
ICANN75 | AGM - GAC Capacity Building and Outreach Workshop 1: What is the GAC and How Does It Work?
Saturday, September 17 2022 - 13:15 to 14:30 KUL

TRACY HACKSHAW: Rob Hoggarth from ICANN -- we will start formally in a few second. And, of course, we have interpretation so those persons who have viewing us on-line will have the ability to see what's taking place, and also participate as the case may be.

GULTEN TEPE: Welcome to the ICANN75 GAC capacity building session that for the GAC, being held Saturday, 17th September. Recognizing these are public sessions and other members of the ICANN community may be in attendance GAC leadership encourage all of you who are GAC members to type your GAC designation name in the participation chat pod much this is to keep accurate attendance records.

To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model, we ask that you sign into Zoom sessions using your full name. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please type it in the chat by starting and ending your sentence with a question, or comment as indicated in the chat the feature is at the bottom of your Zoom window. Interpretation for

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GAC sessions include all 6 U.N. language and Portuguese. Participants can select the language to wish to speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation ICANN on Zoom tool bar.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand. Once the session facilitator calls upon you, please unmute yourself and take the floor. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Please make sure to mute all other devices when you are speaking.

Finally, this session is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. In case of distraction during the session, our support team will mute all participants this. Session is being recorded and all the materials will be available on ICANN75 meeting's page. 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 gardening, good afternoon and good evening, everyone. My name is Manal Ismail. I'm the GAC chair, so welcome everyone. A very warm welcome to all GAC members and observers who are with us here in the room, and also those who are connecting on Zoom.

Thank you all for joining this GAC capacity building workshop held over the weekend prior to the ICANN75 meeting week. This is the first GAC capacity building workshop since we last stopped meeting in person because of the pandemic of course. And during this period it was almost 3 years now, we have around 180 new GAC representatives, so it's been quite some time since we last had had our capacity building activities and it's high time now to have this workshop, and I hope the workshop will help to bring everyone up to speed, and help you catch on the topics of interest to the GAC, and pave the way to our discussions later this week so that you can have informed exchanges and fruitful discussions.

I also hope the agenda would be useful, and beneficial equally for GAC new members, but also for returning GAC members and longstanding GAC members. It's a rich agenda. Today it's going to be more of introductions, but more -- we are going to get more into substance.

And before we get started I would like to extend due thanks to all those who have contributed to the organization of this event, so from the GAC side, we have the co-chairs of the GAC underserved regions working group, Karel Douglas, from Trinidad and Tobago and Pua Hunter from Cook Islands, and also to Tracy Hackshaw from the government Universal Postal Union for steering this whole effort and due thanks of course to our GAC support team

especially Robert Hoggarth and Julia Charvolen who were instrumental in pulling all this together in place.

Also, to longstanding GAC colleagues like Nicholas on my left who volunteered to share their experiences, and going beyond the GAC, we also need to thank ICANN's global stakeholder engagement team, ICANN's policy team, and the government engagement team for always lending a hand in our capacity-building activities. And finally, to all community members who generally offer to contribute information and speakers to this event, they have all managed to, in a very short time I have to say, to work on having all logistics in place, preparing the substance, necessary material identifying speakers on compiling an agenda, that would benefit everyone, as I said newly joining GAC colleagues as well as returning or longstanding ones.

But they have also arranged for a social gathering, which is equally important and needed as well at this stage, so I hope you can all manage to join and socialize, network and get introduced, and make sure you know the person behind the name or the professional you are dealing with.

I'm very sorry, I will have to leave shortly, but I'll stay for a while, but I may need to leave the room for the ICANN Board meeting so

apologies if I keep getting in and out the room over today and tomorrow, but starting Monday, we will have our official launch of the GAC meetings, and I'll be fully dedicated to the GAC afterwards.

So, with that, I wish you a very successful and fruitful and hopefully beneficial workshop, and a lovely gathering tonight, and I'm handing this over to? Okay, Tracy, please, over to you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Testing this microphone. Is it working? Yes. All right, so welcome again to those who came in after we had our ice breaker before. So as Manal said, I'm Tracy Hackshaw from the Universal Postal Union. Myself along with Karel Douglas will be shepherding through the next day and a half, and welcome. And maybe what we can do as we go through it you can just give a few words because -- just say who you are again, and what you're thinking about the capacity building session because we don't have time to reintroduce going forward so we just go straight to the program.

But before I begin, I wanted to say that this session as Manal is saying is very important. We've had a lot of new GAC members. It's 150 plus as we -- at the last count since, I don't know since the last 2 years. 150 plus new members.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It's 180.

TRACY HACKSHAW: 180 new members. Wow. That's phenomenal! That's a huge turn over. So of course, a lot of people have been asking in the last meeting I was in the Hague a lot of colleagues said what is this GAC thing about? Can you help? Is it like the ITU? You know people seem to can't understand what's going on here so what -- try to give you a ground up understanding and start you slow, what it is, what we are doing, and then move you into the topics. We can't, as I say, boil the ocean. We can't cover everything in the next couple of days we guarantee we will continue the capacity meeting between in meeting and Cancun. We want to do inter-sessional work with you so webinars and etcetera.

If you do you have any specific areas that you'd like to understand more about and dive into when we complete the session, there will be a survey that we will run. If you could indicate what your interests are specifically in, and you can -- we can deep dive there. So don't expect a huge deep dive into every single thing in the next you know, 48 hours or so. But we are going to try and cover as much as we can. Give you a good introduction both into the

what is the GAC, how do you GAC -- how to GAC? As well as what are the topics that the GAC are dealing with and the ICANN?

