ICANN78 | AGM – GAC Capacity Dev Workshop (1 of 10)
Saturday, October 21, 2023 – 9:00 to 10:00 HAM

GULTEN TEPE OKSUZOGLU: Hello, and welcome to the ICANN78, GAC Capacity Development Workshop, welcome and introduction session being held on Saturday, 21st of October at 07:00 UTC. My name is Gulten Tepe Oksuzoglu and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put it in the proper form as noted in the chat. Interpretation for this session will include six UN languages and Portuguese. Please click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model, we ask you to sign into Zoom sessions using your full name. With that, I will hand the floor over to Tracy Hackshaw, Universal Postal Union delegation member. Over to Tracy.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Gulten. Good morning, everyone. Good evening. Good afternoon, wherever you are in the world. Welcome to ICANN78 Capacity Building Workshop. My name is Tracy Hackshaw, as Gulten said. I'm from the UPU, Universal Postal Union, and with me today, I have my colleague, Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago, who is going to help moderate this opening session. So welcome, Karel.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Good morning, Tracy. Good morning, everybody. Good morning. Good evening. Good afternoon, depending on where you are, if you are listening online. And I also want to welcome Pua Hunter, who's also going to be one of the co-chairs as well today. But thank you, Tracy, for the warm welcome. And of course, this is yet another wonderful session. We've had so many so far that have proven to be quite successful with the intention of allowing you here to understand some of the basics. What is the GAC about? What do we do? And some of the issues that are important to you. So without any further ado, Tracy.

TRACY HACKSHAW: So you know there have been 110 new GAC members since ICANN74, Karel. 110. That's amazing.

KAREL DOUGLAS: That's a lot.

TRACY HACKSHAW: So one of the reasons we're doing this is because even though some of you may have come here meeting after meeting, even virtually, there are many of you. I can see in front of me many new people, actually. People I've seen for the first time. So welcome all newcomers. This is for you as well. And also for those who have been here before, as a refresher as to what ICANN is about, what we're trying to do, but also we go deep into the policy issues. Do you know that this workshop today is really designed to provide full background context for various GAC priorities and areas of interest. Some basics for ongoing issues and to facilitate useful discussions among all of you to help us plan and prioritize the work of the committee for the future.

So as Karel said, please participate actively. We want to hear your voice. We're going to actually ask you to do breakouts the next two days. So get prepared to speak, not stay silent, ask questions, ask everything you need to ask. And also we want to help you understand more. So ask individuals among your colleagues, ask staff, ask us who have been here before about what you'd like to know. Now, tomorrow we'll have a very noticeable day of programming. We'll be focusing on what we call a tech day, focusing on technology issues. So for those who are interested in technology and deeper dive into the tech issues, that'll be tomorrow. And we also will be talking about some particular issues related to the new gTLD program that's coming up, launching it soon and the issues surrounding that as well as DNS abuse, et cetera.

Now we have a colleague in the room, not just a colleague, it's the GAC chair who has joined us from our board workshop. Thank you, Nico. And Nico is going to give us a few words of welcome and welcome of introduction. Thanks, Nico. Welcome.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: So good morning. And I don't know if this is being recorded. Are we live? Yes. So good afternoon and good evening. Welcome to ICANN78. Welcome to this capacity building sessions. And I have my talking points here. Most of it has already been mentioned by my dear colleague, Tracy and Karel here. So as you pointed out, Tracy, there's many new GAC members. As a matter of fact, 110 since ICANN74 in The Hague. ICANN74 in The Hague being the first hybrid meeting since the pandemic. Many GAC representatives basically expressed the value of face-to-face meetings and interactions. And consequently, committee members thought that a weekend workshop like this would provide an excellent opportunity to share information with new and longer tenured GAC members and participants.

