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ICANN79 | CF – GAC: High Level Government Meeting Work Session  
Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 4:15 to 5:30 SJU

DAN GLUCK:

Hello, and welcome to the GAC High Level Government Meeting discussion on Saturday the 2nd of March, 2024 at 20:15 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form. Remember to state your name and language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. And please make sure to mute all other devices when you are speaking. You may access all available features for this session in the Zoom toolbar. With that, I will hand the floor over to GAC chair, Nico Caballero.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much for that, Daniel. Welcome, everyone. Happy to be back here with you for sure, and congratulations on the fantastic job you performed in the breakout sessions. Congratulations to Karel and to Tracy and the whole team for the fantastic job. I was able to see a little bit for the last 15 or 20 minutes. Fantastic, seeing all the breakout groups speaking their own languages and everything is certainly-- I mean, this is actually the first time I can actually get to see it working. I managed to leave the boardroom a little bit earlier, so thank you so much again. So welcome again to this HLGGM preparation session. Before I give the floor to Charles Gahungu from the Rwanda

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government, I would kindly ask you to confirm the invitations within your governments.

In some cases, the invitations went to the ICT Ministry, in some of the cases, it went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And there might be some, hopefully not, but there might be as far as I can see some misunderstanding or I don't know, some issue with the invitations. If that is the case, please do reach out to us in order to see how, excuse me, how we can find a solution for that, to me or to Lauren, and certainly to Charles right here.

So, without further ado, let me give the floor to Mr. Charles Gahungu from the Rwanda government for some details, and then we'll dive into the agenda and we'll review all the details and nuances. Charles, the floor is yours.

CHARLES GAHUNGU:

Thank you, Nico. Thank you for everyone. I just want to start with appreciating your collaboration, specifically those who have been giving us the feedbacks with regard to the sent invitations. And as he said, we do expect to get your confirmation on the attendance and participation on the HLGM. I just want to take you through a small video just showing about Rwanda as well as the venue of the meeting. The venue is going to host both HLGM as well as the ICANN80. If the video is ready, they can play it.

[playing video]

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CHARLES GAHUNGU:

Yes, the ICANN80 as well as HLGGM will take place in Rwanda Convention Center, which is Kigali Convention Center. As you can see, it's a building with kind of surrounding, I don't know what kind of shape I can use, but that is the venue which will host the next ICANN80. And I believe it's gonna be an opportunity also for all the High Level delegates, maybe to visit different corners of the country. It is a hilly country, we have so many hills as well as mountains. We normally call it a country of thousand hills, but in reality, it is more than thousand. It's probably more than, I don't know how many, but what I know is more than a thousand hills. So it's gonna be an opportunity for you to visit different part of the country. But again, with regard to this specifically, HLGGM and really recommend your confirmation, we have received a number of countries who are already confirmed about their presence.

There are changes also in terms of different government whenever there is like a change of the appropriate ministers who are invited. We are free and we are flexible, you just have to inform us that there is a change, please send us a new invitation. We'll definitely come back to you and send invitation according to the changes on the participants. So I welcome you all, I wish to see you all in Kigali. The climate is very good. I used normally to say that if it was possible in terms of export, then Rwanda will be the number one to export the best climate. The average is almost around 23, 24 across the year. When it is 27, for us, it is quite very hot, and when it is around 12, we will say it is very cold, which I believe for many people, the average of 20, 21 is the best climate you can have. Thank you so much.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, Charles, Rwanda. Can you go back to slide number four, please? There's something I would like to mention there. So this is basically the HLGGM background. If you go back one more slide, please. In a nutshell, again, the HLGGM is a key, ICANN's meeting, taking place every few years. It should have happened, I think two years ago, last time was Barcelona 2018. Then we had the pandemic, and I don't need to explain the difficult situations around the world during the pandemic.

So this is the first time after actually six years that it will be taking place. The aim, and this is the main point, of the HLGGM, is to raise high level political awareness about ICANN's role and activities in the broader internet governance space. In other words, who among the distinguished GAC representatives in the room today who didn't have problems trying to explain higher level officials what the DNS is? Were you able to explain like in three minutes or let's say five minutes to be optimistic what the whole concept is about. Not my case, I assume it was the case for many different people. And again, the last point is that the HLGGM itself is not a formal GAC meeting, even though it's held every four years as part of the regular GAC meetings. If we can move on one - - sorry, sorry, go ahead, please, UK.

NIGEL HICKSON: Yes, if I may. Nigel Hickson, UK. Just to back our chair, and it's all been said before, but just to give you just one historical fact about the High Level Government Meeting, and that is what is the perception of ICANN in our governments? And I think for many of us, when we talk to our ministers, when we talk to our senior officials and we talk about ICANN,

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it's like talking about some of the other bodies as well. And they don't necessarily really get the context that ICANN works in.

