MONTREAL – GAC: Board GAC Implementation Group (BGIG)
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – 10:30 to 12:00 EDT
ICANN66 | Montréal, Canada

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: To GAC, colleagues, please remain seated. We will proceed with the board GAC interaction group in a couple of minutes.

Thank you, everyone for your patience. And we are now starting our board GAC interaction group meeting. And we are always very keen to have this meeting at each ICANN meeting. We will go through the presentation and through the slides and agenda of this meeting. But before we start, I would like to grasp of opportunity to also congratulate Maarten being elected as the coming chairman of the board. So we will lose him as a co-chair for the BGIG Working Group, but we look forward to cooperating in your new capacity as well. And if you have any opening before we start.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you, Manal. And thank you all, it's been a true pleasure to be co-chairing this interaction group on better interaction between board and GAC over the years and I think it helps us tremendously and will continue to have our attention. And one of

the [indiscernible] of my new function is that I will not be able to do that anymore. However, the good news is I'm not the only one on the board, and in particular Becky will take over and this will be the last one Manal and I will be co-chairing and in the future it will be Becky with Manal, and she was also in the very first GAC so she feels back home.

BECKY BURR: Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Maarten, and this is excellent news, looking forward, Becky, to coordinating with you and co-chairing the working group together. So with this, shall I hand it over to David for the slides or Christine.

SPEAKER: Thank you, Chairman, and we would like to present the slides. And I will hand it over to my colleague.

OTHER SPEAKER: The first slide here is to mention the follow up on the Marrakech scorecard. On 8 September the board responded to the scorecard, to the communique with a scorecard with items in

three areas. Of note the Marrakech communique did not include any new GAC consensus advice. The scorecard also noted that there was follow-up advice on three previous advice items, Amazon, two character, and WHOIS and data protection and finally of note, the board acknowledged the GAC advice of 20 August 2019 on the topic of IGOs in a letter of 14 October 2019.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: So this is the response you have, and you have on the table for your discussion. We have kept to the previous time plan as expressed, and in the next slide we would like to present the time plan for response to the advice likely to come out of this meeting. Christine, next slide, please.

CHRISTINE: In anticipation of a Montreal communique by the end of the week, the expectation is that the board and GAC would engage to have a clarification call the week of 6 December, approximately four weeks following the issuance of the communique. Then the board would consider a scorecard at their board workshop in January of -- 20 and then the consideration of that GAC scorecard would occur about seven weeks later at ICANN 67, keeping well, the cadence we have had in the last two years.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Christine and thank you Maarten and I believe this timeline is very helpful and -- it gives the GAC predictability and with all the steps of clarification before any adoption of scorecard, it has been very helpful, working very well, and we continue to appreciate this agreed process and timeline. Thank you.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you very much. The next subject is on the update on the status of the GAC advice and open items. A letter with an overview of all the actions, all the advice provided by GAC was shared with the GAC with a clear indication of our understanding of the status. Christine?

CHRISTINE: So that letter issued by the board to the GAC in September of this year provided the list of status of all previous GAC advice items open and closed dating back to 2013. In that inventory the GAC -- the board communique to the GAC that there were 13 pending items, which although having previously been considered by the board, they are still pending community input or action and that will need to be commenced before the board will resolve on any further on those advice items. Of note, one of those pending items was pertaining to the string .RAM, that application for .RAM

had been identified has pending, however, the applicant for .RAM withdrew its application in October. So following this meeting that application will be marked as closed.

And finally, there were four items of advice which the board communicated had been deferred from prior board consideration. Three items pertaining to GDPR or WHOIS and one item pertaining to IGOs. So those will be subject to further board consideration.

