
KOBE – GAC: Commonwealth Meeting
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ANNELISE WILLIAMS: I think we might as well make a start. Thank you, everybody, for joining us. It's much better to be in a room like this, I think, where we can all see each other's faces. And welcome to Gisa from the CTO who is joining us for the first time in the Commonwealth GAC Members meeting.

Perhaps, I think, if we just do a quick go around the table, if you could just say your name and where you're from. Maybe, Pua, we'll start with you.

PUA HUNTER Thank you, Anneliese, and good morning, everyone. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Pua Hunter, I'm from Cook Islands. Thank you.

SHELLEY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Good day, everyone. I'm Shelley-Ann Clarke Hinds from Trinidad and Tobago.

LANCE HINDS: Good day, everyone. Lance Hinds from Guyana.

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GABRIEL BROUGHAM: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Gabriel Brougham from New Zealand.

GLORIA KATUUKU: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Gloria Katuuku, Uganda.

GISA PURCELL: Good afternoon, everybody. It's a pleasure to be here for the first time. My name is Gisa Purcell, acting secretary general for the CTO. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: I'm Annelise Williams from Australia.

PAUL BLAKER: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Paul Blaker and I'm from the UK.

HANNAH BROWN: Hello, everyone. I'm Hannah Brown from Australia.

CHARLES NOIR: Hi, everyone. It's Charles Noir from the government of Canada.

AMICIA MUSSENDEN: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Amicia Mussenden, I'm from Saint Kitts and Nevis.

ANDREAS DLAMINI: Good afternoon. I'm Andreas Dlamini from Eswatini.

NIGEL HICKSON: Good afternoon. Nigel Hickson, ICANN staff, government engagement.

WILSON LEGUVAKA: Good afternoon. Wilson from the Solomon Islands. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good afternoon. [inaudible].

RONKE ADENIYI: Good afternoon. My name is Ronke Adeniyi from Nigeria.

MISTURA ARUNA: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Mistura Aruna from Nigeria.

OPETAIA SIMATI: Good afternoon. Opetaiia Simati from Tuvalu.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: And I see we also have some observers in the room, so, welcome to you as well. The first item on the agenda is an update from the CTO, so I'll pass over to you, please, Gisa. Thank you.

GISA PURCELL: Thank you very much. And I want to announce – I don't know if you know, but yesterday was the Commonwealth Day, and it was also the 70th year of the London declaration that started the Commonwealth. So, congratulations to us. This is you.

At the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization, there are three key strategies that we work with, and that is capacity development and training, and then we have the technical and consulting, and then also the events.

As you know, we do hold events throughout the year on various topics, and for the consultancy, right now, we've had a really good round. We've just finished the project in Uganda. We've just been awarded the establishment of universal access fund for Malawi, and we're just finalizing the project in Kingdom of Eswatini.

But in the meantime, there are others in the pipeline. So those are our key events that we're moving on. And right now, we have 33 members, and we're still doing a membership drive. So,

strategically, there are four goals in a strategic plan, and that's membership, then we go to the providing capacity for Commonwealth and so forth.

But I'm really happy to be here. I know in the last two ICANN meetings, there has been – not a complaint, but the Commonwealth members were telling the staff that represent the CTO that there really is a need for a senior representation from the CTO. So I am here.

The next council meeting will be in September and will be hosted by the government of Bangladesh and Dakar. Further information will be provided. Now, I've brought some annual report which I've put there. You're welcome to take it and have a look. Most of the details are in there. I shall stop here. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to come and talk to me. Thanks.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS:

Thanks very much, Gisa. So, next on our agenda, we just had some time set aside for general discussion of current GAC issues. We don't have the agenda up on the screen, but it is on the website. We had some – just as ideas for discussion. We don't have to discuss any of these. If there's anything that anybody wants to discuss instead, please feel free to say so.

But we did have GDPR and WHOIS. I did want to say, because I was talking to Gloria a day or two ago about how people go about having a delegate or a representative on the Public Safety Working Group, and as Laureen said this morning, they are encouraging any other members.

