda setting calls later in the period to fine tune things. But what can be very helpful is to get your expectations in as early as possible. So sessions can actually be scheduled for some of that work. I think, as we saw in some of your discussions today, the importance of noting or discussing certain topics prior to getting to the communiqué, so that planning process will be very important, and we welcome input on that.

Then next item I've identified here is the Board resolution that came out during the Board workshop, and you all talked about this in drafting the communiqué. And that is an expectation that the Board has to initiate a consultation process on the GAC advice from the ICANN77 communiqué regarding avoiding auctions between commercial and non-commercial applications. So that's a part of the overall topic of resolving application disputes or just resolving contention on particular strings. And I think the chair has a comment to make there.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Actually, I have a question and it's regarding the way to tell time. I don't understand that. It says 2024 June 8 and then 15. Can you clarify that for me, please?

ROB HOGGARTH: Unless that's a typo in me creating the slide, which very well could be, I believe that that is June 8<sup>th</sup>, Number 15. This is the way the Board identifies its resolution. So 2024 June 8, and this is the 15<sup>th</sup> resolution of the year.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you so much for that.

ROB HOGGARTH: So that slide, that's an active link, you've already discussed it a bit. One can argue and there are debates about what constitutes notice from the Board to the GAC, but it's likely, Nico, you'll get some formal communication from the Board chair here in the next week or two, basically saying, "We would like to initiate this consultation." So all of you should be alert to that because there will be follow-up from the GAC leadership and topic leads about how to work through and consult with all of you to conduct that "consultation". For those who are not completely familiar with it, there are links that we've got on the GAC website that we're happy to share with you that identify what the flow is of that process and what a consultation process looks like. Manal had that experience on a number of occasions and you'll get the opportunity to potentially do that as well, Nico.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Rob. I have a hand from the U.S. Susan, please.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, Chair. And just to pick up, Rob, on something that you had said as regards the second bullet point that was on your slide. I'd welcome the opportunity to work with other GAC colleagues to discuss issues raised before the meeting. What I mean to say is that there were

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a number of issues that were raised at the end, just through inclusion in the communiqué that were not necessarily discussed and deliberated during the meeting. I think the communiqué almost has an effect of focusing effect, because as we were discussing the issues that were on the screen, that's when we heard from so many different GAC reps and really kind of dug into the heart of the issues. I think that is really enjoyable, it would just be really nice to be able to do that intersessionally. So if we can somehow craft that magic intersessionally and arrange calls, I think it would be very beneficial for the GAC as a whole. So just on that point that I wanted to share that. Thank you.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Susan. The approach that started under Manal that Nico has continued has provided mixed results, I think, so far in terms of trying to encourage some of those contributions to the communiqué early where Nico sends out his e-mail about topics for the communiqué, then specific language. But the process really does start now in terms of identifying potential things going forward. So the assistance of your delegation along with everybody else I think would certainly help that. Yes, there is an element of human nature in that focus. We recognize how much work all of you do on other parts of your portfolio, frankly, and the necessity sometimes of only being able to focus on ICANN affairs earlier. You will recognize, I think many of you who've been here more than a few years, that it's an ongoing week by week sometimes matters that require attention as opposed to quarter by quarter.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: I have Australia.

IAN SHELDON: Thanks, Nico. Ian Sheldon, GAC Australia for the record. I'm just listening to the communiqué discussion. It makes me wonder if a session on the communiqué itself might be warranted, some of the history, protocols, procedures, norms. I think because as we kind of evolve and look at this document, I think there's a lot of history behind it. It might be worth unpacking some of that and having a discussion as a group about what do we actually want from this document, and then why do we do it? Just food for thought. Thanks.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you very much for that suggestion. As part of the strategic planning and annual planning discussions, particularly in the area of effectiveness of the committee, two of the action items that the support staff has already begun is one an onboarding document for new leaders, and that's getting fairly mature now. The other is Fabien will virtually kick me from the back of the room, some examination of what you're suggesting, which is providing some documentation and background about the communiqué. And if we can then build on that with your suggestion for a webinar, that would be great. Currently, what we offer every intersessional period is an onboarding exercise for new GAC members, new participants to learn about general GAC operations, but that's at a very high level. So finding something that



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can be targeted just that the communiqué is something we'll look into.

