
ICANN71 | Virtual Policy Forum - GAC Wrap Up
Thursday, June 17, 2021 - 14:30 to 16:00 CEST

GULTEN TEPE: This session will now begin. May I ask technical team to start the recording?

Welcome to the ICANN71 GAC session on Thursday 17th of June at 12:30 UTC. We will not be doing a roll call for the sake of time but GAC members attendance will be available in the annex of the GAC communique minutes. May I remind GAC representatives in attendance to indicate their presence but updating the name to reflect the full name and affiliation.

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please type it by starting and ending your sentence with question, or comment to allow all participants to see your request.

Interpretation for GAC sessions include all 6 U.N. language and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen to by clicking on interpretation icon on the Zoom tool bar. Your microphone will be muted for the duration of the session unless you get into the queue to speak. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room. When speaking

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please state your name for the record, and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. And also make sure to mute all your other devices.

Finally the session like all other ICANN activities is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behaviour. You will find the link in the chat for your reference. With that I would like to leave the floor to GAC Chair, Manal Ismail.

Over to you Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden, and good morning good afternoon and good evening everyone. Welcome back. We are starting now the GAC wrap-up session. This is the last session of the GAC meetings week. It is scheduled for 90 minutes. And I particularly like interactive nature of this session so I hope everybody will be engaged with many, many thanks to Rob and everybody on support staff for compiling the slides we have on the screen on the fly, so thank you very much. It helps to structure our discussion but definitely if anyone would like to flag other issues, please feel free to do so.

So despite the 90 minutes we have identified many issues that we would like to discuss with everybody so without any further ado, and -- I'll go quickly through the agenda and hand it over to Rob for the GAC operational matters. We will be starting by GAC operational matters going -- covering the action decision radar and website of the GAC, and giving more information on the GAC elections, and highlighting the key dates post our meeting. And then open the discussion on substantive topics and next steps identified after our meeting here. But also some sort of stock taking and evaluation of the meeting and how -- what worked well, and what could be improved.

And at the end I'll be handing over to Jorge for a discussion on GAC onboarding and engagement. Again, hopefully with feedback from everybody. So with that, I'll ask you please to go to the next slide, and hand it over you if I may, Rob.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you, Manal. I will take over A, B and C and turn it back over to you for the more substantive conversations. I hope to be fairly brief at the beginning recognizing we have the full 90 minutes here at ICANN71 and we were quite restricted in time for the last public meeting.

So, not a lot to go over but I did want to identify a number of things for GAC member and representative attention in hopes that you will be able to take advantage of utilize some of these developments here over the next inter-sessional period. The first is the GAC action decision radar. A number of you will recall our conversations about this at the last public meeting where the radar was more identified as a prospective tool that was being developed. It's now been fully introduced. Those of you who received the regular GAC e-mails received your first notice of the availability of the radar tool at the beginning of may, and in preparation for this meeting we also shared with you the link to the radar at the beginning of June, and it's only a couple of weeks where you will get the latest updates produced at the beginning of July. So we've already begun a pretty good time of this.

The tool was basically a recognition that there were additional ways to communicate with all of you, and for the leadership to have one central tool, if you will, to essentially be able to track all of the various issues that are being managed by the GAC chair, vice chair, team, as they collectively work together with other groups within the ICANN community. For those of you who've seen the document and share a link to the document every month as well as have a web page where you can go back and look at past snapshots of the document, you'll see that it's quite voluminous. We make an attempt to not only identifies

categories but also to share the prospective timelines for when we ask action to be required, and we also try to provide a general picture of the progress of each issue. So we hope it will be a useful document that all members of the GAC will be able to adopt, utilize, reference over the course of the inter-sessional period.

Right now we've seen that every month we see a little bit more take-up of the tool, more people using it so this is more after commercial where we hope you will continue to take advantage of the tool. If any of you have any feedback about the content in terms of the topics. Are we getting all of the issues for you? That would be important to hear back. We are also very interested to hear at any point in time if you think that there are extraneous components to the tool, or if there are maybe new aspects to the tool. Other ways that we can convey the information that you think might be useful. Please let us as GAC support staff know, or let any of the leadership team, either Manal or any of the vice-chairs now about your feedback.

We want to make this something that you all use. Find value. Can use to report back to your own teams about what's going on here at ICANN so we hope it will be helpful. We also hope it will help you prepare ahead of time. Not just for public meetings but just for you know receiving communications from the GAC. If you see that something is coming up, we hope like in the next 3 to 6

months, next one to 3 months. That that will also help you prepare a little bit ahead of time to be prepared and maybe not be surprised as issues come up. So that's just a general overview of the tool itself. I'm not going to share with you screen shots or anything but just invite you to either check out the tool directly on the line with the links we provide by e-mail or just using the dedicated radar page we've indicated here on the slide. I don't know if you have anything you would like to add to that Manal that I may have overlooked?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Rob. You've covered it very well. Just to tell everybody that Gulden also has shared the link in the chat so if you just want to peek into the radar and see what Rob has been describing. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Great. Thank you very much. The next informational tool that I wanted to provide an update on is something that we also talked about very briefly at ICANN70. Jorge also mentioned this in his remarks during the opening plenary session. We are in the midst of updating the user interface with the GAC website. That work is going to be concluding here in just about a couple of weeks. We had a little bit more optimistic schedule when we met with you all at ICANN70. Hope to have that all done and together by the time

we met, but we took a little bit of an extra time to cross all t's and dot all the i's and the English version of the site and you will see a new look and feel of the GAC website. Probably by the beginning of July.

I say probably because what we are going to do is about the week of the 28th is go into a quiet mode for website, it will still be available to you but for a couple of days we won't be posting anything so that the ICANN tech team can do the appropriate technical hand-over so that at some magical point probably around the 1st of July you will be able to see a site that has a different look and feel that frankly will be much more aligned to the ICANN org website look and feel. So that will be an important, we hope tool and resource that will provide some level of commonality for you.

