Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 12:00 to 12:30 CEST
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

MANAL ISMAIL: So, thank you for your patience. Are we good to start? Okay. Thank you. So, we will now convene this session. It's scheduled for 30 minutes. We will be hearing from GAC Underserved Regions Working Group and ICANN Government Engagement on the report on the capacity building workshops that have been conducted since January 2017.

So, with this, I would hand over to you, Pua.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Manal. Good afternoon, everyone. It's a very short-term session, this one. I want to introduce Laurent Ferrali from the Government Engagement Team. So, we'll be doing this presentation together. We'll be discussing the GAC Capacity Development Report. Can we have the presentation up, please? Thank you. Can we move to the next slide, please? Next slide, please. Next slide. Thank you.

So, the Underserved Regions Working Group work plan included delivering capacity building workshops and these are demand-driven. That means substance is based on the pre-workshop surveys and the locations are to ensure that most regions are covered. Next slide, please. Can you go back one? Thank you.

So, we've had eight workshops so far with 250 participants, approximately 250. These were held in Nairobi, Nandi in Fiji,

Johannesburg in South Africa, Abu Dhabi in UAE, Kathmandu in Nepal, Dakar in Senegal, and also the last one recently in Panama City. Sorry, next slide, please.

As you can see, we had one specific workshop that was for San Juan and that was based on DNS recovery and disaster resilience and recovery. We had two law enforcements held in Nairobi, Kenya, and also in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the rest of the other regions were generic. Next slide, please.

As you can see, we included presenters from the advisory committees and the supporting organizations, mainly from ALAC and Country Code Names Supporting Organization. We had departments from ICANN participate also as panelists and expert speakers during our workshops. Those are listed on the slide.

We also cooperated with IGOs, mainly with ITU and the OIF – sorry, I can't really say that. Organization International de la Francophonie. Next slide, please.

These are the common themes that we included in our workshops. The specific request was, for the last one, disaster preparedness, resilience, and recovery which was done in San Juan. Next slide, please. Next slide.

It was great to note the increased understanding in GAC roles and also in the ICANN ecosystem, policy concepts, and the role of ICANN. I mentioned [inaudible] in my statement at the high-level government meeting that there was no measuring the impact at the individual GAC

member level and perhaps this could be possible follow-up activity for ICANN's consideration. Next slide, please.

We explored possibility of using ICANNLearn to continue the capacity development initiative and also we looked at delivering workshops in regions by taking advantage of existing meetings and workshops in those respective regions. We also want to continue partnership with the organizations in order to share costs and resourcing. Next slide, please. Next slide.

We'll be sharing the draft report with the working group at the end of this month. The working group will then make their comments before we share with the overall GAC and we'll give the GAC a 60-day period for comment from the day we release the report to GAC to you. We will continue discussion in Kobe and we can add in Kobe communique.

That's all our presentation for now. Any comments or questions from the floor? Please, Ashwin.

ASHWIN RANGAN: Thank you, Pua. I followed one of your underserved regions meetings. I think perhaps several points I would like to make is first is Indonesia has also problems with underserved areas because some parts of Indonesia very well-connected, very well-served, but many islands from [inaudible] might be the same underserved with many other small island countries. Bearing in mind that many small islands [inaudible] may have hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, so it is [inaudible] big number of people.

Secondly, in the underserved meeting that I followed, most of the discussion are basically in two things. One is what is – sorry, when you said about what is ICANN, what is GAC and so on and so on as was mentioned. And secondly is that what Internet can support in those underserved regions, why Internet is so important and so on and so on.

What I feel is necessary to [inaudible] it is how we can enhance the access to these underserved regions. For example, new technology that might be developed, that might be used, we can always – perhaps we can use the [HUBs] system, [inaudible] platform system. Perhaps it is [stratosphere] based, [inaudible] things like that, because sometimes people will think, okay, we need the Internet but we have to remember that [inaudible] telecommunications network. We do not have the Internet.

First of all, you have to have the telecommunications system first. This discussion has not got enough attention because what we think too much about Internet access. We never think, "Okay, to get Internet access, we have to have communication access first." That new technology is available.

For example, [HUBs]. For example, again, the transformation from analog [inaudible] will have frequency [inaudible], digital [inaudible] that you may use for [telecommunication] access, [inaudible] access, broadband [inaudible] access which can then be used for Internet access. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Ashwin. I recall in a couple of interventions yesterday or statements from the floor from the high-level governmental meeting saying, emphasizing the need to have infrastructure in your countries set up first before you have your traffic, your applications, so thank you for your comment. Iran?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, madam. Thank you very much for your tireless effort since many years leading this group which really helps many countries which call them underserved countries or regions.

