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PANAMA – GAC: Opening Plenary and Overview of Weekly GAC Sessions  
Monday, June 25, 2018 – 09:00 to 10:15 EST  
ICANN62 | Panama City, Panama

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, good morning, everyone, and welcome to the very first plenary session of the GAC meeting here in Panama on June 25th. I have to announce a few things so it helps the recordings later and breaking down the sessions. This is the GAC plenary where we have the tour for everyone to introduce themselves, and after this we will go through the agenda for this plenary and for the whole day as well so that everyone will know what to expect.

Before we start, I would like to recognize Ecuador as the newest GAC member, bringing the GAC membership to 177 members, we remain to have 36 observers as well. Is Ecuador in the room?

And I also recognize that we have other members as well attending for the first time. We have Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nice to have you. And if you can, please, if you wish to indicate this is your first meeting while we're doing the tour de table. -- with this, allow me to start with [indiscernible] on my left.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you, Chair. Guo Feng from China.

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*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.*

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[indiscernible] vice chair of the GAC.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone, I'm from the minister foreign affairs of Brazil.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I'm responsible for the ICANN staff support team. Good morning everyone.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, can we start from here, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is [indiscernible] a consultant.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, my name is Benedicto Fonseca Filho from the government of Brazil.

(Introductions continue).

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Finn Peterson from the Danish government.

(Introductions continue).

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Good morning from Germany.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, [indiscernible] from Cote Ivoire.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, representative of Madagascar.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: ICANN has committed to organize a capacity building seminar for the dpa's in relation to [indiscernible]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is indistinct [indiscernible] from Indonesia.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. From Congo.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everybody, representative of Switzerland.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm a representative of federal communications office Switzerland.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from Italy.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. From [indiscernible]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everybody, my name is [indiscernible] representative of Venezuela.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Representing the European Commission.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, representative of the Spanish government.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [indiscernible] from Sweden.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, my name is [indiscernible] from ministry of information of communication from Vietnam.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from Japan.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, my name is [indiscernible]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, my name is Nigel Cassmire representing the Caribbean Telecommunications Union and governmental organization for the Caribbean governments and observing member of the GAC.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm [indiscernible] for the government of Egypt, personally, this is my first GAC meeting as well.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. I come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this is the first time that my country has been represented in GAC. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, Russia.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, from Russian Federation.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning to all of you, my name is [indiscernible] from Belgium.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning again, I'm [indiscernible] from Lithuania.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from the government of South Africa.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everybody, my name is GAC representative of the Republic of Cameroon.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from Cambodia.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone, GAC representative for Uganda.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. Australian government.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from the ministry of communications from Japan.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, representative of Japan.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm [indiscernible] Republic of Korea.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Ministry of government of Pakistan.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. Azerbaijan.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [indiscernible] West African states, my first GAC.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from Chinese government.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, [indiscernible] from China.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, from Romania.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm from Germany, and this is my first ICANN meeting.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, Germany.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, from Austria.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I am [indiscernible] from the United Kingdom. Good morning everybody.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone, [indiscernible] from Taiwan.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. [indiscernible] from Taiwan.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone, my name is [indiscernible]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning from Thailand.



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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Ashley [indiscernible] from the United States.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, Chair, vice Chair, ICANN staff and colleagues. Representative from Zimbabwe.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, to all. DRC Congo, government delegates.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone, [indiscernible] Singapore.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, everyone. Any other members or observers who haven't introduced themselves?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [indiscernible] Guyana. Good morning.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Good morning. So thank you, everyone, and welcome to all the new members and all the new representatives. I hope you can let us know how we can make your first experience a good one. So with this, let me quickly try to give an overview of the structure of the whole day. So we're starting with this plenary.

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We have the tour de table after which I will be reporting quickly on the SO AC's chair meeting and then we will be giving a heads-up on the upcoming GAC elections in Barcelona and then any other administrative issues also at this stage.

We will then have a 15-minute break then the reporting back from the capacity building workshop for half an hour and then we will have a discussion on GDPR for one hour and then updates on the high level governmental meeting for 30 minutes. Then a one-hour lunch break and come back to discuss the advice register GAC advice register. This is the platform where all GAC advice to the board is being locked and archived and tracked and then a one-hour session on new subsequent procedures and of course including Work Track 5 which is a topic of interest to the GAC.