The underlying infrastructure of the site is not changing. The general way that it is organized and outlined will stay relatively much the same, but we hope it will provide a better experience for those of you who use the site with a tablet or on a mobile phone, and the new design will help display the information much better. So I'm hopeful that you will find that to be of use and value, and with everything else we do, please give us your feedback for the July time-frame as to how you like it. Whether the new look and feel frankly provides new insights for you in

terms of additional capabilities you'd like to see on website as well.

So we hope that you'll like that new look and approach. As I said nothing otherwise will change for some of the internal GAC content you'll still need to utilize your website credentials to be able to log on and to see some of those materials that are directed more directly to GAC members and not to the public. So I'm hopeful that you will find value and use there, and this again is just more of an update or a commercial.

We can go on to the next slide, Gulden. And I can turn our attention to the upcoming 2021 GAC vice-chair election process. This process traditionally starts at the end of the mid-year meeting, in this case the ICANN policy forum, and basically what it kicks off is about a four-month process between now and midway through the ICANN72 meeting we will have a nomination period and then a balloting period at the end of that nominating period.

For this year the election period is only for vice-chairs, for those of you who've been around longer than the last year you know that the election period last year was both for the chair, as well as the vice-chairs but the chair has a two-year term. Vice-chairs have one-year terms somewhat ... but every year we open up

nominations for the complete roster of vice-chairs, so all 5 vice chair seats are open for election every year.

In the case of term limits some vice-chairs are allowed to serve two consecutive terms and what's basically staggered it the two term -- or two-year term pardon me -- so for the upcoming year, two of the existing vice-chairs still have one year left on their term, and the other -- I'm trying get the math right here -- we will lose three of the vice-chairs and two of the seats will be available for new people to be elected.

The little trick and the reason for my hesitation is that this cycle we only have four vice-chairs. We usually have 5 so we have a smaller number. So we'll have many new faces we hope when we turn to the new slate of officers at the end of the ICANN73 meeting.

So the nomination period will begin at the end of this meeting. I will send an announcement out to the GAC e-mail list announcing the beginning of the nomination period, probably tomorrow, so you will all see that since we only have you know, a small number of you in the overall total of about 500 GAC participants. We want to get out the notice to all the members and observers so that will go out in the next day or so. That will announce a nomination period from now until early September. So it's a relatively long

period of time, it allows people to converse, give consideration to their interest in serving and otherwise contemplate the opportunity to volunteer in the very important role of vice chair.

So that will be a long nomination period. Typically we usually are get a couple of nominations early in the period and then the number of remaining nominations towards the end of the period. We hope that you'll all give some consideration to potentially serving throughout the next couple of months the nominations can be received either as a self-nomination, or you can nominate another GAC representative to serve in that role. When a nomination comes in, we as GAC support staff will confirm that. Obviously, if it's self-nomination we don't need to do that but if you are nominated or choose to nominate another representative then in that case, we as staff will confirm that nomination.

All nominations that are confirmed will be recorded on a special site or page on the GAC website that Gulden and I have already established. We can go to the next slide and that will show folks, Gulden, the link to the web page for that. So that's something that will allow all of you to track throughout the course of the next couple of months we get nominations in. Who the nominees as well as the nominators are.

What we will do is at the end of the nomination period as support staff is we will look at all the nomination that is have come in and do the relatively simple math of determining whether we have more than five nominations or not. One of the reasons I became a lawyer is that I'm not very good at math so I'm glad to have a very limited calculation there. Now if we have more than five nominees or nominations for any GAC chair slots we will need to condition deduct an election of balloting process, after that nomination period is over.

We will let all of you know about that as part of the process, and if that does become necessary, we will have an election period from about early October until a point about 2 days into the ICANN72 meeting. I'm not going to get into the details that have because it may not be necessary so at this time we'll sort of skip over those details, but we'll thoroughly document that for all of you if that becomes necessary.

We've had a very successful system over the last few years when elections have been necessary, we utilize a system called the tally election system that allows us to send out individual links to all of the GAC members which allows them to cast their vote and throughout the election period potentially update that vote or change it. That's a fairly simple straightforward system, but the important thing that it requires is that we have a very clear way of

contacting and identifying the voter whose responsible forecasting the vote of the member.

By default and through the GAC operating principles that voter is the designated GAC representative, so for each member the formal GAC representative of that member is designated as the elector. You all can change if that becomes necessary. We have a simple notification to the GAC support staff.

Now what the election allows us to do -- and we proceed through this nomination and balloting period -- is that it allows us to communicate with all of you to confirm any potential changes that you've had in your GAC representation. Not just the representative themselves but also any delegates that you have. So that will be a part of the process over the course of the next couple of months for those of you who have identified and maybe forgotten to alert us to changes in your delegation, it provides you with an opportunity to share that with us and it allows us to go throughout records and check and confirm that the individuals that you've identified as representatives are the people that you want to continue to serve in those roles. So that's a useful tool that we have as GAC support staff just to make sure that our membership records are accurate.

As you all know the GAC website lists the members of each delegation with a clear flag as to who the representative is and he and we want to make sure we keep those records clear for ICANN accountability and transparency purposes and to allow you all to communicate effectively with each other as events necessitate.

I think that provides the general overview about process. Gulden if we go to the next slide what I wanted to flag for those of you who may have an interest in if serving as a vice chair, for those of you who are contemplating -- or may contemplate making nominations, just to share a little bit on this slide what some of the expectations or responsibilities are to for that role. It's a relatively small group of people who work very hard throughout the course of the year and we want to make sure that we recognize the contributions of the existing vice-chairs at this point.

There's some general responsibilities that the chair, vice chair group generally manages throughout the year in any case. I've got those identified here. It's an important coordinating responsibility, not just for the committee itself, but between the GAC and other groups within the ICANN multistakeholder community as well as with the ICANN organization, and so there are a number of opportunities I'd like to call them, throughout the month for the leadership team to get together.

As we note here in terms of commitment duties and opportunities the chair vice chair group generally gets together usually no longer, Manal, than I think about three-week period. Sometimes every couple of weeks for an hour or two, sometimes longer, to go over the various responsibilities, and expectations that not only are -- have been visited upon the committee, but those points of action and decision that require attention from the leadership team. So the commitment is regular meetings. Quite a few e-mails throughout the course of the month, but it also provides opportunities to get to know and network with other members of the ICANN community.

