
ABU DHABI – GAC Opening Plenary
Saturday, October 28, 2017 – 13:30 to 14:00 GST
ICANN60 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon. This is GAC Opening Plenary, October 28th.

CHAIR THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Hello everybody, please take your seats, we will start in about two hours time. No, we will start in one minute, thank you.

So, welcome everybody to the sixtieth GAC meeting in the history of ICANN and the GAC, which is taking place here in Abu Dhabi. It's the first time I'm here, so it's quite exciting to be here. As you know, this is my last meeting as your chair. We will have a new chair at the end of the meeting. We'll know who that's going to be by Tuesday morning. We have two candidates that are well familiar to those that have been here for quite some time.

There will be, let's say, the surprises will be limited in the sense that you know both of them quite well.

So we will get to the election later.

As usual, I think we will start with a quick tour de table to let everybody introduce him or herself. As you know we don't have any name plates. So I would just like to plea you to the extent you can, stay seated where you are seated now for the whole period

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of the meeting, because that helps me to remember who you are. In particular, the ones that are new, the ones that I don't know that well. I will do my best as usual to not confuse you, but this is one of the challenges that I have been facing and I will probably also face this time.

So we will start with the people here at the table. Maybe we will start with my right.

ROB HOGGARTH: Good afternoon. Rob Hoggarth, GAC support staff.

FRANCE: Good afternoon everybody, I'm [inaudible], from the French government.

TOM DALE: Good afternoon, my name is Tom Dale, I'm from the ACIG GAC Secretariat.

CHAIR THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Good afternoon, my name is Thomas Schneider, I'm the chair of the GAC.

EGYPT: Good afternoon. Manal Ismail, representative of Egypt and one of the 5 vice chairs, thank you.

UNITED KINGDOM: Good afternoon everybody, Mark Carvel, United Kingdom government, department for digital cultural media and sport. Also one of the vice chairs.

CHINA: I prefer to speak in Chinese. Good afternoon, I'm from China, representing the Chinese government, my name is Guo Feng.

CHAIR THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you, let's continue with the gentleman other there.

KUWAIT: Badir, from Kuwait.

KUWAIT: [inaudible], from Kuwait, Communication Information Technology, [inaudible].

NEPAL: Good afternoon, [inaudible], from Nepal.

HUNGARY: Good afternoon, I'm Peter Major, from Hungary.

DENMARK: Good afternoon, I'm Finn Petersen from the Danish government.

ARGENTINA: Good afternoon, my name is Olga Cavalli, I'm from the Argentinean government and one of the two chair candidates.

SWEDEN: Good afternoon, my name is Bo Martinsson, from Sweden.

PORTUGAL: Good afternoon, I'm Anna Neves, from Portugal. I intend to speak in Portuguese during the meeting, during the week, but now I'm speaking in English, thank you.

SENEGAL: Hi, I'm the Senegal representative.

LUXEMBOURG: I'm Claudine Kariger, from Luxembourg.

FINLAND: Good afternoon, I'm from the government of Finland.

My name is Petri Kuurma.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION: My name is Moctar Yedaly and I'm from the African Union Commission.

NEW ZEALAND: Good afternoon, Harry Chapman, from the New Zealand government.

COOK ISLANDS: Good afternoon, Tepua Hunter, from Cook Islands.

FIJI: Good afternoon, Elvin Prasad, from Fiji.

TOKELAU: Good afternoon, I'm Tealofi Enosa, from Tokelau.

BELGIUM: Good afternoon everybody, I'm Jean-Philippe Moiny, from Belgium.

BELGIUM: Good afternoon everyone, my name is Jan Vannieuwenhuyse, from the Belgium Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications, the NRA for electronic communications in Belgium.

BRAZIL: Good afternoon, my name is Bendicto Fonseca. I'm from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brazil.

BRAZIL: Good afternoon, my name is Thiago Jardim, I'm also from Brazil.

SWITZERLAND: Good afternoon everyone, my name is Jorge Cancio, from the Swiss Telecommunications office.

VATICAN CITY STATE: Mauro Milita, Vatican City state.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Good afternoon, my name is Karel Douglas, from Trinidad and Tobago, it's my first meeting.

PAKISTAN: Good afternoon, [inaudible], Ministry of IT, government of Pakistan, thank you.

