
ICANN67 | Virtual Community Forum – GAC: Wrap Up Discussions
Thursday, March 12, 2020 - 14:00 to 15:45 CUN

[GUNTON:] Manal, over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, [Gunton], and welcome back everyone. We are now starting our wrap-up session of the virtual Cancún meeting. This session was initially scheduled for slightly more than 90 minutes but we now have something like 70 minutes, so let's see how we can accomplish as much as we can.

So, we were supposed to provide some updates on some Atlas III matters but if we run out of time we will ask you to refer back to the GAC piece on this session. But we will start by agreeing on next steps on the Subsequent Procedures, and then we will allow time for feedback from yourselves on this first-ever remote meeting and how we can make it a better experience, should we run into a similar situation in the future.

Also, on the piloting we did on the topic of Subsequent Procedures, which was privatized as a focus of our meeting. And also, we still have time for our GAC colleagues to attend GNSO-relevant sessions and so on.

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So, this is the planned agenda. Before we start with our agenda, I would first like to give the floor to Kavouss, if you would like, Kavouss. You have asked for a five-minute slot and we agreed that you can have it during the wrap-up session. So, would you like to go now? I'm sorry to put you on the spot. I'm not sure if you're ready now. Okay. If not, let me just mention one thing before we start with our agenda, and then we can accommodate Kavouss' request later.

So, during the opening plenary there was a request for the floor for a statement by [Bolivia] and [Ensuela] on the .amazon topic. Unfortunately, we couldn't accommodate an oral statement in Spanish so we asked them to submit it in writing so that we can have it translated, which they did. They have already shared this with the whole GAC on the GAC mailing list. I'm just pointing out that we will be incorporating this to the minutes of the meeting, as they have requested this, and also including it to the material of the relevant session – the GAC opening plenary.

With this, let me hand over to our Subsequent Procedures topic leads so that we can agree on what's next and keep the excellent progress going. Who shall I hand over to? Is it Luisa or Jorge? Jorge, please go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO:

Manal, do you hear me okay? Hello, everyone?

MANAL ISMAIL: Yes. I can hear you now, Jorge. Go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO: Oh, okay. Thank you so much and thank you for giving me the floor. Very briefly, and taking into account the late hour and the long meeting, we wanted to present to you the first and the next steps as we agreed in the communiqué and in the last wrap-up session on SubPro. You see on the slides that we have, at this moment, two topics lists in the GAC leadership on this topic, Subsequent Procedures, which are Luisa, [Pious], and myself.

We will be happy to coordinate further intersessional work on the high-interest topics identified in the GAC scorecard you had in your documentation. Please remember that the GAC scorecard is an evergreen document and that it will be further updated as discussions evolve within the PDP Working Group.

We agreed yesterday that the aim of this intersessional work is to coordinate the potential input from the GAC to the GNSO Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group, especially, of course, its current draft recommendation. This would be on an ongoing basis as far as possible.

We would, of course, prepare for ICANN68, which is only three months away, and work intersessionally to potentially prepare GAC views to be submitted as consensus to the final report in the public comment proceeding that is now planned for July 2020, which would be the last

public comment before the final recommendations go, then, to GNSO Council, and then they go to the ICANN Board.

Of course, any interested GAC members in these very important topics relating to the future policy on new top-level domains are very welcome to join and to approach us, both Luisa and myself, in order to lead/co-lead/contribute on any of the Subsequent Procedures key issues.

With this, we can go to the next slides because we think that we have to really take advantage of the momentum created during this virtual meeting of ICANN67.

We have a proposal of a first work item for this intersessional work, which would be to launch a written consultation amongst the GAC membership in the following weeks and seek their views on the draft recommendations of the PDP Working Group relating to the five high-interest topics which we have been discussing this week: closed generics, GAC advice and GAC early warnings, public interest commitments, applicant support program, and community applications.

For instance, I'm already very happy to see the confirmation from the Under-Served Regions Working Group that they will look very closely at the recommendations on applicant support.

The aim is to have as a first step a compilation of GAC members' views on this so we will be able to identify common grounds. This would also serve as a preliminary input to the SubPro, which have heard some of

the voices of the GAC during this week but, of course, it would be very good to have a broader representation from GAC views and also from people who need some more time to do a consultation to send their feedback on these last recommendations from the PDP Working Group.

So, two very important notices and caveats on this proposed consultation. First is that, of course, GAC members can highlight in their input to the compilation whether they don't want their input to be shared to the GSNO Working Group, SubPro. So, unless you signal that we will be sharing it because the common principle, now, is to have open meetings. So, in principle, that would be the default option but you can, of course, restrict your opinions and your input only to the GAC.