Thank you very much.

Moving on to the next bullet item on your list is—I'm just going to read it out so I get it correctly—the GNSO Council motion to request an issue report for diacritics and Latin script. I know a couple of you have had attention in this general area. What has developed over time as the GNSO has updated its policy development process is to look to ways to get early looks or early engagement by the GAC in some of the policy development processes of the GNSO. What the GNSO has done is request an initial report regarding the issue of diacritics in the Latin script, and they reached out to Nico through the GNSO liaison to ask the question, “Are there any public policy implications about this?” Again, something to be alert to. There's not an immediate deadline. But there's an expectation of the GAC at some point engaging with the GNSO, probably through the public comment process, just to identify or note any particular aspects of this potential issue report and this potential policy development process for consideration. So that's something that will come up.

The last bullet on this slide refers to a feasibility report that's expected to come out from the GAC. This is an area that the Human Rights and International Law Working Group has been focused on. It was an Additional Budget Request for the FY24 period, asking the ICANN organization to consider the use of sign language during ICANN public meetings. It's been a rather long effort. The expectation is that sometime in the next two or three months, there will be a feasibility report that the HRIL Working Group generates that will be shared with ICANN Org to keep this topic on consideration and on the radar of the

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ICANN Meetings team. The expectation being that potentially as soon as early next year, there might be a pilot project session or two at one of the ICANN meetings to test this concept. What's fascinating about this in terms of the overall umbrella of human rights and accessibility is that ICANN may be in a unique position to help develop a glossary that can be used around the world as part of developing new signs for various technology terms, particularly related to the Internet for the longer term to help those who need to utilize sign language to be able to take on ICANN-speak or DNS-speak. I don't know, Suada, if you have anything you'd like to add to the conversation, but this is something that will be coming up in the working group will be developing a draft that undoubtedly will be circulated to you all for some feedback or comments.

SUADA HADZOVIC:

Thank you very much for this update. I don't have anything to add. Thank you.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you, Suada. Suada is one of the co-chairs for the HRIL Working Group, has been working very hard with those folks to keep ICANN Org engaged in this and providing feedback and support. So thanks very much for that.

Dan, we can go to the next slide for another area that's particularly of interest to the chair and the GAC leadership, and that's the area of Strategic and Annual Plan Implementation. You've just conducted your first exercise and produced that now. The next step is to put it

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into practice. A lot of ambitious expectations for the annual plan. That's definitely going to be a focus area for a lot of you in various areas as topic leads.

Three of the particular work areas that we've identified are the continuation of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group. So for Ian and Guo Feng, there will be some additional work with that working group to move forward on certain suggestions that many of you have made and recommendations that the working group is going to be developing for the full committee. There's also this concept of Continuous Improvement Programming. That's a part of the much broader picture of ICANN reviews and ways for individual communities to improve how they operate, how they show accountability and transparency within the multistakeholder community. Tracy Hackshaw has been the GAC member of that continuous improvements efforts. I recall a couple of e-mails from Tracy updating you in terms of where that stands. So that's an area of continuous awareness you should have, if not specific activity in the next few months.

Then there are other Work Stream 2, what are called accountability items that have had a lot of attention of the HRIL Working Group. Suada and Giacomo, her co-chair, had been working on diversity principles that are being associated and circulated throughout the community. So that's going to be another area that will draw to your attention over the next several months if that work continues.

Nigel, you had noted as well, when we were preparing for this session that there might be one or two areas that you wanted to note in terms

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of some follow-up considerations. I don't know if you want to mention that at this time.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Yes. Thanks very much, Rob. Perhaps in the context of this agenda item, I could just flag one thing, which I didn't know if you were going to come to it, and that's the whole consideration of the Recommendation 7 and the possible changes to the Bylaws. But I guess this was something we discussed at the last meeting where there's consideration of whether there needs to be a Bylaw change as the Auction Proceeds program goes forward. I mean, we didn't go into details here, but we might well have to do some work on that in due course.