With this, that's my brief intro. And I believe Mary†--

KAREL DOUGLAS:

So again, good morning or good afternoon or good evening to you whoever whatever part of the world you are in and just to add to what Tracy said. You know I've been a GAC member for quite some time, and I still don't understand many things in the GAC. So don't feel overwhelmed by this information. Or the information you may receive, but as much as you can reach out to those who may know, who have been here before. And you know you'll get it slowly by surely. I'm still -- I do want to introduce Mary Wong who is going to give us an introduction to ICANN and the role it places into the intergovernance system. Over to you.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Karel, and thank you to Manal, yourself Tracy, the rest of the GAC leadership. And, of course, members of the GAC for not just holding this session but for inviting those of us from ICANN org to participate in it.

As Tracy was saying, there's a lot that we can try to cover, but it seems to make more sense to do this incrementally, so I want to

also congratulate you and the staff for putting together what looks to be a very rich but thoughtful program. So, my role today in the, I think ten minutes that I have, is to give you a very brief introduction to what it's like to be part of ICANN's, multistakeholder structure. And its direct relevance to the development of policy for the Domain Name System, consensus based policy as we do it at ICANN.

Tomorrow my colleague, Carlos Reyes, will be talking to you to take what I'm with about to say a little step further. I will give you an introduction to what consensus policy means and tomorrow Carlos will take you through the policy itself and how the GAC contributes to the process. So, if I can just move to the next slide, please.

This is really for me, the one take away that is probably the most important for anyone. Whether you're new to ICANN, to Internet governance areas to domain name policy or whether you've been doing it for a while, as I know some people in this room have, and even for us in the organization, I offer to you this, is something we like to look at and remind ourselves of. You probably know the ICANN Bylaws define the scope of ICANN's remit, and our mission. It also sets out the core values and commitments that we make as ICANN the organization, the Board and, of course, the community.

And really what this means is that any policies that are within ICANN's mission to develop, really are done through the multistakeholder model, which means its bottom, up and consensus driven. This is what it's all about. I could probably end here but I won't.

The GAC has a very, very important role in driving this bottom up consensus based policy development. If we look at the next slide maybe that will make more sense to you. You probably also know this, but I need to say this just so again to site where the GAC is in terms of the multistakeholder and the structures. We have 3 supporting organizations. As part of the ICANN community. The address supporting organization, the country code names supporting organization and the generic names supporting organization. These 3S often he is in the famous ICANN acronym lingo. Are charged with developing policy recommendations each within its remit. So, the address supporting organization for example will develop policy, global public policy involving Internet protocol addresses and numbers.

The country code name supporting organization as its named will tell you, develops policies that affect ccTLDs or country code top-level domains and therefore last but certainly not least because you will be interacting with them a lot is the generic name supporting organization or the GNSO that is charged under

the Bylaws with developing public policy for generic top-level domains. And a lot of the discussions that you will hear over the next week and that you will engage in as part of the GAC is with the GNSO because the GNSO in its role, of developing gTLD policy is probably the most active of the 3 policy development organizations or SOs we have here.

So, we have 4 advisory committees of which the GAC obviously is one of them. We have At-Large Advisory Committee that represents the views and interests of individual Internet end users. There is also the root server system advisory committee that represents root server operators and the technical operations of a lot of what drives the domain names space, and thirdly, we have the Security and Stability Advisory Committee or the SSAC that vices the Board on what security, stability, and resiliency issues affecting the Domain Name System.

So, the GAC is one of these four ACs or advisory committees and as you know your role is to advise the Board on the community when policy work introduces or affects issues of public policy that are of concern to governments.

I realize this is probably not you ... many of you but we thought that this was an important way of setting the context to show you the breath of the stakeholders that are formally recognized as

ICANN structures, number 1, and number 2, that each as a group, whether it's supporting organization or as an advisory committee has a very, very specific role in the development of policy and in the provision of advice on proposed policy recommendations to the Board

And it really is in this latter space the provision of advice that the GAC plays a very, very pivotal role and that is recognized in the Bylaws. As I said tomorrow my colleague, Carlos, will speak to you more about what that pivotal role entails, about the various parts in the policy development lifecycle that the GAC has the opportunity to participate and to give advice. My role today like I said is somewhat introductory so I would like to tell you a little bit about why those consensus policies developed through the multistakeholder model are so critical to ICANN as well.

I think that may be on my next slide. Thank you. So as I said, you'll hear the words consensus policy or consensus policies around ICANN a lot, as I said, you will be engaging a lot with the GNSO because since it develops policies affecting generic top-level domains from the .com,.org, .net, .bus to all the new builds that were launched in the last ten years, under be the last expansion round of the gTLDs and, of course, I know one of the topics that the GAC will be talking about this week is preparation for the next expansion round of gTLDs based on a recent policy development

process that the GNSO did called subsequent procedures or SubPro.

Like I said, you will be hearing from them. You will be discussing amongst yourselves and discussing with them the policy implications of the GNSO a lot. But what I think is important to remember is not just that you as the GAC have a key role to play throughout the process where the policy is developed, but it's also important to understand what happens when the policies reach a stage where there is community consensus.

