HELSINKI – GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, June 27, 2016 – 09:30 to 10:30 EEST
ICANN56 | Helsinki, Finland

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Okay. Thank you for taking your seats. Welcome to the meeting number 56 of the GAC in Helsinki. I'm very happy to be in this particular place, also in this particular hall which is one of the most beautiful congress halls, conference halls I know. So thanks, Juuso, for building that hall and making this place available.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Thomas Schneider. I'm from Switzerland. We have some commonalties with Argentina in the sense that our best player missed a penalty in the game and now we are out. So sorry for you, Olga, but you're not the only one.

I am the chair of this committee, of the Governmental Advisory Committee for the time being, and we have a number of nice people with us at this table, so before giving them the floor to present themselves and then to all of you, I just want to start with, as usual, saying that we have, again, a number of new members, of new governments that are now member of the GAC. One of them is Belize, and we have the honor to have the

minister, minister of Belize here in the room. It's his first time, so help him get to know you and ICANN. And if he has questions, of course I'm happy to answer them, but also like to have you answer questions to him and his team.

We also have other new members like Guyana, Honduras, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Suriname and Panama. So we have a total of 168 members in the GAC. We have no new observers. That number remains the same. It's about 30-something. So this is, again, a positive development.

This, I would like to start giving the floor to our friend Olof to say hello.

OLOF NORDLING: Oh, yes, my name is Olof Nordling, and I am ICANN staff responsible for ICANN staff support to the GAC. And, well, more importantly, I've got Karine Perset and Julia Charvolen. And if you haven't met them, could you please stand up. I think you're in the back there. That's Julia. All right.

[Applause]

And Karine. All right. Over there. There you go.

[Applause]

WANAWIT AHKUPUTRA: Okay. Hyvaa huomenta. That is Finnish way of greeting in the morning. So I am Wanawit Ahkuputra. So I am the vice chair of the GAC and our working, and this should be close to the terms here in Helsinki. So I live here for the last 15 years, so just coming back home. So it's feeling great.

Thank you.

HENRI KASSEN: Good morning. My name is Henri Kassen. I'm from Namibia and am representing the Ministry of ICT and Labor in Namibia. Thank you.

TRACEY HIND: Hello, I'm Tracey Hind from the independent ACIG GAC secretariat. I'm here with Tom. Michelle Scott-Tucker is our other colleague. She's not here in Helsinki. She is working behind the scenes from Australia this week to help us out with anything we need done overnight. And I'm here to help you any way I can this week.

TOM DALE: Thank you, Tracey. Good morning, everybody. My name is Tom Dale. I also work for the ACIG GAC secretariat.

Just to be quite clear, for those who are not familiar with the way the GAC organizes its support arrangement, because we're a little bit different here in the GAC, the GAC receives support from a combination of ICANN staff -- that's Olof, Karine and Julia who have introduced themselves -- and also ACIG. We are an Australian consulting firm, and we have been engaged by the GAC to provide secretariat services. So welcome, and I look forward to providing you with any help that Tracey and I can give you during the week.

Thank you.

OLGA CAVALLI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Olga Cavalli. I represent the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina. I am one of the GAC vice chairs. And be patient with me. I didn't sleep. I watched the game yesterday. So it's a sad day for me.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Olga.

Before I let you run through the chairs, I just wanted to say that we also do not just have some new members in the GAC. We have a new member in the ICANN organization since a few weeks. His name is Goran Marby. He's the new CEO and president of ICANN, of the ICANN organization. And he's with us

in the room, so that you all know how he looks like. And he will stand up now. He is hiding there in the back. This is Goran.

[Applause]

So welcome. I'm very happy to have got to know you and am looking forward to working with you, and of course with the whole GAC.

So he is -- We will not have -- and we'll talk about this later. We'll not have a bilateral session with the Board this time, but board members will be -- and including Goran -- will be with us for many of our sessions. And of course there will be a round in the afternoon sessions which are a new format. So now you know who he is. So talk to him whenever you can and get to know him. So this is our new CEO.

Thank you, Goran.

Okay. So now I would like to ask you -- I'll ask to go through every one of you in the room so that we know who is here and we know who you are. Those who don't know each other yet.