And the second caveat or disclaimer which we will make very clearly known to the PDP Working Group is that this is just a compilation of views from individual GAC members and it would not represent a GAC consensus position nor pre-judge any GAC consensus position we may develop later on in ICANN68 or in the course of preparing the public comment period which, as I said, is envisaged for July.

So, with this, I would give back the floor to Manal or to Luisa if she wants to add or comment anything. And of course, we are happy to hear about any suggestions, questions, and comments on this first step. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Jorge. I would just like, before giving Luisa, maybe, the floor, to highlight that we have been, also, offered from the ICANN CEO a webinar on the Subsequent Procedures as needed. So, with our intersessional work, if we identify any specific issues that we may need further information or a specific webinar on, we can definitely do this.

And of course, also, holding any GAC-wide calls on this specific issue is also another possibility to facilitate your work. So, I encourage everyone to keep the momentum and to help us with their views and with their feedback intersessionally so we can compile our individual GAC members' input and, ultimately, GAC input on the topic.

I see our dear friend and co-chair of the Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group also mentioning that “I would be happy to participate if you want me to, as well. We made some great progress during this meeting,” so thank you very much, Jeff Neuman and Cheryl. We have already recognized your kind participation in our communiqué, as well. Thank you very much. So, any comments? Any questions? Any additions? Luisa? Jorge?

LUISA PAEZ:

Manal, [inaudible]. Sorry for the echo. Can you hear me now?

MANAL ISMAIL:

Yes, much better now. Go ahead.

LUISA PAEZ: Manal, can you hear me?

MANAL ISMAIL: Yes, we can hear you, Luisa.

LUISA PAEZ: Wonderful. Thank you. And apologies, I had some microphone issues. I just wanted to give a big thank you to both co-chairs of the PDP SubPro Working Group, Jeff and Cheryl, for this great collaboration and exchanges we've had, as well as of all the working group members of the PDP SubPro.

We know they have been involved in discussing these issues since a very long time. I mean, as far as governments, as we have mentioned before, we do take a bit more time in order to consult and wrap around our minds in terms of all the considerations in these issues, so thank you again for that collaboration, and a final thank you to all those GAC members that were able to participate in the PDP SubPro working session.

Perhaps it was [different] time, or if it wasn't hopefully it was useful. And so, I also wanted to extend that thank you and that we look forward to working along with Jorge and the GAC leadership and, of course, the Under-Served Regions Working Group as well as the Public Safety Working Group in our intersessional work. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Luisa. I'm sorry, can you hear me better now? Thank you very much, Luisa. So, any further comments or anything on Subsequent Procedures? Okay. If not then, Luisa and Jorge, are you okay with the concluding on Subsequent Procedures? Shall we move on with our agenda? So, if there are no immediate reactions right now we can still seek GAC feedback on the next steps over e-mail, as well, as we continue our work intersessionally.

Kavouss, I understand you're now in the Zoom room and you've asked for a five-minute slot. So, if you're ready now, please let me know. Kavouss, are you okay taking the floor now? Okay. So, until we have Kavouss back, Rob, would you like to talk to any specific administrative matters? I know we don't have the time to cover everything but if you have any specific points you want to point, please go ahead.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Manal. The slide that's up now doesn't address the operational matters yet but just identifies some specific events that will be following this ICANN67 virtual community forum.

As many of you know, the GAC leadership had to make some very tough decisions about cutting various sessions as the move was made to the virtual environment, and as a result there are a couple of key areas that will require some follow-up or that folks have identified as being important for you all to follow-up on in the next couple of weeks. If you can almost think about it as a slight extension of

ICANN67, that would be helpful, although we aren't putting it in the communiqué.

The first is an ICANN strategic trends exercise. A number of you may remember that exercise from the San Juan Puerto Rico GAC meeting in which many of you stood around the room in front of various whiteboards and flipcharts to help the ICANN Organization identify trends.

This latest effort that was hoped to take place at ICANN67 was to give you all an opportunity, now, for further input on trends that you're seeing over the next couple of years to help ICANN manage the new five-year strategic plan and to be agile and flexible; to be able to respond to any upcoming changes or events, somewhat under the theory that the moment you put together a plan it's out of date.

So, the concept here is to, at least on a somewhat annual basis, be able to re-examine and get further community inputs on community trends. So, the expectation is that sometime probably in the next three weeks GAC support staff will be working with the GAC leadership to identify a time for this event, but it would be an opportunity for all of you to join, in a similar Zoom room virtual experience, to have a discussion with the ICANN Org strategic staff, the MSSI staff, to identify trends and help them develop that larger bit of community input for the board. So, I wanted to flag that for all of you.