The other thing I just wanted to briefly flag, not for group discussion now, but perhaps for a future webinar or a brief side event in Istanbul is the work that some of us do on the UNIGF Supporters Association. So this is, as you know, the UNIGF takes place. And not only does the meeting take place annually, but there's over 160 national and regional initiatives, so many people here in the room are involved in either their national or youth or regional IGF. I know Nigel and our friend here—I mean, many of you are involved in that. And the IGFSAs exist to give money. It's a very easy job, actually. I'm the treasurer. So all I do is write checks. No one receives checks anymore. I don't understand. We give donations, so to speak, to eligible National Youth and Regional IGFs to support them in their work. We will certainly be perhaps talking a bit more about this in due course. But if anyone wants to follow-up with me, then please do. Back to you, Rob.

ROB HOGGARTH:

This might be a good opportunity to see if there are any other issues that we have not captured that are important either to your topic group or working group. Please consider those. Raise your hands or indicate us as GAC support staff. Again, these are highlights. There's all sorts of activities and follow-ups that need to be done just through the normal course of ICANN Org operations. Nico is often the target of those requests and we pass them on to all of you, but also if there are other areas that any of you think require focus, please note them now or soon after the meeting. Thank you. Great. Let's go to the next slide, please, Dan.

We'll move to important dates for you all to note on your calendars, just to flag for upcoming activities. One is the publication of the communiqué. As Fabien, Benedetta, and Nico noted earlier, the 72-hour review period will likely begin sometime early tomorrow Kigali time, and expire at some point early. It'll expire at some point early day UTC on Monday, and then the communiqué will be published, shared with all of you.

The next big date is the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Julia Charvolen shared an e-mail with you earlier today or yesterday, indicating that the deadline for travel support applications for ICANN81 is the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Please get that information in. That e-mail had some really useful links, including the GAC travel support guidelines for those of you who are newer to the committee and want to become familiar with that process.

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The minutes from this meeting will be generated in the July timeframe. Give some of my team an opportunity to rest up a little bit, and then return full of vim and vigor. So look for that.

We expect right now that the communiqué clarifying call with the ICANN Board will take place probably based on conversations I've had at lunch today in the late July timeframe. The GAC and also the ICANN Board seem to take off a good period of time in August. So if it doesn't happen by late July, it wouldn't happen until September, and that's not practical. So please look for that late July timeframe. You all did such an excellent job on your advice. This time around, maybe there won't be a lot to clarify. But it's a good touch point for conversations with the Board. And remember my previous slides, somewhere in there, there may be scheduling of this consultation, at least an initial call or two with the Board on those issues. So be alert to that, please.

As I said, in terms of preparing for ICANN81, typically, we would look to close the topic suggestions for ICANN81 in a similar timeframe, late July, early August. I would expect we'll have agenda setting calls in the early September timeframe. As already mentioned, we'll have the leadership nominations. That period will close toward the end of September, the 25<sup>th</sup>. And then we've got the next Annual General Meeting in early November. This was a very short period between ICANN79 and ICANN80. Very intense sort of race that you are running. Ideally, this longer period, and from my experience, it's one of the longer periods in ICANN history between meetings should provide some really good opportunities for some reflection and planning. Yeah, it's literally five months, Mr. Chairman, so it's a good period of

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time between meetings. Thank you, Dan. We can go to the next item or next slide.

This is, frankly, as we begin to wrap up, what we'd like to do when the time is allowed during the Wrap-Up session is give you an opportunity to provide some feedback about literally any aspect of the meeting planning or execution. In this particular week, we had the HLG, had not had one in six years, hope to have the next one in a much shorter period of time. But your feedback in terms of how that worked, what could be improved in the future would be most welcome. Something else that's evolving over time with a lot of work and contributions from many of you is the capacity development culture that you're really beginning to mature here in the committee, and that is the ability to not only onboard new members and participants, but to help expand the knowledge of those of you who've been around to just broader set of topics. Already we've gotten some interesting suggestions just certainly at our staff table in the back of the room. But a number of you may be talking about that as well. For ICANN81, we're looking at at least a full-day program, not just a session or two for capacity development. So please give some thought to that even if you have some ideas here today.

