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DUBLIN – GAC Thursday Morning Sessions  
Thursday, October 22, 2015 – 10:30 to 12:00 IST  
ICANN54 | Dublin, Ireland

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Okay. So welcome back, everybody. This is our last formal meeting day of this meeting, or half day, or half of a half day. But nevertheless, we have a number of important issues on the table here.

But before we go with our next agenda item, which is the meeting structure, I would quickly like to raise the attention to you that the CCWG has actually been discussing a timeline, and this morning we've had something on the screen in the CCWG meeting that is of relevance for the GAC with regard to how to continue our work and our input into this process.

I don't have the slide. I don't know whether anybody has the slide that they put up on the screen in the last meeting, but the key element is that working backwards, I think the deadline -- correct me if I'm wrong, because I'm telling you this out of my head -- the deadline for the final proposal that will need to go to the Board, I think, or to the NTIA, the deadline is 22nd of January. And there is a -- and then working backwards -- or let me start from the other end. They are now -- will now be

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working on a third proposal that will come out sometime in November. There will be a public comment period of 35 days that will last until sometime in December. I don't have the exact dates now, but that doesn't really matter. And then we will receive a staff summary the 24th of Christmas -- no, maybe the end of the public comment period -- there's another deadline, New Year's Eve. I forget what it is.

But the essence is that it is foreseen that those SOs and ACs would need to have intersessional meetings that between January 5 and this deadline of January 22, that there -- that would be the time.

So we may, at a later stage, have to consider whether or not we should hold an intersessional meeting. And then we would need to decide whether we do it alone as the GAC or we try to do it somehow in parallel or together with others that may also need - - other SOs and ACs that may also need intersessional meetings.

I don't want to spend too much time on this now because it's too early to say. I think we will need to have that discussion once we have received the third revised proposal, and then discuss this sometime in November and try to decide then whether or not we need an intersessional meeting. And if so, how and where we will be going to do that. But please just note that you may need to keep some time in your calendar in January between 5 and 22

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for an intersessional meeting. And, yeah, the rest will be decided later. But I think that's the key.

Maybe, Tom, do you have something to add or correct me about the dates or the process?

Thank you.

TOM DALE:

Thank you, Thomas.

Just a couple of things. My understanding is that, firstly, yes, the report -- the third report from the CCWG will be sent to chartering organizations on the 15th of November, and then the public comment periods that you mentioned would start.

The IGF, of course, is meeting in Brazil during November, and there is, I believe -- yeah, there is agreement on the CCWG attempting to meet face to face during the IGF meeting. So those of you who are attending the IGF may like to monitor that development. And there will be an opportunity to participate in further CCWG discussions, and secretariat will keep you updated about all of these matters.

And finally, as regards the possibility of a intersessional meeting between -- sometime between the 7th and the 22nd of January, as Thomas said, there are different approaches that have not yet

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been settled on how that might happen, but that's not a meeting of ICANN, and it's not a meeting of all SOs and ACs, necessarily. It's a meeting of the chartering organizations for this working group, of which the GAC is one. And there is some discussion about whether it's better for the chartering organizations to meet intersessionally together to exchange views, because that would be their final opportunity to settle on all the report, or whether they may wish to meet individually. That has not yet been discussed, but I'm sure it will be the subject of discussion online over the next week or so.

And finally, the -- it was suggested in the CCWG meeting that rather than the CCWG running their usual Webinars and information sessions for their next report, that individual chartering organizations may wish to run their own Webinars and invite the CCWG co-chairs to that rather than have a centralized briefing arrangement that would -- if that is pursued, then the GAC would have the option of conducting its own Webinar for GAC members on the next proposal. And if that happens, obviously the support staff and the secretariat would do their best to make sure that's a meaningful experience for you. But that hasn't yet been confirmed either.

So those are the things, as Thomas said, that are likely to happen with this revised timeline. As soon as the details are

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formally announced by the CCWG, then we will be distributing that information for you and providing you with an update.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Tom.

Actually, yes, the IGF may be used by the CCWG for a formal or informal gathering of them and try to continue their work.

We may also use the IGF, certainly not for something formal but maybe for informal consultations among those who will be present, among those governments who will be present at the IGF, but knowing that can't be a formal thing because we cannot all be present. So that may help us.

We will have to see, of course, on how we try and build on the consensus that we reached last night on elements relevant to future work on stress test 18. I think the door is open now, and we'll have to do all our best to get something constructive out of this, and that means probably still a lot of work. But, yeah, let's keep on brainstorming on how to best organize ourselves in a way that we will be in line with these timeline -- this timeline that has been presented now by the CCWG.

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I'll stop here unless you have questions, then of course you may ask them. But I think that will be communicated to you also in a paper form after this meeting so that you have it in black-and-white and can share it with your colleagues in capital, and so on.

I don't see any questions or comments on the timeline. So with this, I would like to move to the agenda item that we actually have on our -- in our agenda, which is number 30, which is the new ICANN meeting structure. We've already started to discuss this some time ago. We've had several exchanges, including at this meeting, with other parts of the ICANN community. So let me give the floor to Tracey who will sum up where we are from our side, also in cooperation with Ana Neves from Portugal who has been our GAC member who was in some interaction with other SOs and ACs about this.

Thank you. Tracey.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, Chair.

Firstly, Portugal is the lead for this item, and she apologizes profusely for not being able to be here. This particular session clashes somewhat, unfortunately, with the IGF -- ICT. She's presenting the Portuguese ICT conference plenary session right now as we speak, so she is not even able to dial in remotely.

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She's literally needing to be in two places at once, so she's asked me to do this on her behalf.

As everybody knows, and we have spoken about it before, from 2016, so from our very next meeting, we are in the new ICANN meeting structure. That structure has changed, so it will be a six-day meeting for Meeting A with the focus on the SOs and the ACs reporting back to the broader ICANN community, a four-day meeting for Meeting B with outreach as the focus on day one. These are the ICANN approaches. And the focus on the SOs and ACs doing internal work. There are no public forums and no Board meetings with SOs and ACs, between the Board and the SOs and ACs, planned for that meeting, so it's a heavily constricted meeting focused on actual policy work. And the C meeting, which is a seven-day meeting focused on outreach and cross-community work, during which ICANN will present two public forums.

