
BARCELONA – GAC: Operational Matters
Wednesday, October 24, 2018 – 09:15 to 09:45 CEST
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, everyone. So this is a plenary session on operational matters. And we have quite an intense agenda to brief you so I'll start very quickly and then maybe handover to Feng as he has volunteered, along with Par, to co-chair a working group to look at the operating principles.

First, I would really like to thank recent GAC volunteers for GAC liaison positions. For the Customer Standing Committee, we have Nigel of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, CTU. I don't think Nigel is here, but many thanks to him. He will be serving as GAC's new liaison to the Customer Standing Committee and is taking the place of the current liaison which is Elise from Norway. And I would like to grasp this opportunity and to thank you very, very much, Elise for representing the GAC on the CSC and for continuously briefing the GAC and keeping us informed in a timely manner. Elise, please.

ELISE LINDEBERG: Thank you, Manal. It's been an interesting task actually. Sometimes it feels like it's enough hours, at least, on conference calls. But just to say that PTI is functioning very well, the IANA is in very good shape. So they are performing within the 98 to 100 percent every month. And it is an important function the CSC has as to see that actually ICANN is doing its job on the technical side. That it's actually the core business

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of ICANN. So I wish my colleague good luck, and I would like to that say he will have the insight of how the technical changes are being done in the root zone. And at least for me as a lawyer, it's been really interesting. So good luck. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Elise. Also, we have the ICANN Org. IANA Function Review, the IFR, and for this, Andreas of eSwatini. He volunteered to serve as the GAC appointee. I don't think we have him in the room, but it's really encouraging to have new members to the GAC but also volunteering to share work efforts.

On the ICANN Fellowship Program Selection Committee, Karel of Trinidad and Tobago has also volunteered for this position, and I thank you so very much, Karel, for this.

So with this, allow me to hand over to Feng. As I mentioned, the current operating principles are under review. We felt that we needed maybe more people dedicating time to this so there was a decision for a working group. And at this point in time, I will hand it over to Feng to brief you on the topic. So Feng, over to you, please.

GUO FENG: Thank you, Manal. And hello and good morning, everyone. So at this session, I would like to brief you regarding the GAC operating principle evolution. So as you may have seen from the GAC mailing list, Manal had already sent an email and Manal had also briefed you about the intention to establish this working group to explore and develop

potential improvements to the GAC operating principles. So I personally offered to coordinate this effort and Pär Brumark, the Vice-Chair of the GAC, has also volunteered to work with me.

So in the previous meeting, in the previous several years, a number of you have expressed interest in contributing to the discussions about this important topic. And I think that the formation of this working group will permit to channel those interests in an effective manner. So let's come to our slide. It includes around nine or ten pages. The first part is the purpose of this working group.

This working group will study, develop, and make recommendations to the GAC for changes to the current GAC operating principles. This working group will also help the GAC to improve the organization's scope, clarity, and specificity of the committee's processes and procedures. In addition, this working group will enable GAC to adjust and adapt to operate more effectively and efficiently as an advisory committee and also as a member of the ICANN empowered community.

In terms of the scope of work of this working group, there are three points. One is to provide recommendations in relation to modifications to or reorganizations of the overall structure of the current GAC operating principles. And second, the working group will provide suggestions or recommendations in relation to modification of the existing operating principles. And we'll put addition of new operating principles when necessary.

With regard to the working group membership, in regard to the participants, we would like to invite representatives from any GAC member as well as representatives from GAC observer to join this working group, to join this operating principle evolution effort. And in terms of the leadership, this working group will initially be coordinated by a team of two chairs, that is me and Pär. We're the initial co-chairs. Currently, we are designated by the GAC chair. And in the following phase, subsequently, the GAC leadership can adjust the leadership structure of the working group to best manage the work of this working group.

And we have been devoting some time in finding the priorities of this working group. So we just put ourselves here, over here for your consideration. There are two priorities we are currently identifying. One is to review the existing operating principle framework and to develop recommendations about it to have a better framework of the GAC operating principles in the future. And number two is to develop recommendations for improving the specificity and the clarity of our GAC working group, to have perhaps, a more specific operating principle for the GAC working group.

