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PANAMA – GAC: Board and GAC Recommendation and Implementation Meeting  
Tuesday, June 27, 2018 – 10:30 to 11:15 EST  
ICANN62 | Panama City, Panama

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Please if you could start taking your seats we will be starting in a minute. Thank you. So, thank you everyone for coming back to the room. We will be starting our BGRI session. It's the board GAC joint working group on GAC board related matters. So we are currently working on how to make GAC advice more effective to the board and this as we mentioned earlier includes looking at the action requests register which we will be having demo on today. And also other board GAC related matters. But before going into the presentation Maarten if you would like. It's co-chaired by Maarten.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you very much Manal. Pleasure to be here as Manal said this is really about board GAC collaboration and communication and how to facilitate it as well as possible. And the eagerness on both sides to improve is big. And I think we have seen good improvement over time as well. Understanding each other better leads more room for substantial discussion.

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We also talked about the fact that many of you come for first time, even if your country has been represented, within those country you also see new people representing their country. And they are very supportive of the capacity building webinars that take place. And we also made the offer to when deemed useful to participate in 1 or 2 of those to demystify the board a little bit. But also to put emphasis on role on the board in the whole process and in the interaction. I think that is also helps to make sure we can focus the real discussion more substance on understanding each other because that should be the basis for this whole. So with that I think we move to the first item right.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Just to thank the board for the offer, at the first place and for taking this a step further. We are now talking about having a webinar after Panama and before Barcelona. So this is a good step as well.

And also to welcome other board members here in the room, Becky, and (indiscernible) any other board members in the room so welcome to the BGRI session. With this may I hand over to you David.

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DAVID OLIVE: Thank you. I wanted to have an introduction in the process of addressing GAC advice we have a Christine and I work and make sure that the advice is researched, addressed and we will discuss. So that the board when it reviews these matters, make those decisions. And so with that part of that process was looking at past or historic GAC advice and make sure there is a public and available record of those advice issued and the implementation of those advice. That is the topic that we would like to discuss today and I will hand it over to my colleague.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Next slide please, so as David mentioned, he and I work to insure that the org provides the proper consideration and material to support the board's consideration of GAC advice. In 2017 we were asked to ensure that the board had properly considered all historical GAC advice. Clarity and agreement between the board and GAC on which items had be considered which were still in implementation and which items of GAC had been implemented. To drive this agreement and census. Go back and look at historical advice. 2016 Beijing communique. We did that -- most recently to include ICANN 61 San Juan advice to identify the unique actionable advice that composes a GAC score card which the board considers.

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And we documented the evidence of the board's consideration. Notating links to board minutes, to board resolutions as well as to implementation status for each advice item.

We provided status of this review in Abu Dhabi to the GAC it was a very large, long, detailed spreadsheet. And at a high level the advice status is what you see here at the bottom of the slide. There are 173 distinct items of GAC advice that have been issued since ICANN 46. All of these items have been considered by the board. 15 are pending on going community action. There may be further consideration at further time. And most recently I am sure everyone understands in the San Juan communique there were four items that were deferred for further consideration and pending further consideration by the board and the GAC.

Next slide please. The chart at the top of the slide is not coming across well. But it's a chart which depicts how many items we have in each of these categories. We have five phases of advice, and as Manal referenced we have this action request register. Both a tool and process by which we track and manage individual advice items.

So phase one items, those items that the board is in receipt of and while they are being published. Phase two the board is working to understand and make sure they have a common understanding with the GAC.

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Phase three are those items which the board is evaluating and considering. Phase four items beyond once the board has considered and has directed the organization to implement or take action on.

And phase five, we identify those that are closed. I am sure when we publish the slides you will be able to see the chart here. But for reference we are listing 19 items that are in phase three for evaluation and consideration. Seven items that are still in implementation by the org. And 147 items that are closed. No items in phases 1 or 2.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So will the deferred GAC advice since this is a new category now, will it fall within phase three or?

CHRISTINE WILLETT: The third?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: There were those four GAC advice where the board deferred advice. So I am just trying to check where will this fall within the phases?

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CHRISTINE WILLETT: If we move to the next slide I cover this as well. Well, next slide. My short answer Manal, yes, those are still considered to be in phase three. Pending board and evaluation and consideration. Just to highlight apart from those, this slide is a depiction of -- sorry could we go back one slide. Slide five depicts the category of items that are still in phase three. It's these 15 items on three topics primarily IGO. Red Cross, Red Crescent and Ram.