I'll cut the process short and not take Carlos's thunder away by saying let's assume we've gone through the policy development process and the GNSO counsel which is the governing or managing body for the GNSO takes a vote and based on the consensus of the community says we have these policy recommendations concerning SubPro, or the WHOIS system, or any other gTLD policy matter that is taken up.

When the GNSO Council takes its vote, the matter then goes up to the ICANN Board of directors for their action review, and their vote. If the ICANN Board decides to adopt the policy that's recommended by the GNSO, and that represents a consensus amongst all the stakeholders, that is then the point where we say

there is now a consensus policy, CP, which then moves into implementation by ICANN org.

But the impact of that is pretty important because what that means is that anything that is developed, voted on, approved, and adopted as a consensus policy, CP, then becomes something that is binding on all of ICANN's contracted parties. Meaning all of the gTLD registry operators and all of the ICANN accredited registrars that sell domain names because of part that I put in this slide here, that essentially if you look in the middle section of the slide. In this contract registry operators and registrars actually agree to comply with consensus policies within the framework that is defined in their contract, which generally refers to the kind of consensus policies that are just mentioned that are adopted by the Board as a stakeholder consensus.

It's actually rather interesting because essentially what they are doing is making a forward promise. They don't know down the road what kind of policies may be developed through consensus, but they are agreeing, up front, as a registrar, as a registry that we will agree to abide by that community consensus. And the importance of this of course is that what they've just done is made a contractually binding promise and agreement. And if they do not comply with those consensus policies there is compliance, there is enforcement. There are contractual implications, so I

wanted to end on this point because this is really the impact of a consensus policy developed by the community in which the GAC has a very, very important role.

I don't really want to take up more time, Karel, and Tracy because I know there's limited time. I wonder if I stop here if that will be helpful to you?

TRACY HACKSHAW:

I think that's helpful, Mary. Thank you. That was an interesting overview of ICANN in the ecosystem. Perhaps what I could say is I know there will be questions and there's enough time to address questions I think in the way you might want to do it. If you've logged into Zoom if I could throw this in the mix you can probably pose your questions in the chat and perhaps staff can help answer the questions for you. I don't know Mary if you can also provide assistance with questions, who they can direct them to.

MARY WONG:

I'm happy to be the person directed to, and if I am the wrong person, I will make sure they go to the right person.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

And what will be your questions it's Mary.Wong@ICANN.org.

I am -- I represent the Universal Postal Union which is a United Nations organization that represents a regulated sector much the postal sector, but I also had a unit that runs TLD, an STLD a contracted party called .post so I'm already -- and have one leg, 2 legs. One leg in 2 areas. I don't know. Not sure. So, I'm also involved in the GNSO, and the registries stakeholder group and very interesting to be in both organizations. I also was previously involved in the NomCom and also at the At Large committee from where I sat on a NomCom. So, at ICANN you can see your role in different communities, and it may be good for some of the GAC members I think to visit other communities when you have the opportunity to understand what's really going on.

Also like to suggest there's also an acronyms soup in ICANN and there's acronyms page in ICANN. I believe Mary they can visit to understand the acronyms that we are hearing about as well as things like registrar. Registry. Registrant, Mary went through those but some of you may be going what's going on here? Visit ICANN's website and you can search or go to the acronyms or -- what's that page called where the definitions are.

MARY WONG:

That's a good question. I know it's glossary. I will say in our -- redone web site and the transparency the search function is really good. So, you put acronyms glossary you pull it up and

what I can do is send the link to my colleagues and they can forward it to you all in the GAC.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Great. So, any questions you have on what the terms are you just went through, registrar, registrant. Contracted party, TLD, and those that are new. Don't be embarrassed. Ask the questions or look it up online. And educate yourself because otherwise you will go through this and not know what's happening.

It's very important for you to understand the terms that are being used. So, thank you very much Mary. Appreciate that. I'm going to ask if Nicholas is ready to go.

KAREL DOUGLAS:

Tracy, I would like to recognize other members on the table. We have 2 vice-chairs with us today. And Mr. Pär Brumark from the great country of Niue, and also Francis Olivier Cubahiro from Burundi. 2 vice-chairs today so I just want to thank them for coming. And I also want to thank Manal, I know Manal has another event at this point in time so of course you are free to attend if so required.

But without any further ado I pass onto Nick.

NICHOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Karel. And thank you to the whole team. Julia, Gulden, Rob, Tracy for organizing this capacity building weekend. I will be basically talking about the role of the GAC in ICANN and its relationship with the ICANN org Board and community.

Next slide. This is you know especially for government represents, for me it's fascinating because this is not the -- the typical United Nations way of doing things this Moller approach so basically the GAC you know is the governmental advisory economy, was established 24 years ago. 23 years ago. 1999, and is you know, the voice of the governments and intergovernmental organizations. IGOs in -- MSM, the multistakeholder structure. We are going to have -- you know I coined a word, and -- a phrase. I call it acronym romance because there's acronyms everywhere. I will try to do my best you know to try to explain what those acronyms mean, if I remember myself right.

Next slide, please. So, the GAC membership as Tracy mentioned before, is made up of 180 governments, and as members right now. There are 38 intergovernmental organizations as observers. Only members are eligible to voting during elections. The members and observers participate equally in all discussions. And basically 1/3 of the current membership with voting rights constitutes a quorum at any meeting.

Next slide, please. So, the key role of the GAC, the GAC basically provides advice to ICANN Board on issues of public policy especially where there may be interaction between ICANN's activities or policies, and national laws or international agreements. It provides advice in accordance with the GAC Operating Principles, and you can find more information later on. I don't want to get into details right now, but we will talk about that later.