There are fairly regular but not intense in terms of time period commitments get together with other leadership teams from other communities, as well as opportunities to interact with the ICANN executive team, with the ICANN government engagement team, which plays an important advisory role to the GAC leadership as well. There are also something we haven't really done during the virtual time period, but there are also leadership training workshops that are available to chair and vice-chairs at the various ICANN communities that are also made available to the voice chairs so something else to also contemplate if you feel like you need some refresher for training or if the opportunity to serve as the vice chair might be new to you, and if you have any concerns about certificate informing that role, you can rest

assured that there are many resource that is are provided to help you build your skill set in that record as well.

It was also thought Manal and Jorge that it would be nice to have any of the current or former vice-chairs who served in those roles share some of their experiences so I will pause and maybe take a drink of water and allow some of you SO share your experiences in terms of how much you've relished, enjoyed or otherwise sacrificed for the GAC in that role. So, Manal, I'll turn the floor over to you to pick and choose, or vice-chairs can raise their hands thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob, and I won't pick and choose. I leave colleagues to raise their hands but maybe meanwhile I would like also to note that there is normally an onboarding period. It's maybe around 3 months, which would help any volunteering colleague to pick up with the discussions and understand more the environment and the requirements and the responsibilities so it's not that once you are a vice chair you face everything without any preparations.

I see Jorge has a hand up, so Jorge please go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, thank you, Manal. And hello everyone. And Jorge Cancio, and GAC vice-chair. And GAC representative for Switzerland for the record.

I was waiting to see if somebody else [inaudible].

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Jorge, you got muted.

JORGE CANCIO: I'm sorry. I got muted. I didn't want to [inaudible].

GULTEN TEPE: Jorge.

JORGE CANCIO: Yes.

GULTEN TEPE: Please speak clearly, and close to the microphone please because we are having issues to hear you.

JORGE CANCIO: Okay. Do you hear me better now.

GULTEN TEPE: Yes, much better now. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: Okay. Great. So, very, very shortly as some of the experiences from my side, first of all it's a real pleasure to take part in a collegial team under the leadership of Manal, and with the team I don't only mean the chair and vice-chairs themselves but Rob and Fabian and Benedetta, Julia, and Gulden, the whole team of support staff I think we, we do a very good job together, and it's a very collegial atmosphere, which we have.

I think it's really interesting also multicultural international experience to work in such a team. So that's a first point. I think many of us have sometimes difficulties to understand what was going on in ICANN, and I can assure you that your understanding of what happens in ICANN and beyond increases a lot when you see things also from the leadership team perspective, and it gives you also an amazing and unique understanding of this very special international organization for those of you who participate in other international fora.

I think it as Rob mentioned, it also offers you a possibility to understand better the other parts of the community, which sometimes look like entities outside with a very different interest.

You get to know them much better, and you get to understand their interests and values also. Of course, for those of you who want, and who like to change [inaudible] this is a great responsibility in helping steering not only the GAC but also ICANN at large, so it gives you that sort of chance, and opportunity, and finally, I think it expands incredibly your network within, and also beyond ICANN.

And last but not least, I think it's a lot of fun. It's some hard work sometimes but also, being a GAC member is a hard work, and when you are in the leadership team, you do it as part of a very collegial team, and you get a lot of insight that trickle in onto you just because you are there. So I'll leave it by that. I hope that is helpful.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Jorge, and I see Luisa as hand up as well so please go ahead.

LUISA PAEZ: Thank you Manal. Checking my audio first?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, I can hear you loud and clearly.

LUISA PAEZ:

Perfect. Thank you very much. And hello GAC colleagues. This is Luisa Paez, the Canada GAC representative. So I wanted as well to share a little bit of my experience as a GAC vice-chair and thank you Jorge. We coincided I believe -- yeah one year of my GAC vice-chair working together.

So, and I wanted to echo a lot of Jorge's comments. First of all I believe I was selected as a GAC vice-chair, I believe one or two years that I became GAC representative, so as Manal mentioned there is always a lot of support that the vice-chairs receive, so it was just a word of encouraging, even new GAC members to consider becoming vice chairs because there's a lot of support that one receives.

I was also able to participate in one of the ICANN leadership programs, obviously in the pre-Pandemic times so it was an in-person meeting and it was really, really wonderful so you get that type of training and you get to know other parts of the community, and as well the onboarding Manal mentioned in the sense that you have at least -- you start -- you have at least I believe 3 months or so before your first GAC meeting where you will be a vice chair to start observing, to start participating in the vice chair calls, so I found that very helpful to start navigating that world.

And as Jorge mentioned as well there's a great team spirit. With -- you get to work with our wonderful support staff, as well as establish really great relationships with other vice chairs from all over the world. As well it's really interesting because you become in a sense, being able to help shape the GAC's agenda, and so you really understand and get to appreciate how much work that goes into preparing one -- every GAC ICANN meeting. So it was a very humbling experience for me but it's very exciting because you really get to be, I guess an agenda setter so that was really wonderful.

And yes, a lot of exposure as well to other parts of the community, and so again you appreciate the different stakeholder groups, so we have a lot of leadership calls with the GNSO council, with the ALAC as well with the ICANN executive so the government engagement team, as well with the ICANN CEO or ICANN VP so you really get to understand at a very deep level, and more granular level how ICANN org works but also how other parts of the communities work, and their priorities and again you establish those relationships so I would say over all it was a really wonderful experience even -- I mean I do have to say that at the beginning being -- I had already -- I mean I had some exposure in the ICANN world, but as I said I wasn't at first -- I would say the most experienced GAC representative so at the beginning it was a little bit intimidating but I felt there was always a lot of support

and it was a really great experience over all so I really encourage all of you to think about it, and if you have in any questions just feel free to message me or, yeah get in touch with me and I will be happy to share a little bit more of my experience.

Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Luisa. And I see also Pua as hand up and as Luisa mentioned, if you have any questions, you can either raise your hand now, or feel free to communicate of course over e-mail, and we will not try to name that one as a vice chair yet but please feel free to ask any questions you may have. Pua, please go ahead.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Manal, and hi everyone. This is Pua Hunter. I'm currently vice chair at the moment. I'll be very brief because I think both Jorge and Luisa shared what I also agree, and so I'm echoing what they shared. And I must admittedly that I personally enjoyed the being a vice chair. It's a great opportunity in terms of learning, and also expanding both my personal and professional networks.

And I think the only challenge for me was the time zone of our calls, which normally takes place in high early hours, but in saying that I must admittedly that Manal and the leadership team and even the support team did offer to hold the calls at another time zone to accommodate my time but given that I was the only one on this side of the globe, I thought, no, it will be better for me just to join any way.

But anyway, I encourage GAC members to volunteer for this role or even to accept a nomination if a colleague nominates you. Everything about it is great. It's fun. It's a lot of learning, and that's what I have to take away from this. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Pua. So, please, don't miss the fun. Put your names and either nominate yourselves or other colleagues. I'm handing it over back to you, Rob, please.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal. Gulden, we can go to the next slide and I'll just identify some of the key dates. Just to keep in mind.

No stress, no immediate deadlines or short term pressures here at this point. The nomination period will extend through early September. It will end on 9 September at which time we will

communicate with all of you to let you know there was a balloting period necessary, it will take place in early October. If not, there will just be a vote by acclamation at ICANN72 so we will remain interested in seeing any nominations that come in over the next several months. Thank you all again for considering. Please just pay attention to website, one of the GAC activity pages is devoted as I said early, to the 2021 election process.

So with that we will conclude the discussion of the elections with thanks to you Jorge, Pua Luisa for your insights and sharing your experiences. If we can go to the next slide Gulden what I will do is just identify moving sort of prospectively now past ICANN71. Some key post meeting dates to alert you all to either for your plan's preparations, or just otherwise calendaring.

We are looking at establishing and setting up a possible webinar with respect to the IDN EPDP that was recently announced by the GNSO. We will talk about that in a couple of minutes, Manal, when you review some of the key substantive topics that GAC members may want to follow over the in ex couple of months so we will devote a little bit more time to that.

The key reason for considering sharing additional information with all of you about this EPDP is that the GNSO has opened up the opportunity for at least 3 slots to GAC representatives to

participate in that effort, and there's some useful background information, and I will be sharing with everybody directly by e-mail.

There was also a session earlier this week in which the GNSO membership shared information about the upcoming PDP -- EPDP effort and so as a result the real key for the GAC leadership was to provide as many of you with as much information as possible here over the next couple of weeks to see if anyone is interested in volunteering to participate in that effort.

So look for more of that, and the possible webinar probably towards the end of next week and we can co-ordinate with the GNSO on that.

The other webinar that we are going to be introducing, and this is something that Jorge spoke about in the opening plenary that we may have time to talk about towards the end of this wrap-up session -- is the reintroduction of the GAC introductory webinar series. There is a space, an activity page on the GAC website, that provides links to a number of past introductory webinars. And the latest webinar that we are working with the GNSO staff is the GNSO consensus playbook, which basically will be an opportunity to share with you information about how the GNSO had updated its policy development process work efforts, so there will be

information there not just about how the GNSO currently manages PDPs, but also information that will help you all as governmental representatives really understand why is the GNSO doing something in a particular order or what's the process that they use. Why do they do it. Information about the playbook will help you understand some of that.

There are also aspects of the playbook that are designed to be used by other communities including potentially the GAC in some of your work in deliberations. So it's designed to be not just a managing book for the GNSO in terms of how it conducts its work, but also a resource for other communities. So we hope that you will find that to be a useful introductory sort of webinar just to the resource. That is something that will not only help knew your current work but potentially some of your future attention to various substantive topics here at ICANN.

In addition to those events we discussed earlier this week the fact that public comments on the GNSO EPDP phase 2 interim report will be due around the middle of July, and the various dates around that final deadline have been mentioned to you all so I just want to inning that. There will be opportunities obviously to contribute to that as well as I recall the suggestion that you consider also submitting comments as individual nations or

governments or observing organizations as part of that effort. So mid-July will be an important date for that activity.

By August, we will be asking you all for suggested topics for ICANN72, so while there will be a couple of weeks to relax after ICANN71, very quickly things will be picking up as we look towards ICANN72 towards the end of October. So as you all know there are agenda setting calls for the GAC, calls for topics. Things like that. Please don't wait too long to start thinking about those.

And then of course the vice chair nomination deadline in early September, and then ICANN72 currently scheduled for 5 days towards the end of October. Something not on this list that's not a responsibility for all of you but something has been noted earlier this week that by certainly by the end of July, the ICANN Board will have made the determination whether ICANN72 will be a hybrid meeting or again a virtual meeting. So a number of you may want to be paying attention to that for purposes of your calendars. Typically our virtual meetings have only been 4 days like we experienced during this week. So it may not be 23 to 28. It might be something a little bit more narrow, but it will certainly be around that time-frame.

And I invite you, Manal, or any of the other GAC leadership or any folks on the staff to identify other key meeting dates that I have not listed here. But those are just a couple to day attention to.

That's all I had, Manal. I will turn the floor back over to you for -- I don't know how you want to go through this. Either to do it issue by issue or just let representatives identify what they think are some key topics they will want the GAC to pay attention to over the next couple of months? But we've listed a couple here. Just by way of suggestions and there is that key bottom bullet at the bottom which is empty for anyone to add additional thoughts or ideas. So Manal, I will turn the microphone back over to you with my thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thanks to you, Rob. This was very helpful, and I hope informative to everyone. So as Rob mentioned we try to compile a list, guided by our discussions throughout the week, identifying substantive issues that we need to attend to, and where we can definitely benefit from help from other GAC colleagues as well broadening our pool of volunteers and sharing the load.

