PANAMA – Welcome and Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award Presentation
Monday, June 25, 2018 – 08:30 to 09:00 EST
ICANN62 | Panama City, Panama

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Welcome, everyone. We are about to start in one minute.

Welcome, everyone! We're about to start, if you could please start being quiet, please. The Welcome Ceremony is starting, please. Thank you. Yeah! I got clapped. Okay!

So, the Welcome Ceremony is starting and it's my pleasure to introduce David Olive, Senior Vice President for Policy Development Support.

DAVID OLIVE: Good morning, and welcome to Panama City, Panama, for ICANN 62, our Policy Forum. We are very excited to be here in the Latin American and Caribbean region for this meeting and we thank our local hosts for the warm welcome they have given us.

It is important to note that ICANN meetings, that at ICANN we promote a safe and harassment-free environment for all during the sessions. The ICANN ombudsman wants to remind us to follow the ICANN acceptable standards of behavior and the community anti-harassment probably.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Our opening session this morning is a very special one. We will hear remarks from Keith Drazek, a community representative; Cherine Chalaby, ICANN Chair; Goran Marby, President and CEO; and our honored guests today.

This is the fifth Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award which was started in London at ICANN 50. It is an invaluable effort led by the community and a selection panel comprised of representatives from the various supporting organizations and advisory committees appointed by their leadership to identify follow community members each year who follow and embrace the values represented in this award.

The criteria talks about, one, a demonstrated ability to work across the community lines with an aim of consensus-building and collaboration. Two, the person should be a facilitator of dialogue in a fair and collegial manner, engaging people from various backgrounds, cultures, and interests. Finally, the third criteria, demonstrated contributions of time spent supporting the multi-stakeholder model through the voluntary service in various working groups and other activities.

The community selection panel this year was comprised of eight members, some of them are here on my left, who reviewed the nominee against those three criteria.

So, without further ado, I'd like to introduce Keith Drazek, the selection spokesperson, to present this award in 2018. Keith, please.

KEITH DRAZEK: Thank you very much, David, and thanks also to my co-panelists. If everybody over there could raise your hand, give a wave, thank you.

Good morning and welcome to Panama City and to the official opening of ICANN 62. My name is Keith Drazek and I'm here this morning representing the Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award panel. It is a special honor to also be here representing you, the ICANN community, and to have been selected by my co-panelists to formally announce and recognize the recipient of the 2018 ICANN Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award.

The Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award recognizes those ICANN participants who have deeply invested in consensus-based solutions and in the importance of ICANN's multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance.

The first Ethos Award was given in 2014, so today is our fifth year of such important recognition.

As was announced by ICANN yesterday, the Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award Selection Panel has awarded the 2018 Ethos Award

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to our friend and colleague, Stephane Van Gelder, who in March left us far too soon at the age of 51.

While Stephane's passing is a great loss to the many people in the ICANN community who had the pleasure to work and interact with him, today's award is not intended to be a memorial. Instead, it is a recognition and a celebration of the unique contributions Stephane gave to us through his service, his personal engagement, and his commitment to ICANN and our multi-stakeholder community.

In a moment, I will speak briefly about the Selection Panel's deliberations in reaching our decision, but first I would like to remind everybody of the process set out for all Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award recipients.

All candidates are evaluated by a panel of community members appointed by the chairs of each supporting organization and advisory committee, using the award criteria David outlined earlier.

For those who have been around ICANN for many years, there can be no question that Stephane lived each of those criteria and did so in a constructive, collegial, and engaging manner.

The 2018 Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award Panel received a total of 16 nominations across multiple supporting organizations and

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advisory committees, and from April until the end of May, the panel met five times and conducted a careful and deliberate review of all candidates and the nomination statements.

One unique point that stood out from the beginning of our review was that Stephane received nominations from multiple groups and individuals. In fact, he received nominations or endorsements from at least ten different community groups. And forgive me for using acronyms here – RSG, NCSG, ISPCP, GAC, ALAC, EURALO, APRALO, IPC, NomCom, and from several individuals and community leaders in their personal capacity. It was an unprecedented level of support and something that we quickly recognized as a panel as being special.