Upon ICANN's -- ICANN Board's request or on its own initiative, GAC advice is duly taken into consideration by the Board in accordance with section 12.2 of the ICANN Bylaws. Next slide, please.

So how does the Board -- you know, act as regarding GAC advice? You know, according to the Bylaws, and I'm going to read because this is important especially for you as government representatives, this is an and lawyers and you know, the legal implication you know of these Bylaws. Basically, the advice of the government, of the GAC on public policy matters shall be duly taken into account both in the formulation and adoption of public policy in the event that the Board determines to take an action that is not consistent with GAC advice, it shall so inform the GAC, and state the reasons why it decided not to follow that advice.

We are going to get a little bit deeper later. Any governmental -- sorry. Can you go back a little bit? Yes, I was going to mention the next paragraph. Which is important. Any GAC advice approved by a full GAC consensus, and GAC consensus is understood to mean the practice of adopting decisions by generally agreement in the absence of any formal objection. That is basically GAC consensus advice. May only be rejected by a vote of no less than 60% of the Board, and the GAC and the Board will then try in good faith, and in a timely and efficient manner, to find a mutually-acceptable solution.

The GAC will state whether any advice it gives to the Board is GAC consensus advice. And I'll explain that a little bit better in the next slide, please.

So, this looks complicated but is actually very simple. If you can make it bigger? There we go. Yes. Thank you. So, this is more or less like an algorithm but there's actually very simple. So, let's -- exactly. Exactly. Thank you, Julia.

So, we start with the GAC consensus advice. Let's say the GAC consensus advice is provided, you know the next step is the GAC Communique, right or another document, you know containing GAC consensus advice. So that basically goes to the Board, right, and the Board basically states if it needs additional confirmation.

There are 2 possibilities. Yes or no. If the answer is no, right, the Board determines -- I can't read very well -- determines to -- thank you. That's way too big. A little bit smaller.

So, going back a little bit. So, the GAC Communique or another document containing GAC consensus advice is given to the Board of the Board needs you know. In case the Board needs additional clarification, if the answer is no, the Board determines -- the Board decides if it needs to act against GAC advice, by a 60% majority in that way, can you make it a little bit smaller please, Julia, so that I can show the -- there we go

If the answer is no, then that's the end of the -- so we go with that no to the right, the Board accepts a GAC consensus advice. But if the answer is yes, so then we go to if you can -- yeah if the answer is yes, basically the Board and GAC engage in a consultation process, we are not going to go -- we are going to get into the details right now. In a compromise or alternative solution is found.

If the answer is yes, then the Board basically accepts, you know, compromise, or alternative solution, if the answer is no, the Board reaffirms you know, its intended action, and again, we have 2 possibilities. Yes or no. If the answer is yes, the Board rejects GAC consensus advice, and states the reason, with appropriate

documentation, if the answer is no, then that's the end of the process and the Board accepts the GAC consensus advice.

This seems a little bit complicated but it's actually very simple. You can take a look later. You know in order to understand because at the beginning I had myself, you know problems trying to understand you know, the internal processes, and it seems complicated but its, in fact, very simple.

Next slide, please. So, what is the role of the GAC within the broader community? There are bilateral meetings and activities. For example, the Board GAC interaction group, meetings with the Board. Meeting with all the parts of the community including GNSO, which stands for generic name supporting organizations. ccNSO Country code name supporting organization, ALAC†-- this is the acronym romance I was talking about before.

And there are community wide activities like GAC participation in the PDPs. The policy development processes, the GAC participation in cross-community efforts sessions, and working groups. And the GAC participation in specific reviews.

Next slide, please. I like to talk a little bit about the high level government meeting. Following recommendations from ICANN's accountability and transparency review teams one and 2. A high

level government meeting is organized once every 2 years, hosted by one of the GAC members. The past meetings were held in Canada during ICANN 45 in Toronto in October 2012. In the United Kingdom during ICANN 50 in London in June 2014. In Morocco during ICANN 55 in Marrakesh in February 2016 and in Spain in Barcelona in October 2018. One of those supposed to be held in 2020 was obviously canceled because of the pandemic and there was no meeting at that time.

Next slide, please. So, this high level government meetings basically provide an opportunity to reaffirm the critical role that governments play at ICANN and enable a clearer understanding of that role. Also, to discuss current public policy issues, and challenges at a senior level. They also provide an opportunity for senior government officials to meet each other and meet ICANN executives. And basically, reach out to governments who are not represented at GAC ICANN.

Next slide, please. So, what is the role in the post IANA -- the role of the GAC in the post IANA process? So, you know, the IANA stewardship transition, there was the hand over of the IANA functions from the U.S. government to the multistakeholder community back in October 2016. Which basically meant you know the end of the special role or status of the U.S. government as regarding IANA functions.

And the transition proposal was mandated to meet certain principles, like supporting and enhancing the multistakeholder model. Maintaining the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet DNS. Meeting the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the IANA services and maintaining the openness of the Internet. So now, so ICANN org is now accountable to the empowered community. What do we understand the by the empowered community. That's going to be explained in the next slide please.

