
DURBAN – GAC Capacity Building
Saturday, July 13, 2013 – 10:30 to 12:00
ICANN – Durban, South Africa

TRACY HACKSHAW: Good morning, everyone. Can you take your seats. We'd like to start.

All right. Welcome. I hope you've had a good night's rest for those who have come in yesterday and not too jet lagged.

Welcome to our capacity building session. My name is Tracy Hackshaw. I am from Trinidad and Tobago. I am one of the vice chairs of the GAC. The other vice chairs are not here yet, but Thomas Schneider from Switzerland and Peter Nettlefold from Australia are the other members -- the other vice chairs; sorry. And to my left, for those who don't know it, Ms. Heather Dryden, who is the chair.

Perhaps what we can do to start off is for those who are new, maybe you could indicate just quickly who you are and just so you get to know who is the first time attendees of the GAC meetings.

Maybe first and second time attendees.

Start from your left. Anyone new?

YAMAGUCHI: Good morning. I'm Yamaguchi from Japan, Ministry of Internet Communications. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Japan.

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

CHINA: Good morning, everyone.

I'm from China, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications.
Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, China.

MARCELA from CHILE: Hello, good morning. Everyone. I'm Marcella (saying name) from Chile, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Director of International Economic Affairs.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Good morning.

DENIS GONZALES: Good morning, Dennis Gonzales from Chile, too, from the Undersecretaries of Telecommunications.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Chile.

SWEDEN: Good morning. I'm (saying name) from Sweden but representing the government of Niue.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Okay. Welcome.

ANDREA from CANADA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Andrea (saying name) from the government of Canada. I'm an economist working in telecommunications policy at Industry Canada. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Canada.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Hello, my name is Marketa Novakova. I'm from the Czech Republic and from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Czech Republic.

>> (Off microphone).

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome.

>> (Off microphone).

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome.

VATICAN CITY STATE: Good morning. I'm Mauro Milita from Vatican City State. Not our first meeting, of course, but I'm glad to know you are well.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Vatican City.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Good morning, my name is (saying name). I come from Belgium, representing the European Commission, and this is my first meeting. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome European Commission.

CHARLES from BELGIUM: Good morning. My name is Charles. I am from the government of Belgium. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Belgium.

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA: Good morning. My name is (saying name), Director of ICT Development in the Republic of Namibia.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Namibia.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. My name is Heather Dryden, and I work with the Canadian government. I am also the chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee and it's really good to see new faces, but as well, some of our more experienced colleagues as well. It's important to have some experience participating in this session and contributing to this effort. So hello, everyone.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thanks, Heather.

Romulo.

ROMULO from BRAZIL: Okay. It's my first meeting in 2013. I'm Romulo from Brazil. I was the GAC representative in 2011-2012. I have been out for two meetings, but I'm back, probably just for this meeting. But nice to meet you.

UNITED KINGDOM: Good morning, everybody. My name is Mark Carvell. I'm representing United Kingdom and its overseas territories. I lead on Internet governance policy in the U.K. ministry with responsibility for that area, ICT policy in general. That's the department for culture, media and sport.

I first took up the U.K. seat on the GAC in Paris, I think it was, in 2008, which was the meeting when the decision was taken to launch the

gTLDs round as I recall. And I found it very difficult to understand what the hell was going on. But I was reassured that that critical decision was taken then. So it is -- ICANN is a difficult, complex environment. It does take a while to get to understand how the network of committees and constituencies and supporting organizations works. I hope this session will help those who are joining for the first time, or who have recently joined, in trying to understand how we play a role in that environment.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, U.K.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Good morning, everybody. My name is Suzanne Radell. I'm with the U.S. Department of commerce. We have a very long name for a very small agency. I come from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. And we have been, as an agency, very involved with ICANN since its inception.

Ladies don't normally like to discuss their age so I will not tell you how old I am; however, I believe I am one of the longest serving representatives here. My first meeting was October 2003. So that tells you how ancient I am.

I do believe that my colleagues from Italy and the Netherlands may have been attending a few more meetings than I have. So I'm in my tenth year of tracking all ICANN issues for my agency, and being the U.S. representative to the GAC. And I will be very interested in getting some

of the views of our newer members so that we can collaborate together.

One outcome that I would like to put out as a proposed way forward is that whatever suggestions we develop, we can share with ICANN's multistakeholder engagement team so that we can help inform the activities of all of those staff members who are doing liaison with governments, our counterparts in the different regions, and that we can help inform that process so that it is very collaborative with the GAC.

So good morning, everybody.

Thank you.

CONGO:

Good morning, everybody. My name is (saying name). I come from DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and this is my first meeting with you. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Welcome, Congo.

THAILAND:

My name is (saying name). My name is (saying name), and I'm -- it's my first meeting. I am going to participate in this meeting of capacity building.

-- from Thailand, so this is the first meeting in capacity building, but I join since the Beijing.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Thailand.

HUNGARY: Good morning, my name is Peter Major. I'm representing Hungary. I'm an advisor to the permanent mission of Hungary in Geneva to the U.N., and this is not my first meeting.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Hungary.

GABON: I'm a representative of Gabon. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: -- Gabon.

TAIWAN: Good morning. My name is (saying name) from Taiwan, working for ministry of transportation and communications. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Taiwan.

PAKISTAN: This is (saying name). I'm GAC representative of government of Pakistan. I really appreciate the efforts of GAC because GAC is the forum from which government of the countries can raise the issues regarding the Domain Name System and its management.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Pakistan.

IRAN: Good morning. My name is (saying name) from Iran. I'm acting as a consultant to the Iranian GAC representative. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Iran.

IRAN: Good morning to everybody. My name is (saying name), senior advisor to the ministry of communication and information technology of Iran.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Iran.

RUSSIA: Good morning, everyone. My name is (saying name). I'm from Russian Federation, representing the ministry of telecommunication. Thank you. It's my first time.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Russian Federation.

Thank you.

KOREA: Good morning. My name is (saying name). I'm representing Korea and it's my second time here. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome Korea.

OECD: Good morning, colleagues. My name is Sam Paltridge, I represent the OECD. We're observers at the GAC. There's many people here who have been to many more meetings, but I did go to the first GAC meeting back in Singapore. So perhaps that could be added to the list.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, OECD.

Okay. Behind me, the table behind me, we have support team. Directly on my left will be Jeannie Ellers from ICANN, Olof Nordling from ICANN, and Tom Dale from our proposed secretariat team. So welcome, everyone.

Just to remind everyone that you -- as GAC members, do you have access to the GAC Web site, which is GAC.icann.org. If you don't have your credentials, please check with Jeannie and the team to obtain those credentials, where you'll find some of the material for today's session. If you look in your folder there's some that have been printed for you today as well, the blue folder on your desk. As well we have

translation, interpretation for today's session. We have a scribe, as you can see, in English and it will be translated later on into the languages. And we have live interpretation behind us. So if you don't have your headsets and your translation wireless devices, please collect them for those who are going to be speaking in their native languages.

