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BARCELONA – GAC: Opening Plenary
Saturday, October 20, 2018 – 13:30 to 14:30 CEST
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

(Tour de Table)

FRANCE: [non-English word or phrase] hello, I apologize because I'm late, I represent France in the GAC, I am one of the five GAC vice-chairs. Good morning everyone.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: who haven't introduced themselves. Ok, if not then, I would ask you if you could keep your seats throughout the week, it would be helpful, so we can recognize you easier, but of course it's up to you. And please excuse me in advance if I am not able to recall everyone, so if you can please also, when you request the floor, introduce yourselves for recording and transcript purposes, it would be very helpful.

So, with this, Tom before going through the agenda for today, I would like to welcome Laos as the new member to the GAC which brings the membership of the GAC to 178 members. They are not here with us at this meeting but still we would like to acknowledge and welcome their membership.

So, with this, I will hand over to you, Tom, just to go through the highlights of today before getting into operational matters. Thank you.

TOM DALE: Yes, thank you, Manal. The briefing that was circulated to you a little while ago for this opening session as usual try to highlight a number of particularly important issues with the coming week of meetings, that is the meeting of the GAC but also other issues around ICANN. It appears, again, that over the next week and for the GAC, that issues dealing with ICANN compliance with the European general data protection regulation GDPR will be significant, a there are a number of issues including a working group -- sorry, policy development process working group already meeting in parallel with this group, so a number of GAC members are there.

The high level governmental meeting will of course take place in a few days time, Robert Hoggarth from ICANN will speak more about that in a moment. The GAC will begin to discuss later this afternoon its view on the final recommendations of the cross community working group on ICANN accountability and there will be a number of issues relating to the new gTLD subsequent procedures work particularly for Work Track 1-4 where some drafts get comments of being submitted and where the GAC will be meeting with the co-chairs of that group tomorrow and in relation to the Work Track 5 of that group finally, which is working separately on that issue of geographic names, and which in fact was meeting here in this very room immediately before the GAC arrived to take position, and those issues we dealt with in relevant GAC sessions.

Finally, you need to be aware, particularly those of you who are not regular GAC attendees and not sure who is anymore because the GAC continues to have quite a significant but healthy turnover, that ICANN meetings include a number of cross community and high interest topic sessions. The exact difference between cross community sessions and high interest topics is a matter of philosophical debate, but nonetheless, those are open sessions in which the GAC will have some interest, on Monday there will be a high interest topic session dealing with the GDPR issue and how it's being dealt with, in that expedited policy development process that I mentioned , on Wednesday there will be a cross community session, again dealing with a range of GDPR issues and finally there is a high interest topic on Thursday dealing with innovation and top level domains. The data of the GAC schedule have been circulated to you by GAC staff, most recently by Julia Chavrolen, please if you have any queries about them please see me or Julia during relevant breaks.

And with that, Manal, I'll pass back to you, because I believe there are a number of substantive matters that Rob and others wish to address. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Tom. And with this I will hand it over to Rob for a couple of administrative issues as well. Rob, please.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal, and they're somewhat significant administrative issues so I appreciate the opportunity. To my fellow colleagues in the back of the room, Gulten, if you could get us set up with my slides that would be great.

In the meantime, if I can first step back and introduce to all of you members of the ICANN support staff who are here to help support your efforts here for the rest of the week. We have the station in the back of the room. Right now, though I only see Gulten back there, so I will reserve the actual introductions of our team until later in the meeting.

The two items I wanted to chat with you all about today are very important ones. One the transition of your leadership team. As many of you know, the GAC holds annual elections for its leadership. There are two essential classifications of leadership in the GAC. First is the GAC chair who holds the term for two years and there are the GAC vice chairs, five of them who each hold annual terms. So, every year around the second ICANN meeting the policy forum, we open up a nominations process that enables all of you to come forward and name individuals who you would like to help administer and lead the work of the GAC.

We started nomination period at the last public meeting in Panama City. The nomination period was open from July until mid-September. The election process is essentially two phases, one, is the nomination process, and we as staff collect the various nominations and at the end of that determine if an actual

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balloting process is necessary. In the case for the 2018 election process, no balloting was necessary because we had the precise number of nominees for the number of seats available and so as a result, my presentation today is just to confirm with you that the individuals who had been nominated have now been in a position to step forward as members of the leadership team in the coming year.

