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BARCELONA – HLG: The Role of Opportunities For Governments in ICANN – Post IANA Transition  
Monday, October 22, 2018 – 10:45 to 12:00 CEST  
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

BRAD WHITE: Thank you, Manal. I'll now turn the floor over to Secretary of State Polo. Mr. Secretary -- he's going to chair your first session. Mr. Secretary.

FRANCISCO POLO: Thank you. During the next hour and a quarter, we will address how governments are more and more active in developing legislative and regulatory texts related to digital issues which could impact upon ICANN's mission.

The aim of this session is to discuss how to improve the dialogue between ICANN and governments regarding the potential impacts of the new legislative and regulatory activities on ICANN and the DNS more generally.

To address this session entitled, "The Role and Opportunities for Governments in ICANN and Post-IANA Transition, I would like to give way to the moderator of this table", Mathieu Weill, French Minister of Economy, that will lead this session and introduce the rest of participants.

MATHIEU WEILL: Thank you very much, Minister. I will speak in French.

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Thank you very much, Mr. Polo.

Dear colleagues, dear delegates at this high-level meeting, my name is Mathieu Weill. I am in charge of the digital economy department within the ministry of economy. Unfortunately, the minister was not able to come. He was not available. He has other commitments, even though he is quite interested in the topics that we will discuss today.

I had the pleasure of being involved at a different role in a process that was called the IANA transition. For a little bit under two years I was one of the cochairs of one of the cross-community working groups within ICANN that prepared what was accepted -- adopted in Marrakech, as we mentioned earlier.

Those proposals were put together by the community with a view to implementing the transition.

So, in order to introduce this panel, before I turn to our experts who are gathered who are here at this table, I would like to remind you what some of the major steps were within this process.

This process was started in March 2014 when the American government declared its intention to implement the transition. This is something that had been talked about ever since ICANN had been created. So about 20 years ago.

The idea was to give the worldwide community the stewardship of the IANA functions.

ICANN had been the facilitator, and it is within the ICANN community that we started to elaborate those proposals. Those proposals had to be faithful to a number of principles that had been defined by the U.S. administration.

The five principles were to sustain and improve the multistakeholder model; to maintain security, stability, and resilience of the DNS system; to meet the expectations and needs of our customers worldwide and of the service partners of the IANA functions; and also to maintain the openness of the Internet.

The American administration also stressed within the process that it would not accept any proposal that would replace the role that it had had thus far as a steward with a solution or an organization that would be led by governments, by a government, or by an intergovernmental system or structure.

This was important. These principles were important because they guided the entire process. We ended up with two working groups. After a few months -- it took us a few months to start things up. But there was one working group that focused on the technical functions linked with the unique identifiers on the Internet, and there was another working group that I was a cochair of that focused on improving accountability of ICANN because the community considered it a necessary factor for the transition.

So there were two years of transition of processes of meetings. So I will not go into the details of that with thousands of e-mails that is typical of the ICANN community.

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In 2016 in March in Marrakech, the proposals were approved by the community. They were given to the Board of ICANN. And they were sent to the American administration. And on October 1st, the U.S. undid the contract that it had with ICANN. It expired. And, at that same date, the bylaws started, new bylaws started for ICANN.

That process had been imagined or put together to reinforce the multistakeholder model to improve the way that ICANN worked based on an enabled community. And that mechanism that is now in place has as its goal to make sure that the IANA functions, the IANA services are delivered based on the expectations of the users in a stable and secure manner.

At the same time, we have to recognize that the role of governments in that process was important as it had been in the past 20 years. And it is one of the most discussed topics as we work on accountability within ICANN. It was one of the topics that was most debated up until Marrakech.

And still today there are a number of topics that remain open for discussion, which, of course, is the goal of this session. Because the goal of the session really is to figure out how we work with those fundamentals to improve the dialogue between ICANN and the governments. That really is the goal of our meetings.

Both because there is the role of governance within ICANN and because I believe that ICANN is starting to understand more and more that it needs to comply with a legal framework, with all of the legal

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frameworks worldwide and that it needs to work as a partner with governments to work on coordinated initiatives.

So we will have the opportunity within this session to talk about the role of governments within that framework.

I would like to introduce our first expert at this table. And then we will try to be more interactive and to discuss this with you.

But, first of all, I would like to introduce Wolfgang Kleinwachter who is a professor at the University of Aarhus in Holland. And he will give us his point of view over the past 20 years about the roles and opportunities for governments within ICANN.

It is a true challenge, because he needs to talk about 20 years in just about a few minutes so that we have enough time for everyone.

Go ahead, Wolfgang.

**WOLFGANG KLEINWACHTER:** Can I get the slides? Because I had prepared some slides, and it would be good to have them now because it will underpin my short presentation.

By the way, University of Aarhus is not in Holland. It's in Denmark. But it's within the European Union. And I'm an old ICANN veteran. This is my 57th ICANN meeting. So to take the 20th anniversary as a starting point is a good opportunity because I remember the 1990s, that the establishment of ICANN, more or less -- next slide, please -- more or less reflected the typegeist of the 90s. This was the end of the Cold War. This

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was globalization. This was deregulation in particular in the field of communication. The Europeans will remember the privatization of telecommunication.

This was also a power shift. Non-state actors got to create a role in international relations. And we saw the dot com boom in the 1990s after the invention of the World Wide Web.

This has changed the role of the domain name system which was introduced and developed already in the 1980s. But this was seen as a very specific technical issue. But, suddenly, you know, with this dot com boom, there was a need to bring more stability to the system. And so the challenge was to institutionalize the DNS management. Because until the middle of the 90s, this was in the hand of just one man, Jon Postel in Los Angeles.

And the discussion how to institutionalize it, you know, taking into account the typegeist of the 1990s, came up with a new interesting triangular governance model which was called at this time Newco, new corporation, which we said let the decision making in the hands of the provider and the user of the services and give the governments a role as an advisor in particular as it comes to public policy issues. And I think, when this was invented in 1998, this was really an innovation for international public policy making. Next slide, please. As Manal has remembered -- next slide, please -- the first GAC meeting was attended just by 24 governments. Now we have 177 in the governments.

So it was not a surprise that seven years later when the United Nations convened the World Summit on the Information Society, that a number

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of governments, you know, questions this model. And said, you know, what is this now? The Internet is now could become so important? And, you know, we have only an advisory role.

