
ICANN68 | Virtual Policy Forum - GAC Wrap-Up and Preparation for ICANN69
Thursday, June 25, 2020 - 16:30 to 17:30 MYT

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Tech support, can you please start the reporting? Thank you very much.

Welcome to the ICANN68 virtual meeting GAC wrap-up session on Thursday 25 June, at 9UTC for 30 minutes. We will not be doing a roll call for the sake of time but GAC members attendance will be available in the annex of the GAC communique and minutes.

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment please type it by starting and ending your sentence with question or comment to allow all participants to see your request, interpretation for GAC sessions will be conducted using Zoom and the remote simultaneous interpretation platform. Your microphone will be muted for the duration of the session until you get into the queue to speak. If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the Zoom room. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Please also speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Finally, the

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

session like all other ICANN activities is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. You will find the link in the chat for your reference.

With that I would like to leave the floor to our chair, GAC Manal -- I'm sorry, Manal Ismail. I'm sorry.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Julia, and welcome back everyone. So I hope you have enjoyed the well-deserved break. We are now starting our wrap-up session for 30 minutes as Julia mentioned. So I think we will be receiving 2 reports from the underserved regions working group and the IDN and universal acceptance working group and then a staff announcement on elections so please Rob if you can confirm or let me know if there is any change and who will be starting.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal. I think we have Rahul will be up if first with universal acceptance and IDM working group update and then Rahul you can throw it to Pua and then I will take over for the leadership elections. We had an originally and anticipated discussion for ICANN68 virtual feedback will we will have to do via e-mail and anything else you want to add to wrap up the meeting we will return the floor to you Manal at the end of the

session. Thank you so with that Rahul if you can hear me, and if you are well connected we will turn the floor over to you for the working group update.

Thank you. If you are speaking, we cannot hear you. You may want to do quick check, Julia, so that we can ensure we can hear, Rahul.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Yes. One moment, please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Meanwhile, I see Pua as hand up.

RAHUL GOSAIN: Could you just give me volume higher up, please?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, Rahul, we can hear you now. Pua, just a second.

RAHUL GOSAIN: Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Pua, anything -- I'm sorry, I just saw your hand would you like to speak.

PUA HUNTER: Yes, please. Thank you, Manal. Hello everyone. I just wanted to say that given the shorter time for this session, I would like to put my update in the chat if that's okay, thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, thank you Pua, for being mindful of the time. Okay, please take note of Pua's report in the chat. And sorry, Rahul back to you.

RAHUL GOSAIN: Thank you, Manal. And thank you everyone for being here today. A very good morning good afternoon and good evening to all of you.

I am Rahul Gosain and I'm here to provide you all with an update on the work being undertaken by the universal acceptance and IDM working group so as you would all be pleased to hear, that you know, the working group has been engaging constructively and had met at several intervals inter-sessionally, and has been engaging in discussion on the Work Plan since ICANN67 vis-a-vis the Work Plan we specifically mean patient the ideas and the

plans we undertake for the remainder of 2020, and we also had a survey sent out amongst the members, and people responded to that survey, and as a result of the committed responses, the priorities ... by the members to the various subjects we have come out with 2 or 3 points on which there is a lot of interest, which has been evidenced by the working group members.

So, these have been outlined in the slides which have been hopefully been shared. One of the topics which came up which was of high interest topic were messages for governments and public authorities, and we have been doing some amount of work along the similar lines in the UA come's working group in which we have tried to cat lies potential messages which are ... at software ... e-mail administrators in 3 broad buckets, and I find that you know 2 of the buckets have also received prominent and acceptance within the working group.

Highlighting messages which are falling into the bucket of social inclusion. Promotion of equity and diversity and bridging of the ... divide standpoint especially a development for the government and the governmental parties and B, the bucket from the business case standpoint as to how ... for getting the systems and applications phone universal acceptance red sorry also good from a business case point of view.