One interesting suggestion I got was, "Gee, what about the fundamental infrastructure of the Internet? What do we know about all these cables that go under all the oceans and seas of the world? Can we learn about that?" It's really your opportunity to identify areas that you think would be a value.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: UK, please go ahead.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you. And thank you so much, Rob, for those comprehensive remarks. It was just really to congratulate GAC staff, but also [Loron, Meva], and the whole team that put together the HLG. I know my deputy director, Paul Gaskell, came and he said he had the best time. He really enjoyed it. So just to say that from a UK perspective, how valuable I think we all found it and how valuable our high level leader, our deputy director, found the experience and felt he really got to understand ICANN's role and see the great work we're doing here in the GAC. So just to provide that feedback. And again, a huge thanks to everyone that was involved in ICANN with putting that together. Thank you.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thanks very much, Ros. This week, I think the committee has been blessed through how the overall process has been set up, that you have a GAC member government volunteer for the work. So you begin with a motivated, interested group within a particular ministry. And the work that Charles's ministry provided in terms of his agency's work and his staff. The work from Her Excellency Paula Ingabire was very helpful in terms of providing that support, assistance, and planning. We saw it in the past with London. We've seen it in other places as well. And so as you all begin to think about the next HLG, and some of you may be even considering stepping forward to host that, again, that's something that we'll be looking forward to. Not next year,



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please. A lot of work that went into that, but yes, in the future, I think that'll be very helpful. Remember, the HLG concept came from all of you. And the accountability and transparency review process of ICANN and, frankly, is intended to boost the support that you all get as committee members to be able to participate, to be able to expand your portfolios to devote the resources you think are necessary to the work at ICANN. So we're delighted if that in fact comes into play.

Two other things. One, a number of you have approached me about the chair's report. That is something that the ICANN Government Engagement Team partners with the host to produce. Traditionally, that has not been delivered any sooner than at least a month, if not more, after the meeting. Certainly, there's been the encouragement of a number of you to speed up that process, if it's at all possible. So we'll be reminding our colleagues and I know there'll be a lot of hard work from Charles and his team to get that generated as soon as possible.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Rob. Sorry to interrupt you again. But I have a hand from Egypt. Go ahead, please.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, chair, and sorry to interrupt. I didn't mean to. Just to echo the UK, thanks to everyone. Actually, Egypt appreciates the reconvening of the High-Level Government Meetings. So thanks to Nico and the GAC leadership, and of course, to the Government Engagement Team and the GAC support. And many thanks to the

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Rwandan government for the kind hospitality and also for the hosting of the High-Level Government Meeting. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Egypt. Back to you, Rob.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you. Just to close the loop on that, something that we also found very valuable and that we don't have as many opportunities to do was it really helped reinforce our own staff collaboration within ICANN Org. Between the GAC Support Team, the Government Engagement Team, and also the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team, who many of you work with sometimes even more than us on the GAC Support Team. So it's a really good opportunity too, particularly as we move into the next chapter of ICANN's existence to be able to reinforce that internally. So thank you all very much for your interactions with all of us as we work to plan those things. So thanks very much for that feedback on the HLG. We'll continue to take feedback at any point with respect to that or capacity development or even this ICANN80 meeting and some of the planning that we're doing in that perspective. So I don't have anything else to add to that, Nico. That's really all I had. I'm sorry, I'm not filling the full 90 minutes, but there may be—

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: No need to. No worries. And thank you so much for that, Rob. By the way, Charles, everybody was thanking you. You were not in the room.

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But we want to thank the Rwandan government. We want to thank you and we want to thank Honorable Minister Paula Ingabire and the whole Rwandan government for your gracious hospitality and for your well-organized hosting of the HLG. And we look forward to have another one in two years here in Rwanda. Again, thank you for that. This is a good moment. Karel and the Underserved Regions Working Group to say anything about our next capacity building session, which I understand we will be held for two days in Istanbul, is that correct? What are the plans for the... One day? I'm sorry. Go ahead. Go ahead.

