

ICANN

**Moderator: Chantelle Doerksen
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8:28 am CT**

Coordinator: Recording have now started.

Chantelle Doerksen: Good morning, good afternoon and evening. Welcome to the BC outreach call on Thursday, March 23, 2017. On today's call, we have Omar Mansoor Ansari, Jimson Olufuye and Andrew Mack. We have no apologies and from staff we have myself, Chantelle Doerksen. I'd like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes. Thank you every so much and back to you Andrew.

Andrew Mack: Okay, thank you Chantelle. Thank you for the two people who are on the call and apologies that there are not more members of the team here. We're trying to do this on relatively short notice. Omar what I want to do is to start off by going and getting through the questions that I had about the proposal that you put forward. I recognize that's it's very soon and my guess is you probably already addressed some of these issues. And we'll try to keep this call as quick as possible, especially since I am the only member of the team that is on the call.

By and large, the proposal is very solid and it definitely addresses a need and a region that the BC has not been very active in the past. So what I wanted to understand is just some of the very- some of the specifics of it and I have gone through it in some detail. So I had three, basically three questions. The first is, is the number of the pieces that you were talking- that are in the proposal are listed in future tense. Thing like the translation into Farsi and inviting of people, have those things happened? I recognize that the even that the event is on Monday itself, Tuesday. Hello? Chantelle are you hearing me? Jimson are you hearing me?

Chantelle Doerksen: Hi, Andrew I can hear you. One moment let me ask the op about Omar's line. It looks like he should be about to hear you as well.

Andrew Mack: Okay.

Jimson Olufuye: Yes Andrew I can here you. This is Jimson. So I'll also to say that even though might not be directly in the outreach committee, but the hope of the outreach committee still with the work chain of the finance and operations vice chair.

Andrew Mack: I understand and so, I'm very happy that you're here on the all, for sure.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay.

Andrew Mack: So I think I had, that question as we were trying to get to Omar. I had- go ahead.

Jimson Olufuye: I think (Omar) that needs to be called again. Just so, Chantelle, can you call him again?

Chantelle Doerksen: Hi, Jimson. Yes, I can. One moment.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Chantelle.

Andrew Mack: Jimson, while we are waiting, how are you?

Jimson Olufuye: Yes, I'm okay. One of the things that the committee recommend to us, would be that an improvement on the (unintelligible) policy would be to on a deadline when the (unintelligible) is coming.

Andrew Mack: Truthfully, this is very irregular and I, under normal circumstances, would just say I'm sorry, you know, we can't approve it or we'll have to approve it ex-post which is what I was suggesting in my email. Is that it's not a problem to approve ex-post. But I do think that if we're going to, you know, you're the finance guy, right? If for future, I do think to give us enough time and also to make sure that we're, you know, we're being good stewards of the resource, we need to get thing well more than a week in advance, right? I mean I'm sure that this has been underway for a long time.

Jimson Olufuye: Yes, maybe three weeks, you know.

Andrew Mack: In support of outreach in Asia and I'm absolutely- and the event sounds like it's a good gig if we're talking about leveraging, you know, what 5 to 1 on our investment. But I still have an awful lot of questions about the program itself and what the BC funds are going for. And I think that's not an unreasonable thing. That's our job is to make sure that those, you know, that we can account for those funds, right? Otherwise, we're not doing our job.

Jimson Olufuye: So maybe while the committee works on the timeframe, we can actually deal with this because so - think Omar is on the line now.

Andrew Mack: Omar are you there?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: I'm here.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay.

Andrew Mack: Okay, got it. So Omar let me do this, because I know that line is difficult. I've got three questions that I have and or four questions that I have and then I'd like to give it to Jimson for any questions that he might have. And then we'll just let you talk, okay? And my guess is you're thought about these things, fair enough?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Sure.

Andrew Mack: And please tell me if I'm speaking too fast or if the line is not clear for whatever reason. I recognize that that can be a challenge. Okay? So, I'll try again. One of the questions that we had is that there are a lot of things in the presentation that, by the way which is very good, that are in the future tense. That there will be translation, that there will be speakers, that there will be these other things. First question is, how much of that has actually happened already given that we are almost at the time of the event? That was Question 1.

Question Number 2 is a good bit of the success of this event is dedicated on other co-financiers coming in. And you mentioned that there were used as part of a \$60,000 project. So I'm wondering did that money come in? So that we know that this is, you know, going to happen in a way that was intended. Or if not, what are the changes in the program since this was written?