The other big area that received some considerable attention in Montréal, of course, is Universal Acceptance and IDNs. Again, as a

result of this move to a virtual environment, we weren't able to have, frankly, many working group meetings at all, but during the last intersessional period Rahul from India and other members of the new steering group were able to meet. They actually developed the terms of reference for that working group.

A number of you will recall that I sent around an e-mail about three weeks ago with that recommended terms of reference. We'll be following up with you all in the next couple of weeks to remind you of that documentation and to ask if any of you have any final comments. If there are no changes or suggestions for changes, we'll look to intersessionally have you all, via e-mail, endorse that terms of reference so that the new working group, the UA IDN Working Group, can move forward with its plan of work.

One of those areas will likely be an update webinar some time in mid to late April with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. So, that will be a GAC webinar sharing with you all information about the latest developments with respect to Universal Acceptance. So, that's something that the UA IDN Working Group will likely be working on over the next couple of months, so I want you to be aware and alert to that opportunity and hope that that will garner some substantial interest from you all.

In terms of topics and concepts for your follow-up discussions, there are at least three major areas that you'll want to devote some attention to, or at least be aware of.

The first is, of course, your deliberations and discussions over the last couple of days about the definition of public interest or global public interest for both the GAC and then, more broadly, for ICANN.

You'll all recall that discussion with the ICANN Board where Avri Doria provided an update. And then, Manal's follow-up note that I think she shared with all of you, just following up with board members and advising them of the GAC's interest in following up on that dialog.

There have been some conversations, probably in the last 36 hours or so, in the virtual ICANN67 hallways about this topic. I think members of the board are very interested in the feedback that you all provided during your ICANN Board GAC meeting earlier this week and there is going to be an effort to pull together some call with board members and GAC members to talk about that concept in more detail.

As Avri reported, there is going to be some updated documentation that the board is going to be producing in the next month or so. And so, the thought is that as that documentation gets produced it'll be an excellent opportunity for a further dialog between GAC members and board members on that topic.

With respect to the ATRT3 final report, you'll all recall the substantial number of recommendations in that effort that had implications for GAC operations. The ATRT3 had expectations to get their final report completed by April 5th but part of that plan included them meeting face-to-face at ICANN67.

So, that timetable has been pushed out a bit but we anticipate sometime in the late April, maybe early May timeframe, we will see an ATRT3 final report which we will alert you all to so that you can deliberate and make some decisions about your reactions to those final recommendations.

The actual implementation of any recommendations is probably closer to the end of 2020, but this May timeframe will be very important for your inputs before the board adopts or accepts the recommendations in the final report.

Finally, for purposes of highlighted top issues to spot, you'll all recall the e-mail communications we had, probably now about six or seven weeks ago, in which the GAC provided feedback to the Nominating Review Implementation Working Group. You'll recall the issue there was the potential retention or dropping of the GAC-allocated seat on the NomCom.

The GAC response to that possibility was a strong one with firm recommendations to maintain that seat. Unfortunately, with ICANN67 going virtual, we weren't able to have the conversation with the Nomination Committee Review Implementation Group to reinforce that point of view. But from a staff perspective, we'll continue to touch base with the support staff for this Review Implementation Working Group and keep you apprised of that work, as well.

So, that's the top issue spotting, Manal, to offer. I can now, if Kavouss has been able to rejoin this, turn the floor back over to you so you can introduce him for his short update. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Rob. I wish you'll return back to the floor should they have any questions to you, Rob. But before this, Kavouss, please, you requested the floor. Apologies for the technical issues. Please, go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

No problem, Manal. I just want to inform my fellow GAC colleagues that when the radio communication conference 2019 was held in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt for four weeks, dealing with the several, more than 32, agenda items and any other issues subject to the modern telecommunication issues. WRC-19 dealt with the tremendous impact. We have determined that impact on the digital society and we've enabled everyone to benefit from the modern telecommunication technology and so on.

The conference was held in Egypt. It was held in a new building made by the Egyptian government which was much larger than the current [CICTP] Geneva. Two years of [inaudible] works, hard works, and a considerable amount of preparation was made by the NTRA and the government of Egypt, which was appreciated by everybody.

We had a very wonderful chairman, Dr. Amr Badawi, who was a very moderate, very kind, listening to everybody, and managed to settle the WRC in a most efficient way that I have ever seen at the 20 WRCs in my life. It was a total historical record on the success of the WRC.

The amount of work and preparation prepared by the government of Egypt, by NTRA, the conference authorities, from everything, was fully appreciated and recognized by everybody. Everything was, I would say, perfect, magnificent, excellent. There was no point that anyone could make any comment on that but “wonderful [allocate].”