I have to mention that this is the public forum. I should have mentioned this at the beginning. It's a shorter meeting, only a four-day meeting for the GAC. And during this meeting we dedicate the second half of the day for the GAC to attend the cross community sessions and the topics of interest that are being discussed during the afternoons. So we will be ending our GAC meetings every day around 3:00 and then the cross community sessions starts afterwards.

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So after the GAC discussion on the new gta and subsequent procedures, there will be a short afternoon break and then we have a cross community session on the geographic names at the top level, and again, it's the Working Group meeting in public and seeking input from the community, and it will be very useful for GAC members to please attend, participate, and share your views.

Then the transition break and then there is another important session starting at 5:00 for community input to the expedited policy development process drafting team which is, again, the team that will be putting charter and doing the scope of the expedited policy development process in charge of changing the [indiscernible] specification on GDPR on consensus policy. We will discuss this in detail, but I know many GAC members do have input on this process and I hope will attend the session and please be sure your views are being heard.

At the end of every day there is the community networking, a good opportunity, again, not only for GAC member to get introduced to each other but also to other members of the community as well. So please make sure to show up at those community networks.

So with this, let me start reporting on the meeting. So as I mentioned, [indiscernible] and myself attended the ICANN co

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member with all chairs -- this took place yesterday, and it's becoming a norm now where at the beginning of each meeting the co is meeting with the chairs of all supporting organizations and advisory committees, and [indiscernible] please feel free to chime in whenever you want.

THIAGO JARDIM: I see every time my name is mentioned -- it's Thiago. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, for setting the record straight. During this meeting a couple of issues were discussed. And I have to say this is more of an informal discussion between the different leadership groups, so it's not -- it shouldn't be seen as leadership reporting on behalf of their supporting organs or advisory committees, it's more of an informal exchange, it's held under Chatham house rules. So we are happy to report on things that have been discussed during the meeting but not really in a position to attribute those discussions to speakers or affiliations.

So having said that, let me give you a quick heads-up on gTLD procedures where it was discussed whether preparations for the new round should start without preempting any final policy. The preparations takes time so they would like to start preparing the systems and preparing everything until there is a policy out

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there and concrete decisions that could be deployed and implemented.

So again, this was one topic. They said that preparations sometimes take years to develop the system. So it may be good to start early to be ready in time h the other agenda item was SO AC priorities. And as you may all guess, was one, geographic names, also reviews that are being conducted, whether organizational reviews or specific reviews or even the upcoming [indiscernible] function review.

So just checking my notes. Of course there were talks about GDPR as well, challenges and how to construct the discussions throughout the week, short-term and long-term proposals, so many reviews taking place at the moment, and it was agreed that the most important thing that the community provides feedback on the proposed way forward for those reviews that's currently put for public comments. So it's very important that we give some direction, whether positive or negative, but any feedback to give guidance on how to proceed with the many reviews that are currently taking place.

Another point that may also be of interest to the GAC is the ICANN meetings. So along the exercise that is undergoing right now to cut down costs, meetings have been discussed. So we were -- we got to know in the three meetings each year cost

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around 12 million US dollars, and they are trying to find some way to have these costs down. They have already identified a few items where costs could be reduced to around 10 million, so 2 million savings. But this implies, for example, repeating the same venue twice, going to the same places for better offers, avoiding hot seasons, for example, in certain areas.

But with a promise that every certain interval like two, three years, there will be an even distribution of the meetings across the different regions. So the rotation will not be strictly mandated throughout the year but rather at longer intervals so they can benefit from better deals and better packages.

It was also mentioned that there were previous studies by the strategy group but that costs were not really factored in during those discussions. So this is where they are trying to factor in the cost element so that they can benefit and try to the extent possible to keep the rotation but across longer intervals.

So I have nothing else to report from this meeting unless, Thiago, would you like to add, complement, correct, anything?