In Buenos Aires, Portugal presented a draft proposal for how the GAC meetings might be reconstructed in order to fit this new ICANN structure, and you provided feedback.

The GAC proposal has since been updated with that feedback, and we have also looked at what the GNSO and the SSAC are doing with respect to their meetings. They're the people we have been able to get information from to date.

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We're also meeting in the next few weeks with other members of the broader ICANN community, including ccNSO and ALAC, who we had very short, ten-minute meetings with this week, but we're having to have a longer teleconference with after this to make sure any conflicts are minimized and any commonalities are maximized so we can make the meeting as complementary as possible to one another.

So the proposal that's been worked up since Buenos Aires is here on these three slides. There's three slides, one for Meeting A, one for Meeting B, and one for Meeting C, which I present here on Portugal's behalf.

Today I would like to take your feedback and comments, and we will take any further feedback and comments and feed them into further changes, which we will then consult further with those other ACs and SOs before putting together a final proposal for the GAC, which you'll need to look at intersessionally because, of course, Meeting A is, indeed, your next meeting in Marrakech.

So Meeting A is up there on the screen. You can see that it isn't that much different to the current meeting structure that we have. I don't think I need to read through it. I think everybody can see it there. I'm not sure if you want to make any comment on this particular slide.



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United States.

UNITED STATES:

Thank you, Tracey.

Just an observation, if you will, not a concern but an observation that might verge on a concern. The convening of GAC working group sessions on the open Monday can be problematic because there are other sessions that are community-wide that a lot of us either need to attend or would like to attend.

So I think it would be useful -- I know we didn't have time to discuss this at this meeting, but ACIG has done yet another extremely helpful briefing paper about working group work methods. And I think to the extent possible, it would be useful to conduct the majority of the work online, intersessionally, and, if necessary, use Saturday morning as you have suggested. But I would prefer that we emphasize that versus the Monday. I think it creates some scheduling conflicts.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, United States.

Any other comments or questions before we move to looking at Meeting B?

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Well, just to say that I think the U.S.'s point is very well noted because we've also experienced this challenge this time, and it's not the first.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you.

Next slide. Thank you.

So this is the biggest change. This is the four-day format. As I mentioned earlier, ICANN proposed no public forums, no board meetings. They won't be meeting with us or with any other SO or AC. And they would like the SOs and ACs to concentrate on their own work.

There are two things that I wanted to highlight in the proposal for this one that you may or may not want to comment on. The first one is on day four. There's some time there on day four for communicate advice drafting. Now, that's because in the previous version of this that we presented in Buenos Aires, we suggested that there not, in fact, be a communicate coming out of the B meeting, and the feeling of the room was that you were not happy with that and you wanted us to include something for

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communiqué, so we have done so. I don't know if that's still the feeling of the room or not.

The second thing that I wanted to draw to your attention is the proposal for a cross-community town hall style meeting day on the first day. And this is something that we've had very early discussions with other SOs and ACs, but we haven't fully got agreement to with them yet, and that's the purpose of some of the meetings in the next couple of weeks.

Comments? Questions?

United States.

UNITED STATES:

Thank you again.

I guess we will know more once you have conducted the subsequent consultations, but I wonder, if you have a town hall meeting on day one, would that agenda be presumably set by the SO and AC chairs after consultation? So that was one question.

And then I guess -- and apologies, I have not tracked this as closely as others. So I do apologize if I'm burdening people with revisiting questions, but the plenary session on Tuesday, I think

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it's important for us to know in advance what we would be focusing on.

Quite honestly, I'm very intrigued by what the GNSO might be proposing for us so that we would actually maybe switch day four with day two. And if we are going to be engaging with the GNSO in the PDPs, then I guess I have a question as to whether day two might be useful to have -- depending on the status and the timelines for these pending PDPs, the ones that are currently ongoing, is that perhaps a day where we would have a face to face so that we can understand where they are coming from better and they could ask questions of the GAC?

I think that is what we have never been able to manage, is a face to face that actually is a back and forth as opposed to the presentations.

So I guess it's a set of questions, and I'm happy to follow up in writing if that would be more helpful. But I'm sure we will have more insight after you all have your exchanges with the other SO and AC chairs, and maybe we can choose from a list of options, perhaps. That's a suggestion.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, United States. That's very useful.

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Can I just clarify one thing? Are you suggesting a full day with the GNSO discussion?

UNITED STATES:

I think that is dependent on us sort of having a better understanding between now and -- we have time, thank you, thank God -- between now and the June meeting, but it depends on where they might be in their ongoing PDP processes.

So I think we may have to educate ourselves as to those timelines and figure out how to slot ourselves in to their process. I do think we need to be mindful that they've got very sort of set timelines for their PDPs, and we'll have to map that out. I confess I haven't done it. We've all been so busy with accountability, I don't think we've had enough time to map that out.

So I think it depends on what is pending. There could be ccNSO work that is also pending that we would find it helpful to have the face to face.

So it's just a suggestion. But thank you, Tracey. Good question.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

It's the chairman. I thank you the U.S. for this idea which I think may provide an element of a solution to us that, despite the will

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to engage with the GNSO early and thoroughly, we somehow haven't found the resources and the ways to do it to the extent we would want, and actually try something new and engage directly with the GNSO in their working processes when we physically meet and use that B meeting, whether it's half a day or day remains to be discussed. But I think this is a very good idea, and thank you for bringing this up.

Just since I have the floor, one other comment. This idea of a cross-community town hall meeting is spreading around, but there is not yet a clear idea even on which day, because ideally we would do the cross-community thing on the same day, because otherwise it may not work. I'm not sure whether the first day is actually the best one or whether it would be better to give the communities the first day to find out what their issues are and then get together all. But this is something we'll try and see with the other SOs and ACs, their reflection. We will come back to you on this.

And then, of course, there are some interesting elements here that we will need to continue to develop. And what you see now may change significantly until June.

I think there is time, and everybody is struggling, as we've heard. It's a little bit of a guessing, a trial-and-error thing. In the end, we'll just need to somehow work with the B meetings. Some

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elements will work well, others will be changed, probably, in the future. But of course your suggestions, like the one that has been made by the U.S. right now, are extremely welcome because that helps us trying to prioritize what could be good uses of that time.