To start with we have the subsequent rounds and as Jorge, Luisa mentioned early why they are week the operational design phase is yet to be launched for subsequent rounds, and we need to keep

an eye on this process and contribute as needed in light of GAC views and inputs that we have provided throughout this process.

Also, potential GAC advice, and if there is interest also as you have seen it's a very broad topic, with so many issues, so we can easily identify key focal point for each issue for example, and to assess whether we need to provide advice to the Board on anything that we have discussed throughout the past days.

There is continued GAC engagement in GNSO EPDP matters and as you have all noticed this is a very loaded process with so many polls and it is really concentrated. And it has multiple phases, but we also have yet to start DNS abuse and data accuracy. DNS abuse despite the so many discussions we are having on still cross-community discussion hasn't begun yet. So -- and this would be anticipated but also the data accuracy scoping efforts, and separate work track is also under formation, if I may say this.

And follow up on the ICANN70 scorecard annex. As you may have seen we have received the substantial annex attached to the scorecard. We have received from the Board in response to the GAC communique of ICANN70, and we need to acknowledge receipt, and identify any points that may warrant a follow-up.

I'll go also to the GNSO... and EPDP and stop afterwards before moving to the volunteering opportunities but the GNSO will launch very soon and EPDP on IDNs and we are offered 3 nominees or representatives, so we need also to, to bear this in mind and try to follow on how we can participate to this, I'm sure important aspect to governments.

I'll pause here to see if there are any questions or comments or additions to the list, or maybe immediate volunteering or expression of interests but also if topic leads want to add or to elaborate more on any of those topics, and thank you, Jorge, for noting also the IGO work track and the related processes. Indeed a longstanding item on our agenda that we need to really progress and hopefully complete to satisfaction.

Again, I'll stop here and just see if there are any requests for the floor? And if not I will proceed with the volunteering opportunities, so nothing new, but just a compilation of everything that -- at least we need in the short term so the vice chairs accommodation as Rob mentioned. We have 5 seats with I think one vice chair able to continue to a second term.

SubPro and new rounds, subsequent round of new gTLDs and the related operational design phase as we mentioned, we need volunteers, and SubPro issue leaders, and in addition to the 3 GAC

representatives for GNSO IDNs EPDP we are also seeing a volunteer to chair the universal acceptance and IDN working group of the GAC. So the working group is there. We have India chairing this working group, but the. The Indian representative has been moved -- or got new responsibilities. He is not participating to the GAC anymore, so we are just flagging the need for a volunteer to chair the universal acceptance and IDN working group.

I'll pause one more time here if there are any comments, questions, additions to the list, noting the IGO work track, if there's anything else we have overlooked? So please, reconsider the issues here, and reach out to support staff or the GAC leadership or even on the GAC mailing list expressing interest in one or more of the list of topics. Let's go to the following slide, please.

And here we are trying to take stock of on your meetings and see what worked well and what needs to be improved again a long list, but you are most welcome to add to it first the opening session. If there is any feedback, how we can make the opening session up to everybody's expectations, we, we try to enhance a couple of times, we started compiling slides for the opening session helped colleagues to focus on follow up what is being said, but also sharing the load and breaking the monotony of

having just one person presenting throughout the hour by also inviting topic leads and leadership colleagues to talk to their points.

So if there is anything else we can do to even enhance more regarding the opening session, and I will go quickly through the list, and please meanwhile start thinking of how we can do better, and I hope to see hands going up.

Second is preparations for our meeting with the Board. Again, we try to start early flagging opportunity to share topics that we can discuss we need to discuss with the Board, and we try to identify the issues and then compile our questions and to -- in order to share them early on with the Board so that when we get to meet, they are ready to give us the answers we are looking for.

Recently, we tried to follow the same process in preparing for other bilaterals such as our meetings with the ALAC and the GNSO, and again with many thanks to Shi, our Korean colleague and Jorge, Swiss our representative and vice chair as points of contact with the ALAC and GNSO respectively we have been following the same process trying to identify the issues and we share them with, with the party we are meeting with. Early so that again we can have a fruitful discussion and get the answers we are looking for. So we appreciate very much your feedback on the

preparation method and effectiveness of the format and if there is anything we can do better for ICANN72.

On the communique drafting, again any feedback is most welcomed on the process itself. Or I mean, the time-line, the Google doc, the way we compile the feedback, and the communique language the two weeks we prior to the meeting that we start calling for issue identification, and maybe key messages, we are aware that sometimes things are not that clear until the meeting but at least there could be some indication whether or not a GAC advice will be needed. So again your feedback is important, and also the review time. The review period we give at the end which has been extended from 48 hours to 72 hours so please feedback.

Next is the Zoom webinar format which is the tool we used during session 8 on RDS and WHOIS and it is also the same tool used during the panels. The community panels. And I hope you you felt the difference. It segregates the panelists from attendees, and we try to make sure all GAC representatives are promoted as panelists because when you are a panelist you get to see whose attending and you get to use the chat more freely, the attendees have a more restricted view, so -- and this was in response to some complaints that the chat sometimes is flooding, and people cannot focus on the topic that is being presented. Of and so we

piloted it this time, we are testing it I mean, and we are looking forward to feedback from GAC colleagues and from topic leads or session moderators so that we can see whether it addressed the needs and the concerns expressed and whether we repeat it or use it for other sessions too.

And, please, if you have any comments, raise your hand. I'm just pausing also to see if I missed anything in the chat so there is a question if we could have more information, you know, related links on GAC ... please so appreciate if we can paste again the link to the radar, and Nigel saying the different formats of Zoom worked well this time. Thank you. Just scrolling up to see if I missed any other comments, and if not, please Denmark go ahead.

DENMARK:

Thank you, Manal, it's Finn Petersen. I hope you hear me well. I actually think the web format went very well, and I will suggest that we expand it a little more. I think some of the meetings that we have especially when we are meeting with other part of the ICANN community, everybody should be able to use the chat because we also have members from, from ALAC and other parts. But I think the session where GAC issues is something we discuss, I think it has been helpful to see the more limited and focused use of the chat function.