So, the empowered community EC is the mechanism in which ICANN Bylaws -- the new ICANN Bylaws through which the communities empowered to exercise 9 powers to make ICANN accountable. The first one being the possibility of rejecting an ICANN or IANA operating plan, or a strategic plan or budget. Approving a change from the fundamental Bylaws in ICANN articles of incorporation, rejecting changes to standard Bylaws. Removing an individual Board director or removing the whole Board, initiating a binding review process or a request for a reconsideration, requiring the ICANN Board to review its rejection of recommendations from reviews relating to PTI. And what are PTI. Public technical identifiers which is another, which is another power. I mean the power of rejecting those PTIs, the governance actions, and also the right, the rights of inspection and investigation. We are going to get to the details later on.

Next slide, please. So, the GAC is a decisional participants. The GAC has formal obligations under the new Bylaws to receive and initiate petitions. To participate in the conduct of community discussions, and support reject, or abstain from a collective exercise of one of the new powers. The community communicates its decision through EC administration. EC again being the empowered community. So, EC administration is made up of chairs or representatives of the decisional participants. ICANN supporting organizations, advisory committees, and advisory committees basically.

The GAC agreed to be represented by its chair temporarily until GAC discussions are finalized.

Next slide please. Tracy, I don't know if we should go ahead with the second part of the -- because in this case, I would be explaining in detail how you know, the GAC actual†--

KAREL DOUGLAS:

This is Karel. Firstly, Nicholas that was a lot of good information. I must say. And showing how we interact with different members of ICANN. Since we already touched on your next presentation I know there's going to be a lot of questions because I'm listening and wondering, besides the acronyms some of the things that you mentioned there are so important, and I do know people will have

questions, so I suspect maybe at the end of this session if time permits, then by all means I will certainly want to allow persons who have questions.

So, but without any further ado, tell us how does the GAC operate? How do we develop advice which is critical and many members here will be sitting down discussing very important topics, and the question is how that then translates to advice that then goes forward to the Board. Nicholas if you could just continue where you left off and thank you so much.

NICHOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Karel. So, next slide please. So, the GAC leadership is made up of the GAC chair and 5 vice-chairs. The chair is selected obviously by the member, by you, the GAC members, and the maximum -- I mean the term is 2 years and the maximum is 2 consecutive terms, but there are 5 vice-chairs, also elected by members, and the term is one year and maximum 2 consecutive terms.

Collectively, they are referred to as GAC leadership. Next slide please. There's -- you know a fantastic support team. GAC support is provided by 5 ICANN support staff. Robert Hoggarth, Fabien Betremieux, Julia Charvolen, Benedetta Rossi and Gulten

Tepe, I don't know if I pronounced it well Gulden, I'm sorry about that.

We have Rob here; I think Fabien is also here. We certainly have Julia and Gulden. I don't know if Benedetta is here or if she will be here? No? Okay so, there support activities include organizing meetings -- quite a lot of work -- providing substantive issue briefings. Substantive I would say. Managing GAC website and e-mail administration, Lee liaise with ICANN org and ICANN structures and co-ordinate operational matters including membership management, working group facilitation support and coordination of community travel support. It sounds easy, but it's -- I can tell it's quite complicated.

Next slide please. So, going back to the GAC work modalities. We talked about consensus advice before, and again, consensus is understood to mean the practice of adopting decisions by generally agreement in the absence of any formal objection. In the form of a Communique at the end of each GAC meeting. The GAC meets face-to-face 3 times a year, in conjunction with ICANN meetings.

The Communique, meeting minutes transcription and meeting of all open minutes are posted and line so anybody can see and check in case you know there was any kind of doubt about

anything. Everything is published. There are GAC internal working groups you know. But they are created as deemed necessary. Either permanently or temporarily when you know for a specific task.

Next slide, please. The working methods. This is the interesting because according -- you know, the GAC sets its own operating principles. The current operating principles date back to 2011. They were slightly amended in benefit airs in 2015 to allow for 5 vice-chairs. There were I think there were only 3 before 2015. When I first started in the GAC. Yeah, there were 3. Only 3 vice-chairs. That changed in 2015

Again, those operating principles were slightly amended in Johannesburg in 2015 to allow for electronic voting and over all the GAC Operating Principles are currently under review by GAC working group. This sounds like you know, in -- like an algorithm. You know like a recursive thing. You know, the -- a working group is reviewing, you know, the operating principles of the advisory committee.

Next slide please. So as for the GAC meetings. The GAC basically prepares for meetings intersessionally. That is, you know there's a lot of inter-sessional work. E-mails, and you know, lots of inter-sessional work. The agenda -- and briefings are circulated

and posted on-line in advance of the meeting. The GAC meets face-to-face as I said before, 3 times a year in conjunction with the ICANN meetings, and all GAC meetings are open by default. The GAC can decide to hold closed meetings if that is considered necessary. I remember again in the good old times -- talking about ten years ago -- all meetings were closed. Starting in 2013 or 2014, if I can correct Tracy, all GAC meetings you know started to be public, like 100% public.

There's real time interpretation and 6 U.N. languages plus Portuguese much there's real time captioning remote participation and recording of the meetings ever the GAC produces a Communique at the end of each meeting of the Communique and meeting minutes transcription and recording of all open meetings are again posted on-line.

Next slide, please. This is the interesting as well because you can join any of these working groups. You know, any working group can be created by the GAC chair as per the operating principle number 27. And they can focus on particular topics or areas either related to substance or administrative issues. Each working group has an agreed term of you know, the terms of reference?