I'm hopeful that this workshop at ICANN78 will provide background and context for various GAC priorities and areas of interest, some basics for ongoing issues and facilitate useful discussions among all of you to help us plan and basically prioritize the work of the committee for the future. As Tracy already mentioned, I hope you participate actively, share your views and ask many questions, as many questions as you can, the more the better. I'm very excited that during both today and tomorrow, you will have time for focused breakout sessions and discussions that will produce better relationship and create ideas to help our committee develop our future priorities and work plans.

Tomorrow will be a notable day of programming as it will feature for the first time in a while that committee members will focus on learning about and discussing some technology issues. I hope that will be a good

session for you all. Unfortunately, this weekend is also devoted to the board workshop, so I won't be able to stay with you for this workshop. I have to return to the board workshop now, but before I leave, may I remind you all that the balloting period for the 2023 GAC vice chairs election closes tomorrow night at 23:59 UTC, so please do make sure you vote, you cast your ballots. I look forward to seeing you all this evening at the social networking reception here with the GAC. Again, please make sure you vote for the vice chair positions. There's five, actually there's eight candidates if I'm not mistaken, eight candidates for five positions, so make sure you cast your ballots.

Welcome again. I just wanted to thank the German government and Rudy Nolde for all the help. Let's hear it for Germany. Thank you so much. And as I said before, unfortunately, I have some other meetings right now, but I will be here for the closing of the day and for the reception, so thank you so much. Welcome again.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Thank you. Thank you, Nico. We greatly appreciate the time and effort to come and wish us all the best for the next two days, and he did mention a couple important things. One of the more important ones is that this evening we'll be having a social, so we certainly want you to be there so we could chat a little bit more informally and have the ability to gel. That gelling is important because in between these formal workshops --

TRACY HACKSHAW: What's the word we're using in the Caribbean, Karel? So that's what we call it.

KAREL DOUGLAS: I would say gel.

TRACY HACKSHAW: We call it a lime.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Lime.

TRACY HACKSHAW: We call it a lime. Once you all learn that, we are liming this evening.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Lime is to hang out.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Yes, liming.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Hanging out.

TRACY HACKSHAW: The GAC lime.

KAREL DOUGLAS:
So we are going to hang out and just to underscore another important point that Nico said is that this is about you. Underscore. Underline. Highlight in bold. This is about you. So if you feel you want to ask a question, you're not too sure, feel free to ask one of us. Put up your hand. Maybe if you don't feel, well, I don't want to do it in the open, but you could do it maybe privately. It's really about you to understand what we are discussing. So without any further ado, I have the great pleasure to introduce Laurent Ferrali who will now take us to the session of ICANN and the GACs place in the wider internet community. How it interacts globally and how various GAC governments are active in those endeavors. Laurent, thank you very much. Over to you.

LAURENT FERRALI:
Thank you very much, Karel. Thank you, Tracy. And good morning, everyone. Good evening to the people who are following this meeting remotely. I'm Laurent Ferrali from the government engagement team of ICANN. And as mentioned by Tracy and Karel, please, if you have any questions, we are here to answer your questions. The GAC support team is there with Rob and Gulten and Dan; from the government engagement team, I have some colleagues around, but I'm here. If you have any questions during the ICANN meeting, please feel free to ask. We have a lot of GAC staff and team members here. We have a lot of experienced GAC members as well. So again, feel free to ask any questions.

So we have a first warm-up session. The aim of this session is to explain a bit very briefly what ICANN is doing, what the GAC is doing. So you will

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be knowledgeable about the GAC and ICANN. So next slide, please. First, ICANN is not working alone. ICANN is working with a lot of different technical organizations trying to help you to be connected to the internet. And so we are working with different partners such as the Regional Retina Registries that you met me now and the IETF as well. Our role is to coordinate the unique identifiers of the internet. When I say unique identifiers, it's protocol parameters, names, so domain names, generic top-level domains such as .com and ccTLDs as well, the critical top-level domains. I will come back to that later. And numbers, IP addresses. And again, it's not ICANN alone. It's ICANN among a large group of technical organizations.