I want to convey your message. Yesterday we had the meeting of the auction group. As I mentioned before, in that auction group, there is one item to assist the underserved – this is underserved population. It doesn't matter whether you say underserved population or underserved countries. Nevertheless, that is an important element. That report is now on the public comment from 8 of October to 17 of November 2018. I request you kindly, if possible, include in your report to the GAC meeting encouraging the GAC members to comment on that auction report in general if they have time, but in particular with respect to emphasis on the need to enforce that item relating to the requesting fund for the underserved population, underserved countries. This is very, very important.

As I mentioned before, currently there is $330 million available. There are many other [inaudible] for many other elements but I think the underserved countries and underserved population it could also be one of those people requesting some sort of fund, if the report is accepted

by the ICANN – not report, recommendation accepted by ICANN. But nothing prevent us to indicate that in our report and I think maybe in the final document communique, not as an advice to the ICANN but [inaudible] normal activities relating to your group which is very important and highly appreciate what you have done up to now and your colleagues and the ICANN people behind the scenes assisting you to address this very important issue. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Iran. Thank you very much for drawing our attention to that very important aspect of discussion in ICANN. We will definitely include that in our report, waiting for the nod from Laurent, because I agree it's a very important subject indeed. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Pua, and thank you, Iran. I just want to mention that the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group, we have a dedicated terms of reference for this group. We need to check the proposal to insert to this public consultation. We need to check if we can do it within the mandate of this working group because I'm not sure that we can do that but need to check because I think the idea behind this GAC Capacity Building Workshop Initiative was to lower the barrier to government participation within the GAC, so we need to see what we can do.

PUA HUNTER: Iran?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. Just a clarification. I have not asked ICANN to take any action. I just said that in your report we encourage the GAC member to comment on the report of the auction group which terminates 17 of November by putting emphasis on the need to take this into account very positively and so on, so [at this stage] there is no need of ICANN taking action because it's going through the comment period of the comments, [inaudible] be taken care by us. I'm a member of that group and once everything is finished, the final recommendations come to the chartering organization, GAC. [We have all of] those. We have another opportunity to comment on that, and after that goes to the ICANN board whether they agree to the recommendation or not. But at this stage it's just drawing the attention of the GAC members but not anything ICANN, so I don't want to bother you at this stage. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Iran. Can I ask the gentleman in the front with your hand up, please, introduce yourself? Thank you.

MAOULIDA ISSIHAKA: I'm the representative of Comoros. I would like to show my application for this initiative undertaken by GAC through the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group. I think that the GAC can do more and I urge the GAC to devote more efforts to help these regions with lower penetrations. I support Iran's proposal with regard to the effort that ICANN can do on this subject matter. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRELI: Thank you, Comoros. This report will be coming, will be circulated. There will be a discussion within the GAC, so I ask you to please give us feedback on this report and potentially we may have a request from the GAC to ICANN. For this initial phase to turn into a second phase. This discussion could be held in Kobe. So, invite you to participate in the online discussions intersessionally before the Kobe meeting so that we can make this request to the board to give [inaudible] to this program.

The first phase of the program will come to an end now. We can discuss about the potential continuation of this initiative and that discussion will take place in Kobe. I would like to tell you that we have organized workshops with representatives of the ITU. The ITU has also invited us to participate in their annual workshop that was held in August in Nigeria and it is very important for many technical international organizations to work together because ICANN alone cannot meet all the needs of the underserved regions. We are fully aware of that. That is why we are joining efforts with other organizations. We have completed the first phase. And your opinion is very important for us. We need your opinion to reflect that in our report and I invite you to participate in the online discussions that we will have intersessionally before the Kobe meeting, so that you can have a strong position to present to ICANN in our next Kobe meeting. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: The gentleman at the back and then Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, and Iran. Thank you.

MARCIEN MACKAYA: Marcien Mackaya speaking. I represent Gabon. I would like to take the floor just to bear witness to the benefits of this capacity building workshop that was held in Dakar in May. I would like to say that it would be very useful to continue having this capacity building workshops. They are very interesting events and they are really helpful for the new GAC members to engage actively in the meetings and these workshops should continue to exist.

As regards to the underserved regions, when we talk about the subregions from the point of view of infrastructure, I want to say that many efforts have been undertaken in Africa for those countries that are next to the Indian Ocean and that are underserved in terms of infrastructure. There are certain projects underway nowadays, especially with partnerships of the African Development Bank and European Partners. Projects to have inter-connection among the countries for those countries that are more isolated and that have difficulties to have access to infrastructure. There are certain projects underway to inter-connect these countries.

I would also like to say that being an underserved country in terms of infrastructure also poses a problem in terms of access to energy.

LAURENT FERRALIS: I think that is not a generic term and this may be used for several situations. As Indonesia mentioned, this discussion about the countries that are made by islands, so there are problems with connectivity there.

You also mentioned some other examples when there are connectivity problems. As Iran said, there are some underserved populations due to financial or economic problems. So, this group – that is, the underserved regions group – focuses on several issues and ICANN will want to be focused on regions and this is why we hold regional workshops. We had a workshop on the Fiji Islands. We also held a workshop in Dakar. And we talked about certain African countries. And in Puerto Rico, we talked about connectivity with respect to catastrophes.