KAREL DOUGLAS:

Thank you, Nico. Karel Douglas, for the record, Trinidad and Tobago. By all means, I'll be happy to do two days. Why not? But I'm guided by you and the GAC, of course. But certainly, first of all, I say thank you to all those who contributed in any way meaningful and otherwise to, I would say, the success of the Capacity Building Day or session. As you see, it has had a lot of impact on persons who are here, the issues are quite topical. And the issue, of course, we always say this is really for the members to feel comfortable, A, in this space; two, being able to contribute when necessary; and C, know more about the space and, of course, the technology. So we want to continue building on that. The next meeting ICANN81 will be another opportunity. The different topics I hear so far, the DNSSEC is one I have heard. Rob mentioned something about the Internet and how it works. And I'm sure there are other topics that persons would be quite interested in hearing in about. So I would say the sky is the limit. And it's really for the members, it is for the members. So we look forward to hearing the

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members put in for topics that they want to hear more about. And by all means, we look forward to a successful next capacity building.

Before I go, let me thank again the support staff, Tracy as well as co-chair, and other members. We did recently see some persons who wanted to be a part of these sessions. Of course, by all means, I think that's the idea. The more the merrier. It's fantastic that we have so much support and how this has evolved. So I just want to thank you all for the support and the involvement in what we've been doing so far. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Karel. Again, if I understand correctly, then we'll have a one-day capacity building full-day session in Istanbul. Correct?

KAREL DOUGLAS: That is what I understand. Yes.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. Rob?

ROB HOGGARTH: Just that we hope that the GAC chair will be able to be there on that day.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Hopefully, hopefully. My apologies again, I was sick on Tuesday. I apologize. I never planned to get the flu as soon as I got to Kigali. That was not my intention at all. But yeah, I'll make sure to be there. We're going to get a little bit techie, by the way, in Istanbul regarding DNSSEC and probably MANRS. I don't know if you're familiar with MANRS. Do you understand what MANRS stands for? It's basically Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security. Well, anyway, BGP and those kinds of things. But we'll get to the gist of it, hopefully, during the capacity building sessions in Istanbul. And many other different things. I don't want to bore you with technicalities at this point.

Are we addressing everything we needed to address, Rob? Anything? I mean, the floor is open. If there's anything you would like to say, this is a good time. I see a queue already. I have the UK and then Egypt. UK, go ahead.

NIGEL HICKSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Sorry to intervene again. I hope we'll have a chance at the end to thank everyone sincerely for this wonderful meeting. I just wanted to flag something else. We've talked a lot this week in various sessions about what's going on on the UN Global Digital Compact. We talked a bit about the whole of the WSIS process. I want to say something about the ITU as well, the International Telecommunications Union. I know many in the room will either be attending their session sometimes or will have colleagues that go to the ITU. The ITU has a Council working group. So that's a working group of the ITU Council on Internet public policy issues. I'm one of the co-chairs of that. We talk a lot about Internet

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governance issues, as you would expect. And there is currently a public consultation taking place. From time to time we have public consultations, and this consultation is on the developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet. That consultation is open, and it goes on to the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, and the results of that consultation where it will be heard at the next Council Working Group in October, which is open to all member states and stakeholders. And following that consultation from September onwards, there'll be a consultation on the role of public policies in promoting multilingualism on the Internet. This is a proposal from the UK. It includes reflecting on the work of ICANN and other bodies on promoting multilingualism such as international domain names. So I think that will be of interest to some folks. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much for that, UK. Ladies and gentlemen, we don't have any kind of time pressure. This is a good moment to talk about anything you want, anything you would like to mention, so please feel free. I wouldn't say this is a moment to relax or anything like that. But we don't have any other thing to do at the moment. So please feel free to say anything you would like to say. I have Egypt, the UPU, and Australia. Please go ahead, Egypt.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you, Chair. This is Christine Arida. I wanted to come back on the second point, the capacity development sessions and the regional emphasis. In that respect, I really, really want to thank the team that

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put together the two sessions on capacity development and engagement. Specifically, of course, the Underserved Division Working Group, but also all the other colleagues that were involved and the Support Team. Because mainly, I think we tried a new modality here and it proved very successful with the solution and emphasis and with the issue of going towards engagement in a topical manner. I also want to thank you, Chair, and the leadership team to have allowed for the time. Because we did ask for the session early on and it was not yet very clear maybe what we were going to do. But you did put time for that, and I think it proved worthwhile. So I really hope that we, in the future, continue such practices to explore new things. And when I compare this meeting to the previous meeting in Africa, I can't recall which one it was, but there was a capacity development made in Morocco. It was completely segregated, only African countries in the room, and it wasn't that interactive. So I think we're moving forward and I think we should continue doing that. So thank you very much.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Egypt. I have the UPU and then Australia.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Nico. Tracy Hackshaw here. In the spirit of relaxing—

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: This is the only zero stress session we have.