So, we would like that to the GAC, also. We extend our appreciation to the conference authorities, to the NTRA authorities, and to the chair of NTRA for such a wonderful opportunity to the WRC community to deal with a final act which was completed with 562 pages—it’s more than 52 resolutions and one recommendation—and decided on very important issues like 5G, like [hacks] or [inaudible], and now GSO, and the many, many other issues.

This was a good success for the African continent for the second time having the chairman. The first chairman was in 2015, but the time the conference was held in Africa. We are really very happy and we congratulate the Egyptian authorities having this conference in a most acceptable manner. We put a record, a golden record, in the history of ITU that have this successful meeting.

I have received a letter from the chairman of the conference. I will send it to you, Manal. You’ll have to convey to the other meeting and

[inaudible] about that. It says that, “Mr. Arasteh, I am sure that the whole ITU community is very fortunate to enjoy your wisdom and skills, which were among the main leaders to reach consensus at all WRC-19 agenda items. We appreciate having received your guidance and help day and night whenever I needed it.”

There are many other [elements] but I did not receive that. However, it was not my activity, it was the collective activities of everybody and everybody was very, very cooperative.

I tried to build up consensus. That was what I did, also, at this GAC meeting. That is very important. I try to bridge the difference of the views of the people, and I succeed at that, and I hope that everybody continues the same path.

Thank you again, the Egyptian authorities, NTRA, the chairman of NTRA, and everybody contributing to that for more than two-and-a-half years [inaudible] and thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Kavouss, for your update and for your efforts for the host country, as well. I'm sorry, I can see Hisham's hand up, Egypt, please. Let's try to keep this short. Go ahead.

HISHAM ABOULYAZED:

Thank you, Manal. Can you hear me all right?

MANAL ISMAIL: Yes, Hisham. Loud and clear.

HISHAM ABOULYAZED: Thank you. Very briefly, Manal. I really appreciate the very nice words from you, Kavouss. We were really glad that we had the opportunity as the Egyptian government to host the WRC and definitely to contribute to the collective success that everyone who participated at the WRC actually made. I really appreciate the words expressed here and I will make sure to convey them to the teams and to the head of the NTRA for the nice words from Kavouss. Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Hisham, and thank you again, Kavouss. I understand you will be leaving so a special thanks to your active participation during this remote meeting. So, thanks.

So now, back to our administrative matters. If there are any comments or questions, I'm sorry to have interrupted our discussion. So, if there are any questions to Rob or any comments? Okay. If not, then Rob, do you have any? Yes, please, Rob. Go ahead.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you very much, Manal. I did want to at least say two sentences for each one of these operational topics for GAC members. You should know that behind the scenes we have all generally agreed that it has been a very long week and the last thing you need is a lecture on a number of operational topics or items.

So, for much of the operational update please just refer to the briefing documentation that was provided to you before the meeting. All that information is laid out, there.

I'd just like to do a couple of highlights for some of these items because, again, we'll be asking you to be alerted to follow-up e-mails after the meeting over the coming weeks.

The first one is that you are likely to see some potential design changes in the GAC website going forward as, very shortly, the ITI transition project from ICANN Org will actually be coming to fruition. That's going to be beginning over the next few months.

That comes with it some opportunities for updating some of the user experience on the GAC website. So, you'll see a few changes, there. Nothing in terms of the underlying infrastructure at the moment but we hope that you'll see some changes that will be a little bit easier on the eyes and help you to navigate the pages a little bit better.

In terms of GAC membership record keeping, I've had individual conversations with a couple of you. We hope to have, potentially, some broader discussions, maybe at ICANN68, but as we have followed-up the support staff from some of the directions of the GAC leadership we're continuing to work to see if we cannot [true] up some of the information that we store with respect to your delegations and memberships within working groups.

As we move into this new age of privacy protections and various new privacy regulations around the world, ICANN generally is tightening up

some of its processes and we're going to a much broader membership recordkeeping for ICANN the organization.

We want to make sure that the GAC's underlying infrastructure reflects and takes advantage of some of those efficiencies. And so, we'll be having some follow-up conversations with a number of you about that.

We very much appreciate all of the representatives with the amount of time and attention you've given to giving us updates about your delegations, telling us when people are leaving, including yourselves, and others are coming on board.

So, thanks very much for paying attention to that, and we will continue to work with you to keep that process as unbureaucratic as possible. Thanks for your patience when we require that one extra form or bit of documentation. That's much appreciated.

I wanted to acknowledge the feedback from a number of you with respect to the GAC's continued increased work and input on ICANN operational matters, most recently with respect to the ICANN Organization budget and operating plans.