Next slide. And yes here is where we are trying to reflect that the board accepted six of the items from the San Juan communique. The remaining four items in phase three for evaluation and consideration. And those are listed at the bottom.

Next slide. This slide is intended to reflect the items which are still in implementation. The org is in active implementation activity on the status of these items. These are reflected in the inventories that we provided to the GAC previously. So the intent of all of this is to help the board and GAC come to agreement on the status of these voluminous numbers. 173 items of GAC advise. That's my last slide thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I have a question that was brought up earlier but also maybe we can pose here and seek any questions or comments from the floor as well. So, one question was how are we going to deal

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withstanding GAC advice, like GAC principles and on gTLD and ccTLD and so on. Those were provided as principles. And I don't think they are already entered into the --

CHRISTINE WILLETT: They are not in the inventory.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think those principles these are GAC principles. And come back to advice, new issues arising. And obviously we know what you have been talking about. That way part of the deliberation. I think I wouldn't put it as open items but really keep it to yourself the GAC principles that kind of operating. Would that work for you?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah, for the GAC to be guided with. I also believe submitted with the communique to the board. And those are standing GAC advice, so I mean maybe GAC advice Beijing, I know the system starts Beijing. But maybe GAC advice before Beijing that might not be that urgent. Some of which might not be as hot and current. But the GAC principles I think they are ongoing GAC advice which would be good to see reflected in the system as well. Thank you.

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CHRISTINE WILLETT: So if we have general agreement on the status of these 173 items we can move forward and finalize this status. Then I would suggest that organization staff go back and look at some of those previous items to share with the board so if the board can determine how they would like to consider those items and what they want -- how they wanted those items to be treated.

THIAGO: I am wondering if it's necessary to include GAC standing advice in this mechanism. And what would be the rationale for waiting and just doing that. Confirming your classification. And do same simultaneously. I am still to be convinced for us to wait and not immediately, as soon as possible include GAC standing advice. Thank you.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Basically I think principles underlying your way of thinking which is reflected in all of advice you give maybe very useful list to be conscience about and agree about together. And that could also be a living list because it's your list of principles that you apply to advice. And of course, we see the reflection in that advice. And we are aware of that. We stand for (indiscernible) advice that comes related based on those principles. I would encourage you



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to make those principles as explicit as you can for that process. We would obviously consider those principles as you bring forward of your time. Does that make sense?

THIAGO: I am not sure I understood what was your suggestion? Are you saying we should indicate from our side GAC standing advice and you would proceed to include them in the list?

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: The standing advice is the advice that you have been giving and to which we are respond right. So it's clear that both your advice and our responses in the system, and the good thing about the system it helps us track what you asked, what we responded and how we deal with it. So that is on the record, and that is to inform us both in moving forward so you don't need to remind us of what is there. The impression I had was talk was about principles. And those principles important and will try to follow that. And that's really the principles GAC used to form your advice.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Maybe I need to clarify here. Those are not principles that guide GAC members in reaching their advice but they were principles

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agreed among the GAC and provided as input to the whole community and the board as well. So they are what we would like to see when we have -- when we are talking gTLD when we are talking ccTLD maybe because we are talking theoretically because they were more of 2 to 3 pages paper. Becky you want to say something?

BECKY BURR: What we are talking about is the GAC guidelines on larger topics that principles for CCNSO. And sort of those ongoing principles that are existing and out there. They are not things that require -- they are not things that require sort of specific actions necessarily but they are principles and guidance that permeates when a CC issue comes up those should be applied. Is that what we are talking about? Those kind of overarching guidance that the GAC has issued from time to time principles on X, Y or Z?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah more or less, I mean, I think maybe if we have a concrete example of what we have in our GAC principles it would be useful. Again we can keep the discussion going and I will try maybe to dig out GAC principles and give you in essence what we are talking about. There were GAC principles on ccTLD, and

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gTLD and also GAC principles on WHOIS. Those are rote principles that GAC would like to see followed in organization.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Becky you want to respond directly first?

BECKY BARR: I believe on the GAC website there is a repository that lists all of these principles. I am not entirely certain I understand what we are being asked to do from a sort of maintaining a record of them or somehow including them in the advice register so I want to make sure that we get clarity for org to make sure we understand. We certainly understand that the principles are intended to apply whenever issues that are relevant come up. The question is how they fit into the register of GAC advice.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Your point so this is for requests that are pending implementation to be flagged as closed. So what you are saying is maybe they should be kept and archive but not necessarily on this platform. Kavous, Iran.