THIAGO JARDIM:

I think it was quite interesting to see the ICANN organization's view on perhaps the need to start early preparations in case they want to launch the subsequent round of gTLD expansions, and

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then it was interesting to see the reaction as well from the other organizations and advisory committees. They weren't quite sure about whether it would be a good idea to start those preparations and spend money in that task before the GNSO has decided which would be the policy. So there's this question about whether it's appropriate to start investing money in these preparations prior to having clear idea of what would be the policy for the next round of gTLDs. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Thiago. And I think the agenda is more or less known. And it becomes known early before the meeting. And I hope that we can share this agenda upfront with GAC members to that in our next participation we are guided also by some GAC input. Again, although not a formal setup, exchange, it's good to have a sense of how the GAC would like to see things happening.

So if there are any comments. I see Iran taking the floor. Please.

IRAN: Yes, Manal, thank you, again. You touched many, many, many important points. But I would like to start from the one that you are now discussing, the new gTLD subsequent rounds. As all of you know, there are five tracks on this matter. Work Track 1, support and outreach. Work Track 2, [indiscernible] contentions

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and disputes [reading] and Work Track 5 our beloved important issue of geographic names. The new gTLD subsequent round currently concentrate the acts on the four Work Track and leave aside to the Work Track 5, but I have one general comment that I would make later on [indiscernible] comment.

Chair, it is always difficult for many GAC members to actively participate in the PDP in particular for this subsequent round. Four tracks [indiscernible] meeting every week. We thought there would be a better opportunity when the result of these four tracks come together, and we will discuss at the general meeting. However, we are disappointed, at least I am disappointed, that participants in many meetings of this group [indiscernible] a statement, saying that we do not take any comment on the overall activity of the group, due to the fact that we would like to postpone submission of those comments at the level of public comments.

Then the question was asked what is the purpose of this meeting. They replied that the purpose of the meeting was just to verify before the output of the Work Tracks 1-4 are properly reflected. Then the question is why some of those GAC members that bother themselves in various hours of the day, including 3:00 UTC, to wake up or to stay awake to participate at the meeting and would not have the opportunity to comment on the output of any Work Track for the simple reason -- for instance



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myself, I am not and was not able to attend all four tracks. I could attend one or some of them. Then I thought at the level of the overall meeting I have the opportunity when the results of the Work Track 1-4 are presented to at least make a comment, a comment to be discussed. I didn't expect that my comment be taken in account a hundred percent, just discussed, but it was not so.

Chair, I would request you kindly in a meeting to have the new gTLD subsequent round discuss this important point. Our expectation is that the general meeting should be possible for every GAC meeting, there are few, not more than two or three, unfortunately, to comment on the output of each Work Track and not pushing them or not saying that you have the opportunity at the public comment venue we see the bulk of the comments like this, to comment. Why this opportunity is missed? So this is one point I want to raise.

And the second point, we have to ask them that we need a more I would say collaborations among others, mostly they are GNSO and the GAC have considered us as a collaborator, as somebody that we are fully interested. Because many of these PDP might have or would have link wed our advice. I don't go further with this meeting at the beginning. But I would like you to kindly take this point when we have the meeting with the GNSO or the meeting with the GNSO and the meeting with the new gTLD

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subsequent round. We should be more active, we should raise questions, not just a formality, and say various questions, exchanges, not important for me. We should have questions raised and whether our concerns are properly replied. Work Track 5 when you have the opportunity to discuss that, that is one of the most top level priorities of the GAC really, and there are a lot of things we have to discuss. Sorry at this very beginning of the meeting I took your time and of the distinguished colleagues, but this is an important issue that I have to raise.

Chair, if you will allow me one more minute, I think we need to discuss at this meeting what are the top priorities of GAC between now and GAC 63 or ICANN 63. There are several subjects, [indiscernible] geographic names, new gTLD, recommendations, and [indiscernible] and others. And we have to really set aside a schedule of how to deal with that.