You've all shown great focus and attention to recognizing that the work of ICANN and its implications for how the GAC operates is very important. And so, it has been very helpful to get feedback and recommendations about requests to make of ICANN for additional resources. For example, like we did in recent comments for the capacity-building workshop program.

I think ICANN Org staff generally appreciates the fact that governments are paying attention, in addition to the important public interest issues, also to the fundamental, foundational, operational work of the organization to make sure that it's effective in thinking strategically.

Finally, in terms of the GAC Empowered Community guidelines, this is something that Manal flagged during the ICANN66 meeting in Montréal. We have done research over this intersessional period on the Empowered Community guidelines of the GAC. Please look in the next several weeks for some recommendations. Not extensive, but some tweaks to the guidelines to help tighten up some of those processes. We'll be looking for a GAC endorsement of those, if not intersessionally, at the upcoming meeting at ICANN68.

So, Manal, I'll stop there because I know it's important, particularly as people start thinking about the next session, to devote several minutes if we can to feedback from members of the GAC on how you think this virtual meeting format worked this week. In particular, what can we do to improve? We recognize there was a lot of work.

I think a number of us were, frankly, shocked at how smooth it seemed to work, but we also recognize that there are a number of areas where we can improve. We definitely welcome any input that folks can share in terms of some of the themes or sessions that we employed, some of the work we did in terms of the update sessions.

Manal, feel free, please, to ask a couple of the primer questions, if you will. And please, GAC leaders, if you're comfortable, share some of your impressions or thoughts with respect to how the meeting went this time around. I don't think anyone is hoping for another virtual meeting but if we have to plan one in the future, we certainly want to be prepared.

I think, actually, some of the innovations that have been driven by this current meeting will be applicable and useful for future face-to-face meetings, as well. So, please, if anyone has any thoughts or ideas, any reactions, as candid as possible as you can be about them, it would be much appreciated. Thank you very much. I'll turn the floor back over to you, Manal. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Rob. So, the floor is now open for your feedback. So, we have 30 minutes remaining for this session. I would like to have something like five minutes at the end just to close the meeting. So, those 25 minutes are all yours if there are any suggestions, any comments, any feedback, any concerns that we should take into account for the future.

This is a new experience to everyone. I hope it has been a successful one but there is always room for improvement so it would be good to hear from you what could be done better, and even if you would like to say there are specific things that you feel worked well, it would be also good to know.

Let me try to help a little bit more, maybe, by asking feedback on the language services. How did the interpretation work, for example? Because I know, at least for us, not everyone used the channels dedicated for, this time, interpretation. So, if there is any specific feedback on this from those who used the service, it would be very useful. Yes, please, Cassimire. I'm sorry if I pronounced your name wrong.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: It's actually Nigel. Can you hear me okay? Hello?

MANAL ISMAIL: Yes, I can hear you now. Go ahead.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Right. Nigel Cassimire from the CTU speaking. I think, overall, this thing went very well. It surprised me a little bit in terms of how well it went. Two things I'll mention: one, you asked about the interpretation, which of course I didn't need to use. But for [Weir], for another one of the Caribbean ICANN groups, that there was a Latin American and Caribbean meeting in which we provided interpretation in Spanish and English, there was a solution which sort of integrated the interpreted channel into the Zoom.

So, within the Zoom one was able to select either the English or Spanish audio. I see that that didn't seem to be quite available with

the main meeting, but if that’s probably one innovation that we could look to take forward and expand in future.

The only other thing I’d want to say from a personal point of view, now, I would recommend that persons attending the meetings ensure that they go to some place quiet, maybe not even come into the office. In my case, what I found was that ... And I said, and others call it, “from the office” but, of course, you are in the office and you get distracted and you get called and all sorts of things.

So, maybe if you’re not traveling to the ICANN meeting and you want to participate in the ICANN meeting, you find some way to still travel out of the office to attend the ICANN meeting to ensure full participation. All right. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Nigel, for sharing experience from CTU. Thank you for this valuable feedback. I can see, also, Alejandra saying that the Spanish channel was perfect, Alejandra from Uruguay, and also, thanks to Rob and the team. So, thank you very much, of course, to all GAC support team.

So, any further feedback on this or any other matters? For example, I personally feel this was a good opportunity for the community to work on prioritization. So, as you may have all witnessed, all the community tried to reduce the number of sessions and focus on certain priorities and certain issues, which I personally think was a very healthy exercise.

So, again, were there enough sessions during the meeting? Should there be more or less? I'm just trying to brainstorm here and get some food for thought. Jorge, please go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you, Manal. First of all, I wanted to share a comment I made this morning—this European morning—in the public forum which went in the direction of commending ICANN for being able to switch so quickly to a virtual meeting, something which happened in about two weeks of time, which was an effort of the organization, staff, and the whole community.

