CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MARRAKECH – GAC High Level Governmental Meeting

Monday, March 07, 2016

10:00 to 18:00 WET

ICANN55 Marrakech, Morocco

by Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Minister of Industry, Trade, Investments and Digital Economy, Kingdom of Morocco

I had the honor to chair the High-Level Governmental Meeting (HLGM) that brought together high-level officials from governments and inter-governmental organizations on March 7th, 2016 in Marrakech, during ICANN's 55th public meeting.

This meeting took place at a critical juncture for Internet governance. The stakeholder community was finalizing its proposal to transition the stewardship of key Internet functions – known as the IANA functions – from the U.S. Government to the multi-stakeholder community. The meeting therefore provided a timely opportunity for governments to discuss strategic issues relating to the IANA stewardship transition process with other governments and with ICANN leaders.

These discussions followed several other key international meetings on Internet governance, including NETmundial in Brazil in April 2014 and the high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on the review of the WSIS in December 2015.

The level of participation and involvement at the Marrakech HLGM was impressive, with representatives from close to a hundred governments, both GAC members and non-members, and from 22 inter-governmental organizations. I believe this extensive participation reflected the growing inclusiveness and global reach of ICANN.

I was very fortunate to have the support of the GAC Chair, Mr. Thomas Schneider as Vice-Chair for the meeting and delighted that leaders from ICANN staff and the ICANN community joined us. In particular, this was the last meeting of outgoing ICANN CEO, Mr. Fadi Chehade, who received moving tributes from the participants, and we also had the opportunity to welcome the future ICANN CEO, Mr. Göran Marby.

I wish to thank my colleague Mr. Redouane Houssaini, Head of the United Nations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Morocco GAC Representative who was central to the preparation and the organization of the meeting. I also thank ICANN staff and interpreters for all the support they provided.

Some of the main points that I noted from the discussions are as follows:

1- **Participants highlighted the value of holding High-Level Governmental Meetings (HLGMs) regularly in conjunction with ICANN meetings**. We were reminded that these were one of the recommendations from ICANN's first accountability and transparency review team (ATRT). Held every two years, their objective is to increase the support and commitment of governments to the GAC through outreach to high-level government representatives. Previous HLGM hosts, Canada in 2012 and the United Kingdom in 2014, provided their perspectives on how these meetings help to develop a collective understanding and awareness of ICANN and of public-policy issues that are related to ICANN's mission.

2- **The contributions during the HLGM emphasized the opportunity that the internet, and information and communication technologies in general, provide as a platform for economic growth and social welfare for people around the world**. We discussed the spectacular growth that the Internet and related technologies have experienced, not the least in emerging markets. We noted the benefits of the digital economy for innovation and revenue-generation of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and discussed harnessing of the Internet for social development in areas including education, health, banking, good governance, and human rights, in both developed and developing countries.

3- **We further discussed how the management of Internet names, numbers and protocol parameters has supported the Internet's growth** and adapted to evolving needs, including support of non-Latin scripts and noted how ICANN as an organization coordinating Internet resources allocation has matured since its creation in 1998.

4- **One of the defining features of ICANN is its multi-stakeholder model of policy development and decision-making**. The multi-stakeholder model was a recurring theme of the day with significant support for this model noted among the participants. Some noted characteristics of the model within ICANN are its ability to solve complex policy and technical challenges, its flexibility and adaptability, while not overlooking the inherent difficulty of forging agreement among heterogeneous groups and interests.

5- **We discussed the key role of governments and of intergovernmental organizations on public policy issues related to the Internet**, such as creating enabling environments, consumer protection, competition and security. Governments contribute to the policy development process within ICANN through the advice given by the GAC to the ICANN Board. The need for governments to remain an integral part of ICANN is essential to ensure that ICANN's multi-stakeholder system works in the public interest. The GAC's membership, at 162 members and 35 observers at the time of the meeting, can be seen as reflecting the importance of the GAC's contribution within ICANN.

6- **Proposed measures to enhance ICANN's accountability in view of the USG transition process were highlighted** by the co-chairs of the Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) Accountability presenting the outcome of the two-year effort to propose as first set of measures. The proposal aims to prevent the risk of capture of ICANN by any one group, to establish separation of powers and to improve responsibility and accountability. We acknowledged the admirable efforts made by the global community to reach this stage and noted that governments have played an important part, both through the GAC and through direct engagement in the ICG and the CCWG.

7- **Delegate views still varied on whether the proposal adequately respected the role of governments within ICANN and their decision-making processes**, but it was **understood that the outcome would be an important step** in an ongoing process that would lead to an increasingly transparent and accountable ICANN.

8- **In retrospect, my optimism at the meeting was warranted**. This was a decisive time for the IANA stewardship transition process and just the day after the meeting, governments, through the GAC, seized the historic opportunity to position themselves for the future, alongside other communities within the multi-stakeholder model. The ICANN community was developing new and innovative governance solutions that could potentially also serve as inspiration for the development of multi-stakeholder approaches for Internet governance issues at the content layer.

9- **Another important topic at the meeting was ICANN's new gTLD program, through which many new gTLDs have been introduced over the past few years**. The GAC had been deeply engaged in this program and determined to remain involved in any discussions related to future expansion programs. The President of ICANN's Global Domains Division, Mr. Akram Atallah, explained how important GAC consensus advice had been in shaping the program. Our discussions emphasized the progress made and the fact that the model, albeit imperfect and at times challenging, had functioned overall. Delegates emphasized the need to balance all the rights and interests in new gTLDs, in particular non-commercial interests and those of developing countries, and highlighted that better policies and safeguards were needed to protect children, consumers, intellectual property rights and human rights such as freedom of speech in the Domain Name System. Many also mentioned the importance of protecting names that represent communities, regions, countries, intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations, as well as sensitive religious terms. African speakers underlined the importance for them of a rapid and full resolution of the .AFRICA case.