And so this meeting gives us the opportunity, even if our ministers can't go, even if it's a head of regulation, if it's a senior official, it gives us the ability to send someone more senior in the government. And that opportunity in itself allows us to put briefing up, to go into the government and say, look, this is important, ICANN is important, it does this role. And that helps us, it helps our role in ICANN, it helps when we say we're going to somewhere beautiful like Puerto Rico for an ICANN meeting, people don't just say, well, enjoy the sand, they say, we understand why you are going. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so much for that clarification, Nigel. You were there for the Barcelona meeting, I understand, and also for the I think it was ICANN15 in London, right? 2015 more or less, if I recall correctly. So can we go to slide number four, please, Daniel? There's something, I'm not gonna read the whole thing, just to stress again, as part of the background we're giving, especially for the benefit of the new GAC representatives.

One of the main points here, again, is to expose as Nigel correctly pointed out, very senior administrative officials and senior elected officials, ministers, members of legislative bodies, to ICANN, allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the organization and the issues it deals with. And I'm sure you'll be very busy explaining that during the Kigali meetings for sure. So, without further ado, let me give the floor to Laurent Ferrali who will walk us through the whole agenda, and then

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I'll open the floor for comments and questions or whatever you wanna mention at that point. Laurent, over to you.

LAURENT FERRALI:

Thank you very much, Nico, Charles, and Nigel. I will not spend a lot of time on this HLGGM background slides because we already talked about that during the last ICANN meeting. But this presentation will be available on the GAC website if you need this background. So next slide, please.

Next slide, please. Yeah, so that's about the preparation of the HLGGM during ICANN78. You had a very fruitful working session and you were able to identify some topics for the HLGGM. In the meantime, some of you provided some high-level contact information in your ministry or regulator. The government of Rwanda sent invitations based on the information provided by the GAC reps, sorry, plus some information they had on their files about high-level reps from different countries.

We had some issue with some invitations because the list from Rwanda was mostly based on the ITU high level rep-- high level rep were used to participate in ITU meetings, and sometimes we have ICANN and ITU have different interrogators. So we work for the last three, four weeks I think, on trying to resolve some issue with the invitations. But if you think that your high-level rep didn't receive invitation, please send an email to Gulden who has done an excellent work with the invitation so far. She will communicate the contact information of your high-level rep to Charles and his team.

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The idea now for this ICANN79 meeting, is to fine tune the agenda, and I will finalize the agenda. I will go through the agenda with you in a few minutes. We had a call last week, I think, and I have tried to reflect the comments made by different GAC members during this call. I have changed a bit the agenda, take into account the comments and suggestions made by different GAC members. So please, if you think that your high-level rep has not been invited, please send an email to Gulten, and we'll send an invitation to this person.

Next slide, please. So for today, the objective of this session is to agree on the objective of many sessions. This is something I added to the agenda just to be clear about the objective of the sessions. It was a missing part of the-- yeah, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Sorry to interrupt, Laurent. But I just wanted to ask before we move on and we get to the details, has everybody, your respective ministries, have you received the invitations yet? Who didn't receive, could you please raise your hands if you didn't receive the invitation or if your ministry didn't receive the official invitation? Sorry, sorry to interrupt, Laurent, but I think this is important in order to-- No, that's not the case. Oh, I'm very happy then. Oh, one. Argentina, you didn't receive the invitation, or your ministry didn't get the official invitation yet. Is that the case?

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS:

Yes, because we made some changes in the invitation. I have appropriately communicated that to the staff, but I don't know when

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the invitations have been sent just to confirm that the person who is going to attend this meeting has already or not received the invitation. When did it happen? I mean, have you already sent the invitations?

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much, Argentina. We have a name for Argentina. I think it's someone working for the registry of Argentina, right?

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Yes.

LAURENT FERRALI: I think that you received the invitation because we receive feedback from him.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Ah, great. Perfect.

LAURENT FERRALI: But this is something I will check with my colleague, Dan, and Gulden. But I think that yes, because we received a request from him as well.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Okay, great.

LAURENT FERRALI: So I think that he received the invitation, but –

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MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Thank you so much.

LAURENT FERRALI: -- I will confirm that to you.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Okay. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Argentina. Thank you, Laurent. Any other in the room or online? Is that the case with any other GAC representative? And I see no hands in the chat room, so it basically means that we're fine. So thank you again. Back to you, Laurent.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much, Nico, and thank you for that. I think it was, yeah, very useful. And again, I will be around for the week, so if you have any question about the HLGGM, you can reach out to me, to my colleague Gulden, and we'll be happy to answer to any question. And of course, Charles will be around as well. So yeah, for today, I think that it would be good if we can agree on the objectives of the main sessions because we need to elaborate a bit more, especially the flow of the different sessions. And for that, I just need from you to agree on the main objective of the sessions.

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Then I will ask you if we can agree on the format of the sessions because I made some adjustments taking into account the comments we had from different GAC members last week. Basically, the idea is to go back to the format of the session we had during the last HLGM. So of course, the chairwoman, sorry, for each session will be the Minister of Rwanda, then the moderator, and a panel with two or one subject matter experts, which will be able to set the scene, and then the discussion between different Minister or Vice Ministers.

