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HYDERABAD – GAC Update on IANA Transition  
Friday, November 4, 2016 - 09:30 to 10:00 IST  
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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: If there's no questions, then we will start with the first agenda item which is something called the IANA stewardship which is something that has kept us busy, to a large extent in the past months and years since -- actually since March 2014. And as you all know, on the 1st of October or on the 30th of September of this year this so-called IANA stewardship transition has become effective.

That has a number of consequences for all the ICANN community, including us. The GAC has had a number of people that have participated in a number of processes that led to this transition. One of -- one of these groups has been the so-called IANA stewardship transition coordination group, the ICG, where the GAC has had five members participating in it. Then we had the so-called CWG that was and is the cross-community working group for the IANA stewardship that has been the one who has actually been key in preparing the proposal that has been accepted and now implemented about how exactly technically this transition should be organized that we had two representatives of the GAC in this group. And by representatives

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I mean that they were official members from the GAC in this group, not speaking on behalf of the GAC but just being two members that were participating and were transporting information in both directions, from the GAC to the group, from that group to the GAC. In addition to these official members, there were -- there was an open participation and there were a number of members from the GAC and observers that followed this work in addition to these two members.

So we've had quite a complex structure about this. Those who have been part of the GAC in this work, of course, feel free to make reference or share your experience about this work and about where we are now.

What we have now is some new institutions that have been created, like the so-called PTI, the post-transition IANA, that is now in place and the U.S. government does not have these clerical functions in the IANA system, has handed over -- with the expiration of the contract has handed over these functions to ICANN and to the PTI that is now being set up to manage this. We have a so-called Customer Standing Committee where the customers of the IANA function, in particular the registries and registrars, are gathered in order to see that the IANA function is performing in the way they think it should. Then we have a number of other institutions that have been created. We have a liaison from the GAC to the Customer Standing Committee. That

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is Elise Lindeberg from Norway. That is mainly a reporting function that we -- in case there's something we should know about what is going on or what is being discussed in this Customer Standing Committee, she's the one who's supposed to inform us and also in case there's something that the GAC would like to communicate to this committee to transport information.

Then there's other institutions like the functions review that can be used to -- also as a means of if people think something is wrong, the functioning of the IANA function can be assessed. I will not go into too much detail. You will find all of this information in the papers. This is just an opportunity for those who have been part of this process, very active part of this process, to make comments, ask questions, or people who have questions about the new structure that is in place since the 1st of October to ask questions or make comments. I see that Elise from Norway has her hand up. Thank you very much. Elise.

NORWAY:

Thank you, Thomas. Just to inform the GAC that we have had two teleconferences, calls for the CSC which has basically been just for the setup of the committee as such, discussing a lot about the logistics, who is going to be the leader of this CSC and also to discuss about the frequency of meetings and so on.

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So the first real CSC face-to-face meeting will happen this week. I think it has been confirmed that it's going to be on the 8th in the morning. But I will come back to the GAC and just send you - - to the GAC secretariat an informative email about the place and the time for this meeting. But it's the first meeting taking place here in India. And after that I will start reporting to the GAC what is happening. Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much for this information, Norway. I have Kavouss from Iran.

IRAN: Thank you, distinguished colleagues. Good morning to all of you. Yes, we are happy that we have Elise in that group. The discussion was that this assignment for a specific period, you have to review how to do it in future. The purpose of my intervention is two things. This entity's becoming very important and the person or representative that you mention quite correctly, that he's more or less a messenger so on and so forth not deciding on behalf of GAC is very important.

Two things should be done. We need to request them formally to report to the GAC but not on the GAC physical meeting only. To the GAC member to appropriate means in appropriate time,

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that we are aware of what is going on with the view that if there is any action to be done, we trigger the action to the management committee of GAC and take necessary actions in order not to wait for another three months, two or four months to have GAC meeting. This is number one.