I don't know whether it will be possible that in those sessions of course besides GAC, GAC members also deal with some issue -- have the possibility to use the chat and, of course, ICANN staff, and I also think leadership in other part of the community should be able to use the chat during our session, but normal members of other communities should use the -- that function. I don't know whether we can try to, to use that where it's open and we discuss with other part of the community as ALAC, as GNSO, and more restricted when we are discussing things among ourselves.

I think that will help us focus in on what other GAC members are putting in the chat. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Finn, and thank you for flagging maybe a need to differentiate between bilateral meetings and GAC plenaries. Noted. Anna, please, U.K. go ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you very much, Manal, and hello to GAC colleagues. This is a very useful discussion to have, and I'd also like to congratulate the GAC leadership and support staff for organizing such productive meeting. And to share a few reflections in response to the questions. From my perspective and as Nigel noted in the

chat the virtual platform and other innovations like the GAC precision radar have been very helpful, though we've been operating in the virtual environment for some time it's still very difficult to deal with and I feel the GAC has shown excellent resilience and adaptability.

I also found our discussion on the future of ICANN meetings very insightful; I would like to echo some points colleagues made about the eagerness to return to in-person meetings. I'd also like to mention one additional point on the diversity participation in the GAC touched on in the discussion. Though going on-line has enabled some to attend who otherwise would struggle. There are still further ways we can expand the diversity gap voices in the discussions so particularly when think how do run meetings post-COVID I think it's worth considering not only the number of participants but the number of active participants.

And on-line versus in person and it would be interesting to discuss, and I welcome suggestions in other as ways we can escape challenges such as technical issues and also sort of onboarding for newcomers. For myself for example someone fairly new to ICANN I enjoyed the GAC social, and I thought this went well. I found the introductions helpful to sort of get to know other colleagues.

And I think this would be a helpful addition to the main sessions. Perhaps in the opening session we could introduce ourselves, and sort of try to get to know each other a bit. So these are just some brief reflections, but I would be interested to hear other's thoughts and thanks again to Manal and the rest of the GAC leadership and colleagues, and such a positive meeting.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Anna, and thank you for reflecting on other points. Please everyone feel free to reflect on any of the points on this screen of course including the daily briefs the social gathering, so and the wrap-up session. Olivier, please go ahead.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Olivier Bringer for the record, and I will speak French.

First of all, I wanted to thank the chair, Manal, the leadership team for the GAC and the different teams in charge of the different topics as well as the support team, for their excellent preparation of this meeting. I think that it's enabled excellent discussions on all of the different topic that is we wanted to address, excellent preparation of the communique, excellent in the Arctic action with the other groups and the Board. So truly I wanted to congratulate everyone for the work done. And at the commission we are truly satisfied with this GAC meeting during ICANN71. I

also have 3 perhaps critical but constructive pieces of feedback that go back on points that were mentioned by the U.K. Denmark.

First of all the question of participation. It was mentioned by the U.K. I think that we can improve participation and the diversity of participation during GAC meetings. I don't know if it's my place, but I would like it call out to newer colleagues at the GAC perhaps they think that they don't really understand all of the different topics, please don't hesitate to take the floor. I think all points of views, all perspectives of the different members of the GAC are interesting. Questions are interesting, they feed the debate, so truly I would like to encourage all of you to actively participate in our debates.

I also wanted to suggest to the leadership team to think about some ways to facilitate participation so I know that in the chat the suggestion of the Indian representative to have sub-groups where we can talk together. Gather in a sort of plenary session that's one idea. I'm sure there are others. I think that the virtual format that we are using today presents certain challenges of course. It can be difficult to participate in the middle of the night. But it's also an excellent opportunity to have everyone present and it is good for participation so it really needs to be done this way virtually, but also we need to think about the hybrid format because this is

something that will be coming up very quickly. So that was the first point in terms of participation.

Second point I would like to echo and confirm the feelings of my colleague from Denmark on the chat discussion. This is something that I already mentioned at the last meeting, as you might remember. Sometimes we have parallel discussions on the chat, and they don't really help the members of the GAC to intervene on the topic that is are being discussed during the session sometimes it might even distract us.

So I am really all for transparency, and I noted that there were many more participants than there are members of the GAC and so I think that we are transparent, and many members of the community are following our discussions, but I am for a space, including in the discussion channel, where we can exchange amongst us so I this I that the webinar format that was proposed is an excellent idea. There might be others. Other ideas, but I truly do support the suggestion to have separate discussion channels amongst us so that we don't become lost in discussions that have nothing to do really with the agenda for the meeting.

The last point had to do with the duration of the sessions. He will several sessions I thought had presentations that were a bit long I thought. It was extremely interesting. We really came to

understand the different topics in details and for someone who's new it's helpful to understand WA we are talking about but for a one hour GAC session we can't have a 55 minute presentation session because then there is no space for discussing things. So we need to choose.

Either the presenters need to be disciplined and we limit the presentations to 40 minutes and maybe don't say everything, but we still have time for discussion. Or we make the meetings a little bit longer to an hour and 15 minutes perhaps. Of course, the risk is that the meeting is longer, and the presentation becomes longer. That's the risk but that's something I wanted to mention.

We need a little bit more time I this I to debate during those sessions. I apologize for being so long but thank you so much for listening.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Olivier. Very valuable feedback and points all well noted. And I Jaideep, India, please go ahead.

INDIA: Thank you, Manal. All sessions have done exceedingly well. Congratulations to you on your vice chair team takes us through this entire difficult 4 days of brainstorming and going through a

lot of results so one addition I was able that Olivier was able it pick up. The feedback is on the social gathering one because I luckily was fortunate to attend that, and I thought the social gathering session was an extremely valuable one in which we were actually able to meet and see others and communicate. So following on that line only my suggestion was if we could -- since we know we have some 7, 8 topics we are working on maybe beforehand if there could be breakout sessions where we give an opportunity for all the GAC members to choose one particular topic in which we could work on sit together. Maybe they devote one or two sessions. 20, 25 or so in one group and -- could be an outcome in which we could have just have a presentation or a small interaction so her members who did not attend a particular session so just like a bigger group. I think that is definitely missing and it will greatly improve the participation among all of us so that's my suggestion on that.