VIETNAM: Good afternoon, I'm from Ministry Information and Communications of Vietnam.

IRAN: Good afternoon, Kavous Arasteh, Iran. Thank you.

SINGAPORE: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], from Singapore.

SINGAPORE: [inaudible], from Singapore.

SINGAPORE: Charles Chew, IMDA, Singapore.

AUSTRALIA: Good afternoon, Annaliese Williams, Australian government.

CANADA: Hello everyone, Andreea Brambilla, government of Canada.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: Good afternoon, Deolindo Costa, from São Tomé and Príncipe.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Good afternoon, Bo-young Kim, from Republic of Korea.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from [inaudible].

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Good afternoon, Nelson Guillén, from the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications of the Dominican Republic.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: [Speaking in Spanish].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, [inaudible], from [inaudible].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, [inaudible].

CTU: Good afternoon everyone, I'm Nigel Cassimire, from the Caribbean Telecommunications Union.

MACEDONIA: Good afternoon, Sasho Dimitrijoski, Macedonia.

TUNISIA: Good afternoon, [inaudible], Tunisia.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, [inaudible].

NORWAY: Good afternoon, my name is Ørnulf Storm, fom the Norwegian government.

NORWAY: Good afternoon, Elise Lindeberg, also from the Norwegian government.

NETHERLANDS: Good afternoon, Thomas de Haan, from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands.

AUSTRIA: Good afternoon, Christian Singer, I'm the Austrian representative.

SWITZERLAND: Good afternoon, Stéphane Bondallaz, from the Swiss government.

MADAGASCAR: Good afternoon, Rakotomalala, I represent the Madagascar government. I see the chance to thank ICANN through the GAC for having put at our disposal this outreach and information mission of ICANN to raise awareness amongst Internet actors in Madagascar, thank you.

REPUBLIC OF NAURU: Criden Appi, from Nauru.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible]. I'm from International Telecommunications Union.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], from the government of [inaudible].

TUVALU: [inaudible], from the government of Tuvalu.

MEXICO: Good afternoon, Miguel Muñoz, from Mexico.

JAPAN: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible] from Japan.

JAPAN: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible] from Japan.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], I'm from the Economic Community of Central African States.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Good afternoon everyone, my name is Blaise Azitemina, I represent the Democratic Republic of Congo.

NIGERIA: Good afternoon, [inaudible] Fashedemi, Ministry of Communication, GAC rep, Nigeria.

VIETNAM: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], from Ministry of Information and Communication in Vietnam. This is my first ICANN meeting, nice to meet you.

INDONESIA: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], member of the net Indonesia National [inaudible] counsel. And, also, expert from the Ministry of ICT, Indonesia. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, [inaudible], Egyptian lawyer. I work for [inaudible] law firm in Dubai.

ROMANIA: Good afternoon, I'm Carmen Elian, I'm from Ministry for Communications and Information Society from Romania.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Good afternoon, Yulia Elanskaya, from Ministry of Telecom and mass media of the Russian Federation.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Good afternoon, [inaudible], Russian Federation.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello everyone, my name is [inaudible] of Islamic corporation.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from OIC.

ETHIOPIA: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], from Ethiopia.

GERMANY: Good afternoon, Diana Caprino, from the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

GERMANY: Yes, my name is Hubert Schoettner, good afternoon, from the same ministry, German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [inaudible].

THAILAND: I'm from the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand.

THAILAND: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from Thailand.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from Taiwan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: [inaudible] of Taiwan.

PALESTINE: Good afternoon, my name is Alan, from Palestine.

RWANDA: Good afternoon, my name is Vincent Museminali, from Rwanda.

UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION: Good afternoon, Susan [inaudible] from Uganda,
Uganda Communications Commission.

MALI: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from the Regulatory Authority of
Mali.

CHINA: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from China.

CHINA: Good afternoon, [inaudible] from Ministry of Information and
Technology of China.

NIUE: Good afternoon, my name is [inaudible], representing the
government of Niue.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Hello, Ashley Heineman, U.S. GAC representative.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Ryan Carroll, U.S. government.

BURUNDI: Good afternoon, my name is Francis Cubahiro, I'm coming from Burundi.

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA: Good afternoon, I represent the Republic of Guinea.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Good afternoon, my name is Tereza Vyletalova, from the Czech Republic.