Thank you.

United States.

UNITED STATES:

Just one final comment, and a suggestion, perhaps. And again, with apologies for not having, perhaps, participated effectively enough in the Buenos Aires discussion.

Perhaps we put the communique and advice drafting in brackets, because it would be as needed. I mean, if we're doing - - if we're holding exchanges with other parts of the community on pending work, there may not be any formal advice that we would feel the need to forward. But we could minute the meetings and certainly record what we have done, and maybe send a signal, just so the Board knows where we think we are in engaging with other parts of the community.

But if we put it in brackets, then it gives ourselves the flexibility to either do so or not.

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Thank you.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, United States. Spain has just reminded me that there's a localized language thing on here. Cross-community town hall is a built of a North American colloquialism. It means all the communities, all the SOs and ACs, everybody in together. So I hope the meaning of that word is clear to everybody.

Any comments or feedback from anybody else on this Meeting B?

Spain.

SPAIN:

As regards the suggestion of having a session with the GNSO I think it's very worthwhile because they are developing many PDPs and they are public-policy implications.

My question in that regard could be if that session will be of the working groups that maybe some GAC members are participating in or could be the GNSO and the GAC plenaries meeting together, just to go through the PDPs at an earlier stage on which the GNSO thinks the GAC input can be timely.

As a third thought, I think this option of meeting GAC and GNSO plenaries instead of working groups would be more interesting



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because that could give GAC members who have not the time to engage in the work of the working groups the opportunity to be apprised of what is going on, and also to express here in the room their preliminary thoughts on there. But this is just a thought out of my mind now.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you, Spain.

Anybody else? United States.

UNITED STATES: Thank you, Tracey. Thank you, Spain. I would concur with you. I actually think since GAC working groups are actually open to all working -- I mean to all GAC members, and we expect to have all GAC members at this meeting, I prefer your option.

TRACEY HIND: Any other comments from the floor?

Okay. Next slide, thanks.

This is the longer meeting, the seven-day meeting format. ICANN requested of the SOs and ACs that it be focused on

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outreach and cross-community work, and they'll be doing two public forums and their AGM each year for this.

Now, next year, 2016, obviously this model as is proposed in this meeting isn't relevant because the HLG is, indeed, being held in Meeting A. However, given that this meeting, the longer format meeting, is intended by ICANN to be the one that is focused on outreach, it's proposed here that over the longer term, 2017 onwards, that this be the one where the HLG is held.

Again, I'm not going to go through it. I don't -- Ah, the one thing - - one other thing I wanted to draw to your attention on this one is the final day. There was a proposal at Buenos Aires that when we get together as the GAC, we're always so intent and so busy working on actual advice development and other matters that we never get a chance to actually sit down and do a full year's planning. So there was a suggestion to have a planning session. So that's what that day seven is proposing there. I think that's pretty straightforward.

Questions or comments on that?

Sweden.

SWEDEN: Yeah, thank you.

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I noticed that on the Monday, you have noted a public forum, and on Thursday there is a GAC open forum session. If you're thinking of a GAC public forum that we have been discussing, there would be no need, perhaps, for a GAC open forum.

So if you could advise on that, please.

TRACEY HIND:

Yes. The public forum is the ICANN public forum that they're proposing to hold on the Monday in that format. When with we put this together, we put -- we knew that there was going to be a need for a GAC open forum somewhere on the agenda, and we've put it where we've put it for the time being. But if it belongs with the other one, I'm happy to take that on advice.

SWEDEN:

We haven't finished discussing this, I guess, but my suggestion would be to have a GAC public forum on the Thursday with the GAC leadership present as well. That could be a way forward to meet the ATRT2 recommendation without the quite laborious thing on holding open forum sessions each time.

It's just a proposal.

Thanks.

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TRACEY HIND: Thank you.

Trinidad and Tobago.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Yes, thank you. Having been a member of the Meeting Strategy Working Group as well, I think there's an unintended consequence here that we didn't anticipate. The HLGGM being held in the Meeting C means that it will never be held in the Latin American, Caribbean or Africa, and I think that's not what was intended, because Meeting C is intended to be only in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. So I think that's something to make an observation on. And there was never an intention to eliminate those regions from holding an HLGGM.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you. That's a very good point.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Yes, thank you. Just to come in. This is something that we need to look at, of course, because it's not the signal that we should give. Fortunately, we have our next meeting in the African region, so -- but in the long run, this is maybe not the sustainable solution.

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Just one comment on the open forum. May actually be used as an occasion to talk about our work, including the communique, and explaining to people, answer questions, engage once annually with the community about issues, but also procedural issues, so on and so forth. So that is something that we need to - and again, this is a draft. I think this is work in progress. But it seems to me as well that this is a good idea.

However, I have a question on -- maybe asking for further clarification about the other part of Thursday. What is the host nation Internet and public-policy session with GAC members? I may have some ideas what that can be, but maybe if could you give us a little bit more information about the idea and the objective of that. That may be interesting to know.

Thank you very much.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, Chair, yes, you're right. That's a new idea that we put in there, and my eyes are clearly failing me because I couldn't quite read that from here.

That, we were -- we saw that the focus from ICANN is meant to be on outreach, and we thought, well, what can government -- a government committee do in terms of outreach and in filling up all of this time. I mean, we can fill it up with our regular

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meetings, but the idea was, you know, perhaps there is an opportunity there to do something with the relevant government department of the host nation in relation to genuine outreach activity with a government focus and a public-policy focus whereby the GAC might speak to the host government nation and various people involved in Internet administration and ICT in the host government. It's just an idea.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you. I think this is a valuable idea. It may not yet be fully thought through because if -- I think this exercise would make most sense in areas where the contacts are not that established and not that well developed. And these are, and I'm following up on what Tracy Hackshaw Shaw, maybe more likely to be, actually, in regions that will be holding B meetings because I don't think we'll have to -- every time we go to Singapore for a C meeting, we will have to have the host nation dialogue, because I think the contacts between Singapore and ICANN, for instance, or ICANN -- also take London or whatever, like the big countries with the big venues for a C meeting, there will be probably some repetition of venues and of host countries.

But maybe let's keep the idea but think of a way where we could actually best contribute to the goal which I think is a good one.