If we can go to the next slide since I cannot control them, Gulten, go to about the third slide, if you could, we'll review the chair nominations, so that would be the next slide. For the chair one available seat, there is one chair, we had one nominee, Manal. So, no need for balloting, as a result Manal will be the candidate taking the seat of the next term of chair, now the term a two-year term as I just described. So, Manal will serve in that term from March 2019-2021. The next period or term of service for the leaders begins after the end of the next ICANN meeting. So, after ICANN64 the current leadership will transition to the next leadership team.

The reason why you see that final bullet -- and this is subject to further conversations that will take place this week in terms of operating principles -- is that for planning purposes in 2020 we have to determine whether it will be Manal's second term or whether she's just serving her first term because she took over halfway through Thomas Schneider's previous term, so I have flagged that as an issue for further discussions about operating

principles, we'll talk about that later in the week, But for purposes of her next term, Manal's term will start after the ICANN64 meeting next year.

Next Slide please.

Now, vice chairs serve one-year terms and so they have an opportunity to serve for two consecutive years, so every year all five vice chair positions come up for election. In the case of this 2018 election, there were five available seats and there were five nominations. So once again, there was no need for balloting. All the candidates who were nominated will take seats as vice chairs officially and formally at the end of the ICANN64 meeting. Those individuals are Cherif Diallo from Senegal, Pär Brumar from Niue, Thiago Jardim from Brazil, Olga Cavalli from Argentina and Luisa Paez from Canada -- that term, a one-year term, will be from March 2019 to March 2020, welcome to the new vice chairs.

Next slide, please.

I highlighted next to Thiago's name and next to Manal's name, principle 21 of the GAC operating principles, the important thing there is that in both cases. Manal and Thiago took over the terms of a previous occupant, if you will somebody else who was serving in that role, it's Fairly evident that Thiago doesn't fall under that because he basically served for an entire year so this will be a second term, but that is something, again from an operating principle perspective needs to be clarified, because it's not clear. And although in its present iteration the GAC operates very

collegially, in the future case if there is a dispute there is literally no language in the operating principles to clarify that so that will be something that Feng's working group will take on and that will be formed later in the week.

Next slide, please.

Just to share with you essentially the transition that's going to take place, from now through the next ICANN meeting, Manal will continue so serve the remainder the Tom Schneider's term and the present vice chairs, Guo, Ghislain, Thiago, Cherif, Pär, will be joined Olga and Luisa. This is a tradition in the GAC that once someone has been elected into a position to help with the transition, help on board the new officers, the present leadership team invites those newly elected members of the team to participate in the leadership calls, leadership meetings. So even later this week I believe Luisa and Olga had been invited to attend the leadership meetings here in Barcelona.

The next slide, Gulten Shows us, what happens after ICANN64. At that point Feng and Ghislain's terms are over, they will drop off the leadership team. We hope Feng will continue in his working group chair capacity and you will have the traditional chair and five vice chairs, and at some point in the future we will reserve principle 21 and that will be clear to everyone.

That's all I had to say about the election with the exception that technically the election isn't concluded until there's some recognition of that by the GAC membership, so I would invite

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everyone in the room by acclimation, welcome their new leadership team.

[applause]

Now, the next substantive issue -- and this is something that I think a number of you are interested in and need to hear about -- and we can go to the next two slides I think Gulten, [indistinct] had graciously mentioned us in his tour de table remarks. On Monday this room will convert to a high-level governmental meeting room and a number of you are either on the delegations or leading the delegations for your HLGM attendance. The room is set up today as it will be on that day with a couple of major exceptions. First, unlike a typical GAC meeting, there will be assigned seats. We have on the GAC web page a frequently asked questions section for the HLGM that I encourage you all to familiarize yourselves with, but essentially each individual delegation will have two seats at the table in this room that are formally assigned for each delegation. If you only have one leader of the delegation and only one person attending, you are by yourself, you will have one seat. If you have seven delegates you will two seats, if you have five delegates you will have two seats, three delegates, you will have two seats.

We will have name cards out on Monday. All of you, because I imagine most of you will be members in some way of your delegation, you will get on your badge, a small orange ribbon that says HLGM, and the importance of that device will be twofold.

One, it will give you preferential treatment for entering the room on Monday; and secondly, it will act as your admission to the post HLGM meeting reception on Monday evening. It's also frankly a promotional device in many respects with all of you and your colleagues who will join us on Monday morning. It'll be a means and mechanism for folks to see how active and involved government representatives are in the work of ICANN, because they will see all of these orange badges. And it will also help, we hope, to facilitate getting people from the opening session in room 111 down to here in 117.