It is just a matter of – if there is someone within your government from your law enforcement or consumer protection agencies, you send their e-mail to [Fabien] and to the co-chairs of the Public Safety Working Group, who are Laureen and Cathrin from the European Commission, and copying Fabien from the secretariat and then [you're away,] included on the membership list and can participate in the discussions.

Did anyone want to discuss anything related to GDPR or geographic names, gTLD subsequent procedures? We had those ideas, or any other issues.

PUA HUNTER:

Thank you, Annelise. Mine is not really the topics you were talking about. I wanted to take us back to what Gisa said about the three strategic areas of CTO, the first one being capacity development. I want to understand as the co-chair of the Underserved Regions Working Group, how we can partner with CTO to move our capacity development initiatives.

What's been happening is that we've submitted an additional budget request for the fiscal year 2020, and within that additional budget request-, we're planning to have three capacity development workshops during the ICANN meetings, and also two regional ones, but we are yet to identify where we're going to hold the two regional workshops.

So at the moment, the government engagement team of ICANN is assisting us with working with the vice president of the Global Stakeholder Engagement team of ICANN to see how we can capitalize on confirmed events within underserved regions. So my question is, how can we work with our CTO to partner with your capacity development initiatives? Thank you.

GISA PURCELL:

Okay. Thank you very much, Pua. That's a very good idea. Now, the CTO program on development and training, I know some of the people here understand very well that the needs of the countries are given to us, and then we will look at ways to provide training. And the Commonwealth is a very unique and beneficial group of nations, because the commonwealth is spread over four of the six UN regions.

So you benefit not only from the regional, but you're supported by the regions, and then you're supported by organizations like

ICANN, and you're also supported by the Commonwealth through the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization.

So, I just told Nigel that I wanted to meet with him, but right now, this is one of the purposes why I came, is we are building our capacity building program to include some of the issues that are raised here in ICANN, especially concerning the underserved regions, because we focus on underserved regions like your least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, [inaudible].

So I think that the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization is a good avenue to work together with ICANN, and also, as you said, ICANN can capitalize when the commonwealth holds its workshops or even meetings. We have an ICT three-day meeting that will be held before the [consult] in Bangladesh, and then in June, we're hosting the spectrum meeting to look at commonalities of spectrum not only nationally but also in each region.

So, going back to what I said before, that means the government is doing their own contribution concerning the agenda items for the WRC. And the regions you belong to are doing the same thing. And then the Commonwealth, through the CTO, will come in and support you further. The key issue is the C band.

As you know that in the islands, C band is very clear. It's the same as in landmass like Africa. In the forest, C band works very clear, no disruptions. We've had other bands in the Pacific now and also in other areas, and they don't compare to the C band.

So, what do we do? We have to make sure that we protect the C band. But going back to Pua's question, yes, of course, the ICANN can certainly outsource some of the training to the CTO, or we can work together. Thanks.

PUA HUNTER:

Thank you, Gisa. It's sounding to me that the way you address your capacity development workshops is demand-driven, which is what I think ICANN should be working with you on with the topics that Annelise was outlining earlier, because that's some of the high-interest topics within the GAC that a lot of GAC members are still trying to learn from. So, I am actually confident that you're planning to meet with Nigel, and perhaps you two can talk about how you can have that relationship, partnership to move forward to address the areas of capacity within the GAC. Thank you.

GISA PURCELL: And also, ICANN has, in the past, provided support for the capacity building that we have. But yeah, we're going to discuss that.

GLORIA KATUUKU: Thank you very much. Maybe just to add on what Pua just said. How Uganda was assisted was to do with the fact that there was a declaration by the Commonwealth on cybersecurity, and a number of African countries within the Commonwealth countries were brought together to assess the national critical infrastructure within these countries.