Other than that, there was a lot of interest about the case studies. Most of these case studies which have been put out on the UASC website particularly there was a lot of interest evidenced by the ICANN... study put out, as a third point you know, there is also a lot of interest and appetite within the working group and probably within the larger GAC for universal acceptance update related webinars aimed at GAC members, and I would like to inform the GAC that there is also discussion about possible update webinars within the working group and so this could also be an idea for great [inaudible] between this working group and the UA comes working group and we could work together to develop such a webinar which could potentially be used for the consumption ever the various GAC members as well as for them to maybe even share it with their concerned counterparts in their respective governments in order to emphasize to them the importance of UAM developments for the governments.

Amongst some of the top priorities identified by the working group are as follows. Essentially there was discussions around developing some basic UA related introductory information document to be shared later with the GAC members, which they would in turn share with their government, colleagues to kind of increase their awareness about UA and UA issues and there was talk and discussion about awareness building among and

communications to governments on UA and ideal matters so as of now, there has been considerable progress along these lines.

Other than that, there has also been talk about additional work which possibly we look forward to in some of the coming days, and in these you know there was talk about possible collaboration with the universal acceptance steering group in order to kind of help strategize and zoom in on communication strategies and reviews of the case studies being put out. So as to kind of back channel, and a kind of back feed in terms of what resonates with the governments and what are the points, and aspects which are more than likely due to ... the government authorities and the government counterparts.

Other than that, of course an issue which I would like to just submit for the GAC reference is that the ... reference the draft which had been extensively discussed and arrived at after a lot of discussion within the working group had been shared amongst the larger GAC prior to ICANN67, and with the blessing of the GAC we hope to be able to finalize the terms of reference post ICANN68 so I would exhort everybody all the members present to kindly have a look at the terms of reference and share inputs if any, and I would also like to use -- make use of this opportunity once again to recount that already this working group has received a lot of support within the GAC in terms of

you've seen the membership increase from when it started it was having only around 4 or 5 members and now we are at 10.

So I would just take this opportunity to exhort all the members of the GAC who may be interested to kindly consider joining this working group, so as to help us and support us in our endeavors, and to help provide... to the work we are doing. So with this I thank you all for your patience and would like to also thank Manal especially for you know taking her interest in ensuring that we were given this opportunity to recount the work being done by this working group in front of the larger GAC and with this I would like to hand the microphone back to Manal. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rahul, and thank you for your volunteering to lead this important and timely effort on universal... and for reporting back to the GAC. So I urge you also to read Pua's report in the chat, and also to support staff to take note of this for the minutes of our meeting. And with this, back to you Rob for the elections please. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you very much, Manal. This is Robert Hoggarth, and this is my annual opportunity to alert all of you as members of the

GAC of the beginning of our annual [inaudible] GAC leadership traditionally the policy forum right around the June time-frame we initiate the process with a nomination period. That will begin literally as we end this meeting I will be sending an e-mail to the GAC e-mail list indicating that the nomination period is open.

That period will extend from this meeting until the beginning of September, the 2nd of September to be exact, and we will be looking for nominations for both the GAC chair position as well as the 5 vice chairs for this go around, 3 of the current vice-chairs are eligible for re-election, and 2 of our senior vice-chairs unfortunately, are time limited, term limited [inaudible] and will be stepping down.

So the opportunity will extend for a little over a couple of months for all of you to step forward either as an individual, or to nominate another member of the GAC to play a role in the leadership team.

At the end of the nomination period the staff will take a look and see how many nominations have been received, and if there are, in fact, more nominations than there are seats available, we will be looking to hold an election period. That voting period will take place obviously electronically as it has in the past, and will extend into the ICANN69 meeting period.

So that's something that we will attend to in early September after you all have the opportunity over the course of next couple of months to submit your nominations. In terms of nominations [inaudible] it's a very simple process. All we have to do is send a too many GAC -- staff indicating the subject line... or for vice-chair. A very simple process. All we need to do is confirm that nomination, if it's a nomination by a third party we will reach out to you as a nominee to confirm that you are willing to run and if elected assume the position that you've been nominated for.

You can go to the next slide for me Julia. And so it's an again a very simple process in that regard. The election process has worked very effectively for us for the last several years, we're still using the tally system which was used by the GAC in two previous elections over the course of the last 3 years, continues to be used by the GNSO it's a very solid system, the critical aspect of the election to update the membership records, many of you do a fantastic job of alerting us when you are leaving, when someone is joining your delegation whether their various changes.