The breadth and depth of cross-community support spoke directly to Stephane's impact in living each of the award's criteria, breaking down silos, working across multiple groups, engaging in a collegial manner, and a record of substantive and meaningful contributions over many years.

So, over the course of our five calls and extensive e-mail exchanges, the panel reached the conclusion that, while other candidates also met these criteria, Stephane's contributions were distinct and the level of support from the ICANN community was undeniable.

I'd like to take a moment to review some of the highlights of Stephane's contributions to ICANN and to all of us as community members.

Stephane served on the GNSO Council from 2008 through 2012 as an elected representative of the Registrar's Constituency. Stephane served as Vice Chair of the GNSO Council in 2010 and was elected and served two consecutive terms as chair of the GNSO Council in 2011 and 2012.

Stephane made significant contributions to ICANN and was a strong and respected community leader. During his tenure as GNSO Chair, Stephane oversaw and shepherded – and bear with me here, because there's a lot – completion of an extensive update of the GNSO's operating procedures, establishment of the DNS Security & Stability Analysis Working Group jointly – importantly, jointly – with ALAC, ccNSO, and NRO. Completion of the Fast Flux Post Expiration Domain Name Recovery and Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy Part B Policy Development Processes and the Joint ccNSO-GNSO Internationalized Domain Name Working Group. Again, a lot of cross-community engagement, a lot of working and breaking down silos.

Launch of the IRTP Part C thick WHOIS and locking of domain names subject to uniform dispute resolution policy proceedings

PDPs, and the completion of the Applicant Guidebook for 2012 new gTLD program and the launch of the program.

I just want to take a personal note here and say not all of those things were very sexy work. Not all of those projects were receiving a lot of high-level interest or support. But, this is where the work gets done in ICANN is in the working groups and in the councils, and Stephane was a strong, strong contributor over a period of time on all of these issues. I think that was one thing that really stood out for us as a panel.

Stephane was also a long-time contributor to the ICANN Nominating Committee beginning in 2013, serving as chair in 2015, and Associate Chair in 2017. Again, a very important component of our ICANN community and how we appoint board members and liaisons and participants in the various SOs and ACs.

In summary, and to wrap up, Stephane was a well-respected and much-liked member of not only the GNSO but of the broader ICANN community. He was admired for his passion, his fairness, his ability to find the best in people, and his true gift for uniting people.

All of this strongly supports Stephane as ICANN's 2018 Multi-Stakeholder Ethos Award recipient. Please join me in a round of applause to celebrate this well-earned recognition.

Thank you, and with that, I'd like to invite to the podium Cherine Chalaby, Chair of the ICANN Board. Thank you, Cherine.

CHERINE CHALABY: Thank you, Keith, for such fitting tribute to Stephane. And to everyone here this morning, I want to thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to be with us as we bestow an important award on a unique and special member of our community who looms large, even in his passing.

Stephane's impact on the ICANN community and on many of us individually cannot be overstated. He was a wonderful colleague, a great collaborator, and a good friend.

Stephane was a warm and welcoming person, and throughout his career, he has always been a larger-than-live personality. We are honored to have Julie, his wife, with us today. While I wish we are honoring Stephane under very different circumstances, I can think of no better way to pay tribute to him than with an award for outstanding contributions to ICANN. There is no one more deserving.

Dear Julie, it is hard to know what to say at times like this. Words somehow seem so inadequate and so ineffectual, considering what you must be going through. I hope you know that as you

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mourn this great loss in your life that we, too, are mourning with you.

Now I'd like to say a few words in French. [speaking French]

Finally, on behalf of all of us here at ICANN, please accept our sincere condolences. Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. You are in our thoughts and our prayers. Thank you.

Now I'd like to introduce Goran Marby. Thank you.

GORAN MARBY: For me, Stephane, we never talked about ICANN. He was a member of a very exclusive club. Really, really [inaudible]. The first time we met, we talked about cars and motorbikes and we continued to talk about cars and motorbikes every time we met. I'm going to miss those conversations.