So maybe one of the areas, especially with regard to data protection and privacy and the GDPR where we still need a lot of help with, maybe when we're going through all this, especially within the GAC, I can freely say that while I'm sitting here, I can make a comment and I'm not worried that Uganda is put on a pedestal. And while I'm in there and I comment, they will not look at me as Gloria, they will think, "This is Uganda's position," which creates a little bit of challenge.

So, moving forward, I think as a Commonwealth, we need to sit down and look at GDPR in critical, how it affects us as nations, and when we come here at ICANN, we have one common position. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Yes, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thanks. I just wanted to add on to what has been raised. Firstly, I must apologize, it's my first ICANN in a while, and I apologize for my ignorance on certain issues. But I think that, well, in our part of the world anyway, main concern at the moment is climate change, [fishing.] When you say GDPR, question marks start to ...

So I'm just wondering whether, in a nutshell, just explain what the issue is with GDPR. Maybe a one-minute talk or something, just to sort of understand it. Or if anybody can on the group –

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: I'll start, and I'm sure other people can jump in, because it is a difficult issue, and it's one that's perhaps not been on the radar of non-European countries for that long. And certainly, it hasn't been an issue within the GAC for very long. So the European

General Data Protection Legislation came into effect in May, and that has implications on the data that can be shown for the WHOIS domain registration data.

ICANN is trying to work through a model where that data can be accessed. There are working groups working on it, and it's been a big focus for the Public Safety Working Group, because obviously, continued access by law enforcement agencies is something that all governments are interested in.

Does anyone want to add anything at all? Pua?

PUA HUNTER:

And it also gives you the opportunity – the people or vendors, organization that use your data, they have to tell you how, what they're going to do with your data and whether your data will be stored, in simple language.

So it's to do with data, but then it also has an element of security, and that's why cybersecurity policy standards, strategies, legislation is very important. You need to take those into effect to be GDPR compliant.

I know it's a product of the EU, but a lot of international organizations are also looking at adopting it. And I'm sure in the Pacific, through the ITU, through APT. So, isn't that great, that we're here? So when you go back and you go to the ITU and APT

meeting and they talk about GDPR, you can put your hand up. “Yes, I know all about it.” So, tell me – I’ll go to [inaudible] and tell them, “Yeah, if you want GDPR [on our phishing,]” this is what you do. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Paul.

PAUL BLAKER: Yeah. I’ll just add that the UK is quite involved in the discussions. My colleague, Chris – I don’t know if you saw him on the platform – has been very involved in trying to sort out this issue, because since GDPR came into force, all that information on WHOIS is no longer accessible, and we are starting to find problems with law enforcement because of that.

I think if other Commonwealth countries are also having problems or issues, we would be really interested to hear about your experience. So please talk to me or talk to Chris and let us know, because do need to find a solution very quickly so that we can allow law enforcement to have access to that.

I was also going to add, I think this is another area where actually, commonwealth countries can learn a lot from each other. And I remember at the CTO forum last year, [inaudible] from Jamaica gave a really good presentation about how Jamaica is changing

its data protection laws, kind of bringing them sort of in line with GDPR, and a number of other Caribbean countries are following similar approaches. I know the Cayman Islands as well are doing something similar.

I think that kind of shared learning is really helpful, and CTO, I think, is planning a data forum meeting in November. Gisa will know the date. Again, just to bring countries together and talk about some of these data protection issues. And if we can find the sort of common Commonwealth approaches, we can learn from each other's experience – and [inaudible] is a great example of sharing that expertise. I think it'll be a good thing.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Yes, please, Gloria.

GLORIA KATUUKU: I'll still refer to I can easily say anything in here. I know that we cannot access all the data. We've had challenges. One of our websites that collects [inaudible] fees was hacked. It was mirrored somewhere else. We tried to bring it up, we used our law enforcement follow through until we got to know who was hosting this. We went to them.