COLOMBIA: Good afternoon, my name is Hector Gonzalez, from Colombia.

COLOMBIA: Good afternoon, my name is Jaifa Mezher, from Columbia.

CHAIR THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you, I think we've heard everyone. It is, once again, a very diverse group, as you can see.

And so with this I would now like to yield to our team. Our supporting team who will continue to share information on the following week here at the GAC. I don't know who wants to take over, Rob?

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much Thomas. Again, good afternoon everyone, I'm Rob Hoggarth, from the GAC support staff. It's my pleasure to be attending my first GAC meeting as a member of the support staff working with all of you and I'm looking forward to a very productive week. Over the course of the next 5 and a half days you will all be spending time in 37 sessions, over about 35 hours together. The topics that you'll talk about will range from substantive items, to operational items, to various procedural matters. There is a wide variety of sessions and topics that you'll all be speaking to and learning about, and talking with each other about.

It's a great pleasure to see in here from a number of you that this is your first ICANN meeting, because what we've learned is that since the last meeting, ICANN59 in Johannesburg, there have been 50 GAC participants who are new to participating in GAC meetings and GAC affairs. If you look at it over the course of a full

year's time, that represents on an annual basis, a turnover rate of about 40% for people participating in the GAC. And it's really put the importance that you will hear throughout the week of education on boarding, sharing information and, Thomas's favorite phrase, lowering barriers to participation. So we hope that many of you who are experienced members of the GAC will share your knowledge, your expertise, your welcome to some of the new members of the GAC who will really appreciate I think your outreach and engagement with them. We also encourage all of you to participate actively throughout the week.

Over the course of the next several meetings we are looking to engage in a number of different innovations in terms of some of the support efforts that we are engaging with you all on. They will range from, I think some of you will have seen on the list the exchanges that I had with Jorge about sharing briefing materials talking about preparing for the meeting in terms of planning, bringing you all together to talk earlier in the process about agendas and other activities. And, also, finding ways to share information that a number of you have already shared with me that are very challenging in terms of sharing information, learning, being able to report back to people in your governments the activities of the GAC and ICANN generally. And we are looking forward to engaging with all of you in those ways.

One small and perhaps informal way that we would like to do that for this week is that for those of you who are new and this is your first ICANN meeting, my fellow support staff, and I'll introduce those folks in a moment, were asking if you are a new member participating that you get from one of us on the staff a little green dot for your membership badge that we hope that you will use throughout the course of the week because it will help other members of the GAC community recognize that you may be a new member and if you are an experienced member we hope you take the opportunity to welcome the new participants and encourage them to further explore and work hard here in the GAC. It's a very small little thing like this that we hope will encourage your collegiality and help people really come on board in a very positive way.

I think a number of you received the invitation for a lunch later this week with the commercial stakeholders group of the GNSO, and we hope particularly for those of you who are new, you will take advantage of that. Sport your little green dot and look for more opportunities to engage, not just within the GAC but more broadly within the ICANN community.

Thomas, there is just one other thing that I wanted to remind everybody about and many of you have been very good about already engaging with staff on this. Thomas mentioned that we are presently still in the voting period for the election for the next

GAC chair. That voting period stays open through the early morning of this coming Tuesday. It actually closes at 2359 UTC time. So for those of you who have yet to cast a ballot we encourage you to utilize the credentials that were issued to you and take advantage of that opportunity. I think that's it throughout the course of the week. I'm sure Thomas will call upon us to say a few other things, but again, looking very forward to meeting many of you in person and working with you. Thank you very much.

Thomas can I introduce just very briefly my fellow support staff members, if they can stand when I mention their name. We are not a big team but we are very engaged with the leadership. I'll go front to back. Fabien Betremieux supports the PSWG and a number of other working groups and important operational activities for us. And all the way in the back of the room, if they can hear me, Julia Charvolen and Gulden Tepe are, at the back of the room, responsible for I know a number of communications already with many of you. They make sure that all the trains run on time and that everything gets done. So they are a valuable resource for whether you're a veteran or a new person. Thank you Thomas, I'll now turn it back over to you. Thank you.

CHAIR THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you Rob, with this let me give the floor to Tom from ACIG, who will also have some bits of information for you. Thank you.