And so there were two big conflicts in the World Summit on the Information Society.

One was that governments ask it about their role and the management of critical Internet resources, should they play an oversight role? And the second one was the special role of the U.S. Government, because the U.S. Government had this Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN and more or less did the oversight of ICANN. So this was, for a number of governments, not acceptable and contrary to the principle of sovereign equality as enshrined in the United Nations charter.

So a huge debate started in the two years on the World Summit on the Information Society which produced an interesting compromise, and it's important today to remember this compromise from Tunis because this is still valid.

The first thing was that the outcome was there is no need for a leader in Internet. So we need everybody, so we have to involve all stakeholders in their respective roles. So that means while the practical things are good in the hands of the private sector, public-policy issues are good in the hand of the governmental sector. So the only way forward is to enhance collaboration among all stakeholders. And this included both the recognition that policy authority for Internet-related public-policy issues is the sovereign right of states while the existing arrangements, and this is ICANN, for Internet governance have worked

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effectively, with the private sector taking the lead in day-to-day operations and with innovation and value creation at the edges.

I think this was the big compromise how to manage the critical Internet resources. And with the role of the U.S., the compromise was the member states of the United Nations recognized that you cannot wish away history. The Internet was invented in the United States. Insofar, they offered a space for a bigger transformation, and this produced this language of enhanced cooperation. So that means the aim was not to change the system immediately but to promote a process of enhanced cooperation to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public-policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

So that means what Mathieu just referred about, the IANA transition, was more or less, more or less laid down as a task for the future in the Tunis agenda.

Next slide, please.

And insofar, the IANA transition is almost more or less an implementation of the Tunis agenda. So the IANA transition ended the U.S. stewardship role

over IANA and led to an equal footing among governance within ICANN. No government anymore, after the -- next slide, please. No government has now a special role in the GAC. All governments are equal. And I think this is an important step forward, though more or less the U.S.



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Government kept its promise when it signed the first Memorandum of Understanding in 1998.

And the second thing is that the new ICANN bylaws and the formation of the empowered community have strengthened both the accountability of the ICANN Board and the role of governments within ICANN's multistakeholder policy development process. That means the governments are part of this bigger community. They have to play their role, their specific role. They are different from the private sectors. They are different, certainly, from the civil society or the technical community, but they are part of a community. Nobody can alone manage this resource. Everybody has to work hand in hand.

Next and last slide, please.

So what will be if we look into the future. You know, what is the -- what is the challenges now?

So we are faced now what I have called in many articles the new Internet governance complexity. The world has changed within the last 20 years. 20 years ago, Internet governance was a technical issue with some political implications. Today it's a political issue with some technical elements in it. So inside ICANN, the challenge is now that we have to clarify, it's an ongoing process, what are the respective roles of stakeholders and how we can enhance cross-constituency cooperation, the cooperation among the supporting organization and the advisory committees, because also in ICANN today, a lot of constituencies are sitting in their silos and we have to bring them out of their silos to have a better system of liaisons, and we need the early

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engagement of all constituencies. So it would be not good for the GAC to wait until a final decision arrives at the table, though it's good to engage early in processes which lead to complicated political decisions.

And the second issue inside ICANN is that the empowered community has still to be stress tested. So how to manage technical issues with political implications. This is not easy. We see it now with the GDPR discussion. We see it with the new gTLDs, and today you have enough time to go into the details of these two, and other, processes which are ahead of ICANN.

And my final word is, you know, ICANN doesn't operate in an isolation. It's part of a bigger world. And the minister has said in his opening speech the digitalization of the world is like a hurricane. The hurricane changes everything, and so we see a power shift in the global Internet governance ecosystem, and we see unintended side effects from national and international regulations. So this adds to the complexity a lot of additional challenges.

So ICANN has a limited technical mandate, but it's interlinked to Internet-related public-policy issues as cybersecurity, digital economy and human rights.

So thank you for your attention.

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much, Wolfgang.

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I would like now to give the floor to the Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca who is a director at the -- from Brazil. He's an ambassador from Brazil. And I would like to ask him about the role of governments and how it evolved over the past few years.

**BENEDICTO FONSECA FILHO:** Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to start by thanking ICANN and the Spanish Government for the invitation for this distinguished multistakeholder panel.

The first point I'd like to share with you based on the experience of having worked a few years in the ICANN context, I'm a professional diplomat and over 30 years of my career this has been a unique experience. So the first point I'd like to highlight is the uniqueness of ICANN. I think this was referred to by the president and CEO at the opening ceremony. ICANN is unique in the fact it is a multistakeholder organization that makes decisions in which governments are not in the driver seats, and so on and so forth. So it has really a very unique place in the international system. Maybe the international labor organization would be something from the perspective of governments that would have some of those characteristics, but not exactly.

And this poses challenges for government participation. I do not overlook the difficulties and the challenges for other stakeholder groups, constituencies. Having been part of the organizing team of NETmundial we hosted in Brazil back in 2014, I can relate to the difficulties of selecting representatives, of validating outcomes. So the -- I know the difficulties are not particular to government, but in the

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case of governments, we have consolidated a very straightforward way of doing things in regard of representation, of decision-making. So it is really a challenge to participate in such an environment on the part of the procedural aspects. In regard to substance, it's also a challenge because of the diversity of topics involved. Simultaneously we deal with so many items, topics, at the same time. The GAC's agenda is a patchwork. I think maybe the other constituencies should be the same. So it's really a huge amount of items we should look simultaneously in tight schedules.

And in a context that values extensively the concept of consensus in a way that sometime for governments it's not exactly the way governments are used to operate. So there are some challenges in regard to procedural and substantive aspects.

What makes this work in my view is a shared purpose among all of us, governments and nongovernments, stakeholders. And this comes from the World Summit on the Information Society vision that Internet governance requires full participation of all stakeholders in their different roles and responsibilities. We think this is the line we should tread in order to make this work. And in doing so, try to be consistent with the other parts of the Internet governance ecosystem, decisions and initiatives that are being undertaken in the context of Internet international government or organizations, regional initiatives, and of course multistakeholder organizations such as the IGF, and of course national legislation.