All right?

So let's begin. Is that okay with everyone?

Heather, I don't know if you have anything else to add to that part of it, context.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

I think that's a very good beginning, and just a bit of explanation about the idea behind these capacity building sessions.

It is organized by the Governmental Advisory Committee and members in it in order to talk a bit specifically about the GAC and how it works and to try to assist new or newer members to become familiar with the role of this committee and how it works.

So we have done sessions before, and because we're in Africa, we hope that we can give a bit of a regional flavor to our efforts today and welcome some colleagues from Africa along with all of our other new and newer members.

So thank you for coming, and I'll hand back to Tracy to take us through the program today and I will do my best to contribute and to assist in answering questions and so on about the committee.

So Tracy.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you, Heather. In your document, in your package there's a background document called -- in the capacity building session for GAC representatives. In that document you'll see a structure that we would like to follow. However, at this point in time, we have one of our ICANN staff members present at 11:00 a.m. So we do a very brief introduction to the GAC and the role of the GAC.

Basically I will start with me. I started in the GAC in 2010, coming from the fellowship program. So for those of you who may or may not understand the fellowship program, I know Serena from Romania is from the fellowship program, and some of the other people here may have come through the fellowship program as well. That's the program that ICANN has set up for developing and emerging countries, provide support for their participation in meetings. And the GAC as well provides travel support for members of developing countries for those meetings.

For me in particular, the GAC plays a significant role in my country in understanding what the Internet means for the government of Trinidad-Tobago and how we are participating in that Internet governance perspective.

From our previous role, we understand it from the United Nations only perspective, from the ITU only perspective. And what ICANN provides is a different view to understanding the -- what the Internet means from

the issue of the root, the issue of security and stability of the root, as well as the -- from the domain name and DNS perspectives.

From where I sit the role of the GAC is very important, a developing country. As we sit here today around the table, I've seen many developing countries. Our voices need to be heard in that discussion around the table where we have several of our colleagues from Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, North America, and we do want to have that voice and participate in that discussion and share in these deliberations and these decisions that are being made. And as the United States said about using the multistakeholder model where we all participate as part of a larger policy-making process. In terms of what the GAC's role is, it really is to provide advice to the ICANN board. If you look in your package there's something called Affirmation of Commitments that sort of gives you in a good summary a perspective how the GAC might operate. And Heather, there's a -- currently a second team ATRT 2, maybe you can explain a little bit about what that team is doing and how the role of the GAC might fit into ATRT 2 and what ATRT 1 did in the few minutes we have before Pierre turns up.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

I will do my best. So the Accountability and Transparency Review Team is one of four review teams coming out of a document called the Affirmation of Commitments. And this is a document that was signed by ICANN and by the U.S. Department of Commerce and at this point the idea behind this document was to turn over ICANN to the Internet community. And so it's meant to be a long-standing document. And so the reviews that are outlined there are a really key piece of an ongoing

way to ensure accountability for the organization and the Governmental Advisory Committee was given a particular role regarding the review teams. So on the one hand, the chair of the GAC is one of the selectors for all of the review teams. For the accountability and transparency review team the co-selector with the chair of the GAC is the chair of the Board. And for the other three, the co-selector is the CEO of ICANN. And as well it is provided for that the chair or a chair's designate would participate in those review teams. So in this way it was considered to be a strengthening of the role of the GAC in the ongoing direction of the organization.

And so the Accountability and Transparency Review Team, which you might think of as being the overall arch -- overarching review team, is particularly of interest to governments as a means of providing inputs into a review team that is designed to act independently and be responsive to the proposals or concerns that have been raised. And there are a series of recommendations that were made as part of the first review team that relate to the GAC in making improvements to how GAC's processes work, how we work with the board, how we track our outputs and confirm that they have been responded to or acted upon, implemented and so on. So most of those recommendations have been implemented. There's one left that we're working on that's about involving the Governmental Advisory Committee early on in the Policy Development Process. And so that's on our agenda this week to discuss. But in the meantime, the second review team has been formed and they have an interesting task because not only are they going to look at making new recommendations but they are to assess progress against the work of the first review team as well as reviewing two of the

other three. So the review team on what's called WHOIS, which is the look-up service for domain name registrants and the policies around that, so there was a review team for that topic as well. There was a review team on security, stability, and resiliency of the -- the domain name system and so the current review team, the second review team, is reviewing that earlier work as well as seeking now further inputs, whether it's about the GAC or whether it's about other aspects of how ICANN is structured, whether it's related to the board and these kinds of topics. So that's another item that's on the agenda for this week. We will meet with the Accountability and Transparency Review Team members and have a chance as GAC members, as governments, to talk about some of the things that governments are concerned about in the management of ICANN and ensuring that it remains both accountable and transparent to the entire community, which of course includes governments.

So I'll jump off at that point, if you're ready to move to the next.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Yes, thank you very much, Heather. That was extremely very concise. Thank you very much. And enlightening expression of what ICANN is doing now with the GAC in terms of moving it forward into the -- I guess a new dispensation in the arrangements as more and more governments get involved and more and more governments from the developing world get involved with the ICANN model. What I'd like to encourage you to do is to -- on the GAC list there have been several reports and several interventions being made by the ATRT 2 team. Heather will be making those interventions as well. So please

contribute and add your voices to that discussion so all members on the team can contribute accordingly.

We'd like to quickly move -- intervene. On the agenda we have item 5, an item that we have brought up due to ICANN staff member being available. To my right we have Mr. Pierre Dandjinou who is the ICANN Vice President for stakeholder engagement for Africa. We're very privileged and honored to have him here today. He's a friend of ICANN. A friend of the GAC. And what we would like to do is have Pierre kind of give a brief overview as to maybe what he sees ICANN's role and the GAC's role today, the role of ICANN in Africa, a little bit about ICANN's reform strategy and stakeholder engagement model for Africa in particular as well as the rest of the world. Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much. And it's my honor and pleasure to be here with you this morning. I thank you for the opportunity given to actually talk about some of the manifestations of the internationalization, you know, strategy of ICANN and specifically in Africa. And, of course, I will be talking and then expressing the greetings, you know, from Sally and also from Tarek who you know and who send their best regards to all of you.