10- **Finally, the participation of developing countries in the GAC and in ICANN was discussed**. Contributions noted the many challenges that developing countries face to participate fully and effectively in ICANN and in the broader Internet ecosystem, due to inadequate resources and capacity limitations. The Senior Advisor to the President of ICANN, Mr. Tarek Kamel, provided an overview of ICANN initiatives to develop networks of experts able to develop the DNS industry in all regions, notably in Africa and the Middle East, and the GAC Working Group on Underserved Regions contributed with an overview of its activities. **The importance of capacity building and of linking local DNS industries to local and multilingual Internet content and services was highlighted**. We agreed that ICANN had a significant and beneficial role to play in promoting universal acceptance of internationalized domain names, promoting better Internet security and adapting future new gTLD application costs.

Moulay Hafid Elalamy,

Minister of Industry, Trade, Investments and Digital Economy

Kingdom of Morocco

Attachments:

Marrakech High Level Governmental Meeting: Summary of the Meeting

List of Participants from Government, GAC High Level Governmental Meeting, ICANN55 | Marrakech, Morocco

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

Morrocco, H.E. Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Chair of the meeting, welcomed participants to the 3rd High-Level Governmental Meeting (HLGM), organized by Morocco in collaboration with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN. He noted that it was the first such event held in Africa and the Arab world. He highlighted the importance of Internet resources for economic, social, and cultural development, the mutual learning of developed and developing countries and the concerns that ICANN's accountability efforts reflect.

Canada (Ms. Kelly Gillis, Associate Deputy Minister for Innovation, Science and Economic Development) stressed the need to strengthen our collective understanding of ICANN-related public-policy issues. She noted that consensus advice given by the GAC to the ICANN Board, notably on new gTLDs, was increasingly important. She said a well-functioning, transparent and agile GAC anchored in ICANN is a key component of the multi-stakeholder model.

The **United Kingdom** (H.E. Mr. Ed Vaizey, Minister of State and the Digital Economy) thought the level of participation in the Marrakech HLGM reflected the progress made in the IANA transition process, including progress on a common understanding of the GAC's role within ICANN. The UK was comfortable with the GAC's ability to engage at all levels in ICANN's processes, as laid out in the transition proposals.

SESSION 1 - IANA STEWARDSHIP TRANSITION OUTCOMES

Mr. Fadi Chehade, ICANN's CEO, underlined the cultural clash between governments' vertical model and ICANN's horizontal multistakeholder model. He stressed the need for the parties from these models to engage to build a transnational policy model for Internet resources, which he expected to be a reference model. He saw a need to apply the multi-stakeholder model to the content layer of the Internet, to deal with issues such as cybersecurity, cyberwarfare, child protection or the Internet of things.

The **United States** (Hon. Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information for the US Department of Commerce) said that ICANN had matured and improved accountability and transparency. He provided the USG's perspective on why the transition of its stewardship role of the DNS to the multistakeholder community was important for the Internet. He said a private coordinating process based on multistakeholder governance would be best able to meet rapidly evolving needs of the Internet and Internet users and protect the Internet as an engine of economic growth, job creation, innovation, and free speech. He attributed the Internet's success to using multistakeholder processes to solve complex technical and policy challenges on a consensus basis, while acknowledging the inherent difficulty of the process.

India (H.E. Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communication and Information Technology) described the growth of the digital economy in India with one billion mobile phones, 400 million Internet subscribers and 980 million users of India's digital service identity platform. He cited some of the programs to promote the knowledge economy in India. He stressed the role of governments to promote security and safety online and the importance of the multistakeholder model.

Mali (H.E. Dr. Choguel Kokalla Maiga, Minister of Digital Economy, Industry and Communications) pointed out the opportunities that ICTs open up in Africa for better education, health, good governance and human development. He said that access to domain name and IP address resources was needed for Africa to access the digital economy and their distribution should be fair, transparent and secure. He said that resolving the cases of .ML for Mali and .AFRICA for the continent was important.

Sweden (H.E. Mr. Conny Wahlstrom, State Secretary, Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and IT) noted the progress made since NTIA's white paper in 1998 and ICANN's incorporation and thanked the US for its stewardship of the DNS. He pointed to the progress made in building a balanced multistakeholder model but cautioned that it was still work-in-progress, with constant improvements or adjustments through tools such as the ICANN accountability and transparency reviews.

Japan (H.E. Mr. Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) commended the NTIA's courageous decision to transition its stewardship of the IANA functions. He cautioned, however, that ICANN's accountability remained a challenge and that support for the multistakeholder model was still not universal. He said he expected a consensus-based outcome from stakeholders engaging in the process at ICANN 55.

The Russian Federation (H.E. Mr. Rachid Ismailov, Vice Minister, Ministry of Communications and Medias) recalled the terms set for the transition in the March 2014 NTIA announcement. He noted that Russia did not share concerns that governments could threaten democratic Internet governance, but was concerned by the delays in the process, by debates in US Congress and by ICANN remaining a US corporation. He was hopeful that ICANN would become a truly internationalized organization.

The **United Kingdom** (H.E. Mr. Ed Vaizey, Minister of State and of Digital Economy) expressed confidence in the current level of progress made in the IANA stewardship transition, which he felt was nearly complete. He said the last step on accountability dependencies for the naming functions was complex and sensitive and had understandingly taken longer than anticipated. He highlighted the evolution of the long-standing advisory role of the GAC to the ICANN Board and deepening engagement within ICANN.

China (H.E. Mr. Zhang Feng, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information) described salient features of China's Internet development since the country first connected 22 years ago, including 670 million Internet users. He said that the Chinese government's public policies aimed to promote universal service, leverage the Internet for economic growth and social welfare in line with laws and to ensure safety.

Sudan (H.E Dr. Tahani Abdallah, Minister of ICT) highlighted the need for a single organization to be in charge of running and managing the Internet resources. She put forth that the Internet as an international network should be managed by an international organization such as the United Nations.

