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ICANN

GAC Opening Plenary
Saturday, 7 March - 0900 Local Time

SESSION #1

1. Welcome from GAC Chair – **Nicolas Caballero**

2. Welcome from Host Country Government –
   Sushil Pal - Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

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Session Agenda

A. Review of Agenda Highlights by GAC Chair

B. Review of Meeting Logistics by ICANN GAC Support staff

C. Tour de Table (in-person and then remote GAC participants)

D. Notable GAC Transitions and Activity Highlights

E. Review of GAC Communiqué Development Process (time permitting)

ICANN85 Block Schedule

Time	Saturday 7 March 2026 (Day 1)		Sunday 8 March 2026 (Day 2)	Monday 9 March 2026 (Day 3)		Tuesday 10 March 2026 (Day 4)	Wed. 11 March 2026 (Day 5)	Thursday 12 March 2026 (Day 6)		Time
9:00								Community Session: Reviews of Reviews (60 mins)	GNSO Discussion on Next Step for SSAD Rec.	9:00
9:15	1. GAC Opening Plenary (60 mins)		7. GAC Meeting with the RSSAC (60 mins)	Welcome Ceremony and Community Excellence Award (75 mins)		13. GAC Meeting with the ALAC (60 mins)	17. GAC Meeting with the IETF (60 mins)			9:15
9:30										9:30
9:45										9:45
10:00										10:00
10:15	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		10:15
10:30										10:30
10:45	2. GAC Operational Updates incl. Communiqué Review+and NomCom Prep (45 mins)		8. GAC Discussion on New gTLDs Next Round (90 mins)	Community Session: From Stability to Survivability: ICANN's role in the Future of Internet Resilience (75 mins)		14. GAC Discussion on WHOIS Registration Data Issues (90 mins)	18. Emerging Topics for GAC Discussion (90 mins) - DNS as Foundation for Digital Identity (45 mins) - UDRP Review (45 mins)	ICANN Public Forum (90 mins)		10:45
11:00										11:00
11:15										11:15
11:30	3. Meeting with the ASO (45 mins)									11:30
11:45										11:45
12:00										12:00
12:15	Lunch Break (75 mins)		Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)		Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)		12:15
12:30										12:30
12:45										12:45
13:00										13:00
13:15										13:15
13:30	4. Universal Acceptance Discussion (75 mins)		9. GAC Meeting with GNSO (75 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (75 mins)	Community Session: WSIS+20 Lessons Learned and Next Steps (75 mins)	15 (a). GAC Communique (75 mins)	15 (c). GAC Communique (75 mins)	15 (f). GAC Communique (75 mins)		13:30
13:45										13:45
14:00										14:00
14:15										14:15
14:30										14:30
14:45	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		14:45
15:00										15:00
15:15	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	5. Capacity Development on NxR (60 mins)	10. ICANN87 HLGM Discussion (60 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team (60 mins)	16. GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board (60 mins)	15 (d). GAC Communique (60 mins)	19. GAC Wrap-Up (60 mins)		15:15
15:30										15:30
15:45										15:45
16:00										16:00
16:15	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		16:15
16:30										16:30
16:45	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	6. Capacity Development on NxR [practical session] (60 mins)	11. GAC Discussion with CCG RoR (60 mins)	12. GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse Mitigation (60 mins)		15 (b). GAC Communique (60 mins)	15 (e). GAC Communique (60 mins)	ICANN Board Meeting (60 mins)		16:45
17:00										17:00
17:15										17:15
17:30										17:30
17:45				ICANN85 Gala (18:30)						17:45
18:00										18:00
18:15										18:15
18:30										18:30

A) Notable Agenda Highlights

- ICANN85 - "Community Forum" - meeting format
- GAC Priority Policy Topic Sessions - (New gTLD Next Round issues, DNS Abuse, Registration Data, etc.)
- GAC Readiness for Next Round of New gTLDs
- Review of Reviews Attention (in GAC and among full ICANN community)
- Bilateral Community Relations with ICANN Board, ASO, ALAC, GNSO and RSSAC
- Communiqué Drafting (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