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By the way, did I mention that were mentioned by the ICANN Board chair at the opening ceremony: security, the nature of multistakeholder participation, new technologies, fragmentation. I think he has laid out a number of challenges before us. I think those are the same challenges governments have to face on a daily basis also, either at a national capacity or working together with other governments in a different -- in another fora. Take into account national strategies. So it is really a huge ecosystem we are talking about.

The -- the task and the objective of working with governments to avoid unintended consequences of national legislation, international, I think it's a valid point, but I would also say it is important that governments work with ICANN to avoid that decisions be made in ICANN that can also impact negatively what is taking place in other places, in other organizations, some of which have very particular mandates to look into aspects that are also being addressed within the ICANN context. And this adds to the responsibility on the part of governmental representatives that take part in these meetings to serve as the conduit on both directions; making sure in ICANN they can duly represent their government positions both at the technical and also at the political, the higher-vision perspective, and the other way around. Also to take back what has taken place in ICANN to make sure it's consistent with what is also being done at the national level.

As we celebrate the 20 years of ICANN, I think it's important that we look ahead. It's something that we are naturally tasked to do. And I'd like to say in that regard I share the concern that was expressed by the

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chairman of the ICANN Board at the opening ceremony about the risk of paralysis or of ICANN not living up to the challenge of -- of being -- acting commensurate with the new challenges, with the new circumstances, maybe because in absence of consensus and so on and so forth.

I think part of the solution is to make sure we make the incremental gains that can be validated and acted upon without maybe having the concern of finding all the solutions for all questions at one given time and closing files, because as the chair has also said, this is work in progress. We are all involved in something that is developing very rapidly, in a way that is very dynamic, and it's a challenge for all of us to -- to be part of that in a responsible way.

I feel very encouraged by the call and the announcement that was also made in the opening ceremony. In that regard that ICANN will launch in the near future consultation regarding the status of ICANN's governance and how it should evolve. I think it's -- it's -- I think that's the kind of message we like to hear that this effort will go on, that we'll try to improve those new institutions that were put into -- institutional framework that was put into place recently, including the empowered community, is something that has to be continuously assessed and, if necessary, adjusted. I think those are experiments, as, again, in a unique context. We are doing something that we have not been doing in the governmental context or in the multistakeholder context. It's something totally new, so it's just fair that we allow us the opportunity to continuously assess and see how we evolve in -- with the ultimate objective of ensuring inclusivity, accountability, and transparency.

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Those objectives we fully share, and we thank you. We are all, as governments, summoned to answer to this challenge and to make sure collectively we can achieve this result that is the same, that we share with all parts of the community.

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much.

We will now give you the floor, and I will give the floor to our next experts as we go on later. So we have a long list of people who would like to intervene, so I would like to remind you to be brief so that everybody has a chance to speak.

So first of all, there is a recorded message from Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology in India.

Let us start with his message, remote. It was recorded previously. And then we will go back to you in the room.

So let's go ahead with the recorded message.

[ Video playing ]

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Spanish Ministry for Economy and Business; Mr. Francisco Polo; my good friend Goran Marby, CEO of ICANN; ladies and gentlemen;

distinguished delegates. Let me at the very outset convey the greetings of our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, a very successful meet of ICANN currently being held in Barcelona. I was very keen to come, but because of certain very pressing governmental and political responsibility, I'm not able to come, though an Indian delegation is certainly present there.

I've always said that Internet is one of the finest creations of human mind, but it must be available for all on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The stewardship of ICANN and digital governance, Internet governance is too well-known, and almost the seamless transformation to a multistakeholder model, in which India also lent its support in 2016, today has led to an architecture where from academia to nongovernmental groups to keen activist of Internet to government, and many others, all have come together to ensure a very powerful instrument of Internet governance.

This multistakeholder model, which is now a time-tested model, must also be applied to connect the unconnected. The quest for Internet today is a global quest, and all of us need to support this very big, powerful movement.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, we have undertaken some very innovative programs -- programs like Digital India, Skill India, Startup India -- are all technology-based program designed to empower ordinary Indians on the part of technology. They are bearing great results, finding a global resonance.



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Digital India is more for digital inclusion, bridge the digital divide. And while we are creating infrastructure like linking 250,000 Gram Panchayat cluster of villages by optical fiber network, we are also promoting digital delivery of services from eHospital to eScholarship to many others. And most important, making 60 million Indians digitally literate to reap the benefit of this great movement.

Ladies and gentlemen, delegate friends, India's digital story has its own classical imprint. A population of 1.3 billion is home to 1.21 billion mobile phones, out of which 450 million are smartphones.

A great initiative of digital identity, again in low cost technology, are today covers 1.22 billion Indians. We came with an giant opportunity about 20 million bank accounts linked with Aadhaar and the mobile phone. And the direct benefit transfer of welfare benefiting the poor and needy have led to saving billions of dollars which pocketed by middle men or non-eligible claimants. Digital governance is good governance. World Economic Forum come with a great model of common service centers, nearly 250,000, 300,000 spread across the hinterland, the rural state of India where more than 1.2 million young people, girls, boys, women, are delivering about 300 services to the people in the rural part of the country.

Then we have come with a BPO movement opening BPO, small C class towns. About 124 BPOs have started operating at 1:1 location point.

Our standard is very clear.

Internet must be interoperable, the products.

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Two, the domain name system in which ICANN has been crucial and continues to play must be available in Indian languages, other local languages.

Thirdly, Internet has to be safe and secure. Data must not be abused.

In all this we have to partner in unison to ensure the safety and security of Internet.

We already are going to formalize our data protection laws in regard to which a special recommendation of a distinguished panel has already come. The larger directive, which I would like to highlight today, ICANN is a very powerful instrument of Internet governance not only but also transforming the lives of the people globally. And I think that larger mission will continue to grow in which we are keen to partner.

My greetings to all of you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much. My thanks to the Indian delegation as well.

I would like to now ask Mr. Metzger, director general of OFCOM. Thank you.

PHILIPP METZGER:

Since its creation 20 years ago, ICANN has had an essential function for our digital societies and economies. On the one hand, it performs a key role in the stability and well-functioning of the DNS. And, on the other

hand, ICANN still is the main test bed for multistakeholder decision making and, thus, serves as an inspiration for issues that go far beyond ICANN's mandate.

In this novel model of cooperation, all stakeholders, obviously, play an essential and unique role. And in this context, it is important to recognize the particular role and responsibilities of governments.