So what I'm going to do briefly is actually talk about what we call the Africa strategy and also how we are organizing ourselves to roll out the strategy to the benefit of the African region. But I have to say that this also, as part of the greater, you know, strategy of internationalization of ICANN and which is already being rolled out because I'm VP, vice president for Africa, but I also -- we do have, you know, other VPs in other regions, in Latin America, Europe, and Asia, and all of us now are

having this sort of kind of strategy meeting. It's what I might call a tool for engaging -- engagement of ICANN with distinct regions. So obviously a region, you know, varies in terms of, you know, their expectations and also therefore in terms of the delivery that ICANN, you know, would provide to them.

As far as Africa is concerned, it's actually our strategy, you know, kind of saying last July, close to one year ago, when the new CEO, present CEO, Fadi, in fact met with the African community at one of the ICANN meetings and then what came up, you know, for this meeting was to actually establish kind of strategy that really says exactly what Africans are expecting from ICANN.

I also have to say that this was timely because you might remember when we had the ICANN 44 in -- 47 I think in Dakar, the ICANN minister in charge of ICT met as part of pre-conference event and after two days they came up with a communique. And the communique was trying to do exactly the following, make sure that ICANN be much more present in Africa but also ensure that African really participate within Africans and the different constituencies. And they had kind of 12 questions to the board of ICANN, and then Dr. Crocker of course gave responses to those, you know, 12 questions. But all of this boils down to renewing the relationship with Africa.

So why we are doing this of course, this strategy, so a working group was formed which is African working group of 9 people selected from different, you know, regions of Africa and then we conducted some sort of I will say interviewing with different people. A questionnaire was sent out so that we have clear knowledge of what people are expecting.

This ultimately transpired into the Africa strategy which has been presented in Toronto and later on then ICANN proceed in kind of staffing now, you know, Africa to roll out this strategy. I was therefore appointed in December 2012 to actually help roll out this strategy.

But basically what the strategy is about, as far as Africa is concerned, I mean, the figures are there. Africa still needs to really participate, you know, to ICANN. But moreover, they need to be part of the whole Internet business and industry. Also conduct with the new gTLD program, for instance, where we had 1,900, you know, plus, you know, kind of requests. Only 17 of them came out of Africa. And even the 17 of them, 16 came from only one country in Africa. Africa is about 54 countries, so clearly there was something to be done, in parts of having registrar in Africa but also having sort of this -- them benefit from this new gTLD program.

So obviously something needed to be done. The strategy therefore, a few kind of key objectives and one of them is to -- how do you broaden the African environment so that it can become a market. How do you make Africa kind of a market, a domain market? Today we do have five to six registrars, ICANN active registrars in Africa. They are struggling actually to do this business. Because the market needs to be broadened. They need much more capacity to do what they might call outreaching to the potential users. In terms of technology, you know, also in terms of financial they do have -- they are facing financial barriers. For instance, as a registrar you need to get some insurance and this is a lot of money for some of them. So how do they get that money is an issue for them. So it all transpired in the strategy that I'm going to extend to some leaflet we develop which clearly shows the

strategy objectives and also a few projects. For the financial year '13 what I did as a VP was to come up with an action plan. And the action plan line up a few priority projects, you know, eight of them. And basically I'm going to go through quickly and then we might have any question you have. One of the key projects, you know, we thought about was what you called the DNSSEC road show. It's about securing DNSSEC in Africa. And the road show, we selected eight countries and to do basically the following: Assess new current strategies of the DNS management in those places and see what are the security issues there, and therefore, see how ICANN staff and others, you know, could help that, you know, specific country deal with securing, you know, its domain name. It has happened. We have visited four countries and we're going to have a report here during ICANN 47 on how it goes there. Now we do have a map on how Africa is faring when it comes to securing the DNS.

The other project we are having is what you call the Africa DNS award. We really want to recognize the very few that are really promising and some of the countries are doing well and then we launch this awards, you know, program and we had -- we form a committee for the awards. They are going to deliberate and hopefully on Monday, next Monday at 1:00 we'll be having an Africa strategy session and also we'll be actually handing out these awards to two promising, you know, Africa registrar and registries.

The other key program we really want to launch is what we are calling the kind of incubator program for young entrepreneurs in Africa. We do believe that unless you do have these young entrepreneurs, you know, in the loop you don't have what we are calling this digital Africa. So we

really want to push them and we will be partnering with different, you know, organizations to see how we could put together this sort of incubator program and incubator in areas of Africa are piggybacking on some of the incubator that already exists today.

One of the key thing we did also was to really organize the first-ever meeting of registrar/registries in Africa. That was in Addis Ababa in March. This forum we started in Addis now we -- we are now -- are actually conducting another forum here as a pre-conference event. It started yesterday, they are finishing today, where we brought more than 100 people basically from registrar/registry business. The global leaders are there now and they are exchanging, you know, views with Africans, especially on very specific areas, you know, how do you grow the market. So it's all about capacity development when it comes to Africa and those things.

One of the two things or so I've been doing as a VP, and before I took that job I really didn't know that that was very important an issue, which is redelegation in Africa. Close to ten countries today are really asking for redelegation for different reason actually. But they need to abide by a few, you know, procedures that ICANN and then IANA set out and sometime you really need to do some outreach and to provide some policy, you know, advice to some of the countries and letters coming, you know, from ministers, you know, requesting redelegation. We take them quite seriously, but we also make sure that we have them out of the procedures so they got redelegation as fast as possible. So this is something we are doing, and, of course, we are looking for partnership. I'm going to actually start kind of campaign on the -- what you call the policymakers in Africa, meeting with ministers, also going to

African Union and see how we could together deal with issue that are raised by the African Internet community. So I really much, you know, encourage participation from different arenas, and I'm so happy to be talking with you. And I'll be ready to actually receive any concerns, you know, or any piece of advice you might have on this Africa strategy which really epitomizes what you might call kind of new sort of season that this year is bringing to ICANN. So Chair, that's what I wanted to share and thanks for your attention.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you, Pierre. I hope you can stay for a little bit longer if there are any questions. I'd like to open the floor for questions to Pierre or on any other topic that may have been raised earlier. First for Pierre, any questions from the floor? All right. So Namibia.

NAMIBIA:

Thank you. I would like to thank my brother from Africa for the presentation. I just noticed that -- of course, Namibia is green field in terms of this area. I think we have our running of the Internet and domain names and so on a little bit isolated and that's why I'm here, to understand more what is going on and how the government can assist to understand that we do not need to drive or take over because the Internet community needs to do that. So I just noticed that as I've said green field, meaning this -- on government level and policy level there's not much going on. Your DNS road shows, you chose eight countries in Africa. Maybe, do you have the intention to expand that, and then I would just actually register Namibia's interest in that. Thank you very much.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much for the question. And actually yesterday I met with one of your Namibian brother at the forum who already expressed his concern. Yeah, definitely. We know that Namibia normally is supposed to be one of the -- those who have certified their zone meaning that your DNSSEC is fine, but of course we also understand that there are a few issues surrounding this. And yeah, we are open and I will be touching base with your government on that, definitely.

