

Rounds of gTLDs Next Steps

MARRAKECH – GAC: Meeting with Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) and GAC Subsequent Rounds of gTLDs Next Steps
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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, welcome back, everyone, and apologies for squeezing your lunch breaks because the session before lunch really went over time. So I do apologize on behalf of my colleagues who will be stepping in late.

I would like to thank the universal acceptance steering group for reaching out to the GAC. This is not our first meeting and good to keep the channels open and the topic emerging not only globally also within the ICANN community and other constituencies so I think it's a timely discussion so thank you for being here. Shall I hand it over to you?

DR. AJAY DATA: Thank you, GAC, Manal. Here to talk about not only the emerging [indiscernible] universal acceptance. The agenda I will cover is overview and status of universal acceptance. UASG action plan for year 20, and how can we GAC members help us in this very important and hard topic for the whole world. So this is where I will talk a little bit about universal acceptance where we are talking about and making a base what universal acceptance

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actually is. So there is a vision statement which leadership has [indiscernible] with the help of the community. All domain names and email addresses work in all software applications, seems simple, logical, and why an issue? But I will cover that part later but that's the vision this group has. The mission is to mobilize a software application developer to get their support and make UA ready for providing encouragement, documentation, case studies tools and measures to deliver the right user experience to the end user.

And the impact to promote consumer choice, improve competition and provide broader access to end universe. It's a really large impact because we're connecting the unconnected, connecting the deprived, touching very large segments of the [indiscernible] universal acceptance problem.

To let you know, what is the real issue and the coverage here. In the first example of newer top level domains. These are domains which are like example dot sky and this is very specific, dot three characters, when the Internet was started it has three characters after the dot, the top level domain,.com,.net,.org, so what programmers thought and developers, thought the software only supposed to validate only three characters after the dot and that is how they programmed everything so secure the domain names. And then obviously ICANN came out with a new policy

where the long top level domains started coming in, now we have dot professional, dot [indiscernible] like that and now the domain names obviously failing that test defined in the software before.

Another problem came with the [indiscernible] Arabic example here, this is a domain name which you can see and people who know Arabic can actually type it and the issue is that the Arabic name has [indiscernible] it's called [indiscernible] code, and another challenge that ASCII do not always bring right to left, it goes from left to right, another challenge of universal acceptance. Once the IDN is there, then obviously people want an email address on those domain names and known as email address internationalization. So you can have Hindi address, and this is presented here in a presentation available to all of you through your schedule, you can copy that email address and try it out in the next [indiscernible] another thing we have given to you is a tool. While you are having a laptop, you can visit the website at the bottom of the slide, or in the top right corner on the [indiscernible] website, you can look at that and here it allows you to key in your own email address, so if you have email address you can put, it will only tell you whether you are EI ready UA ready or not, so are you supporting universal acceptance or not, this is the tool which universal acceptance has created for all of you, it

is available free and anybody can use it any time and test their email addresses any time.

So what universal acceptance is. If we can see these five words and remember them, and if you qualify these five words on your websites, softwares, mobile, applications, then actually you are UA ready. An example is let us say we have GAC website here and if members wish to register with his for instance a Hindi address, if it accepts, can it validate as a valid email address, the first is that I can type and second it can validate it's a valid email address and third, can it store it, to can you store it in the right format and process it for many purposes, sending out email, creating profile or whatever purpose of the website is. And then if I log in again, can you display back properly to me my email address. If this entirely cycle is covered then the website is UA ready.

A little bit about the group. The universal acceptance steering group is completely community led initiative supported by ICANN financially and by the support team, Sarmad is sitting in the left corner, he is an IDN program director, supports up us in the initiative on the ICANN side. Has produced many documents to define and [indiscernible] the challenges to help all of you available freely on the URWG website and available, quick guide to universal acceptance so after the presentation if somebody wants to understand more about universal acceptance can

actually see that -- and these are all linked, so if you have access to the presentation you can link and go to that presentation. Email address [indiscernible] very interesting case study [indiscernible] a state in India has provided a Hindi email address to every citizen of the state. To 70 million people enabled. So this is one case study available to you and you can look at it how the government has functioned and how citizens have been enabled for governance and connectivity.

Quick guide to [indiscernible] one thing I want special attention from all of you the represented here. This is about promoting universal acceptance. So if your software procurement and the products which you are buying, technology enabled and require a condition that the software should be UA ready, if you can [indiscernible] conditions of procurement, these conditions are in this document. So they are made readily available to you. The software which you are buying now or trying to procure now, it will be very good and no-brainer to put those conditions. It is like buying an ipv four only device when you know [indiscernible], exactly like that. So if you are buying software why buy software which had not support universal acceptance, [indiscernible] it's made readily available to all of you, you can copy paste and ready for you.