Governments are here to provide the community with their insights and positions on the public policy aspects of DNS policies that are being developed. And the ICANN bylaws accord a special weight to this advice, in particular whether it comes in the form of the GAC's consensus advice to the Board.

At the same time, this key role of governments is not always fully understood by some members of the ICANN community.

GAC consensus advice and consensus inputs into public policy developments are sometimes considered really quantitatively as one additional comment or input. This has led to some protracted conflicts, we believe, within the ICANN community giving rise to adversarial modes of thinking and interaction.

And, in our view, this is not the best approach if you want the multistakeholder model embodied by ICANN to thrive further.

All ingredients that are being contributed by all the stakeholder groups are needed. And when doing so, the results usually are positive and solid as they are inclusive of all parts of the community.

For example, recently with the revision of the policies regarding the protection of national Red Cross societies, only two years ago when passing the agreements that led to the IANA transition and the ICANN accountability reforms.

Moreover, the ICANN multistakeholder participation still needs to be more inclusive, more diverse, although admittedly good progress has been made in the last years. There are still voices of people, in particular those from societies and economies with fewer resources that are not sufficiently heard and present in ICANN.

We all need to continue to stumble forward, so to say, and innovate by providing inclusive procedures whereby conflicts are resolved in a transparent, in a timely and accountable manner beyond ad hoc and last-minute efforts.

In this vein, it will be very welcome if ICANN could, for example, deliver timely, positive, and inclusive solutions on the longstanding unresolved issue of adequate protections of IGO identifiers.

And even more diverse and meaningful involvement of governments from all over the world is, therefore, essential for the quality of ICANN's work and decisions.

Governments on their part must understand that they have to continue to devote enough resources to their participation in ICANN and in the GAC. We also need to improve our methods of intergovernmental cooperation for pooling resources when big efforts such as the next

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expansion of the top-level space or in discussions around GDPR and WHOIS are at stake.

But governments need the full support and understanding of all parts of the ICANN community. ICANN should continue its commendable efforts to lower the entry threshold for those that struggle to follow the processes, understand their relevance, and make their voices heard.

In this regard, ICANN should also fully consider the importance of facilitating means and ways for an independent secretariat function to the GAC, which is a bedrock foundation for the well-being of this committee and thus for ICANN as a multistakeholder organization as a whole.

In these times where inclusive and consensus-oriented cooperation models, multilateral and multistakeholder based ones are under pressure, it is more important to prove that ICANN and its multistakeholder decision making model works and is able to produce concrete and balanced solutions that serve the entire global Internet community.

So let us continue to work together and make ICANN a flagship model for inclusive multistakeholder cooperation in a digital era. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL: Thank you very much.

Just a little reminder, because we started late so our timing is quite tight, I would like to really remember to be brief. I would like to now give the floor to Portugal. Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, who is the Director of the Department for the Information Society of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education.

ANA NEVES:

Portugal speaking. Good morning. I'd like to begin by thanking the government of Spain for hosting the fourth high-level governmental meeting that allows us to show the cultural and linguistic diversity that exists on the Internet. This diversity should always exist on the Internet. This is a global resource owned by all of us, just like the oceans, space, with a high potential to develop or to secure sustainable development and with a privatization or way that IANA stewardship process, so now we see an enhanced accountability on the part of ICANN.

This has increased transparency and processes. Portugal celebrates this milestone.

We are also pleased by the fact that ICANN tries to secure that there will be no fragmentation in Internet and also it will secure the stability, resilience and security of the domain name system.

In Portugal we know that economic development and the growth of the digital society and public policies have to be based on a multistakeholder model where decisions have to be taken in an open manner taking into account different sources of knowledge and always the focusing on accountability. On the Internet, now we see benefits

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and some limitations of the multistakeholder governance model. We see that there are regulations and decision-making processes that are also linked to the Internet.

We also see that sometimes there is manipulation of different interests involved. In this regard ICANN needs to play its role to make sure that all the systems are on an equal footing to make sure that they can all develop their duties and public policy related issues.

So the governments play a key role because they have to make users aware so they can contribute to a more technical society. Both the public and private sector have a role to play as well as the academia to secure a harmonious and sustainable economic development.

But this also becomes a paradox. Something that has all the -- everything that is needed to benefit society can also put at risk the public interest because of the interests of private corporations that because they have financial power they limit public interest just to an economic dimension.

ICANN is responsible to the global Internet community, but other governments that ultimately have to be accountable to their citizens. This is the thought that I wanted to give on behalf of the Portugal government. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much. Your message was very clear and brief.

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I would like to now give the floor to the African Union, the Commissioner of the African Union, with his excellency Dr. Abou-Zeid, who is commissioner for infrastructure and energy. Thank you very much Mr. President.

AMANI ABOU-ZEID:

I will speak in English.

Thank you for the minister of Spain for all of us for the hospitality for all of us for this important meeting. I would also like to congratulate the CEO of ICANN, Mr. Goran, and my country sister, Ms. Manal Ismail, for the leadership they have been providing throughout the work both of ICANN and of the GAC.

As you know, Africa has been and is taking important strides for in digitalization. And it's a wonderful story that we are providing for ourselves and also for the whole world. I'm not only talking about the rate of penetration of mobile that is very high that is even above 90%, but also of the consistent transformation of our economies into digital economies taking large and big strides into digitalization of our systems and our way of thinking.

That said, this is not without challenges. And the African Union being the political organization that encompasses all the African continent and has all the integration of the continent we have been very active into helping our countries move into this digital economy and digital space.



Whether it's the connectivity issues that are being addressed by both our public and private operators, African private sector or non-African, the digital literacy programs that we're having ensuring also the digital literacy reaches the marginalized and all society, and particularly the women and the girls, the effort that the African Union Commission we are undertaking with the ITU.

The cheap Internet through the exchange points that the African Union is putting across the continent, and now we have local traffic of 33 nations in the continent staying African and staying local. The cybersecurity and data protection convention that we've developed a few years ago and for which we are now capacitating the continent and working together with different nations into also combating cybercrime as witnessed by the last event where we had almost 120 delegations present in terms of combating, as I said, the cybercrime.

But, more importantly for this particular forum, we are having this important initiative that we've developed with the European Union for policy harmonization and policy regulation initiative for the digital Africa, which we, you know, abbreviate as PRIDA.