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**KAVOUS ARASTEH:** Twenty-six advice that are yet to be treated. Make some sort of preliminary category of those advice. First category would be pending resolution of some other issues like the -- part of the advice given at previous meeting regarding GDPR whether the temp or final arrangement. The second category still you need clarification from the GAC. And third something that is open and we don't know why they are open. So we don't understand Becky, what do you mean by principle? What principle are you looking for? There is not written principle about GAC advice. We have rationale for advice.

**MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:** No Kavous. No it was my question to Christine and David whether the GAC principles on gTLD and ccTLD, whether they are archived and logged on this platform.

**JORGE:** On the issue of -- I think the GAC secretariat can point you to the relevant documents because we so -- many sets. There are the ccTLD principles which I think are very widely known and also of use for all the parties involved for the CCNSO. For ICANN board and (indiscernible) and us of course. Or the WHOIS principles which are very relevant these days.

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So I think it's in contrast to issues specific advice which you can term or designate completed after you do an action. This is something that stands there and I don't know in these times of big data, if you have the right meta tags and you have okay whenever the board looks into a general issue of who is that, this document pops up or on ccTLD pops up and so forth. That gives you a good resource so you know, okay, this is the compilation of principles that GAC thought were important and have not been revised by the GAC.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Just to clarify if the question is are the GAC principles logged in the system of consensus GAC advice the answer is clearly no. It's not logged there. We only log the GAC consensus advice. At the same time just like the -- clearly actions that we consider every time we move on (indiscernible) on the GDPR as long as it's open we keep that there.

If you feel a need to come with GAC principles as a special category it would be here, what you really want with that and how you want to capture that. In the end, the objective is to improve board GAC understanding. And obviously the key principles are the bylaws and the operationalize that from GAC side important guidance for your advice to the board on specific

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things. And on specific GAC advice we can keep track of what the current systems covers.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I think Jorge also made a good point. Reference document rather than an action request. And I see also what you mean because the platform is logging requests that need action from the board not only from the GAC but also from other SO and AC if I understand correctly. So maybe the issue now is where to -- I mean keep the GAC principles -- I mean visible and at hand for the reference of the community. So I think this is a good starting point and we can continue to see how we can put this into the platform. I have Iran.

KAVOUS ARASTEH: Thank you a matter of language. Principles we don't have principles operating principle GAC that's all. If you refer to background document that's something. If you refer to supporting document that's another thing. But we don't have principle. There is no principle other than operating principle. So perhaps we should use different terminology and language whether we are talking about background, reference, supporting or history or so on and so forth. I have difficulty seeing what is the principle?

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah they are all GAC documents that are standing and we are trying to see how to log them into the system. And they are called GAC principles so far, anyway, I mean it's becoming too technical now and let's take this -- and come out with a suggestion to maybe David and Christine where to put this exactly within the system. Maybe if we understand the system better on the overall. So further questions? Or comments? So can we move on in the presentation please? Thank you.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Okay. So we got Chris available to present Chris are you there?

CHRIS: Thank you everyone. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. I am going to review the two character code presentation that we would like to or suggesting to how to move forward. This stems from request ICANN 61 that we change the mechanism for which GAC members receive notification around two characters. It was previously a mechanism for people to request a spreadsheet or other modes of notification via email and sort through that list. Members wanted something that was a little more simplified and also on the GAC website.

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So from that meeting in ICANN 61, we took the action item to look at those requirements and come back at ICANN 62 with a design which would satisfy those requirements. And to review that design with GAC members as we are going to do today. And then taking any feedback or suggestions or input on that design and once we had that we would then schedule this for implementation at a later date.

So with that background on how we where we are today, what you have in front of you is this implementation what we would like to go ahead and implement for the two characters. As you can see it falls within the GAC website. And implemented in the GAC activity section of the website. Those of you who are familiar with it and log in. Content itself, the two character content itself is behind the firewall. So as you know the GAC website has a public portion or public portion of the site as well as a private side.

So this two character information would be behind this log in so entirely private and accessible only to GAC members. The relevant two character file and information would be updated on regular basis to the website so you can check in and see changes. The actual timeline is to be determined, once or twice, or three or four times a year. We can have that discussion as



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well. Depending on how frequently the data changes. The data as you can see below.

The two character data itself would appear in this table. So the two character at second level registration. Note that the two character data that would be seen here is only relevant to your two characters. You won't see any other countries two character -- at the country level. Only see your own two character registration.