Brazil (Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho) recalled its welcoming of NTIA's March 2014 announcement and hosting of NETmundial in April 2014. He expressed concern that externally-imposed restrictions to governments' decision-making modes may limit governments' ability to fully exercise their roles and responsibilities within ICANN and committed to continuing the dialogue.

Egypt (Ms. Manal Ismail, on behalf of H.E. Yasser ElKady, Minister of Communications and Information Technology) stated Egypt's continued support for ICANN's globalization, independence and the transition process. She applauded the transparency and decentralization of the process. She noted that the community-wide working groups involved in the IANA transition could be viewed as models, including the strong cooperation and coordination of the stakeholder groups through chairs, liaisons, members and participants.

Colombia (Mr. Pedraza Ricardo, from the Ministry of Technology and Information) stated Colombia's confidence that the process would evolve in a collaborative manner inclusive, mindful and respectful of all the stakeholders involved in ICANN's multistakeholder model, including governments.

The **Cook Islands** (Ms. Tepua Hunter) stressed the need to recognize the multitude of challenges to full and effective participation for smaller island developing states, in terms of inadequate resourcing and capacity limitations. She underlined the strong desire to participate but that challenges include remoteness, isolation from major international centers and unreliable, slow and expensive Internet connectivity.

SESSION 2 - ENHANCING ICANN ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNMENTS' ROLE IN THE NEW ICANN FRAMEWORK

Morocco, H.E. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Chairman of the meeting, introduced Session 2 on enhancing accountability within ICANN and the role of governments in the new framework.

Mr. Thomas Schneider, GAC Chaiman, highlighted the importance for all stakeholders of the day's discussions on enhancing ICANN's accountability, with views on the role of governments in ICANN being a particular area of diverging views.

Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the ICANN Board, said that the ICANN Board was very supportive of the ICANN accountability process. He noted that the transition did not intend to diminish or to increase the mutually beneficial role of governments in ICANN and recalled the NTIA condition that the USG role not be replaced by a governmental or inter-governmental role. He said the Board looked forward to receiving valuable advice from the GAC and continuing to work to improve processes and communication.

Mr. Leon Sanchez, Co-Chair of the CCWG on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, provided background on the CCWG working group that originated from concerns about the need to reinforce the accountability and transparency mechanisms at ICANN in the absence of the historical USG contractual role. He explained that the cross community working group on ICANN accountability and transparency had divided its tasks into two work streams: mechanisms and steps to enhance ICANN's accountability and transparency measures needed for the transition to take place (Work stream 1) and issues that could be developed beyond the transition date (Work stream 2).

Mr. Thomas Rickert, Co-Chair of the CCWG on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, introduced the governance model proposed to provide checks and balances for ICANN. It is based on bylaws (akin to a constitution); an independent appeals and review panel (the judiciary); the ICANN Board (the executive) and the empowered community (the legislature). The bylaws specify a limited mission for ICANN and areas that are not in its mission, notably content regulation. He detailed the proposed new community powers.

Mr. Mathieu Veil, Co-Chair of the CCWG on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, emphasized the importance of the week, during which all the chartering Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) were expected to ratify the accountability proposal as part of a larger transition proposal, so that the Board could transmit it to the U.S. government. The proposal for Work Stream 1 aimed to prevent the risk of capture, improve responsibility and accountability and establish separation of powers. Work Stream 2 would include issues related to human rights, jurisdiction and diversity.

India (Mr. Ajay Kumar on behalf of H.E. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology) emphasized the future accountability agenda for Work Stream 2, notably diversity, SO and AC accountability, ICANN's transparency, and jurisdiction questions. He highlighted the growing importance of GAC-related public policy considerations in ICANN's work and the importance of representation from emerging countries.

Canada (Ms. Kelly Gillis) attributed the Internet's success to the multi-stakeholder model based on private sector leadership and bottom-up policy development. She said Canada supports both the process used and the accountability proposal itself that preserves the GAC's role and enables the GAC to engage more fully with the ICANN community.

Sweden (Mr. Conny Wahlstrom) underlined that the Internet community's collective proposal to the USG balances legitimate interests and strengthens the quality of the governance of Internet names and numbers. He also noted the need to implement the proposed changes and the ensuing learning curve for all stakeholders.

Japan (Mr. Yasuo Sakamoto) supported the framework to enhance ICANN's accountability; the continued advisory role of the GAC within a balanced multi-stakeholder environment; and GAC participation in and contributions to the empowered community.

Russia (Mr. Rachid Ismailov) said that principles of Internet governance and of the multi-stakeholder model were defined by WSIS in Tunisia in 2005 and re-affirmed at WSIS+10 in 2015. He thought that the consultative rather than decisional role of governments in ICANN should be rethought and that insufficient involvement of governments in ICANN and in Internet governance created the risk of corporate interests priming over the global multi-stakeholder interest.

Portugal (Prof. Paulo Ferrao) emphasized the deep impact on societies and economies of current ICT trends, including cloud computing and big data. In this context he stressed the need to preserve the single/unfragmented, open, people-centered, multilingual, secure, reliable, and robust nature of the Internet. He pointed to the unique role of governments in furthering the public interest and creating enabling environments.

Belgium (Mr. Frank Carruet, Ambassador on behalf of the Vice Minister for Co-operation and Development and Digital Economy) explained that Internet governance was a long-term project and that an international consensus on the CCWG recommendations was close. He also said that in practice, governments' role within ICANN needed strengthening.

France (Mr. David Martinon, Ambassador for Cyber Diplomacy and Digital Economy) recalled and thanked the U.S. Government for its contribution to the Internet's development. He also expressed France's disappointment with the perceived marginalization of States in the ICANN accountability proposal, with the setting of specific decision-making rules and with treatment of the GAC in the appeal mechanisms. He recalled the objections made by some 20 countries in a Minority Statement.

Denmark (Mr. Finn Petersen, Director of International Relations) expressed Denmark's support for the proposal and thanked those involved, in particular the CCWG Co-Chairs. He said the active participation of governments was needed to advise on issues of public policy and public interest early on, but that governments should not be involved in operational issues.