Universal acceptance group has a structure, so there is a chair, two or three vice chairs if pal. I have my friend here mark from site chair and represents Microsoft in UASG and also there is a coordination groups which we create, these are all working groups and we define the chair in each. UASG communities [indiscernible] into working groups, will share a little bit about it in the next slide. It's open, so even if you wish to join the universal acceptance working group and see what is going on, good luck to UASG [indiscernible] subscribe and become a member. It's open completely. Community based, supported by ICANN org and the current team I have mentioned here.

Here I will talk about an action plan. We have been working the last many years is strong foundation was created and now because of [indiscernible] working group and [indiscernible] what the group will be and what the group is likely to achieve. That plan also active and available on the UASG website, anybody who wishes to see it in detail can see that. In that you will find we are going to add these people and this is one of the respects we are here talking to you. Technology enables, where we will talk about the people who are working out the standards, best practices and those creating liabilities and tools and frameworks. So for example a [indiscernible] framework or dot [indiscernible] framework or Java, there are tools which are to be created to help

people be UA ready. The technology developers, building applications, so if you have legacy application which is likely to be modified, we are trying to tell developers for make the provision it is UA ready. It's a small bug left in the back and requires a solution.

Email software and service providers, as I use the example of a [indiscernible] and Hindi email address. Can you receive and send an email from me. Try to send from your email client, from the server, can you send it? If you cannot you are not UA ready, you have a UA problem. So we're going to the developers and one good news, anybody using Microsoft exchange, 2018 is the UA ready software, Phase I, you can send and receive an email from a Hindi address or any EI address. Microsoft, Google, so the large companies supporting that and requires that the governments start looking at it seriously.

Influencing individuals and organizations, going to the class of people who can go and influence organizations, software developers, that they are UA ready.

And this is such an important thing understand that please workout the policies around and we have given you the policy, at least start with the policy of procurement for future so there is no software procured by a government which is not UA ready and this will not only enable the software developers and providers to

be UA ready but bringing in people who are not able to use the languages and everything else.

We are not working as a working group, so we have decided these six working groups, technology working group plans and coordinates, email address internationalization, measurements, communications, local initiatives, and at this time, I would like to request Manal, GAC, that we can have a GAC UA working group. That will be great, that will be a big support for the entire important initiative if we can have that. Then we will be very, very happy to support as much as required in leadership or as a group that we have many volunteers we can support and everywhere in the world, that is not a challenge.

This is the stakeholder interaction. I think it is pretty simple. You can understand the technology working group is about technology and developers, these are the cross-sections which are displayed here. And this I will leave for some time for you so you can read while I am talking. The main purpose is this: How we can seek help from you, how you can help us achieve this most important issue, to bring in the next billion people online, and this is one thing which cannot happen without your help. I want to put a caution here that it is not just an issue of [indiscernible] in those countries which are purely English specific countries where the top level domain also an issue. We have examples where an

English speaking countries are having issues, and they are not UA ready. So how you guys can help us? Help identify the different ministries or departments. Can you connect with us? The right ministries who can help us in this issue in the area of government. If you can connect the leadership, connect with Sarmad, and we would be very happy to coordinate, communicate with them and see our local ambassadors there who can go and represent or we have a local initiative team we are building.

So if you have some communication which can go to the right to the right citizenship or country or ministry and government, that would be very helpful, and we can design that message together. If you connect with us in the context which are specifically dealing with or e-mail for the government, a department which deals email in the ministry, if you can connect with us we can be with the UA issue. Who is managing all the government portals. We may come back to you from time to time because now creating local initiative working groups which will be there in your country locally ambassadors there to support and interact with you and taking the message further in the local community. And help spread the message.

How do you test your own e government policies and how do you see you are in the future UA ready. So as in the previous slide, the tending process and how it can get UA readiness guidelines. If we

can have that policy which is there in this presentation as a link, if you can insert in your procurement guidelines, that will ensure the software procured in the future will be UA ready. Help identify the government accessibility standards and how these can be upgraded. It's a simple thing, again, if we understand the principle and interested that the next billion people online because we are UA ready, then these standards are required to be upgraded and how to identify the 11 technologies which are interface to go the citizens. So if you have portal where it is only English and someone having an Arabic email address, how does you communicate with you if you are not UA ready? It's a barrier problem that he cannot access, cannot enter his own email address which is possible and being made available now.

My last slide for you so thank you for inviting us and also request you if some are interested to be part of our working groups, we would welcome you. If you are interested to observe our working groups, please join them. If you see what is going on, join them. If you would like to contribute, please join them. These are the working groups which are open right now, this link also eligible and the opening right now so if you can click on that link you can fill in your information and we will get you in the working group. This is the last request which I will leave with you.

Next slide please, and thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Dr. Ajay Data for this informative presentation. Do we have the slides? Okay. Because I can see a wealth of information and links also to other resources and material and documents that may be useful. And I think an important thing to note is that universal acceptance is not necessarily linked to IDN's but new gTLDs as well, so broadens the scope and interest of I would say almost everyone. I will stop here to see if we have any questions.