So that's the format of the session. And of course, 60 minutes of Q&A for the room. And of course, the Q&A from the room this time will be dedicated to high level reps, not everyone. But I will explain to you how it'll work, sorry. And of course, if you think that we need to add some additional discussion points, it's the right time to do that. So having said that, I will like to go with you to the agenda and to answer any questions and maybe have a discussion on the objective of the sessions. Gulten, can you please launch the agenda?

Thank you very much. So as discussed last week we'll start a bit later in the afternoon, in the morning, sorry. So we'll start at 8:45 with a 30-minute session, which will be dedicated to the welcome and introductory remarks. So I didn't change anything for this one. For those of you who are not aware of this, we will not be able to have the ITU Secretary General role because we at the same time, ITU will organize the ITU accountancy in Geneva, so we'll not be able to have any ITU elected officials. Yes, Portugal.

ANA NEVES:

Thank you very much. Why is ITU in this meeting?

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LAURENT FERRALI: ITU was there in the last meeting we had with HLG.

ANA NEVES: Because the same question goes to the ministers invited. I am as the GAC representative, I informed the right member of the government to be invited, that unfortunately will not go because we will have the general election 10th of March. But another invitation was sent to the minister responsible for telecommunications, and it doesn't have anything to do with ICANN, it's covered by other ministry. Why is ITU ministers associated the regulators? I don't understand. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: I don't know why this Minister of Telecommunication has been invited. As I told you, we Rwanda has used, I think a list of high-level officials that they used for the WTDC, I think. But again, this is why I work with my colleague from the Global Stakeholder Engagement team to make sure that we invited the right person because there were some mistakes in the invitations. And ITU, because yeah, for many meetings now, we are used to invite ITU, ITU is used to invite ICANN, it's important for us to show that we are collaborating with ITU.

And I think that this is something some many ITU member states ask better collaboration between ICANN and ITU, and it is why it's important for us to have someone from ITU, and especially [00:25:04 - inaudible]. And the last time, [00:25:07 - inaudible] was there as well, and he was the guest speaker just before the lunch we had in Barcelona.

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So yeah, we invited [00:25:20 - inaudible] the last time. So for us, it was clear that we had to invite Mrs. [00:25:25 - inaudible] for this one. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Another part of the answer would be that the Board had a meeting with Doreen, the ITU Secretary General in Hamburg, and during that meeting, it was agreed that she was gonna be invited, I mean, the ITU itself was gonna be invited, and they agreed. And as a way to show the spirit of collaboration, goodwill, and collegiality with the ITU, that was part of that. Now how that is managed at an internal level in each country is a different question, I guess. But I don't know if that answers your question, Ana?

ANA NEVES: Thank you, Nico. Well, I think that we have other organizations, international organizations that could be invited for ICANN high level meeting. I don't know why we are only inviting ITU. I think that the cordiality that we want to have with ITU, I think that we should have with others as UNESCO [00:26:35 - inaudible] and others. So I don't understand very well. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: Many IGOs have been invited to this High Level Government Meeting, especially because we have a lot of GAC observer, I mean, IGO as GAC Observer. So UNESCO has been invited, and they confirm high level, I mean, not the Secretary General, but under the Secretary General. So

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we have already some confirmation from I think WIPO as well. We are trying to get more confirmation from different IGOs invited, but we have invited a lot of different IGOs. I mean, it's not only ITU. I can ask my colleague, but I think we have a list of like 25 or 30 IGOs invited, so it's not only ITU. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Ana. And by the way, I mean, this is one of the main reasons why we're having this session. If we all decide that this is not the way forward and you would like to change it, and if there is support in case Portugal wants to suggest any other institution invited, and if there's traction and if there's support, nobody would have any kind of problem changing the-- not sure that at this point, but again, I'm in your hands, that's why we're here. Very happy to listen to any better suggestion you may have, Portugal.

ANA NEVES: My main point here is only to voice some-- well, I don't feel very comfortable with this ITU association to the ICANN, and I don't like it very much. When I'm explaining to my government what ICANN is, it's not really making any comparison with ITU, it makes no sense. So it's not a question for this HLGGM meeting because Doreen was invited, okay. For instance, WIPO would make a lot of sense to be part of the speakers, and I hope it'll be.

But to have here a video message of someone that is not going to be even there, and to have this main role in the opening session, I don't understand. But that's okay, I am not going to say that we have to

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change it. Only to show that I'm a bit astonished with this situation that I think I only saw this in the last draft, but it's my fault, of course. And well, there was another thing, but now I forgot. Nevermind. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for flagging that Portugal, we can discuss that a little bit later. I would like to concentrate on the agenda, if you don't mind, for the sake of time. So with that, let me give the floor back to Laurent. Thank you, Portugal, we really appreciate your comments.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you, Nico. Thank you, Portugal. So for this session, we have, of course, the chair of the HLG, the Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Innovation of Rwanda, the ICANN CEO or the ICANN Chair of the Board, this is something to be confirmed. My colleague Andrea talked to the Spanish government this week in Barcelona, so maybe we get some confirmation because in the past we used to have-- I mean, for the welcome session, we used to have the former HLG host. So we hope that we will be able to get someone from Spain, so Doreen Bogdan. And of course, Nico will [00:30:56 - inaudible] as well. So it's a 30-minute session, and then we will switch to the first session of the day.