China (Ms. Qi Xiaoxia) emphasized the key role of the Chinese government in Internet developments in China. She said that at the second World Internet Conference hosted by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) in December 2015, President Xi Jinping gave four Internet governance principles (cyber sovereignty, peace and security, openness and cooperation, good order) and five proposals that summarize China's position. She invited participants to attend the third World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, China in 2016.

The **Council of Europe** (Ambassador Dirk Van Eeckhout, diplomatic coordinator for the information society) underlined that freedom of expression as a human right is a matter of public policy. He said that the CoE and its 47 Member States viewed freedom of expression as applicable to the DNS and invited the GAC and Internet community to produce new gTLD safeguard advice on freedom of expression and mainstream it through the GAC working group on human rights and international law.

The Netherlands (Mr. Geert Moelker) stressed the intense cooperation and negotiations of the CCWG-accountability. He highlighted the complexity in a multi-stakeholder organization of arriving at a shared understanding of the problem and at devising solutions and mechanisms that work, are implementable and are acceptable to all. He said that while the proposal was not perfect it constituted a balanced set of mechanisms to involve the GAC appropriately.

Colombia (Mr. Ricardo Pedraza Barrios, Council of International Relations and Communication) said that the proposals to enhance ICANN's accountability were positive steps towards a new engagement structure that Colombia hoped would be inclusive, cooperative, balanced, and respectful of differences. Governments' special role should be preserved given their responsibility for public policy and protecting the public interest.

Iran (Dr. Shahhoseini, University of Science and Technologies) explained that Iran with its young and highly educated population and Internet access is expanding services such as eBanking, eGovernment and eHealth. He underlined that while much had been done, important work remained in Work stream 2.

Brazil (Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho) said that in Brazil's view the proposal did not reflect the WSIS vision of Internet governance based on the full participation of all stakeholders, including governments, within their respective roles and responsibilities. He said that Brazil would participate in GAC discussions to find a constructive way to express the different perspectives.

Pakistan (Mr. Syed Ifthikar H. Shah, Minister of Information Technology, Government of Pakistan) highlighted the opportunities and challenges of the borderless Internet and the need for cooperation. In Pakistan's view, the current system to administer administrative IANA functions works well and is free from outside influence.

Indonesia (Mr. Azhar Hasyim) highlighted the importance for countries of national laws being respected by other countries and stakeholders. He also stressed the importance for countries of developing technical expertise and local content and applications in order to contribute to local economic growth.

Germany (Mr. Stefan Schnoor, head of delegation) reminded participants of the main objective of the CCWG to prevent capture of ICANN by any one set of stakeholders in the transition of the IANA stewardship and commended both the USG's initiative and the CCWG's response.

Argentina (Ms. Olga Cavalli) stressed that stakeholders should have the freedom to choose the way in which they make decisions. In particular, she thought that there should not be restrictions to governments' participation within the new ICANN framework and pointed to the minority statement she had presented on behalf of a group of countries.

Egypt (Ms. Manal Ismail, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Yasser ElKady) emphasized the importance of the GAC's consensus-based approach to enable all governments to be heard, to increase the weight of GAC's advice, and facilitate acceptance by the ICANN Board of GAC advice. She said that at the same time, the GAC should retain autonomy for its decisions and working methods. Finally she said all stakeholder groups should neither be over-empowered nor excluded.

Peru (Ms. Milagros Castanon) said that while committed to the multistakeholder model, Peru was disappointed with the proposal that it felt would limit the role of sovereign governments that represent their citizens by enabling one country to veto the decisions of the other GAC members.

The **GAC Chair** (Mr. Thomas Schneider), pointing out that differences of views between governments remained, urged governments to build on common ground in a pragmatic way and said that he would do his outmost to facilitate a GAC agreement on its response to the proposal as a CCWG chartering organization.

Fadi Chehade underscored the importance for all those present to seize the historic opportunity they had to develop a consensus on the accountability proposal although not everyone agreed with all aspects.

The ITU Secretary general (Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General) praised Fadi Chehade's historic contributions to the global Internet and cooperation with the ITU in particular. He congratulated Larry Strikling and the U.S.G. for inviting consultations on internationalizing the IANA functions. He recalled the creation of the IGF by the WSIS and the WSIS being planned by the ITU at its 1998 Minneapolis plenipotentiary. He said that he looked forward to continued cooperation between ITU and ICANN.

SESSION 3: GTLDS AND PUBLIC POLICY

The **Chairman Morocco** (H.E. Minister Elalamy) introduced Session 3 to focus on the first round of new gTLDs and on public policy considerations in the reviews of the first round of new gTLDs and in preparing any subsequent rounds.

Akram Atallah, President of ICANN's Global Domains Division, cited research by BCG projecting that the digital economy in G20 countries would grow from $2.6 trillion in 2010 to $4.2 trillion in 2016 and reporting that the Internet helps SMEs to grow revenues and decrease costs. He said that goals of the new gTLD program were to promote competition, innovation, and choice. He described how GAC advice on new gTLDs had been instrumental in shaping the program. GAC early warnings had lead to public interest commitments (PICs) in registry contracts with ICANN and GAC safeguard advice on WHOIS, mitigating abuse activities, security checks, and complaint handling had also been important. Mr. Atallah described the activities underway to review the first round of new gTLDs and prepare next rounds.

Swaziland (H.E. Mr. Dumisani Ndlangamandla, Minister for Information, Communications and Technology) stressed the importance of the .AFRICA application for the continent and the need to lower the cost of new gTLD applications to what businesses, notably in Africa, could afford to pay.

Switzerland (Mr. Philipp Metzger, Director General, Federal Office of Communications) noted the importance of thorough assessment of the first round. He said that while there were successes, challenges remained in terms of: *i)* unequal benefits to developed versus developing countries and to commercial versus community applicants; *ii)* incomplete processes to balance all the rights and interests in top-level domain strings; and, *iii)* inadequate permanent protection of the names and acronyms of IGOs. He also stressed the importance of funding the GAC's independent Secretariat.