INDONESIA: Thank you, I am not an it expert like you, previously in ASCII, right, and what you make in the UA cs translator to of any characters to ASCII, the character might be thousands, can your system translate that as [indiscernible] character to ASCII and secondly, will this only work for the IDN or also for other software or information? Are [indiscernible] particular characters whether the same system can translate that into ASCII or something like that.

DR. AJAY DATA: Thank you for the question, two things to answer and sorry if I misread something out of your words. We are not a company, we are a community led group. And this is [indiscernible] which we

want to share with all of you that universal acceptance of all domain names and email addresses is required. When English, let's say ASCII, they exist at their own feet and [indiscernible] at their own. There is no translation in between. When you register a name in Arabic, there is no ASCII, no link with each other. Universal acceptance must accept both, currently if you check your own website right now and if you can enter an email address there, can you write an Arabic or Hindi, copy and paste right there and see, can you type and paste that and save it somewhere. That is a problem. We believe that most of the websites, most of the softwares do not accept them, do not accept those domain names, IDN and Internet [indiscernible] which is at least one character non-ASCII, same with ei, so we are not solving an ASCII problem, it's only one problem right now which you are referring to that if the top level domain more than three characters, we believe and test shows that they are not accepted normally. They are rejected considering that this email address is invalid whereas the email address is actually valid. A lot of browsers when you type in domain name they say invalid domain name but actually it is valid. That is a UA issue and I can give you this -- yeah, why not. Would you like to say something.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So think of it as a collection of good practices for software developers and online service providers. So an example for the new gTLDs, previously if someone said I would like an office 365 subscription and bring my dot realty domain so I am blah, blah, blah dot realtor, before we became universal acceptance compatible you could not bring that to make it part of your office 365 subscription but now you can that's a example of a new gTLD that is an ASCII but the same applies to IDNs and email addresses that use new gTLD or the Unicode repertoire, so if Gmail fixes their -- then Microsoft also has to so that's the challenge, not one system or automatic translator that works between them. Everyone must evaluate their systems and offerings to ensure they are compatible with these best practices, so our request to you is how can I promote these practices in my country, economy, in the world, so suggestions there, think about the software that you buy, think about the software that you use, think about standards that you create regarding buying and using and think of how you incentivize the entrepreneurs, do you promote them, buy their software preferentially, create a development fund? These are ways you can participate in the creation of a world where all domain names and email addresses accepted by all software.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Mark, and thank you for creating interest within the GAC. Because our Indian GAC representative unfortunately, he had to leave early to catch his flight but -- and we haven't discussed this within the GAC yet but he told me he's interested to lead the GAC discussions on universal acceptance, and he will be reaching out to other colleagues as well. But as I said, he just told me this before he left and we haven't even discussed this within the GAC yet. Any other questions or comments? Yes, please.

BRAZILIAN SOFTWARE ASSOCIATION: [indiscernible] ICANN [indiscernible] mandatory everyone to be universal acceptance ready or we are going to take many, many years to fix that problem, that's not difficult to fix, is this a possibility?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ICANN has done my many standards -- there were rules about strings, label generation rules and standards created not by ICANN but by [indiscernible] regarding the mapping of ASCII characters to uni code, code points within a domain name so compatible with DNS so ICANN has played a role in the history of this in making sure standards were developed either within ICANN itself or within associated bodies such as IETF. ICANN has

played a role in ensuring those standards were applied within policies related to the creation and delegation of domain names so now up to the software community so embrace those standards and implement them within their own systems. So when it is defined how an IDN looks, a software system should display that correctly but today maybe they don't. ICANN plays their role and this community creates awareness that these new capabilities and standards are available but now you must adopt them.

DR. AJAY DATA: ICANN does not [indiscernible] or force anything.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They have [indiscernible] identified the programs within their corporate structure not compatible and taken actions to mitigate the process to ensure they do not purchase additional software and their developers do not create new software that is not universal acceptance. All companies should evaluate themselves in that same manner.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, Sarmad, do you want to say something?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Based on the importance of universal acceptance, addressing the universal acceptance has been included as part of the ICANN strategic goals for the next five years and the ICANN's role is to support the community in this process and we are available here to support all of you, the community to make sure that all domain names and email addresses are accepted in software applications and also that recently ICANN board has also expanded, started to look at universal acceptance by expanding the scope of the board IDN working group to look at universal acceptance so concrete I guess steps forward ICANN is taking to support the community to address the UA readiness challenge.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Great. Thank you, Sarmad.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: The question is that universal acceptance is good as far as it's not required to procure a new software, because procuring new software, not affordable by some countries or people and some countries deprived to have new software because of some other situations that you know better than me. So if it is mapping, translating so far so good and welcome. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss, and I hope we maintain the interest and continue the discussion inter-sessionally, and we look forward to further engagement in the future. So thanks, Sarmad, Mark, and Dr. Ajay Data, thank you very much.