The second also in the chatty fully agree with -- also the other members are also mentioning because sometimes we try and follow the chat and we see a new message and go down and find it's bilateral one. Sometimes so maybe the best option is in case it is going to be bilateral it -- I know it's more of a ... we are going to adopt but sometimes the chat can be disturbing, and it just brings you up. It removes the focus on the tonic. So these are the two suggestions for my site. And again let me complement you

and your entire team for some excellent work done. And I'd wish you best of luck for a hopefully we will at least have not a -- at least a hybrid version for the next one to come forward so thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I'm sorry, thank you very much, Jaideep. Thanks for -- and I see calls for trying out the breakout rooms. We've tried that once with the exercise on trends, but we may try it for other sessions as well and we took note of everything and we have been recording so allow me -- while waiting for more hands if any, go through the remaining points on the list. So again, how do you find the daily briefings? Is this something good to keep or not needed? Again, the informal social gathering we've already heard a couple of positive comments on that. And explicitly, we are seeking feedback from newcomers, and then thank you Olivier for bringing this up.

So if newcomers would also let us know what is working well for them, and where do they need to see some improvements, it would be also very helpful from a fresh eye coming to the GAC. And if there is also anything regarding the wrap-up session itself, and how it is organized, again we keep it to an operational matters, but also stock taking if I may call it as such.

Finally, if there are any additional thoughts regarding future GAC and ICANN public meetings, I've been taking notes during our earlier valuable though very short discussion so I have a few points and I think if the set up and the time allows, I may be sharing them during the last session ICANN will be -- I mean ICANN org will be discussing with the community but if there are any final thoughts on this. And one question that came to my mind is, if -- should ICANN72 go hybrid, how many GAC members will be able to attend in person?

So I'm not sure if you are familiar with the Zoom, but if you can use the green tick mark just to give us a sense of how many already know that they can make it in person, should ICANN72 be held in a hybrid format in Seattle. In the U.S. Of course this is if you -- and the green check mark is -- I mean where you raise your hand you will find the green check mark.

INDIA: Manal, I think you need to tell them they go into the participants and then you can make the selection.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, thanks. So, and indeed assuming country restrictions allow Chris, of course. Thank you. Okay.

INDIA: This is just like a wish list.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So this is just a rough estimate, and we will try to do it more professionally, but just to get a sense of where we stand on this. So any final remarks on or feedback either on upcoming GAC meetings in a hybrid the format, or any of the other topics that we have already discussed, or feedback from newcomers? Any newcomer wishing to try -- Vincent, please not as a newcomer of course but please go ahead.

VINCENT GOUILLARD: [Inaudible] for the very last time I promise I will be speaking in French.

So since we are discussing two operational matters, I would like to take the chance to once again reiterate something that matters deeply to France. So we would like to reiterate this call for using the simultaneous interpretation system, which was set up for ICANN meetings. For those of you who are already at ICANN before the pandemic you will have seen it was a bit of a struggle at first, but this excellent system was set up in the end, and we are very appreciative of the ICANN org for that.

That is why I would like to call upon all colleagues to use it as often as possible. And I'm thinking here in particular of our new colleagues, we are who are not completely familiarized with the system which has proven to be very effective indeed and which favors multilingualism at ICANN and within the GAC. To ask something of the utmost importance. I am now going to switch back to English for some final words.

So I am not speaking French and I wanted to conclude in English in order to express some direct thanks to you, Manal, and to the leadership directly not through translation because you have done, as always, a tremendous job. Thank you to you, to all vice chairs, and thank you very much to the GAC support team. It has been a smooth and efficient meeting, as always. A big thank you to translators, a big thank you to all GAC colleagues, all who participated, and well -- I will be very happy to meet you all as always for the next ICANN meeting be it live, hybrid, virtual, we don't know yet. But a big thank you to you all.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Vincent, and please don't promise a last time for using your native language. Please -- it's been a pleasure to see how smooth it works. And thanks for using it, and by the way this was the first thing I asked to be -- if we go hybrid, would this affect the real time interpretation, and I was assured that it

would work smoothly, so this was the first thing I confirmed on our check list.

I see Susan has hand up and then had Jorge as we are running out of time.

UNITED STATES:

Thank you, chair [inaudible] in thanking you for your excellent leadership. Making the wonderful GAC leadership team, and also the support staff for such a lovely meeting. And also just to recognize that it was a nice feeling, and a pleasure to be able to issue consensus advice for a second time in this virtual environment so I think that really does show how we as a group are able to adapt to the different circumstances and still come through and provide that advice. Yes, thanks to all, and looking forward to the next meeting.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Susan. And, Nigel, your suggestion in the chat is noted as well. Using a webinar session ahead of ICANN72 to brief colleagues on topics coming up. With that, if we can go to the following slide. And be sincere apologies, Jorge, handing over to you. I hope you have enough time for the remaining slides.

JORGE CANCIO:

Yes, of course. Thank you, Manal. Jorge Cancio, for the record. This is just to remind you or to inform you that we are trying to improve the onboarding on engagement as some of you for instance Olivier, have highlighted it's really a challenge to have meaningful participation, inclusive participation I think we are quite aware of this from the leadership, and the... side but of course we completely are open to more ideas, and in your hands to improve things so I think we have been taking note of all the ideas, which in the end help also on these specific onboarding and engagement.

Just to name some figures, we have about 80 new GAC delegates since November 2019, so it's a huge turnover. So we have also GAC participant list, so to say, and this means all those who are listed either as part of the members delegations or the observer delegations, that amounts to 500 people so that's a huge number, and we are as you see, asked to participate in more and more community activities, to a certain extent we are also responsible for that because we call for community [inaudible] on DNS abuse, so we are part of the agenda setting, and, of course, we have to carry the burden which correspond to that, and it's important that we share this burden on as many shoulders as possible, so it's really important to, to have as many of you participating actively in the different efforts because in the end we, benefit

mutually from the engagement of colleagues from different work streams.