The European Broadcasting Union (Mr. Jean-Paul Philippot), highlighted the need to better balance the interests of all communities in new gTLDs, including those of the media industry as a creative cultural actor, and to ensure respect for universal values like protection against hate speeches, child pornography or copyright infringement.

Argentina (Ms. Olga Cavalli, GAC representative) underlined the need for any future round to be flexible enough to consider the interests of countries, regions and communities even if their names are not part of a formal list. In her view, the references in the first round applicant guidebook (AGB) were insufficient. She said that the GAC working group on the protection of geographic names was working on analyzing best practices and proposing ideas.

Namibia (Mr. Henri Kassen, GAC representative), noting the goals of the new gTLD program to encourage competition, innovation, and choice, reemphasized the importance for African countries of a prompt resolution to the .AFRICA case and the need to balance commercial interests and the public interest.

Italy (Ms. Rita Forsi, Director General for the Ministry of Economic Development) noted that future gTLD rounds should address issues that are politically sensitive and have public policy implications, including policies and safeguards to protect children, intellectual property rights and consumers. She reaffirmed that as per the WSIS+10 outcome document, offline rights must be protected online.

ECOWAS (Dr. Isais Barretto DaRosa, Economic Community from West Africa on behalf of its 15 West African member states) echoed previous African speakers' comments about the need to resolve the .AFRICA issue and implement measures to avoid similar problems in future.

The Red Cross (Ms. Charlotte Lindsey, Director of Communication and Information Management at the International Committee of the Red Cross) recalled the humanitarian purpose of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, founded in international law in the 1800s to help those affected by armed conflict. She called on ICANN to make permanent the temporary protections to the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and names at the top and second levels in current and future rounds of gTLD applications.

Angola (Mr. Padro Sebastiao Teta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Information Technology) pointed to the issue of .AFRICA. He said that more broadly, African countries including Angola needed more legal help to adequately defend their sovereignty and country names in the DNS.

Nigeria (Mr. Arch Sunday Echono, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication) echoed the need to resolve the .AFRICA case.

Mr. Akram Atallah replied that the new gTLD reviews and the policy development processes (PDPs) were addressing most of the issues raised and underlined the need for governments to engage early on with these processes. He stressed ICANN staff and Board's commitment to resolving the .AFRICA case as quickly as possible.

SESSION 4: THE DNS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CAPACITY BUILDING: WHAT ROLE FOR ICANN?

Mr. Tarek Kamel, Government Engagement Advisor to the ICANN CEO, introduced Session 4 of the meeting on the role of ICANN for capacity building and development. He recalled ICANN's mission to coordinate the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers so as to ensure an open, interoperable, and stable global Internet. He said that ICANN's globalization strategy is to help build networks of experts that can develop the DNS industry within larger ecosystems of multilingual Internet content and services. Specific regional strategies build on the local business sector, including in Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Baher Esmat, ICANN's VP of global stakeholder engagement in the Middle East, described the DNS entrepreneurship center in Cairo, which is a repository for expertise, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. A partnership between ICANN and Egypt's National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), its goal is to develop a network of experts on policy, business, legal, technical, operational aspects of the DNS across Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Pierre Dandjinou, ICANN's VP of global stakeholder engagement in Africa, described ICANN's strategy for Africa, in particular sub-Saharan Africa. Key focus areas include training on domain names, DNSSEC, trademarks and data property rights in Africa as well as the launch of an Africa Engagement Center in Nairobi.

Ms. Alice Munyua, co-Chair of the GAC Working Group on Underserved Regions, explained that this GAC working group was created to increase effective participation of GAC members from least developed countries and Small Island developing states through capacity building and induction material. She mentioned the challenging requirements of the new gTLD program for developing countries and small island states as well as the importance of .AFRICA.

The **Kyrgyz Republic** (Mr. Ernis Mamyrkanov, Deputy Minister of Transport and Telecommunications) introduced recent Internet infrastructure developments in his country and in Central Asia. He expressed interest in a Cyrillic TLD and in ICANN presence in the region.

Kiribati (Ms. Maryanne Mikaere Namakin, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Transport and Tourism Development) highlighted that Internet access is a priority for Kiribati's government, to enable remote communities to access basic educational, health services and disaster warning and alert information. She encouraged ICANN to consider more capacity-building programs for Small Island developing states and the Pacific region.

Gabon (Ms. Liliane Massala, Secretary General of Ministry of Digital Economy, on behalf of the Minister) said the importance of the Internet and I.T. for people and companies in Gabon and in Africa and her hope that ICANN could help with development of a stronger Internet ecosystem there, including improved Internet security.

Chad (Mr. Hassan Abdoulay Taroung, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Itno, Minister for Information Technologies) thanked the GAC Chairman, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and Morocco.

The European Commission (Ms. Megan Richards, Principal Advisor) pointed to the WSIS+10 review outcome on reducing digital divides for developing countries and within countries, of enabling policy environments, international co-operation, Internet governance capacity building and multilingualism. She described the EC's Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO), a capacity-building tool for stakeholders everywhere and said the EC was contributing to the funding of the GAC's independent Secretariat.

Mexico (Mr. Victor Lagunes, Director General for Digital Strategy) highlighted ICANN's role in building a more open, robust, and safe domain name system for the Internet. He expressed confidence that multistakeholder models of Internet governance such as those of ICANN and the IGF would be able to address future challenges to Internet development.

Timor Leste (Mr. Antonio Correia, Chairman of the National Communications Authority) appreciated ICANN's recognition of the special needs of developing countries in the domain name system and the organization of a dedicated session at the HLGM.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Mr. Wajdi Alquliti, Director of IT Department, CIO and CKO) emphasized the need for the Internet to be a platform bridging different cultures, religions, and ethnic affiliations. He reiterated the OIC and its member states' position that sensitive Islam-related TLDs must be limited to OIC member states to ensure they do not abuse or denigrate the beliefs of any community, religion, or culture.