Next slide, please. So that's the main ICANN mission. So the first one is related to what we are used to call the IANA function, is the coordination of the assignment of names in the root zone. So this is the maintenance of the root zone, the IANA root zone that you met me now. The second mission is what we are doing, but what you will do during this week is the policy role of ICANN. The ICANN community is developing policy related to gTLDs, generic top-level domains. The mission three is a specific mission. It's about the DNS root server system. It's the, we have a specific committee, the RSSAC, which is supposed to work on that here during the ICANN meeting.

We have the coordination and the allocation of at the top-most level of the protocol numbers. That's again the IANA function. It's how we are allocating the IP addresses in the world. So there is a global block of IP addresses for all the world, and ICANN is allocating blocks of IP addresses to different regional organizations, which will be able to allocate this IP addresses block to ISPs and all the companies which will

need them. And we have a more global technical role, but I will not go into the detail of this one.

Next slide, please. When we say ICANN, it's a bit complex because there is three main pillars. The first and the most important pillar of ICANN is the ICANN community. It's you, it's the GAC, it's the people from the business community, the people from the technical community, the internet users, et cetera. So there is this, there is different consensus within ICANN, and this is the most important part of ICANN, especially since the IANA transition, which occurred seven years ago. Before that, there was a kind of stewardship of the US government on ICANN activities. Now it's the ICANN community, which is supposed to supervise ICANN activities. So all of the community is very important. The community, you, you are part of the policy development process of ICANN.

The role of the board is to validate the policy discussed by the community and the role of the organization, so ICANN org, like Rob, me the staff of ICANN, is to provide some support to you in your work in the development of policies. And of course, our role is to implement these policies as well. So that's, when we talk about ICANN, sometimes it's a bit confusing, but there are these three pillars. And again, the most important one is the community, because this is you who are working on policy development processes, not us. Our role is to assist you. This is why if you have any questions, if you don't understand different things, please ask us, because we want to make sure that you are able to participate actively in this very important role. Thank you.

Next slide, please. That's how the policy are developed within ICANN. You can see two groups of people on the green, the green group, it's the advisory committee. You, as a GAC, you are an advisory committee. Your role is not to start a policy discussion. Your role is to jump in the policy discussion when you need to. And I will explain this a bit later about what the GAC is doing. But we have different advisory group, not only the GAC, we have ALAC as well, which represent the users. We have the Root Server System Advisory Committee, which gathers all the root server operators. And we have the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, who is in charge of all of the security issue related to the DNS.

On the left of the slide, you have a group of blue inconsistencies, which are the support organization. This support organization, their role is to start a policy development process and to discuss the policy process with you, with the advisory committees, and with other part of the ICANN community. You have three main groups. You have the country codes, top level domain support organization. This group gather the registries of the country code top level domain. That each country has its own top-level domain. It's two letters. It's easy to remember. For the country code, it's always two letters. So these people are part of the ccNSO, the country code name support organization.

You have the generic support organization, which gather a lot of different people from the business industry and from the non-business part of the generic top-level domains. So it's a large group of people. You have the registries, the registrars, you have IP lawyers, you have end users, you have a lot of people and you have the addressing support organization, which is in charge of developing a policy related to IP

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addresses. So that's the way the policy are developed. So you can see that the scope and the very beginning of the policy is at the support organization level. And then there is an opportunity for the advisory committee to jump in the discussion and to provide a specific advice.

Next slide, please. So ICANN is a technical organization and we have a very specific technical mandate. ICANN is not dealing with any content issues. We are dealing with domain names and IP addresses. We are dealing with connectivity. We are not doing with content. That's a very important thing to understand. Sometimes it's difficult to understand the difference between domain names and contents, but it's important to keep this in mind that we are not supposed to develop any policy related to the contents. ICANN is not working alone and we are part of a very large ecosystem of technical organization. So it's not just ICANN.

