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LOS ANGELES – GAC Opening Plenary  
Saturday, October 11, 2014 – 14:00 to 14:30  
ICANN – Los Angeles, USA

CHAIR DRYDEN: Good afternoon, everyone.

If you could take your seats, please.

So welcome, everyone, to Los Angeles. Welcome to the GAC tent.

This is an interesting innovation we have here this week for our meetings. I hope there won't be too much noise for us. The air conditioning, I know, is quite loud, but we will do our best to manage.

Before we get started on the agenda, I'm just going to hand over to Tom who is going to tell us about some of the logistical and support arrangements that are here for our meetings, as they usually are. And then we can get started with, as I say, the afternoon's agenda.

So, Tom, please.

TOM DALE: Thank you, Heather. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to another GAC meeting.

My name is Tom Dale. I work for the ACIG GAC secretariat.

On a couple of logistical issues, in case you hadn't noticed we're meeting in a tent. That's the first practicality to note.

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

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In accordance with our usual procedures here in the GAC, we have available to us live scribing and transcription services that will be on the screen, and the transcripts of sessions will be available hopefully reasonably soon after each session, after a day or so.

Interpretation is available to all of the people here in the five U.N. languages as well as Portuguese, so please, the interpreters are a very important part of the work that we do here, so please feel free to make interventions or ask questions in a language that makes use of the interpreting services that we have.

Logistics issues. Well, we're in a tent, and most importantly, if you want to find the nearest restrooms, I believe you head out the door, turn right into the hotel lobby.

That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Heather.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Okay. So let's get under way.

If we can do some introductions around the room to get us started. This helps us get a sense of who is here, who is in attendance, and allows us to manage the speaking order when we see requests from the floor.

Looking out at the seating arrangements, I can't tell whether we really have a delineation between the GAC and those that are not the GAC in terms of the seating. But this is an opportunity for colleagues that are in the GAC to introduce themselves and for us to get a sense of who is here, and so on.

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So I will start, and then we can go around the room to my left.

So my name is Heather Dryden, and I'm the chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee. And I work for the Canadian government, the Department of Industry to be specific.

So, please, Tracy, if you could.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Hi, Tracy Hackshaw, vice chair, GAC, and with the government of Trinidad and Tobago.

PETER NETTLEFOLD: Hello, everyone. Peter Nettlefold from the Australian government. Also a vice chair of the GAC.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Hello, everybody. Thomas Schneider from the Swiss government and the third vice chair for the time being.

CHAIR DRYDEN: And, Japan, if you could introduce yourselves, and we can go down the row. Thank you.

YAMAGUCHI: Good afternoon. My name is Yamaguchi from Japanese government.

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(Undiscernible) Good evening, everyone. My name is (saying name) from the Japanese government.

WANAWIT AHKUPUTRA: Hello. My name is Wanawit Ahkuputra, the Thailand GAC representative.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Hi, I'm Pitinan Kooarmornpatana from Electronic Transaction Development Agency, Thailand.

EDMUND KATITI: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Edmund Katiti. I am from the NEPAD agency.

ALICE MUNYUA: Alice Munyua, African Union Commission.

MOCTAR YEDALY: Bonjour. My name is Moctar Yedaly. I'm the head of Information Society within the African Union Commission.

HENRI KASSEN: Good afternoon. My name is Henri Kassen from Republic of Namibia.

OLGA CAVALLI: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Olga Cavalli from Argentina.

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MILAGROS CASTANON: Hello. Milagros Castanon from Peru.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Good afternoon, my name is Nicolas Caballero, Paraguay GAC representative.

KAVOUS ARASTEH: Kavous Arasteh from Iran. And, Chair, I request you, is there any particular reason why they put us under the tent with such a noisy environment? Is it sort of punishment of GAC?

Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Hello. Manal Ismail from the government of Egypt.

CAMINO MANJON: Hello, good afternoon. Camino Manjon, European Commission.