New Zealand (Ms. Nicola Treolar, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) highlighted the importance and challenge of Internet connectivity to small island states. She encouraged ICANN to foster processes and structures enabling broad, inclusive, multilingual engagement taking into account differing needs and resources.

India (Mr. Arvind Gupta, Deputy National Security Advisor), noted the need for high-quality local language content and seamless services for the next billion users, including many Indians. He said ICANN plays an important role to facilitate universal acceptance of IDNs. He also noted new gTLD application fees should be better tailored to emerging country and community applicants.

The **GAC Chair**, Mr. Thomas Schneider, concluded the meeting saying that the day's participation showed the growing importance of ICANN's work. He thanked Switzerland, the EC, and Peru for their recent pledges to support the GAC's independent Secretariat alongside the Netherlands, Brazil and Norway and encouraged others to do so as well.

Mr. Fadi Chehade, ICANN's outgoing CEO, thanked participants for their contributions and commitment to ICANN and its model. He emphasized that the ICANN community was innovating in the governance field and breaking new ground in an increasingly globalized and connected world.

Appendix: List of Participants from Government, GAC High Level Governmental Meeting, ICANN55 | Marrakech, Morocco

Afghanistan	Eng. Said Mohammad Anwari Ity, Vice- Chairman, ATRA
Angola	H.E. Mr. Pedro Sebastiao Teta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Information Technology
Argentina	Ms. Olga Cavalli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
AUC	Mr. Moctar Yedali, Head of Division Infrastructure and Energy Department, African Union Commission Ms. Alice Munyua, Lead Government RNL, African Union Commission
Australia	Ms. Annaliese Williams, Assistant Director IG, International Engagement & Strategy
Barbados	Mr. Reginald Bourne, Chief Telecommunications Officer
Belgium	Mr. Frank Carruet, Ambassador de Belgique a Rabat, Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres Ms. Severine Waterbley, Director general, Belgian Ministry of Economy - Télécommunications et Société de l'Information, SPF Economie
Benin	Mme Jemilatou Sossouhounto Djara, Secrétaire Générale, Ministere de la Communication des Technologies de L'Information et de la Communication Ms. Nelly Kwende, Directrice Générale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (DGTIC), Ministere de la Communication des Technologies de L'Information et de la Communication
Brazil	H.E Amb. Benedicto Fonseca Filho, Director of the Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs, Ministry of External Relations Mr. Pedro da Silva, Department of Scientific and Technological Issues (DCT) Mr. Jandyr Do Santos , Head of Information Society Division (DI), Department of Scientific and Technological Issues (DCT) Mr. Hartmut Glaser, Executive Secretary, Brazilian Internet Steering Committee in Brazil - CGI.br
Cambodia	HE. Dr. Makara Khov, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Mr. Rapid Sun, Director of Research and Development Center, National Institute of Posts, Telecommunications, and ICT, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Cameroon	Mr. Joseph Nsongan Etung, Inspecteur en Chef, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Canada	Ms. Kelly Gillis, Associate Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Ms. Pamela Miller, Director General, Telecommunications Policy Branch Ms. Andreea Todoran, Economist, International Telecommunications Policy
Central African Republic	S.E Mr. Koumba Bounandele , Minister , Ministère des PT & NT
Chad	Mr. Hassane Abdoulaye Taroung, Secrétaire General, Ministere des Postes et des Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication Mr. Nazaire Ndaiji
China	H.E. Mr. Zhang Feng, Vice Minister, MIIT Ms. Qi Xiaoxia
Colombia	H.E. Mr. Ricardo Pedraza-Barrios, Advisor, Comisión de Regulación de Comunicaciones,
Comoros	Mr. Ahamada Mbae Abdou, Executive Director, ICT , Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Cook Islands	Ms. Tepua Hunter, ICT Director, Office of the Prime Minister
Costa Rica	Ms. Monica Romero, Telecommunications Specialist, Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications
Cote d'Ivoire	Mr. Modibo Samaké, Conseiller Technique, Ministry of Post and ICT Mr. Philippe Kouame, Conseiller Technique, ARTCI
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mr. Blaise Azitemina Fundji, Cabinet du Ministre, Conseiller TIC, Ministère des PT & NTIC
Denmark	Mr. Finn Petersen, Director of International ICT Relations, Danish Business Authority Ms. Julia Wolman, Head of Section, Ministry of Business and Growth
Dominican Republic	Mr. Nelson Guillen Bello, Member of the Board, Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (INDOTEL) Mr. Amparo Arango, In charge of International Relations, Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (INDOTEL)
Egypt	H.E. Mr. Yasser Elkady, Minister, Communications and Information Technology - MCIT Ms. Manal Ismail, Executive Director, International Technical Coordination, National Telecom Regulatory Authority - NTRA Ms. Christine Arida, Executive Director, Telecom Services and Planning, National Telecom Regulatory Authority - NTRA