So much has been going on. So in the interim, while we are trying to abide by and look for unified access model that we can look at

the processes [need to be] quick when we write and we need a solution. The time in which these responses are given should be timely. It's a little bit frustrating, but we are trying to abide by the regulations. So while we work through this, some processes, need to be quickened.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

In short, I think the GDPR was – whether it was the intended goal or not, but somehow it has created a big hiding place for the criminals. I keep on wondering if there could be no way of maybe [leaving] Europe with [their GDPRs] and the rest of the world continuing with WHOIS as it has been the case.

And it also brings another question to me as to the position of ICANN itself, as to what kind of organization is it. Is it going to be bending and bending every time that a country or a region comes up with new laws that infringe upon its practices? Because the GDPR may not be the last kind of action that would come in and bring changes to the way ICANN operates.

So, it brings questions to me as to what kind of organization then is ICANN in terms of its global responsibility. Because Russia tomorrow will come with its own laws. China the other day will also come with its own. Africa may come with its own.

So, is it like every time there is a new law that infringes upon the practices of ICANN, then ICANN is going to bend? And then in the end, what kind of organization is going to result? So, yeah, the GDPR is quite a big challenge to ICANN.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Yes, Lance, please.

LANCE HINDS: In response to my colleague, I don't worry too much about that at the moment. The difficulty with Europe in terms of information is not new. The GDPR is probably a result of some of the conversations in the past, other ICANN meetings, registrants and registrars talk about the difficulty of data and the protection of data.

I think it's going to happen. ICANN, by virtue of the organization that it is, has evolved over those years, and it will continue to do so. If Russia comes or anybody else comes, they're going to have to evolve. Countries, certainly where I come from, in many of those territories, data protection is required because there are too many protocols that are being established between agencies and ministries that are sharing data without any [necessary] guidance.

So there needs to be beginning standards across the board anyway. So you may argue the GDPR may be too strict or a little hard in terms of the protection of data, but certainly, nothing wrong with using that as a guideline for other legislation that you can do in other parts of the Commonwealth and further afield.

So again, I don't worry about ICANN in terms of that. ICANN will evolve, it will change. It's supposed to be a multi-stakeholder process. And by virtue of being that, it is supposed to evolve. So I hear your concern, but I won't worry about ICANN in terms of that.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Yes, please.

HARU AL-HASSAN: The greatest concern here is, how can we help the law enforcement agencies to track cyber criminals? Since we're all aware that cybercrime is increasing at more than alarming rates. So that's a major issue.

In as much as we're going to maybe protect the public data, can we also protect the data of criminals? That's my question. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Pua.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you. I just want to add to the last statement there. I think one of the biggest challenges that ICANN had was the right to privacy and balancing the right to privacy and the need for information. So, I just wanted to put that out .Ty.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Thank you. And if I can just add to what others have said about that, I'm not sure if you were at the last GAC meeting, but we did have a little bit of discussion about why the focus on GDPR. So, I think what we're trying to do now is come up with a solution that will – because many territories have a privacy legislation, so we're trying to come up with something that's not just singling out one jurisdiction but will address the privacy concerns that other jurisdictions have.

The reason, I think, the focus was on GDPR was because of the pending timeframe, and also because there are penalties attached to the GDPR. So, it requires a protection of the data of all European citizens regardless of where they're living. So that does present a difficulty for registries, particularly like dot-com for instance would have registrants all over the world. So for them to have a process where they apply one process to those who might be Europeans registrants or those who might be European but living in other jurisdictions and those who may be other

registrants, I think it's just too difficult, so they've just applied the one process, and until there is some kind of access model agreed, they've just decided to not have that data available to comply with GDPR and to avoid any penalties.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

I just want to respond to Eswatini. I can see where you're coming from, and I understand. But it's very similar to the Budapest convention. This is the international convention, but it's really up to each government. And I know there are some governments who have adopted the Budapest convention, and there are some other governments whom the CTO have worked with that we went through their policy, strategy, and we've done their legislation, which has been passed.