MEGAN RICHARDS: I'm Megan Richards from the European Commission as well. I'm not the official European Commission representative, that's Lars Erik, but I'm principle advisor responsible for Internet governance.

ERIK FORSBERG: Good afternoon. No?

Yeah? Okay.

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Yeah. Sorry. I can't even hear you.

Okay. I'm Erik Forsberg from the European Commission also.

PAOLO MARZANO: Paolo Marzano for the Italian government. Good afternoon.

(Undiscernible) (Saying name) from Italian government.

ANA NEVES: Ana Neves from Portugal and I will speak in Portuguese after.

BO-YOUNG KIM: Good afternoon, my name is Bo-young Kim from Korea.

(Undiscernible) Hello, everyone. My name is (saying name). I'm from Korean government.

OLEKSANDR TSARUK: Hello. Oleksandr Tsaruk, Ukraine.

STEPHAN HANKINS: Good afternoon. Stephan Hankins, International Committee of the Red Cross.

Thank you.

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BRIAN BECKHAM: Good afternoon. Brian Beckham, World Intellectual Property Organization.

DAVID SATOLA: Good afternoon. David Satola, World Bank, GAC observer.

JOHN PIZARRO: Hi. I'm John Pizarro from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

(Undiscernible) Good afternoon. (Saying name) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Switzerland.

THOMAS DE HAAN: Good afternoon, all. Thomas de Haan from The Netherlands. Thank you.

ORNULF STORM: Yes, good afternoon, everyone. It's Ornulf Storm from the Norwegian government.

ELISE LINDEBERG: Good afternoon, everyone. Elise Lindeberg also from the Norwegian government.

(Undiscernible) (Saying name) from the European Commission delegation.

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(Undiscernible) Richard (saying name) from the European Union delegation.

JANDYR SANTOS: Good afternoon. I'm Jandyr Santos from the government of Brazil.

(Undiscernible) Good afternoon, everyone. I'm (saying name) from Indonesian.

(Undiscernible) I am (saying name) from Indonesia, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

Thank you.

(Undiscernible) Hi. I'm (saying name) from the Secretary of Communications of Argentina.

BO MARTINSSON: Good afternoon. My name is Bo Martinsson from Sweden, the regulatory authority.

ANDERS HEKTOR: Hello, this is Anders Hektor from Sweden.

MARK CARVELL: Good afternoon, everybody. Mark Carvell from United Kingdom, Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

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CHARLES CHEW: Good afternoon. Charles Chew, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

LIM CHOON-SAI: Hello. My name is Lim Choon-Sai from Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

HAWA DIAKITE: Hawa Diakite, Agence des technologies de l'information de la communication, representative of Mali.

LAMOUSSA OUALBEOGO: Lamoussa Oualbeogo, Ministry of Development Economy and Post, Burkina Faso.

PETER DENGATE THRUSH: Good afternoon. Peter Dengate Thrush. I was a member of the GAC delegation in 2000 for New Zealand. I'm now here in a personal capacity.

CRIDEN APPI: Good afternoon. My name is Criden Appi from Nauru.

PAR BRUMARK: Good afternoon. My name is Par Brumark representing the government of Niue.

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DEOLINDO COSTA: Good afternoon. Deolindo Costa from government of Sao Tome and Principe.

CHARLES: Good afternoon. My name is Charles. I'm from the Belgium government.

GEMA CAMPILLOS: Good afternoon. This is Gema Campillos from Spain.

JULIA WOLMAN: Hello. It's Julia Wolman from the Danish government.

FINN PETERSON: Good afternoon. It is Finn Petersen, Danish government.

IMAD HOBALLAH: Good afternoon, everyone. Imad Hoballah from Lebanon.

BERNARD THOMAS: Good afternoon, everyone, Bernard Thomas, Dominica.

ANDREA TODORAN: Hello, everyone. Andreea Todoran from the government of Canada.

NOCOLA TRELOAR: Good afternoon, Nicola Treloar from the government of New Zealand.