This provides a built in opportunity for us to do a double check and make sure that all those records are up to date because, as the designated official GAC representative, you would be the one

to submit the ballot, if, in fact, the representative is not going to be doing the actual voting, you also have an opportunity to alert us who else on your delegation should be getting that privilege.

The reason why we have to do that is that an e-mail goes out to you as a potential balloter and so it's very important that we have the correct e-mail address and information. Finally, we'll have all of the election rules on the GAC website. We will track on the activity page for the 2020 leadership election all of the nominations so at any time during the nomination period you check that, see who has already been nominated or otherwise to confirm that your nomination has been recorded. We can go to the final slide with just the general reminder for you all of the important dates. Again the nomination period is beginning today. As I send out that e-mail it will go to early September.

The balloting period if that's necessary will start towards the end of September. And extend into the ICANN69 meeting, and, of course, those who are ultimately elected, will begin their terms after ICANN70, which would be next March. That's all I have for the election announcement, Manal. We will look forward to self, and third party nominations from folks, and I'll turn the floor back over to you, Manal, for the final 12, 13 minutes for any other wrap up or lesson learned discussions. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob, and maybe I can take 2 minutes on the elections and then we move onto feedback on the current experience.

So as Rob mentioned, we have elections for the chair and the 5 vice-chairs. We have 2 vice-chairs are term limited so we have 2 available seats for vice-chairs, and the 3 remaining are again subject to potential candidates, and also interest of current vice-chairs to stand for the elections. The term of the vice-chairs is one year, so those who completed their two years are term limited, the term of the GAC chair is 2 years, and for the operating principles there should be a maximum of 2 consecutive terms which means a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.

Now speaking for myself, and just to bring this to everyone's attention, I have been -- I will fulfill the full term next more, but also have filled in one year for Thomas Schneider as he stepped down in the middle of his term, so this makes a total of 3 years. I have asked Rob to kindly help me to investigate whether I'm eligible to another term or not, and he consulted and he told me that there is nothing explicit in the operating principles, neither with nor against, so it's up to the GAC membership interpretation of the operating principles. Again, I'm sure this is something that should be taken note of, and during the current

review of the operating principles it's a point that should be accommodated and explicitly mentioned in the operating principles, but for now, again, it's up to you.

I'm willing to stand for another term should this be feasible, and if not, I'm happy to step down as well, so -- because we're not sure how this year counts or not, so again, just putting everything for your consideration, and -- I see a hand up, Kavouss, please, go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Manal. Do you hear me?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, yes, Kavouss, I hear you.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Yes, Manal, the international practice and law always refers to precedence, in other organizations there is a rules that if in the middle of the term something happened and someone step up to take that portion, that does not prevent that that person, when it is elected, formally for each years and is eligible for 2 term would not... for the second term so I don't think anything prevent you to proceed if you wish, and if your government wishes, to continue to have another term. This is in addition

that everybody is happy with you, and you have been very effective, very kind, very fair, very firm, and so and so on and so forth so I don't think that you should have any doubt. The only thing if you are prepared to do that we are also very happy to have you so I don't think that you need to wait for any other answer from any one. This is a practice. You are part of the government in many governmental organizations like ITU and others this is the practice. This doesn't prevent you to have a second term so I don't think that -- thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss.

And so if there are any doubts or you would like to ask any questions please feel free do this directly with Rob, if you want to investigate more about the issue. Meanwhile, I'm just stating my willingness to stand for the elections. Again it's an election, so we can have surely other candidates as well for the chair position as well as for the vice-chairs positions. So hope to see interested GAC members, and with this, Rob, if you have nothing else we can move to the feedback, and if there are no requests for the floor.

So, I see no requests for the floor, and again please, please feel free to communicate with Rob directly on this issue. So, please

take this as an open floor, if you would like to seek the floor for any feedback on the experience we had remotely or any lessons learned, and Vincent, please go ahead.

VINCENT GOUILLART: Yes, thank you very much, Manal. I would like to do some feedback about the interpretation system, and the ability we've had to use this, and so, for one last time I would like to speak in French. But I will finish in English, so I will give you a few seconds to switch to your other device and I'm going to go to the French speaking interpreters one last time.