Leads and participants are volunteer GAC members or observers. They may have a dedicated mailing list separate -- they can have

separate face-to-face meetings, and their own conference calls apart from are you know the whole GAC. They need to provide necessary briefs before face-to-face meetings and provide regular reporting to GAC men resist. Some are ongoing while others have like a specific life span. And are closed when they achieve their mandate. And the idea is for those working groups to provide expertise, recommendations, or draft documentation that are then considered by GAC leadership or full GAC. Depending on the circumstances of the particular matters. Recently new working group guidelines. A 12 page document was developed by the GAC, and it can be -- you have the link right there.

Next slide, please. These are some of the, some of the working group's active right now. One is the GAC underserved regions working group. USRWG which focuses on regions underserved by the DNS industry and leads developed economy since small lined developing states. You can join any of these working groups at any time.

There's also the GAC Public Safety Working Group. The PSWG which focuses on the aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures that implicate the safety of the public. There's also GAC working group and Human Rights and International Law that focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures, which relate to human rights and relevant international law. There's also the

GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names. UAIDN working group that works you know, to develop a single information source on UA and Universal Acceptance, and IDNs and to follow efforts on related issues of importance to government

And finally, there's the GAC working group on GAC, as I said before, you know, the GOPE Working Group. The GAC Operating Principles evolution. That focuses on a comprehensive review of the GAC Operating Principles to provide the GAC with recommendations for a Revised set of operating principles. For example, you know, as we said before having 5 GAC chairs, and so on and so forth. There's also a Board GAC interaction group much the BGIG. This is made up of both GAC participants and members of the ICANN Board. Next slide, please.

There are other GAC collaborative structures, you know although not specifically provided for, for in GAC Operating Principles the committee has from time to time developed over collaborative structures to deal with particular topics or issues of priority. Government interest, these other structures may be needed to address particular timing pressures, the need for specific expertise or the coordination among several GAC representatives representing the GAC in various processes, principles and

alternates, and handing the turnover amongst them especially in long processes. We will see that a little bit later on.

Often, it's -- these other structures are created to enable more timely and focused consideration of committee action or expression of views as needed by these processes, such as certain GNSO PDPs. Sorry, my -- my jet lag is killing me, but PDP stands for -- policy development processes. Yeah, I'm sorry about that. But there's a 12 hour difference.

So, the terminology for these structures is largely undefined and processes purposes family flexible. Scope and the pace of work much the number. The diversity. The expertise and interest of participants. In recent time the GAC created focal groups -- focus on particular topic areas like subsequent procedures for new gTLDs, and small groups dedicated to particular topic areas requiring faster strategic tactical decision making or targeted expertise like a small group on IGOs, you know and the small group on EPDP, WHOIS and GDPR. We will find out what those acronyms stand for a little bit later

The latter was formed early in the GNSO EPDP process in recognition of the complexity and intensities of the discussions as well as regularity of call for contributions up to twice weekly for 2 hours, you know PDP working group calls, and the need for

coordinating various national positions and translating them into possible consensus GAC positions, and contributions.

Next slide, please. So, the general principles for GAC participation you know, are -- you know one of them, the main one is to adopt a flexible approach and make changes as necessary. Have a clear consistent predictable and transparent process in taking and documenting decisions. Engaging issues with public policy implications, participating early stages with a view to assisting resolution of the issue. That's why the inter-sessional work is very important.

And approach each case on its merits. Next slide please. What are the hot topics at the moment? Well, we are going to have time during the week to discuss all these issues, but basically the GAC priorities at the moment are you know the new gTLD subsequent rounds and procedures. WHOIS and registration data services RDS. DNS abuse mitigation. Rights protection mechanisms and IDN. Internationalized Domain Names. We are going to have plenty time during the week for these topics

Next slide, please. As regarding the -- you know the ICANN75 agenda. The highlights are basically this capacity building -- the CBW. Another acronym. We just made up -- capacity building weekend. Saturday and Sunday. The new gTLD subsequent

rounds and procedures, WHOIS and registration data services, as I said before. RDS and DNS abuse mitigation.

Next slides, please. And with that I think I will give, I will give the floor back to Tracy because he's going to talk about the, the elections and some other details. Back to you Tracy.

TRACY HACKSHAW: I think staff wanted to say something. Is there remote question or†--

SUPPORT STAFF: There was a hand up in the Zoom room but not anymore.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. No problem. Right. So, I think what we can do now -- so prepare yourself. We can ask some questions, there's break coming up at 15:30 local time see we have 15 minutes. So, my suggestion is as follows. Those who are -- this is a hybrid meeting so we will colleagues remotely participating please use the Zoom room so you can see the questions.

Colleagues who are in the Zoom room can help answer the questions, please feel free to do so. You can raise your hand. I think staff will help identify anybody like Jorge as to answer

questions. Nigel as well in the Zoom room who can answer some questions. So, we can get that going so colleagues in the room.

As Nicholas said on the slide you can see some further information. As to how governments can get involved. There's some website information there. It's -- but you can see for yourself, and for those who wanted to know the acronym that's become an interesting topic. On the ICANN website you're looking for a page called -- I found it -- it's called ICANN acronyms and terms and it's very comprehensive. So, you can just Google ICANN acronyms and terms or whatever. And that page will come up and you can do your search for the various concepts and terms that were mentioned including all the EPDP, and all the stuff that might be confusing to many of you.

And while I wait for the questions to come in, I'm just going to thank Nicholas for running through that first. Thank you so much, Nicholas. Very, very -- I know that was bit of a challenge given the 12 hour difference.