Chair, I request to consider to assign to any of this group one of your vice chairs to follow the process and to report back to the leadership group and leadership group take action and inform our GAC members. You know that the GAC structure is quite special, and we are not very active while we are not seated. We are active when seated. When we go back to our country [indiscernible], so this is our request, Chair, to assign any of these five important areas to one of your vice chairs to discuss

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and come back to the leadership group and then you kindly take action and inform the others. We need to be more active. I come to the meeting of this one by one but just as a general one. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much for your valuable input. Let me respond before handing the floor to Brazil. On your second point we took note of this, the GAC leadership meets every day during the meeting. I think we can discuss this during our meeting today and get back to you with some feedback on this. Regarding new gTLDs, I'm happy you raised this point early. We're having the discussion this afternoon so we can have a more thorough discussion on the topic at the session this afternoon. So we're having I think it's -- anyway, it's sometime this afternoon.

So Brazil, please.

BRAZIL: Thank you, Madame Chair. I would like to start by seconding the points that were made by [indiscernible]. May I just take a minute to say that yesterday I participated in the capacity building workshop that was convened by GAC members especially for newcomers, and I had an opportunity to reflect a little bit on the challenges that governments face working in the

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[indiscernible] context. And one of the points I raised referred to the methods of work. As governments we are -- we participate in these multi stakeholders [indiscernible] environment. Which is very good, the framework, we support it. However, we must recognize that as a government we face particular challenges with regard to the accelerated rhythm of discussion of issues, variety of issues, and I would also say the risk and challenge of dealing with issues that are new and also that refer to topics that are being discussed elsewhere in the Internet governance [indiscernible] system, for instance discussing the rules in the rounds -- the issue of geographic names, a method being discussed within WIPO, for example, not conflicting but different views being addressed there.

But in ICANN, the ICANN context, I think there is no willingness to wait for the outcome of those discussions. We are, as a community we are willing to move ahead even in the absence of rules to be decided upon in the appropriate forum for it to be discussed. So it is a risk and challenge to work in such an environment at such a speed, accelerated rhythm. We are governments, we are not private sector, citizens. There are different cultures regarding each community, and sometimes as governments we are forced to follow a little bit the rhythm and methods of work of communities, and this is a challenge. So I would like to second the distinguished representative of Iran's

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proposal of advised ways in which we can mitigate and be better equipped as GAC to address those very complex issues that are being discussed extensively in other parts of the community. And sometimes we are called to give advice at a very late stage with little information, little background, so to the extent we can devise ways that can be addressed, I think it's in the interest of all of us and for the system as a whole.

The second point refers to work stream 2. Yesterday I participated in the very last meeting of the cross community Working Group on the work stream 2 streams. It has concluded its work. And the reports contain recommendation being sent to the charter organization, including GAC, in order to have its assessment and approval. That's the game plan, that in between this meeting in Barcelona all the charter organizations including the GAC will be a look at the report and deliberate and make a decision and [indiscernible]approve the recommendations.

I'm saying this because as I look at the agenda, I see there is only a half hour slot on Thursday in the second part of the morning session on Thursday to look into that issue. There is no other opportunity for the GAC plenary to discuss that topic.

In the light of the timetable we have, I think if possible, it might be in our interest also to have more time to reflect on the inter-sessional work that will have to be done in between now and

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Barcelona in order for us at the Barcelona meeting to make an informed decision regarding these very important reports. Because this is something that will wrap up the work that has been taking place over months and years, so it's not a minor issue, and -- the importance of the issue is not reflected in our agenda.

I see also on Thursday there seems to be a slot with no topic sometime after lunch, I think there will be a half hour meeting with GNSO but at least in the copy I have there seems to be an open slot. So maybe an opportunity for extra discussion if needed. So something I would like to flag because it's an issue I think of utmost important.

Yesterday I've been meeting both myself and [indiscernible] we raised the issue about the needs for the GAC in particular to have time to look into report, to go into the details.

Again, I think the GAC maybe differently from other stakeholder groups and AC's and SO's, in which the members have been -- in spite of not being this Working Group, I assume other parts of the community have been much more engaged in the collaboration of the report. I think this is not the case of the GAC. For many of us, that report will be the first time in which some of the issues will be looked at. So I think we need some additional time for that. We made that point yesterday in the meeting, but I

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would like to flag this. Because as GAC, I think we need to prepare, especially because we have these Barcelona meeting targets for a final decision on that. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Brazil, and thanks also for reporting on the work stream 2 and bringing to our attention the need to organize ourselves to provide or to approve as a chartering organization or provide some input on the final report.