Number 3 is what exactly is the BC funding? So what are the line items that we're funding because it doesn't come through very clearly on this. And then my last question was, if we are very successful, what will-- in your opinion-- be the output for the BC in terms of membership? And especially, I thinking about the challenges that we're facing in terms of sustainability. So those are my four questions. And Jimson, I don't know if you had any that you would like to add.

Jimson Olufuye: Well I think that is (unintelligible). Sorry. That's a mouthful. So I think remark on response of this one.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Sure. I'll respond to your questions, Andrew and then you might have more questions.

Andrew Mack: Of course, no problem. The call is to make the program better, right?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Yes. The bigger program is the internet governance for Afghanistan which we started with the preparation months back. And we have like thought of the logistics, taken care of the speakers are there. The program is all the detail is booked. That's covered. Translation simultaneous in document translation, that's been covered. We have got about (2 or 4) for the very good hotel that's (close) for the speakers and participants from the providences.

About 300 local participants who applied to a district through our website, (IGS.af). That's in place. But we will be making a selection of about 150 participants and there will be 150 invited guests. (The day zero)'s going to be internet governance academy. Day1 and 2 which is 29th, 30th March is going to be the (IGF)s. So the opening ceremonies is going to happen on the 29th in the morning. And there will be breakout sessions in the afternoon and

breakout sessions on Day 2 on 30th March, in the morning with a closing ceremony in the afternoon of March 30th.

Most of the logistics are covered. We are charged for the food, for lunches and dinners. There might be some evening activities and that's not yet covered. At this point, it includes (CLDP) which is the Center for Commercial Law group if that's Commercial Law group (program). It's part of the US Department of Commerce. And Facebook has just confirmed some contribution. ICANN is putting some small funding and there's yes IGF say the IGF support association is also putting some small funding. They have like about \$2,000 for the national IGFs.

So these are done. We wanted, you know, we actually wanted to have a (BC) workshop. With a lunch or dinner for the business community. And that where we, you know, proposed in our application for the outreach committee. So we are hoping that we could bring number of businesses here locally in Afghanistan and also those who are connected from the region via with more participation. Hello?

Andrew Mack: So Omar a question about that. You're talking very much in the future tense, like you are hoping to and you- I mean this is going to be happening next week. Have people been invited?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Yes, people are invited. People are invited. Yes, the 300 participants we have on our list, 150 of these are only selected. And that includes the business, entrepreneurs. But we haven't invited them for the dinner which we are planning to do with the BC. For the event, a workshop we have it on the agenda. Marilyn's going to be speaking there but you also invited if anybody else would like to join Marilyn and I to speak about

ICANN in the business constituency. You're more than welcome to join us on this.

So that's the workshop bit which is part of the ICANN, sorry the IGF Afghanistan program. But the dinner is not because we're waiting for your confirmation and approval of the funding so that we could arrange that as well.

Andrew Mack: Okay so help me to understand the- what exactly you're asking the BC to pay for. What are the- help me to understand the line items. How much for dinner? How much for the different things? You know, it wasn't clear from the presentation we got and, you know. That's our role is to make sure that we're providing you the right support.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: I can share with you a breakdown of- we requested of a total of \$5,000. But I can send you via email a breakdown of the- I don't have it right now with me. But I'll be happy to send that in next 20 minutes so you can take a look.

Andrew Mack: Okay, I think that's, kind of, hard for us to review the proposal without it. We are, I think, as the BC, we prioritize outreach to Asia. This seems like a reasonable program. I guess what I'm trying to figure out is Number 1, what are we doing and how are we spending the money? And Number 2, is how many people will we actually be reaching who are in potential BC members of in the business community more broadly? Make sense?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Yes. So that- the number of people who we'll be reaching is 200 attendees who are physically taking part at the events. And there will be around 100 to 200 people who are remotely connected to the event. So that's a broader audience. But for the businesses, we are planning and invited about

50 entrepreneurs to the workshop. And that's the number of people who we'll have on the agenda as well.

Andrew Mack: Okay, that make sense. And how many people did you expect for the dinner?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: The dinner, around the same number of people, but if we give it a range it's going to be 30 to 50 people. But I will see the details in our calculations that we did. And I will share that with the breakdown I'm going to send you.