[NEXT SESSION]

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, Luisa, apologies for running over time if you can join me for the new gTLD subsequent procedures discussion. And meanwhile quick reporting from -- I met with the planning Montreal planning committee over lunch. I have reported the GAC interest to have potential 3 -- for cross-community sessions in Montreal on human rights, the NCUC also expressed interest Jorge and they said they will check whether they can also co-operate the NCUC they will check in and whether they could co-organize with us the human rights one. On DNS abuse mitigation. And I don't see Cathrin in the room but there was interest in the stakeholder group and also SSAC but there was a call to be cautious about the definition and that it's not content but maybe infrastructure abuse, and on EPDP Phase 2 of course we have GNSO on Board so this is quickly to just

report back from the meeting, and I'll hand over to you, Luisa. Kavouss, anything?

IRAN:

The most important thing for some country is visa applications. How many e-mail I sent to you and to go wrong and to e-mail others. 2 hours before departure and thanks to the Morocco authority. After so many push from right and left we don't want to engage wasting our time to 20 or 25 e-mails going up to the top level of the ICANN and so on so for the. If the country cannot provide the visa then it is better not to invite. It is.

[Applause]

IRAN:

Facilitate to the extent possible.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Everyone has been doing their very best. I understand the frustration. I understand the frustration, and I do appreciate the efforts that has been exerted, which end up to be fruitful, and indeed if there is anything that we can do it early on we will definitely, so with with that maybe we can start the new gTLDs. I'm sorry to delay your start, so go ahead.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, madam chair. So it's Luisa Paez with the Canadian government for the record. Thank you everyone for powering through this last session, so really appreciate your time, and attention. So the session will focus on giving you a quick overview in terms of the meeting of the GAC focal group and subsequent rounds of new gTLDs so Par the agenda I'll focus first on giving you a quick update and then we can discuss a bit more in terms of next steps.

Next slide perfect. So the focus the GAC focal group met on Tuesday, it conducted its first in person meeting. We didn't have all of the GAC individuals that expressed an interest. Some of them are not here in person, but I just wanted to thank those that did come to the meeting. I appreciate your time, so in terms of what took place, the first part of the meeting, we invited Jeff and Cheryl, the co-chairs of the new gTLD subs procedures PDP working group. We wanted to ensure we understood a bit more the deliberations of the PDP and the timelines to see how then the GAC can better organize itself. So regarding the, the timelines, the -- from my understanding, and I have invited for this GAC plenary session co-chairs Cheryl of the PDP in case, I misinterpreted our discussions I wanted to ensure I'm accurate in

terms of my updates as well as some of the ICANN Org staff. So feel free to intervene as you need.

So regarding next steps of the PDP deliberations, the PDP working group is thinking of a potentially though they haven't decided yet -- to have a public comment period that will only include new items, but again this is still from my understanding still being decided, and discussed within, within the working group but they did give us a bits of head up but it seems the direction the PDP is taking so in terms of timelines if this happens,ing it seems the time-frame for the public comment period would be sometime around November, October, from our understanding. So that is an important date to keep in mind in terms of organizing our GAC internal efforts

I will stop there. That's in terms of the time-line. So again the working group is still finalizing the review of the public comments it received but it seems that an idea would be to include -- only to include new topics into our report, and that they would be a public comment period it seems sometime in November or October.

The other important update from our discussions, we did ask the co-chairs to help us, how best for GAC members to keep track of

this PDPs work. It is as you know is quite vast, and comprehensive, so they did point to us, to a few key documents that I wanted to bring to your attention and they are all found in the wiki, the first one they brought to our attention I believe it's called the summary document, and I believe it's a Google document, and so -- thank you Benedetta -- so, so and how it works from my understanding usually under each topic it gives you a short summary of the policy work and then if that topic has been discussed it summarizes any high top level agreements. But I'll stop there and perhaps I can ask staff or Cheryl you could talk a little bit more about this important document by I think it's called summary document, and again it's a Google document. It could be found in the wiki page but it is a good guideline for these interested GAC members if you're interested in a specific topic you can zoom in there, and then this is something that the actual co-group will be looking at in terms of organizing our efforts but I'll stop there and see if there's any clarification. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, talking to you from the back of the room. She allowed me to stay here with my feet up, and I appreciate that. Thank you very much for the invitation as well. We certainly want to make sure that everyone understands this is a sand pit. It's a scratch pad. It's a living document. It will change frequently until the

point in time, the point in time when the whole plenary says yes, this is the text we agree on. These are the recommendations we do or do not make. When we agree, these are the regions we do or do not make. Then we will also annotate these documents, section by section to show the type of consensus that we believe any recommendation, if it is made, has. Why is this important to the GAC? Because do you remember the GNSO uses a range of reportable consensus levels. Not full consensus so we will be able to say there is this level of consensus or this level of consensus or not and you will be able to keep have a watching brief on any topic of particular interest to the GAC but looking into this document going to the section that is the one on the topic you're interested in, and seeing what the status is there will be a point obviously before we go into draft that, that will be frozen and that will be well advertised on our mailing list and I know many of you are observers but certainly you have plenty of people who are members of the GAC who are both actively engaged, and observers in our mailing lists of the other thing I wanted to just make sure you were very well aware of with this document is this is not a template for the final report.