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But that may not be the end solution yet that we have here. At least that's my take, thinking out loud on this issue.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: United States.

UNITED STATES: Thank you. And thank you, Chair. I think you're right, that we should probably be rather flexible.

I would also like to make a suggestion. This is a subject that we have discussed many, many times over the years. It sort of ebbs and flows. But I am wondering, if we have the extra time, an extra day, if we could consider perhaps shifting day one and day six, possibly.

We have talked quite often about facilitating a GAC sort of social opportunity so we can spend a little more time with each other informally. I find it's very, very difficult to get to know new members when they arrive. I imagine new members might find it difficult to sort of feel comfortable in the GAC room and feel comfortable knowing where we are on any given issue. And I just feel very strongly that I know that other parts of the community do have lunches and exchanges and sort of, you

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know, more informal opportunities to coalesce. I think the ccNSO has a dinner each time they meet with every gel one of them.

So I do think we want to give some thought to maybe an opening day that's quite casual, that's quite informal, permits us to spend a little more time with each other, because once we get into the room we're all lined up at these tables and it's extremely hard to actually have informal exchanges. So it's one suggestion.

I do recall at one point somebody thought that, you know, that was frivolous, to talk about social activities, but quite candidly, I don't think it's frivolous at all if it helps us to get to know each other.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you, United States.

India.

INDIA: Thank you, Chair. I think I totally agree with that. I couldn't agree with that more, and that point is very well made. And we



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should have, you know, more social engagement for the newcomers who join in.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you.

Trinidad and Tobago.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Yes, I also support that suggestion. And to add to that, I think the discussions we had both in the Meeting Strategy Working Group and in the Underserved Regions Working Group is for capacity building being to be built into these kinds of extra time. So I'm wondering if that can also be built into the thinking.

So with the extra day, perhaps we could combine the capacity-building activities with some sort of more informal activity, such as a social event, and so on.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you.

United Kingdom.

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UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair.

As a relative newcomer, I certainly feel that it would be really, really beneficial to sort of have some kind of social event. I've been talking with people about a GAC party. But it would certainly really help me to get to know people more. Everyone works very hard and those opportunities aren't really available.

So, yeah, I'd certainly support the United States on that one. It would be really good.

Thanks.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you.

And New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Tracey.

I think I can echo everybody else in appreciating for time for some level of social engagement with other GAC members. I'd also note that, you know, we'd appreciate something a little bit more light hearted. It takes us near on two days to get to Europe, so we're looking at basically a 12-day meeting for us, so a little bit of a break would be appreciated.

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And finally, just a question on the Thursday. So I see on the meetings Web site for ICANN, this listed a second public forum on the Thursday for Meeting C, and I just wanted to ask whether that's also been built into the schedule.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you. This was actually done back in July and September, and that second forum may have been added to the Web site since we did this pack. So that's part of the consult -- the further iteration we've got to do of going back and making sure there's no clashes and conflicts. But thank you, I'll look out for that one.

Indonesia.

INDONESIA:

Thank you, Tracey. I would like to support some of the proposal by our friends about the socialization, social events.

I remember when Thomas Schneider invited us for dinner in Buenos Aires. Perhaps he could do --

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

It was my government. I invited you, but they paid.

[ Laughter ]

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INDONESIA:

You are not as rich as your government; right? Okay.

But I mean, that kind of thing is very useful when we had the one in Buenos Aires in a small restaurant, so we -- you know, we sit together and discuss all those nice issues. That's one thing. Not in a big restaurant, and not so -- what you call it? Not so many noises, but we can sit together like in Buenos Aires. I found it very useful.

And, secondly, if, as I mentioned before, if the secretariat can give some sort of bullet point as to what kinds of things might be of interest to our GAC members, things which are not heavily discussed or controversial, like stress 18 for example. It's very controversy. So if we can get, hey, get members, be careful about stress 18, about spec 11, about dum, dum, dum, that's very important.

So that's it, Tracey.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you.

Anybody else?

Morocco.

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MOROCCO: I would just like to support the proposal made by the U.S. delegate. I think that beyond any social event in itself, I think this is an opportunity to get to know each other better, to have a fruitful dialogue to understand the positions of ones and others, and to get closer to certain views. Because sometimes it's very frustrating when you see some African delegates who go back to other countries and haven't any other delegates or haven't met among other African delegates.

So apart from being different or being a social event, this is an opportunity to get to know each other better.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: We are out of time. We should conclude for the time being. U.K., unless you want to very quickly add something, and then I think we should wrap up this session; okay?

UNITED KINGDOM: Sure, okay. Just very quickly. I just came from a very good ICANN session on Internet governance, and I'm just always mindful coming to GAC meetings that there's so much else going on during an ICANN meeting. And, you know, we're always gravitating around the GAC agenda, of course. I mean, there's a lot of work, and we have to do that. But just let's not forget that

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we should find opportunities to engage interactively with other parts of the community. You know, break out of the silos, as they always say.

I just flag that again. You know, it is tricky managing, navigating the ICANN agenda program of stuff, but it always concerns me that we're always in the GAC room, it seems. It can be disadvantageous.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. And I think that this was a useful discussion, and we note that there's definitely a need to continue to build in social events. To what extent they may link with a light, substantive exchange, there are level of playing fields that we may use.

I also take into account the fact that for the C meeting, eight days in a row plus travels before and ahead, is something that may be tiring. So I'm fully with New Zealand on trying to find a little bit of breathing space sometime within those eight days. Of course the Monday so far has been, I guess, to many -- in particular to the chair -- a briefing space because the chair does

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need to chair the meetings each day. But this is something we need to take seriously. We are not machines. We need some time to breathe from time to time, whether through social events but also just through one day that is a little bit lighter for all of us than maybe others. So I think we should take that into account as well and try to find a way. And of course we -- and the meetings team is happy for concrete proposals in how to get there. So thank you very much.

If there are no more questions, maybe a quick wrap-up for Tracey? Or otherwise we move on.

TRACEY HIND:

Yeah, just very briefly. The next steps are I'll take back this feedback to Portugal, and we will have -- we're going to have some meetings with the other SOs and ACs, and we'll come back to you with a revised proposal intersessionally after those meetings.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you.