TRACY HACKSHAW: U.K.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thanks very much. Very important initiative, the Africa strategy, very much support that. And I'll just switch my U.K. hat to commonwealth hat. I'm very active in the commonwealth Internet governance forum and related commonwealth activities on Internet governance and one of the things I'm very conscious of is the significant number of African states that are not actually on the GAC. These include Sierra Leone, Zambia, Lesotho, Burundi, the Gambians, Zimbabwe, they're not on the GAC. And I hope -- I'm pretty certain of course your strategy fully takes that into account, that outreach to governments and appreciation of -- within their administrations of why it's important to participate in -- in the GAC and contribute to development of markets and Domain Name System in the interests of communities and cultures in Africa is vitally important and participation in the GAC is critical to that -- one critical element to that as well as the

outreach you say in terms of market developments, registrars and registries and so on. We are planning -- it's early stages yet -- to have a commonwealth forum, perhaps at the London ICANN meeting next summer, and look forward to working with ICANN, yourself, and your colleagues in preparing for that in Africa and the regional interest is obviously a very important part of that agenda and the planning for that. So I just wanted to add those comments and thank you very much. Thanks.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you, U.K. Are there any other questions for Pierre? Iran.

IRAN:

Thank you, Chairman, and thanks for the presentation which was quite useful and raised some issues, first of all, with respect to the number of gTLD activity statistics, among 1,900 and something, few from Africa. That is one point that need to be further considered. A second point is about the participations or lack of participation or non-sufficient participation of colleagues, in particular African colleagues in the -- to the -- in the meeting of GAC. That might be also an issue to see is it because of the financial problems, because of lack of staff, because lack of resources in general and what we can do about that whether some sort of further promotion of the remote participation could assist in one way or another. We have had an experience of remote participations at least in some other meetings that it was not quite possible to do that. First of all, with respect to the meeting that we have interpretations, the quality of the sound should be a certain level in order to be properly interpreted in other languages, and second, sometimes the reliability of

the connections. We have been in some formal meeting that it was not possible to have that sort of remote even presentation, rather than participations. And participation remotely are two ways. One way would be a passive participation, listening to the discussions, at least benefiting what is going on, and the other is active participation, raising question and asking the floor, and we have to see to what extent that is possible and in particular some of the meetings that we -- decision-making meetings, to see whether that possibility could exist and that is that. And the third one is the fellowship to see to what extent we could increase the number of fellowship of developing countries participation. This has been an issue in all other international meeting. Not only specificity of GAC.

With respect to the -- I just wanted to do it tomorrow but I just have heard it today. With respect to the role of GAC, perhaps -- I have been in this business not directly in the -- attending the GAC meeting, but I start to do it to better understand GAC, to better understand the ICANN situation, and also better understand how we could make it more friendly and how we could improve the relations between the governments and let's just say ICANN in the term that we have started in 2010 in the plenipotentiary in Guadalajara in Mexico and that was a good step. And this is a step that need to be continued perhaps. I further elaborate that at a later stage. But this need to be further promoted. There should be clear understanding of the way that ICANN works and also, this is the point that I want to make at this meeting and maybe later on, we need to increase the role of government in ICANN. And I would say that currently our role is advisory capacity. And you know the advisory capacity. You give the advice, and the entity may

take that advice or may not take that advice. Although it is properly mentioned that sometimes if they don't take the advice they will give the reason, the rationale behind why they don't take that advice. But at the end of the day it is option to act, to take or not take the advice. We would like to -- for our later works in next year and coming years that we are dealing in 2014 a process which is called WSIS plus, ten pluses, and we concentrate on the information society role for all countries, including developing countries. And that is something that we need to be further promote. I don't want to go further that, but I think that we need to further promote the relation between the governments and ICANN. I have read the transcript of the last meeting, meeting 46 and with respect to the relation with international intergovernmental organizations that a good step was taken and it was mentioned that there is a long way to go. Yes, I agree with that. There's a long way to go. And we have to further work on that and to make it more understandable to the people, to increase the trust. I'm not saying to remove the mistrust. I am positively looking to the matter, but to increase the trust between the two entities. And when we're dealing with that issue, it should be recognized that one of the international intergovernmental organizations, although it is not more important than the others, but the specific role and because they are the carrying of the -- or carrier of the networks, that is ITU and relation that that is very, very important. And we have to improve and we have to foster, we have to promote that in a better way in order to increase this trust or further establish the trust between the two entities. I stop at this stage. I want to -- don't want to go further, but I want to just leave this at this moment.

Another point that I come back to, this number of the gTLDs, 17 in Africa and the 1,900 something whole things, I think there were also some -- some elements on that. Whether we take the issue of equitable -- equitability issue or whether we are calling the needs or whether we are calling of the first come first serve these are the issue that we need to look at, the gTLD growing issues. Maybe in future we will be very, very busy. If the number increases as such and for each issue we have so much problems, so much difficulty, so much discussions, then maybe not really have results that we wanted. So we have to have a better understanding of the growing of the gTLD and how we should manage that. I'm not saying to control it but how to manage that in a positive and in a very constructive manner. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Iran.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Quick. Thank you. Thank you for those comments and suggestions and questions as well. And definitely in terms of increasing relationship with other international organizations and ITU for instance, (indiscernible) of course things have been done. And you remember that Fadi, this year, was invited at the Dubai meeting to go to D.C. and it went well. And in fact the relationship is growing and then trust is being -- kind of created. And so as Fadi is concerned, I think things are going well. Tarek is working on kind of global strategy for engaging with government and certainly will be sharing this with you sometime, and this really clarify what we should be doing to further engage, you know, with government. You are so right that it is important to actually increase

the level of relationship with government and then -- and also the role of the GAC at some point. And now coming to African countries, yes, we do need to do more outreach. The target is to have at least half of them, you know, at least by next year participating, you know, efficiently within the GAC. So we want to do the outreach. One of the ways we are doing this is in Africa, for instance, countries and regions are now organizing their own IGF, you know, forum meeting at GNSO forum. So what we try to do is make sure that (indiscernible) Representative participating to these IGF, local IGF. It's quite interesting, we just finish one in Cote d'Ivoire, and this is I think three weeks ago. And it was government actually that facilitated this meeting. And what is also provided then is this multistakeholder approach to some of the issue they are facing. And it was quite a good thing to do. So we would like to be kind of passing through this sort of channel to let them know more about the GAC, more about ICANN work, so that they be really participating to GAC. Your point on increasing fellowship certainly is well taken.

Your point on increasing fellowship is certainly well taken and I think it quite important to some of the countries, at least for the first, you know, first meeting that we could facilitate some of this participation.