You can search within this list if there happens to be more than a couple. And you can sort the list. See things alphabetically or however you wanted to see them presented to you. At the end you have any issues or see things that you would like to discuss with the ICANN Board. This is a link to begin that discussion so you would reach out to (indiscernible) and begin a discussion if you see an issue within your two characters.

And that's it. This presents a convenient place for GAC Members to privately view the information relevant to two character registration. That's it for my presentation. Any questions? Or suggestions? Or comments?

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Any questions on this mechanism? Okay please.

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JACK: Is this going to display the date of registration of two.

Is it possible that it does so?

CHRIS: It's not foreseen to display the date. I believe we can look into adding that. I believe we do have that information. So we could display the information. I it proves useful to the GAC Members we can look it up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes if it's possible I think it would be useful otherwise I wouldn't have asked question. Thank you.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Chris for your information. I think people are on board with that. Would you agree?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will go ahead and modify the screen and send to leadership.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes we have another request.

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RWANDA: I just want to know just how to access this platform? Is it private standard website or is it through ICANN website? If it's through ICANN website I think it should show us how to log into the system. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I think it's still a demo but it's a good question to know where ultimately it would reside. So would it be ultimately be put on ICANN website.

CHRIS: GAC website. Entirely private information on your website.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: The timeline we foresee?

CHRIS: The work is not scheduled yet that is something we can work with the GAC leadership on prioritization of the GAC. What additional features. What is the priority of this effort versus other efforts and requesting with respect to the website?

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EGYPT: I wish to thank Chris for the presentation. I have maybe a question or maybe suggestion. If we were to have an export feature for this depending on the volume of request and single two character I think this feature could be useful to have the information downloaded off-line for further analysis before we get back and need to respond to law or ICANN org on that. So again if we can have export feature that would be useful.

CHRIS: That is excellent suggestion and take that on board. I think it's certainly feasible. It's going to be a matter of prioritizing the feature set along with everything else. But yes we can do that.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Chris. I have Brazil next.

BRAZIL: Thank you Manal and I should apologize because I was late, little bit late in the discussion so maybe the question I want to ask was already responded before. I think it's useful to have information as my colleague has stated before with more detail. However my question is what is -- what purpose is in regard to that information, how does it relate to GAC advice? And GAC manifestation of concern in regard to this issue? I don't see a

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link beyond for -- express their concern of two character code delegated as second level. To know concretely which case is in violation? What is the situation that prevailed before?

So I think it's good to know that but for what purpose and how does it relate to the concern that was expressed before. Is that part of ICANN org reaction to the concerns expressed as I think we -- one of the things I said I looked at before it said in regard to two character there is status of implementation that ICANN is trying to implement. Trying to do to express the concerns. I would like to have some more clarity on that.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So if I understand correctly, but I remain to be corrected of course. This is a tool to track and follow up so that concerned countries get notified of anything that we would like to raise. But of course, I mean other discussions remain if we want to raise other issues but I think this tool is primarily for follow up and tracking.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Yes it's really used to inform you what is happening to the GAC. That information is needed. So it's just filling in that need.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So any other questions or comments to Chris on this demo for the two character website?

KAVOUS ARASTEH: Still I am not sure the input of this table originated from where? From the GAC members? From the requesting entity? From the release and so on and so forth. I don't know really where the information inputted into this table stems from. Or from where this stems from thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Um, again I stand to be corrected but I think the input here is coming from current two character code that are already released in any future releases that may happen will also show on this portal. So concerned GAC members can follow any delegation that has to do two character code.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: This is what is happening it's unfiltered reflection of what is happening in (indiscernible) files.

KAVOUS ARASTEH: There are two characters that are subject to some contention between some GAC members and the board. So we don't want

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to have a table again continue to with the -- I don't know we have to separate these two. They are linked together. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Kavous. And you are definitely right. Those are for now two separate issues. This is a tool that was agreed in San Juan to help GAC Members follow up on any delegation related to two character code. But of course, this does not override any other policy discussions we need to make on the topics. So thank you. India please.