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SUZANNE RADELL: Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. Suzanne Radell from the United States.

MARIANNE CULLEN: Good afternoon. Marianne Cullen from the Australian government.

SAVA SABVIC: Good afternoon. My name is Sava Savic from Serbia, Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Telecommunication.

Thanks.

MAURO MILITA: Good afternoon. Mauro Milita from Vatican City State.

(Undiscernible) Good afternoon. My name is (saying name), and I'm the GAC representative from the Israeli government.

Thank you.

YUIVAL: Good afternoon. Yuval from Israel.

EMMANUEL ADJOVI : Good afternoon. Emmanuel Adjovi, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

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(Undiscernible)

Good afternoon. My name is (saying name) from Kenya.

SILAS:

Good afternoon. My name is Silas (saying name) from Kenya.

JUSTIN RUGO:

Good afternoon. I am Justin Rugo, GAC member from Rwanda.

WAJDI ALQULITI:

Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Wajdi Alquliti. I'm from Organization of Islam Collaboration, GAC observer.

Thank you.

GARY CAMPBELL:

Good afternoon. I am Gary Campbell from Jamaica. Thank you.

JAAK LIPPMAA:

Good afternoon. I'm Jaak Lippmaa, representing government of Estonia.

ALEJANDRA ERRASPUME:

Good afternoon. I'm Alejandra Erraspume from Uruguayan government.

HUBERT SCHOTTNER:

Good afternoon. My name is Hubert Schottner from the German government, the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Thank you.

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CHRISTIAN SINGER: Good afternoon. My name is Christian Singer. I'm from the Austrian government. And to add something to the words of Mr. Arasteh regarding the tent, it's the second time that GAC is banned into a tent. The first time was six years ago in India, and I hope this is not a sign of how ICANN appreciates the GAC.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Good afternoon. Nigel Cassimire representing the Caribbean Telecommunications Union interdevelopmental organization, GAC observer.

VERENA WEBER: Good afternoon. My name is Verena Weber. I'm representing Colombia.

DAMIEN COUDEVILLE: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Damien Coudeville representing the French government.

(Undiscernible) Good afternoon. (Saying name) as advisor of representative of Russian Federation. (Saying name), new representative from Russia. Thank you.

LAURENT: Good afternoon. Laurent (saying name) from the French Ministry of Economy.

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(Undiscernible)

Good afternoon. I'm (saying name) from the United States.

CHEN CHUNG-SHU:

Hello, everybody. My name is Chen Chung-Shu, and I'm from Taiwan.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, everyone. And again, welcome to the GAC meetings here in Los Angeles.

I think we have everyone introduced at this point.

And to manage the noise, wearing the headphones will help. If you have some headphones in front of you, please do use those so that we can hear each other a bit more easily.

Okay. So we have a number of items to get through in this first section of our agenda before the break. And first of all, we have an agenda item which is for an update by the chair and vice chairs, and we try to highlight key things or recent developments that have been going on before the GAC last had its face-to-face meeting. So there are several things that I will report here, and then as we move through our agenda, when we look more closely at that via an overview of this week's agenda, we can also have some further discussion about those topics and what precisely we need to do in light of recent developments.

As is often the case, things are continually developing, continually happening, and we will do our utmost to capture those developments so that we can identify what it is we need to do in these meetings and take any decisions that we need to while we are here.

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So I did want to mention, in relation to the enhancing accountability process at ICANN, those of you that have been following this intersessionally will be aware that a process was put out by ICANN staff to the community, and there were a number of questions or concerns around that process. And in order to raise those concerns, the leaders of the supporting organizations, advisory committees, stakeholder groups, and constituencies within ICANN join together to express some concerns. And so a letter was communicated that the leaders of the organizations, myself included, signed an order to perhaps put a pause or communicate to ICANN that there's a need to look at some of the issues there associated with this process. It's one that's very important to the community, very important to the GAC, and where governments have a lot to contribute in terms of accountability issues at ICANN, especially since it is linked to the IANA stewardship transition.