But one of the issues we might be raising also is how do we prepare those participants. You know, before coming to ICANN there's some homework to go done. Some of the issues that are raised, they get to be prepared, for instance, before coming to GAC meeting. So there is some work we should be doing, you know. I would say within Africa itself, it's about -- I won't say educating but enlightening people about what ICANN does.

This is part of our national plan for this coming financial year.

So definitely I think you're recommendation out there, and of course I'll be discussing this with my other colleagues so that globally, we do have solutions to some of the issues you raised.

So, that's what I wanted to share.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you. We have intervention from GAC chair, Heather.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you. This is a really interesting exchange.

I just wanted to add to the discussion recent developments in terms of the membership of the GAC. So I can report that for these meetings, we have added four new members from the region and they are Swaziland, Sao Tome and Principe, Madagascar and Zambia. So that's good news. This brings the overall number of the membership of the GAC to 128. Also, some that have spoken today have talked about some of the regional organizations that participate in the GAC as observers, and of course these are also an important avenue for helping to engage regions and encourage preparation and such for ICANN and GAC meetings.

And so we have now 26 observer members. I know the U.K. had mentioned, for example, the commonwealth configuration, and there are others, as well, like La Francophonie, that are relevant for Africa and so on.

So there are a range of avenues along with the Internet Governance Forum, and so on, and also the WSIS+10 process which Iran mentioned.

Anyway, so all of these are available to us, but I did want to just give you some numbers about the current state in the GAC and report the good news about adding four new members from the region.

So thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you. United States.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you very much. I really appreciate the presentation. Thank you, Pierre, for the overview. But I also wanted to put in a strong request as a nonmember of this region.

I personally would have probably found it very interesting to participate in the session that you talked about that began yesterday. And so could I make a very strong suggestion to the global stakeholder group that when you prepare for an ICANN meeting and you think about adding these two-day sessions on that you make sure the GAC is well aware well in advance, and that you facilitate a role for the GAC in these sessions. Because I really just -- otherwise, I'm a little concerned I'm not understanding the connection between an ICANN outreach session in the region, and yet here we are in the GAC meeting on a Saturday when there is another meeting going on about the region.

So as a nonmember -- obviously, I defer to the members of the region themselves, but I'm grateful that they are here because there is a -- I

don't wish to put it this way but there is potentially a competing session.

So I would like to strongly urge more collaboration so that we bring these together. And that I think perhaps that you would find out, when you mention that you will be reaching out to ministers, I think we've had this discussion, some of us who have been in the GAC longer, perhaps, than others, when you reach out to ministers of countries who are here at this table, you will end up hearing from the people here at this table. We are the people who brief up. So it doesn't matter where you go in the government. You are going to end up with this community.

So I would like to just reinforce that what we need, what we are looking for is stronger working relationships, not only amongst ourselves but with ICANN.

And so I would urge that the ICANN multistakeholder staff, that you would sort of take this on and see that as a part of your function. I see lots of heads nodding. Thank you. That this could facilitate even more engagement. So that we're not doing two separate tracks.

So these are the people who actually represent the governments. And I'm sure that -- I see a lot of heads nodding.

Quite candidly, I think we indeed to not just -- you obviously do want to brief ministers, but that is technically our job. We're happy to brief up. But what we want to do is to be able to talk about how we can better coordinate sort of whatever activities you are engaged in on the market side. We need to add that dimension, I think, on the policy side.

So I, for one, am always interested, no matter what region the meeting is in, I'm interested in what my colleagues in these governments think and consider a high priority and wish to discuss.

So I would just put in a bid for that.

But otherwise, very grateful that you are here and really appreciate the update.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you.

Are there any further questions for Pierre?

Canada.

CANADA:

Thank you. Pierre, you had touched a little bit about preparation, and I wanted to elaborate on that a little bit with respect to Canada's approach in case it is helpful for some of the newer GAC members.

While this is my first time attending a GAC meeting, Canada has been heavily involved for some time. We found it an effective venue for advancing policy views and sharing policy concerns.

Canada's approach has been generally been to focus on public-policy issues that are relevant to the government of Canada, that are a priority for the government and that are also relevant to the GAC.

In bringing these issues forward to the GAC, we develop national positions, consulting with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders as appropriate.

For example, in developing Canadian positions on new generic top-level domain names, an interdepartmental committee was formed with representation from across the government, including departments such as industry, foreign affairs, justice and the competition bureau, among others. The government also listened to academia, industry associations, Canadian businesses, and consumers in order to develop a better understanding of the anticipated impacts of new domain names on the market.

This approach has served Canada well, and while we recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all model, we would be happy to provide follow-up information to new GAC members who are considering similar approaches.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you, Canada.

Iran.

IRAN:

Yes, thank you very much, and thanks, Canada.

Yes, this is important issue that was raised, because one of the, let us say, topics that we always heard and we would like to realize that in

practices, the open, democratic, inclusive and transparent multistakeholder approach. When we talk inclusive, means you have to involve everybody. And this preparation is very important, perhaps maybe not only for developed country that mentioned by Canada, but also more importantly for developing country that they gather all information from all concerned entities in their country in order to better reflect that this is some of the issue that may be further pursued when colleagues come to the meetings.

That is very important.

The other issue that at least myself, even with more than 42 years of experience in participating in international meetings, diplomatic meetings and so on and so forth, when I look to the documentations, they are enormous, enormous documentations. Something is missing is if there are important issues, in order to prepare the newcomer to the GAC, perhaps it might be useful to look at the possibility for that important issues to perhaps prepare some sort of executive summary of what the issue is.

That would help the reader to prepare herself or himself.

Second is to each document, one need to add the glossary of terms. When you read the documents, and your first time reading the documents, for you it is telegraphic codes. There are so many acronym abbreviations. There you have to go find it from the other list, put it in front of you. Perhaps it might be good and useful that, first of all, not to proliferate this use of acronyms as much as they're used today, but also at the end of the document, you add the terms glossaries that people immediately look at that one to see what the issue is.

When I look to the ICANN bylaws, I see whenever they refer to ICANN, they fully spell that. I'm not suggesting that you fully spell everything ten times or 20 times in a document, but at least at the first time appears, you fully spell that. The people don't know what word they're talking about. There are so many closed acronyms that it is sometimes difficult for the newcomers or peoples not familiar with that to properly understand that or properly grasp -- or as quickly grasp that.

These are the two point.

But the third point I wanted to come back is what I raised and was not, perhaps, answered, or maybe I did not expect an answer today, which is the remote participation process is very, very important, how we could do that.

It has helped in some other meetings, in some other meetings that I have attended, which mostly relates to developing countries, there was interpretation in six languages, U.N. languages, official, but there was active participations, and that would help the developing country concerned with that particular organ or entity to remotely participate, even if you increase the number of fellowship. But still, there is limitations. So you cannot resolve the issue.