TOM DALE: Thank you Thomas and again good afternoon everybody. Just to recap some points that were raised in the briefing document that we prepared for this opening session. We have identified a number of key issues which had seemed to the Secretariat and to the leadership group likely to be particularly rather important or time consuming or both for the GAC during this coming week. First one is the elections for the GAC chair and the process for that has been ignited by Rob. The second one concerns the issue of GDPR, which is the European Commission's General Data Protection Regulation and its interaction with WHOIS requirements that ICANN enforces in contracts. A third issue of some significance concerns next steps in the application from Amazon.com for the dot Amazon generic TLD and related strings following a declaration from the independent review panel some months ago. There are a number of aspects of ICANN policy development processes that the GAC will deal with and engage with during this meeting. They include the work on IGO/INGO access to curative rights protection mechanisms which is a PDP working group in its own right. Secondly the work on new gTLD subsequent procedures, and in particular geographic names, community based applications and applicant support for

developing regions. And finally the work in a separate PDP on rights protection mechanisms in the context of ICANN, and finally the GAC will also be discussing in daylight of this afternoon the question of trying to settle some agreed GAC procedures to participate in the ICANN empowered community.

The second set of issues I just wanted to draw your attention to concerns the cross community sessions that are being held across ICANN60 in the coming few days. A number of the matter interest and importance to the GAC. There's a session dealing with the cross community working group on accountability which will be used in this open session to report to the whole community. There's a cross community session dealing with the DNS abuse and the GAC public safety working group has had significant, important support for that session. There is a session dealing with something called Operating Standards for Specific Reviews which is a very prosaic title for I guess a fairly prosaic but important set of issues dealing with a need for standards for framing specific reviews such as the ones ICANN conducts or the community conducts for security and stability and competition and consumer protection. There is a session dealing with the GDPR issue which I mentioned earlier and finally there's a session on jurisdiction, ICANN jurisdiction and arrangements for that are in preparation but they involve a number of GAC members including Brazil.

That's the key elements, a very brief snapshot of issues for the week that appeared to be of particular importance and potentially priority to the GAC. Thank you, Thomas.

CHAIR THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Just to pick up on one of these sessions that may not have been so much in the focus of us but it's an important issue is the one about the reviews. Currently there are about 12 or 13 reviews on the way in ICANN about different structures. And these take up a lot of resources and quite heavy processes. Most of them are actually, ICANN has to undertake these reviews according to the bylaws every few years. Until the reform of the bylaws, that was done in the course of the so-called IANA transition. It used to be the CEO and president of ICANN together with the GAC chair who put together the members of these review teams. And then with this reform and along with empowering the community, there has been a new model that has been introduced where the SO and ACs so the ICANN constituencies were meant to put together these review teams, which is basically a good thing, it's democratizing the whole process, it's not just the CEO and the chair of the GAC. It involves all SO and ACs. The problem is the way things are set up we have had this problem also with one of the last reviews I think it was the ATRT 3 review where we can for instance as GAC nominate three persons and we have one person that affiliated herself or himself to the GAC that

we knew, and we had another person that we have never met, we didn't know, and that person affiliated herself to the GAC as well, and then we have others. And it's quite difficult for us as GAC goers the leadership was dealing with this more closely than the rest, to cope with these procedures because we felt we don't really have the means and criteria to decide about this. Then if you add this up, it's something that produces results that are not necessarily satisfactory. So we have signaled this, the SO and AC leaders have signaled this to ICANN and ICANN has taken this on and there's a group led by the Operational Excellence Committee, I think it's called, that is looking into ways to improve this.

So, this is maybe something that maybe has not caught too much of your attention so far but nevertheless it's one of the important accountability mechanisms of ICANN to review its structures and there's some work to do with the new mechanisms to develop them further so that we can really make sure that the system actually works and we get review teams together that are really functional, so this is just a piece of information to advertise your interest on that session.

With this, I think we have gone through the most important elements announcing the key highlights and procedures for this week. If anybody has questions related to the agenda or the functioning of the GAC or something on a general level, then of course this is a good moment to ask a question if you have one.

If that's not the case, I suggest that we then move on to the next session, which is agenda item 2 which is something we have been discussing quite intensely in the past. In the past year or year and a half or two years, actually. It is the issue of two character country and territory codes at the second level.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]