(French interpreter) first of all I would like to thank all of the members of the GAC for putting up with me when I spoke in French, I think it is always easier to be more precise in your native language, and to describe your position in your own native tongue. You also know that those are the instructions that are given by the French government, that French representatives should speak in French if there is interpretation services available, but in any case, I think that it was an excellent opportunity that we had with these interpretation services, and we are very grateful to ICANN, and I speak in the name of France -- and I hope that these services will also be available during the next meetings.

Language diversity is for us a must for the existence of a multi-stakeholder dynamic community and we would like to encourage you have an of the members of the GAC who wish to do so and who can do so to use the interpretation tool as much as possible. (Vincent speaking in English) And I would like to thank... as well because he also spoke in his native tongue in the beautiful Russian language speaker speaking in Russian, directly and not through interpretation.

Thank you so much, Manal, for your effective chairmanship. Thank you all members of our exceptional support team, and thank you all topic leaders. Vice-chairs and all GAC colleagues had it has been a pleasure working with you this week and I look forward to working with you in ICANN69. Merci beaucoup.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Vincent, and thank you for speaking in French and thanks to Russia definitely for speaking in Russian and I echo your comments encouraging all GAC members to speak their native languages and to thank ICANN for making veil be the languages for this.

Kavouss, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Manal. Can I speak Persian? You encourage everyone to speak in national language and it's delicate and -- can I speak Persian? I don't think it's possible. No, I know, I know, I know, [inaudible] thank you, no I know that it's not possible.

I think I want to repeat what I said before, we are very happy to have you on Board. And we are very happy that you directing us, leading us, very effectively, efficiently, competently with patience. This is not strange because coming from your nation, Egypt, is a country with thousands of years of culture, civilizations, and known for their very interesting and very universal way of thinking, and so on.

We have been benefited from the collaboration of everybody, thank you to your vice chair. Thank you the working group people. Colleagues, working during the sessions very hard, and I know that during this COVID-19 and the visual meeting is much harder than normal way.

They have worked a lot. Your colleagues, Rob, Julia, Gulden Fabien and others have worked very hard and sometimes beyond the call for duty. We very much appreciate. We also thank the group -- the small EPDP group they work very hardly, and many many meetings they have. Fabien is deserved special

appreciation leading -- not leading, supporting that group really to have reflecting the news of the GAC. We thank everybody for their collaborations their kindness much the SPIRT of consensus, and consensus building. We need to continue together, and to have more success through this advisory committee in the ICANN community. We look forward to see you or to listen you, in the subsequent meetings visual and hopefully sooner we will have the physical meeting to permit close discussions with you, one to one in the corridors and having the better possibility.

Thank you all. Thank the interpreters for helping us to understand each other and thank you all technical peoples and thank you ICANN Board, ICANN management, and all the staffs behind the scenes that supporting us and we wish you all the best. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss.

And in the remaining minute or so, allow me also to add my thanks, but before this, please expect an e-mail asking for your feedback, important things like the time zone, the communique production, and so on, and anything else you would like to give us feedback on.

With that, and before I conclude, I hope I'm not repetitive, but I have to thank every one of you for your active participation productive discussions, and the co-operative SPIRT which helped us conclude the communique in time, and special thanks to my GAC leadership colleagues for their help and guidance throughout the meeting, and due thanks to the leadership team again along with topic leads and working group chairs and support staff for the significant time and tireless etcetera they all devoted to prepare for and run this meeting.

And as always, a big, big thank you to our great GAC support team, for working around the clock to make our experience at this remote meeting very smooth and seamless despite the challenges encountered during the meeting and the difficulty times we are all facing. And special thanks to the IT and language services teams supporting us from remote during this difficult time as well, and promptly resolving all issues behind the scenes through an even more challenging set up during this meeting.

And last but never least our wonderful interpreters and scribes who are supporting us from remote, and dispersed locations as always you are instrumental to our discussions and thank you for bearing with us during our long communique session today.

So, we'll continue our engagement inter-sessionally, unfortunately, we still won't be able to meet face-to-face in Hamburg, so I'll be looking forward to meeting you all virtually again at ICANN 69 annual general meeting. Thank you everybody. The meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]