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GISELLA GRUBER: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the ICANN Cross-Community Committee on Accessibility, formerly known as the Accessibility Working Group, on Wednesday, 7th October, 21:30 UTC.

On today's call we have Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Jorge Carcavallo, Ron Sherwood, and Judith Hellerstein.

Apologies noted from Joly MacFie, Siranush Vardanyan, Alan Greenberg, Gunela Astbrink, and Maureen Hilyard.

From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, and myself, Gisella Gruber.

[inaudible] please remind everyone to state their names when speaking for transcript purposes.

Thank you, and over to you, Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much, Gisella. It will be perhaps, I think, a relatively brief transcript today, but it is good to take the opportunity to touch base just before we meet in our face-to-face opportunity in Dublin.

I will just now ask if staff can confirm that we will be having remote participation in our meeting in Dublin.

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GISELLA GRUBER: Yes, we will have remote participation for our meeting in Dublin. The details will be posted on the ICANN main schedule, have not yet been posted. But I will also be sending a meeting invitation to the list to give them all the details to be able to join our meeting in person and, for those not in Dublin, remotely. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Gisella. I note Judith asked a question about, “Is our meeting going to be included in the captioning for that meeting?”

GISELLA GRUBER: I’ll let Silvia respond to that question. Thanks.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Silvia, over to you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, thank you very much. No, Judith, at the moment we will not provide captioning for this meeting.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Okay, well, that’s a tad disappointing to say the least, but never mind. We work with what we have to have. Just on the point of captioning, I noted that captioning was used throughout the recent meeting of the Cross-Community Working Group on Accountability in Los Angeles, the weekend before last? I don’t know. It’s all a blur in my life at the moment.

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I did think that the captioning was of great benefit, and I wanted to just note that informally in our record today, that it appears that the thought of for major meetings having captioning as just part of the normalcy is trickling in. I am unaware, however, whether that meeting would have been part of our pilot scheme, as such. If it was, fine. If it wasn't, I think this is a good indicator that the usefulness of captioning is being well and truly recognized.

Just on this pre-agenda agenda item, I note that Judith has raised her hand. Over to you, Judith.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN:

Yes, hello. No, it was not part of our pilot. Our pilot has not started. We have produced promotional materials, which we'll be distributing at the ICANN meeting in Dublin to get the word out because once we start it we only have three months and only can have three meetings a month that are in the pilot, so we want to get ahead, a running start.

So we want to get the word out, and we also want to promote that we're starting our captioning pilot and that we want people whose meetings they think could merit it could suggest [a meeting], and then staff will match it to the criteria that the group has developed and then will determine which meetings each month will be captioned.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you, Judith. I'm smiling wryly here in Sydney, Australia, because I suspect this may be a situation where the empirical proof from the pilot comes in after the social change of the usefulness being recognized of

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captioning because I did note that that was the first of the meetings in recent times that the Cross-Community Working Group had held that utilized captioning as a tool, and I'd like to think that perhaps the pilot will be proof of concept, as you all know. But I suspect some of the concepts have already been taken to heart by at least part of the ICANN staff, so good on you all re that.

Back to the formal agenda then. Is there anybody who wishes to put an additional item onto today's agenda? Which is necessarily lean for a number of reasons, but the agenda pretty well is a bit more of discussion about design elements for our Cross-Community Committee wiki space and then a brief review of our agenda for the Dublin meeting.

Not hearing anybody intervene and not seeing any hands raised in the room, I will assume that there are no additional agenda items being put forward. But of course, we will have an Any Other Business, which will give people another opportunity.

Straight into it then. Heidi and I took the opportunity to work with Ariel and do a little discussion on the Monday of last week whilst I was still in Los Angeles. It was cheaper to keep me there a day than it was to send me back on the weekend. I am unsure what in this very, very busy time Ariel and the staff she was going to be liaising with may have managed to do on putting together a bit of a rough on our wiki space, but it looks to me like something is being uploaded, so the magic is going to be happening by the look of it.