And ICANN is a multidisciplinary organization. I showed you a bit earlier the different constituencies of ICANN. So again, you have governments, you have the business community, the technical community, the internet users. So there is a large scope of stakeholders and each group is involved in a way in the policy development process of ICANN. Since the IANA transition, so I told you that for many years there was a supervision from the US government. Now it's not anymore the case. We have a supervision from the community. So we have a very full bottom-up governance model. So it's multi-stakeholder and bottom-up. And again, the role of the community is key. If the community is not active, ICANN is not active.

Next slide, please. Next slide, please. So the GAC. Today I think that, and Gulten correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that we have 182

members of the GAC. Thank you, Gulten. We have we have 180 governments. When I say governments or regulators. And we have in this, we have 180 governments and two distinct economies, which are the the EU Commission and the African Union. So they are not observers because we have 38 IGOs, which are observers of the GAC, but there is a special status for African Union Commission and the European Commission.

All members and observers everyone within the GAC is free to talk and to be involved in the discussion. There is no distinction between observers and members. There is just one exception for the election. Only the members are allowed to vote. So this is the sanction between observers and members.

Next slide, please. And if you have any question, please feel free to raise your hand and ask. And again, we are around during the week. We will be around. So and we are always happy to answer to any question, not only during this session, but all the time. The role of the GAC. There is, the role of the GAC is defined by the ICANN bylaws. First, the main wall of the GAC is to provide advice to the board. There is, the question is when the GAC is supposed to provide an advice to the board. And I told you about the policy development process of ICANN. It's related to domain names and IP addresses. So it's very technical, but sometimes there are potential interactions of, with international laws or international public policies.

And the role of the GAC is to flag, to stress to the board that look in this current discussion, there is a risk of interaction with this kind of, this public, international public law or this international public policies. So

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the role of the GAC is to make sure that there is a smooth policy development process and no problem, no problem between the articulation of the policy development process and some specific international law or public policies. So role goal of the GAC is not to create laws. The role of the GAC is to make sure that the policy development process is going smoothly and that there is no problem.

Next slide, please. The role of the GAC is defined by the ICANN bylaws, but not only by the ICANN bylaws, by the GAC operating principles. And the GAC operating principles are decided by the GAC and updated by the GAC. So again, we have this, this explanation about when the GAC is able to provide an advice, when there is an interaction between ICANN policies and various laws and international agreements and policy objectives. There is a very important point at the principle two of the GAC operating principles that the GAC is not a decision-making body. Again, the role of the GAC is to make sure that there is a smooth PDP development, a policy development process within the ICANN community.

The idea is not to -- you governments, you are already involved in international law shaping and national law. And the policy developer, ICANN, are very, very far in the action of in the hierarchy of norm. We are not at the top. You are already able to regulate. What you are trying here to do is not to regulate, is to make sure that the policy development process is going smoothly. There is no friction with international or national laws.

Next slide, please. That's how the GAC works. So I think that you already know that we have a three meetings per year that you know you

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have a GAC chair, a GAC vice chair. This is what we call the GAC leadership. The role is to organize the GAC works and the GAC meetings in the, in coordination with the ICANN staff team. There is a -- the GAC chair is the liaison to the board. So this is why Nico was not able to participate to this workshop because he's supposed to sit at the ICANN board and report about what the GAC is doing. There are some GAC reps there are some GAC representatives which are doing them in this laser wall with the support organization and the other advisory committee.

So they help us to keep a discussion channel between the different organizations, different circumstances of ICANN and the GAC. Of course, the GAC support team is used to organize conference calls and calls during the year to prepare meetings or to discuss specific points. There is a GAC mailing list, as you may know. There is a GAC website. We have interpretation during the GAC meeting. So we have the interpretation is the six UN languages plus Portuguese. Well, thank you for the interpreters which are very dedicated and very helpful. They are again, the idea is to help you to participate a lot in the discussion. And this is why we have this interpretation. The GAC support team is providing travel support slot. I think it's not 30, it's more than 30, it's 40.