So what we need to promote the remote participation. How we do that, that is an issue to be discussed.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you for those suggestions, Iran.

You wish to respond, Pierre?

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Well, I think remote participation for instance is important, actually, although in my part of the world it might be difficult for some people to access due to the quality or no quality of the communication channels, of the networks. But definitely, yes.

For instance, the DNS forum we are conducting, we do have remote participation, for instance.

So, yes, I think that's something we should be considering to include increased participation.

And of course we said as well preparation of participants in these types of meetings is important. And I thank Canada for what you said, and definitely this is high on our agenda, to see how we do prepare participation from developing countries and (indiscernible) them on some of the issues before they ever come to the meeting. I feel this is quite important in our countries. And (indiscernible), you are so right, and your points are taken and definitely we will be discussing this.

You are so right because let me tell you right now, in one of the session, we are discussing role of government and ccTLD management, for instance. See, so definitely we will do better next time. Sorry about that.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

And a final question from U.K.

UNITED KINGDOM:

Thank you very much. It's probably not a question but just to underline a couple of points about the role of the GAC and why contributing to the GAC is important, and these could feed into messages for the African strategy and the other regional strategies.

I guess the first thing is to underline what we've already touched on, the importance of the bottom-up policy development processes in ICANN, fully taking into account the public interest, the global public interest.

Secondly, we're here really to ensure that ICANN is truly multistakeholder and globally diverse, and that is all the way up to the Board, ensuring the Board is globally diverse, represents all interests.

When I first joined in 2008, it was pretty much a U.S. and European-centric organization. A lot has changed, and Fadi Chehade is certainly committed to further internationalization.

We have a role to contribute there.

Thirdly, the corporate governance of ICANN, we have to make sure that this organization is run in a way that is accountable, transparent, that policies dealing with conflicts of interest and ethics are top notch, fully robust and clear for all. Because they are serving the global Internet community, the Internet users across the globe.

So that's another important functionality. The corporate governance issues here.

And then I think finally, it's important for policymakers really to understand how this domain system works. If -- Given that it's part of

the critical infrastructure of the global economy now. We've got to understand how it works. And the only way you'll understand is actually coming to ICANN meetings and engaging with all the technical experts and understanding what's coming down the track, how it's going to change and so on.

So government policymakers have got to be here in order to really understand it. I mean, it's a bit of a no brainer. You can't track this from a desk in an office in a government ministry. You've got to come and engage and discuss and learn and understand, discuss issues, argue things through, and so on.

So that's why taking part in these GAC meetings is vitally important as well. Otherwise, your policy goes wrong, basically.

Thanks.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you. Okay. Hungary. It's our final question.

HUNGARY:

Thank you. I just want to reflect upon the remarks made by my friends, (saying name) from Iran, concerning the abbreviations which will be frightening for the newcomers.

So if you have a look at the meeting document of this -- for the seventh meeting of the ICANN, at the end of which you will find a couple of explanations for the abbreviations and you will find also on the ICANN Web site a lot of interesting information which will be extremely useful for newcomers. And in fact you have some tutorials as well. So I

strongly encourage you to take the time and go on the Web site and find out for yourself, and probably it will give you more light what we are doing here. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you. And final question from Belgium.

BELGIUM: Good morning, everyone. I would like to say good morning to my French-speaking colleagues especially. I don't have a particular question. I just want to comment on what the U.K. has said. Belgium supports its position. The internationalization of ICANN is a priority for Belgium. When we look at the low level of gTLD applications from Africa, this calls our attention, of course. Of course ICANN cannot continue to work, just leaving aside a part of the states in the world, especially the African states.

We support the U.K. proposal regarding the importance of all the efforts around the issue of governance, the importance that this work has for all participating states.

Finally, we have two elements to reflect on, the importance of translating the main documents into the languages used by the African states. I think that would be a very helpful and extremely important element in order to improve communication with the states, and also for them to know that their voices will be heard and their point of view will be taken into account.

Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Okay. So thank you, Pierre, for joining us today and giving us your thoughts, impressions.

And I guess you can feel free to communicate with the chair and vice chairs further to get any information that you may want to share. There are some documents that we'll pass around after that that Pierre has kindly left with us on the ICANN strategy. And thank you very much, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINO: You're welcome. It was my pleasure. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. Moving right along, I'd like to maybe call upon U.K. to spend about five minutes just expressing the role of the GAC and what his thoughts are on the GAC process.

UNITED KINGDOM: Thanks very much, Tracy.

Well, I kind of covered much of this off in my last intervention, really, in terms of why contributing to the GAC is important and the role of the GAC.

I mean, there's, firstly, the functionality of the substance of the work of ICANN and ensuring that it fulfills ICANN's objectives consistent with the expectations of governments, and that covers a range of issues regarding the stability and resilience of the Domain Name System,

ensuring that it's strong and resistant, as much as possible, to attack and so on, because the system is key to Internet and the reliance of the economy. So much of our economies now relies on the Internet, having a truly functional and secure Domain Name System that is not vulnerable to attack and abuse by organized crime and so on. The scale of that is very obvious now, and ICANN has a valuable role to contribute in tackling cybercrime.

The evolution, expansion of the Domain Name System, we heard from Canada earlier on the range of issues that are of concern for governments in the rollout of this massive expansion of the generic top-level domains. And we, like Canada and others on the GAC, have undertaken systematic, comprehensive consultations within our administrations to ensure that, in particular, those domains that are going to be active in sectors of the economy which are regulated, such as the financial sector, health secretary, gambling, charities and so on, ensure that our regulators are comfortable with this. That the kind of safeguards they enforce at the national level in the off-line world, and to some extent in the online world, translate to -- these type of safeguards translate to the Domain Name System and the proliferation of top-level domains which are actively engaged in those sectors.

So it's incumbent on GAC representatives to understand the public policy aspects that this expansion of the Domain Name System has shone a spotlight on, and consult and prepare national positions to bring to the table at the GAC meetings and with a view to establishing consensus proposals to submit to the Board.

As advice, but it's, as Iran has commented, that is an interesting issue. I mean, advice, but it's a very strong lever we have. Under the bylaws, and this was underlined by the first accountability and transparency review, which Heather touched on earlier, in terms of ensuring that that advice is fully considered, responded to, understood, documented, and the GAC interaction with the Board is one that's going to produce a result that is consistent with the public policy interest.

So that's an important role for us, and it's a role we have to prepare for and consult with both nationally and internationally.

Some of us do that within our region. Within the European group, the GAC members come together in an informal group and we exchange views with a view to sort of developing a European approach, and it may be appropriate for other regions to do the same. I know some do do that.

Secondly, ensuring that ICANN is a truly international entity. That's an important role that we can help contribute to. ICANN has a commitment to that. We can help deliver on that commitment.