What I might do, Heidi, mainly because I wanted to firstly welcome Alan and secondly because I want to have a much deserved sip of my coffee,

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is ask if you would give us a presee of where we are and where we're heading at the moment.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Okay. Hi, Cheryl. I hope you enjoy your coffee. As it's loading, I hope that the photos show because, Cheryl, I think you will be particularly pleased. What we've done, again, this is on the Cross-Community tab, and it's still very much under construction.

What Cheryl and I and Ariel spoke about that we wanted to make this, obviously, very accessible. So we used extra-large font, we used a san serif font, and we wanted to make it bright with photos and very clearly set out. Unfortunately, I'm not sure if you can see the photos. Let's see if we can try that again. Actually, we are editing it as we speak. As I'm talking, more and more things are being added to this.

What we see – okay, we're still not having it up yet. Basically, for those who are not able to see it, I know that some of you have posted the link, but I don't know if this page is actually open to everyone at the moment.

Let me just describe it. Basically, we are using very large fonts, very clear san serif fonts. There are a couple of photos from previous face-to-face meetings of the group. We have very large text for background of this group; how to join; members, including name and affiliation; and reference material.

Currently, in terms of the reference materials, we have an ISOC 2002 paper on Internet accessibility; Digital Access at Vision Australia, a

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newsletter; and the Accessibility Working Group survey that the [inaudible] was made of staff in the run-up to ICANN 53 and we had Diane Schroeder giving the results of that or responding to that survey in Buenos Aires.

Then we also have Web resources with some text, some documents, and some video. It looks like we have one with Cheryl. I'm not sure. I just think that's Cheryl in the video.

But again, this is just initial drafting, initial formatting. I believe, Cheryl, that you would like to have one of the main tasks of this group in Dublin to really be looking at this page. Cheryl, over to you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you very much, Heidi. Yes, you've got that exactly right. In the absence of us having a more fully fleshed out pilot or beater to show everybody, I figured we may as well workshop the damn thing, so that's what we're going to do.

We obviously will discuss and agree on our established accessibility guideline principles, which we obviously do want, and I think it was Greg who suggest the use of the WCAG AA 2.0 guidelines as the minimum. But of course, we recognize that ICANN itself thank to Laura and her team are apparently about to start their own wiki accessibility project. Heidi, I'll come back to you on that in just a moment because I am hoping that we may have convinced them that getting our page as a bit of a scratchpad to make it as good as it can get within the wiki [inaudible] might be a good little sideline project for that activity, as well, so I'll come back to you on that in just a moment.

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Apart from the fact that it looks like I'm starting a Mexican wave, I think the visual aspects of all of this is important. We will be doing things. For example, one of the pieces of input that I wanted to mention to Heidi today is when she was presenting in her recent webinar in the capacity building session that we've just had, it struck me we clearly need to have our mission, which she copied and articulated into a presentation very effectively. I thought, "Good heavens. We really need to make sure we have our mission clearly stated in this space.

If Ariel could grab those words, and just to refreshen everybody's memory, let me see if I can remember what our mission is. It goes something like this: advancing, or to the purpose of advancing, accessibility issues within ICANN by reviewing and tackling particular needs of populations who face challenges to participate in ICANN's policy development work.

Now as is, I think that should go up because it's the established mission. But one of the things I will suggest that we may do in our Dublin meeting if we have sufficient time is start a conversation with our broader community-wide committee on any minor tweaking or revision of that mission that is desirable, of course.

That mission was put together specifically as ad hoc working group of the At-Large community. I suspect that in the main it will continue to serve us well. I certainly already having read it through a couple of times and just said it might want to dot an i and cross a t or change a word or two because, for example, we could perhaps argue that it's a little narrow by only [limiting] to participation in ICANN's policy development

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work, that being a quite tightly defined term. So there are a few little bits and pieces like that that we should start a conversation on.

It strikes me as well that that is the sort of conversation that we may be able to get going on our new wiki space with some sort of smart choices of plugin or tool. We in ICANN have to date underutilized some of the clever bits that the wiki allows us to have. Within the limitations of ensuring maximum accessibility and compliance with that best practice, but still under the good guidance of some smart wiki people who know how to put these things together and design things which are kind to eye, we may be able to actually start a seed or some sort of activity on the front page that allows us to have that conversation go not just on mailing lists but also reflected on the wiki site. Those are sorts of things that I'm looking forward to getting feedback from everybody on.