I participated in some of those meetings but, of course, there were many others spending much more time in this organization. Everyone was trying to pull in the same direction of making this meeting a success.

I think that ICANN—and this is perhaps for further conversations with the board and ICANN Org—has here a lot of lessons learned that ICANN should share with other organizations, with other processes, with other NGOs/IGOs who are really struggling to keep up very essential international cooperation in this moment, where so many face-to-face meetings are being canceled or postponed, which can't be organized because of the situation we all know.

So, I think that ICANN here has a golden opportunity and chance to share its wisdom and to share its lessons learned with the wider global

community so that they can learn from the way that ICANN approached this very successfully.

And going to more concrete things, I think that on languages it was difficult and it was a struggle to have Spanish and French. Apparently, they have worked well to the extent that they were offered. But of course, for future meetings I hope that with more than two weeks for preparation Ashwin and his team will be able to offer more languages in both directions as we are used to, for instance, in the GAC meetings.

The webinar room was a bit constrained in terms of interaction, I think. Of course, I missed a lot of many informal encounters and conversations, which you can only have in face-to-face meetings and which also help for finding solutions, networking, and picking up new ideas.

But I also think, as Manal hinted, that applying the so-called Eisenhower Principle of focusing on what is important and what is urgent also helped us to streamline the agenda and focus on some very high-priority topics and get to a deeper discussion in many of them. I think that, at least from my point of view, the pilot experience with Subsequent Procedures and making it possible that GAC members attend the PDP Working Group meetings, and that we don't have conflicting schedules, was a great experience, at least for me, and I think also for our fellow members.

So, in essence, I think that if we think that the meeting went better than expected, this doesn't come from the blue, this is due to our

excellent support staff. This is due to interpreters, to technical staff, to the team led by Rob and by many others, and by the commitment of the whole community. So, in essence, I think that it has been a great experience. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Jorge. Before giving the floor to Paul, as well, I was just going to say that Zoom themselves are very excited to stress-test their technology so I've been informed that they are doing this very willingly with ICANN, as well, to stress-test, because they haven't also been through such a big remote meeting, so it's a win-win to everyone.

So, Paul, please, and then just also to highlight we could like to hear from you, also, on the time zone. Should this take place at some other time? Do we need to maybe look into the time zone of the meeting? Just giving you a few more keywords to elaborate on. Sorry to keep you waiting, Paul. Go ahead. UK, please.

PAUL BLAKER:

Thank you, Manal. I have to say, the remote participation worked better than I was expecting. I was fearful of it a little bit but I think it has been a success. I have to agree with Jorge that we owe a huge thanks to so many people who have been working so hard, so quickly, to make this happen and we're really grateful.

In particular for the GAC, I think we have to thank the leadership team and the secretariat, who have been doing so much work over the last few weeks to make the meeting a success. And actually, also to thank other colleagues on the GAC. We've all been very patient and respectful to make sure that we've had a successful meeting.

Having said that, I think, as I said earlier, we do need to remember that it works very well if you speak English, and if you have a good Internet connection, and if you live outside the Asia-Pacific region. So, we do need to be conscious of that and be aware of that because I think it does limit what we are able to achieve for a GAC meeting.

I'm conscious that in our discussions it has actually been quite a small number of people who have been intervening. The fact that we are not together physically, also, as Jorge said, makes it difficult to find solutions when there are differences of view. So, there are some limits.

There are two things I particularly wanted to bring up, though. The first was to say how great the capacity-building workshop was at the beginning of the week. A big thank you to Pua, and Carol, and Jorge, and Luisa for all the work they have done to build our understanding of Subsequent Procedures. It's a very complex area but we need to really focus on it and I think they helped us a lot. I know they did a lot of preparation and that was a really valuable exercise.

The second thing was that I'm really pleased that the schedule allowed us to take part in meetings in other parts of the community. That has been really important. I think it's important that the GAC

doesn't spend all of its time just talking to itself in a room, but that we participate in multistakeholder discussions elsewhere.

We've got a really important role as the GAC and we can only really carry it out effectively if we engage with other parts of the community. I really hope in future, when we're setting the agenda/the schedule for the GAC, we can try to continue that approach and leave spaces where it's important for GAC members to be able to go to other meetings.

I think the prioritization point that you made, Manal, has been very important. It has allowed us to look at issues much more deeply and it has allowed us to engage with other parts of the community. I hope we'll be able to continue to do that in the future.