Please scroll down, Gulden. Thank you very much. So, just to clarify, because it was not clear last time, the timing for each session is 45 minutes of presentation and panel discussion. And then we are planning to allocate 60 minutes for intervention from the floor from high level officials in the room. So last time the idea was to have 20 slot

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of three minutes, and of course, we will set up a process to book a speaking slot for each session for your high-level rep.

We'll be able to adjust the time if we don't have like 20 requests. So we will maybe be able to give more time for interventions or more time for the presentation, but this is something we will fix, I think like one month before the event. For this first session, I think that we can have three main objectives. The first one, of course, is to explain the role of ICANN because as mentioned by Nico, it's not very clear for many high-level reps what kind of role ICANN has in the global internet ecosystem. So the idea again, is for this session is to make sure that there is a good understanding of the role of ICANN by high level reps.

Of course, we can stress that ICANN has been quite successful for the last 25 years. There is no major failure of ICANN as a technical organization. And we can maybe discuss-- the idea is discuss the future of the role of ICANN and the impact of emerging technologies on the DNS. That's something that is not the main theme, but I think that every panelist will be able to give his view on this or her view on this issue.

So again, what do you think about these main objectives? I just want to remind you that the aim of this first session is to set the scene and to explain to the high-level reps what ICANN is what ICANN did, and of course, explain the potential impact of some emerging technologies such as blockchain, AI, these kind of new technologies which are more fancy than the DNS, the impact of this technology on ICANN, and especially on the future of the ICANN Policy Development Process. So do we have any question or comments? Yes, Switzerland.

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JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Laurent. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland for the record. So first comment is thank you very much for structuring this a little bit better reflecting our discussion online on the agenda. We have two comments. On the second bullet, I know that really the intention is to stress the successful contribution of ICANN, but maybe we can word it in a more neutral fashion, like discuss the contribution of ICANN to the growth of the internet, something in that direction. I know we all share the intention, but it strikes a little bit the eye. And on the third bullet, I'm not sure whether we need quotation marks in the potential. I just would leave potential without quotation marks. And looking forward to seeing the list of speakers. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, Switzerland. And by the way we should add supported, ed at the end right after support. My Shakespearean colleague here would be able to correct me, but I understand it should say-- the second bullet point, right stress that ICANN has successfully supported the growth of the internet and so on and so forth. Is that correct, Mr. Nigel Hickson? Okay. And thank you so much Switzerland. Back to you Laurent.

GULTEN TEPE: Nico, we have US next in the queue.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see it. Yeah, please, US, go ahead.

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SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, chair. It may be worth considering as another objective of the session or perhaps as part of the second objective how ICANN, the organization, and the model itself has evolved over the past 25 years to meet the demand of interest in the unique identifiers and ICANN's mission. The internet certainly changed over the face of 25 years, and ICANN certainly has as well, from the size of the board to the constituencies to the number of people who do participate. So I think that would be a useful demonstration of how the organization is able to evolve to meet new challenges.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you, US. In fact, you don't have everything about the session, but please scroll down, Gulden. Thank you. For this session, I'm thinking that we can have some subject matter experts to just set the scene and give some fact-based information, so the [00:37:51 - inaudible] and evolution of ICANN and all of the GAC. So it'll help to set the scene and have a discussion. But yeah, I can reflect that in the objective of the session if you want as well.

I removed all the names I was suggesting before because the name of the speakers will depend on the confirmation we receive first. And I will have a discussion with the local host because we need to take into account a list of criteria. First one is gender balance, second one is we need to focus a bit on the global source, and especially Africa because this year we will organize HLG in Africa, so I think it'll be nice to have a good participation from African ministers. But we'll send you the list of potential speakers in the coming weeks I guess, I hope, if we have

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enough confirmation. So we'll suggest this list in the coming weeks to you.

So the idea again is to have two subject matter expert for this session to help high level officials to better understand the role of ICANN and the evolution of ICANN and the role of the GAC, and then have a panel discussion between ministers. As potential discussion points, we have the [00:39:38 - inaudible] community over the last 25 years, and we have this reference on emerging technologies. If you think that we need to have more discussion points, we can have more, of course. We need to take it to account that we need like, I think 10 minutes, 20 minutes for the subject matter experts means that we'll have 25 minutes for the panel discussion. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Laurent. I have the COMTEL, and then Brazil. COMTEL, please go ahead.

LIZANIA PEREZ: COMTELCA, right?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: COMTELCA, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

LIZANIA PEREZ: Thank you. I'll take the floor in Spanish, okay? Well, the first question is this. Is there a way that you can send me the list of people who received an invitation of the members of the country so that I can

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confirm or validate that those are the actual representatives? Because I've already passed the time of the list that I was supposed to send.