The African Union Commission has assumed the role of secretariat for the African Internet Governance Forum, the AIGF. And, since we started in 2014, we have been convening and meeting regularly. And we organize meetings every year. And this year is no exception. It's going to take place in Khartoum, the first week of November.

But also we managed to also achieve the following strengthening governments and private sector participation, which, as you know,

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previously was lacking. Supporting organization of the African school on Internet governance for young Africans, using a multistakeholder model to develop the declaration on Internet governance and the development of the digital economy in Africa.

Now, for the purpose, again, of this meeting, we do recognize the important work that IANA has been doing calling for more accountability and transparency of the work we're also calling of an increased role of governments and non-government organizations knowing that in Africa, particularly the ICT's agenda is being led by governments.

I know that we have an issue of time, so I'm going to stop here. But I hope that we will be having the opportunity during the coming discussions also to make more -- to give more ideas about the work that we're doing and that we can continue to do together. And I thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much. I am very grateful that you considered our timing issue. I would like to, for a very short time, ask one of our experts to take the floor. His name is Bill Drake. And he teaches at the university in Zurich. And this time I know that he is Swiss for sure.

And I would like him to give us an idea of the diversity -- the variety that exists within the multistakeholder model.

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I'm going to ask him to focus on that. Bill, please, very quickly. Thank you.

BILL DRAKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am a Swiss resident. Okay. I'd like to make three points quickly given the time constraints.

First, I think it's worth noting that we often, by way of shorthand at ICANN, refer to the multistakeholder model. But, of course, we should keep in mind there are a variety of multistakeholder models. If you study or participate in various international policy settings, you'll see that there's a great variation in the configurations involved.

I just want to flag three that I think are particularly relevant in Internet governance. One that's increasingly common in the intergovernmental organization space in WSIS. And I think the OECD particularly exemplifies this is one where stakeholders are able to provide input and participate subject to certain restrictions. But the final decision making is governmental.

Another is where you have equal part peer participation in agenda setting and policy deliberation. But, because of the large agreement -- large number agreement, it's so difficult to find, you have to have a smaller group that is authorized and fully accountable that takes the ultimate decisions on certain issues subject to limitations and obligations to engage and so on with appeals mechanisms. And ICANN does this with the Board, et cetera.

And, thirdly, of course, the most rare and interesting what I call deep multistakeholderism, which is where you have truly peer-to-peer participation in all the aspects of decision making and dialogue.

Secondly, in terms of takeaways from those models, I think it's worth noting which configuration is optimal or at least the least bad, varies with the issue areas and circumstances involved. There's no one size fits all approach to these things. We have to dress the multistakeholder model in a neutral and logical manner. It's a toolbox that we can draw on on trying to tackle problems.

Full consensus is preferred, but it's not an absolute requirement. Rough consensus or even voting may be used. By way of corollary, given diversity of interests, multistakeholder cooperation doesn't guarantee that all parties get their first preference on any single issue any more than that happens in multilateral intergovernmental settings. What matters is the broad, long-term, diffuse reciprocity in mutual gains that's involved. That's why I think it's important to take into account a related point, which is on equal footing does not necessarily mean that all stakeholders have exactly the same roles. A division of labor may be appropriate. What matters is that all party have equal access to the process of deliberation and decision making.

That's why in the NETmundial statement we said the respective roles and responsibilities should be interpreted in a flexible manner with reference to the issues under discussion.

So, lastly, to conclude, I would just say that, given the increasing complexity and challenges in Internet governance, we need fresh

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thinking about the nature of multistakeholder cooperation. More and more decisions are being taken outside the realm of the multistakeholder and multilateral decision making at the national level and private ordering and so on. We're seeing increasing weaponization of the Internet, fragmentation of the Internet. There are a lot of challenges out there, not all of which I think we are well-equipped to deal with right now.

So, hopefully, this being the year of ICANN 20 but also looking forward the 5th anniversary of the NETmundial meeting, there's the U.N. high-level panel at work and so on, hopefully, we can begin to look at other kinds of mechanisms, other modalities, flexible distributed groups and soft law agreements and so on that might be useful in taking forward Internet governance issues.

So ICANN can't initiate and lead in all these things that are beyond its narrow mandate. But it can participate and share experiences, as the Swiss delegate said. So let's stumble forward together, if we're going to stumble. Thanks.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you, Bill, for this invitation to push forward. I would like to now give the floor to Belgium with Severine Waterbley who is Director General for Economic Regulation.

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SEVERINE WATERBLEY:

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. CEO of ICANN, and the GAC. Dear colleagues, I would like to thank the Spanish authorities for putting together this ministerial meeting in the beautiful City of Barcelona.

For those of us amongst us who are born before the existence of the Internet, you know that we now have an infinite resources of knowledge.

This is now a fact. We should -- should we, as representatives of government, make sure that this social progress be accessible to all all over the world.

Belgium is committed to sustain several projects that will enable local populations to have access to the Internet.

The Internet is also pornography cyber criminality. And states need to set up legislations that enable to work on those things with partnerships between national authorities which are necessary. Several treaties and partnerships were assigned by different states. The ICANN is part of this ecosystem and has a responsibility to make sure that Internet is secure and stable.

We have set up a unique model, the multistakeholder model that gathers all of the actors concerned by Internet governance.

We need to make sure that this model works well and that there is collaboration between ICANN and the different actors represented at the GAC.

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The importance is that the GAC -- the states that represent all of the populations of the world works on advice that are respected or conformed with by the board.

Certain principles of good governance and accountability need to be set up. Belgium also asks for the organization of the new domain name system be finalized between the members of the GAC. We also ask that there is a certain attention taken to non-members of GAC and to invite them to join the GAC.

The GAC and different actors need to act within the existing regulation framework, whether this is in the U.S. or in countries where they work. It is normal for ICANN and its stakeholders to conform to existing legislations or to adapt the way that it functions.

Belgium rejoices to see that there are new things being worked on as far as GDPR. There is great collaboration to enable a good functioning of the system. Let us remember that those roles have as a goal to protect privacy of our citizens and also to avoid the issues that I mentioned. It is important for the states who will legalize things that have to do with the Internet and the domain names be represented at the GAC.

As a conclusion, we are satisfied with the good functioning of the multistakeholder model but we would like to invite ICANN to accelerate the reforms and to reinforce cooperation of the states within the GAC.