At this stage, Judith, we will not be allowing individual edits to the page for quite some time. In this very early situation of development, I wouldn't even venture to edit a page. I would suggest to the few people who have the means to edit the page – and I note actually Ariel was editing it literally while I had a quick look at it before the share page of her screen came up in the Adobe Connect room – yes, wikis will allow multiple editors to run at the same time, but I would like to keep a fairly tight control and funnel good ideas and even proposed and specific text through a single if not limited number of people so that we don't work over each other.

Heidi, would you suggest that we have a particular e-mail address or attention to you, me, and Ariel? How do you want to manage the specific input? I mean to me, we could always run it on the mailing list,



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but in the busy time coming up with Dublin ahead of us, I would suggest a particular area, the comments, if everyone can. If you're happy, Ariel, for us to put up our comments and proposals in the comments section of the page, then I'm happy for that as long as you or someone own the responsibility of looking to those comments and responding to them.

Judith has also mentioned to a lot of the amazing work that Joly over the years has collected. Rather than end up with our landing page as the world's longest shopping list of visual experience, I think we will start caving up fairly soon if not already and so have a hyperlink into repositories of really wonderful resources, such as that work that Joly has a collection of, and indeed others. I know Glenn and many others have also got great materials put together.

So, no, we won't let anyone edit it yet because we're trying to control and manage it fairly well just while we get it up and running. Obviously, ALT tags and descriptions will be going in as is appropriate to whatever images we put up. We may indeed have video that is up as a placeholder with the intention to improve that by having, for example, some video allows for a teletext or a text ticker to go through the screen area or near the screen area. Some excellent work I've seen which was video within video encouraged, for example, signing to be working in a small part of the screen while an ordinary presentation or video is running.

We don't want to limit ourselves to any particular design choice just yet, but we will work obviously with the communications team, the experts that they have access to, and of course our own technology task force to make sure that we have good examples of some best practice or

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opportunity on our page. Whilst some of us may have a preference for one modality or other, I am of the view that people who are wishing to explain to themselves or to understand the challenges and issues that accessibility matters bring to ICANN, that our page could be a place where some examples and some alternates and some opportunities could be visualized and sourced.

With that, I would like to ask now if Heidi might let us know. Oh, welcome, Laura. I should have done that earlier. I really appreciate the staff time of joining us today, knowing how very busy you all are before you pack up your desks and leave. I'd like to open the floor for some comments, but also Heidi or Laura, I'd like to know if we might be able to get a little helping hand along with the project for accessibility on the webpages that are starting now. I'm not sure who wants to grab that. Heidi or Laura?

HEIDI ULLRICH: I'm going to give it to Laura, and thank you very much, Laura, for joining.

LAURA BENGFORD: Yes. Hi, everybody, and apologies for being a couple minutes late.

We do have a resource, [Steve Ellison]. He's going to be at Dublin, and he is available and works with various community staff folks on how to put together a wiki and these pages. I see there's a great start and some photos and some information already on there. But we had in mind that he would spend some time during the meeting, which I think is on Tuesday, and we would help you push this along a little bit.

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CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much for that. I'm delighted to have that confirmed. That means that we will be able to work with the [room] under guided expertise on building ourselves a rather cool-looking, I think someone said, endeavor community workspace on the wiki. That's very exciting.

With a little reminder to everybody that the time for our meeting in Dublin will be Tuesday – you are correct, Laura – 20 October. Local time, which is UTC+1, is 09:45 to 10:45. That is a meeting time of UTC 08:45 to 09:45. The room has been allocated. We are in a room called Wicklow H1. I'm sure all that will become very clear once we get on the ground and start wandering around.

We've pretty much devoted the meeting to a deep-dive session on where as a group we would like to see our primary piece of resource or real estate be looking like and how it can develop.

The other thing I would like to do, as I said – and I'm not sure whether you were in the call then, Laura – is perhaps toward the end of that meeting in the last 10 or 15 minutes take a little bit of time to start seeding the audience to think about a possible review point for our existing mission. If we get all of that done, then we will have done a very good thing indeed.