The second question has to do with regards to the round of interventions that was presented earlier in the discussion panel. Is there going to be, or will there be a hand raising on site, or beforehand, do we have to request the intervention of the respective countries? This is because some countries have already mentioned that they're interested in some kind of intervention, so we want to make sure from now that we reserve that space so they will have the opportunity to speak in the high-level meeting. Thank you.

INTERPRETER: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you. Nico speaks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: I'm sorry, COMTEL, I'm sorry about that, that it does say up to COMTEL, so I apologize for that.

LAURENT FERRALI: Many thanks, COMTELCA, for this question. Well, in the list this is something we can discuss after the session, if you want, with my colleagues list of countries while in the interventions, the high-level reps will have the opportunity. There are different ways to participate, right? They can be panelists or they can intervene from the floor. And running intervention from the floor, we will set a process for them to book specific slots for each session so they will be able to have them in the opportunity to take the floor and ask questions or report or give

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details or participate to the discussion in a different way. They will not be on stage, but we have these two opportunities for high level reps for this meeting. But of course, we'll have a process for that. They will book and we'll follow the list of speaking slots booked by the different countries. I hope it helps.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Laurent. Thank you, COMTELCA. I have Brazil and then Switzerland. Brazil, please.

LUCIANO MAZZA: Thank you, Nico. Thank you, Laurent. Just I want to understand a little bit better the timeline that has been envisaged for a session like this one because I think that reflects the comments from other colleagues and a concern that we would have, I think others shared same concern. Depending on the, let's say the level of the authority we're aiming at, it may be tough to have like seminar feeling to the event. So I know it's not easy to strike the right balance there, but if, let's say you have a long explanation, the beginning setting in the scene and a panel that has only three or four persons, and then perhaps, I don't know how many officials there in that panel, then you have like two or three minutes for others to speak.

I don't know if that's let's say an attractive format for make sure we have a good level of attendance. So I just want to perhaps one suggestion in a question to have a better understand of the timeline, what's the duration you're envisaging for each of those let's say segments of the session. And one possibility might be in considering the discussions in

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the panels to privilege of future representatives according to, I don't know, expression of interest in taking part of the panel. I don't know, something that we can make sure that least if we have a good level of confirmation that they can have the opportunity to engage in those panels as well. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Brazil. Laurent?

LAURENT FERRALI: Yeah, thank you very much Brazil, for this question. Indeed, I was not very creative for that, I have tried to stick to what we did last time in Barcelona, but of course, we can change this, but it's not up to me to decide. So the idea is to have like let's say 15 minutes, maybe 20 for the set the scene for the subject matter experts, and then have like 30 or 25 minutes for the panel discussion. In some cases, the subject matter experts can be one of the penalties as well. Especially for the cooperation and governance, we know that a lot of countries are involved in some UN processes, school facilitator or they have a wall so they can report on where we stand on this kind of thing.

So we can be flexible, but the idea is to have 15 or 20 minutes for the set the scene and 25 minutes or 30 minutes for the panel discussion, and then one hour for the room because we need-- of course, I'm expecting more than 20 ministers to come, so we need to be able to get some time for the people who will not be on stage to take the floor and have some time. It's a delicate balance we need to find, and of course, this is something we can adjust when we'll have more clarity about the

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participation. And of course, for the panel discussion, we will give the priority to minister and vice minister, head of regulators first.

But again, this is something the timing can change depending on the confirmation we receive, the people will ask for speaking slots, et cetera. But at the end of the day, it's a one hour and 45 minutes by session, but we'll be able to adjust. And we'll report to you about that. And of course, the GAC is leading on this, so if you have any-- I'm just trying to help you to move forward, but I'm sure that I'm doing a lot of mistakes, so please feel free to suggest any changes on the agenda. Thank you very much for your comment.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Okay. We have Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Zeina. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland for the record. Yes, thank you so much and a little bit in the direction of what Luciano mentioned. I feel it would be really good if you make this call of interested speakers as soon as possible, and then you try to structure them into the discussion points, because otherwise really having 45 minutes of a discussion and then 60 minutes of 20 not connected statements is something very unattractive.

So if you do the call for interested speakers, for instance, in May, then you can set a deadline or whatever, and then see with the interested speakers to-- you can also do that in the call for interested speakers. What would they like to address? What are the topics? Which of the

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topics? What are the potential discussion points? And then the moderator can structure a more interactive discussion.

So that's food for thought for you to consider. I always dread really when ministers just go to the four and have unconnected speeches because that makes no sense. So that's the first thing. The other thing is on the potential discussion points, I see that bullet one talks about the accomplishments of the multi-stakeholder community. I would say the ICANN multi-stakeholder community because there's a wider multi-stakeholder community out there, and we are talking here about ICANN, so that's the first thing.

And the other thing is that is very backward looking, and I think it's important for ministers and high-level officials also to look forward. So perhaps something like accomplishments of the ICANN multi-stakeholder of the community over the last 25 years and challenges ahead. And so that's an opportunity for people to talk about that. So that would be my comments. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI:

Thank you, Switzerland. I think your first comment, the idea is I'm going to work with the local hosts on the potential list of speakers based on the confirmation we have received because we already received some confirmation from countries and they already ask us to have a specific speaking role. And we'll work on that in the coming weeks, and we'll get back to you with a list of potential speakers and a potential flow of the session based on the agreement we are going to have on the objective of the session.