A plea to you. For historic reasons, we don't have country plates in this committee like you have maybe in other institutions that you know. So I'm trying to note down where you sit and try to remember where you sit. And please try to sit, if you can, at the same places, more or less, all over the week because the setting

is not the ideal setting with the classroom setting. It's not round, so it's difficult to see each other, and I'm trying to remember where you are. And please try to sit at the same places because otherwise, my list is not worth anything when you switch around. So thank you for this understanding.

And so let me start on the right end from my side, on your left.

[Introductions]

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. So this is a fairly good representation that we have here. And in addition, we have a number of remote participants. This is also possible, in case you are not able, for a meeting, to physically participate, you can participate remotely.

So Olof, who is participating remotely?

OLOF NORDLING: Thank you very much, Chair. And remotely in the Adobe Connect room we do have remote participation from Ukraine, Oleksandr Tsaruk, the GAC representative, and Mr. Ryzhenko. So just to complete the count. That's the remote participants we have registered. Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. So you may have realized that this is -- this particular meeting is actually -- there's some new elements to this meeting in the sense that this is the so-called first B meeting of the new meeting strategy that ICANN has adopted and which is in effect this year.

The B meeting is slightly different in its organization, in its length as well than the other meetings. It's the shortest one. It's only four days of official ICANN meeting, and also the GAC, for those who have been here before, it normally starting its work around Saturday lunchtime and going till Thursday around noon. And this time, we all, including the GAC, started today on Monday morning. There is also -- there is no big official opening, welcoming event of ICANN. That usually takes place on Monday morning.

And also, for us, as you have realized we have started trying to use the time the best we can. We have set up meetings of GAC working groups every morning, so before the official opening today there was the meeting, as you know, of the GAC working groups on geo names which is led by my colleague Olga from Argentina.

We'll have other working groups meeting in the three mornings to come, starting at 8:15 each for an hour. And then at 9:15, the idea is to have a wrap-up for those that will not participate at

these working group meetings. At 9:15 there's a wrap-up, summary, introduction, handover kind of to the whole of the GAC. But I would strongly invite you to participate in these working group meetings because this is a unique occasion that we have no meetings in parallel that prohibit you from participating in this working group, so we actually deliberately set them up not in parallel to any other session but in the morning so that you can participate, because they're dealing -- these working groups are dealing with a number of important issues. And because we have the opportunity to participate with nothing else in collision in terms of time, please go there and participate in this work. I think it's -- this would be very useful for the working groups for the whole GAC and for yourself as well.

So this is an element that is -- that is new or different in this week's schedule.

Another element is that usually we have the communique which is our statement that we -- we work out -- or that is the reflection of what we've discussed and -- during the week and also with things prepared before. That is normally issued -- worked out on Wednesday afternoons in a normal ICANN meeting, a GAC meeting, and then issued in the night or in the evening on Wednesday, but this time because of this different schedule we're trying something new. So we are going to issue the

communique on Thursday afternoon. We have less time this time than in a normal meeting to work on the communique. This is also why we started and we're asking for text bits and contributions for the communique before the meeting to have some bases for people to work on. So what you've received in the past days by Tom is the so-called zero version of the communique that is collecting all the elements that we've received so far of people who have proposed to have text in the communique on issues that we will discuss. So this is a first. As I say, a zero draft. It's a basis for us to start working on. This is, of course, not necessary, the finite text. It's just a help in the hope that we will be more efficient than if we had to start from scratch. So we were inviting people to send us text pieces before the meeting so that you can have a look at these, discuss them also informally and then in the sessions. And then we will have, as I said, a reduced slot of about two hours on Thursday afternoon to finalize the communique. This may be a challenge, depending on to what extent we will have consensus on what is supposed to be in the communique. We don't have the opportunity to go into a late night session like we normally have if we have to on these famous Wednesday evenings and where we miss the gala dinner when we have to go into these late night sessions. We don't have this. So we have to be extremely constructive to come to an end with the communique on Thursday. If all goes well we should be done with the

communique before the lunch break, I think. If not, we'll run through the lunch break, we'll run into the afternoon session, continue into the evening, but that's really something that I think we should try and avoid. But we'll see to what extent it works, but we will have to be extremely constructive and efficient and so that we have a communique at the end of this Thursday. So this is something new. We hope it's going to work. And yeah, we need a constructive spirit, all of us together, in order to make this work. Particularly if there are issues that may be controversial. We are not adopting or accepting something like the IANA transition so we have less fundamental, let's say, issues on our table this time, but there may be issues where we have disagreements and then we will need to somehow find a way through this.