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much. I would like to remind you that we only have ten minutes, and I think there are still seven or eight people who would like -- who need to take the floor. So please take that into account. Be brief in your message so that everyone has the floor, which I think is essential to this session.

I would like to now give the floor to Brazil again. Thiago Jardim Oliveira who represents the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I would like to remind you again and to stress the fact that we need to be brief.

Thiago, thank you for being brief.

THIAGO BRAZ JARDIM OLIVEIRA: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by thanking again the Spanish Government for having us. The Brazilian Government has been a strong supporter of the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance. Because the Internet is a global public resource, we have been advocating the participation of all stakeholders from both developed and developing countries. And we have been advocating for stakeholder participation within their respective roles and responsibilities.

Brazil has also been a strong advocate of equality within each stakeholder group. Each government should be able to participate in the governance of the Internet on a footing of equality with any other government. And other stakeholders in roles and responsibilities which differ from those of sovereign states should also be able to participate



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on an equal footing among themselves if they perform the same roles and responsibilities. These are, in our view, the fundamental principles for a truly democratic, transparent, multilateral, international management of the Internet. These are the fundamental principles that the world has accepted in the World Summit on the Information Society as well as in NETmundial.

ICANN has made some progress towards ensuring respect for these principles; however, there is still a long way to go. It is unacceptable to us that ICANN continues to be subject to the laws and tribunals and to the enforcement and territorial jurisdiction of one single country, the country where ICANN is legally incorporated. It is also unacceptable to us that ICANN feels compelled to adopt its policies to the laws of just a handful of states but not to the laws of all the others. And it is unacceptable to us that ICANN -- within ICANN, the roles and responsibility of governments, in fact the public-policy authority of governments is still prone, quite regrettably, to disregard usurpation.

Your Excellencies the Brazilian Government believes that ICANN must evolve to ensure it is accountable to all countries and all peoples. If ICANN cannot avoid the uneven subjection to then it must seek domestic laws while at the same time the international community develops compulsory and truly accountability mechanisms for ICANN. But also, if governments' jurisdictional influence over ICANN individually is to be curtailed for the sake of international fairness, ICANN must ensure that the public-policy authority of governments can be exercised appropriately from within. This requires, for example, making provision for a permanent independent secretariat to the GAC,

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one which takes into account the characteristics and needs of governments. And this also requires, Your Excellencies, the unequivocal acceptance that the GAC's advisory role is not really advisory when it comes to identifying or developing public policy. Governments have the right and the responsibility to identify and develop public policy for the Internet. Others, of course, may decide to depart from public policies identified by governments, but they shall not, never, arrogate themselves the right to say what public-policy is, which is something only governments can do.

Ladies and gentlemen, Brazil of course remains committed to contributing to the evolution of ICANN.

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

I would like to give the floor to Canada, Mrs. Pamela Miller, Director General of the Telecommunications and Internet Policy Branch, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development.

PAMELA MILLER:

I speak to you today on behalf of my minister, the Honorable Navdeep Bains, who sends his regrets. The government of Canada wishes to thank Spain for its hospitality in leadership in hosting the fourth GAC high-level meeting. Canada has the pleasure of having served as the inaugural host of the high-level meeting and is an ongoing proponent

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of the high-level meeting to support governments' engagement at ICANN.

We consider these meetings crucial to build a shared understanding of the technical issues that ICANN and the different public-policy considerations at play. It is only with this common understanding that we can ensure that we are working together to keep the Internet open, secure, and interoperable.

We would like to congratulate the GAC for almost 20 years since its establishment, a testament to the strength and importance of this advisory committee, and we're proud that Canada was part of it since the beginning. A well-functioning and agile GAC driven by consensus decision-making is a crucial element of ICANN's multistakeholder system. Canada believes the principles of diversity, inclusion, and consensus-based decision-making are at the heart of the multistakeholder approach and enable us to move beyond individual interest to see the collective opportunity.

The resilience of the multistakeholder approach has been demonstrated not only through the successful IANA stewardship transition but through the continuing efforts to enhance ICANN's accountability post transition. Governments along with the ICANN community work through complex and challenging issues to develop recommendations that will enhance ICANN's accountability on human rights, diversity, and jurisdiction to better serve its global community.

Now more than ever the GAC needs to continue to work together to address the challenges that lie ahead of us. We need to keep working

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with the ICANN community to ensure compliance with GDPR and lawful access to nonpublic data, to adopt and implement the post transition accountability recommendations, and to advance policy development for subsequent procedures of the new gTLD program.

As the new global wave of Internet users come online, it is critical to leverage the multistakeholder approach to increase geographical representation and meaningful participation of different stakeholders across the globe, including governments in ICANN's ecosystem.

The Internet is essential to advancing our quality of life and our collective prosperity. We are all influencing the future of the global Internet and of our societies through policy decisions and actions taken at ICANN. Let us work together to achieve concrete outcomes now and in the years ahead.

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much.

And I would like to ask China to take the floor, Mr. Liu Jie, Deputy Director General of Information and Communication Administration with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

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LIU JIE:

Distinguished guests, delegates, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I'm Liu Jie from Ministry of Information and Industry Technologies. Time is limited so I'll be brief.

First, I'm very happy to be here in beautiful Barcelona, and thank you, the government of Spain, for your efforts for hosting the session.

Second, it's been two years since the IANA transition. All work has been carried out smoothly, and this year marks the 20th anniversary of ICANN, and we appreciate the efforts of the work of ICANN. And China holds the view that we should insist the multistakeholder model.

We believe the government plays an important role in Internet participation and the multistakeholder model. It will help us combat security fraud, cybersecurity crime. Another point that we want to make is that when it comes to country code, it is more sensitive, especially the country code on the second level. We hope we can work with GAC as well as relevant countries and territories on this issue.

We also would like to recommend that ICANN will take effective measures to private sector countries and territories when it comes to second-level top-level domains at the -- or the second-level country code. China has always placed great importance to make sure our own domestic Internet policy is aligned with the international policies, and we consider various countries' recommendation.

We hope to contribute to the development of the global Internet and its policies.

Thank you.

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[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL: Thank you very much. Now Denmark with Finn Petersen who is the director of international ICT relations.