So I note the slot that is available. We are having a work stream [indiscernible] it will be a good opportunity to have this discussion and maybe have our internal GAC discussion afterwards in the slot you have highlighted? Unfortunately, I have a conflict, a meeting with this slot. Not the whole slot, I can finish my meeting and join in, but we already have five GAC representatives including yourself. We have the GAC leadership. So I would appreciate if we can start this discussion and I'll join in as soon as I can, again, to organize our GAC internal methods and plan for the inter-sessional period, as you rightly mentioned, so we can arrive in Barcelona with concrete input. So thank you.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. It's interesting to know that ICANN has decided to start the preparation for the subsequent [indiscernible] program. My brief question is do they indicate how much resource or money will be invested in the preparation of the system?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So just to make sure we are conveying this accurately, those are just discussions, no decisions yet. So people are responsible about the systems, they are just flagging that it takes time to get things ready. So they are flagging that there is an opportunity to start early to have things in place whenever a decision is taken. So no decisions yet. It was an informal exchange. So with this, I would like to hand over to Rob to tell us about the election process, please.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Great, thank you very much. Manal. I would like to provide a little overall in context. I introduced myself at the beginning of the session, Robert Hoggarth, noting how many are new, I wanted to introduce you to other members of the GAC staff support team so that if you have questions during the week, issues in the room, if you want any extra assistance from us to make your first meeting experience a positive one, I wanted to



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make sure you identified everybody in the room in addition to your fellow members of the fact.

If I can, I would like to introduce my colleagues, Gulden Tepe, Julia Charvolen, [indiscernible] at the GAC of the room. They work with Tom and me in a very cooperative collaborative team to do what we can to help you guys out. Please reach out to them or me if you need anything.

For many of you it's challenges to sort of appreciate the cadence of the work year of the GAC just being here for your first or second meeting. This is frankly my only ICANN meeting supporting this community so I'm still learning. Any input, comments, or ideas that you can share with me for how we conduct the meetings here in person or communicate more general throughout the year, because I know some of you who are new are drowning under the emails and communications that takes place -- not just from the staff or Tom or Manal but other members of the community. So suggestions of how we can make it more effective in terms of delivery of information would be helpful.

We've devoted a good period of time on the agenda on Thursday to talk a little bit in the morning things we're working onboard the website, how we can collaborate as a community and want to explore a number of ways to help you. Some is self-help, I

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understand, in terms of work with the operating principles we will talk about as well. But anything we can do to support the system will be most helpful.

We also have a crack support team in the back of the room. On occasion you will see them sweep through the room checking connections and everything else, if you have any difficulties with remote participation that you see in the chat room, if you have difficulties with power or even the temperature of the room, please let us know and we will do what we can. This is a fairly tight space compared to some of the recent meetings; we may be able to influence the temperature more effectively. Certainly will try if you have issues.

Turning to the election for GAC members and participants who have been here for the last several meetings, you may feel every meeting we're talking about elections. The current leadership team actually will stay in its current makeup through the Kobe meeting next March. The process is the GAC founders originally established to have you consider the leadership transformation or transitions over a longer period of time.

So I will just review with you how that's starting here in the ICANN62 and sort of what the next steps are you can look to over the next couple of months.

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On the introduction slide, the ICANN62 meeting begins the nomination phase or period for the next GAC election period. Nominations will officially open on Wednesday when I send an email to the GAC membership list. You look around the room here and you see quite a few people. Manal mentioned, [indiscernible] important that we coordinate and announce collectively to everyone at one time when the nomination period starts, if there is a the balloting period when it starts.

The open seats are basically for the entire slate of leadership. Manal is serving the final months of Tom's Snyder's term, the previous chair who stepped down midterm. Starting a new round of a two-year chair term and every year there's an opportunity to select five new vice chairs, so that is an annual election that takes place.

