
ICANN71 | Virtual Policy Forum - GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, June 14, 2021 - 9:00 to 10:00 CEST

GULTEN TEPE:

This session will begin. Technical support team, could you start the recording. Welcome to the ICANN71 GAC opening plenary session on Monday 14th of June at 700UTC. Recognizing that these are public sessions and other members of the ICANN community may be in attendance GAC leadership and support staff encourage all of you who are GAC representatives to type your name and affiliation in the participation chat pod to keep accurate attendance records. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please type it in the chat. The feature is located on the bottom of your Zoom window. By starting and ending your sentence with a question or comment, as indicated in the chat.

Interpretation for GAC sessions include all 6 U.N. language and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon located on the Zoom tool bar. If you wish to speak raise your hand. Once the facilitator calls upon you unmute yourself and take the floor. Remember to state your name, and the language you will speak in case you will misspeaking a language other than English.

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

Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking. Finally this session like all ICANN activities is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

In the case of disruption during the session our technical support team will mute all participants. This session is being recorded and all materials will be available on the ICANN71 meetings page. With that I would like to leave the floor to GAC Chair, Manal Ismail. Over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Gulden, and good morning, good afternoon and good evening everyone. Welcome to the opening plenary of the GAC meetings. Held on the margins of ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum. I hope you and your families continue to be well, safe and in good health. It's been more than a year now since we last met in person, this is our second Virtual Policy Forum, and I sincerely thank you all for your continued participation despite the challenging circumstances.

And also the challenging time zone to some of us. We will start by covering meeting logistics, and a review of technical capabilities to help you participate to the meeting and feel comfortable in the Zoom room. Then we will go through the schedule highlighting

important sessions to the GAC and reviewing notable developments since ICANN70. Touching on the current status of GNSO, PDP's and updating on topics on operational priorities. And summarizing the work that has taken place inter-sessionally. Also briefing you on and off boarding and engagement efforts and at the end reviewing the communique drafting process which we started piloting at ICANN70.

I will be handing over to GAC topic leads and support staff for some slides to break the monotony of having one person speaking throughout the session, and I hope the slides will serve as a quick reference for everyone alongside the thorough briefs you already received. With this allow me to hand over to Gulden for meeting logistics and technical capabilities. Over to you Gulden, please.

GULTEN TEPE:

Thank you, Manal. This might be repetitive for our experienced GAC members but the purpose of this part of the session is bringing up to speed some of our newcomers. And maybe provide an overview to other committee members. It might be a good refresher for some. So I will go over some meeting logistics and remote connection details.

Starting with calendar invites, they have been shared by me for each GAC session, and I would be updating those invitations and Zoom room links, those links are being provided by our ENIT team only 24 hours before the sessions. The reason of this approach is preventing any Zoom bombing incident mainly this is just an extra security measure. Moving forward to GAC website and displaying the agenda page very quickly, first note would be always remember to be logged in. Otherwise, you will not be able to see the documents since some of them are not public.

They will be turned into public mode after these sessions take place. As you can see it says welcome, Gulden, and this part of the page. That means I am logged in. And able to see the session briefings and presentations. Let's move onto ICANN71 agenda page. For that you need to go to the banner on top here, and select meetings and records tab. And from this part you can also go back to the previous ICANN meetings, and review the materials on these meetings as well.

Here on the introduction part you may find the resource briefing documents. Here it's log in required, as I mentioned. Overall ICANN71 schedule and the PDF version of GAC agenda. As well as ICANN meetings participation guide. This document has been prepared by our meetings team, and we also publish the briefings, as our usual practice we posted them as a zip file, single

PDF and additionally they have been shared under each respective session. Rob sent you a notice when we posted these documents.

Let's review the first session. You can find the agenda details under each session on this participation details part. As you may see we publish the English version as well as the translations of the briefings. And you might review these briefings to get an idea of the topics and details of what will be discussed during these sessions.

Moving back to the slides. With respect to the Zoom room you are all familiar by now so just a brief refresher. Hand raise icon located under reactions tab. If you cannot find it, please let us know. We would be happy to help. Another reminder, please add your affiliation. The country or organization you are representing nearby your name. You can do that by hovering over your name, more options will appear, and you can click rename. And it will allow you to update your name and enter GAC into parenthesis. If you can't figure out how to do that you can also ask that from me through the chat. I would be happy to do that on your behalf.