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TRACY HACKSHAW:

I'd like to invite you to bring your guitar to Istanbul and perhaps we can—I'm looking at Rob here—arrange something similar to what we did in Puerto Rico. I think having a GAC social is very important. I know Karel is very keen on having the social but maybe... Not just go out somewhere and have a drink or two. I liked what happened last time where we had some music, we had interactions where we could even do a little more. Even a GAC music night, I don't know. I invite you to bring the instruments, have something karaoke, I don't know. It'd be good I think to plan something along those lines. We could have a good session with the GAC members and get to know each other and do something like that. I know I have your support on that. So I'm looking at Rob because I know Rob is going to say, "What is Tracy doing?" but that's okay. So I think we could do something like that in Istanbul. Istanbul, I've been there a few times. It's a nice place, a lot of parties, a lot of activities. So something like that. Thanks.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you, UPU. As a matter of fact, I have already arranged \$2.5 million budget for the concert from... I mean, I agree with you. I would love to do something like that again like we did in—was it San Juan? It seems so long ago and it was only three months ago. But I'm not sure because there might be some logistical issues, not on my part, but I don't know if Susan has anything to say in that regard. But my beautiful piano player, I'm not sure I will count on my piano player. Susan, anything you would like to say in that regard?



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SUSAN CHALMERS: Well, the piano player may not be there because the piano player is expecting a child at the end of September.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Congratulations, congratulations. So that's a very good reason why she won't be able to be there with us. I'll talk to the bass player, though, who happens to be a Board member. Is there any other musician in the room? Let me ask, because this would be a good moment to know. Does anybody play the piano or the guitar or saxophone or any other instrument among our distinguished GAC members? No? You do? Tracy, you do? No? Okay, okay. Anyway, we'll see what we can do. We'll see what we can do. We might find a way to at least get some acoustic guitar or something. And then we play some Bob Marley songs or whatever in Istanbul. So thank you for that. Sorry, Australia, to keep you waiting. Go ahead, please.

IAN SHELDON: Thanks, Nico. Tracy beat me to the punch. I was just going to ask if you're going to bring your guitar to Istanbul. I thought it's a critical part of the agenda and we definitely can't skip that for the next meeting. Thanks.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: I like that, critical part. That's a good one. I'm not sure I'll bring my guitar. But, of course, we can rent an acoustic or an electric guitar there and play some INXS songs for sure. In order to comply with Australian law, I already mentioned Bob Marley in order to be okay

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with the Jamaicans. But we can work it out. Beatles, by the way. UK, you know that song? We Can Work It Out? Pun intended.

Tracy is that an old hand? Again, as I said before, this is our only zero stress session. So please feel free to say whatever you want to say. We don't need to talk until 5pm. No worries about that, right? We can finish like in five minutes, or two minutes, or right now. But if there's anything you'd like to say at this point, this is a good moment, please feel free to do so.

That is not the case. So let me just then thank our heroes, our interpreters. Let's give them a big round of applause. Real heroes. The technical team over there, an applause for them as well. The sound guys, the technical team, thank you so very much. Thank you to the fabulous six: Rob, Benedetta, Julia, Daniel Gluck, and Fabien Betremieux. And I hope I'm not forgetting anybody. Gulten, I'm sorry. Yeah, I mentioned Gulten, Benedetta, Julia, Daniel Gluck, and Rob, of course. Thank you so very much. Is there any other comment? Okay. It sounds weird. The next time, the next chance to see each other will be in five months in Istanbul. So, safe travels, everyone. Thank you so very much. The meeting is adjourned.

NIGEL HICKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you. Thank you very much. And thank you to the vice-chairs, of course, Egypt, Colombia, UK, China, and Lebanon. Thank you so very much. Safe travels. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**