Currently among the slate of vice chairs, three are eligible to [indiscernible] Guo Feng, completing their term. They willing be assisting us. Important to have a [indiscernible] generally the nomination period is longer than the balloting period. That's a reflection of the amount of work you all have, the time and attention we want you to take to this process, so the nomination period will go through mid September. At this time we as staff will make a determination whether there are more nominations than there are seats available. And if that takes place then we

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will be circulating information to you about the balloting process and the rest.

The GAC has now successfully experienced an electronic voting process. Worked very effectively for the last leadership election so we anticipate we will be doing that again.

The next slide talks a little bit about the process. So for any of you who are interested in either nominating yourself or nominating another party, you should send that email to [refer to slide] we'll be setting up as we did for the recent nomination period that [indiscernible] you will be able to see as the nominations come in, reference a page on the GAC website so you can keep track of the nominations that have come in and we can confirm for you publicly what is taking place there.

If there are, as I said, more nominees than there are seats to be filled, we will conduct an election. We utilize a tally system which has been utilized a long period of time by the GNSO very successfully. And as I mentioned, worked well for the GAC during our last period. What is very important, and one of the reasons for a longer nomination period is that we utilize the period to confirm your information. Because the system is essentially a glorified email system, and we want to make sure that you have correctly identified and for your intentions, who will actually cast the ballot. Because the ballot will have delivered to the

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email address officially in our records. When looking at more than one person, we're looking at the designated representative, the person farthest to the left on the screen. And as you can imagine, when talking about 177 different members with different participants, we want to make sure we take the time to get that accurate.

In terms of benchmarks, looking out now over the next couple months will help us with that. The nomination period begins here at ICANN62 Wednesday, it will end the 13th of September. If balloting is necessary, that will start on the 14th of September and go into the Barcelona meeting. So when we refer to the Barcelona elections, basically the election period stays open through the first couple of days of the face to face meeting and then the they could or third day the staff announces the winners of the election. So again, that's if the balloting period is necessary. That provides basically the overview for everybody. Happy to answer any questions. Obviously there will be plenty of time between now and the middle of the September but if you want to chat with me separately about the process, Julie and I collaborate and work on that, please feel free to ask either of us any questions about it. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob. So any questions? Yes, Iran, please.

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IRAN: Thank you very much, no questions. A great pleasure to listen to Rob with very clear understanding in the way he presents. Perhaps, Chair, in view of the issue of the election that may come at the next meeting, may I suggest that most of this explanation be provided in a paper or document on the website of the GAC in order to save time at the physical meeting to get about the issues that we need really to benefit of the [indiscernible] very, very important, and we appreciate it very much and we have the great pleasure to listen to all of them, but perhaps we should try some way and give the introductory notes to the website of the GAC and at the beginning of the meeting, no doubt very short and brief explanation and references to the document already done. So that's a way to not only economize on the budget but on the time. Some we have just four days, so this is just a comment.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, and we just felt this is a very important matter to be brought to the attention of everyone and by every means we can do -- face to face, we do this over email as well. We're happy to put a brief on the website if this would be feasible. But I think it's quite important that we try to bring it to the attention to as

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many members as possible, and the opening plenary was a good opportunity for this.

Anyway, I think we're still good on time. So we still have like ten minutes if there are -- this session ends at 10:15, right? So anything that you would like to bring to our attention during the plenary that we can take into consideration during the rest of the week, yes?

IRAN:

The people asked me how the subject of the GAC advice is selected. Who selects the subjects, how selected? In my reply was that it could stem from the issues that are under discussions or issues that we have already taken action and we need to react on that, but the person asking the question was not very convinced of my answer. Could you kindly provide, but not now, how the subject of the GAC advice is selected. When it is selected, and do we need at any meeting [indiscernible] to have a GAC advice and the process is very important that we know and we prepare ourselves for that. So it would be very much appreciated if you could kindly provide some information for clarity of the ways and means that the topic for the GAC advice is selected, how it's selected, who selects it at the beginning for preparations of the draft and the deadline for that, and usually last but one day before the end of the meeting, we have a

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discussion on that and maybe last day of the GAC meeting, usually Thursday evening or Wednesday evening, that should be completed in order to be included in the communique. This is an important topic that I need to have an answer at least to communicate to my colleagues who asked me the question when I came to the meeting.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, and it may be useful for GAC members to understand this, but allow me to provide an immediate reaction to your question. The GAC discussion topics are provided by GAC members. We usually -- prior to the meetings we usually send an email to all GAC members on the GAC mailing list asking GAC members to put in their priorities so that we can plan the schedule, the overall schedule. At one time we did it through a survey; at another time we just sent an email. Happy to get feedback from GAC members. What is the best way to seek your input on GAC priorities. We then take those priorities and put them in a schedule and we share the schedule with GAC members.