Moving forward, the next item on this slide. Important note we would be using webinar version of the Zoom tomorrow on GAC discussions on RDS and data protection and GAC communique

review sessions. This is black. Also on Wednesday GAC discussion on IGO protection matters and GAC discussion on subsequent rounds of new gTLDs this is the second SubPro session. This would be an experiment to better explore the chat feature because we received several complaints from GAC members not being able to use the chat pod effectively during the previous meetings and GAC members will and signed as panelists in advance of those sessions. If you are a GAC member and not assigned as a panelist then please let us know on the chat, and our tech support will be updating your status.

And please let us know your feedback after these sessions. I will add them into the chat again. And regarding interpretation, you can help our interpreters by following simple guidelines. Before you speak, please make sure your microphone is switched on. Inform the audience that you will be speaking in a non-English language. This will provide a heads up for our interpreters. And state your name every time you take the floor. Please don't speak too close to the microphone. And mute all other additional devices. Your phone, iPad, and so on, notification settings and turn them off, please.

If you intend to read a statement, please provide it to us in advance. And speak at a reasonable pace. I should also remember this one. If you intend to speak in a language other

than English, please notify the audience, and there's a brief switch over time when switching between interpretation from non-English language and back to English. Moderators should make sure there's a short pause after a non-English statement and before the next speaker.

Without this pause the first part of the remarks will be cut off. When answering someone in a different language, and moving forward to remote simultaneous interpretation, there's an icon on Zoom tool bar that says interpretation and this feature was implemented before ICANN70, and we received so many good feedback, I hope it will be helpful during this meeting as well.

You may click on that icon in order to select the language of your choice from the menu. We have 6 language -- 6 U.N. language as well as Portuguese. And then the option to mute all original audio, prior to speaking you need to select your choice, for instance, I will be speaking in English so I selected it, and then parts participants will here not only me speaking. If you selected French or Spanish, you will be listening to the French or Spanish interpreter. So you will be hearing my voice slightly in the background. And you can mute me by selecting mute original audio. And then only listen to the interpretation if you wish.

And one key point, if any presenter or speaker forgets to select a language, everyone should unmute original audio in order to hear them. And individual may want to listen the session through French audio but then when they make an intervention or ask a question, if they want to speak in English, they need to select the French in order to listen but every time they take the floor to speak, they need to click the English option before speaking English.

Another crucial point make sure that you have updated your version of Zoom, and all of the features are available to you. If you are experiencing an issue that might be related to a non-updated version of the Zoom application, please remember to update your Zoom before the sessions otherwise it will disrupt your connection to the sessions. And also, I would like to highlight that some features aren't available to those using Zoom within the browser. If you are unable to download Zoom and have dialed into a session via phone visit the relevant session information on the schedule to find an alternate listen only option.

Some of our participants aren't able to download the Zoom application so we will be providing the listen only MP3 streams and... is also available for your use. If you missed a session, I would recommend you to check the ICANN meetings page. You might find a recordings and translations posted there.

And I will be sharing a link to this page in the chat for your convenience. Our tech team will be posting the links when available. Regarding GAC informal sessions we have been organizing daily update sessions for our community members who are at a disadvantaged time zone. Manal goes over these sessions that are being held each day. And provide a brief update of what's being discussed, and the outcomes of these meetings. And my favorite, GAC networking opportunities session, it will be held today, this will be the last session before our GAC informal session.

This is -- yeah, no, I'm sorry, I'm confused. This will be before our daily update session. And we activate, we will activate our cameras to introduce ourselves and share some ideas about the virtual meetings. This session was a great opportunity to socialize during ICANN70 and I think it will be even great they are time so please spare sometime to interact with our GAC colleagues in a less formal environment. And that concludes my part of presentation Manal. Back to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden. I'm sure this is particularly helpful to our new GAC colleagues. So if we can go to the slide on the schedule, please. Our GAC meetings will take place from Monday 14th to Thursday 17th from 900 to 17:30 the Hague time which is

700 to 1530UTC. And I do apologize in advance to those who may be challenged by those working hours.

As you can see, we have different types of sessions, identified in different color codes. The GAC police are asking for the public's help resist continue to focus on priorities topics including future rounds of new gTLDs. The RTS WHOIS registration and data DNS abuse and IGO protections and we will be covering those in who more details with the help of topic leads. We have 3 bilateral meetings with the Board GNSO so and ALAC and there are 3 community panels. The GAC has participated in organizing and will be participating with speakers at 2 of the 3 panels. Namely the one titled impact of regulatory developments and ICANN policy topics and the sec one on ICANN's monthly stakeholder model within the Internet governance ecosystem so you are all encouraged to attend both and to participate actively by sharing your experiences.