I also would like to note that this particular meeting in Dublin, like all meetings with ICANN, is going to be horrendously busy. We have tried, and I want to thank staff, to pick a time that is reasonably able to be attended by people who have shown interest, but we will recognize that so many of us will be dragged out to other meetings as what is often considered more time-critical matters of policy or indeed this little

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accountability and transition work stuff seems to still be happening. Agendas can get pretty much shuffled at these meetings, and we do recognize that many people will be spread very thinly. But hopefully we'll have enough highly opinionated with experience talent in the room to help us build a good beater coming out of it.

Can I open the floor now for any feedback on what we've done so far and what our initial plans are? I really do keep looking at myself starting that Mexican wave in those images. I think I was actually applauding by wriggling my fingers in the traditional method of sign, but I do very much, I'm not sure whether I look like I'm about to slam the table or it could be pain or peril going on there. Apart from my amusement and recognizing that this will be in another level of development when you see it in Dublin, I'd like to open the floor for any comments.

And as silence resounds, which I have no problem with, I think then that you've all had an opportunity to recognize that Gunela had – and we did discuss it briefly at our last meeting – suggest that things like our SWOT and SMART tables need to be integrated and some of our original work needs to be included.

I would like to put to you, and it is very much my personal opinion and I'm certainly looking forward to taking the advice of experts on this, that whilst we should never lose all of this foundational work, we may in fact want to link to it and repurpose our key aspects from the work and have that as the highest information [inaudible] the information on our highest level pages in the tree of pages in the wiki. In other words, that we recopy – and by recopy, I mean writing copy – repurpose or rescript

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a good intro piece that will then take observers and workers within the committee to the deeper levels of the original work as required.

I think it's [inaudible] to think that everything we've ever done before should be [clearly] linked to or reflected or duplicated. I'm a great one for building on our history and making sure we don't lose it, but there's often savvier ways of presenting the information at the superficial level.

Hopefully, that has stirred a few of you up, and you might want to respond to my proposal that we do that. If not, you can all agree with me. I'm happy with that, as well. And we can work with the experts to make it so. Excellent. The rule of Cheryl is equivalent to the rule of law yet again in the ICANN world, which works for me. (That is a joke for the record. Well, maybe it isn't. No, that's a joke, as well.)

With an aim of having a delightfully short meeting today, I would like to take us to the next meeting aspect, which as we know we do have our Dublin face-to-face at the times we've allocated earlier. I will be adjusting agenda but only as we open the meeting. Our agendas had gone out for translation. We've also presented a high-level intro piece, a teaser piece, to encourage people to come into our meeting, which goes on the main schedule.

I think rather than try and say, well look, this is the advertised agenda but this is now what we're going to do, we'll stick with our advertised agenda, but I will ask for the indulgence of the group that shortly before, and here I would suggest about 15 minutes before the close of our meeting, we wrap up what will be our introductory work on the Cross-Community wiki space and then take a few minutes to discuss our

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mission. That should get us going for what I hope will be a vibrant continuing discussion as we go out of Dublin.

Now I would like to think that we can get at least two meetings in before the end of the calendar year, if possible, but I would be happy if we get one. Is this time of day still suitable for most of you? I'm assuming so, but I do note a fair number of apologies. That could be just as people are getting busy to either travel to Dublin, or their real work has dared to interfere with their ICANN volunteer life.

Should we, is my question to you, do another Doodle to establish a meeting plan or a set of times and set of proposed dates that we can run through November, depending on then it may or may not occur in December and through into our 2016 calendar, or do we just stick with this time? I'm not phased one way or the other on this, but it is something that I recognize we do need to visit from time to time.

Judith, I notice you're typing. If you'd like to speak on this matter though, please just go ahead.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN:

I think the time appears to be a good time, and I think it works in Australia. But I don't know if it also captures people like Siranush who is inactive too in our meeting. I don't know if we can have a time that works for the U.S., that works for Siranush, and that works for Gunela and yourself.