The second priority such as to develop a revised operating principle regarding the committee liaison function between the GAC and other ICANN, AC, and ISO. And another thing is that in the first or second day of our GAC first meeting this time, we already identified an issue like term of the chairmanship of this committee. Perhaps we could add that into our working items. And we will carry out other working areas

directed by the GAC and its leadership team and the working area pursuant to discussion among the GAC members.

Pace of work. We will conduct our work and produce deliberations intersessionally. Hopefully, between the GAC face-to-face meetings, we will carry out effective work. And the working group is to planning to report the progress of this working group at every GAC face-to-face meeting, to GAC members, to GAC as a whole. And this working group will also conduct its work by email and via conference call. We will try to meet as often as possible via conference call and during GAC face-to-face meetings.

Talking about the decision making of this working group, when it comes to the substantive decisions for recommendations, we'll try to adopt the approach of reaching consensus among the working group members. But, however, when we have the cases like some issue or objective by a minority of the working group, those variety of views will be reported to the GAC leadership. And in terms of the nonsubstantive working group matters, such as some operational decision like the timing of a particular document or the timing conference call or the rotation time of the conference call, it will be roughly determined by the working group leadership in consultation with working group members. And working group members can express concern to the GAC leadership and the working group leadership when they have any opinions about the operational issues with regard to this working group.

So the working group timeline. We anticipate considerable time of this working group because the task we are looking at, that we will be dealing with is important and perhaps we'll take a considerable period of time. So at first phase, I anticipate a two-year period is needed. And perhaps after the two-year phase, we will review the progress and assess whether we continue the mandate or renew the mandate of this working group to make recommendations about the future plan of this working group to the GAC and to the GAC leadership.

So I assume this is perhaps the last slide. Okay. This is the last slide. So the support for the working group. The GAC ICANN staff will provide support to this working group. We will have two members of the GAC supportive staff to ensure the operational support of this working group's cause and will assist document development and publication.

This working group will create an activity page of this working group with a link to the GAC website or it's just a part of the GAC website. The members of this working group's names will be listed on this web page and we've also put the record of this working group on that web page. And it will also create a mailing list for working group members to collaborate and exchange views. I think the staff has used other tools like Adobe Connect and Google Docs and other tools for this working group development and meetings.

So thanks for your attention, and this is some of the initial thoughts about this working group. And also, I would like to take this opportunity to call for volunteers here to join this working group. And

I can remember, I heard from some of the GAC members that some GAC members have already expressed interest to join in this working group, to join in this effort. Those members are India, Turkey, and Palestine. And you are more than welcome to join this working group. And I would like to seek more volunteers at this moment or in the following several days or before the end of this month to join this working group.

And last but not least, my big thanks to Rob, ICANN staff, and to Pär Brumark, our Vice-Chair, for their contribution to these slides. So I'll stop here to see if you have questions and comments and if you have any thoughts, reactions to these slides or the following work of this working group. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Feng. I can see Canada, please.

CANADA: Good morning, everyone. First of all, we wanted to thank the work and initiative to start this really important working group and then also to express our interest to be part of it. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Canada. Mr. Morris, please.

TAIWAN: Thank you, Chair. And good morning, everyone. I want to express my gratitude to the Vice-Chair for his excellent presentation on this

working group and I want to express our interest to participate in this working group. So two delegates from Taiwan, we also want to join this working group. Secondly, for the presentation, I have a question about the decision making process. According to the presentation from Mr. Guo, you mentioned that we are a consensus-based discussion, but if the consensus cannot be met by a minority of members, the process we would go [inaudible].

I think it's not a problem, but it's a tradition or a [inaudible]. I know usually a consensus discussion based on the consensus of the member participating in the discussion. I think usually we do it in this way. So I think it's better to meet a consensus discussion based on all the members in the operating group first as our priority. So I think, I hope, I personally hope that the consensus are based on the discussion of the whole working group first. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Morris. So I'm sorry, U.S., were you seeking the floor?

UNITED STATES: Yes. I just wanted to indicate our interest in participating as well. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. I have Australia and Iran. Australia, please go ahead.

AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you to the Vice-Chair from China for the presentation. Australia was a member of a previous version of this group and I would just like to express our interest in being part of the further efforts to work on our operating principles. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. I have Iran and then Denmark.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Good morning to everybody, thanks to Mr. Feng for the start of the work and the program that was given. I just wish to suggest that with respect to timeline, perhaps we should mention the completion of this work is envisioned to be between one and two years depending on the progress of the work. I think starting from two years at the very beginning is too long. But we cannot foresee what will happen depending on the contribution progress, but put that one between one and two years depending on the progress of the work. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Iran. Denmark, please.

DENMARK: Thank you, and thank you for the presentation. Denmark has also been part of the work before and we have already expressed our willingness to participate to the GAC Secretariat. So just to confirm that we are, of course, still interested.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Excellent, thank you very much. Senegal.

SENEGAL: Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you, Guo Feng, for this presentation. I would also like to state our interest in participating in this working group. And I want to thank the Iran colleague for making this suggestion. I think that after one year we should have some results. Thank you.

INDIA: I would like to make a small statement. So India reaffirms the importance of independent GAC Secretariat services to the GAC. India supports the call for volunteers for the constitution of a small task force, other volunteers that are working and for which we have already volunteered. And to agree on handover agreements of ACIG's conclusion of contract beyond 31 January 2019. We agree on the assessment of the GAC Donors Association that funding for the secretariat at one point, OFD, appears sufficient for services to continue to be provided under the current contract to the end of 2018.

We also welcome the proposed new structure of GAC operating principles and support the idea that the best potential area for initial focus would be to take on principles impacting the working group efforts. And we welcome the fact that the GAC member leadership has taken on their task and will focus on that area between the Panama City and the Barcelona city meeting. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, India. Thiago, please.

THIAGO JARDIM: Brazil is interested also in joining this group. Thank you.

IRAN: Thank you, Manal. We would wish to also request that we include it provisionally in the list subject to confirmation because I have to talk to my colleagues. I am not available personally for some of the engagement, but we wish to also have this possibility and then I will confirm or otherwise the participation of the group. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Iran, for your interest. Any other requests? Yes, Cook Islands, please.

COOK ISLAND: Thank you, Chair. For clarification of the travel guidelines, will that be part of the work of this working group?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: No. No, it's GAC operating principles.

COOK ISLANDS: Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Cook Islands. So if no more requests for the floor and in the remaining five minutes I would look to hand over to Rob, please. Sorry, Rob, I just found one to comment on this before we move on. Thank you.

GUO FENG: Thank you, Manal and sorry, Robert. I have a brief comment. First, thanks to those GAC members who expressed willingness to join this working group, and hopefully I can work with you to move things fast and smooth and looking forward to working with you on this very important topic. And a brief reaction to some of the points made by the previous speakers in regard to the working group. Yeah, I totally agree that when we have to make a decision in this working group, we will first try our best to reach consensus among ourselves. And when we try every effort but finally we cannot reach consensus, we will perhaps convey the various views of the working group members to the whole GAC and the GAC leadership.

And second, in regard to the comment made by a distinguished delegate from Iran, I think I can agree with you, but at the first chance I write down the two-year. It was because that I was anticipating it was an important task that will take a long time. But we can try to rephrase the word, like you said, and to see if we can achieve things fast. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Feng, and thank you for volunteering to co-lead this important effort. So Rob, in the remaining minutes.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal. Just as closing up on the operating principles discussion, I'm counting now 15 different GAC members volunteering. And in terms of the timing, I'm more than delighted to support Feng and Par's leadership and if they can accomplish changing 54 operating principles in a year, then I'm sure they would be delighted to try. Thank you very much. We'll definitely work hard on that.

There are a couple of quick hit items I wanted to make sure that I shared not only with those of you in the room but anyone reviewing the transcripts later. First is the matter of RSVPs for GAC face-to-face meetings. For the first time, for ICANN 63, Gulden and Julia reached out individually to every one of the GAC representatives asking what your plans were for coming to the meeting.