Another element of the meeting that we're very cognizant of, right now you're all nicely spread out, it's a little difficult to see some of you in the back of the room, but on the meeting day we expect there will be many people who are interested as, observers, other members of the ICANN community who will be coming into the room, and that's the reason frankly for the orange ribbons. We're going to do a little bit of crowd management at the entrance and have one set of double doors just for all of you with the orange ribbons. So that you and in particular if you have got a senior official coming along with you, we can facilitate the entry into the room that everyone can find name cards and sit appropriately. The FAQ's explains sort of the background and how that's setup, so I won't get into details on this part.

One other element of the meeting that's important to be cognizant of, at lunchtime of the HLGM there will be a meeting of

the senior delegations, the senior delegates, upstairs in the banquet hall. And that lunch will only be open to the senior delegate from each delegation. We're separately going to try to identify all of those delegates visually, by and additional element on their badge a small orange sticker that reflects that they have access to the room, we'll have a guest list, but it will enable us we hope to do some people management to get people to the appropriate room, so what we're going to be doing is a twofold step process for all of you. Hope it will be relatively simple.

Don't do it now, but during breaks either today or tomorrow we have these orange ribbons at the back of the room, so please go back at your leisure and make sure you have an orange ribbon that will affix to your name badge. That will be very important it will make it easier for you not only on Monday, but I hope through the rest of the week. So that's one important element.

Secondly, we have preprinted most of the registration badges. Many of you were able to register and have gone through but may have colleagues who have not registered yet or come to the meeting, so we are also putting those altogether and we are going to have a special HLGM table down on the registration level for anyone who comes after 3:00 p.m. tomorrow and in the morning on Monday. So again, over the course of the next two days please let me or Gulten or Julia know if you have got some special circumstances or situations where you've got more delegates who are still on the planes coming here just for Monday so that

they can be prepared. Our goal is that they have a seamless process for signing in, registering and getting badges, we would definitely want to make sure they get the orange ribbon and certainly for your senior delegates we want to make sure they have the orange stickers, so they will be able to attend the lunch upstairs on Monday.

Other than that, we have the post meeting reception that will also be upstairs at the end of the day on Monday, you are all invited to participate in that. Hope you will take advantage of that as well as members of your delegation. A couple of other social events that are being planned, and I think Manal and Julia have sent out the notes to you as well that there will be a small informal reception tomorrow evening immediately following the last session of the day where that session on data protection and privacy, it's hoped that some of the other senior members of delegations are going to be attending that, so we're have a small reception just outside the room here that will, that's again going to be open to everyone who has the orange ribbons. So, I think I have covered everything. If you have any specific questions about the arrangements, want to get some clarification or a comfort level because you are doing some good due diligence prior to the meeting on Monday, please reach out to us from a staff perspective, and we'd be happy to work you through some part of the process.

Manal, thank you very much for the opportunity to give everyone a briefing. I'd like to now use the opportunity since Julia is back in the room, if Julia and Gulten and Fabian is in the room, if you would all please stand. Just for that of those of you who are new, you know some of my fellow team mates, Fabian is up here on the front left and Gulten and Julia in the back. If you have any issues -- and I joked with the first timers this morning -- anything except fixing your computer, please come speak with us and we'll be happy to help. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob. Any questions? Okay. Anyone we missed in the tour de table? Anyone who did not introduce themselves? I saw a few people coming in after the introductions. So, if we missed anyone in the introduction, please let us know now?

If not, this would conclude the plenary session. So, we're a little bit early. We have two options, either we proceed with the following session on auction proceeds and have a longer break afterwards, or we have like 20 minutes break now and then reconvene as scheduled at half past and have the auction proceeds then. So, if there are not any preferences --

ITALY: Rita Forsi from Italy

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:	Yes, Italy ok. Anyone else who haven't introduced themselves? Yes, please go ahead.
RWANDA:	Vincent Museminali GAC representative from Rwanda
MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:	Thank you Rwanda. Yes, please go ahead.
LUXEMBOURG:	I am Claudine from Luxembourg.
MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:	Thank you Claudine. Any more introductions? Okay. If not, Julia, are those the ribbons? Okay. So, if you can take the ribbons that Rob just identified from Julia at the back of the room. But I would say let's continue with the auction proceeds and then -- so we need to start it -- okay. Thank you, Julia. So, I do apologize. We need to follow the schedule as we have it for remote participation purposes. So, we need to respect the times we have on the schedule.

So, we will have to stop now and reconvene with the auction proceeds at half past. So, if you please use this time also to pick up your yellow ribbons from Julia at the back of the room. Thank you and see you at half past 2. Thanks.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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