So finally, just a big thank you to everyone involved. I've certainly learned a lot this week and I really appreciate everybody's efforts. I hope that we can meet in-person in Kuala Lumpur. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Paul, and thank you for the valuable feedback and the excellent points. The English language, of course, was an advantage at this meeting. There were trials to provide the full service for French and Spanish. As you mentioned, the time was very tight so other languages were not feasible but we're working on this.

Thank you for your feedback specifically on the capacity-building workshop and the Subsequent Procedures pilots. I have to say that there were significant efforts from Luisa, from Jorge, from Pua, Karen,

and from Benedetta from staff, as well. They have tried all sorts of documentation: the long, exhaustive version and the very short and concise version, and then trying to strike the balance and provide something that is informative but still concise and to the point.

So, a significant work. Benedetta, during this meeting, was reporting back real-time from the PDP Working Group meeting, so thanks to all of them. I'm glad to know you appreciate the time that was made available to attend other GNSO PDP sessions. We would like to hear from others, as well, whether this was a good thing to be repeated.

So, what do we think about the documentation, about freeing some time, as Paul mentioned to attend sessions of other parts of the community? Kavouss, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Yes, Manal. Thank you very much. I got back from the emergency issue. I raised two points previously and I was asked to repeat it here. The first one is the capacity of the Zoom room, whether it is 280, 290, or 300. But at least, in some meetings, maybe we exceed that so we request that the consideration should be given whether it is the possibility that Zoom capacity will be increased.

The second issue is the timing. If the meeting will be held in Malaysia, which I think if I'm not mistaken is five hours plus GMT, then we have to see whether that will have to work in accordance with the Kuala Lumpur time, nine o'clock, which may be very early for some people in some other areas, or we have to have a different time to have a

balance and median between the different time zones and so on and so forth, to enable the people to attend the meeting as much as possible.

So, these are the two things that we have to also continue in addition to interpretations and so on. Once again, we use this opportunity to thank and congratulate the ICANN Board for the conversion from the physical meeting to this virtual meeting.

Just for your information, in the city of Geneva, [IT] are now considering remote/distance working hours and so on and so forth because everybody is concerned about the gathering of the people and so on, in addition to screening.

I don't know whether this virtual meeting will be extended, too, perhaps, because there is no guarantee that Kuala Lumpur or any other meeting area would be exempted from this problem. It is not the problem of the country, it's a worldwide problem. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Hello, Kavouss. Can you hear me?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, we can hear you now, Manal.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Did you get my point, or not yet?

MANAL ISMAIL: I did get several points. I'm not sure I got everything. I got disconnected on the audio. I'm now back in Zoom. I'm sorry to keep confusing everyone. You mentioned the capacity of the Zoom rooms.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: And timing of the meeting, whether to go to the Kuala Lumpur timing or some other timing between Kuala Lumpur and UTC to make it available for everybody. So at this time the Asia Pacific it would be good, maybe, but other areas may not be in the best position or optimal position, so we have to find a better time to have a balance that most of the people could attend the meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Yeah. So, feedback on the time zone from participants/from GAC members would be valuable and we can factor this in in the community discussions as we prepare for the next meeting. On the Zoom capacity, the maximum capacity for the Zoom room is 300 participants but they have a tool called “Zoom webinar” which has been used for the public forum. So, this accommodates up to 3,000 participants but with certain limitations.

So, for example, you cannot see the participants list and I'm sure those who are in the public forum recognize that they cannot see the participants lists. So, again, trials are there but there are technical

limitations. But I understand that the technical team of ICANN are already working with Zoom on these issues.

Also, on the Kuala Lumpur meeting, just to let everyone know that the board is taking this very seriously to have a decision early enough for the whole community to know about. So, they are scheduling this for discussion immediately after we finish our virtual Cancún meeting. Kavouss, go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Yes, Manal. It would be for some people, not for everyone. People are normally looking for the cheapest ticket and the cheapest tickets are non-endorsable tickets. People say that the specific time get in, a specific time get out. But if the meeting is canceled, non-endorsable people will lose the money they have paid. So, how many people have this, I don't know. So, that is the situation.

Otherwise, they have to have the flexible and the flexible is more expensive; about 30% to 40% more than the normal price. So, that is something that we should have sufficient time in advance to see what to do, and perhaps we should [inaudible] not to have any non-endorsable tickets because at any time it could be canceled.

We don't know whether the meeting in Kuala Lumpur will be canceled or will not be canceled. That is the situation. Some people, they have complained that they lost some money. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Kavouss. Noted. As I mentioned, the board already is taking this very seriously and urgently so that decisions regarding Kuala Lumpur and GDD and the earlier board workshop, as well, scheduled for May, that those also should be decided early on, immediately after we finish the Cancún meeting. So, any final requests for the floor or any further feedback? Kavouss, is this a new hand?

