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HYDERABAD – GAC election results  
Monday, November 07, 2016 – 13:30 to 13:45 IST  
ICANN57 | Hyderabad, India

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Hello, everybody. We know these one-hour breaks that turn into 45-minute breaks are very short. And we are all struggling to keep the time. So please sit down. We have to start right now with the election bit, and then we have the meeting with the board right after that.

Thank you.

I hear that Brazil would like to make a statement before the publication of the election.

So please go ahead. But please be short.

Thank you very much.

BRAZIL: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Brazil, for the record.

Before the disclosure of the election result, I just want to address briefly an issue that we think is important. Although the operating principles don't describe geographical balance as a form of criterion for this election of the GAC leadership, they

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indicate that to the -- I quote, to the extent possible, the vice chairs should appropriately reflect the geographic and development diversity of the membership.

This is operating principle 21.

We -- we believe that it's an important principle to be observed, as it is a basic requirement for any intergovernmental arrangement of a global nature.

Like the selection of members to community-wide working groups, where the GAC chair shares seats with other communities and therefore the criteria of availability and willingness to contribute shall be of higher priority, the GAC leadership positions carry a significant political element that should not be neglected. Given the political importance attached to ICANN and to the GAC, Brazil believes that all regions in the world should be duly represented in this committee's leadership. In that sense, Brazil suggests that the GAC starts an internal discussion with the view of adopting the principle of geographical representation at the next selection of its leadership -- meaning two years' time -- as a way to ensure that there is geographical balance among vice chairs, which is not the case today.

So as a proposal to move forward, we are willing to prepare a brief study on the different models of regional representation

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that are adopted in different IGOs in order to see pros and cons of each one and then to start this discussion, see if it's an appropriate suggestion.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Brazil. I think we are all aware and we all share the concerns that you raised. And there was a clear support for living up to expectations. We all know that we do not have a formal -- as you say, a formal concept of regions that we could use for dividing our grouping of GAC members.

And thank you very much. I think this is very constructive and highly needed and appreciated offer of yours to do some analysis and come up with some reflection of what exists in terms of regional division or regional organizations and structures in other fora and as an input to speed up the GAC's internal discussion on this very important issue.

So thank you very much for this. This is highly appreciated is what I would say. Thank you.

Okay. I think it's time we have to move on.

So, please, secretariat, proceed with the election and the results and so on.

TRACEY HIND: Thank you, Thomas.

Firstly, the results for the GAC chair, because the GAC chair's term also comes to an end, there was only one nomination for the GAC chair, which is the renomination of the current chair. Therefore, that nomination, Mr. Thomas Schneider, is appointed from today by acclamation.

[ Cheers and applause ]

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much. I was hoping that at least one person would clap so that would be formally correct. Apparently, you do not seem so dissatisfied.

But I take this as, let's say, a compliment to us all, to the efforts that we have undertaken -- I will not speak very long, just a few words -- to the efforts that we have undertaken to establish a culture of respectful cooperation, even no matter how hard we disagree on substance, that we have done our best to work respectfully and efficiently at the same time. And I just want to thank you for your trust and confidence. And I will do all my best that I can to be constructive and be useful for the GAC, for governments, but also for the role that governments have in the multistakeholder model of ICANN. And although all our agendas

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are packed and short, just let me tell you that I'm always available for any discussion that -- anything that you would want me to hear or to discuss. So don't hesitate to come to me. And if I may not react to an email that you send, I may not have seen it because of too many others, so there are several channels to get to me: Through the secretariat, through other people. And the easiest is just grab me if you find me, and talk to me.

So just -- And that goes for everybody, no matter from what region, what color of your skin and so on. I'm trying my best to also help everybody get equal chances and equal opportunities to be active, to get his or her voice heard, because this is, I think, the basic value that we should all try to live up to and support each other.

So thank you very much for your trust.

Iran.

[ Applause ]

IRAN:

Thank you. Allow me as -- on an age seniority basis, on behalf of the entire GAC, congratulate you for the trust has been given to you and have been elected by acclamations.

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Somebody asked me last night, has there been any change in the process of proceeding of the GAC? I says, yes, 100%. You put a lot of efforts.

When I saw an email from you about one and a half page, 5:20 in the morning means that somebody is working while others are sleeping. Sleeping in a good way and working in a good way. So we really congratulate you. You put a lot of effort preparing your email with full devotions and carefully looking through everywhere, politically, for diplomatically, and so on, so forth. So we hope that, we expect that you continue the same thing with the next two years, not somebody saying that, now I am elected, then doesn't matter whether I work well or not, because there is no further re-election. We hope that you work with the same power, with the same energy, and with the same attitude and so on, so forth. Once again, well done, and continue in the same manner.