Number two, all of us, or all countries or governments here and having nominee for these meetings, they are subject to some changes. A person who is designated may no longer be available. So we have to think of that to have a sort of the alternatives. Alternatives but not replacing them at the meeting that she or he attends but also be in contact with her or him in order that if in case there is a movement, we should not left aside the things. So we should have always but the practice has been used of all international intergovernmental organizations that we have always some alternatives in the process. So this is something that we have to do.

And lastly, we have to at some time, it is not so urgent, establish a sort of procedures how we do these nominations and for how long. And how it should be transferred from one to the other in order not to be one single person for other to have acquainted all of the people interested -- not only interested, qualified and have time to perform this these activities. This is something in long term that we have to take into account. Thank you.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much, Iran, for raising some valid points. And just to -- about the next session that we'll have about the cross-community working group on accountability, while we have five representatives that have been designated some time ago, I'm sure they're all prepared to report back to the GAC in a few minutes about what happened in this other work stream in the accountability work since the last meeting, in particular yesterday. So I invite them to get their notes ready and report to us what -- what has happened including -- including not yesterday actually, was Wednesday, the day before. So thank you, Iran, for your remarks on these important reporting functions and, of course, we should try to also have a minimum of diversity and reflect the diversity of the GAC when assigning these posts, although despite the fact that we do not yet have formal regions that we can use in the GAC for representing or assigning people to represent regions. We do not have a concept of regions that is accepted. This is something that we may use for instance the operating principles working group to develop or another channel, but for the time being we do not have regions. But nevertheless diversity in representation is, of course, fundamental to the credibility of the GAC towards the outside but also inside in the way we work.

Other remarks or questions on the IANA transition. Yes, the gentleman in the back.

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CHINA: (saying name) from China, for the record. Chair and all GAC members, finally I will take this opportunity to make a short statement regarding the IANA transition. China welcomes the transition of IANA functions stewardship. And we attach a great importance to the development and the governance of Internet. We always allocate the establishment of the cyberspace with peace, security, openness, and cooperation.

During the consultation in the GAC regarding the IANA transition, although we have a reservation on some issues like recommendation 11 on the issue of GAC advice, as some other countries do, however, we think IANA transition has a positive significance to the global Internet governance which will promote the globalization processes of the management of Internet critical resources.

And we are pleased to see the transition has happened, and we will follow the operation of like the PTI, CICIC, and RZERC, like other GAC members.

And one thing I want to add is during this GAC meeting, one important topic is GAC's role in the -- in the new arrangement. We will discuss this issue with other GAC members during the meeting.

Thank you.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much, China. And you are right, this will be a significant issue that we'll discuss. And we have proposed to you as you see in the agenda and the schedule, that we spend quite some time on discussing the role of the GAC and also on the procedures and the mechanisms that the GAC needs to have in order to fulfill the role in the different elements of this new structure as it is built in the bylaws.

So I hope we're all well prepared for this.

And, yes, other comments, questions on the IANA stewardship transition?

Iran.

IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. I think with respect to the transition, first of all, just very, very small and minor things.

PTI now stands for another term. They changed the term. There's no post-transition IANA. They call it Public Technical Identifier. Where it come from, how it has been created, leave it as it is, I don't know. And many people, even the ICANN, they don't know. But it's a new name, new acronym, Public Technical Identifier. No problem with that.

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But the reason I'm asking for the floor is that we leave -- we need to leave time that the transition, because newly started to take place. It will be very premature to make any judgment about that. It just started. So...

Second, we would like to remove the impression of some people in some country that believing that GAC has been given unnecessary power within the community to decide on something. And I have been attending in ICG and CCWG and part of the CWG, GAC has been given minimum power. It should not be interpreted that we are delighted that what we have asked was given. The thing which has been given was minimum.

We joined the other to establish this so-called consensus that the report we transferred to NTIA and then the transition take place.