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So then, when you will ask for a speaking slot, it'll be clear that you will know the flow of the session, and high-level rep will be able to articulate the intervention with the flow of the session and the discussion between the panelist. But again, we need confirmation, we need to confirm the attendance and the speaking role and we are waiting for that. But this is something we will communicate to you in the coming weeks when we have enough confirmation. So first, a list of potential speakers and the flow of the session.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: And sorry. And regarding your second question about challenges, challenges will come on the session two, cooperation and governance because it'll explain why we need to cooperate because we are facing challenges. So the challenges will be discussed in this session. But if you want, we can try to have overview of the challenges in the session one as well, if you think that it'll be relevant to have a first brief overview of the challenges and then have a more in-depth discussion about challenges in the session two. But for the moment, it's already planned for session two, but again, if you think that we should add a brief overview on session one, we can do that, of course.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Laurent. Thank you. Switzerland. I have Egypt, and then the Netherlands, USA, I saw your hand. Would you like to take the floor now or later on? Go ahead, please.

SUSAN CHALMERS: It's just a practical suggestion, which I can save for at the end of the session. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much, USA. I have Egypt and then the Netherlands. Please bear in mind we only have 20 minutes and we still have to go through the rest of the agenda, so please try to be brief and straight to the point. Go ahead, please, Egypt.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: That would be me, Nico. Christine Arida for the record. So actually, Jorge has mentioned part of what I wanted to say. I think the session deserves to have some challenges discussed because I think the initial idea behind putting the emerging technologies in that session was to discuss what has been put together in the multi-stakeholder community across the 25 years, but also a look ahead how new technologies are posing challenges and discuss that in that perspective. So I would go with the challenges, at least an overview of them in that session.

And another thing that I wanted to say is that I'm not sure if we're gonna have three blocks of the agenda completely distinct from one another, it's going to be attractive or not. So I'm suggesting to have a more

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interlaced session which speaks in terms of the same language. So if we are gonna have interventions, pre-prepared interventions by the ministers or by high level officials, it would be good to have them speak to the same questions that are going to be discussed by the moderator with the panel. So then we could have part of interventions then go back to the panel and then go back to the interventions. It would make the session more attractive, but that's just a suggestion. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Egypt. Laurent, would you like to answer to that?

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much. Very good suggestions. And yes, I think it'll be more fluid if we have this back and forth on specific questions with the room. So thank you for this suggestion.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: So thank you again, Egypt. Well noted. I have the Netherlands. Please go ahead.

MARCO HOGEWONING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's Marco for the Netherlands, for the record. And I would like to support the comments made by my Brazilian, Swiss, and Egyptian colleagues about the need to make more integration and avoid sort of a long list of unconnected policy statements. But I was also thinking, is it worth sort of having more interventions before you have the panel so the panel can actually discuss what was said in the

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interventions instead of having first the panel and then have people respond?

LAURENT FERRALI:

I don't know, sorry, but I will try to find a way to make sure that we will not extend the time located for each session because it can take a lot of time if we have-- but yeah, I will try to find a way to have a attractive session in one hand and do not have a three hour discussion in the meantime, so I will try it.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you. Is that an old hand, Netherlands? All right. So then I have Indonesia and then the United Kingdom. Ashwin, please go ahead.

ASHWIN SASONGKO:

Just very short question because in the invitations, the invitation is sent to the minister of my city and the name is mentioned there. In case there is a changing of the minister, for example, because of cabinetry shuffle, whatever, you will send a new invitation, right? That's all.

CHARLES GAHUNGU:

Yes, we have been already receiving changes, requests from different countries whenever there is a change and you wish to get a new invitation, we are flexible and we are sending new invitation under the new names.

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ASHWIN SASONGKO: Okay, thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Indonesia. Thank you, Rwanda. Back to you Laurent, and bear in mind, we have 15 minutes and we still have to cover the rest of the agenda. Please go ahead.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you, Nico. In case you want to add discussion points to the-- if you don't have time, if you think about something like tomorrow or Tuesday, Monday, please just send an email to me and I will take it to account your suggestion because we are waiting out of time. But again, I'll be there for the whole week and I would be very happy to receive any suggestions from you by email. So for this session, so we can agree that we need to have challenges as potential discussion points. So maybe we can have a more broader approach than just emerging technologies. We can talk about challenges emerging Imagine technologies but not only. So the idea is to have this a brief overview and it'll help them with the session two, which is about cooperation governance. Can you please scroll down, Gulten, please?

Thank you very much. So again, 45 minutes of presentation, panel discussion, 60 minutes for the room. The idea here is [00:58:51 - inaudible] should be I think a straight to current main challenges that that community is facing now, and emphasize the value of the cooperation between all stakeholders, including UN, ICANN, and ITU. And the idea here is first to be able to address the challenges and avoid [00:59:17 - inaudible], which can be a challenge as well, a global

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challenge as well. So do you think that we should stick to these two objectives? Do you have any comments? Do you want to add something?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: I see no hands up. Sorry, I have Lebanon and then-- sorry, I missed the UK. So Lebanon and then the UK. Please, go ahead.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Yes, can you please clarify exactly what is the role-- in practice, what would be the role of the chair, because she will be sitting on the stage for the whole day without having any intervention during the sessions.