So we communicated that letter. And we also committed to provide some follow-up within seven days where we came up with a list of questions. And they were communicated to ICANN staff and to the board.

And then we received a response to those questions. And since then we have had a posting of a revised process. And it's not fully in place. It's not fully developed. There are still some things to be settled. I understand this was circulated late last night. So I want to let you know that we have a revised process that much better reflects the comments and questions and concerns that have been raised. And so I just want you to be aware that that is a more recent development that is not captured in the briefing material but that will be the basis of a lot of the discussion here this week, not just here in the GAC but elsewhere.

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So I think that's a positive development. And, hopefully, then we can identify what we need to do here this week. So that is on the enhancing accountability.

The other issue is what we spent most of our time discussing yesterday in another meeting between the CEO and executive staff and all the chairs and leaders of the different parts of ICANN. I've reported on these meetings a few times. It's become a regular thing. So we have a face-to-face meeting before ICANN starts. And we also do phone calls intersessionally to talk about a range of issues. So most of our meeting was focused on this issue of workload at ICANN and how to prioritize work at ICANN and identify a mechanism or a way to ensure that that's a community-driven activity.

I think this is really positive. Because we all have concerns. Not all of us are driving the work. Us, as an advisory committee, are often on the receiving end of work that's initiated by other parts of the community. And I think we need to continue to be clear about what that means for us as well as being ready internally to have the support that we need and the mechanisms to be able to prioritize for ourselves what it is that we need to focus on. There has simply been too much to do. And no agreement around what are the priorities for the organization.

And so this is the beginning of work really starting to take form around these issues. And I think this is a very positive development. We had a very good discussion. And there will be more to report on in relation to that as things develop. But I did want to bring that to your attention.

And another item, just to confirm, I did send a note around to the GAC email list. But, just to confirm here as well, that I will be handing over to

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the newly-elected chair at the end of the Los Angeles meeting. So this will be my last meeting. So I'm sure it will all go very smoothly since it's my last. But I just wanted to confirm that that is the plan.

And I look to all of you to ensure that that transition goes as smoothly as possible. And in light of the fact that we do have a lot of work to do this week. We've got a lot of the topics to cover. And things to get updated on. So the elections process which we will hear about more in terms of the process this week, that's a very important issue, clearly. I do want us to be able to maintain a focus on our other work and get through all what we need to while we are here.

So those are the main things that I wanted to raise. We do have a staff-related announcement that I will took to Olof to make. And then we will continue to acknowledge new members and observers in the GAC. So Olof, please.

OLOF NORDLING:

Thank you, Heather. It is that we have the pleasure to announce that Karine Perset, who has been working for our board as board support -- where are you Karine? -- will be joining the ICANN team in support of the GAC. So there you are. She's there. She's got long experience. And she will be joining Julia and me in supporting the GAC from the ICANN staff side. So thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Olof. And welcome, Karine. We look forward to hearing more about the role and seeing you here in the GAC. Thank you.

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So in terms of -- before I move to welcoming our new members and observers, Iran.

IRAN:

Thank you, Heather.

I have been in some meeting in GAC. I have never seen you so much happy and so much smiling. Means that you are tired of us. We are not a good boy. That is why perhaps under your order they put us under this tent to be good. And you are so happy and so kindly and nicely smiling to leave us a very good impression of you forever. Not only you're very beautiful and pretty and charming, but also very much smiling. This is point number one.

[ Applause ]

Point two, Madam Chairman, I think at some time, not so late, please allow us to come to the process of accountability. We have serious concerns and difficulty. And we want to discuss and share it with the colleagues. And I don't want to jump into your program. You have organized yourself. You want to follow what you have foreseen. But, please, kindly, before we meet the board, we would like to have a discussion on that. There has been some exchange of email among parties, some verbal discussion with the colleagues. And we would like to formally express our views on that. And I think that it should be a stop and pause on that process. It is not clear, not transparent, and not acceptable. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Iran. So we will have an opportunity at the end of today to surface what are the key issues in relation to enhancing accountability as well as IANA stewardship, that process. And then further opportunities in the week. So we will as the GAC discuss that at the end of today and then in another session. And we will also have the opportunity as usual to raise questions that we have with the board if we deem it appropriate to do so.