We did that particularly for ICANN 63 because of the challenges that you all saw that we experienced on Monday morning in terms of turnout, concerns about having available space in the room. That's typically not an issue in terms of our planning for GAC meetings. But we have found it, just in the initial experience, to be invaluable in helping to assist a number of you in preparing for meeting, helping us to refine the agenda, and making other logistical plans.

So at present, our staff plan is to continue that process. So please look forward to an email in probably the January timeframe, from the staff,

that will be asking you if you intend to come to the Kobe meeting at ICANN64 and how many people you plan on joining with you. Obviously, it's not a firm commitment and there are always changes in plans, but we found that to be a valuable and useful process. So I hope that that was not too burdensome to ask from many of you. We had tremendous feedback. It actually helped us in some additional planning for the HLG. And so I welcome your feedback in terms of whether that will continue to work for you, but it was tremendously valuable. And I will pause for Iran to comment.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, Iran, please.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Manal. In case that we will not be able to attend or participate, I wish to request to you kindly to look at the previous activities in this regard. There are valuable elements that have been considered before and sometimes for some changes there are reasons why we need or why we need not the changes. This is point one if you can kindly take into account.

Second, in the activities, categories of action, some of the categories are simply editorial nature and so on and so forth and could be easily dealt with. Some others are fundamental nature and requires further back and forth or interaction, so perhaps you may kindly take that into account. So in summary, to avoid the adoption of work that has been

done and second, make categorization in order to facilitate the work.
Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Rob, anything else from your side?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I understand that everyone wants to get to the high-interest topic. Just the final quick observations. Thank you all, for those of you who are particularly new, who have helped us implement some of our data protection and privacy processes that we've introduced. As you all experience changes in your representation, we appreciate your help in filling out consent forms that allow us to collect your information, your contact information, and allow us to put that on the GAC website.

And I will skip the onboarding update, but a final heads up, and this is related to Cook Islands question earlier, the ICANN Organization will soon be formally announcing new travel guidelines. We are going to be working as staff to incorporate those into the GAC Travel Policies and Guidelines and we'll obviously come back to the GAC membership with our recommendations, likely even before the Kobe ICANN64 meeting, to get your feedback. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob. And I have also two quick important announcements. First of all, I have just received a very timely confirmation from co-chairs of work stream 2, that we will have at

least Jordan and Thomas here in the room at 2:00 just to answer any questions before we finalize our communique.

Second, I have also just received an email from Julf, GNSO liaison to the GAC, telling us that the motion to approve the final report of the Curative Rights PDP Working Group has been withdrawn from the GNSO council agenda of today's council meeting. The work of the working group will still be discussed, but there will be no vote on approving the final report here. So those are two quick announcements.

With this, this concludes this session. Please, I urge you to attend the GDPR session which is co-organized by the GAC and the GAC is also on the panel. And I look forward to seeing you at 1:30 here in the GAC room after a lunch break. So, Mr. Morris, you request the floor.

TAIWAN:

Thank you, Chair. Actually, I have a suggestion for our future meeting. I'm wondering if it's possible to arrange a joint meeting with the SSAC? Currently, we have a joint meeting with the ccNSO, GNSO and the ALAC, and the SSAC [] advises the ICANN community and the matter relating to the security and the integrity of the Internet [inaudible]. I believe GAC also needs to understand the latest development of the security issue in ICANN. So a joint meeting SSAC may update or have a direct discussion with GAC. If a joint meeting is not feasible shouldn't we post in the meeting document from SSAC would also be an option. This is my suggestion for your consideration. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, very much, Mr. Morris. Noted. Iran, very briefly.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Could you kindly repeat what happened in the GNSO council? I did not understand quite clearly what is the situation with withdrawing the motion. Could you kindly repeat that? Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: As you may know, the final report on curative rights was very diverse from the GAC advice, and the council was going to vote on this during its meeting yesterday. Apologies if I was not clear. So no votes here. It is still under discussion and it has been withdrawn from the council's final decisions.

So with this, I will stop here. Thank you very much and see you at 1:30 here in the GAC room. Meanwhile, the GDPR cross community session is now operational at room 111,112, I think. Thank you.

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