B) Review of Meeting Logistics

- Notable for **All** Attendees
    - Zoom Session Infrastructure and Protocols - all please log-in
    - Please indicate your interventions by hand-raising in the Zoom room
    - Reference to calendar invitations
    - GAC Logistics Document

- Notable for **In-person** Attendees
    - Seats at table microphones are reserved for GAC delegations
    - Other ICANN community members are welcomed on seats left and right side the table area
    - Seats will be reserved in front rows for some sessions (e.g., Board)
    - No circulation of written materials in room or during sessions

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C) Tour de Table

The GAC Chair opens the floor to GAC representatives and delegates to introduce themselves and to share any short comments or statements they would like to make.

- Introductions will then follow the table seating within the GAC meeting room.
- After in-room attendees have introduced themselves, remote participants will be invited to raise their hands in the Zoom room and provide their own introductions when recognized.

D) Notable GAC Transitions

- Welcome to 19 new GAC delegates (since ICANN84)
  - 184 Members / 41 Observers
- Reminder - Join-gac@icann.org - new ticketing system for all delegation updates
- Reminder - ICANN Join capability activated for all GAC representatives
- Thank you to departing GAC Vice Chairs (terms ending this week)
  - Christine Arida (Egypt)
  - Thiago dal Toe (Colombia)
- Thank you to incoming GAC Vice Chairs (new terms begin at end of this week)
  - Ian Sheldon (Australia)
  - Zeina Bou Harb (Lebanon)
  - Marco Hogewoning (Netherlands)
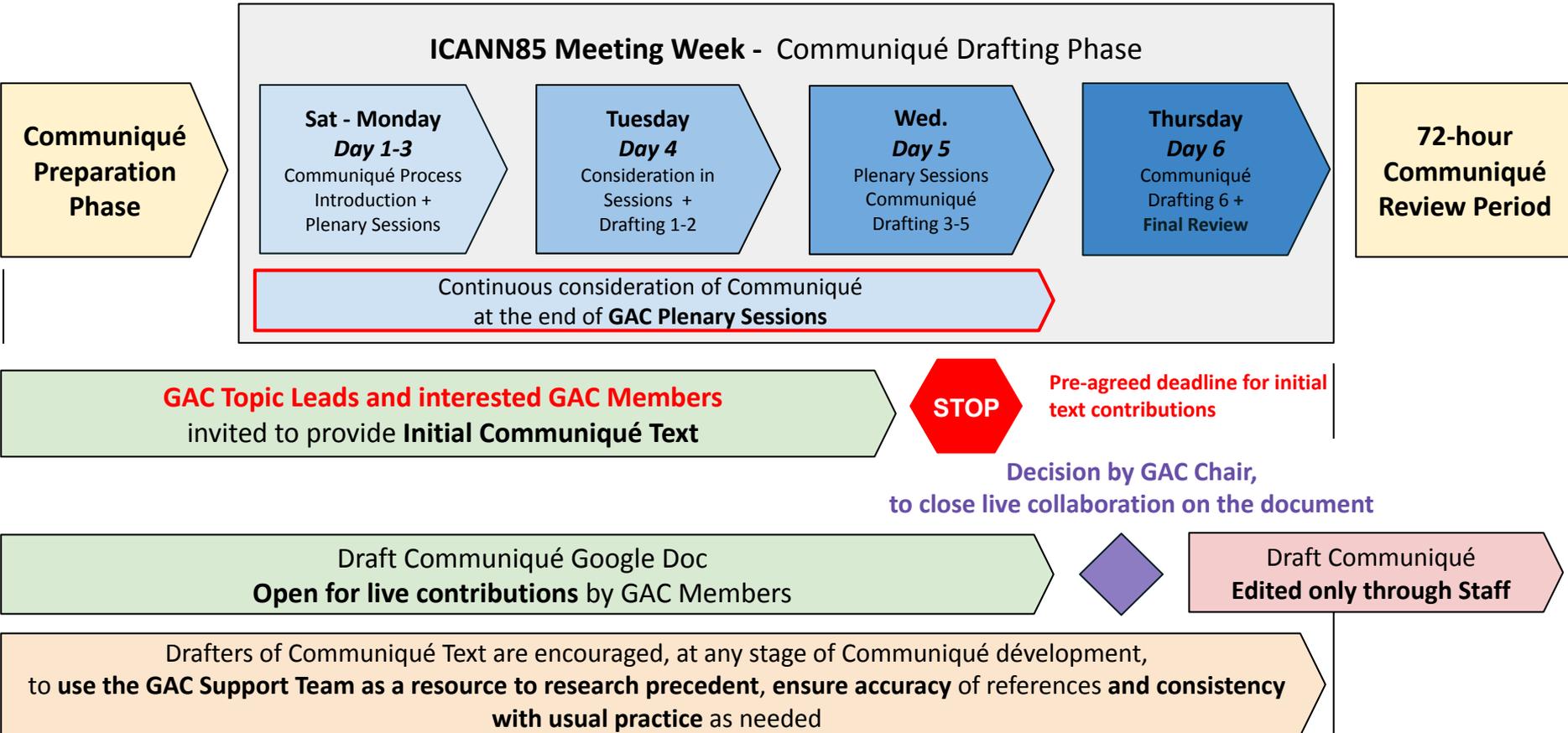 - Jorge Cancio (Switzerland)
  - Gloria Katuuku (Uganda)