Equatorial Guinea	H.E Mr. Bonifacio Bacale Obiang, Minister , Ministerio de TTCT
	Mr. Rufino Ovono Ondo, Secretary of State, Ministerio de TTCT
European Commission	Ms. Megan Richards, Principle Advisor to the Director General of DG CONNECT, DG CONNECT
	Ms. Cristina Monti, Policy Officer , DG CONNECT
Finland	Mr. Juuso Moisander, Commercial Secretary, Information Society and ICT, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Department for External Economic Relations
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Mr Sasho Dimitrijoski, General Manager, MARnet, Macedonian academic research network
France	H.E. Amb. David Martinon, Ambassador, Ministère des affaires étrangères, cyberdiplomatie et l'économie numérique
	Mr. Ghislain De Salins, Conseiller, Ministère de l'économie
	Ms. Dalila Rahmouni, Advisor on Internet Governance, Ministère des affaires étrangères
Gabon	Mme Liliane Massala, Secretary General, Ministry of Digital Economy
	Ms. Florence Lemgoumbi Kouya, Ministry of Communication, Post and the Digital Economy
Georgia	Ms. Mzia Gogilashvili
Germany	Mr. Stefan Schnorr , Director General for Digital and Innovation Policy, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
	Ms. Sabine Meyer
	Mr. Hubert Schoettner
Ghana	H.E. Mr. Ato Sarpong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Communication
Guinea	H.E Mr. Moustapha Mamy Diaby, Minister , Ministère des T& NTI
	Mr. Cellou Diallo
Haiti	Mr. Stephane Vincent
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China	Mr. Ir Allen Yeung, Government Chief Information Officer, Government Chief Information Officer
Hungary	Mr. Peter Major, Special advisor for IT, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN in Geneva
India	H.E Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister, Communications and Information Technology
	Dr. Gulshan Rai, National Cyber Security Co-ordinator
	Mr. Rajiv Bansal, Director, Department of Electronics and IT , Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
	Mr. Rahul Gosain, Director, Department of Electronics and IT , Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
	Dr. Arvind Gupta, Deputy National Security Advisor
	Dr. Ajay Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of Electronics and IT, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
	Dr. Kumar N. Sarvana, Private Secretary
	Amb. Dinesh Patnaik, India Ambassador to Morocco
Indonesia	Mr. Ashwin Sasongko, Researcher of Information Communications Technology Center, Indonesian Institute of Sciences
Irak	H.E. Hassan Kadem Arrached, Ministre, Ministère des Télécommunications
Iran	Dr. H.S. Shahhoseini, Director of International and Scientific Cooperation, Iran University of Science and Technology
	Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, Managing Director, Information Technology Company of Iran
Ireland	Mr. Rory Conaty, Administrative Officer, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
Italy	Ms. Rita Forsi, Director General, Ministry of Economic Development
	Ms. Maura Gambassi, Technical Officer, Ministry of Economic Development
	Ms. Concetissa Cossa, ACID
Japan	H.E. Mr. Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination, Computer Communications Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
	Mr. Yoichi Kanda, Director for Global ICT Strategy, Computer Communications Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
	Mr. Akio Tanaka, Computer Communications Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Kenya	Mr. Joseph Kihanya

Kiribati	Ms. Maryanne Mikaere Namakin, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Transport and Tourism Development
	Mr. Wayne Reiher , Director of ICT, Ministry of Communication, Transport & Tourism Development
Korea	Mr. Kim Boyoung, Researcher, Korea Internet & Security Agency
Kuwait	Mr. Mohammed Nasser Mohammed Al-Kandari, Assistant Secretary General in charge of telecommunications, CITRA
Kyrgyz Republic	H.E. Ernis Mamyrkanov, Deputy Minister, MTC
Madagascar	Mr. Jean Andriamaro Rakotomalala, Président , ARTEC-Madagascar
Mali	H.E Dr. Choguel Kokalla Maiga, Ministre, Ministère de l'Economie Numerique et de l'Industrie et des Communications
	Mr. Souhahebou Coulibaly, GAC Mali, Ministère de l'Economie Numerique et de l'Industrie et des Communications
	Mr. Zarou Mohamadou , GAC Mali, Ministère de l'Economie Numerique et de l'Industrie et des Communications
Morocco	S.E Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Ministre, Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de l'Investissement et de l'Economie Numerique
	Mme Latifa Echihabi, Secrétaire Générale, Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de l'Investissement et de l'Economie Numerique
	Mr. Redouane Houssaini, Head of the United Nations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Namibia	H.E Hon. Hon. Tjekero Tweya, Minister , Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
	Mr. Henri Kassen, Director for ICT Development, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
Netherlands	Mr. Geert Moelker, Head of Unit/Telecoms Market, Ministry of Economic Affairs
	Mr. Thomas de Haan, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
New Zealand	Ms. Nicola Treloar, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Niger	Ms. Salamatou Issoufou Idrissa , Chef de la Division de la Coopération, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy
Nigeria	Arch. Sonny Echono, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication
	Mr. Temitope Fashedemi, Director e-Governance, Federal Ministry of Communication Technology
	Mr. Aderonke Adeniyi, Manager -- Police, Competition & Economic Analysis Department, Nigerian Communications Commission
Niue	Mr. Par Brumark, Government IT & Internet Policy Advisor, SUPSTIKS
Norway	Mr. Ornulf Storm, Head of Section, Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority
	Ms. Elise Lindeberg, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority
Pakistan	Mr. Syed Iftikhar Hussain, Director - IT
Palestine	Mr. Allan Salahaldeen, Director of Projects and Technical Development, Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology
Papua New Guinea	Mr. Koreken Levi, Secretary, Department of Communication and Information
Paraguay	Mr. Nicolas Caballero, Coordinator - Cooperation and International Institutions, SENATICS - National ICT Secretariat
Peru	Ms. Milagros Castañon, Director, Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Mr. Maciej Gron, Director of Information Society Department, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Portugal	Mr. Paulo Ferrão, President of the Board of Directors, Foundation for Science and Technology, Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education
	Ms. Ana Neves, Director, Department of Information Society, Foundation for Science and Technology, Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education
Qatar	Mr. Ali Al Suwaidi, Representative , CRA
	Mr. Mohammed Elbashir, TRA
Romania	H.E. Ms. Carmen Elian, Undersecretary of State, Ministry for Information Society
	Ms. Sorina Teleanu, Parliamentary Assistant, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania
Russian Federation	H.E. Mr. Rachid R. Ismailov , Vice Ministre, Ministry Communications and Medias
	Ms. Yulia Elanskaya, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation
Rwanda	Mr. Justin Rugondihene, Director of Internet, Media and Postal affairs, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA)
Sao Tome and Principe	Mr. Deolindo Costa de Boa Esperanca, Member of the Board of Director and Technical Director, Telecommunication Regulatory Authority "AGER-STP"
Senegal	Ms. Mana Aidara, Manager of Rare Domain Names and Resources and Chief of Network Services, ARTP
Singapore	Mr. Ser Pheng Queh , Deputy Director, Internet Resource Management, Infocomm Development Authority of