So it's the same thing as the GDPR. It doesn't mean that every country will have to abide by GDPR, but within ICANN, there are certain issues, and there's a lot of issues where the GDPR is the only one at the moment that we can look at, rather than spending two to five years to try and come up with a model for ICANN to use. Thanks.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS:

Any further comments on that, or any other topics anyone wanted to raise?

LANCE HINDS:

If I can, certainly from the underserved regions' perspective, I'm looking at geographic names and also the gTLD process. Both of those have a specific commercial and also developmental [inaudible]. And I remain concerned that because of the challenges that we face in the [inaudible], we may not get a chance to participate in that.

Already, if you look at the applicant process and the gaps there, the point was made this morning that there may be some constituencies that might not be able to participate because of the suggestions and ideas being put forward.

I think some of that is – and I think our weakness is I think some of us still need to become a little more familiar with the concept of geographic names. In particular, who has the rights to what and who owns that. Some of you would have heard about the dot-amazon issues as a case in point where some [constituents] believe that they have rights to things that don't necessarily work within the current ICANN framework, and there are various discussions about that.

Certainly, education in terms of those two. gTLD is a similar process in terms of probably understanding it a little bit at our levels, what this could possibly mean for us in the [USR] in terms

of development, economics, what have you. Just because of the nature of those two.

So it wouldn't hurt if they're specific – and I know that within [USR, there's currently] a workplan, there's going to be training to address things like that. It is just that some more assistance, and maybe CTO would have some experience in that area to provide that support as well, because I think those two going forward are going to be critical to the way ICANN is [shaped.]

And especially as ICANN claims every chance they get that they're very concerned with the global south. So you have that, so this is an area that has some significant need. Thank you, chair.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Thank you. Lance just used that term again, global south. I wish someone would tell me exactly what that means, because I don't understand it. And for me, it's not recognizable, and I keep wondering what it means, because my research shows that the global south doesn't necessarily mean what we consider the underserved region. It could also mean those persons who are deprived in what is considered developed or the north.

So I think we have to be very careful in using the term, and maybe if you can come up with a definition of it so that we're all on the

same page when it's being used, that would be helpful. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Any other comments? No? [Eswatini?]

ANDREAS DLAMINI: I was just looking at that list, and then it says, other issues. But it's an issue that you opened with the issue of capacity building. I know Pua and Gisa, they commented a lot on that one in terms of collaboration between the CTO and ICANN, but otherwise, some of it also borders on areas where you find that you don't know, and you don't know that you don't know. So the demand-driven kind of approach, you find that it doesn't help much in that case because you don't know that you don't know. So you won't even reach out to request for that help.

So, is that the approach of just advertising regional capacity building workshops for those areas that have been identified by whoever between the two organizations might come in handy, because for instance in my region, there's very few people that come to the GAC, so some might not even be aware that there is a GAC. So yeah, I think that kind approach that is, "Here, whatever you want, come out and come and participate here." Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Should we move forward?

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: If there aren't any further comments, then perhaps we'll move on to Paul for an update on the Commonwealth coordination at last year's ITU meeting.

PAUL BLAKER: Yeah. Thank you. So this is just to let people know, really, that there is a lot more commonwealth activity at the ITU this year. It started, I think, in Durban at Telecom World last September, where there Work Stream a Commonwealth meeting chaired by Ghana and the UK, which talked a lot about the plenipotentiary conference. And then during the plenipotentiary conference in Dubai, there were two further Commonwealth meetings.

A lot of the focus then was on elections, actually. [They had] a lot of Commonwealth candidates for the council elections and for some of the other elections, and we wanted to make sure that we were supporting each other in those elections. And it was very successful, I think. It's good to see Commonwealth countries

elected, and for us of course, we were very pleased that Malcolm Johnson was elected Deputy Secretary General.

But also, I think people found it useful to have discussions about policy issues in those meetings, and there was a feeling that we shouldn't only meet as Commonwealth when there are elections, but also more during the year. And it's a really good opportunity to exchange views and exchange experience on some of the policy questions at ITU.