So thank you for providing that perspective.

All right.

So let's move on. And we have some more members to welcome. So we have Albania, the Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Niger and St. Lucia all new members to the GAC. So that's great news and welcome to our new colleagues.

So next is the introduction of the new liaison for the Generic Name Supporting Organization.

So, just to give you a little bit of background, so you know coming out of the accountability and transparency review team recommendations, one of the areas of work still being carried out is to look at how to involve the GAC early in the policy development process here at ICANN and how to improve or facilitate communications, in particular with the GNSO, because most of the work happens in relation to generic top-level domains. And also the GNSO is quite a complex organization with many stakeholder groups. And, at any given time, there are multiple streams of work underway. So this has been ongoing work and has

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been led by Manal Ismail from Egypt in the GAC along with the chair of the GNSO Council, Jonathan Robinson.

And one of the suggestions, one of the ideas that came forward to help facilitate this was to have a liaison from the GNSO that tracks the work that's happening here in the GAC and helps us with that communication, helps us to increase an understanding in the GNSO about what are the issues that are important to us and how we work and so on and so forth.

So, Mason Cole, are you here? Can you please -- oh, Manal. Can you --

MANAL ISMAIL:

Sorry, Heather. Just to note that Mason has just sent an email. He had to attend the council meeting. They are discussing the GAC/GNSO joint meeting. So he's just apologizing that he will be a bit late. He's attending the council and will join as soon as he finishes. So thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you for that. Okay. So, when Mason arrives, we will introduce him so that you can see his face. And efforts will be underway to manage expectations around what that role is and in what ways Mason can work with us. But I know I can count on all of you to assist Mason and to welcome him coming and sitting in on our open meetings when he's able to do. And you will get used to seeing him here at our meetings.

So let's leave that there. And we can come back to this when Mason is able to join us.

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Okay.

So next we have an overview of the week. So I will turn over to Tom to give us the highlights. And we will go from there. Thank you, Tom.

TOM DALE:

Thank you, Heather. I'll just note some of the main items of interest in the agenda and also draw to the GAC's attention a number of quite important sessions that are happening particularly on the Monday across ICANN. Of course, on the Monday the GAC will not be meeting. But there are certainly a number of quite important sessions that we have tried to highlight in the agenda that was circulated.

Today we will be discussing new gTLDs of the current round and the board's response to the GAC's advice consolidated from London. We'll also be hearing from the work of the GAC global stakeholder engagement team and possible interactions with the GAC and the GAC working group on that issue. Tomorrow the GAC has some time, significant time scheduled to discuss the two issues that Heather has mentioned at a number of members, that is the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability and governance issues.

We will be -- excuse me. We have a discussion on WHOIS as well. And in -- as a lead-in to the meetings on Monday, the GAC will be participating in a panel discussion on WHOIS and also on a number of high-interest topics agreed by the other support -- by all of the supporting organizations and advisory committees on the Monday.

On the Monday please note that that session I just mentioned on high-interest topics will cover two matters. One is the role of advisory

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committees in ICANN policy development. And, obviously, the GAC will have some views on that. The other topic for that session, which is on Monday morning, is looking at issues for the second round or the next round of new gTLDs, and we'll be discussing a document about that later this afternoon.

The WHOIS session, which the GAC has expressed considerable interest in before and during London meeting, the session on WHOIS, which is very important for the GAC, will be held on the afternoon of Monday.

The GAC elections, which my colleague Michelle will be talking about procedural matters in a moment, the remaining period of the election will be held on Tuesday. Tuesday here at the GAC.