INDIA: I think there would be some value to have in terms of displaying the data registration in this by pointed out by my colleague in Brazil. In case of future releases should mention the date for future release.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Right now it's reflecting the (indiscernible) files and intent to be informed. So not on future releases because that's policy decision I guess.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay any further questions or comments? If not then maybe we can, thank you very much first of all Chris for doing this remotely. Very helpful indeed. And if we can go to the last slide I believe.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: We have been looking and want to be consistent in clear on our path forward and make sure we provide advice as soon as possible or feedback on your advice as soon as possible. And for sure prior to the next meeting. So looking at Barcelona came to the full length time line. Christine.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: So this is the anticipated schedule for org staff and board consideration in support of the Panama communique. So as you see, we are anticipating barring other unforeseen circumstances that the board could review and adopt a scorecard on this communique. And perhaps other outstanding advice items in mid-September so that would be approximately five weeks in advance of ICANN 63 meeting.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: So any questions, suggestions on that? Again the aim here is to provide clarity and to make sure we are as early as possible. But



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also for us to important to discuss it as board or preferences in board meeting face-to-face rather than webinar. Seeing the timeline and seeing that we are still five weeks ahead of Barcelona. We hope this fulfills your needs.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes Iran please.

IRAN: I have participated in some of those meeting. Similar to 2017 board. The board wanted to whether they clearly understand the advice. They didn't raise issues of further clarification. Further clarification from any source would be raised. I raised the point at 2 or 3 meetings and Maarten mentioned the need for further clarification either linguistic or content wise or conformity of the bylaw or any other things. When these things will be discussed? At what type of the meeting? Having said that in some of those meeting over connection is another type of connection. It was not very efficient. And some time of inefficiently spent. People did not understand each other or lack of poor communication we would like in future better way of communication using this webinar or using this sort of virtual meeting. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So just to make sure I understand -- so your point Kavous that during the calls we keep them to strictly clarifying GAC advice and not providing further information?

KAVOUS ARASTEH: In addition to board saying the purpose of the meeting is or was to understand the GAC advice. At the same meeting that would be any clarification sought from the GAC with respect to the term, condition, language and content of that advice but not saying that we want to understand the GAC advice. Any clarification is required to help the board further pursue the matter at other meetings. I have not seen that in any meetings that question is raised. In fact I raised the question but Maarten replied that the meeting is not for clarification. I am asking when the clarification will be sought?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Let me try to address your point. We have asked that the host communicate board be limited to providing clarification on GAC advice. Clarification in terms of more information, in terms of explaining -- what we mean by this language. All of this of course, is most welcome. I think the thing is we don't re-open the discussion. We do not provide new views on this call. I am not sure, am I addressing your point Kavous?

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**KAVOUS ARASTEH:** I never ask that we re-address or open discussion it's GAC advice mostly. It's not to be opened. But we would like to know whether the board has any point as a matter of clarifications of that advice. Anything that they wish to know how to further pursue the matter but not opening the discussion. Clarification that GAC leadership will consider and come back with some sort of clarification either from GAC leadership or in consultation with GAC member. When will this clarification be sought?

**MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN:** I think for us these meetings have been useful. For the board they understood GAC advice and respond to it. And that's what we have been trying to foster and what we have been inviting feedback on. For us it's has been useful to prepare our advice, and I hope you found that in our advice reflected that. It has helped us to be more on the ball, and not being second-guessing what the GAC may or may not have meant. It's useful that you and other GAC members participate in those calls and provide the feedback that we seek. In that way it serves the purpose -- and I hope you find it reflective though in the responses to GAC advice.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Maarten. I see India next and we have to wrap because I see GNSO colleagues coming to the room.

INDIA: One small point -- information to the website. Some value to be had in terms of display of information not only regarding that particular country, but regarding the position of other countries. And some information about whether they are in agreement or whether they are also opposed to number one. And number two, what has already been delegated in any case water under the bridge. Possibly what we need to look at what you pointed out is policy in the making. What we need to be advised about is basically what is the pipeline? What is being contemplated for the future and the perspective date? Under consideration? I think some value to be had in terms of that information. And if possible on the website and that will be helpful.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So this is a good point India. Can we just know -- can we address further questions on this portal? I mean even because we don't have time right now obviously. But it could be good to know the channel to provide further questions.

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CHRIS: Would be a good point of contact. You can go through me and I will share it with Chris.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Let's compile our questions and put them in writing. So would this I think very much Maarten, Leon, Becky and all GAC members in the room. This concludes the BGRI working group meeting. And before starting GNSO meeting Maarten if you want to say closing remark.

MAARTEEN BOTTERMAN: Just to thank you as well. Have this meeting not about subject matter but how we function better has been useful and happy to continue for that purpose. Thank you very much for your positive stance and looking forward to see you again.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Maarten. So thank you all and GAC colleagues please remain seated. This is the last session before lunch so I hope you can bear with us. And putting us back on track with regard to time. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**