There will be an announcement of this year's participants of the recipients -- I'm sorry, of the community excellence award. And we have dedicated some time on the schedule to discuss future GAC meetings. A discussion that will pave the way to hopefully your active participation to ICANN org's discussion with the community on future of ICANN public meetings, at the last session on Thursday. Following the feedback received on the GAC

social we will be having one later today and already Gulden covered this as well as the daily updates, which already Gulden covered as well.

Just noting the daily updates are outside the official working hours of the meeting so they will not be considered part of the official records. They will not be recorded and will not benefit from language services or technical support. But of course will be supported by our GAC support team. We continue to allow for 30-minute breaks to allow everyone to break stretch and come back fresh and focused for the following session and last but not least the wrap-up session which is an opportunity to follow up or provide feedback on issues that we discussed during course of the week but also an opportunity for GAC members to take stock and reflect on planning of future meetings and share any ideas. If we go to the next slide, please, it provides a quick snapshot of GNSO, PDP divided into 3 categories those wrapping up but still deserving careful attention including the new gTLDs subsequent procedures and review of all rights protection mechanisms, and those on going PDPs first the EPDP and gTLD registration data Phase 2A and curative guides work track. And all of those PDPs we will be touching upon and covered in following slides by topic leads.

Also under on going PDPs is the transfer policy one, which is expected to provide a straightforward procedure for domain name registrants to transfer the domain names from one registrar to the other. And by -- we were asked to nominate GAC representatives to the PDP, but no volunteers expressed interest so on upcoming or PDPs that are to begin we have the EPDP on internationalized domain names, and this will tackle IDN... and process to update the IDN implementation guidelines with contracted parties, which contracted parties are required to comply with.

It's worth noting here that the GAC is asked to nominate representatives. I believe we are allowed 3 representatives, and the GNSO may bring this up during our bilateral on Wednesday under any other business. In order to encourage GAC participation we will be organizing a webinar on the week of the 21st of June to ensure GAC members on observers are well informed up to speed on comfortable to volunteer if they so wish.

Moving to the ccNSO we have two PDP. We have ccPDP three working on developing a review mechanism for decisions pertaining to the delegation transfer revocation and retirement of ccTLDs. In February 2021 the ccNSO working group concluded its work and unanimously supporting new policy recommendations, pertaining to the retirement of ccTLDs and the ccNSO decided to

separate this PDP into 2 parts. One recommending policy for the retirement of ccTLDs and the final report for issued on the 8th of June. And the second on the developing a review mechanism for the decisions pertaining to delegation transfer revocation and retirement of ccTLDs.

And this group is now taking a deep dive into the requirements and related topics. The second policy development process PDP 4 is reviewing an updating the criteria procedures and documentation of the process for the selection of IDN, ccTLD strings. They shared their progress on the 15th of April with the community and the results of this process will replace the IDN, ccTLD fast track process. They have done considerable progress and they intend to seek feedback and input from the broader community during ICANN71 session.

If we now move to the GAC priority topics and as mentioned earlier, we have 4 priority topics subsequent rounds of new gTLDs. RDS and WHOIS data protection. DNS abuse mitigation and IGO rights protection mechanisms. And if we move to the following slide and you allow me to hand over to Jorge Cancio one of the topic leads to cover this. Over to you Jorge, please.

JORGE CANCIO:

Sure. Thank you, Manal. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, goodnight for some of you in the Americas. This is Jorge Cancio for the record. Swiss GAC representative and I also happen to be together with Luisa Paez from Canada, one of the two topic leads for subsequent rounds. Much which is basically the policies and the rules for the next round of new gTLDs, this process is coming to an end, although there are still some very important steps to come.

We at the GAC participated in... and GNSO subsequent procedures PDP process, and after a call by the Board to our public comment period we submitted a collective comment on the final outputs of this PDP working group for ICANN Board consideration. We filed this just 2 weeks ago on June 1st and there we shared with the Board some overarching comments which we will be discussing during the Board GAC bilateral this week. And also a series of more detailed comments on a number of topics of interest to the GAC, which we have been analyzing for the past meetings, and you have the list on the slides, on the slide before you.

For this meeting for ICANN71 it will be therefore important to get up to speed to know where we are, what are the following steps, we will have a presentation from ICANN org on the so-called operational design phase. It was explained what they will be

doing, how the community will be engaged, we will also have a short presentation from Goran Marby who will introduce thoughts on how he sees the value of the new round and, of course, we will discuss the next steps next intervention points amongst us, amongst the GAC membership to see what is now the next step for us, how can we monitor the operational design phase, and whether we want to perhaps take some of the points from the GAC collective comment and transform them into a GAC consensus advice to the Board. So these are things for the 2 sessions we have on our plate this week. Tomorrow at 8:30 UTC, and on Wednesday at 9:15 UTC, both sessions are quite short, only 45 minutes each, so come prepared and I'm very much looking forward to the discussion. Thank you. And back to you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge, and Luisa, and please have a look at the chat with everybody thanking you. Now over to Christopher Lewis-Evans for the RDS and data protection slides. Over to you, Chris.