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ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

Thank you to all GAC representatives and delegates for active engagement since ICANN84

- Engagement with ICANN Board on 11 "Issues of Importance" to the GAC in the Dublin Communique
- Two GAC Public Comments submitted on Registration Data Issues (Urgent Requests and SSAD Policy Alignment Analysis)
- A new GAC Small Group on DNS Abuse formed, with 17 GAC/PSWG participants
- 4 GAC/PSWG representative volunteered to take part in DNS Abuse PDP deliberations and 9 representatives are set to observe the PDP
- Progress on GAC "readiness" for Next Round of New gTLDs
- Three agenda setting and preparatory calls for ICANN85
- GAC Strategic Planning Structure (assessing current annual plan and preparing for next)
- GAC Leadership on Review of Reviews (cross community group)
- Consideration of future GAC NomCom Contributions
- Initial Preparations starting for the ICANN87 HLGM

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E) Communiqué Development for ICANN85

ICANN85 Meeting Week - Communiqué Drafting Phase

Communiqué Preparation Phase

Sat - Monday
Day 1-3
Communiqué Process Introduction + Plenary Sessions

Tuesday
Day 4
Consideration in Sessions + Drafting 1-2

Wed.
Day 5
Plenary Sessions Communiqué Drafting 3-5

Thursday
Day 6
Communiqué Drafting 6 + **Final Review**

72-hour Communiqué Review Period

Continuous consideration of Communiqué at the end of **GAC Plenary Sessions**

GAC Topic Leads and interested GAC Members invited to provide **Initial Communiqué Text**

STOP

Pre-agreed deadline for initial text contributions

Decision by GAC Chair, to close live collaboration on the document

Draft Communiqué Google Doc **Open for live contributions** by GAC Members

Draft Communiqué **Edited only through Staff**

Drafters of Communiqué Text are encouraged, at any stage of Communiqué dévelopment, to **use the GAC Support Team as a resource to research precedent**, **ensure accuracy** of references **and consistency with usual practice** as needed

E) Communiqué Development for ICANN85

New Proposals by GAC Leadership - Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for GAC Members to consider topics and discuss text ahead of Communiqué Drafting, to increase efficiency of the drafting process.

Role of GAC Topic Leads

- Propose a pre-/rough draft of text prior to the ICANN meeting
- Discuss Communiqué text at the end of each plenary session
- Provide text during Communiqué Drafting by a pre-set deadline (GAC Chair)
- Be the point of contact for any GAC Members considering text on the topic(s)

Proposals by GAC Members

- Should be discussed with GAC Topic Leads (where identified) and aimed to be integrated by pre-set deadline during Communiqué Drafting

Thank you!

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