So we are putting more emphasis on the engagement resources. We are working with support staff to improve onboarding. We are thinking still on some ideas, and we are also trying to improve engagement within -- especially with the new members, and the information to share with all the government colleagues, and some of the elements have been shown already just like the GAC position radar. This is one of the outcomes of these more general thoughts, and if if we go to the next slide, I think we see there a number of initiatives more concrete initiatives we are undertaking of course with the support of our marvelous staff. More regional pre meeting webinars. One we did before the virtual Cancun meeting, and other meetings we are organizing the new committee welcome webinar and that was held a few weeks ago.

The process we are in to re-examine the ICANN learn content, especially if you are not aware where the with the ICANN learn platform, please drop us an e-mail on are drop an e-mail to support staff because there's very interesting content there. It's an e-learning platform that ICANN offers to the community and there are some specific contents about the GAC. How the GAC works but also how the GNSO works and other parts of the

community. And we are looking into how to improvement that, update them. Some of them already four or five years old, and you know that in the Internet world that's really a lot of time. That the website design is being improved.

We will intend to reintroduce or to introduce more introductory webinars as the one on the GNSO consensus playbook that will be upcoming shortly, and there are offers from ICANN org for more GAC supports resources, an in the sense of research and legal capabilities so that's something we may want to consider more than in the near future, and so I believe we are looking also in more metrics. More data to assess the levels of participation, levels of exchanges in our work amongst other things in the e-mailing list.

I don't know if here we still may go over time a little bit? And whether Rob or Fabian want to show some of the slides I know they had prepared on -- I know Manal, how you feel about it.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I think we should ask support staff if we can go a little bit over time. Is it okay? And interpreters of course?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: We will only do so very, very briefly, Manal, if that's okay recognizing the great work of our interpreters and their exhaustion at the end of the week. I'd be happy, Jorge, just for us to show them maybe 30 seconds at a time, more for the bigger story which is that under the direction of the GAC leadership that ICANN GAC support staff has undertaken to make an effort to figure out ways that we can -- I'm trying to think of the right wording -- measure, calculate. Just try to get some sense to you all as membership what sort of level of activity is taking place within the GAC? Primarily as a management tool frankly with the idea or the concept to identify where there may be engagement gaps or areas that require more coordination or management attention if you will. So yeah, Gulden just real quickly if we can just show the screen shots to folks. Here is an example of some of the brainstorm or ideas that we are working on.

This slide shows e-mail traffic. Doesn't mean a lot looking at this visually very quickly so I apologize, and we won't go into in-depth analysis. But a relatively quick review after slide like this would allow someone to see over the last ten years or so the amount of traffic that the GAC e-mail list has experienced is recommend actively stable. I mean if you look at you know in general what's going on throughout all the various activities of the GAC what we did is around the 2014 time period. We began to measure, and I'm

saying we've gone back to 2014 -- this is just recent data that we've just started to collect and put in a comprehensive manner, but it was background 2014, 2015 where the vice-chairs literally came into existence. You know that group of five.

What you see over the time was while the overall left of e-mails may have remained consistent more is taking place within the GAC leadership than is taking place within the GAC membership. So that might cause one to look at that and say, HMMM is this something we should look at? Are we communicating enough with the GAC membership, and might create conversations that says, that go along the way of the following.

Have we been overburdening the general GAC membership list? Should more work be takes place within the working groups? Should the GAC members receive more e-mails? And then that would lead to a discussion from all of you or among all of you what do you think about the relative amount of e-mails you receive on a daily, weekly, monthly basis. There are some weeks where you get ten from us. Get 2 from us. At the same time the leadership is managing 15 to 20. So these are just efforts on your part to begin to create visual to allow more thoughtful discussions about how the committee operates.

Next slide, for example takes a things to a much higher 10,000 foot level where this isn't merely a measurement of how many people participate in various GAC activities. This slide shows participation in attendance of GAC meetings, so you see over time that the blue shows an increase or growth in the membership of the committee. And then the red areas shows for meeting to meeting -- from a public meeting perspective, what percentage ever the GAC membership is participating at any given point in time. And in the next slide you know we would then take a look and say well how does this impact potentially the quorum. And the ability of the GAC to produce advice in the communique, on a meeting by meeting basis.

They are showing the GAC has always met its quorum but there are some meetings where you see spikes in the data that might surround an HLGN back at ICANN 50. A particular meeting where there might sob more difficulty in GAC members getting to a particular venue, so you see that for ICANN 61. We just made quorum, and then the next blip up after that was the Barcelona meeting where that was ICANN63 and another high-level governmental meeting.

So again, the charts in and of themselves are pretty pictures and we can make nice colors, but it becomes more after assessment

of the chair or vice chair people, what sort of data or information would be useful and what would not.

As I final thought I would share with you all we made great efforts to not share publicly any data about individual participation. That the work that we are doing initially here is just to try to collect and dispense information in an aggregate way for us to be able to provide generally information from all of you to work together more effectively. So we hope that we will be able to expand this metrics type work. Have more discussions with the leadership team about it. To the extent that you all have any ideas how we might do a better job of measuring engagement versus simple attendance, what participation means versus just attendance as well.

Would all be interesting things for us all to couldn't plate. At the same time we also recognize our job to be here to help you do your work most effectively. And if that allows you more to focus on the substance, the policy advice -- and the development, the works groups that you're involved in then we are doing our job so it's always a balance and we very much appreciate the guidance question get from Manal and the vice-chairs in terms of how to co-ordinate all this. So thank for the opportunity to share some of these colorful documents here. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Jorge and everyone. This concludes our wrap-up session but please continue to provide your feedback over e-mail, and to those interested there is a discussion on the future of ICANN public meetings starting at 1430 UTC.

But before adjourning I would like to quickly thank you all for the active participation, productive discussions and co-operatively. I would like to thank GAC colleagues and working group chairs and liaison, support team and IT and language services teams, interpreters and scribes.

We will continue to engage inter-sessionally, and until we meet again at ICANN72 please stay safe and enjoy a well-deserved break. With sincere apologies for going over time.

The meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]