The GAC meeting of the board finally will be held on late Wednesday afternoon. And the -- I'm sorry -- late on the Tuesday. Wednesday morning I draw your attention in particular to the GAC open forum session which is following on from the first of those sessions held successfully at the meeting in London and also at the meeting, the IGF meeting in Istanbul to explain the GAC to the world at large.

During the afternoon of Wednesday, the GAC will, as usual, operate in a closed session in preparing the draft communique.

The Wednesday afternoon session at this time is the only closed session of the GAC. All other meetings are intended to be open. Finally on Thursday morning, there will be a number of meetings concerning planning and general organization of GAC work. So please I draw your attention to those.

Those are the main issues. Thank you, Heather.

CHAIR DRYDEN:

Thank you, Tom, for that overview. Were there any questions or comments on the agenda? Okay. All right. So let's keep moving.

So next is an update on the ACIG contract. As you know, ACIG is the external provider of Secretariat support being engaged to provide excellent support to this committee. And, to update you on the latest developments, the long-term agreement which has been put in place or that I have pursued in line with what I believe the GAC's expectations to be working with ACIG and the donors is now waiting for signature by ICANN. So, as far as my role in this, I have completed my tasks, my part of it. And the contract is waiting for signature. ACIG, of course, has done their part, has been very responsive in bringing us to this point. And the donors as well, of course. I do not wish to speak for them. But the donors have also been contributing to that process to, again, bring us to this point.

So this is all I can update you on.

And, as I say, the long-term agreement is waiting for signature with ICANN.

So, if I can move then to the last item in this first section of our meeting, this is to receive an update on the election process, how we are going to proceed regarding the elections this week. So with that, I will hand over to Michelle, please.

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER:

Hello. My name is Michelle Scott-Tucker. I work for the ACIG/GAC Secretariat. Because we're an independent consulting firm, we've been

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asked to manage the election process because we're independent from ICANN and independent from the GAC as well.

The election for the GAC chair and vice chairs is underway and has been for the last two weeks. I started accepting votes by email on the 29th of September from GAC representatives who were unable to attend this meeting today. Those votes closed yesterday. On Tuesday, the representatives that are here will have the opportunity to vote in a ballot. Old-fashioned take a piece of paper, put it in the box ballot. If you've already voted by email, don't vote on Tuesday. You can only vote once.

On Tuesday morning we'll be voting for the GAC chair. That will be just after the coffee break. The term of the GAC chair is for two years with the opportunity then to roll on for another two years after that.

His or her -- well, it will be his. His term officially begins at the end of the Marrakesh meeting, so the end of the next meeting. Although with Heather leaving, we'll make other arrangements for that. The term of the vice chairs is for one year with the opportunity to roll over for one year. And again, they officially begin at the end of the Marrakesh meeting. Hold that thought about the term of the vice chairs, because I'll come back to that momentarily.

Only GAC representatives are eligible to vote in this election.

You'll know if you're a GAC representative because your name will be listed on the list of GAC representatives on the GAC Web site.

If your name is not on that list of GAC representatives, you are not eligible to vote.

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And the opportunity to change that list ended on the 26th of September before we started the e-mailing process. If you're a very new member and you've joined since the 26th of September, you are not eligible to vote. If your name is not on that list, you cannot vote.

On the Tuesday we'll do the ballot process. The process is going to be pretty low-tech. Hopefully, I'll get tables set up over there. You'll form an orderly cue in front of me. I'll have my list, a hard copy list of that printout from the Web site. You'll come up to me. I'll ask you, "Who do you represent?" And you'll say, for argument's sake, "Canada." Can I use you for an example? I'll find Canada on my list organized alphabetically by country. And then I'll ask your name. And you might say, "Heather Dryden." And I'll cross your name on the list, and I'll give you a piece of paper. And you just need to tick your preferred candidate on the piece of paper and put it in the box. I'll explain all this again on Tuesday because there will be some members who aren't here today who will be here on Tuesday.