We are not concerned about pausing and the grammar and the do thing of an I and the meaning of a word while we are working in the rough. We will then develop and draft a final report, which

may look suspiciously like parts of this document but this is a summary document of the other thing that I think is very very important for you to know -- on a work than that means that you know in advance by looking at that work plan when we were planning to discuss any particular topic, and so if there is a topic that is of keen interest to the GAC and your folk group then obviously that is a session that you can plan to come along with. This I'm going to hand to Steve and he's going to pick up anything I forgotten and it appears I haven't forgotten anything. Most unusual. Back to you and thank you very much for the question.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Cheryl. That is very important clarification so flagging again these 2 documents for the purpose of all GAC members here but as well these documents will also be guiding the work of the GAC focal group and they can all be found in the wiki, so again there is -- it's a soft pro work plan 2019 which dates very clearly when the calls will be happening, and what topics they will be discussing. And then the document many, the summary document. Yes, please. Iran, thank you.

IRAN:

First of all, thanks to the co-chair of the working groups and also to them and to the working group for the good work they are

doing. You remember that the summary document was expected by Iran 3 meetings ago and thanks to them to kindly look at that one because we said that not all the issues of the working group are identical from the interesting point of view after the GAC, so it's better to have a summary and make it possible for the GAC to look at that somebody and find a way that area that they are interested in.

Now my question to you is -- a chair or the coordinator of focal point. Look at the summary and you have identify areas that you need to draw the attending GAC member that would be much interest of GAC just as an indicator format but not definitive. Please kindly do that. That's what would help the people. Number 2 you said something that I have not heard for the new items. What are those new items. What new items. Having said that I have some other problems with the public comments, we in the working group work together diligently and finally we have some consensus as Cheryl mentioned. Not full consensus and then public comments. One or two people make a comment and totally upside down all those consensus wise issue that was accommodated. So the group will be in hand of the public comments I think they should try to making is of the balance. When you spend hours and hours and days and days to have something on the consensuswise basis and or 2 public comments

should not reverse totally that result and people should not use the public comment period in order to inject ideas which have already been discussed and was not agreed upon at the meeting and come under the public comment another channel try to over right what we have discussed. This is something for all district pink wished chair. The co-chair are quite attentive that situation. I have raised that 2 or 3 times but maybe it is abouter to also raise it again. Thank you.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Iran, for your important comments. I'm going to reply to one of them and that's returning more in terms of how the GAC focal group will be organizing itself and so you'll be happy to hear that we are a bit ahead of the game in terms of identifying what topics the GAC focus al group should focus on and so I will be talking to that in the next few minutes and those are all included in the draft GAC scorecard which the GAC support staff has compiled so I will talk a little bit about that but I think that is important to particularly to help us prioritize our work because I agree there's a lot of important issues and so we need a type of guideline or work plan for ourselves so thank you for that comment. Regarding the summary document -- no, sorry, regarding the public comment period and potential new items I'll

stop here and prance Cheryl or ICANN Org can clarify. Perhaps I didn't explain it very well. But I leave it to you. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Luisa. I think it's important to recognize that part of how at least the GNSO policy development process runs is that one puts out an initial report where one is almost kept dare I say testing the waters on what the current thinking is. Consensus is not measured until a consensus call is made by the chairs of any PDP working group. We have made no consensus calls on any matter in if this PDP, so there is no agreement on anything as yet. We have good measurement on general agreements and on the lie of the land or the degree of support or otherwise -- that many of the participants have, and based on things that the majority but not necessarily all -- of the work party members when we were working in work track 1, 2, 3 and 4 -- any of the recommendations that came to the full plenary that then were discussed and were supported, found their way into our first document that went out for public comment.

It is only natural or indeed I would ask why would one respond to the call for public comment that we take into consideration what the comments say. So we have spent some time going laboriously

through in absolute detail, each and every one of the public comments after heroic efforts by our fabulous support staff, and the members of the A, B and C group, which is why we move from one to 4, to A, B and C, analyzed, and made assessments based on that analysis, what the public commentary support or otherwise was for each of these proposals, whether they were called recommendations, or not. So, modifications may occur to some of the recommendations you saw in the last document you responded to via public comment. If modifications occur they've come into that -- to being after an absolutely transparent and I would argue highly accountable -- the full plenary as well as the groups based on the rigor of the input. The analysis of the input from not just the GAC. Not just the ALAC. But all public comments received.

