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COPENHAGEN – GAC Opening Plenary  
Saturday, March 11, 2017 – 13:45 to 14:15 CET  
ICANN58 | Copenhagen, Denmark

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: May I ask the vice chairs to join us here on the hot seats. Thank you.

Welcome to the ICANN 58 GAC meeting.

And welcome to Copenhagen. It's always nice to be in this region, although I would have preferred to have come here in June. That's life. You can't always choose when to be where.

Let me start, before we go through the official agenda discussion and some other informational items, I have another information item for you that is a personal thing.

As some of you know that my boss, Frederic Riehl, who many of you have known he's also been participating in a lot of ICANN meetings will retire at the end of the month. I have been his deputy for the last seven years and increasingly taking over his tasks. And in the past years, in particular, in the last six months where he was absent. And there has been an application to his job. And I've been one of 100 or so applicants. And the government decided that it's going to be me who will follow him

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in his position as vice director of the Federal Office of Communication responsible for international affairs...

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...April.

And this is quite a complex job, as my office is responsible for the international...

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...and in addition to...

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...the end of last year I've heard that Switzerland, unplanned but very happily, has taken over the responsibility to host this year's IGF in Geneva because we think that this is a huge opportunity for the U.N. for the IGF to be back at the Palais des Nations where the whole WSIS process started. And, of course, you know that the Palais des Nations in Geneva is surrounded by a large number of intergovernmental institutions, private institutions, think tanks, NGOs that deal with Internet governance aspects, aspects of digitization. And we are really committed to breaking these silos and bringing everybody in to the IGF in Geneva from 18-21 December this year.

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And the thing is that the responsible person for the IGF next year is myself. So that is a great honor to me. But it also, of course, involves a lot of work as some colleagues sitting here that have been organizing an IGF probably know better than I do at this stage.

And, as a consequence of all of this, I have decided, in coordination with my director and minister, that I will not...

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...have to be re-elected or elected at the ICANN 60 meeting in Abu Dhabi. And in parallel you will have an opportunity to elect a new chair for the GAC as well in Abu Dhabi. And I'm communicating this now so that...

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...all of you to think about who should be the next chair so that the candidates can nominate themselves or be nominated before the 45 days deadline before the Abu Dhabi meeting. And there's a normal course of action with regard to the election. And then there's a smooth transition from me to my successor towards the end of the year. So, having said this, of course, I'm very happy to continue and give everything I can until then, as I have done before. And I thank you for your trust in working with

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me. And I will enjoy it until the last minute. Thank you very much.

After this, we will do what we do always at the beginning of a GAC meeting. Given that we have no name plates, I will ask you all where -- who you are, where you come from. And I will also ask you to try and remain seated at more or less the same procedure as every year -- more or less the same place throughout the whole week because that helps us to recognize you and try not to make mistakes with names and countries and territories.

So let me just take out a sheet of paper and a pen. And then I think we will start maybe first with presenting for the newcomers, the people here on the panel or on the front seats starting with our friend Wanawit from Thailand.

THAILAND:

Okay.

Wanawit Akhuputra from Thailand. Outgoing vice chair.

CHINA:

Good afternoon, everyone. Guo Feng from China. I'm the GAC representative of China.

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PERU: Milagros Castanon from Peru.

ARGENTINA: Olga Cavalli from Argentina.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER: Thomas Schneider.

TOM DALE: My name is Tom Dale. I work for a firm called ACIG. We provide secretariat services to the GAC. Thank you.

SPAIN: Good afternoon. I'm Gema Campillos, the representative from Spain in this meeting, and outgoing vice chair.

UNITED KINGDOM: Good afternoon everybody. My name is Mark Carvell. I'm the United Kingdom on the GAC and incoming vice chair.

EGYPT: Good evening, everyone. I'm Manal Ismail, GAC representative from Egypt and also incoming vice chair.

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FRANCE: Good morning, Ghislain De Salins. I'm from France. And I'm the incoming vice chair.

(Roll call)

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Is that the last row? And, as this room is very big, those sitting in the back, please, when you try to take the floor, or when you would like to take the floor, rather, signal it clearly so that we can see you. Thank you very much.

In addition to you present, we also have a new member that we're happy to announce. It is Zimbabwe who has joined the GAC since our last meeting. So welcome, Zimbabwe, and looking forward to having you in among us. Thank you.

With this, I'd like to hand over to our secretariat because there will be a number of announcements. But before that, just for those who haven't seen it, we sent you or I sent you an invitation for tonight. It's -- in Denmark with this climate it's quite nice to have some hot Swiss cheese and cool Swiss wines. So our ambassador had an idea to help organize something for you. We think it's time we had a little bit of a social gathering again, in particular, so the new members of the GAC can get to know the older members or the longer term members of the GAC. And this is taking place in a place called The Club, which is downtown.

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But it's fairly easily reachable. It's just you need to take the Metro Bella number 1 here down at the end of the road. And you do downtown with that Metro. And things -- the information is also indicated. It's from 7:00 tonight until around 9:00. Thank you.