NICHOLAS CABALLERO: The only real challenge is the jet lag, to tell the truth.

TRACY HACKSHAW: I appreciate that and thank you so much. For those who don't know. Nicholas. We mentioned the GAC elections. Nicholas is the only nominee for the GAC chair. Let's leave it there. So, Nicholas thank you so much. And we may see more of you on the future I am assuming and the head table.

KAREL DOUGLAS: I just wanted to say we could get an acronym for jet lag. Maybe JL.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. Excellent. So, I know there's hand already. I've seen one in front of me already. But let's see if there are any in the Zoom room first. Give our colleagues remote an opportunity to say anything. I'm just going to look to the staff. Is there anything happening in the Zoom room? Any questions? Any hands? All right so this is an alert to colleagues in the Zoom room who are not physically in Kuala Lumpur to begin asking your questions and my colleagues from Egypt, go ahead.

EGYPT: Actually, I see the term ICANN Bylaws in most of the slides. Actually, I am a technical guy. If you have an executive overview about the principles inside these ICANN Bylaws document, I think

it would be a good idea. What I am looking if you have this executive document published somewhere just let me know. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Yes, I believe the ICANN Bylaws are published on-line. And I'm he going to look forwards Rob or Julia or anybody else that would post in the Zoom room to guide you. Yeah, no, that's a very -- it comes up every time we talk about it and the Bylaws have been revised on occasions, so the GAC has its own operating principles ever the ICANN Bylaws that's available regularly on regularly updated on the ICANN website. So, links will be posted in the Zoom room as we speak. All right. Question time? And then we will want to get coffee. But let's see if there are any questions in the room and on remote.

Looking around -- otherwise in the people Nicholas you did a fantastic job, we have no questions. Any more questions? There we are.

BRAZIL:

Thank you very much. First of all, thank you very much Nick and the rest of the team for such an enlightening and insightful presentation. In my case specifically this is my first meeting, so this is extremely valuable. So, thank you so much.

Profiting from this opportunity of not being ashamed for the learning curve, I was wondering what the process would be for membership in working groups within the GAC, and also taking note that there are several very important working groups dealing with critical issues for the GAC and for the wider ICANN community, so my question would be, how the members that would be willing to contribute to that work would be included in the working groups, and whether it would be possible, also to join after the working groups have already been launched, and the terms of reference also adopted. Thank you so much.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

I know the answer to the second question. The short answer to the second question is yes. But to not get any of the other parts wrong I am a going to look to staff. Am I looking at Rob or Julia? Just to give me the clarity as to how to join a working group maybe the better approach than me doing it from memory. Rob is going to take the microphone.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Tracy. The short and simple answer is that any GAC delegate or participant can engage themselves in a working group by simply reaching out to GAC -- staff at ICANN.org. Indicating your interest in the group, and then Gulden will send you the appropriate paperwork, as everybody in this room knows

Gulten is great about sending the forms and following up if we don't get them back immediately.

The reason is that ICANN has certain privacy guidelines it's required to follow and when you join a working group you're added to a mailing list, and it's important that you understand that we keep your personal information confidential. Something that not every GAC participant is aware of is that you can e-mail any of your fellow GAC colleagues when you are logged into website, and you look on the list of GAC members who are the governments or the observing organizations, you will see a person's information card, and there is the little envelope, so you can always reach out to any of your colleagues. You agree to that when you fill out your consent form, but that's not known by everybody. Often people forget that, and that's a useful way to get in touch with people individually.

Obviously, once you're on a working group mailing list, you can send and have authorization to send e-mails to that mailing list. I answered much more than you asked Tracy, but as many of you will learn, that's generally my approach to things. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you very much Rob and Gulten, as Rob said, is very, very, very proficient at getting your request answers so feel free to

reach out, and within I think minutes or hours she will be responding to you. Colleague, yes, go ahead.

NEPAL:

This is to the question. It is my curiosity. In the beginning of slide we said that it is a multistakeholder body ... policy. I have one curiosity related to considering the policy development process, and PDP and EPDP. In the case of EPDP, I mean, expedite policy development process, how we justify that it is a consensus [inaudible]. First question.

Second question is once we develop the policy by the hour -- communities, I mean supporting organization... committee have authority to introduce the policy, or only advice? These two questions I have.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Can you just give us your country you represent?

NEPAL:

I am Laxmi Prasad. I am from Nepal.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Welcome, Nepal. So, I'm not going to be the one to answer those questions. I'm just fielding them. I am going to look to see in if experienced GAC colleagues.

NEPAL: Thank you, Tracy. The first one. The answer to the inquires one would be in the absence of any objection.

NICHOLAS CABALLERO: You know from our colleagues, from you know from any other GAC member that would be the answer to the first question. Now to the second question, Tracy, maybe you can help me out here?

TRACY HACKSHAW: I think Rob has his hand up. Rob is going to help us. Rob is right behind you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Laxmi, I'm directly behind you. But this I think is an excellent question for everybody. And I think -- please, Laxmi, correct me if I'm wrong, that your question envisioned the broader multistakeholder community in terms of policy making and decision making.

As Mary Wong explained in her first presentation, there are different roles and responsibilities for the different communities within ICANN. The supporting organizations are the groups that establish policy recommendations, the advisory committees are in a position to traditionally comment on those, advise the Board as to what it should do when it receives these types of recommendations. Over time that framework and model has evolved.