LAURENT FERRALI: Yeah, it's very formal. Last time the chair, the minister was not there for the full day, she asks someone to replace her. This is something we can change, but the idea is that she can just open and then leave. I don't know, this is something we discuss with the chair of the LGM, but we mostly need her for the beginning, for the opening, and for the closing. And then, I need to put the chair on the agenda, but I will not force the chair to be there all the time, because, of course, she will have a very discreet role for session one and two and three.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Laurent. Thank you, Lebanon. I have the UK, and then I have the Russian Federation. UK, go ahead, please.

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NIGEL HICKSON:

Yes, thank you very much. Just briefly on this. First of all, I think the objectives of the session, again in line with what the US said earlier, rather than emphasize and stress, we make it perhaps more neutral, but this is just a wording change. In terms of the flow, obviously, many of us have attended many of these sessions before. And I think in our minds, they work best where you have a number of brief presentations at the start from panel members or from experts or call them what you will.

You then have a very brief discussion with those experts. Perhaps the chair or the moderator would ask them brief questions, and then you would get the interventions which Laurent has rightly mentioned, that you would ask in advance. A bit like the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development when they have their sessions on the WSIS, they ask for it to be known in advance who's making the three-minute interventions. And then if you do have time at the end, then the chair or the moderator would ask the panel to respond to some of the interventions that are being made. So it should go with the flow, and as long as it's chaired and moderated efficiently, it should work out well.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much, UK. Rwanda or Laurent, would you like to respond to that or we're good to move on? I have the Russian Federation. Viacheslav, please go ahead.

VIACHESLAV EROKIN:

Thanks. I want to add one comment. As I understood the second bullet is about high-level cooperation like GDC, WSIS+20 and so on and so

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forth. But we have practical issues as well, and I believe it will be useful to add one bullet related to practical interaction and cooperation, which ICANN team consider states with governments, practical question on more low level. One of the examples is WHOIS which is now in unclear status. Do you state regulation? We have not only higher-level challenges or higher-level question or for discussion cooperation on higher level but on practical level as well. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI:

Thank you very much, Russian Federation. Yeah, I think I understand your comment, and the thing is that we need to keep into account that it's a meeting for ministers and vice ministers, head of regulators, and I'm a bit concerned that if we are talking about WHOIS, I don't know if they will be able to fully understand. So we should maybe I don't know, it's harder to decide, but we need to find a way to make this approach understandable for high level reps. What do you think, Nico?

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you, Russian Federation. I didn't understand your question or your comment very well, but correct me if I'm wrong. If I understood correctly, you wanted to add another bullet referring to a lower-level minister participation. Is that correct or I didn't get it right? Would you please repeat your question or your comment, Viacheslav, please?

VIACHESLAV EROKIN:

No, not low level and not WHOIS, please. I'm talking about practical issues, not only high-level discussion on the UN level, but cooperation

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or interaction between ICANN and governments on practical level, and WHOIS was only example. WHOIS is a result of government regulation of internet. Now, governments actively regulate `different issues of internet. And I believe we should discuss all a practical question as well, like harmonization of regulation data regulation, and so on and so forth. Not in detail, but the principle of regulation, if you want to keep one internet, otherwise we will see very soon split internet.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Okay. Thank you, Russian Federation. Well noted. Thank you so much for your comments. Rwanda or Laurent, would you like to respond to that?

LAURENT FERRALI: Yeah, thank you Nico, and thank you again, Russian Federation. This is something we need to phrase, so I think that we would need to work on that because I just want to make sure that I will be able to reflect in the Russian Federation suggestions. So yeah, I think we need to reach out to your colleagues from Russian Federation and we can have a discussion with interested GAC members about that addition. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Laurent. Rwanda.

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CHARLES GAHUNGU: Thank you again. I think we can also considering the objective of this high level or we'll have to analyze what will be the best way to achieve the objectives if we have to go up to the deep or low level discussions or not, considering that even those high level ministers may not have enough, or they're not expertise to go much into details and maybe discuss deeper and deeper about some practical issues related to this kind of topics. Again, I think it is important to stick on the objectives at high level and probably avoid going into more practical, which may end up confusing or making the topic more technical than answering the objectives of the meeting. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Rwanda. Russia, is that a good answer? Does that answer your question?

VIACHESLAV EROKIN: Not fully. I'm not talking about technical or deep discussion. I want to say one more. We should discuss not only on higher level like WSIS+20 or GDC discussion, but practical interaction between ICANN and states as well. Please think about WHOIS or we can discuss it. I want to be shorter, we can discuss it later directly by mail or on some other way. But only high discussion, only declaration will not help us to keep one internet.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Viacheslav. Well noted again. Laurent.