The schedule is -- we have inter-sessional tools to agree on the schedule and then during the meeting, and from the discussions we try to agree whether something needs to be reflected in the communique or not. And again, it's based on members and



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observers and the discussion that takes place here, which I think is almost what you have conveyed as a reply as well. So I hope we all share the same understanding. And again, I stand to be complemented or corrected by either GAC leadership or GAC members at large. Or staff as well.

IRAN:

Yes, but I would like to put a little more formality on that to open a process called [indiscernible] of GAC advice and give a particular area that people could do that rather than being left among the huge numbers of the emails that people receive. Sometimes they may not have a specific area to that one and then we come to the point that some of our previous advice has not been taken care for many times, many times, and we had a discussion that some of them may take years so I don't think it's good to have a GAC advice that's followed up. One example, c top level domain. I know not all of the GAC have the same views; however, those people that are interested and have comments, they need to continue that their views be reflected. And there are two or three GAC advice on that -- something you recently sent to us and I have commented on that and say we were very surprised with the by -- and then having a clear indication that what are the priorities of our advice. Knowing that all of our advice goes to the full [indiscernible] first by the board member and secondly by our distinguished beloved collaborators in

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GNSO and after each advice, a explanation of what we have done, going through point by point, line by line, would like some importance to the preparation of GAC advice. How it's prepared, selection of language, terms, clarity, conformity to the bylaws and so on. This is a request for your kind consideration. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you all for reminding me to also highlight that we're currently working on a GAC advice register where all GAC advice is to be logged and tracked as well. So this will be discussed internally within the GAC later today and then we will have a demo on this platform tomorrow I think during the BRIG sessions. So another mechanism to follow up on open GAC advice as well.

I share your frustration with things that continue to pop up again on our agenda every meeting. And in fact, in response to your comments, Olga's, [indiscernible], we sat yesterday, GAC leadership and stuff, and we tried to find a way forward so that we can get moving faster. So we will get back to you with a concrete proposal. And please, if you have a concrete proposal as well for how we develop GAC priorities, please share it on the GAC mailing list and we will make sure to have it discussed. But

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again, the baseline is everything membership triggered. Yes, Indonesia?

INDONESIA:

It may happen that because of so many emails and so many information that we got, we sometimes cannot detect that some of the advice or something that we have discussed intensely not yet followed by the ICANN board, and sometimes it may happen that suddenly our registrar in our country suddenly [indiscernible] that we think it is being discussed but suddenly it has been decided. For example the two characters for dot xx, it may happen that the registrar in our country thought no, I can do Indonesia for something else. And suddenly we may be asked by [indiscernible] or the community why it happened? You didn't remind us or tell us about this development. And it's because of, you know, so many emails.

So perhaps I do not know how we can move on, but somehow we have to be warned if there is something, advice that we forget to follow up because of the so many emails. I don't know, perhaps from each vice chair as was mentioned or [indiscernible] support. Operational methods as to how to remind us on our advice. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. And I'm sure we will continue the discussion during those four days. But I have to tell you, we are always torn between keeping GAC members informed and up to date on everything, and that's why we have to bombard everyone with so many messages. If we agree on more mechanism like putting updates directly on the GAC website, we're happy to do this. We also are trying to tag the subject line, whether it's urgent, whether it's for information. And again, we're happy to receive any suggestions or ideas that could make things easier for GAC members. Because as leadership, we've been through this discussion several times. So it's good now to get some feedback from GAC colleagues .

So with this, I would like to close the session. If there are no further requests for the floor. So this concluded the opening plenary. We now have a 15-minute coffee break, and I would appreciate if you could be back in the room by 10:30, please. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**