And so for each GAC meeting, the GAC supporting is supporting 40 travelers. So you have the opportunity to ask for travel support. Of course, there are some criteria but I think that we are using the same criteria as the World Bank for the travel support. And one of the most important part of the ICANN team for you is the GAC support team. So Rob's team in the back of the room. So we have Rob, Dan, and Gulten today. They are helping you to navigate. They are providing briefing to

you. They are working on the logistic of the meetings. So they are helping you to work more in a good environment. And they are very helpful and knowledgeable. So please feel free to ask them if you have any questions as well. That's how the GAC works.

Next slide, please. That's just a focus. We have different working groups within the GAC. This is just a focus on the group of the systems. We have a group. I told you a few minutes ago about the GAC operating principles. We have a group which is supposed to work on the review of these operating principles. But I will not focus on this one now. I will focus on the GAC or the working group of substance. We have the GAC working group on the sub region with Pua and Karel, which are in the room. And the role of this group is to help countries from other sub regions. So it's small islands and different countries where the DNS industry is not very well developed to be more involved in the GAC discussion.

So this group is providing some capacity building activities to the GAC representatives in order to help them to be more involved in the discussion. All of these groups are open. So if you want to join one of these groups, feel free to ask Rob's team and feel free to join them. So we can join this group if you want to help, if you have any ideas or strategy on how we can develop the participation of GAC members. We have a specific group on the protection of geographical names, which was very involved in the past in the context of the first one of the gTLDs. We have the GAC public safety working group, which is dealing with policies and procedures that implicate the safety of the public. So it's mostly law enforcement agencies. And as you can imagine, the work of this group was mostly focused on DNS abuse for the last years.

And last but not least, we have a GAC working group on human rights and international law, which focus on aspect of policy and procedures, which relate to human rights and relevant international law. Thank you. Next slide, please. So thank you. Again we are around. If you need any help in the support from us, you can ask if you have any question, feel free to ask us. You have a long day today, a lot of sessions, a lot of capacitive sessions. The aim of this presentation was just to give you a brief overview of the work of ICANN or the GAC. And again, if you have any question, please reach out to me, to Karel, Pua, Tracy, Rob. You will find one of us somewhere. So please, again, feel free to ask us if you have any question. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much, Laurent. Some excellent introductory information for those who have heard it before. A good refresher for those who are new. I hope you'll tick it in because it's time for questions. And if you don't ask any, I'm not going to ask you. So there's a question, I think, coming from the right and one from the left. Go ahead.

ASHWIN SASTROSUBROTO: Thank you, Tracy. I just want to reconfirm because for geographical names --

TRACY HACKSHAW: Can you just say your name for the record?

ASHWIN SASTROSUBROTO: Yes, Ashwin from Indonesia.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you.

ASHWIN SASTROSUBROTO: For geographical names, they're already processed as how to protect geographical names if someone would like to use a name of an island or name of Amazon, river or whatever. But is there any, can you just remind me, is there any system, the protection of a special word which is related to a particular country? For example, in Indonesia, we have a special culture called Batik. This is very special close. This is special for Indonesia. How can I know if somebody else in other countries making, for example, top-level domain .data in the next second round gTLD? That is a special culture of the country, not related to geographical names.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much for your question. Yes, indeed the country names are protected. And so some geographical names are protected. But for the, you are asking me a question about geographic, it's not, I'm not sure about this. Because for me there is no protection for the moment because we don't have any lists. And there was no discussion within the, I think within the ICANN community to protect this kind of name for the moment. There are some discussions at the European level to protect some, to protect geographical indications and including from the agricultural side and from the craft side. But we don't have this kind

of discussion within the ICANN community right now. And I don't think that these names are protected. But this is something you'll be able to ask to my colleague, we will join the session too, about the next one, I think. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you. There's a question here from Mistura.

MISTURA ARUNA: Mistura, thank you very much. Good morning, everyone. My name is Mistura. Mine is a very short question. Has the board ever rejected any advice from the GAC? On what basis? And what does the GAC do to clarify that rejection? Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: It's a very good question. I know the answer to that. But let me see if I could ask somebody who is more authoritative than me. Is any ICANN or staff member willing to jump in and say anything or looking to see if Rob is around? Yes, we're calling Rob.