CHRIS LEWIS-EVANS: Thank you, everyone. Christopher Lewis-Evans so care of the PSWG and U.K. representative. So I think I've he got a couple of slides one after the other and the first one is on the RDS WHOIS

and data protection principles. It's an item that the GAC have been following closely for a number of years now. And a lot of GAC members have participated in a number of rounds of policy processes around this. The WHOIS is really important for the GAC because it serves a number of purposes. Both to sort of law enforcement people but also to the consumers that use the Internet and also businesses around protecting those consumers and enabling comments on the Internet.

But on the flip side of that there's also the sort of data protection aspect and really getting that balance has been really difficult within the community, and I think that's sort of been demonstrated by the time that has been spent on this, and obviously that continues. So onto sort of recent developments. We have an update session tomorrow, and we will be covering most of these in detail, but just from a very high level, we still have a phase one implementation which is active at the moment and a Phase 2A, which has been concentrated on two questions around ... versus legal and the publication of an e-mail address.

That one is just released a public comment and there's been a lot of work to try and get that out. This was a very tight time scale. So it's quiet, quite heavy on the workload on that one. Also coming up is the operational design phase I think was kicked off by the Board in the end of March, beginning much April. And they

requested that take a 6 month period so that is coming to a conclusion fairly soon. So probably about halfway through sorry. Working out the months. Can't quite -- can't quite count this early in the morning or speak, by all accounts. And this then there's GNSO scoping team looking at the issues around data accuracy which the GAC very much felt wasn't covered for the -- in either the phase one or Phase 2 work so this has been a very important for us.

So really what we are looking to do over ICANN71 and I think the GAC is in a very key position for a lot of this work is trying to get that balance right between data protection and allowing access for the protection of users and consumers of the Internet, and I think looking at how some of the recommendations for all the different phases within this work is really key for the GAC, and as I said, the Phase 2A is just out for public comment so there will be certainly some talk about that in the session upcoming on Tuesday. So I think that's 10:30 on Tuesday. And I hope to see many of you there, and with that Manal I don't know if back you to or straight onto the DNS abuse slide?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Please proceed.

Thank you, Chris.

CHRIS LEWIS-EVANS: Thank you. So another issue that has been going for some time, and I think it was summed up nicely in ICANN70 actually is this is something I think will be a continual discussion. Is that of DNS abuse mitigation. I think I think everyone has seen the threat within sort of cybercrime, just escalate recently. And it is a crosscutting threat really not only to consumers and users, but also to the sort of stability and resilience of the infrastructure itself.

So I think this will be a conversation that the community will be having for some time. And I don't necessarily think the abuse will ever go away but there's a lot of measures we can put in place. And some of those measures that have recently come out is the publication of SSAC DNS abuse work parties report assist SAC115. There's also been a lot of discussion within the contracted parties house around the measures that they're taking, and the recent set up of the DNS abuse institute, we've also had had a lot of input into a number of use of the CCT ... and SSR2 and some of those have got some really important recommendations that I think the GAC have flagged in a number of different communiques I think it will be important, in tackling the DNS abuse. So the objectives within this session will be highlighting the SSAC 115 and the regions or discussion points within there and looking at how that is going to be used to tackle DNS abuse.

And also considering the GNSOs deliberations around that. And I think within our meeting with the ALAC that will probably also be raised, I know the ALAC are taking DNS abuse very seriously as well just because of the effect on its users so the session is later today. Much at 12:30 UTC, with that Manal. Back over to you. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Chris, and thanks to Laureen and Vernita as well and everything else contributes to this. If we go to the following slide and it's on IGO protections and Brian, please, if you may.

BRIAN BECKHAM: Okay, how is this? Okay, great. First Manal thanks. I'm Brian Beckham from the World Intellectual Property Organization, one of the topic leads or IGO and rights protection mechanisms. Wanted to just highlight quickly for you here of course we know the IGOs such as you know the U.N. and its -- I'm sorry for the echo. Let me see if I can address that. Is that any better? Let's see. How is this? All right. Second try.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, I think this is better.