But, his way of doing things is really an embodiment of the ICANN family. We argued, we discussed, and we came together. Sometimes the discussions are hard, but Stephane had unique capabilities of seeing beyond the ordinance and seeing the person behind it. That is the true value of the ICANN family. We do argue. We do have different opinions. We work hard and sometimes the arguments were harsh, but the ability to look beyond the argument and see the person is also important in the ICANN family.

There are many truths of this. I want to do personal [inaudible]. As some of you know, for the last year, my family has gone through a couple of tragedies. My brother passed away coming into the South American meeting and my mother passed away closely to the San Juan meeting. Many of you have reached out and I would like to thank you for that. That has meant a lot to me and my family.

This is now the first day of the policy meeting. Some of you have been here for several days, which is amazing and it shows your commitment to this important event.

The ICANN family wouldn't exist without you because you all are family. You're the ones who, for the next couple of days, is going to do very important decisions going forward. I would like to us to do that and continue in Stephane's spirit. Let's make sure that we have hard discussions, but see the people beyond the discussion.

With that, I would like to hand over to Julie.

JULIE VAN GELDER: Thank you for having me here and thank you for saying what you said. It was perfect. And thank you, all, for being here.

Stephane, what are you having me do? What am I supposed to say to people who slightly change the course of the word on this

daily basis? What can be a mindful message to them on your behalf?

First, what do you think about me offering them to boo me collectively when I get too emotional? It's **[21:57 inaudible]** will make me laugh, and it's probably something you would wish to do many times in an ICANN meeting. So, you can go ahead if you like.

I would like to tell them how happy you were that morning when we crossed the Swiss border riding our motorbikes and achieving one lifelong dream of yours of road-tripping around the [Thailand lakes] in the spring sunshine. That was a little cheesy, but it's true.

I should probably thank them on your friends' and family's behalf, on Mila and Ethan's behalf, for providing an endless topping of teasing you. They loved to impersonate you where you were so out of step with the holiday atmosphere in South of France, with your conference calls by the pool in English, probably. Some people know that here. And how many times you were called by friends the boss of the universal Internet of the word when someone was asking what you were actually doing here, because it was so long to explain.

I would have liked to thank them on my behalf because I calculated that with all the time you spent abroad there was at

least two or three night shifts he couldn't complain about, and that is priceless in a [debate] with you. What should I say to them? Should I talk about you? They already know how dedicated you were. Efficient but kind, witty but respectful, open-minded, tolerant, modern. They might not know that Star Trek was actually an inspiration of yours. You practiced what you preached. You were yourself the result of a mix of cultures and origins, not only French and English, but from cultures all over the world. So you were interested in personal competences and personality. Differences were either a non-event or a potential when you were talking to someone.

Should I speak in your name? I am afraid I'm not sure to equal your famous sense of humor that made up for at least 80% of your verbal communication and [inaudible] anyone who met you for the first time and got so many people addicted because you actually make people feel important by teasing them.

What are you having me do, to stand in front of all those people that I don't know? But it's a logical course of events because you were so warm and calm and protective, and you help reveal the strength and skills in people. You did that for me. You did that for so many people, even after you were gone. And God knows, it was needed.

This year is going to be challenging for ICANN stakeholders in their ability to build consensus, probably as any year. What a huge waste is you not being here. Oh boy, you will be missed. But I'm so happy that you are also celebrated.

One of your coworkers described you as a mix of an architect and a craftsman in the way you were working. One of your friends described you as a self-centered guy who loved people. To me, you were the definition of dedication, as I saw with my own eyes. You put no ego in all this. You were proof that one can be proud to contribute in changing the course of the work, keeping in mind at all times that you do it for a cause that is much bigger than you.

That is what I would like to say to the people of ICANN, that if you stay here with them, if they keep you around, they can take up any challenge easily and they can make the waste stop here and now. Fly his flag, guys.

[applause]

DAVID OLIVE: While this concludes our morning session, we would also like to invite you this evening at the community reception to continue this discussion with Julie and our friend, Stephane Van Gelder, in his memory and in celebrating his life. Please, go on to your

sessions and see you tonight for the community reception. We welcome you and we thank you for your time. Thank you.

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