If, for example, Canada has another representative who's in the cue after Heather who comes up to me and I say, "Who do you represent?" and she says, "Canada" -- yes, I'm looking at you, Andrea -- and I'll get to Canada. And I'll say, "I'm sorry, Andrea, but Canada has already voted." We know Canadians won't make a scene, but let's pretend Andrea makes a scene. Because she's from a different agency than Heather. And she thinks she should be the GAC representative, not Heather. Sorry, Andrea. You can't vote. Canada has already voted. One member, one vote. And I'll just ask Tom to escort her from the room.

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So, if you have two representatives, you work out who's going to vote. I don't need to know beforehand. But please just, you know, go away. Work it out amicably and just send one representative to the table to vote. That would make my life much easier.

We'll vote just after the coffee break. I'm hoping, all going well, that I'll be able to announce the winner of the GAC chair election just before we break for lunch. That way, when we come back in the afternoon to vote for the GAC vice chairs, you'll know who is going to be the chair. And you might make your decisions about the vice chairs taking into account what the operating principles say about ensuring appropriate geographic diversity.

On Tuesday afternoon, the process will be the same. You'll cue up. I'll tick you off. You'll vote. I won't throw my pen at you. Sorry. I'll hope to announce the winner of the vice chairs election the following day on the Wednesday.

That will be slightly more complex, so I want a bit more time to make sure I get the counting right.

You will be voting for three vice chairs only. I know that in the past we've been talking about adding more vice chairs to the process. And this has been an issue of constant discussion within the secretariat. In order to change the number of vice chairs, we need to change the operating principles. In order to change the operating principles, it takes a process that goes for two meetings.

And in the end we decided that it wasn't going to give us an appropriate level of transparency if we ran the process of changing the operating

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principles at the same time -- I'm cutting in and out, aren't I? -- if we ran the process of changing the operating principles at the same time as the process of the election.

So we will run the election. At the Marrakesh meeting, we will schedule an item in the agenda for changing the operating principles, if that's what you want to do.

So, if the GAC agrees and reaches consensus about changing the number of vice chairs, terrific. We'll set the process in train in Marrakesh. You can ratify it at the middle meeting of the year. And then at the final meeting of the year -- remember the vice chair term only goes for one year. So at the final meeting of the year, it may be the case that we run another election just for the vice chairs. We've done that quite deliberately to keep the two processes quite separate so that it's clear and transparent for everybody.

What else? The process. That's all I think I have to say. I'll hand back to Heather. But remember that the ballot is on Tuesday. I'll look forward to seeing you there. I'll hand back to Heather.

HEATHER DRYDEN:

Thank you very much, Michelle. So are there any questions at this point about the process? Iran.

IRAN:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just a point of clarification. Yes, for those GAC members who do not attend the GAC meeting, they could vote by Internet. Nevertheless, that vote should not be -- should have

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not been disclosed. Should have been kept. And at the time of the counting of the vote, that should have been taken into account.

So this is something that we should in future take into account. It is not clear process that there are many countries. They're voting by Internet. But it is not counted except on the day of counting. Putting it -- disposal of others or disclosure and so on and so forth may have some impact on the process. So that is something that I'm not putting in question in this voting. But this should be careful in future what we do. Thank you.

CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Iran. Michelle.

MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER: I agree. When we get to the Marrakesh meeting and we talk about changing the operating principles, with your permission, I'll ask about changing some other things in the operating principles, too. For instance, the voting process currently refers to voting by facsimile. I don't think we want to do that. I'd like to change it to allow the operating principles to allow online voting so we don't have to dedicate an hour to running a ballot. So, while we're changing the operating principles, we might take the opportunity to tidy them up and to make some procedural changes to get things tighter using the lessons we've learned from this process which had to be necessarily according to the existing operating principles.

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CHAIR DRYDEN: Thank you, Michelle. Okay. I don't see any other questions at this point.

[ END OF TRANSCRIPT ]