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Kavouss. Just to tell you, the country where I come from, the election is the smaller part, but you're under scrutiny in daily scrutiny in any official function because people always

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have ways to go against what you say. So I just say I'm in your hands, and I'm happy to continue to be in your hands.

I think we have to move on. Thank you. I take this as a sign of appreciation, and I'm sending it back to you. We have no time for this further exchange. We have to move on to, I think, the vice chair elections.

Or is there some....

Austria, two seconds. Five.

AUSTRIA:

Thank you. Just one word. I think I'm the longest-serving member of the GAC here in this room. So I've seen a lot of chairpersons here. And I want to thank you for your work. The last two years were very fruitful, were very effective, and you made the GAC really great in a way I've never seen before. Thank you so much, and I'm really looking forward for the next two years.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you very much, Christian.

[ Applause ]

Okay. So we have to move on.

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Those who want to congratulate us all, let's do this in the next coffee break, whenever that is. I think we have to move on.

Thank you very much.

So, Tracey, please go ahead.

TRACEY HIND:

Thank you, Thomas.

And now for the election of the vice chairs. I'm going to read out the results in alphabetical order of the country that the candidate comes from, which is the same order they were on on the ballot.

China, 54 votes.

[ Applause ]

Egypt, 76 votes.

[ Applause ]

France, 60 votes.

[ Applause ]

Niue, 40 votes.

[ Applause ]



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Peru, 66 votes.

[ Applause ]

And the United Kingdom, 57 votes.

[ Applause ]

Therefore, the new vice chairs -- and this is in order of the -- the number of votes polled -- Ms. Manal Ismail of Egypt.

[ Applause ]

Ms. Milagros Castanon from Peru.

[ Applause ]

Mr. Ghislain De Salins, from France.

[ Applause ]

Mr. Mark Carvell from the United Kingdom.

[ Applause ]

And Mr. Guo Feng from China.

[ Applause ]

Thank you, Thomas.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

It's already time. We have two interventions, Palestine, and then Iran.

Thank you.

PALESTINE: First of all, I'd like to say good afternoon, without any compliments. I am a very newcomer in GAC as a member. And Mr. Thomas is a true model to be an effective leader in this nice organization, also for his strenuous efforts exerted in GAC. Allow me to compliment Mrs. Manal for being the vice president, and all the other nominees.

And thank you.

(Dialogue with no English translation.)

IRAN: This year, it is continue to the 2017, we have CCWG continuations. We have this PDP, ten PDP under the process. We have principle -- operating principles to be drafted, and so many things. I think you need more help, Chairman.

What I suggest, because we don't have any principle of selection of the vice chair for the time being, we don't have any balanced

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geographical distributions, and we know all of the vice chairs that they put vice chair candidate.

May I suggest that you consider to accepting Par from Niue as an additional vice chair for one year in order that everybody will be happy and we do not disappoint anybody. He has been involved for the CCWG. He's a hard worker and so on, so forth. Perhaps we continue with this environment of friendship. And it is -- only would be for one year. And later on, perhaps by next year, we have our principles, and if you want to renew something, we do that. But let us accept the sixth one.

I hope that we understand each other. Let us not make anyone disappointed of this. There is no problem in anyone's qualifications. That is sometimes understanding of the people. But we understand that he would be a great help if accepted in the chair -- in the management group. And certainly he would help sufficiently. So I put that for consideration of distinguished colleagues.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, delegate from Iran.

We -- I think we can only at this stage take note of this proposal. And I propose to discuss this on -- Wednesday is the last day of

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our meeting on the internal matters. And everybody's invited to think about the proposal that Iran has just made.

Before going into the -- And you can, like, already walk up to us. I just wanted to congratulate also from my side the new vice chairs. And there will be working waiting for you. Iran wasn't joking when he said that this is hard work. So I'm looking forward to continue to -- hard working with the new team. But also, I think we should not forgot the current vice chairs. And although that they will formally stay in place, and not just formally, but de facto stay in their offices until the end of the next meeting, this is where our terms end, and we will, like we have done before, do the transition by integrating the current vice chairs and the newly elected ones in our work in the next few months. So we'll be a fairly large group this time. But I think we also should thank the vice chairs, the current vice chairs, for their two years of very constructive, very reliable, and very good spirit of cooperation on a professional level as well as on a personal level. It's something that I will miss you already now in your functions, although I will enjoy the last five months or whatever it is.

So big applause also for the vice chairs that we have now. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

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