So, there are several problems behind the concept of underserved region and we want to respond to all the needs, to all the questions, because ICANN has very good people in the field. So, our focus [inaudible] one, we analyze all the issues, all the problems ICANN wants to support all of this and we tried to be focused in each specific problem about connectivity or about the local reality of the region.

With respect to your observation regarding new GAC members, I want to say that there is a program as well that has been created, so that the new members may receive a kind of information package, so as to catch up faster. These are supplementary initiative but I want you to notice that they do exist, so you have access to these programs. These are the onboarding programs, as we call them. So, those programs supplement themselves and they help new GAC members.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Pua. And just to take off straight from where he left off which is the value of this program and the value of other programs such as the

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onboarding program is so important given the fact that the GAC has a certain challenge where, over time, there is a rotation of members. And I've said this time and time again and the GAC leadership have also agreed that what we do find is a lot of people who are coming to the GAC for the first time face a sort of a barrier to involvement in these sessions.

And this program, the Underserved Regions Program, has done such a fantastic job. There's value for the continuation of that program and other programs such as the onboarding program and if there's a package … If that is an idea, then by all means, I encourage you because these are things that bridge the gap to participation in the GAC. Then you're not going to have the full merit of all these people being here.

One of the things I would have loved to see in the report, when I went to Puerto Rico, so many people who attended the Puerto Rico meeting said so many good things and those are the participants. I would have loved to hear or see on your report some of that feedback because some people who spoke to me after, they were in such high regard for the work that you've done. And it's not reflected here.

I don't know if it's going to be reflected in the report but that type of feedback would give validity to the work that you are doing, because on the ground, when you have that feedback and people have said, "Listen, I went to the meeting. I heard and I feel, I have an understanding of the ABCs of ICANN and the ICANN ecosystem, but I've also had an opportunity to meet and greet with people in the GAC and I feel more comfortable to press the mic, to say a few words, to

contribute as the case may be. I think that's the value of this program and I hope to see in the future, like I said, other programs – if not this same program – being continued so that we do see the long-term benefits. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, [inaudible]. Canada, please?

LUISA PAEZ: Canada speaking. Thank you very much. Luisa from the Canada government. I would like to talk about three things. [inaudible] that the GAC's Underserved Working Group has demonstrated in delivering these capacity building workshops. A special thanks to all those involved. In particular, the co-chairs, to ICANN's Government Engagement Team and the Internet Technical Community.

Second, in terms of substance, as we've heard on the floor today and from the survey results, there is a big demand from governments for these types of targeted workshops to include regional and local challenges and partner with local Internet technical experts to ensure the substance is more contextualized and I know this has been done and we hope this continues to be done.

Finally, echoing my GAC colleague comments, we would like ICANN to consider allocating funds to ensure these capacity building workshops continue to be delivered in line with ICANN's principles on diversity, on lowering barriers, and increasing participation. So happy to be part of a team that will work on this request and how we can think creatively

what is the most cost-effective way to deliver workshops to ensure they have a meaningful impact on participants short- and long-term and how we can partner, again, as I mentioned, with the Internet Technical Community on the ground. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you very much, Luisa from Canada. Can I hand over to Iran, please? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, madam. I don't want to take much of your time. We are approaching the last break. I will be brief, about two minutes, maybe last. Madam Chairman, in the next weeks, from 29 of October to 17 of November, will be plenipotentiary conference of the ITU. There are several resolutions including the resolution 25 dealing with the capacity building increasing the awareness, and in other resolutions, 101, 102, and others mentioned reciprocal cooperation between ICANN and ITU.

I think within the term of those topics, perhaps we would refer the issue of resource sharing and avoiding duplications. Perhaps if it is well-engineered, some of the workshops of seminars of the ITU or ICANN or whoever should be engineered in a manner that these topics will be addressed, not to have separate workshops because maybe make it difficult from the fellowship, from the participation and so on and so forth. That would be okay.

Perhaps if the circumstances permit, we will raise this question but we cannot guarantee that we do that but we raise the question provided that this changes to the reciprocal cooperation now proposed by [inaudible] by Arab group, by African group, to the resolution of ITU accepted by the conference and this [inaudible] means that we should have resource sharing and that would really help both parties, not to have separate seminars, separate resources. Thank you very much, madam.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you very much, Iran. Well-noted. Our time is up now. If there's no more comments from the floor, I want to close this session and over to Manal. Thank you very much for your participation.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Pua, for cochairing the Underserved Working Group and for the efforts with capacity building. And Laurent, thanks very much for supporting the GAC not only with capacity building activities but the enormous efforts you have put in organizing the high-level governmental meeting. So, thank you. With this, please enjoy your lunch and kindly be back in the room at 1:30. Thank you.

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