One of the traditional roles and ways of operating that the GAC had for a long time was to be reactive. The GAC would not come into play until after the whole policy development process was effect waited and at the end there would be a policy recommendation. It would go to the Board and the GAC would then have an opportunity to comment, opine, provide advice as to whether governments agreed with or disagreed with all of, or elements of those policy recommendations.

What people realized in the community over time was that that wasn't the most effective way to manage things because if the GAC didn't come in until the last moment and object, then all of that prior work would be wasted, so part of the conversation and evolution took place was to bring the GAC in earlier in the process to engage with the supporting organizations to comment, to provide input so that the ultimate decisions reached by the

supporting organizations had much more consensus conversations, if you will, and I'm not using that as a term of art or a legal term but just as a method of working.

And so, I'm not sure if this completely answers your question but what now happens is GAC participants play a role in all of those community deliberation that is are sponsored by supporting organizations. Most often by the GNSO. And so, then, when their policy recommendation is done, they are hopeful that they have resolved all the problems or questions that governments had prior to reaching their final recommendations. That doesn't always work as many people in this room and on-line and those who aren't in here yet realize, and so, the GAC always has that final opportunity to come back and say, we don't agree, Board we advise you to do X. We advise you to do Y. And so that is the dynamic at work.

I think I touched on elements of your question, but I hope that was helpful.

NEPAL:

Can I see the slide where the algorithm of the GAC working duties is?

TRACY HACKSHAW: Can you repeat that.

NEPAL: Just there's some symbol we have to -- I think I am -- I think it is my -- slide where like flow chart, where the flow chart is. This one, this one, this one.

TRACY HACKSHAW: The algorithm.

NEPAL: Originally not called it algorithm. We called it flow chart. If you... the tasks with the help of some type of diagrams we called it flow chart instead of algorithm, and if you see generally the condition is represented by the diamond. And there is the one condition, if you see -- what do we call it? Can we -- just okay, okay, okay no, no, no, no, no.

I want to see the -- yeah, a little, down part. I am in the down part of this slide. Yes, yes, there is the one hexagon. Once we represented this, we generally talking about the cycling process and there we are representing the condition, a compromise or alternative solution is found, and in the state of this diagram it is my suggestion, maybe someone does not agree with

me -- instead of representing such type of condition with the help of hexagon it will be better to represent diamond so that universally people understand it. This is my suggestion.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much for that suggestion. And I think that the authors of the flow -- the diagram would be listening, and they will take that into consideration. I believe in -- there's always up for discussion, and for deliberation. Thank you very much Nepal.

KAREL DOUGLAS: And Rob was going to say something.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: No, I think Tracy saw a 15 minute explanation coming up and decided that is not wise at the point.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Someone is going to ask whether these presentations could be available after so you would look more in depth at your own time and leisure to understand, because I'm sure hearing it for the first time is not going to be easy to absorb. But yes, if you have the benefit of those slides hopefully that will allow you to understand and grasp some of the issues.

NICHOLAS CABALLERO: Yes, Karel, thank you. My recommendation for the new GAC members for, you know, for the ones who are here for the first time or maybe second or third time but don't understand very well the whole -- don't get to see the whole picture yet. This would be a very good, very good starting point indeed. You know, understanding this flow chart, and thank you Nepal for the clarification, you know, again my jet lag is about to kill me, so I said algorithm instead of flow chart. Thank you for that.

If you understand the flow chart it will make your -- not only your understanding of the overall GAC you know, the GAC working methods, but you know, help you understand all the e-mails you're going to have about many different issues, so this is going to work like a framework for you to help you understand -- I'm not saying you don't understand right? But I'm just saying that it will be easier for you to keep track of many different things once you get to understand this flow chart. This process.

Thank you, Karel. Back to you.

KAREL DOUGLAS: I just want to understand what is said there. The learning process is a curve and Tracy will probably add. There's wealth of material on the ICANN website. So, you can go to the ICANN website, and

you will find there's different sessions or videos on all the topics so the very same things we spoke about today and we think about tomorrow, you will see that they are a video that will instruct you how to get involved, what the issues are. What is the SOs do, what the ACs do and so forth and so forth, and so forth.

So again, you know, this is just the beginning. There's a lot more material. I think, Tracy, you could probably indicate that the working underserved working.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

That's right, the Underserved Regions Working Group has developed onboarding materials available on the GAC website. There's also a very good source of information, GAC.ICANN.org. If you don't have your membership ID you log into that, Gulden, again, GAC staff at ICANN.org will help you log into the site. And you can -- it will open up a whole new world to you if you don't already have the log in. The archives of all of the GAC meetings. All the presentations that were made. Including links to other things on the ICANN website are there. All available to you on GAC.ICANN.org, and in addition to that there's also ICANN learning which is an evolving platform that's still exists. That has -- you sign up for that you can get additional information on training that ICANN offers to you. It's already there, on the -- what

ICANN does. Processes, on the PDP process. Even there's a GAC course I believe still exists on that platform.

Right, and I do believe we are at the point of coffee unless there are any burning questions. I'm going to just look around. See if there are any burning questions. Anything in the chat, in the Zoom room? Doesn't seem so, so I think it's about that time to take a break. Thank you very much. Like to thank Nicholas for the fantastic work in getting us through the last session. Thank you so much. And we will be back in the room at top of the hour. Local time will be I think 15:00 local time for those who are on-line. It's the 00 hour in most parts of the world, so half an hour break. Thank you. 25 minutes. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]