Andrew Mack: Okay, that's very helpful. That would have been very helpful in the proposal itself and frankly, that will tell us- that would make it a lot easier for us to review. In terms of the long-term, in terms of the sustainability of this, what's your sense in- is there a likelihood or a possibility of getting other members from the Afghanistan business community to join the BC? And if so, you know, how many of them do we think we're going to be looking for? Is this mostly aimed at the local community? What's your sense about the longer-term value for us as the BC?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Of course, goal is to create awareness among local business in Afghanistan. The technician is the only member, not only from Afghanistan but I believe in the whole Central Asia, BC would have another member. Except for, I've seen some participation from Kazakhstan. But it's a very big region and the businesses are growing. The economy is developing. But they do not have information about the business constituency. So this will create an awareness in Afghanistan particularly. In the five telecom operators, there was about 60 licensed ISPs. They're over 200 IT companies, businesses who do the domain names and website development, content and different other issues. But except for technician, none of other companies know about how they can get involved with the ICANN and very specifically with the BC.

So I'm hoping we'll receive between two to five applications following the BC activities here in Afghanistan.

Andrew Mack: That sounds fantastic. Now you mentioned the large telecoms and the ISPs. We know from past experience, that if it's hard to get people to participate on an ongoing basis if they're- they don't have the resources and the time. ISPs and telecom companies tend to have a little bit more bandwidth, pardon the pun. Have you gotten any sense that they would be able to attend?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: From the telecoms?

Andrew Mack: Yes, from some of the larger ones, the telecoms and the ISPs. I'm just curious because they tend to mirror some of the people who are currently in the BC.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: The line wasn't very clear, Andrew, if you can please repeat.

Andrew Mack: Not at all, sorry about that. I guess the question is, you mentioned that there were a number of entrepreneurs that you were inviting. Are some of the ISPs and some of the larger telecom companies, are they also planning to attend?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Yes, they will be attending the meeting. And that's the whole purpose. We would like to divide the business into telecoms, ISPs, the IT service providers.

Andrew Mack: Okay.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: They'll all be invited into the meeting. I can give you like a grouping of the invitees. So that you have a better idea of who the participants are going to be.

Andrew Mack: Sounds super. Jimson, what questions, if any, do you have:

Jimson Olufuye: Yes, Omar are you planning to support some of your participants outside Kabul or outside Afghanistan? Is there any plan?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Yes, we have invited three businesses from outside Kabul, one from Jalalabad, one from Mazar-i-Sharif, and one from Iraq. And these are after Kabul, these are the three very active regions in terms of economic activities and related to IT.

Jimson Olufuye: Will this (funding) also apply to supporting them or something?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: For the tickets, we might be able to use some funding, but for the accommodations, that's already covered through the other sponsor funding. So we have got 10 rooms, 3 of them will be given to the businesses who are participating.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay, so I'm okay.

Andrew Mack: Yes? Anything else Jimson on the finance side in terms of, obviously, it would be- we would need to see the budget Omar just so that we understand what we're paying for, right? It isn't the amount is left in question, but I think we need to have the accountabilities that we can take to our finance and our board people. So if you could.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Sure.

Andrew Mack: Shoot us that, that should be very helpful. On the finance side, Jimson, any other questions? This is well within our budget, I think. So I don't think that's the issue, correct?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Of course, let me know how we should report back. In activity reporting and financial report and we'll be happy to provide you with all the details. But there is one other activity. That's printing some local promotional material like a 2-pager, which will mostly focus on case studies from our region and how technician is playing a role and Omar Ansari for instance in the BC. How I joined the BC. So that kind of a case study might attract attention in how developing or least developed country as, you know, getting involved in a global policy making processes.

So that's going to be part of the activity, the printing. We have been working on the- on a draft for the 2-page. And most probably we'll do this in three languages; English and the two official languages of Afghanistan, Pashto and Dari. That will be circulated among the participants.

Andrew Mack: Fantastic, so I mean I think two things jump into my mind. The biggest question obviously is sustainability, right? It is difficult in sense to participate in the in-person meetings in ICANN and it is especially difficult for people who come from, you know, from traditionally less developed countries. And so obviously, anything that we can learn from your experience about why you got involved, how you got involved, and who else wants, you know, how else we can potentially cover funding gaps and things like that? I think that that's tremendously useful for us. And interesting for the BC because we do wish to encourage much more geographical diversity. And we need to do it with an eye towards sustainability. So absolutely that would be helpful.

In terms of the reporting back, yes important of us to get a financial account and it is also important for us to get a sense of what was accomplished. And importantly, from my perspective, what are the questions that people are asking? What is their level of engagement? What is their level of background? To try to get a sense of how we might use the BC's experience to, you know, to bring more people in and to connect more between older BC members and new BC members. Make sense?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Sure, we'll properly document that and share it with you.