Now I can assure you we received many public comments. All sorts of people send public comments. Of everybody' input was taken into account. Some was in scope. Some has modified some of our thoughts. Some have come up with new ideas. Should one of those new ideas be so -- AH what a wonderful thing. Why didn't we think that have in the first place and the plenary agree that may end up in a new recommendation because that new idea, and new recommendation, has not been seen by the ICANN community in terms of public comment, call for public comment

will be made on those new items. . Luisa tell me if I have answered all of Iran's points? I think I have.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Cheryl. I believe you have, and I mean, I will ask a representative from Iran in case we can further clarify. I would like to thank on as the GAC advice chair as well as all GAC members here to thank you and as well the all the participants of the PDP working group for your tireless efforts. I know they have been -- impart ever the PPP working group so I've been trying to follow but it's a lot of volume. A lot of calls and so we do appreciate those efforts. Much just pausing here for a moment and seeing if it's more clear at this point that I know we're still digesting a lot of this information but I'll just pause a little bit. Thank you.

IRAN:

Yes, it's clear of the point of view of the new items I understand what the new items is. It means if something comes during the public ... the plenary or the group stand that's to be discussed and put in the new recommendation but I don't know whether that [inaudible] again go to public comment. Now my main problem I don't hide it from anybody is the private sorry on a personal note, Cheryl mentioned that everything -- nothing has been agreed.

There is not agreement on anything at all but she said that in one implicit manner the work is a majority. I could tell that that... remains either e-mail always in absolute minority. 2 or 3 people maximum so none of our points will be taken much that is a fact and that is the reality. I have experienced that since many many years, that always any point you make, sorry you are the minority so GAC remains marginalized and in full minority. Thank you.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Iran. And that's partly why we are creating this GAC focal group to try to build that internal GAC capacity to try to facilitate, co-ordinate, better the efforts to ensure there is a voice from governments, from GAC members but I do appreciate the comment. I think it is a challenge to have government's participating directly in the PDP and hopefully with this GAC focal group it will help us at least facilitate internally within the GAC some of the thinking. To discuss and build some that have capacity. I will stop here. Cheryl, please take the floor.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you. Thank you very much. Cheryl for the record and putting on an entirely different hat for the moment I hear the concerns of the government advisory committee about the risks of marginalization in processes where terminology like call for

consensus -- note did I not use the word vote -- call for consensus is made, and where there may be an expectation that a purely quantitative analysis of consensus will be made. We've also said all along that Jeff and I plan to make a qualitative assessment of, of -- for example let's ignore the advisory committees for a moment. There are sectors within the component parts of the GNSO who could quite easily sway the numbers if that's what they wanted to do by just having more people in the room at the time that we're going to take that into account, we are going to minimize the risks there, but we are also not voting and we will also make sure that advisory committee versus a single individual, is measured with slightly different interests.

I can't however ignore the fact that this is a real issue, not just for GAC but for all of the advisory committees when it comes to GNSO policy development. I also can't ignore the fact that the GNSO policy development process is likely to change with PDP 3.0, when that comes out. And so I'm also taking careful note on this risk and concern of all the advisory committees, on the rest being of marginalization in any current or future GNSO policy development process so that the ATRT can look into that and make any possible recommendations, I'm going to switch hats. I hear a concern. I don't disagree with the concern and I will pass that onto ATRT3, okay?

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Cheryl, very much. I'm just going to stop here and see if there is any questions in the room. Okay, perfect. So then we to conclude the updates within the GAC focal group meeting after meeting with the co-chairs of the PDP working group we discussed -- we started our discussions in terms of how we can best organize ourselves internally. Prioritize our work. So the -- just one second -- yeah, so if you could please put on the screen the preliminary GAC scorecard and this is -- this provides the status of substantive areas of past GAC input. So the idea here was that GAC support staff, they compiled all this previous input and this document is quite comprehensive. I believe it's almost 19 pages. We obviously won't go through it in this session, but we did want to bring it to your attention. Share it with the whole GAC membership because this will be an important document that will be guiding the work of the GAC focal group so we want to ensure we are as transparent as possible in terms of what the GAC focal group will be focussing on so it's divided by a few items, we have we view policy development prerequisites. Application process, we have application requirements. Safeguards, public interest commitments. Evaluation objections and string contention. So that's one part of the document.

Then the exercise that still has to be finalized and considered by the GAC focal group, and the rest of the GAC is then the -- is trying to organize by color code and again this is to help us prioritize to see which of -- which item we will folk on first, so we have color code it had by low priority medium priority or high priority in terms of how previous GAC inputs aligns with current deliberations from our knowledge -- and again it's estimate in terms of the current deliberations of the current PDP working group so under the Green one general alignment with priority. GAC positions are adequate to be incorporated by the PDP at this stage so let's continue to proactively monitor this area. That's the Green one. Then the yellow one, less alignment.

GAC members may need to monitor deliberation answer plan to provide more information to the PDP working group but as there might and possibility that the group may not address some of the GAC concerns and then we have the high priority a red plus the possibility of nonalignment. There's the possibility that the group may not address some of the GAC inputs. So if you can scroll a little bit down Benedetta not sure if you have the whole document, we can stop there just to give you an sense this document was shared with the GAC brief, so I'm not sure if you have had the time to look at it. I mean I do know it's quite comprehensive but it is a great tool, so hopefully it will be

beneficial to us, and guide the work and help us pry or satisfies. So as you see there is the -- of the policy area we are addressing. If you can slow down perhaps, Benedetta. Thank you.