The corporate governance issues, I mentioned conflicts of interest. There are other issues. We need to be on top of that and push where we feel the Board has not acted as effectively. And with that came to light the conflicts-of-interest issues that perhaps the big issue that we hit upon as highlighting a total deficiency on the part of the Board.

Ensuring that this is a truly multistakeholder model, I think it's getting there. It certainly is well supported by the constituencies, the technical community, the business interests, the registry interests, registrars,

governments, civil society, and others. It's pretty clear that it's almost there as a truly multistakeholder entity. Whether it's truly globally representative, I think it's got some way to go as we already mentioned. And as we say, this is a channel willing to understand the system, including some of the technical issues. I'm not a technical person. I find some of it very challenging.

I also don't have the technical backup I used to have because of cuts in our administration as a result of austerity measures. I don't have a technology geek ready to hand in my office to run things past. But we have to understand how the system is developing, the kind of challenges to it, and that's why, for example, we've got a meeting with the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. Let's hear from them what's coming along the track, what needs addressing. They've highlighted some issues in their reports. Really recommend you to look at those before we meet with them.

So those are the kinds of sort of key elements of why participation in the GAC is important, and our fulfillment of the role of the GAC. I hope that's helpful as a kickoff. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you. And we just have two more topics before we wrap up for this morning. I'd like to invite the U.S. to speak briefly on topic IV, role of the GAC reps, and then I'll hand the floor over to Heather to speak on the new gTLD process and to give some final remarks.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you very much, Tracy, and thank you, U.K., for your presentation.

I'd also like to thank Canada. I think Canada addressed some of this earlier in her intervention.

So just to share with colleagues a little bit of sort of our experience in how we've managed over time our preparations for GAC meetings and how we kind of track ICANN slash GAC issues throughout the course of the year. What we do is we have created an interagency working group, and we hold meetings at least one a month, but I will be quite candid for you. As we were preparing for GAC meetings in Toronto and Beijing, we were meeting weekly on new gTLDs. So just to use the new gTLD process as an example, we undertook even broader outreach than we normally do.

So I would give you a sense of the normal sort of interested agencies in the U.S. government would include the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, including its sub-entity the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We have the Federal Trade Commission, which is responsible for consumer protection law in the United States, and a number of other agencies related to the Department of Commerce, most notably the patent and trademark organization.

So those are what I would call more of the traditional sort of interested parties.

When we initiated further outreach through the White House with every single federal agency with regard to new gTLDs, we also reached out to every state in the United States, through their states' Attorney General and through their secretaries of state, because we knew there would be some issues of interest to state and local governments. And

that was a pretty unprecedented sort of outreach, and it was extremely broad, and it included agencies like Veterans Affairs. It included the Environmental Protection Agency. It included the Department of Agriculture. And it was amazing feedback that we got and the different levels of interest.

And so it can sometimes be a very complicated process, but we have found that we wouldn't change it for the world. There is no substitute for getting the views of other agencies inside our government who have actually direct line responsibility for certain issues. So when it comes to competition policy, I think most of you probably have a similar approach. In our case that a primary within the Department of Justice, with some civil responsibility from the Federal Trade Commission as well. So we know that we need to defer completely to certain agencies because that is their particular area of expertise, but we are the point agency. We serve as the coordinating entity as well as having a distinct role ourselves in the development of Internet related policy for the White House. So it's a fairly broad kind of outreach that we undertake, but we have found it's really invaluable in getting the views of the specific agencies as we develop our own national positions.

We also, much as Canada pointed out, we reach out on a fairly regular basis to academia, to civil society, to the business community, and that would not just be registries and registrars but it's also sort of business users. Obviously business users are a major, major component because quite frankly the funding for ICANN, while it sort of comes through registrars and registries as a conduit, the funding comes from every single registrant in the world. So anybody who registers a domain name is actually paying for this entire system. So to us that's a very critical

element. And we sort of feel as though we are driven by trying to represent our interpretation of the U.S. public interest. And so that goes down to individual users and has to match up with existing law regulation or policy that might have a bearing on the Domain Name System.

So I will stop there because I think it's -- probably our approach is very similar to that followed by other countries. What I would really be interested in knowing from colleagues, and I know we're running out of time, so I'd like to put out some questions and maybe we can follow up, if not this week, then online. It would be invaluable to us. We attach -- we the United States Government, we attach an enormous importance to the role of the GAC in ICANN, and I'll be very candid with you. My assistant secretary, Larry Strickling, has been a member of the Accountability and Transparency Review Teams so he was a member of ATRT 1 and is also serving again on ATRT 2 and has assigned this a very, very high priority. The whole functioning of ICANN, the constant -- need for constant improvement in the model with a particular emphasis on the importance of the role of the GAC in ICANN and the important role that we play in advancing public policy concerns. So speaking as your GAC counterpart from the United States, one thing that I find invaluable about the GAC is the -- my ability to understand better what your governments consider to be important. What are the priorities from your national perspective. So that, to me, is another invaluable element that I think perhaps we might ourselves want to identify more time at each GAC meeting where we have an opportunity, whether we do it through a regional capacity building session so we can hear from the governments in the region or whether we just add it on as a normal sort

of GAC working method kind of approach where we have that opportunity to compare notes and we can share our respective approaches with each other. So one proposal I have or one suggestion, and I'd welcome feedback and if it's a terrible proposal, please say so. Nobody should be shy. But do we want to create a working group that might focus on the needs of new members or developing countries or non-native English speakers? You know, how do we tackle the issues that you all as new members might consider obstacles to deeper participation. What are some of the challenges I think that you face that might be unique but that all of us face. I confess I share the same -- as long as I've done this, I still feel quite ignorant about how the market actually works. I too don't have enormous amounts of time to understand how registrars actually do what they do. Now, I learned a lot in the course of the GAC law enforcement engagement with the registrars in the negotiations to improve the Registrar Accreditation Agreement. I can tell you. And that was an eye opener. I really had no idea just how automated their systems are, how it's all driven by software. So some of the things that we might ask them to do would require some significant changes on their part. I did not know that until I had the opportunity to sit across the table face-to-face with the registrar negotiation team. I spent some time with the registry operator for dot U.S. simply because they operate under contract to the Department of Commerce. It's not my personal responsibility, it's a colleague's. But I realize other than that I don't spend much time with registries in the gTLD space. You may not either. Most of us know our registry operator for the country code, top-level domain. So it's something that we can think about as well, like do we need to work in sessions. In addition to, as Mark pointed out, we are meeting with the

strategic -- I mean, I'm sorry, the security and stability advisory committee that helps us enormously but do we need to have registry 101 briefings, registrar 101. I, for one, would still like them. As long as I've been doing this, I still feel as though I don't really know how the market works. There are going to be new brand registry operators. I'm fascinated by how these people are going to operate as registries. I have really no understanding of that. So I think there are a couple of different ways we can tackle sort of filling some of the knowledge gaps. But I think we might want to put our heads together and collaborate and try to identify maybe one issue per meeting where we try to set up a briefing that we would all find beneficial. So it's just a suggestion. But I would welcome others' views as to how we might sort of ourselves handle some of these issues.