Andrew Mack: I'm speaking now from the perspective of the BC. I am guessing that we do not need a long report. What we need is one that has a lot of insights in it. And, you know, some numbers about impact and importantly, Omar I think the big challenge is going to be where do we go from here? So we will look forward to any recommendations that you might have as part of this.

So what? I think it's just the two of us on the call, Jimson. Is there anything else that you'd like to ask or suggest or anything like that?

Jimson Olufuye: Well, like I think the idea is okay. The more we're able to reach out the better. It's only now that we're an empowered community. And (unintelligible) hinges on the broad membership. So and, contact with our member. So if I was at ICANN 58 and it was a good. So based on that, I would (Marilyn coming there). So I think we need that to be able to do a good job. So we just, as we ask for some information, so Omar try and provide us information for proper accountability as Andrew mentioned. So with that, I think (these things are in purview) of financial ability for the FY '17.

Andrew Mack: So I'm sorry. The line's a little bit (thin). Tell me if I got this correctly. That we'd like to see the numbers, but in principle we support the activity,

absolutely. And it sounds like something we should- I think we definitely need to push it through to the other BC member, yes, to get their inputs very quickly. But I don't anticipate a lot of problem with that. Am I reading you correctly, Jimson?

Jimson Olufuye: Yes, that make sense. So if you can send it in today or tomorrow, then I'm sure it's something that can be tackled on the list. The issue can be talked on the list.

Andrew Mack: I agree So Omar then what we will do is we will look. We will, for the numbers from you, okay. And commit to reviewing them as soon as we get them. And Chantelle, we will push our conversation to the list and if you can help us get in touch with Lawrence that would be really helpful, okay?

Jimson Olufuye: That sounds good.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: So what I need to provide you is the breakdown, who are the invitees, their grouping and the benefits like the number.

Andrew Mack: So...

((Crosstalk)).

Andrew Mack: The exact invitees are less important I think from the perspective of the BC. What is important are two things. Number 1 is where you think this is going to go, right? What do you think we're going to get out of it, which is not as well articulate- well explored in the request? And then the other thing is what, exactly, are you wanting to spend BC money on, okay? So this dinner, how many people? How much money? You know, just what does the money go

for because that's what the BC executive committee is going to ask us to explain. Fair enough?

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Okay, sure. Would you like me to update the proposal and resubmit or can I do this in the body of an email?

Andrew Mack: Omar whatever is easiest. I don't it- if you send it in an email, that's fine. Most important thing for us is just that we've done our fiduciary duty and, you know, appropriate diligence.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Okay, great.

Andrew Mack: In the future if we're doing something like this to give more than one week would be helpful for review.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Okay, sure. I'm sorry it was a short notice, but I've been to ICANN 58 and before that the (unintelligible).

Andrew Mack: I understand, I also recognize that you've probably been planning this for quite some time. And had we known a little bit earlier, it would have been less of a strain on people. That's all, no problem.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Yes, thank you so much. And do you think we'll be able to get an approval for this meeting?

Andrew Mack: I think- we have to see the number, Omar. That's the only thing, but subject to those coming in and looking reasonable, I am supportive of the idea, definitely.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Okay, great.

Andrew Mack: So yes. So let's just tell us how you're going to spend the money. That's the big thing that we need to know and I think that that's it. Jimson, to your earlier point when we were on the phone, I think probably need to reinforce the polices or create somewhat stronger policies around when we are able to accept a request. And at what point a request should come before the outreach committee. But we can take that offline.

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: Avoid the last-minute need to make decisions of this sort, you know? That sound good to everyone? Jimson?

Jimson Olufuye: Yes, it's okay.

Andrew Mack: Cool, okay. Omar thank you very much for your time. I think, Chantelle, unless there's anything else, I think we could probably quite a little early.

Chantelle Doerksen: Thanks Andrew. I will go ahead and circulate the recording and the transcript on the outreach list just so we have that as a record as well.

Andrew Mack: Sounds good.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: That's good. Thank you so much for your time.

Andrew Mack: And good luck on the event.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Thank you. Have a good day.

Andrew Mack: Thank you, cheers.

Chantelle Doerksen: Thanks, everyone. Goodbye. Operator, you may now stop the recording.

Omar Mansoor Ansari: Goodbye.

Chantelle Doerksen: Please remember to disconnect all remaining lines and enjoy the rest of
your day.

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