FINN PETERSEN: Thank you, and good morning to everybody, and especially thank you to the Spanish minister for taking the initiative to host this important High-Level Government Meeting in the beautiful city of Barcelona.

The timing for the discussion of the role of governments in ICANN is well chosen. The IANA transition have been well implemented, and hopefully the ICANN community are able in this meeting to approve the recommendation for further enhanced accountability for ICANN.

Denmark is very pleased with the recommendation, and they have our full support.

During the process that led up to the IANA transition, we have emphasized that ICANN should remain rooted in the private sector, recognizing that government and public authority are responsible for public policy and that ICANN Board should duly take into account public-policy advice of governments.

By creating the new empowered community, governments are now participating on an equal footing with the rest of the community and are able to participate in certain decisions and are able to enforce a key decision towards ICANN. Although government can contribute to this,

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Denmark finds that governments should only be involved when matters at stake have clear public-policy implication. Governments should not be part of decision of a more operational nature.

With the responsibility -- With the role of governments as primary advisor to the ICANN Board, I also have to emphasize in this forum the need for the significant responsibility of the ICANN Board to be responsive to the advice provided by the GAC when GAC -- when advice is based on full consensus. If the Board is not able to follow GAC consensus advice or at a later stage decides to deviate from previous GAC consensus advice, it is important to find a mutual acceptable solution up front and a need for a clear and comprehensive rationale for the ICANN decisions.

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much. And we will go a little bit beyond the time that was established but we will make sure that we listen to everyone. But again, be brief.

I would like to now give the floor to the European Commission with Mr. Pearse O'Donohue who is a director for DG CONNECT.

PEARSE O'DONOHUE:

Secretary of State, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this discussion. It is very important that we do examine how to

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strengthen the role of governments within ICANN, but just as importantly how we use that to reinforce the engagement of governments in the wider multistakeholder process.

ICANN is a key example of a multistakeholder process, and the IANA transition proved that the system can operate effectively. And then looking forward to the next challenges. Well, the chairman of the ICANN Board this morning explains to us the five key trends facing ICANN and the wider Internet community, and the first on that list was security. That challenge has led to greater legislation and regulatory intervention by governments to prevent security threats and the use of the Internet for criminal purposes as well as to private sector users' data. That is understandable and inevitable. But we must understand the implications of that government action for the global Internet and its effects on the DNS. And we must ensure that the openness and accessibility of the Internet is not jeopardized.

In order to achieve that, we must also ensure that governments engage with and understand the views and expertise of the other communities; in particular, their interest in and relationship to any regulations that are being introduced at national or regional level. We'll have an opportunity to discuss later in the day the WHOIS situation, but clearly the implications of the GDPR are such that we welcome the responsible role being taken by ICANN org and the Board in dealing with the implications of that legislation, for example.

But we must be clear, public policy is not the exclusive responsibility of governments. While governments have the ultimate sovereign power



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in making regulation and, of course, in harnessing the power of the economic for economic and social development, all communities have a direct interest and role in the formulation of public policy. So governments need to collaborate with the other communities who have a role and an expertise in what is the global Internet. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the role that the GAC can play going forward.

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much.

Now I have the opportunity to give the floor to Theresa Swinehart who is the vice president for ICANN in charge of strategy, multistakeholder strategy and strategic initiatives.

Theresa, I would like to give you just a couple of minutes to talk about how ICANN considers the role of governments within the framework of the legislative issues.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Thank you, everybody. It's been very inspiring to hear the discussions, but also to, in that, listen to how far we have come over the 20 years, at least on ICANN's part, from that.

There's no question that the role of governments are an absolutely essential part of the multistakeholder process, and we've seen it evolve

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over the years to a tremendous opportunity for dialogues, including this one.

In parallel, we've also seen the developments of, either at the global level or regional level or national level, of different legislation, different regulations, policy harmonization efforts that were referred to earlier. And so where does ICANN fit into these dialogues?

Our role is not to influence or change the outcomes of any legislation or regulation but, instead, we really want to focus on two things. The first, the opportunity to explain ICANN's role in our policy-making processes so that we can lend our technical expertise to lawmakers and governments as they work to develop policy, so the policies can be scalable, so they can function and be operationalized.

Secondly, we want to work to address any laws or regulations that impact ICANN as early as possible, anything that impacts our remit or the ability for us to conduct and facilitate what's within our mission. It's becoming increasingly important for us to be able to do that and see the legislations and the regulations that are impacting our mission. As we know, there's been reference already to several of them around data protection and privacy that are being developed around the world that have an impact on the technical operability of the Internet. So we need to work together to better prepare for these areas, to work in cooperation so that we can help inform discussions and participate in those, and to build on our already established paths and communications and partnerships that are currently under way. Whether that's through the GAC, whether that's through initiatives such

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as educating the next generation of leaders and participating in those conversations, and, where possible, working with governmental, intergovernmental, and regulatory bodies.

This high-level meeting is an opportunity to deepen how we work together to raise that awareness of the availability of the technical information and the possibility of furthering participation within ICANN. In order for ICANN's multistakeholder model to function well, we must have the active involvement of governments, and we appreciate your efforts and recognize the importance of your commitment.

So thank you.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much, Theresa.

I would like to give the floor to Dirk Pilat, who is the deputy director at the OECD. He's -- we still have three people who will take the floor. But again, be brief.

DIRK PILAT:

I am speaking today on behalf of a number of international organizations, including the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization which have been engaging in good

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faith with ICANN for several years in an effort to protect IGO identifiers in the Domain Name System.

IGOs perform important global public service missions. They are created by governments and founded by treaty under international law to engage in a range of activities from refugee and humanitarian aid, to facilitating communications in trade, and to conducting important scientific and economic research.

Unfortunately, bad actors frequently use IGOs' names to spread misinformation and malware or to perpetrate scams trying to defraud unsuspecting Internet users. This harms the public and also damages IGOs' reputations. Accordingly, IGOs and the GAC have for several years requested that ICANN protect IGO names and acronyms in line with IGO status under international law. Making compromises along the way, IGOs have proposed a number of possible mechanisms that would prevent this malicious activity. However, our efforts within ICANN have gone largely unanswered. This is in part because IGOs do not fit into the one-size-fits-all mechanism designed by ICANN that have trademark owners in mind. Because our identifiers are protected by international treaty rather than trademark law, under ICANN's current rules we have no access to appropriate mechanisms that can address the abuse of IGO identifiers. Indeed, IGOs have made it clear that they are open to allowing legitimate users to register web addresses that contain their identifiers when there is no risk of confusion. However, the current UDRP contains provisions incompatible with international recorded legal status of IGOs.