And then one final suggestion is that we as GAC consider a -- we haven't done it for many, many years. We tried it once or twice in the midst of time. We might want to add on a -- one or two social occasions just for ourselves so that we have a GAC lunch on day one or a GAC dinner where we have an opportunity just to sit more face to face. I'll be quite candid with you, my eyesight is probably fading as I get older, but I can't even see some faces across the room here because we're so far apart. This room is so enormous. So I would urge us to maybe consider doing - - borrowing a page from some of our colleagues. In fact, the ccNSO comes to mind. They actually engage in quite a few social events with themselves in order to facilitate just better relationships. So I would put that out there as a suggestion that we tackle for our next meeting. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you. I know U.K. had a question. I just wanted to give the floor to Heather just for the topic of the new gTLDs, maybe some next steps, and then we could toss to U.K. for a final question and comment. Thanks.

HEATHER DRYDEN:

Thank you. So I was only going to touch briefly on gTLDs because we've run out of time I think for this session and some of us may have made arrangements to meet and this kind of thing. But just to touch briefly upon that, really to talk about what are some of the key issues in the week coming up for the GAC, so some concluding points rolled in with that is what I would like to do. Just to pick up some of the points made by the U.S., first of all, I've taken note of these issues and I think we can come back to this question in the GAC about whether it would be useful to have a working group to look at what kinds of things can we do to make participation a bit easier for developing countries or that kind of thing. Or for new GAC members, wherever they're from, and as well with your other suggestions about briefings, I would just draw everyone's attention to a briefing that is for the GAC on Thursday morning. A briefing by an organization called Architelos and it's on the domain name market. I've heard the presentations myself. I think it's quite interesting, and it's all designed to be informative for GAC representatives. So I would really encourage you to attend that at the end of our meetings this week. And that may be the kind of thing that the U.S. is perhaps suggesting that we try to do to make use of this opportunity when we're convened like this.

Just a point on the new gTLD program which has been referred to a number of times in these discussions, it is a large undertaking and it's a process that has been underway for several years and the GAC has had a particular role in providing what were called early warnings and then GAC advice that we -- we still are working on as far as a certain set of strings and applications are concerned. But, you know, that particular GAC role that we've had that's really new and is an enhanced role, if you will, for governments to comment on this broad expansion with the new gTLDs and it's been such a fascinating process to see over the last perhaps two and a half years where governments in the GAC said to ICANN at one point, we have advice to give you, we have concerns about this expansion, and that resulted in a consultation with the board over a period of about six months in order to have the program and the rules associated with it be much more responsive to the public policy concerns that were being brought forward by the GAC. And this was very much a success. However, there were outstanding issues and we do have some of those to work on at this meeting. So these are priorities for us here in Durban. We have some items from our Beijing communique where we will need to consult with our colleagues on the board new gTLD program committee, and I mentioned the list of strings for further consideration and so we will need to discuss those this week as well. We are still working on an approach to implementing protections for acronyms for intergovernmental organizations. The board has come back and asked some questions of us and our colleagues at the IGOs in order to come up with an approach so that it can be applied for the current round at the second level and as well we have what I think will be an interesting briefing with the Security and Stability Advisory Committee this week.

Because we've been so preoccupied with the gTLD program and our role regarding controversial or sensitive strings and applications we've not been able to look at a range of issues that are being discussed within this organization. So very much so at this meeting we will be coming back to assess and take stock of okay, what are the issues that are being discussed and to identify where the GAC might want to contribute and perhaps create working groups and organize ourselves based on priorities that we identify at these meetings. But I hope that gives you a sense of the key issues that we will be discussing over the next few days and please do attend the Architelos briefing on Thursday morning. I think you will find it interesting. So thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you very much, Heather. And as we wrap up, I know Mark had a final comment or intervention. Quickly, Mark.

MARK CARVELL:

Yeah, very briefly. I just want to pick up the U.S.'s first point about national policy perspectives on the role of the GAC and ICANN and underline for new colleagues that contributing to the accountability and transparency review, the second review, is important. This review is taking place, as was noted by Iran, at the time of the review -- the ten-year review of the outputs and implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit On Information Society which underlined and implemented the importance of multistakeholder model of Internet governance, and ICANN is one of the pillars of multistakeholders. And four governments contributed to the questionnaire consultation undertaken by the review team in April and

May. It was Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the U.K. So we went very public, both to explain the issues and opportunities and what still needs fixing, what's gone well, because as Heather pointed out, the review is about considering the first review and what's been done since the first review. The implementations, the recommendations from the first review. So four countries contributed to that and went public. And it's helpful for the ICANN community for them to understand what governments think, what do governments feel works well, what doesn't work well, what needs changing. So I just wanted to underline that. It's helpful for other governments to know what you're thinking and what you're advising your ministers and so on. It's helpful for the community and it's within this context of the overall review of Internet governance. So we will have a session -- I forget, is it tomorrow for the ATRT 2? Heather, I can't remember. But there's a session coming up this week when you have that opportunity to interact directly with the review team, and I hope very much colleagues will seize that opportunity and continue to interact and contribute. And I'm very interested to know what you're thinking. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

All right. We have -- we need to close this session. I'm seeing a final -- final, final quick comment from Costa Rica.

COSTA RICA:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I was expecting our colleague from U.K. to tell you that tomorrow from 16 hours 30 we have one and a half hour session with the ATRT 2 committee in Hall 4AB which is just next door. I want to praise the four governments that gave written comments. Also

last session in Beijing you had a very active participation of some countries, so I -- I would invite everybody to join that session tomorrow afternoon at 4:30. Thank you very much.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

All right. Thank you very much. And thank you all for participating today I'd like to encourage you to again visit the GAC Web site and if you don't have your credentials check with Jeannie to get your credentials. All the document for today's session is there as well as for the meetings, the archives for the previous meetings, all the information that maybe even Iran was suggesting, it's all there on the Web site. Get your information and log-ins and have a look. Thank you all for participating so richly, and we'll do this again shortly -- another time Thank you. Heather.

[Applause]

HEATHER DRYDEN:

Thank you, everyone. So we convene at 2:00 p.m. in this room to restart our GAC meetings. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

There are some ICANN Africa strategy documents. I will leave them at the secretariat table by Jeannie. You can collect on your way out.

[END OF AUDIO]