LAURENT FERRALI: Rob is missing an action. And by the way, I have a microphone here as well. So anybody who does not have a microphone in front of them by all means, just put up your hand. I'll be more than happy to bring the microphone to you. But Rob is on his way to the front.

TRACY HACKSHAW:	Rob has all the information in his head, I believe.

ROB HOGGARTH:	Tracy always does this to me. And I did make my best effort to hide behind various heads back there, but it didn't work. Thank you. I came over on this side because Laurent and I had the same color sweater. So I didn't want us to be too matched up. Your question was whether any advice from the GAC has been rejected from the board. And this question comes up from time to time. And I'm looking at Laurent and staying far away in case he's going to correct me. Is that I'm not, during my tenure, supporting the committee. That's never happened. And it's a great question because I think it points out really the opportunities and the relationships for dialogue between the advisory committee of governments and the ICANN board.

The relationship has evolved over time to a point where there is a very regular series of communications between the advisory committee to the board, the GAC, and the board itself that's structured through various conversations. And the overall approach that the board has demonstrated for the seven years that I've been with you all is to find any differences and try to work through them without having to get into a situation to reject the advice. There is a process that exists that if the board even thinks that it may reach the point where it may not be able to accept the advice or reject the advice, that a dialogue takes place. That the two parties have good discussions to understand what the differences are and to see if those can be resolved.

So the entire concept, and thanks for giving me the opportunity, Mistura, to talk about this, is to truly give practice to that advisory role.

And I think all of you have demonstrated over the years the value of that and the opportunity to not just to share the views of governments, but to engage in those actual conversations to influence how the organization participates on the policy side and ultimately adopts and implements those policies. So I hope that answered the question and gave a little flavor as well.

MISTURA ARUNA: Yes, please. You have all the answers. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: And maybe I could add that there was actually one rejection that I'm aware of and then one sort of discussion, so .XXX taking you way back into history .XXX was a particular issue where the board rejected the GAC advice and they went into the exact same process that Rob mentioned. And then we had somewhat contentious issues around that Amazon, if you recall. But I know Manal wanted to say a few words. I know Rob addressed some of what she said, but Manal, as GAC chair and long-time GAC member may have a few things to say as well.

MANAL ISMAIL: Former GAC chair. Good morning, everyone. Actually, I think you and Rob covered it very well. I was just going to say that it's a matter of a process. It's not just a rejection, per se. There was almost no rejections before, except what Tracy mentioned. But also, sometimes if there is difficulty or lack of information to really decide on the GAC advice, they started deferring the decision until things become more clear. And

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once the advice is hard to accept, we get into a consultation process, which is, again, a dialogue to have a mutually agreed way forward. So even in the case of a rejection, we try to find a mutually agreed way forward. So thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Yes, and if you do some research on .XXX, you'll see it was very interesting what happened there, and how the GAC and the board resolved that. It's very interesting. Questions? There are mics around, and there are mics at your desk, so feel free.

KAREL DOUGLAS: I have a mic in the back here, so if anybody feels they want to ask a question, by all means, just put up your hand.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Because I'm going to ask questions if you don't ask questions. So, Pua.

PUA HUNTER: Thank you, Tracy, and thank you, everyone, for a good session. My name is Pua Hunter from Cook Islands. I don't have a question. I just wanted to make a statement. Thank you, Laurent for the great overview of GAC's position in the whole ICANN ecosystem. The situation here is we're bringing our GAC members to a place where we're trying to introduce what the GAC does. And the problem that I see is we have limited participants from our regions attending ICANN meetings. So I just wanted us to have a think about ICANN being taken out to the

regions to talk about what the GAC is all about and GAC's position role in the whole of ICANN. I'm not sure who should lead that process. Perhaps the government engagement team, Laurent.