With this let me give the floor to Tom.

TOM DALE:

Thank you, Thomas. And once again, good afternoon, everybody. And welcome to another GAC meeting.

I neglected earlier on in the introductions to mention my colleague, Michelle Scott-Tucker, also from ACIG, also from Australia who is here in the room and will be working with us and the ICANN staff. I wanted to run briefly through some administrative matters and to give you a very quick overview of the meeting days and what particular streams of work are making up the GAC's work in the next few days.

The first thing is that we go to great lengths to record the fact that you are here. That's quite important for the minutes and for your own purposes, I know, at home. So, to help us with that I know we just had a little bit of a roll call we will be doing a number of other things as well. An attendance sheet is a pretty standard piece of paper, will be circulating shortly for you to

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record your details on. So, please, when you see such a thing, please fill it in. Fill it in twice if you like. But please try to record the fact that you're here, because it is possible to miss people. And people come and go on other days.

Some of you have been to GAC meetings before. Also be aware we have another incentive, which is a door prize. We will be using this elegant container and sack at the door. If you'd be good enough to drop your business card in there, if you're a GAC member, that is, at some time over the next few days. And you'll be in the drawing for a lovely prize a little bit later in the meeting.

So all of those are efforts to try to make sure our records are accurate. You don't have to register to come to the GAC meeting, but it is important for our records or yours that we know a particular country or organization has been here. So thank you for your cooperation in that regard.

The agenda that has been circulated to the GAC and which was amended very recently for some working group meetings this morning and we've apologized for the late notice for that, but that was due to some changes beyond the control of the GAC.

The agenda runs from now until Thursday next week. The GAC will be meeting on all of those days, although on Monday the meeting will be a very short one. I'll come to that in a moment.



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The week, as usual with GAC meetings these days as the meetings have evolved, comprises a number of elements. The GAC will be looking at a number of mainstream policy issues on which it may wish to make public statements in its communique or even advice to the GAC board, if it wishes to do so. The main policy streams this week concern policies for new gTLDs, ICANN accountability, and potentially the work that's going on in parallel in relation to protections for intergovernmental organization and Red Cross Red Crescent names and acronyms.

There are a number of bilateral meetings that the GAC has this week with a very wide range of stakeholders, including some the GAC has not met with before. So we're trying to broaden your social calendar and context calendar. Those are detailed in the agenda.

Very importantly, the GAC will be having its usual meeting with the ICANN board. That's detailed in the agenda. And the GAC will have a session before that to prepare for the meeting with the Board. There are -- there is a significant stream of work that you all have seen that has already started this morning concerning GAC working groups. And the working groups will be having their meetings and then will be reporting back to the plenary session of the GAC throughout the next few days. Again, the sessions at which the different working groups will do that are detailed in the agenda.

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The GAC will finally be focusing on a number of matters internal to the GAC's operations concerning particularly implementation of new ICANN bylaws, some issues concerning handling by ICANN of confidential GAC documents, and the question of an independent secretariat.

As I said, the meeting days are all of the -- all of the days up until Thursday. But on Monday there is only one formal GAC session so scheduled. And that is for a meeting convened under the auspices of the Council of Europe concerning data protection issues. So that's a bilateral dialogue with the GAC on that issue, but there is a broader ICANN-wide session as well on the same issue earlier on Monday. That should be clear, if you read the GAC agenda that we have circulated to you. But also look at the broader ICANN 58 agenda because, as always at ICANN meetings, there are a lot of meetings going on in parallel with the GAC some of which you may be able to -- or with your colleagues be able to arrange attendance at.

I think that's all the information I wanted to touch on at the moment. Thank you, Thomas.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Tom. Any questions or comments on the agenda or some of the information that you've received? If that's not the case, then we'll move into our first substantive session, which is

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session number 5 that has two parts -- one before and one after the 15 minutes afternoon break. We do, actually, have, according to the schedule, two afternoon breaks. One is called afternoon break and the other is called transition break. We'll see how that works. They're both 15 minutes, so we'll see to what extent that works. But this is something that is the same for all the SO and ACs. And we should try and keep to these timelines. Because, in case we have meetings with others and so on and so forth, they're bound by the same logic in the overall meeting schedule.

With this, as I said, the next item is number item 5A and B. And you've received an updated brief from ACIG on this. This is the Work Stream 2 of the cross-community working group on accountability that has had a session yesterday for the whole day. Quite a significant number of GAC members and observers have been there already participating. You've also probably seen an email by Olga, one of the members from the GAC, in that Work Stream 2 that has informed you about the latest developments. And, as I said, the rest is in the brief that you received.

And let me give the floor to Tom to quickly give you an overview. And then, of course, the five members of -- from the GAC will complement the information provided so that we have a basis for everybody that allows us to look at what is happening, what

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are the -- in particular, for particular importance, what are the documents that are published that are up for public comment where we as a GAC may think about providing for some input. For this let me hand over to Tom. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**