I will give the floor to Tom, just to say that for those who are new also and also for those who are not new, also the schedule of the -- our days is different. One of the purposes of the B meeting is the -- to break up the silos in which many people in ICANN work so that we are not just among ourselves as governments but that we have the chance to meet other parts of the ICANN community, other constituencies, in the afternoon session. So the afternoon sessions are so-called cross-community sessions whereas in the morning we have our silo work sessions. And the afternoon sessions are the same for everybody, and it's

important, I think, that as many of you participate actively in the afternoon sessions because we are one of those they were asking for not just only having these silos but actually having more interaction with the other parts of ICANN. And it's important that we -- we show that we are serious about interacting with the other constituencies in ICANN. So I encourage everybody to participate in the sessions in the afternoon. They also touch on -- most of them -- on issues that are very relevant for us. So afternoon is not free time to go and watch the nice city of Helsinki. It's actually work time. It's a different format. It's an attempt to make interaction in a different way, and hopefully more efficient. With this, I let Tom make a few additional points.

TOM DALE: Thank you, Thomas. Just to add some points of clarification about this different GAC meeting and please bear in mind it's different not just for the GAC but, of course, for all of the organizations across the ICANN community. Two points. The first is that as Thomas has indicated to you, the importance of the cross-community sessions in the afternoon and of participation of you as GAC members and as government representatives but also to draw your attention again in particular to the fact that there is a session on Thursday afternoon which the GAC is responsible for leading and that --

that concerns workload management and scheduling across ICANN, not just the GAC. The GAC chair will be leading that session, and I circulated to you a few days ago an outline of -- of that session on workload management and scheduling. So please bear that in mind in particular as the GAC is responsible for leading that.

The second difference to bring to your attention is that there is no formal meeting between the board and the GAC at this -- during this week. However, board members will be in attendance at quite a number of sessions, and on some specific issues including the BGRI work and the work on privacy and proxy services. Are so the -- I think those are the main -- main issues I needed to point out. Was there anything else, Tracey? Please, yes.

TRACEY HIND: I just wanted to note when we did the attendance a moment ago there were a lot of people at the back and at the side of the room who don't have a microphone and we didn't necessarily get an opportunity to hear that you're here but you're equally important. Because we have this situation we would -- there will be two ways of making sure that we capture your attendance. There will be an attendance sheet circulated that will be printed out and circulated around the room, so please make sure you

put your details in that. But also in the recently established tradition of having a door prize to encourage you to register your attendance, I did go to the markets on Saturday and I have -- here we go -- an extremely attractive locally made unisex, I might add, unisex tote bag here which is very high quality local Finnish produce. I'm going to put this plastic bag, because I haven't yet found a firmer container, but I will find a firmer container, I'm going to put it just at the door and as per our latest habits, if you could put your -- if GAC representatives and observer representatives could put their business cards in there, it's another way of capturing that we know you're here, particularly for those who didn't get to speak and register their interest. Thanks.

OLOF NORDLING: And if I may add on a more order -- point of order, this is for the GAC members and observers, meaning the door prize. So well, whatever else we happen to draw from it we'll discard. Also, please note when we take a coffee break in a while that there's a high attendance in the room. The tables are intended for the GAC members and observers primarily. And I fear that -- well, some of our GAC members have not been able to -- members or representatives have not been able to be at the tables, so could you please rearrange out of respect for the GAC members and observers. It is an open meeting, yes, but please pay respect to

those who are here for the GAC meetings -- for the GAC meeting as members or observers, that they get access to a microphone. Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Olaf, and thank you, Tracey, for this very nice door prize. Just because it has happened before, some members or observers have accidentally dropped not just one card but maybe two or three, of course accidently because they forgot that they have already put one in so they put another one in and then they forgot again and put another one in. Those will be taken out. So it doesn't help to forget. So one is enough. But you should put one in because then we have your name and everything. But if you do more than one, we'll take all of yours out. Also, don't take your colleague's cards and put the second one of them in too. So there's lots of gaming possible, but we are aware of the possibilities of gaming. So we try to like go for fair -- fair competition here. Thank you very much.