With this, I suggest that we move on to our next agenda item, which is 31, led by Namibia, by Henri, which is about the review of the operating principles, to give you an update on where we are with this process that we're, of course, all looking forward to.

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And, Henri, the floor is yours.

Thank you.

HENRI KASSEN:

Thank you, Thomas. Good morning, colleagues.

I have just one or two slides bringing a meerkat from Africa for colleagues to just have a look at that. And then also the fastest land animal on earth, which is a cheetah. It's also coming. It just takes a bit longer. Maybe I need to get the electronics going in the back.

We have a saying back home that technology is failing us, and in the ICT environment, we have coined it the other way around. We are failing technology. Because it's nice now to say technology is failing us; the slides are not up. But it's us. Somebody needs to press a button. So it's not the technology. It's us.

Can we have that slide up?

Yes, there Julia is going.

The idea is if one look at the agenda point, in terms of our discussions and in terms of reviewing what was -- what is stated in the -- in the tabulated agenda, we -- between myself and the secretariat, I call it pro-pro thinking. The other word -- the other



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side of that is wishful thinking, but we don't -- The pro-pro thinking is proposal thinking.

So I spoke to the secretariat, and I think at this point, like I did in B.A., I would want us to look each other in the eye and agree to the terms of reference.

I remember that we requested -- There's my brother from Africa. He is looking out for -- That's a meerkat. National Geographic had a lot of programs about him, or her, sorry.

So we feel that the operating principles review is so fundamental that it -- we want to have the approval in a plenary like this.

In B.A., we suggested that we will circulate it, and then we will agree to it intersessionally, but the pro-pro thinking idea was, then, that let's have it on a face to face. So the ultimate objective for our session now is to just put it to the meeting and request your approval for that.

It was circulated, as I've said. It was established, circulated, and there was proper thinking in terms of the action plan because it was between me and the secretariat. I want the benefit of the committee members that have subscribed to this working group to relook at the action plan and the process for review. You can see that in terms of our thinking, we have a time frame up to 2019. And that is an awfully long time.

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But on closer examination, we realize that it is -- it is fine, but we need to shorten it drastically, in any case.

In terms of the principles for review, I would just like to get a few ideas from the plenary, because there is the arrange -- or the proposal that we amend it as we go along, because that is.

-- the merit in that is that we close some of the charters, some of the articles and then it's done, because article one and two and three. I mean, it's just basically stating who GAC is, and so on, so there is no discussion about that.

So we closed those chapters so we can get to the more controversial and more important sections, like the issue of consensus. I see my brother from Indonesia has left out the test pod, so he said stress 18. So I wonder, what is stress one, then? Because there's no more test. It's just stress. We're at the 18 level of stress now.

[ Laughter ]

So that is one of the -- one of the more important and more substantive issues that we -- that we want to take a lot of time on.

So as far as the actions, then, is concerned, I would want to present the -- again, the terms of reference, which was circulated. I do hope that colleagues have had an opportunity to

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dust it off, technologically, if that's possible, and have just a look at it again.

In the terms of reference, we received, actually, about three -- three comments from -- mainly from -- from Switzerland as well as an initial comment from Ukraine, but it -- I feel that maybe we should have the committee fully going, and then we can address some of it.

But the whole issue of the draft statements, as I've indicated there under the last line there under "Actions," it's just a proposal that in terms of making a statement which will be shared GAC-wide and community-wide, just to walk the talk in terms of letting the community know at intervals, at certain intervals of the critical issues that we are discussing, but as I've said, it's pro-pro thinking. I think the plenary can give us some guidance or some advice and then the working group will definitely go into the details of that.

And then the issue of co-chairs, I think there is room for us to think about spreading the work and spreading the labor a bit and have some co-chairs for certain -- certain critical areas.

The rationale for identifying some issues in the two R's is just as a guideline, because it is a fact of history that be we have discussing some of the issues, and we would want the

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colleagues to -- not to let it slip or, you know, fall off the table or slip through the cracks. But it is just as a guideline.

So that is what I wanted -- what I want the plenary to consider. Please look at -- Please give the committee the go-ahead; with the terms of reference, a clear indication. And then allow the committee then to sit -- to review the action plan and to review the way of going through reviewing the operating principles.

We know it is a bit cumbersome, but it is our ground rules, so we would want to make the best of it.

Thank you very much, and the last slide will show you the fastest land animal.

Thank you.

The last slide, please.

Oh, there it comes.

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Henri, for this very good and nice presentation.

I think we should all be aware that this is an important exercise that we had already some discussion on, and it is a recurring

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discussion so I think we all agree there's a need to revise the operating principle, adapt them to the development that we have undergone in terms of size and workload and importance, and so on and so forth. So we take this very seriously from the side of the leadership team and support and secretariat. This is just a message that I would like to give.

So your comments, in particular on the options that have been proposed, what do you think is the best way to move forward? I think it would be good to have clarity here today about how to organize this.

Thank you.

European Commission.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Yes, thanks. Well, thank you first for the work that's been done by Henri and the group, and the terms of reference are fine for us. We made a comment on a small typo, but that's something that can be fixed later.

My question really is relating to the action plan, which I don't think we've seen, and perhaps I've misunderstood. Maybe the idea is to develop an action plan, or is there one that already exists and we haven't seen it? Perhaps that could be explained.

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Thanks.

HENRI KASSEN: Yes, thank you. Thank you, European Union. We just worked on a proposed work plan that is attached. The action plan itself will be the first task of the working group.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Other questions or comments?

I think we should -- we should know how we -- how we will move on. One thing is to get terms of references agreed. That should be one of the objectives of today, or at least if there will be amendments that will need to be made, that we know which ones and we can agree rather timely after the meeting. But I think we should have a common sense of how we plan to work on this.

So my -- Let me reformulate the question. Do you think that we should -- Basically there's these three options. Do you think we should collect views and take in proposal for amendments of all, of the whole operating principles at once? Should we, like, distribute this over a timeline, and it's a very long timeline, it spans over four years. Is that something that you would like to

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use? My concern with this is I'm not sure whether this actually works because if we don't have an agreement on one thing, that may be because it would depend on something else, and if the something else is only discussed two years later, then -- I personally am not convinced that this may work.

The third alternative would be we say, okay, let history be history and task ACIG to come up with a new set of operating principles from scratch. That has some advantages and disadvantages.