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Moreover, the GNSO continues to resist making accommodations that would make a similar curative rights mechanism accessible also to the IGOs. Therefore, if IGO acronyms by which most of the public knows our organizations are released in the current context, IGOs would be left without any viable means for addressing the domain name disputes.

ICANN has yet to adopt a permanent mechanism for protecting IGO acronyms in the DNS, and the forthcoming decision of the GNSO Council following a policy development process riddled with procedural abnormalities as evidenced by minority statements issued by the co-chairs of the PDP promises to make curative rights mechanisms even less accessible to IGOs. In this context we feel it is now urgent to act. We call upon our member state governments to support the IGOs in these important initiatives and on ICANN to work with us to resolve this longstanding issue as the ICANN has consistently advised the ICANN Board.

Thank you very much.

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

SG for ministry of communication and multimedia.

MOHD ALI MOHAMAD:

Thank you. Thank you to the Spanish Government for hosting this meeting. Due to the time constraint, I will be very brief.

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I would like to share a few initiatives taken by Malaysian government with regard to the public policies.

Matter related to the electronic addressing, particularly the Domain Name System is governed under the Communication and Multimedia Act 1998 which was (indiscernible) 20 years ago.

The Multimedia Super Corridor Initiative also created a catalytic environment for Malaysia to harness the full potential of ICT and Internet. Since then, Malaysia has continued to drive in the communication and multimedia convergence realm. The Communication and Multimedia Act 1998 was designed with the foresight of being technology neutral and encouraged self-regulation. The element of technology neutral is essential as it ensures compatibility with other universal standards or guidelines with regards to DNS. The government of Malaysia is affirmative in our effort in ensuring the positive use of Internet in Malaysia in parallel with ICANN's missions in ensuring a stable and a secure Internet.

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much.

Our last speaker will be from Rwanda, Mr. Vincent Museminali from Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority.

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I'm getting confused between French and English. Sorry for the translation.

Rwanda.

VINCENT MUSEMINALI:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I'm happy to be here on the invitation of ICANN and the government of Spain. (Indiscernible) for a common cause in the governance of the Internet. I would like to congratulate ICANN and the GAC for organizing this meeting leading to international Internet related complete policies. I also congratulate the local host, the government of Spain, for the warm welcome since we arrived in this smart and beautiful city.

The Internet has become a globally shared infrastructure critical to the proper functioning of our societies. One of, therefore, (indiscernible) the naming in the addressing stream and the (indiscernible) of the Internet must emanate from a global and public interest perspective.

As far as the broadband is concerned, Rwanda's economic and social transformation policies consider ICT as a catalyst for country transformation. For 4g LTE technology is deployed on 4.2% of geography coverage and 6.6% operational coverage as of June 2018, which may be the first in Africa. (Indiscernible) experience growth whereby (indiscernible) increased by 12% between 2017 to 2018. The international bandwidth capacity increased by 138% within the same period.

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Rwanda commends the process that made ICANN (indiscernible) multistakeholder and the accountability process put by ICANN bylaws. We would like to request ICANN to extend the time frames to meet the reconsideration request because one month is not enough for different stakeholders, including government. This provision could be strengthened by adding an additional substantive ground of reconsideration allowing a reconsideration request to go forward if aggrieved party raise that additional -- additional undertaken in matter trans-contrary to the public interest. This business would strengthen the governance structure.

Rwanda is requesting to align ICANN Corporation interest with the public interest by introducing a membership that reflect the diversity of ICANN's community. This would be straightforward, and further research is needed to identify (indiscernible) models and the best practice to avoid concentration of voting power within any one stakeholder group. We'd also like to emphasize our right to be consulted, (indiscernible) by ICANN, and contact any given registry when the use of two-character country code at the second level is concerned.

As far as the composition proposition in privacy is concerned, although the BTO's general agreement on (indiscernible) service permitted distinction, that (indiscernible) for the potential of the privacy of individuals, in relation to the (indiscernible) personal data, appropriate international organization should prepare a legal binding convention that clearly set -- set out in detail the right to that opposition and privacy.



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Finally, (indiscernible) the need to enhance the role of governments in the current Internet governance mechanism, and particularly within ICANN so that they can fully exercise their share of responsibility in the management of the global public resources with the Internet.

Thank you. Gracias.

[ Applause ]

MATHIEU WEILL:

Thank you very much. Thank you to all of our experts on this -- at this table. Thank you for all of you who have taken the floor.

Mr. Minister, if I may, I would like to give you a brief summary of all the messages that could be incorporated in the report. What we could summarize is that the transition that occurred a little bit ago placed all of the governments at the same level, on the same footing. It was a very important moment.

Also, it recognized that the governments were stakeholders just as any other stakeholder at the same level. And we can understand that, as you all said, there is still a challenge to make sure that there is equality, that there is this equality within GAC but within the entire community of ICANN.

The role of governments also is a constant topic with their specific responsibility for public interest, public policies. It is a specific interest or topic. And also, the role of those governments needs to be better

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recognized within the ICANN community, as you said. This is a topic that we have discussed over the years quite a bit.

But also, we realize that governments throughout the world need to allocate sufficient resources in order to start a dialogue with the community.

And then finally, I think that everybody understands that we need to build partnership between ICANN and the governments. Each has a respective role to play. We need to define our objectives, whether it is to make sure that Internet remains stable and secure, that it's open to the entire worldwide population, open to innovation. And also make sure that we respect the diversity of the different cultures and populations as well as the different categories of stakeholders. These objectives are quite simple, but also quite ambitious. And I think we can congratulate ourselves for this dialogue.

Mr. Minister, I give you the floor to close the session.

FRANCISCO POLO:

Thank you very much, Mathieu. It was a quite interesting session.

It's inspiring to hear from all of you. And without further delay, there will be a short statement from ICANN. So, please, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL:

So thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to our moderator, invited speaker, and experts on the panel, and thanks to all delegations for the

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valuable interventions. Unfortunately, since this session has run a little bit late, we will be starting with the following session directly.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**