In addition to this, we have another issue that Tom will -- and Tracey actually will talk to you which is the fact that we will have elections soon i.e., in Hyderabad in our next meeting in ICANN 57, elections of the chair of the GAC and of the vice chairs. And in order to give you some detail about how this is being organized according to our rules, let me give the floor to Tracey.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you, Thomas. Yes, the GAC elections will be due this year. As stated in the operating principles the GAC chair is elected for a two-year term and may be reelected for a second two-year term. Our current GAC chair finishes his first two-year term at ICANN 58 in Copenhagen. So there will need to be a nomination for that.

The GAC vice chairs are elected for one-year terms and may be reelected for a second one-year term. Now all of our vice chairs, all of our current vice chairs, have -- will be concluding their second terms at ICANN 58 in Copenhagen, and none of them are eligible for re-election. So we will be needing new candidates to nominate for the role of GAC vice chair.

To ensure independence and probity the independent ACIG GAC secretariat -- that is Michelle, Tom and myself -- implement the GAC election process and oversee it.

I'm formally opening the nomination period for both the GAC chair and vice chair leadership roles right now here at Helsinki. The nominations open today and they will close on the 19th of September. You may only nominate if you are an official GAC representative. That is, you must represent a GAC member, not an observer. You should nominate by emailing ACIG. The details are in the brief associated with this agenda item in your pack.

You can either self nominate for a position or you can be nominated by somebody else.

Now, if you're going to nominate somebody else, it would be really, really good if you let that person know that you're going to nominate them and make sure they're happy to be nominated before sending us a nomination. Because we don't want people who are uncomfortable with being nominated.

If you're not sure about what the work involves, the leadership team meets every two weeks -- sorry, not every two weeks. Yes, it is every two weeks -- every two weeks via teleconference. You don't have to be any particular type of ICANN expert to engage. You just need to be keen to get involved to make a useful contribution. So it's a phone call every two weeks and a little bit of intersessional work between them.

If you're undecided about whether or not to nominate, I encourage you to speak to either our current chair or any of our current vice chairs or to Tom and myself and we can talk to you further about the sorts of things and the kind of time commitment and activity commitment is involved.

So the nomination period opens today, closes on the 19th of September. Nominations are to be emailed to ACIG. Details in the briefing document.

If an election needs to be held for either the chair or vice chair positions, this will only occur if there are more nominations than there are positions available.

ACIG will hold that election in person during the next GAC meeting in Hyderabad, and that will be for those who are present. There will be an electronic email voting period for those who aren't present in the lead-up.

Unless there's any questions, I think that's just about that.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Tracey. You should know that it is -- one of the key requirements is the time, that you should be able to put at the disposal for participating in the preparation of the GAC work in the discussions we are having among the leadership team and, also, in maybe leading some of the parts of the GAC's work.

So if you're interested in taking on a function of these, then this is a little bit of work that you should be able to cover in terms of resources and particular time.

If there are any questions on this, I think this would be a good moment to give you the chance to ask questions. You can, of course, always ask us, as Tracey said, us or anybody else about other details as well.

Maybe one thing to create transparency here is that some people have asked me whether I would be available for a next term, and the answer is yes. So it is up to you whether you want me to continue to be the chair or not. So hereby, for the record, I'm available if you are interested in having me again. So thank you.

Any questions or comments? Everything clear? Okay. So nominate yourself, somebody else by this deadline. This deadline is a hard deadline, so you can't say, "Oh, sorry, I was too late." That is a formal deadline. So use the time until then. Thank you very much.

There's a final thing that we would like to share with you in this session, and then we have a coffee break -- hopefully there is coffee somewhere. Probably outside by then -- which is related to -- we've already heard this word before and we'll heard it several times throughout this meeting, "workload."

Workload is something that is getting a problem to many of us in the GAC, but not only in the GAC, also with other parts of the constituency. But if we are serious in following all the processes and all the issues, all the discussions that are going on in ICANN, that this takes quite a significant amount of resources and is a challenge for many of us who have other dossiers in their job description as well. Not just ICANN. Many of us follow other

institutions like ITU and so on as well. And we have had repeated discussions about how to cope with this workload. This was, in particular, very challenging in the past one and a half years where in addition to the, I would say, normal things that we work on, we had this so-called IANA transition and the accountability reform that was extremely intense, taking a lot of time.