I think we should -- I would like to get the sense, and together with -- to get the sense of you, how do you think is the best way to work? There are always pros and cons, but at some point we need to take a decision what we should do.

So Switzerland. Argentina.

SWITZERLAND:

Thank you, Chair. And sorry for not following all this discussion, but we've been busy with other issues.

But if I remember well the comments that I made on the draft TORs, one of my comments was asking why we were singling out certain topics in the TORs? Because if I remember, there was no discussion about singling out certain topics and not others on the TORs.

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So perhaps before taking a decision which has a wide impact, I think -- any of these options would have a very big impact on the operating principles and may signify a lot of work for the working party members and for the GAC in general because this affects the whole GAC, I think it would be good to first collect the views of the working party members and/or of the GAC as a whole of what are the issues. And then include them either in the TOR or in the work plan, but not -- I think it's like putting the cart before the horses, in a way.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Henri would like to respond.

Thank you.

HENRI KASSEN: I actually wanted to highlight that Spain also requested the floor.

But I did refer to it in passing in my introduction, basically. It is -- if we want to look at page 4 of the terms of reference document that was circulated, under the objectives, there's about six bullets. But it was -- it basically suggested including, and then the last bullet says "any other proposed amendments."



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The suggestion that is made is that we make a wholesome review as the -- as the operating principles committee working group. Wholesome meaning we take article one, two, three, and so on, and then we say article one is done, article two is done. There is, of course, as Thomas indicated, that some of the articles maybe need to be cross-referenced with others. But then when we get to those relevant articles, one can barrel put them in square brackets because the idea is to get the noncontentious articles, like article 23, the GAC may designate other officers as necessary, it's just one sentence. Is it contentious or is it not? If not, then that's fine. It's done. Article 23 is done.

That's why I say the proposed timeline of 2019 is proper thinking -- or wishful thinking, let me use the common term, because it can -- it can be reduced drastically to maybe 2017. Because a number of the 16 articles that is there, half of it is noncontentious, in my view. But of course it depends on the GAC members and it depends on the committee.

So don't get disillusioned about the long time frame. It is better safe to be -- to be thorough but then you can definitely reduce it.

Thank you very much.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

I have Argentina, Spain, and Switzerland.

ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone.

Thank you, Henri, for your work on this. I think it's a very good starting point. From a practical point of view, I would suggest that the group -- that the whole GAC approves the terms of reference, whether now or if there are comments in the near future, in a short term of days or weeks. And then, so you can organize and start your work.

And I agree with what you said. It may be a longer schedule or may be shorter. It depends on what we want to focus on. And that could be -- perhaps we could have feedback from all the GAC. Perhaps we can -- the group can prepare a document, a summary -- summarizing what should be considered, and then the GAC could perhaps say which are the issues that we should focus first.

But for me, the most important thing is that the group really is -- has its terms of reference in place, and we all agree in that.

Thank you.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. I think this is exactly what the colleague from Switzerland was trying to say.

Before we may be go into timelines, we should actually reach out to GAC members and get of sense of what is it that they want to change. And then based on that, do the rest.

Spain.

SPAIN: Thank you, Chair.

Henri started his intervention by stressing that the objective of this session is to have an approval by the GAC plenary of the terms of reference.

I think the terms of reference has been drafted according to a template that has been developed by ACIG so that all working groups within the GAC have terms of reference that are drafted with a similar structure you.

I guess that this has the value of having terms of reference that are as open, flexible as the working group and the GAC wants to have.

So what I would suggest is that we seize the opportunity that we have here to discuss the terms of reference and, if we agree, to pass them so that the working group can start its work, because

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it's clear that the terms of reference have to be approved by the whole GAC, and it's better to do it in a face-to-face meeting.

And I would let -- to the working group afterwards, to discuss on the options that have been presented on whether to approach the reform in a wholesome way or focusing on certain aspects. And on the action plan and the other issues that have been on the table, that I think it's better to do things in a proper order.

And that's what I wanted to say.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

Switzerland.

SWITZERLAND: Thank you.

I mostly agree with what has just been said by Spain and others. I would suggest that we give the TOR still some time to circulate again and that, for instance, the observation we've made is taken into account; that we should strive not to single out specific issues, especially if there has been no consultation first to really know which are the contentious issues.

So if we are going to look at any issues of the operating principles, so let's say just that. We don't need to single out

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specific issues because it gives the appearance that there is a discussion we've had before, which really gives us a motive for that singling out.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

India.

INDIA: Thank you, Chair.

Thank you, Namibia for the excellent presentation. We completely agree with you that the review of the operating principles is an important issue for GAC. We would like to express our support and commitment to the GAC operating principles. We believe that we need to work on the operating principles as a whole.

First, the existing operating principles have been more or less effective in guiding our work. The second option at this point seems to be the most workable solution: review and amend the existing GAC operating principles. As a starting point, as an immediate next step, I agree with the suggestion which has been made by Argentina.

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Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

Any more comments? If that's not -- Argentina.

ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chair. I would like to support what Spain said, that we have a GAC full room. Maybe we can get some feedback. And our proposal would be if we can define the terms of reference, then move forward towards defining what are priorities and what is contentious or not. That ones the working group has established terms of reference, then they can start their work.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Argentina. I'm sorry to have to flag to you that we are actually slightly behind our time schedule, so I would suggest that we would do as we do with others. We give a few weeks' time for comments on the terms of reference with a view to agree. And I think this should be possible electronically on the terms of reference in the next weeks, because we really have

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to move on because we will lose the interpreters at 12:00 and we have some items on the agenda left.

Thank you.

So with this, I would like to say that we will come back to you on the follow-up to this discussion very shortly, and you will be able to comment on the terms of reference and the way forward, but we will try to make this an easy process and not -- and a timely process.

So the next agenda item, which is number 32, is about the Web site. We get an update on the Web site. This is a practical thing, but it's an important thing because that helps us to get to work efficiently.

So the lead is Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Thank you, Chair, and I will try and be brief.

Julie, can we go to the appendix 2?

So first let's thank the team who have been working with me on this. The ACIG secretariat, the GAC staff, especially Tracey, Julia, Karin, Olof, and my GAC colleagues from Singapore and Paraguay who have worked intersessionally with me on this.