So here. Policy area, future release of gTLDs prerequisite and then summary of previous GAC input into relative [inaudible] and consultation so more or less everything that the GAC has provided in this topic. Then in if the right column we have status, and potential next steps. Again, for GAC review and consideration. Again, this is a living document. This is a draft, so please don't take it at face value. This still has to be reviewed by the GAC focal group. But again this was just we wanted it share this document with you, bring it to your attention as it will be guide be the work of the focus al group to see where we, we focussed our efforts and prioritized the work. So I will stop here and I do know, and perhaps and Benedetta if you can remind me other thing within the GAC focal group was perhaps building in a time-line and for Benedetta or Fabien, maybe you could speak to it to try on build a time-line but I will stop there. Thank you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: This is Fabien from the support team. The action we took at a support team in support of the focal group is to create sort of road

map of issues that the focal group should address taking into account the pace of the PDP working group as well as the prioritization we've already done here in terms of the level of alignment that we are aware of and what that means in terms of prioritization for focal group so we will develop that that will help the focal group tackle issues one by one. Idea being that to some extent there needs to be a sing chronological satisfactory at this point because of the ongoing process of theed working group but there's also a need for the GAC independently of that process to make sure that it is ready to address those policy areas as identified as a potential concern.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you Fabian. So I don't know if there are any questions. Iran please.

IRAN:

Thank you very much for this document which is more informative and tutorial is good. Helping those people to be more familiar with this situation. I may ask you, submit you a suggestions and the suggestion would be the following. This second round is very important for everybody including GAC, perhaps it would be necessary to verify whether against any items or chapter or subs

section or subsection of that, all previous accepted GAC advice has been taken into account. I remember in several meeting my distinguished colleague Jorge says GAC ... has not been taken into account. It was taken into account with appreciations but not always the people are there. Not always the people could identify it would be good if you have a document on one side. Chapter or subject or on the other and you have the GAC advice and to see whether there is an area that GAC advice has not been taken into account. This is very important. But because not always the people have ready made GAC advice in that are meeting and sometimes the meeting is very, I would say very difficult window, 5 o'clock in the morning. 4 o'clock in the morning different areas.

I'm not complaining that but it would be useful if you have a focal point. ICANN supporting the staff I said if possible provide this sort of -- I don't say it is mapping. It is not total mapping but it is the connection between this subject and GAC advice. And I gave in one example many that very kindly. The group was dealing with everything and there was one items in the back Helsinki advice, and Jeff mentioned this we don't know what it is. Much we don't know what the GAC wants and we want to have a more information how to implement that so they try to take into account to the extent possible but they cannot make miracle. Still

me need to defend -- not defend -- to take care of our own interests so that's the questions and suggestions whether it's possible or is not possible is up to but but I raise it, thank you.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Iran, very much. So actually that was the intent of this document, and this was one of the discussions we had in Kobe how to move forward where we tried precisely to map out so as you can see we have previous GAC input and then we see how it looks vis-a-vis the current status, or, and -- of the working group and that's why we are using the colour coding where the GAC thinks that perhaps the GAC concerns haven't been taken so we have it in red as having high priority so that's one of the ideas of this document, that mapped out propose GAC input vis-a-vis whether it's been taken or not into account. Of course this is not a perfect net trick. It's I know back Special Forces that can be doing the best job they can in consultation with ICANN Org that supports the PDP working group and I mean it is a challenging task and obviously we have to review it. But that is precisely a great suggestion and that is the idea of this tool hopefully. I'll stop there and see if there's any other questions. Please, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Fabien for the transcript. We did refer to GAC advice in the document. You can see for instance the first bullet in the second

column says that the response to the... PDP community consultation one included reiteration of GAC Helsinki advice on this matter so we've references to the advice to the extent that the advice was referred to in contribution of the GAC in the PDP process. So we could look again at that, and specifically seek to match GAC advice in case it was not identified in contributions of the GAC, or comments of the GAC in the process.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Fabien. And Switzerland, please. Thank you.

SWITZERLAND:

Thank you, Luisa. And I would like to thank hearing plenary to express my thanks to Benedetta and to Fabien for this excellent work. I think that this scorecard is really a pre-condition for being able to make a meaningful input into the rest of our what is left of the subsequent procedures PDP process, and as we discussed in the focal group, I think that, and also a bit in line with what Kavouss was saying we can put put some more flesh to the bones of this scorecard. Make it as comprehensive as possible so that we have in one document as far as possible all the agreed language, we have from prior advice or -- so-called GAC principles on new gTLD and so on and so forth. That's the first thing.