And I know I found it very useful just to understand different perspectives of different countries around the world by those kinds of Commonwealth [contacts.] And Malcolm Johnson as well has been very supportive of having a strong Commonwealth voice at the ITU and was keen for us to continue the coordination.

So working with CTO, there are a number of Commonwealth coordination meetings planned over the course of this year. It was agreed in Dubai that they would be cochaired by Ghana and by the UK with logistical secretariat support from CTO.

The first one was last month at the conference preparatory meeting for the World Radio Communication Conference. I think it was a really successful meeting that talked about particular Commonwealth priorities for WRC. Gisa mentioned the C band as something that many Commonwealth countries have a strong interest in. And there will be a CTO radio spectrum for a meeting

which will start to look at formalizing some Commonwealth coordination in preparation for the WRC later this year.

We've also got a Commonwealth session at the WSIS forum in the second week of April, again cochaired by UK and Ghana, an opportunity particularly to look at some of the sustainable development issues being discussed at the WSIS forum and identify where countries' are there, and then plans for another one, ITU council, another meeting at TSAG in October, I think, and then another one during the WRC to bring together Commonwealth countries.

So there's lots happening at the ITU. I think it's really useful and really helpful, and it'll just encourage everyone to make sure that you're involved in that activity. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Shelly-Ann, yes.

SHELLEY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Thanks, Paul. I know from our experience as being part of Latin America and the Caribbean, it's sometimes very difficult to also come up with a sort of agreed Commonwealth position, so I'm just thinking that perhaps some of those Commonwealth discussions could be had a little more in advance of, say, the WRC. So by the time we get there, there's some agreed common

positions. Because when we get into the nitty gritty of negotiations, it's really from the regional grouping, and for us, it's Latin America and the Caribbean. For other members, it would be other regional groupings.

But that process is so strong that it might be useful to have some of those common positions already elaborated when we get into the actual negotiation. Thanks.

PAUL BLAKER:

I think that's a really good point, because we're all part of our regional group. Once the regional group has reached its decision, that's the decision. So what we need to do is have a Commonwealth conversation before the regional group is fixed in its position. And because there are commonwealth countries in every region, we can all go back to our regions and try to influence what the regional position is. That means we need to do it early. I agree. And that's why I'm quite pleased we've got a program now of planned meetings over the coming year, and I think we should continue doing that.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS:

Any other comments on that item? I see none, so Nigel, we might ask you for a brief update from ICANN, please.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Thank you very much. Well, [inaudible] ICANN. But let me just say a few words. I'm Nigel Hickson, I work in the government engagement team. Let me just sort of position that in the ICANN structure as some of you are perhaps new to the ICANN setup.

As you know, ICANN has a staff. There's about 380 staff altogether. Part of the staff is a team called Government Stakeholder Engagement team, and those are the people that you might well have met from time to time. They're regionally based, so we have regional representations in every global region. So we have regional people in the Caribbean and we regional people in Africa, in Asia, in Europe, etc.

And I notice that on the chat, on the Adobe chat that we have for this meeting, Albert Daniels is on the chat. He's based in the Caribbean. Save Vocea is based in Fiji [– well, so Northern Fiji and Australia,] but he covers the Pacific area. Many of you will know him. Pierre Dandjinou is our regional vice president in Africa.

In the government engagement team, we work principally with governments in New York and Geneva, the UN missions in Geneva and in New York, and the different UN bodies. So I'm based in Geneva, and so I have a responsibility of working with the UN in Geneva and the ITU and the other agencies such as WIPO and the [inaudible] and bodies like that. So that's how we engage.

We also in the government engagement team have a close relationship with the GAC support staff, so the support staff for your meetings here with the GAC, and we've been supporting the underserved working group, which [Pua] and colleagues explained or discussed in the GAC earlier in this meeting.

So, that's how we're structured. So we're here to support the initiatives. I have a relationship with the Commonwealth, and that's why I'm here as a body. And obviously, our relationship with the CTO has always been very positive indeed as an international government organization.