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And just to point out that we are working with the ICANN staff closely on this, and it's more than just the Web site update. It's a whole technology review that we're doing at this point in time.

So the first item I want to update on is the improvement of the existing ICANN GAC Web site. What we have done is improve the organization of the information, so if you go to it now, you'll see a few new tabs appearing that relate to GAC work and GAC streams of working groups, and so on. And of course we have put a search on it as per our last meeting. So there's some improvement on that.

But the good news is that we have agreement from ICANN that a new GAC Web site will be made available to us. I'd like to thank the Chair for his work in encouraging the ICANN team to assist us. So we have been told that we will be the first AC on the new ICANN platform, and they intend to deliver that by March 2016. So we should have a new ICANN -- a GAC Web site on a new ICANN platform March 2016. So I'd like to thank everybody for that -- that significant achievement.

If you remember the last meeting we had, we did have a timeline. So now we do have a timeline and an end date.

We also have been reviewing the work that's been done by the staff on some of the items that you see on the screen there in terms of what we are trying to achieve. So the first item in terms



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of review of PDP documents. The third item on advice provision. We have reviewed some of the tools that the ICANN team has been developing, essentially based on that being done in another AC, which is SSAC. And the Board has been doing some advice tracking and testing a tool in that regard. And we don't have time to do a presentation today, but we would like to report that there's significant work being done, both on the back end and front end. We would have -- Maybe there's no time. I'm not sure, Tracey. There's probably no time, yeah.

There's going to be a delivery of that tool in the near future where we will be able to demonstrate advice tracking of what's happening with GAC advice, both publicly and internally to the GAC. So probably the next meeting we will update you further exactly how that has been progressing and what we need to do as the GAC to provide input into that process.

We've also been reviewing online collaboration tools so that we can have the GAC actively contribute to the PDP process. We have seen some -- some collaboration offers being made by ICANN staff. We've had a couple teleconference calls on that. Unfortunately, that process may be a little bit more in the future, but we'll give an update on that, perhaps in Marrakech, on where we are on that.

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More specifically in terms of meeting management and working group setup, we have made some progress. We will be testing meeting management and collaboration tool. Even today we're doing some testing at 2:00 with the ICANN team that we look to pilot for GAC teleconferences.

So what we intend to do is roll out a new tool for GAC teleconferences. These will be working group teleconferences; the chair, vice chair, leadership team teleconferences as well as eventually the wider GAC meeting; for example, agenda setting or even intersessional type work.

So we hope to have that ready for you in terms of an update in Marrakech. We'll be doing ongoing testing intersessionally.

So in the interest of time, I just want to wrap up quickly and say thank you very much. And I don't know if Tracey has any further updates to provide, but that's it from me for the time being.

Thank you.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, Tracy.

Yes, we have been working very closely with ICANN ICT, and we're very pleased that they've chosen the GAC as the test

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platform to roll out their new Web content management system, and we're very much looking forward to that.

As you also heard from Steve Crocker when we had the Board/GAC meeting -- gosh, all the days are rolling into one. Was that yesterday? Yes, it was. Yesterday, there is a new Board/GAC -- Board advice tooling developed and it's for all type of advice. GAC advice will be part of that. And that is in the process of being developed at the moment.

We do have the gentleman in the room from ICANN ICT over here in the corner if the GAC have any questions that they would like in respect of any of those -- those developments.

Any questions from the floor?

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you. Maybe just to say that -- and that also goes to Tracy and everybody. Both Tracys and everybody. This is not Thomases. It's Tracys. That's good cultural diversity.

This is fundamentally useful work that helps us to be efficient. And we're really looking forward to getting this, and I encourage everybody to also support the people who work on this by feeding in usability and non-usability and other experiences, because they try to probably figure out all the things that could happen, but normally you will never really know what actually

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happens when you use it, and so on and so forth, because you can't anticipate all the issues.

So the more information people who develop tools get from those who are supposed to use it, the easier for them is it to actually develop them in a way that it's useful for those who use it. I hope that was not too confusing.

But -- So thank you very much for this. And even if there are no questions for the time being, if you have questions or you have comments, I think let's exchange this information, because this is very helpful. And I can only say I'm looking forward to working with you in this, and we're happy to have a timeline and hope that that will work and so on and so forth.

So thank you very much for this.

TRACEY HIND:

I'd like to say just one more thing, and that is that Tracy Hackshaw, Trinidad and Tobago, are leading this group on behalf of the GAC. We do have two other GAC members, Paraguay and Singapore, who have been helping us put together the material you see on the screen, and also other information. But we would like to open that up to any GAC member. I mean, it's always open to any GAC member. So if you are interested, please email myself or Trinidad and Tobago, and

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we'll make sure that you're part of the working group that helps us engage with ICANN ICT and get these things moving.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

United Kingdom.

UNITED KINGDOM: Thanks so much. This is excellent, excellent work by all involved in upgrade the GAC's use of technology and efforts and enhancing our working methods. It's great support.

I'll just mention one thing. Adobe Connect works fantastic. I really, really, really find all the ICANN calls on accountability on Adobe Connect has been great.

IGF MAG uses WebEx, and I just can't get Webex approved on my governmental system. I don't know if other people have the same problem.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Welcome to the club.

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UNITED KINGDOM: I just flag that. It's absolutely impossible for me in the U.K., WebEx. I just mention that, if it's noted somewhere.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: This is actually a good point. I have no permission to install software on my own, and whenever you have to have an extra file downloaded, you can download it but I have no way to install it.

So things that are working on browser or, like, lightweight basis on all platforms with all restrictions that we may have, and they may increase because of security. Very good point.

Thank you very much.

Other comments and -- Yes, Organization of Islamic States.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. Thank you, for Tracey, also, for the hard efforts and thank you for the team for updating the Web site.

I have slides comments only in the contents.

I think one of the (indiscernible) in ICANN is the acronyms. We need ways, please, you know, just when we read to click on the acronyms. Because the escalation of the ICANN acronyms as

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you know is unlimited. And we need to have, you know, a solution for this dilemma, please.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you. This is a recurring challenge as well.

I don't know whether it already exists, but it would be good to have a glossary of acronyms that you can get with one click on the ICANN and the GAC Web site.

Olof, thank you.