In summary, the question was what recommendations GAC members have for how the board should proceed with these open items and will requiring additional board action.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, again, Christine. And I think this compilation has been extremely helpful, and it has all pieces of GAC advice, closed and open. So I'm not sure exactly what would what would be an answer to this question, but again, it depends on the advice. I mean, the deferred items, they were deferred until the EPDP is completed, so whenever this is completed we will be looking forward to a board response to this on other pending items, I mean the IGOs in specific, we are in discussion with the GNSO, so again, we're pending some actions between the GNSO and the GAC, and this has been communicated to the board through an

exchange of letters. So yeah, I would say it would defer from one pending item to the other, but again, it's worth going through the pending items, and if GAC colleagues can do this -- it's a huge, huge file, you shouldn't panic because we're focusing just now on the open items. There are only 13, and for those who are interested in specific topics, maybe they can dig further to other related items that are closed. But for now, the focus will be the pending items, and I hope if there is any further feedback, we can convey this to you definitely. And thank you for the update on the .RAM, this is new.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you very much. The main aim trying to achieve here is make very clear where GAC advice stands and the inventory we shared at this point to make sure that we have clean records on that. Any comment on it not being so, please do it so because it is in all our interest that this is right. We think it's right, it's on the GAC website and will help keep track of advice pending on community action and deferred thanks to the EPDP and IGO discussion. So with that we hope to facilitate better this process and make sure that everybody can follow what is going.

The next slide, please. As promised in Marrakech, on the two character tool we have been asking for people to try the tool torques use it and to provide feedback on it. At the moment there are about 96,000 records in the tool across 676 two character labels. And there have been 47 requests from you on this, including from new GAC members. So far, we have not achieved complaints. So as we understand, there has ban feedback session on this yesterday here, so we're curious and looking forward to hear the outcome and feedback questions or concerns GAC members have with regard to this tool.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Maarten, and indeed we had a discussion on Sunday, the day before yesterday, on this. And there were no specific concerns raised during the session, but again, we are here if there is anything new that needs to be flagged, please, for GAC colleagues, please do so. I understand and I stand to be corrected, I see Laurent here as well, that only six more? Okay. Yeah, please, if you want.

LAURENT FERRALI: Yes, the survey is closed now and on Sunday we had only six in the survey but now 17 answers to the survey, and I will circulate the results right after the session. Around 76 percent of the GAC

members who answer the survey told us that they have already used the search tool and around 70 percent of the GAC members who answered the survey were satisfied with the search tool. We have some feedback about potential technical issues related to the use of the search tool but seems that they are very limited to some GAC members and will be [indiscernible] with the ICANN IT team. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Laurent, for this update. And the issue is we changed the schedule, so we got our discussion on two character code before the deadline of closing the survey because of a last-minute change in the schedule. But it's good to know the update now and that -- and thanks to GAC colleagues who responded to this. We only had six responses as of Sunday but now we have 17 so to everyone who took the effort.

So anyone who wants to speak to this? Okay. If not, I think we're good to proceed. And again, as agreed with Laurent on Sunday, this is the tool is ongoing, not necessarily the survey but the tool is ongoing, and if there are any complaints, Laurent help fully explained how to submit complaints. So I think we're good to go.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: I think that brings to us end of the agenda and I very much toll you the very last question we tend to ask at each of these sessions: Are there any more suggestions for better improving board GAC interaction? Very welcome to do so at any time. And if you have an issue to raise right now on the board GAC interaction, that is very good time to do it.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So just by way of information as well, GAC support staff are very helpfully trying to close the loop with ICANN board after we receive the scorecard so that we find the final step that would close the loop in terms of the responses, are they satisfactory to the GAC or not and then we don't have any misunderstanding. So we're looking into this, and Rob is nodding at the back, he's been doing a great job on this, and hopefully we have something in place in coordination with David and Christine, of course.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Well, thanks. Thanks for your time. It's been a short session, but I think this does ensure that communication is good and without misunderstandings, and that is important. We look forward to seeing you back here at quarter past three. We have a full delegation of the board, and please welcome Becky for going forward from here. So thank you very much for all your support.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Maarten, and thank you Becky, looking forward to working with you.   We always appreciate this opportunity, and of course appreciate the longer lunch break. So for GAC colleagues, please be back in the room at 1:30 please, thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]