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Yes. I don't know whether you are talking of final-final. If it's final-final I have some comments to make.

MANAL ISMAIL: Yes. Please, go ahead. I'm going to close afterward.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Manal. It is not a practice in ICANN, and no practice in the GAC, but at least in [practice be] some other governmental organizations [inaudible] like ITU. At the end of the meeting, the people express their views about the meeting.

I would like, if the colleagues agree with me, to express that, first of all, do we appreciate very much and sincerely all the preparations which were made by yourself, by leadership, by the coordinator or chairman of the working groups, and by ICANN staff, Rob, [my good friend], and Julia, and many others that unfortunately I don't know who has been working behind this. In fact, it is very, very much appreciated.

Most of the people, we have no time to go through all of these details. They were provided with a ready-made document which made the task very, very feasible and important. So, we thank that very much. I'd like also to thank the delegates, the participants of the GAC, for their collaboration, for their cooperation, for the degree of the tolerance that they have indicated and maintained the solidarity of GAC, not divided in different groups and so on and so forth, and have, as usual, a communiqué agreed by everybody.

So, we have different people, different cultures, different backgrounds, but at the end we are a member of the family, ICANN family and GAC family, and we have to maintain that. Manal, I would say that, moreover, we would like to thank you very much, as I did several times, but I'll repeat it again.

You are a unique and example chairman. Real example chairman. We are very much appreciated for your wisdom, for your competence, for your understanding, and for your listening to people, and your fairness, and also firmness. Sometimes you are very firm and so on and so forth.

An example I think is that everybody would be happy to continue with you and have your wisdom and so on and so forth. So, I think you will put the record of the most wisest chairman that I have ever seen. I told the same thing to Dr. Amr Badawi of the chairman of WRC. He was also an example. Maybe it's the culture of Egypt. Maybe. You are a long, long history, more than 5,000 years, and that is also a richness for

everything. You have that background and that heritage to you, so we continue to work with you. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Kavouss. You beat me to the thank you list. Thank you, Kavouss, for the kind words, and thanks to everyone. This concludes the wrap-up session and our GAC meeting. But of course, I cannot conclude without thanking everyone so I'll start by actually thanking the government of Mexico for preparing to host this meeting then willingly and understandably accepting the cancelation.

And also, to thank ICANN Board and Org for a wise decision to go remote at a time where things were not that clear yet. I would also like to thank my GAC leadership colleagues, working group chairs, and topic leads for enormous effort they exerted to help prepare for and on this meeting, and also ICANN Org and staff for working around the clock, as everyone noticed, to prepare and set up for this first every ICANN-wide remote meeting. It was done in a matter of a couple of weeks.

Special thanks to outgoing vice-chairs. So, the end of this meeting marks the end of the terms of Cherif Diallo from Senegal and [Pierre Pumar] from [NUI]. So, sincere thanks for their service on the GAC leadership team, and a very warm welcome to Jorge from Switzerland, Pua, Cook Islands, and Rodrigue from Burkina Faso who have been already deeply, deeply involved with the GAC leadership. So, an official and warm welcome to the GAC leadership team.

As always, a big, big thank you to our fantastic GAC support team, Benedetta, Fabien, [Gilton], Julia, and Rob, in alphabetical order, for their tireless efforts before and during the meeting. As you have all witnessed, they did almost double the effort this time to prepare for this remote meeting and to resolve issues behind the scenes for us all to have a seamless and smooth experience.

Also, a special thanks to the remote IT team who are supporting us from Los Angeles. I know there is a full set-up in Los Angeles, so the five Zoom rooms we are working in here are also physically mapped in Los Angeles, and we are being served from there. So, thank you to those who are serving us remotely.

Also, last but never least, our wonderful interpreters and scribes who are also supporting us from remote and, as always, are instrumental to our discussions. Of course, I cannot conclude without thanking you all, each and every one, for your active participation and your fruitful discussions and cooperative spirit despite the remote set-up and despite the challenges and the challenging time zones for some. So, thank you all, each and every one of you. Thanks very much.

So, we'll continue to engage intersessionally and I really, really hope everything will be contained soon. I hope to see you all in Kuala Lumpur. So, our me is adjourned but you are still encouraged to attend the Q&A session with ICANN executives and the public board meeting, as well, taking place immediately after we close here. I hope, maybe, even everyone has a wrap-up cocktail so that we can all

celebrate virtually, together, the end of our meeting. Thank you, everyone. Have a good rest of the day. Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, Manal. Bye, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]