OLOF NORDLING:

Thank you very much. Of course the ICANN Web site has an automatic exploder for the acronyms if you click on them. But also, if you look at the GAC Web site which, of course, is a Wiki, we don't have that functionality precisely, but we've got a tab called News. If you look far down under that tab, you'll see something like -- I think it's eLearning or -- which brings you to, well, the ICANN Web site with the glossary. So that's a way to find the glossary, at least.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you. Maybe also there, the accessibility and logic can be proved that people find these things easier, although this is not easy.

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Thailand. Thank you.

THAILAND:

Sorry, I don't want to derail but I have to leave in five second. But I like -- Because I have MOU signing with Fadi.

So one of the issue I want to raise, because I don't want to miss it, is Leadership Training Programs. These have been arranged in the third rounds this time. I think our list was joined in the Leadership Training Program 2. And I'm participate in the Leadership Training Program 3. We try to work with the secretary whether they will have this in Marrakech. There will be three days more that you need to come earlier. But I like to interest the member of the GAC to have a look, especially if you like to work in the working groups. It's one of the best training I ever attend, because you will learn how the other constituency works, how to run the meeting, learn -- get to know each other. I think I have been working around for three years, but within these three day, every single (indiscernible). I can --the colleagues that in the LTP, there are about 20 people from other constituency. I think it will help our work a lot to be not just sitting in the work groups but you spend three days. We have the (indiscernible) program. We have function together. I think you learn a lot.



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So I will keep working with the secretary to circulate that, and see next LTP, if that is in Marrakech, and be sure that we have enough seat. Maybe they're talking about three seat for the training for GAC.

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Wanawit. And I would just encourage everybody to actually use these opportunities. We haven't used all the seats this time, so that will come up again. And please consider.

I think we need to move on. We have two minutes left for the planning for the GAC meeting in Marrakech.

Yes, U.K.

UNITED KINGDOM:

Sorry, Chair. Just a couple last points on the Web site. Just to follow-up on the content issue.

Again, as a relative newbie to this, I struggle on occasion to sort of dig out contact details for people. I don't know if they're on the GAC site somewhere. I know we have the list of representative names and organizations, but if there's sort of like contact emails, like an email address, that would be really

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helpful. A number of times I've had to go to Tom and he doesn't need to worry about that.

And then again, like a link to the ICANNWiki where sort of people set up their profiles. And if they haven't, I haven't yet, but that would be really helpful again in that kind of social contact just to know who is who, where they're from, et cetera.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. A brief remark on the email list. They used to be there in the public space, but because of the spam issue, they were removed. But we may consider something internal for us. That will help us, actually.

Yeah, Olof.

OLOF NORDLING: Very briefly, you will find it under the "Members Only" section just because of the reasons that the Chair just mentioned. So that's where you have the contact details. You have a similar list of the members and observers with the contact details, which is redacted in the public version.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

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With this, I'd like to move on -- Yes, Indonesia, very briefly.  
Thank you.

INDONESIA: Yes, very briefly. Just about the Leadership Training Program because it is normally three days before the GAC meeting, and to get the visa and so on. We need (indiscernible) not from the GAC meeting but from the LTP. That's for -- At least that is proposed, you see.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Yes, we know this has been a challenge, and some people have actually missed that program because of the visa issue.

I would like to move and spend the last few minutes, it won't take very long, and give the floor to Tom to quickly introduce to you our reflections on the planning of Marrakech.

Thank you.

TOM DALE: Thank you, Thomas.

I would suggest you think about issues for Marrakech, the Marrakech meeting in five points. The first is of course to bear in

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mind there is a High-Level Governmental Meeting that is a very significant event, not just for the GAC but for all of ICANN. So please plan a lot of your issues and work around that.

Second point is regards accountability and transition. We do not know where we will be at the point of the Marrakech meeting, but we will keep you up-to-date as much as possible. And as I indicated earlier, we may well be meeting before Marrakech, depending on other decisions.

The third point is that I'd suggest that the main substantive issue for the meeting will be the range of policy issues that the GAC wishes to identify and take forward for the future rounds of gTLDs to draw together the work that we've talked about, not just the existing policy settings and previous GAC advice that should stand or hasn't been implemented but also new policy settings that the GAC wishes to feed into the various review processes we've talked about this week.

I think the -- fourthly, the main internal issue is taking forward the work of GAC effectiveness work, and there will be intersessional work on that, and hopefully involvement by the BGRI and at the Board level, but we'll see.

And, finally, for the Marrakech meeting, there will be improvements to the working group structure as has been

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suggested, and further outputs from the working groups, and we'll make sure you're kept up-to-date on that.

That will be the very quick snapshot as we see the issues coming together, but of course there will be opportunity for feedback.

Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Any questions or comments on that very preliminary outline by Tom?

Argentina.

ARGENTINA: Just a clarification point. What is -- what do you mean by "improvements to the working group structure"?

TOM DALE: That there were suggestions made about a better meeting time on the Monday. That will be a problem in Marrakech, for example, because of the high-level meeting. Adjustments like that. Not the working groups like that but the way they meet and the way interact with the GAC during the meeting to make it more efficient and more -- rather than any fundamental changes.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you for this clarification.

Other questions or comments?

That does not seem to be the case, so that would mean that I ask you for the last -- give you the last opportunity to ask or make comments, ask questions on the whole. Not just about this issue, but in general, whether you have something you would like to tell us or like to ask us, then this would be the time.

If that is not the case either, about then I won't prolong the meeting. I just want to remind you that please do urgently consider the issue of joining the funding team; i.e., the donors for our secretariat. This is important because these processes take time to get approval in our internal structures.

Our thanks to the EU Commission and others who have signaled that they're looking into this. They've applied for participating internally. It's important for the current owners to go back home and be able to say there are additional donors, so that would be like the key step to secure the funding in a sustainable way for the near future.

I'll end with this, and thank you very much. It was, as usual, has been a great pleasure to work with you, and wish you all the best. And we may meet shortly in January, or we may meet in Marrakech or other occasions. So thanks to you all. Thanks to

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the interpreters, thanks to the technical team. Thanks to everybody that I will forget for all the help and support.

[ Applause ]

And that's it.

Thank you very much.

Have fun.

ARGENTINA: Great job, chair. Thanks to you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**