Pre-ICANN65 GAC USR WG Capacity Building Workshop for GAC Africa Members

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GAC meetings are generally conducted in conjunction with an ICANN meeting. They can also take place between or before sessions. GAC meetings are generally open. GAC members also have access to preparatory documents prior to upcoming meetings, such as the draft agenda, information sessions and presentations. The GAC has several working groups.

The GAC USR working group, organizes capacity building workshops for African members of the GAC.

This year a workshop was held at ICANN Marrakech on 23 June 2019 with the objective of helping members in the Africa region to better understand:

- the role of the GAC and the NACSO in the multi-stakeholder model,
- ICANN's policy development processes and
- to discuss topics of great interest to the region following the results of the capacity building survey.

During this workshop four main points were discussed:

1.   PDP (Process Development Policy)

moderated by Carlos Reyes of ICANN, Luisa Paez, Canada's representative on the GAC and Olga Cavalli of Argentina.
The objective of this session is to provide GAC regional representatives with information on the PDPs under consideration and why member participation is important. This session was moderated by Luisa Paez, GAC Vice President and Yaovi Atohoun, Stakeholder.

2. Security and resilience of the DNS in Africa.

This session is moderated by Adiel Akplogan, ICANN Vice President presented the attacks against the DNS. These attacks have highlighted the need to strengthen security at various levels. The objective of this session is to explain the importance of DNSSEC and how governments can help in its deployment. DNSSEC is the acronym for Domain Name System Security Extensions. It refers to a set of security extensions of the DNS protocol. These extensions use the mechanisms of asymmetric cryptographic signature to authenticate records.

3. ccTLDS: Current Issues and the Role of Governments

The purpose of the session is to provide participants with an overview and delegation processes for CCTLDs. Kim Davies, Head of the PTI, outlined the different steps in the process of delegating and transferring a CCTLD, specifying:
- the people involved,
- Delegation and transfer criteria
- Government review and consideration
- Steps in the process
- Why such a process? Frequently asked questions.

Re-delegation, the process of assigning or re-assigning a ccTLD to a manager, involves a number of organizations and takes into account the criteria related to the basic principles that the manager must be a responsible and technically competent administrator in the field.

4. Discussion: Best practices, collaboration and key challenges faced by GAC USR working group members

The purpose of this session will be to open discussions on the experience and challenges faced by members of the GAC USR WG from the AF region... the representative of Guinea, Cellou Diallo, highlighted the problems faced by African registries and requested ICANN's intervention on some points. Several representatives actively contributed to these debates, including Lance Hinds from Guyana, Pua Hunter from the USR group.