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CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thanks, Judith. I do remember that Gisella is one of the staff members who made this into almost a science if not an art. I'm pretty sure that this is in the time band that she has discovered in her experience allows more diversity of input compared to many other places. But I hear and – I can't even say your name, Judith. I am tired. Go ahead, please, Gisella.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you, Cheryl. With regards to timing, this timing isn't actually ideal. This was the only one that really fitted in because of the high volume of calls between Cheryl, the [inaudible] in Australia, many other calls, etc. I'm looking currently as I'm speaking to you at the world clock planning tool that we use to schedule meetings and to see the various time zones. For Siranush in Yerevan, 11:00 p.m., which would probably be a semi-decent time and that would be 6:00 a.m. for Sydney, is 19:00 UTC. Any later than 19:00 UTC, bearing in mind my apologies we are going to – let me just put this on 16 November as many places will be at the end of daylight savings – then 19:00 UTC on 16 November will be 23:00 for Yerevan and 6:00 a.m. for Sydney, which should work.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yeah, I think 19:00. It's usually in a band between 18:00 and 20:00 you can get most people, but if we can get the sweet spot on 19:00, I think that would be great. Noting that we will also, I predict, have intensive demand on many of us during November and December, I am happy to choose to only have a meeting in one month or the other. But I think if we do schedule one for November and December and then should the number of apologies be sufficiently large, then we can always cancel, I'd

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rather have a place in our calendars that we then decide to relinquish than try and get a place in calendars once they're all very full.

I might see if, Gisella, if you could try [inaudible] a day – preferably not my birthday in December and preferably to avoid the high days and holidays of many communities which occur not just in this December but also throughout Asia Pacific January and into early February has a number of things that happen which would limit the availability of, for example, some people out of Pacific or out of Southeast Asia to join. So there is more than just the lunar festival that goes on. There is more than just Chinese New Year. There is, in fact, a great many very important observances that go on in this time of year.

Let's see how we go. I think 14 December sounds like a plan and the week of 16 November is a plan. You could have a call at 6:00 a.m. on my birthday. You can all do a chorus of "Happy Birthday to Cheryl," that's fine. You can add 16<sup>th</sup> in. It's fine. I won't be too difficult to work with, I promise. A chorus of "Happy Birthday" to me will just be part of the agenda. Let's see how we go. I'd like perhaps if we can then, Gisella, have those dates confirmed out through to the Marrakech meeting, if possible.

That's a little bit of necessary administration. One of the reasons I wanted to get that administration done as an action item out of today's meeting is I would also like to be able to in our Dublin meeting advertise the dates and times of the next few meetings we will be having so that we can allow people to put them in their schedules and calendars and join us if they possibly can.



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With that, I'm going to now ask if there is any other business. Gisella, you still have your hand up. Are you waving at me?

GISELLA GRUBER:

No, sorry, Cheryl. I'm not waving at you. I made [inaudible].

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

See? I can't say your name and you like me in that Mexican wave moment in the pictures. I thought we might be waving at each other.

Alright, so before I close the meeting, I'm just going to ask for one more opportunity for anyone who wishes to bring forward any other business, or indeed make any statements regarding our work. And, yes, Marrakech is in March, Judith. Thank you.

Okay, well, we're light on the action items today. They really all come down to administering and finding out from Doodles what our meeting schedule will be and, of course, being prepared for some minor additions in our advertised agenda for Dublin and planning for a robust and productive face-to-face meeting in Dublin.

I would also like to suggest that we recognize in the Dublin meeting that shortly after the pilot for captioning will be going on that we would be expecting perhaps opportunity for other good and new ideas to be brought forward as future pilot schemes. I think working through pilot projects is a great way of helping the wider ICANN community and staff experience and come to terms with the benefits of designing for universal accessibility. To that end, we should probably start looking at where we should be going next.

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Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'm giving you back a certain amount of your lives today, which I know Alan and others will particularly appreciate. I would like to thank each and every one of you for taking time with us today. I'd particularly like to recognize the additional work that I know staff are putting in on helping us get our community wiki space organized and their ongoing support for, as it has been said many times and will be said again, baking matters of accessibility into the DNA of ICANN.

Thank you, all. See some of you in Dublin. Those of you who are traveling, travel safely. For the rest of you, we will have a virtual meeting world.

Bye for now. This call can now terminate.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**