Then another issue we commented on in the focal group was that in these calls that are being planned by the PDP working group where they're -- and there will be a moment where they will be discussing so called high-level agreements which may then crystalize into recommendations and as we discussed internally it would be very good to intuit those high level agreements as soon as they pop-up into the scorecard so that the GAC members who then participate in the corresponding calls are -- made participate in the e-mail exchanges... when the consensus calls are being made have everything before them, and they can make the right references to prior GAC material. And I think that finally and the other point which is important, but it's just to recall it, is that we tried to streamline as much our efforts and, of course, there are sections in the scorecard where... working group would be key in providing expertise and opinion, and other places where the public safety working group is also absolutely essential. So I leave it by that. And thanks again to support staff.

LUISA PAEZ:

Thank you, Switzerland, for reminding us of those important points that were discussed during the GAC focal group to look at the high-level agreements that I think will be included in the summary document of the PDP working group in the wiki as well mentioning to try to delegate potentially to the public safety

working group so again use already existing working groups within the GAC that could perhaps -- that have the ex Par these in these areas as well as look into these for example the CCT review recommendations much those are all areas so instead of re-inventing the wheel but ensuring that we are using already consensus recommendations, that we could review as -- and consider within the GAC focal group. I am looking at the time. We have a few more minutes. But that is basically where we're at. I mean one thing I wanted to mention, at least from the discussions we've had, and perhaps we'll continue to have at least from my understanding this GAC focal group won't be speaking on behalf of the GAC.

It is really to facilitate and internal discussions coordination and inter-sessional work but it will always share its input with the greater GAC unless its told differently, but I just wanted to make that clear, at least that's my understanding. So I'll stop there, and see if there is he' any other comments or questions in the room before I close it, and pass it onto Manal for final remark the of this meeting. Iran, please.

IRAN:

Is it possible that our distinguished Fabien once revisit this document. Make it available to the co-chair of the group and ask

them respectfully if possible to look at that one, whether in their eyes they could identify something they discussed. I think at this stage as a participants of this group I would wish to express my sincere thanks to the co-chair and in particular the architect of this -- Jeff Neumann who very carefully diligently and advisedly look at all details in the and provide all explanation and try to guide the group in order to make a wise decision. So this is an expression -- [inaudible] kindly also goes to herself but also conveys that a Jeff that this appreciation was given if -- we offer the GAC. He is very very diligent and kindly and patiently referred to all this issue as being as possible to reflect the views of everybody. This appreciation formally I submit. Thank you.

LUISA PAEZ: Thank you, Iran. I actually wanted to close the session echoing big thanks to both co-chairs Cheryl, and Jeff wasn't able to attend.

LUISA PAEZ: I think he already left Marrakech, so a big big thank you for your tireless effort and commitment so echoing that, but thank you as well as ICANN support staff, and, of course, our GAC support staff for putting together this very comprehensive document. We are always open to discussions and a final call for all GAC members that are there had today join the GAC focal group as well as to join the PDP group even as an observer so you are up to speed in terms

of the deliberations of the PDP which is really a group efforts and I will close there. Thank you for your attention.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Luisa, and thanks to the co-chairs of course of the PDP on subsequent procedures, but also thanks to Luisa, Benedetta and Fabian for the exhaustive exercise and the excellent work and I really can't watch myself speaking -- so -- an excellent work. I hope I really hope this encourages more engagement from GAC colleagues in the focus al group, but also in the PDP itself. I hope it helps getting everyone up to speed, and facilitates their work, this concludes our meetings here in Marrakech. It's going to be a coffee break time but after the -- sorry after the coffee break there is a cross-community session in this room and impact of GDPR and -- there will be around universal acceptance and a community wrap up reception at the end.

But before I close I would like to iterate my due thanks to everyone, so thanks to our generous host for their warm and kind hospitality here in Marrakech, also thanks to GAC colleagues for the active participation, fruitful discussions and co-operative spirit, and thanks to my GAC leadership colleagues, working group chairs. Topic leads. Liaisons points of contact for their help in preparing for and running the sessions here in this meeting, also

thanks to our outgoing vice chair Thiago, this has been your last meeting so I really value your active engagement and contributions to the GAC work first as a GAC member, but also as part of the GAC leadership team.

Thanks to our fantastic GAC support staff team for their tireless efforts before and during the meeting. The dedicated IT team working behind the scenes, and last but never least our wonderful interpreters who were, as always instrumental to our discussions. So please remain engaged and I hope to see you all in Montreal, but before this I'll give the floor to Iran. Iran, please.

IRAN: Thank you, Manal. It is not tradition in ICANN but in other international organization thank you very much. You said whatever we expected but nows our turn to thank you Manal as --

[Applause]

IRAN: -- competent peaceful, neutral, and very very skillful chair, of all those people you mentioned I don't want to repeat. We merely thank all of them and I would say in particular the ICANN support, Fabien, Julia, Gulden, the lady and any others that I have forgotten but really and also thanking all the distinguished colleagues. They put their talk together and we had this communique as

usually with a lot of efforts. We have some agreement, and that is something we -- and see you maybe at the next meetings if it's still possible that we come. If the visa entry is given. Thank you.

[Applause]

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss. Oh, and the meeting is adjourned. Thank you all. Thanks.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]