	Singapore Ms. Rachelle Lee, Manager, International, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore
Slovenia	Mr. Peter Sterle, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology
Somalia	H.E Mr. Hussein Kassim Guled , Minister , Ministry of Post, ICT and Telecommunication
Spain	Ms. Gema Campillos González, Deputy Director on Information Society Services, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism Mr. Rafael Galindo, Head of Unit, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism
Sudan	H.E Dr. Tahani Abdallah , Minister, Ministry of ICT Mr. Nadir Ahmed Gaylani, Planning and International Relations Director
Swaziland	H.E. Dumisani Ndlangamandla, Minister for Information, Communications and Technology Mr. Andreas Dlamini, Principal Communications Engineer
Sweden	H.E Mr. Conny Wahlström , State Secretary, Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and IT Mr. Anders Hektor, Deputy Director, Division for Information Technology Policy, Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications Mr. Bo Martinsson, Senior Adviser, Network Security Department, Swedish Post and Telecom Authority
Switzerland	Mr. Philipp Metzger, Director General, Federal Office of Communications Mr. Frédéric Riehl, Head of International Relations Service, Federal Office of Communications Mr. Thomas Schneider, Deputy Head of International Relations Service and International Information Society Coordinator, DETEC, Federal Office of Communications Mr. Jorge Cancio, International Relations, DETEC, Federal Office of Communications Mr. Nicolas Rollier, Policy Advisor, Federal Office of Communications
Chinese Taipei	Mr. Yi-Chang Tsai, Senior Engineer, Ministry of Transport and Communications (DGT)
Thailand	Mr. Wanawit Ahkuputra, Deputy Executive Director, ETDA, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Ms. Pitinan Kooarmornpatana, Director of IT Infrastructure Office, ETDA, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Mr. Panus Na Nakorn, Manager of International Cooperation Unit, ETDA, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
Timor-Leste	Mr. Antonio B. Correia, Chairman , National Communications Authority of Timor-Leste
Tonga	Mr. Paula Ma'u, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Information and Communications
Tunisia	Mr. Fayçal Bayouli, Director in the Intnl Coop & External relations Office, Ministry of Communication Technologies & digital Economy
Turkey	Mr. Ihsan Durdu, Advisor, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Uganda	Ms. Gloria Katuuku, Senior Systems Analyst, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
Ukraine	Mr. Oleksandr Danchenko, Chairman of Committee on Informatization and Communication, Parliament of Ukraine Mr. Oleksandr Tsaruk, Chief Adviser to the Committee on Informatization and Informational Technologies, Parliament of Ukraine
United Arab Emirates	H.E. Mohammed Alzarooni, Executive Director of Policies and Programs , Telecommunication Regulatory Authority
United Kingdom	H.E. Ed Vaizey, Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Mr. Mark Carvell, Head, Global Internet Governance Policy, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Mr. Nick Shorey, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Internet Governance Policy, Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS)
United States	Hon. Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), United States Department of Commerce Ms. Fiona Alexander, Associate Administrator for International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), United States Department of Commerce Ms. Suzanne Radell, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), United States Department of Commerce
Venezuela	Mr. Jesus Rivera, Head of Research, Ministry of Communications and Information
Vietnam	Mr. Mo Lê Thị Ngọc , Deputy Director General, Viet Nam Telecom Authority (VNTA), MIC Mr. Tran Minh Tan, Director General, Viet Nam Telecom Authority (VNTA), MIC Mr. Phan Thi Nhung

APT	Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity
ATU	Mr. Abdoulkarim Soumaila, Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union
	Mr. Lee Hibbard, Co-ordinator for Internet Governance and Information Society, Council of Europe
CoE	H.E. Amb. Dirk Van Eeckhout , Thematic co-ordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF), Council of Europe
	Mr. Patrick Penninckx, Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe
CTO	Mr. Shola Taylor, Secretary General, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization
CTU	Ms. Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General, Caribbean Telecommunications Union
EBU	Mr. Jean-Paul Philippot, Président , European Broadcasting Union
	Mr Giacomo Mazzone, Head of institutional relations, European Broadcasting Union
ECOWAS	Dr. Isaias Barreto da Rosa, Commissioner Telecommunications and IT, Economic Community of West African States
	Mr. Raphael Koffi, Head of Telecom/ICT Division, Economic Community of West African States
ICRC Red Cross	Mr. Stephane Hankins, Legal Advisor, International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement
	Ms. Charlotte Lindsey Curtet, Director, International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement
ITU	H.E SG Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union
LAS	Mr. Abdelrahim Suleiman, Director General, League of Arab States – Arab States Broadcasting Union
LAS	Mr. Hazem Hezzah, IT Expert for ICT Development, League of Arab States
OIC	Mr. Wajdi Alquliti, SG Representative, The Organization for Islamic Cooperation
OIF	Mr Emmanuel Adjovi, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
OSCE	Mr. Frane Maroevic, Director, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office of Representative on Freedom and Media
	Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, Representative on Freedom of the Media , Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
UNECA	Mr. Johnson Nkem, Senior officer in charge of Special initiatives Division, Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	Mr. Andrea Cairola, Conseiller pour la Communication et l'Information, Bureau de l'UNESCO pour le Maroc, l'Algerie, la Mauritanie et la Tunisie
UPU	Mr. Abdel Ilah Bousseta, Directeur des Opérations et des Technologies, Universal Postal Union
WIPO	Mr. Brian Beckham, Head, Internet Dispute Resolution Section, World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	Ms. Brigitta Exterkate , Legal Counsel, World Meteorological Organization
World Bank	Mr. David Satola, Senior Counsel, World Bank
	Mr. Rustam Mamytov, World Bank