But we would like to remove this impression that unnecessary power has been given to GAC. And some people thinking in some country that we have to take it back. I don't know how take -- could do that, but that is what they're thinking.

So that is the situations. We should leave the issue the power was given to the GAC, in the term, inverted comma. How we use that power, it is inside the GAC, and then we use that power is inside the GAC. It has nothing to do with any other entity and community. And it is in our communique very, very clearly. We

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decide an appropriate time, and I think it is in your long term or even in this agenda of this meeting that having procedure when to use that power and how to use that power.

But that minimum power which has been also counter balanced by something which is so-called GAC carve, so on and so forth, was minimum, minimum given and I don't think people could talk about that maximum power or big power or not necessary power was given to GAC.

Thank you.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Iran.

By the way, I guess you all have seen it when you received the emails on the website. Fortunately, we have a secretariat that is helping us with coping with substance, and what they do is in addition to a number of things that they do in the everyday work of the GAC and of the leadership team, what they do is provide you with briefing papers that try to explain or highlight the key issues and the key points, as it's called, in the document about every agenda item. And you have, like, on agenda item 2, you have a short paper that highlights few key points and makes links, gives -- provides links to a number of statements by some key actors, including the ICANN CEO and the president of the

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board on this historic moment of the IANA transition that, as I said, has happened at the end of September, first day of October this year.

Any further questions or comments on the IANA transition?

If that is not the case, I will give the floor to Tom quickly who will say a few words as well.

TOM DALE:

Thank you, Thomas.

Yes, just before concluding this item on the stewardship transition, I just wanted to point out as a matter of process, because these things are getting more complicated as today goes on, that the GAC will be discussing later this morning the question of the new bylaws and what the GAC may choose to do with regard to some requirement in those new bylaws.

It's important to remember that some of those, a small subset of those do relate to the IANA steward- -- the IANA functions themselves which are now being run within ICANN under new arrangements. Some of them relate to much broader accountability issues, and there is a little bit of crossover. So please bear in mind that there is some unfinished business, if you like, in relation to management of the IANA function, and

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we'll be discussing that as part of the discussion on the new bylaws.

And the unfinished business, as far as we can tell, under the new bylaws relates to firstly appointments and procedures as a number of members have noted that may be needed for GAC making appointments to bodies. Some of those are IANA-function related bodies such as the Customer Standing Committee that Elise spoke about earlier, and also there are special procedures now for appointments to the various review bodies that are set up if there is any proposal to remove the IANA function from ICANN and have it go somewhere else.

So that's one set of issues. And also in relation to the exercise of community powers, there are -- most of them relate to specified board actions, but there are specific powers and procedures relating to handling of the IANA function and nothing else. They're special. They still remain special under the new bylaws.

So again, and the GAC has a role equal to those of other participants in the new system with regard to that as well.

So I just wanted to make the clarifying point that some of the unfinished business relates to broader accountability issues, but some of it does relate specifically to IANA functions, which remains a, if you like, quite a special category of work within ICANN, both legally and -- and for policy purposes.

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So hopefully this will become a little bit clearer when we talk about the bylaws issues later.

Thank you, Thomas.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Tom.

And before moving to -- to the next agenda item, I think it is only fair to thank all those who have been working for this transition that has been a very complicated exercise, in particular also because it was and is linked to these efforts to raise the -- improve accountability processes in ICANN. And a number of people, a large number of people have worked very hard on a number of fronts to make this transition happen, and it has not been easy. A number of people have worked nights -- nights through. And so I think we are all happy that this has been possible to achieve in this multistakeholder environment, knowing that nobody has exactly got all and in the way that he or she wanted, but that in the end, we have been able to come up and agree on something that we can all live with and that we, in general, think is a positive step in the development of ICANN as an institution.

So thanks to everybody to was working hard on -- on this process that took more than two years and large number of

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energy, and will keep us busy in the implementation in the coming months, of course.

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