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LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you, Russian Federation. I think that we can stick to the idea of the session because the second bullet point, there is nothing against them in your suggestion. So my suggestion is to take into account your comment for the discussion because for [01:10:04 - inaudible] session, it's not just only WSIS+20. I had compared to the last time, the last, I mean agenda, I had all or stakeholders. So it means that we can have different setting for this for this. It's about cooperation, so let's skip this, and then we can obviously take into account your comment for the panel discussion as a topic of discussion if you want.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Laurent. And for the sake of time, we're gonna have to go over the allocated time for about five minutes, I guess. Hopefully, we can cover the rest of the slides during the next five minutes. Would that be possible, Laurent?

LAURENT FERRALI: Yes, of course. So the idea is to give an overview of the of the current processes and the main issues to be addressed. There will be panel discussion about the main issues to be addressed, the future of the governance, and we can have a bullet point in order to take it to current the comment of the Russian Federation. Then we have the lunch for the ministers head of delegation, and ICANN high level officials, we don't have guest speakers. Then we have the afternoon sessions.

Please scroll down, Gulden. Again, the same format for the session three. Session three is about digital inclusion, 45 minutes of discussion presentation, 60 minutes for intervention. Of course, I mean as I already

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answered to Brazil, I mean, we can be flexible on the timing, but it's just to give you a first idea for potential timing for the session.

The idea here is to stress the importance of unrealistic concern to the digital divide issue, sorry, in order to reflect the need for a strong cooperation between stakeholders and the administration will be to as well to give another view of the different initiatives, current initiatives and current challenges because of course we are-- lots of organization, lot of governments are already doing different things in order to bridge the digital divide, but we have still a lot of current challenges. And the idea is to reflect about what you did, sorry, and what should be done. For this session, again, the chair will be the chair of the HLG. And then you can scroll down a bit please, Gulden.

Subject matter expert, the idea is to have here a kind of state of play of the digital divide challenges and kind of discussion about this concept of meaningful connectivity used in different organization. As potential discussion points, I think that we can have a discussion between panelist about how we can connect the [01:13:17 - inaudible], we report about current initiatives, and give some feedback about these current initiatives and what are the challenges different countries are still facing now. Of course, and I have tried to reflect the theme you already have developed for this session.

We have the report of local content, so I put the same subtopic IDN and ccTLD to help to develop access to local content. And of course, we need to be sure that we have a stable and secure [01:14:05 - inaudible] internet to get new users on the internet. And because we are in Africa, maybe we can have a discussion about the development of digital

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economies in Africa and all the other regions. Then we have this new round of generic top-level domains. We need to find a way, I don't know if you want to keep it there because I'm not sure that there is a lot of occurrence with the other potential discussion points. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Laurent, and for sure, we'll continue discussing and sending suggestions and taking suggestions intercessionally. Any final words you would like to add, Rwanda?

CHARLES GAHUNGU: Once again, I need to thank everyone for your contribution as well as making this coming event to be more successful. I'm with my colleagues here for those who would like to have more details, information, we have set up a booth outside for any information related to the country, the venue of the new ICANN80, as well as HLG. You can get more information, otherwise even on our different websites, but for those who are here, I think it is an opportunity to meet our team outside and get in touch then for changes in terms of invitations, please let us know whenever there is a change, different countries, they have different timing for elections. Whenever there is a change, let us know. Any kind of support, we are ready.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much, Rwanda. Of course, apart from the intersectional exchanges, we might have, we're gonna be here till Thursday. So, whatever ideas or topics or anything you would like to change from

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today till Thursday, more than welcome to talk to me or to Charles or to Laurent or to any of the vice chairs. Before I wrap up the session, I have the US. Susan, please go ahead.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you so much. Just to follow up on that practical suggestion I was thinking about earlier. Perhaps before intercessionally, we can have a webinar that will be a briefing to the GAC. It's like a briefing for the briefers. All of us will be preparing our ministers to attend, if once we develop the agenda and we highlight the points, I think it'll be useful if the GAC is instructed on-- it will just help us to prepare our principles. Just a suggestion. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so very much for that. Well noted. Any other comment? We're about to wrap up if there's anything else? I don't see any hand in the chat room. Laurent.

LAURENT FERRALI:

I just want to add that we'll have a session four on Coalition for Digital Africa. The idea is to have a discussion about what ICANN and other partners are doing in Africa and give some outcomes and concrete example of this cooperation. For this session, we can have some Minister from Africa and some partners of the Coalition of Africa. With that, we'll have a crossing ceremony and a reception for high level officials. So it'll be not at a Saturday night, it'll be on the Sunday evening after the closing ceremony. If you think that you need more

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time to organize bilateral meetings, we can organize recession a bit later, like at seven. And again, for the closing ceremony, we'll need Nico and the chair of the HLG. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so much for that. And sorry for going six minutes over time. So the session is closed, we'll reconvene tomorrow at 9:00 AM for the session six, which will be the GAC brief on Universal Acceptance Strategies by the UASG. Thank you so much. Enjoy your evening. Bye-Bye.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**