I'm saying this because in the Pacific region, we have a whole lot of regional meetings. And perhaps we could use that opportunity, leverage on those meetings to speak about the work of ICANN, to introduce ICANN. I know the global stakeholder engagement team does it. But from my experience, it's more focused on technical issues rather than the policy part of it. I think there needs to be more of this, what Laurent presented to be taken out to the region. That's just my comment. Thank you so much.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much, Pua. And it's a request we have from different regions. And it's not only the government engagement team. We are working, as with the stakeholder engagement team. And yes, we are planning to be more present on the ground. We already start to do that in Africa, in the context of the Coalition for Digital Africa. But yes, we are planning to be more active in the different regions and more present. The head of the government engagement team told us yesterday or two days ago that this is something we will do. We had this specific request from the Caribbean as well, because our colleague for the stakeholder engagement team, Albert told us that we need to be more involved on the ground as well. So this is something we will take into account.

And in the meantime, we start working with the GAC leadership on the GAC strategy to address these kind of challenges and find some solutions. And we'll get back to you. We'll update you on what we are

planning to do in a different region in order to develop the participation. We already have a first exercise today. We will have breakout sessions. And the aim of this breakout session is to identify issue of interest for the different regions. Because I know that some GAC representatives are not very interested by all the discussions we have in the context of the current GAC agenda.

But there is no opportunity for us to identify issue of interest and raise this issue of interest and so be more active in the discussion. Because we can imagine that from one country to another country, the priorities are different and you have different interests. So we have this session this afternoon. It's very important for us because my colleague from the stakeholder engagement team will be there, some of them. Not from the Pacific, sorry. We will not be there, but other colleagues will be there. And again, it's important to start with identification of issue of interest for you to be able to put on the agenda, the GAC agenda issue of interest for you, for your government, for your region. So we are fully aware of this issue, this problem we have. And we are trying to address it in the best way. And we will keep you in the loop and we will keep you informed about the progress. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you. Question from colleague, this morning.

MOHAMED EL MOCTAR: Thank you very much.

TRACY HACKSHAW:	Introduce yourself.

MOHAMED EL MOCTAR: Yes. My name is Mohamed El Moctar and I'm the GAC representative of Mauritania. Could you please talk a little bit about the board representation and constituency so that we understand who might have the final words on ICANN policies and policy development, who are basically the members of the ICANN board? Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: The question was, who are the members of the ICANN board and what's their impact on policy and how is it done? Thank you very much for your question. The role of the ICANN board is to adopt policies which are developed by the community. The board is composed by people elected by the community. And some directors of the board are nominated by a nominating committee which is part of ICANN. So we have this two group of board directors. Some are elected by the committee and some are nominated. The role is to adopt the policy. They are not supposed to change a lot of things. So again, the most important part of ICANN is the ICANN committee. Because it's, for example, if there is a policy related to generic top-level domains, the GNSO, the name supporting organization will start the process.

You, as GAC, you are able to intervene in the process. You don't have to wait for the GAC to give it. You don't need to wait for the GAC advice to the board. You can talk to these people before. And then at the end, if you are not able to have any agreement with these people, the GAC is able to provide the advice to the board. It means that there is an issue

here. You should be careful. I don't know about the wording. But the role of the GAC is not to intervene at the later stage. The GAC can intervene at a very early stage. And this is what we tried to do in the context of the discussion related to the new one of gTLDs.

We had this open channel with the generic name supporting organization, which was supporting this policy, the development process. And the GAC was able to discuss during the process with this group. And the board at the end is just to validate the policy and take account the GAC advice. Thank you. And discuss with the -- as Manal discussed with GAC how to implement the GAC advice. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much. As we wrap up, there's one question coming in. I still have one question. Just wanted to show of hands, how many governments in this room have ICANN issues on their agenda? IG, ICANN issues. IG means internet governance. By the way, acronym soup. Go to ICANN.org and look for acronyms. All the things that Lawrence gTLD and so on. If you don't understand, there's an acronym glossary on the ICANN website. But just show of hands, how many governments in this room would say that they have ICANN issues on the government's agenda? Just show your hands. Let's see. Raise them high. Let's see. I think this is an interesting question. You see? It's a minority that we can see.