In terms of capacity building, capacity building is something which ICANN is obviously passionate about, and it's really fantastic to see that the work of the underserved working group is going to continue and expand with a budgetary request to be able to do more capacity building at ICANN meetings with new GAC members and with other community members, but also in other venues as well. So there's no reason at all why we shouldn't be doing capacity building perhaps at the CTO forums every year, for example. It's not my decision, but I'm just planting a seed there, because some of this work, I think, is important as we've heard today in explaining about why ICANN is doing certain work on GDPR and what the ramifications are in other areas.

Essentially, that's what we do. As I said, we have a relationship with the ITU. As you might have heard this week, ICANN have just put in an application to be a sector member of the ITU. As you know, the ITU, the main membership is member states, of course, but there are sector members which are businesses and NGOs, etc. ICANN is an NGO, so we've put in an application to be a sector member of ITU D, the development part of ITU, and hoping that will be approved by council in June.

I'll leave you there, but any specific questions, always happy to answer. And I apologize that we didn't get the agenda up earlier. Sometimes, the technology just beats ICANN. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Thanks very much, Nigel. Any comments? Yes, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This question comes back to [inaudible] the kind of organization that ICANN is. What kind of protection, global protection that ICANN enjoys in terms of its policies or in terms of its work or its practices?

NIGEL HICKSON: We don't have any protection. We're a nongovernment organization. We have no legal – well, we're incorporated as a

nongovernmental organization under the laws of California, so we have certain, I suppose, legal protection depending where you're incorporated. But we're not a UN body of any nature like that.

So, our policy development process, as you might have seen at this meeting, and some people have been involved in, is purely community-driven. As you go around the halls, you hear lots of people developing policy on different aspects concerning gTLDs, and we just touched on the next round, the subsequent round of gTLDs and the policies associated with that.

So, these are policies that are adopted by ICANN. We do have contracts with registries and registrars, so that's the legal contractual side. So a registry or registrar issuing a generic top-level domain, not a country code. We don't have legal responsibility for country codes, but for generic top-level domains, we have contracts with the registries and registrars. But we're not an international government organization in that sense.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS:

No other questions? Alright. Well, thank you all for coming. I think it's been a really good meeting today. Just sort of going back to something Gloria was saying before. And this is an idea that I haven't thought through, it's just occurred to me. But perhaps for

the next meeting, if we could get prepared a little bit earlier and ask about what people want to talk about, we might be able to have somebody join us who can answer [on the GDPR,] we could ask Chris or someone to join us, who may be able to answer specific questions about where the process is up to.

Alright, well, thank you to Nigel and to Gisa. Thank you very much for joining us. It's been lovely to have you. Thanks. [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you. I'd like to cast a memory back – my name's [inaudible] from Nigeria – to the last meeting in Barcelona. We did state that there was as reason why this meeting was established. And prior to Barcelona, we used to have a mailing list [and mails, and there's need to reestablish] like the secretariat rule so that we can all have one form of communication.

I recall when we started the Commonwealth GAC meeting, we used to have notice of meetings, e-mails [and participants] notice. So, I thought perhaps there's need to [reecho] that, because nothing has been done since Barcelona.

Then also, I was thinking that this is a platform to put forward issues of Commonwealth countries to the GAC. And if we do, what next? How do we follow issues, to what end? For instance, the

lady from Trinidad and Tobago, when she made mention, she made a comment to Paul's presentation with regards to ITU.

Sometimes you have your regional issues, and you have Commonwealth issues. There are overlaps. So for instance if I'm from Nigeria, and perhaps there are issues concerning domain names or something that is a Commonwealth to the west African nation, in west Africa, perhaps we have some countries that do not belong to the Commonwealth, and new have taken the stance as a region, and [inaudible] wants to take a stance as Commonwealth, how do we handle such issues? Just thinking. Thank you.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Please.