The first step of this work is now completed since Marrakech. So we hope that will help us all to get down to something more digestible in terms of workload. But there are still -- there is still -- the work is ongoing on the IANA transition, in particular on accountability. We'll hear more about that later this week in several occasions. And, of course, we have discussions on a new round of gTLDs and other important issues that need to be discussed. So we will not be bored and feel unemployed. And it is important that we keep thinking in the GAC on how we organize ourselves most efficiently.

And Tom has already alluded to this. There is a cross-community session on Thursday afternoon that I'm -- I will be chairing that is dealing with this issue not just from a GAC point of view but also in general for the whole of the community because we are not the only ones that suffer under this immense work that is going on in ICANN.

And you have received an email about some idea how we plan to run through this. And it's also on the ICANN Web site in the schedule. If you click on a particular session, also this one, then you should see some text about what this is about and how this is going to work.

So this session that we're planning to have on Thursday afternoon is, basically, trying to brainstorm in an open and interactive format about what we could do as GAC but in particular what the whole of ICANN could do to improve the situation.

And, basically, we did some initial thinking here in the leadership team. And what we proposed to you in particular is to think about issues like would it be possible to have a more clear planning in the sense of maybe annual planning of what we expect or what ICANN expects in terms of outcome or decisions to be taken that you can then calculate and see how much probably -- how much work an issue will be? And the planning will be the basis, also, in case there are too many things going on, we don't have to reinvent the world in one year. So it is also at least theoretically possible to prioritize things that we may think that we should do first because they're more urgent. Other things may be as important but may be less urgent. So we could decide as ICANN to do something later in order to try not and do everything at the same time. This is one

of the key elements. Try to do a little bit of a resource estimation and planning.

And the other thing is -- which is linked to the workload, is the fact that we are working in these silos. We are working in the GAC and in particular the GNSO, which is the body that makes policy for generic top-level domains. They are working in their silo on a quite quick speed.

And the better we improve communication between the silos, the less time we need to spend in trying to find out what is going on and so on and so forth. So we'll come to that later as well.

The more people of the GAC actually actively participate in these policy development processes of the other constituencies in the other work, the easier it is for the GAC to react in time and also be efficient. And that will also in the end reduce our workload.

The earlier we come in with our ideas, our concerns, our proposals, the easier it is for us and also for the others. So this is just to give you a little bit of a foresight about what is going to come and be discussed on Thursday afternoon.

I don't know whether anybody has something to add to this or whether you have questions on the afternoon sessions in general, not just the one that will be chaired by us.

If that is not the case, maybe before we go to the coffee break, anything, question or something, about what you heard in this session?

If this is not the case, then, Tracey, would you like to add something?

Thank you, Tracey.

TRACEY HIND: Hi. Julia, can you put the other slide up?

This is just a quick announcement. You're all familiar with the fact that in the background we're working very hard to build a new GAC Web site. And at Marrakech, it was mentioned that we would have a photographer to take your photographs -- head-and-shoulder photographs because there will be photographs of GAC representatives on the new Web site.

We have the photographer here with us in Helsinki. We'll also have them in Hyderabad. So it's not essential that you get it done during this four days if you run out of time. But if you do have the time, it would be great if you had that photograph taken.

He is booked for the times on the screen there. The ones in red are the times when he's available. We've aligned them to be not

during GAC plenary sessions. So they're during lunchtimes and also one in the afternoon on Tuesday. So if at some stage you could go and get your head-and-shoulders photograph taken for the GAC Web site when it does roll out. It's not imminently about to roll out. But when it does roll out, we would love to make sure that we have got a current photograph of you on it. And those head shots will be taken in the piazza, which is that big main area that you first came up to, the big open area where the opening -- welcoming ceremony was earlier today.

Wear something with a color. White shirts aren't great with a white background.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Unfortunately, we knew about this too late because otherwise we would have asked our host to build a makeup dressing room and put lipstick also for men at the disposal so we can be really beautiful in these photos. It was unfortunately too late. So we just need to be naturally beautiful and smile and look, like, decent and nice to make a good impression on our Web site for the rest of the world, of course. Thank you very much.

So this is a three minutes longer coffee break than planned, which is nice. So thank you all. See you at 10:45.

Thank you.

[Break]