So this is important to understand, how do we get ICANN/internet governance issues on the government's agenda? You're all here, so somehow you got here. So it's somehow on the agenda, some way. But how do you get it to be on the agenda? If what you know what I mean?

Get it on the agenda as a discussion point. Think about that for a second. Yes, sir. Introduce yourself.

ANDREAS DLAMINI: All right. Thanks, Tracy. My name is Andreas Dlamini from the Kingdom of Eswatini, previously Swaziland. My question is to, I just need to ask the process of updating membership of the GAC. Because, for example, we find that people change roles. Some retire, and yet they were members of the GAC. How is that process done? And is there a way of maybe making sure that you clean up the membership to see if people are still active as members of the GAC? Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: And Rob knows I'm coming to him.

SAKILE DAMINI: Tracy, yes, Rob has.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you very much for that question. It's a very important point. You all, as representatives from your government to the GAC, particularly those of you who are listed on the GAC website, have an obligation to your colleagues that when you are joining, you send the notice to us as staff. That's the easy part. The challenge that you've mentioned in the question is when you leave. And that's not always as smooth a process. But what really helps us from the staff perspective and you as fellow colleagues is to also communicate that information to us. Because that

does become a challenge. We as the support staff look to maintain a chain of connection or a chain of evidence, if you will. It's very important that all of that you are also meeting with representatives from other governments.

And our job as staff working with Laurent's team, working with the global stakeholder engagement team, is to collect that information, process it. Where it breaks down is if your GAC representative or you as the GAC representative leave and do not inform us. And so that's a very important part of the process, not just the onboarding. And there's an element of that in this capacity development activity, but also the off boarding. And so please, if you are the GAC representative or a member of a delegation, please just accept that as part of your participation in the organization. We love to welcome folks. And we're very sorry to see people leave. We just like to know when you are leaving. Thank you. And thank you for the question.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much, Rob. And we are just about the end of our session on Q&A with Laurent. But are there any final questions that you have that you'd like to pose to Laurent? He's around for the whole day along with his team. So you will be able to ask him directly. But anything would you like to raise now in the room? Seeing none, I think that we can close this part of today's session. And I'd like to now invite Pua to join us as we begin the next session. Pua, please come up and have a walk around with us in front of this nice GAC room. As we move into the next session, thank you, Laurent. It's really important to understand

how this basic information about how ICANN GAC fits within the wider internet governance community.

What we're going to do now while Pua comes up here to help with this is introduce the next session, but probably take a quick break perhaps. I think that's what's on the schedule. But just to prepare for what's happening next, we're going to be going into DNS. Is it DNS abuse next? So what we're trying to do today is prepare you for the next session. So get yourself ready and your coffee breaks. We're going to have a talk show format. As you see, we've removed the tables. So people are not talking heads anymore. People are going to come and discuss stuff with you, discuss stuff with us. I want you to engage directly. Pua, what do you think about that? I think it's good to have them engage directly with us.

PUA HUNTER: Yes, I think that's a very good idea. It's important that everyone is in here with the moment. And I know you have some questions, some ideas to share. So this is the time. This is your opportunity to be with those who are very knowledgeable about the topic that we're going to be talking about. Even for me, I'll probably be asking questions myself. So please be with us in the next session. So have a break, but don't disappear. Come back here.

TRACY HACKSHAW: And DNS abuse, prepare yourselves to ask all the questions about DNS abuse you have. We'll hear from our panelists, but ask the questions.

You have the questions, ask them. There's no stupid question, trust me. Let's go, coffee break. Please come back here. Don't disappear.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Tracy, that'll be at 10.30, the next session. 10:30.

TRACY HACKSHAW: 10:30, this local time, whatever time that is in your part of the world, please adjust. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]