PAUL BLAKER: I think that's really good points. It would be really good to have an e-mail list so for example we could circulate a draft agenda in advance and people would have a chance to comment, and we'd be more organized. I'll look at Nigel now. Nigel? I don't know if it's possible for the secretariat to put together a list of Commonwealth GAC reps that we could use if that's –

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: I think we already have one. I think it may need to be updated, but we used to – I'm sure this is something we'd ask Julia for assistance with, because I thought the agenda had been circulated. But there used to be – we'll ask Julia for an updated one and ask her if we can just send her things and she can send it out to the list.

PAUL BLAKER: That's great. And then just in terms of issues, the session we were just in for example on subsequent procedures and the CCT review – and I was reading the review, talking about how there was a really low level of applications for new gTLDs from developing countries.

Perhaps one of the reasons for that was the process was very complicated, you needed lawyers to help you, it was expensive. And I was [thinking,] well, when we have the kind of informal group developing GAC input, who will be speaking for that particular point? Who'll be making that point?

I think that's one example where Commonwealth for example could say we need to address that as an issue. Perhaps we can have a discussion here about it, and as you say, maybe invite someone to come and talk to us about it. So that's just one example, I think, where we could maybe come up with a view. But yeah, thanks.

GISA PURCELL:

I'm very keen to move this forward. I think this meeting should not just about discussion. We should look forward to other meetings that are coming along, and from here, we can identify issues that are common among the Commonwealth.

When you look at the Commonwealth, the population is 2.1 [billion,] and that's a third of the world's population. So we are in a very good position. So I think with issues that Paul was talking about, this is something that we need to do. And going forward, yes, I totally agree, there needs to be a better coordination of our meeting. So as Annelise said, we can certainly ask the ICANN to do this for us. Once our agenda comes through, then they should be able to distribute it to all the Commonwealth countries, because a lot of you, a lot of other people didn't even know that there was a Commonwealth meeting. I'm sure there would be a lot more people.

And then we should look at running our meetings that way. People emailing myself, I don't know if you want the CTO to be the informal secretariat. Then we can do that kind of coordination. When you send e-mails with the issues that you want to discuss or know more about, then as Annelise said, we can invite a person, an expert on the topic to come and give us a

brief discussion or brief explanation on that topic. Thanks. But it's whatever you agree with, CTO's happy to help out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sorry, just clarifying a process. I think we were talking in two tracks. We were talking about the collaboration with ICANN, and then you also said that normally, when you provide assistance, it's a request from the individual government. Did I hear that correctly?

GISA PURCELL: No. What I was saying was that the CTO would be happy to be the secretariat for the Commonwealth going forward.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. Sorry. [inaudible]. No, I was just going back to how the assistance is going to be provided, whether you'd given any thought from the sense that –

GISA PURCELL: Oh, yes [inaudible]. Okay. There will be a questionnaire that will be going out to all Commonwealth countries to identify what their priority needs are in terms of capacity building, and we will be listing the ICANN issues, the ITU issues and things like that. Then when the countries come in with their priority needs, that

we can put together a proposal to the ITU. And a proposal to the ICANN. These are the [things] that the CTO can provide for the Commonwealth countries.

So if, say, it's approved, then we will work from there in identifying, just like in identifying which countries need what. For example, let's go back to the [inaudible] head of Commonwealth governments last year where they approved the cybersecurity to be – it's one of the goals in the communique.

So what we have done, we worked with the government of the UK who provided funding and identified the countries who had already advised the CTO that, yes, we need capacity building on cybersecurity, we need policy, we need cybersecurity standards, we need help with legislation. And then we coordinate and send a letter to each of those countries. "Okay, we'll come to you at this date. That's how it works. Thanks."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I just wanted to respond to madame Gisa. More or less, thank you for offering the CTO to be the secretariat. They've always been the secretariat anyways, but thank you again. So we look forward to at least having our mailing list activated and better coordination with respect to Marrakech. Thank you, madam.

ANNELISE WILLIAMS: Thank you, everyone. No final comments? Thanks.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]