BRIAN BECKHAM:

Okay, good. Apologies. So just briefly wanted to mention of course we are all familiar with IGOs and the good work they do around the world and so for example in the GAC principles and new gTLDs going back some years the importance of reflecting the identifiers of IGOs which sit a little bit sought side of normal trademark law protections was identified as a topic of interest. And so fast forward to today, we've been -- there's been several working groups including one on going being led by Chris Disspain to look at mechanism for IGO to be able to protect their identifier, their name or acronym in the event a third party registers the name and tries to defraud the public in the name of the IGO. So that's one side of the work that we will talk in a little bit more detail during the course of the week.

And then one slightly more procedural side was there was an agreement with ICANN org to protect the full names of IGOs in 2 languages. A lot of good work was done over recent years with ICANN and IGO to compile that list. And so the task going forward it on create a clearing house if you will to for the GA being to manage that list going forward so that could be for the event that a new IGO was created by governments that is would need to get onto that list or an IGO that was currently not on the list. We with ICANN undertook best efforts to reach out to all IGOs but there were a few we were unable to contact so for the event that an IGO

were to learn about this and come and say, how do we get on the list we missed the advertisement a couple of years back basically the task is on an administrative side for the GAC to come up with a way to manage that list presently and going forward.

So that's all for me. Thank you, Manal. Thank you, colleagues.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Brian. If we move to the following slide, and I'll try to be a bit quick mindful of the time. We have GAC operational priorities including the ICANN operational design phase. GAC advice, and recent discussions within the Board. GAC interaction group. And ICANN public meeting planning and the GAC action decision radar.

On operational design phase if we go to the following slide, please it's a new concept introduced to the community and objective of it is to allow Board members to obtain relevant information on operational and resources issues associated with certain policy implementation efforts. And this is before considering the GNSO approved policy recommendations. This is envisioned only for context closely or large scale implementation efforts. And the Board announced that an OTP will be applied to 2 upcoming proceedings, first on the SSAD from the standardized access disclosure to nonpublic registration data. The SSAD from EPDP

Phase 2 and the second is new gTLDs subsequent procedures. It is also expected that an evaluation process will take place after 2ODPs are completed and we will be observing this closely, and providing feedback whenever needed.

If we can move to the BGIG the Board... group includes a subset of Board members and interested GAC members, and it proved to be an if effective venue for the discussions to ensure effective Board GAC collaboration. We recently had a discussion, a call on June 2021 and discussed ICANN70. GAC communique issues of importance, but also the need for process clarity with respect to the Board GAC consultations, and how that process can be in detail, so we are expecting some sort of a flow chart in that respect. And, of course, the BGIG membership is open to any interested GAC representatives.

If we move to the public meeting planning and the community leadership, it meets regularly, and most recently things in May June focused on the meeting planning but also other strategic topics like implementation of work stream 2 accountability recommendations, and the community prioritization and planning, again in addition to the return to in-person public meetings.

Moving to the GAC action decision radar, and with the GAC workload continuing to grow, it was observed that the GAC leadership needed a means to effectively track all requests being made, and plan for the GAC work. The so the radar has been developed to track existing and anticipated actions requiring GAC attention and decision. And the first two documents were published for the GAC on the 3rd of May and the 3rd of June, and both are available on-line with the capability to be regularly produced offline as PDPs -- as I'm sorry -- as PDFs.

The -- this new tool is intended to better inform GAC members and observers, newcomers and veterans equally, and to help collective GAC ... topics of individual GAC members interest, and possibly flagging policy topics for activities that are not already on the GAC's radar. So we would very much welcome and appreciate your feedback on this. I see Denmark in the chat already saying it's very helpful. Thank you very much, Finn, and please provide us with your feedback on how we can ensure that the tool is serving your needs.

Moving to the inter-sessional work, and with many thanks to your active participation inter-sessionally, the GAC has submitted input to a number of ICANN public comment opportunities and cross-community efforts, so to start with we have the GAC comments regarding the final report of the second security

stability and resiliency review team. The SSR2 and also GAC correspondence in relation to review of all rights, protection mechanisms, and GAC response to ICANN Board regarding EPDP Phase 2 policy recommendations 19 to 22. And finally new gTLDs subsequent procedures policy development process outputs. GAC comments and correspondence are all posted and tracked on a special web page of the GAC website. So please feel free to check the link. It's in your briefs.

And other cross-community work carried out by support staff, GAC leadership, and topic leads include follow up on ICANN70 action items, so we normally identify action items and work on them inter-sessionally, and again they are posted on the GAC website. We have pre meeting preparatory webinars conducted on various topics. We have one on ccPDP 3 and 4 we mentioned earlier. There are regional read-out sessions and outreach events, and first timer sessions as well. But those will be covered in more details on a following slide on GAC onboarding and engagement so ending with the calls with the different leaderships, so we normally have GNSO council leadership call with the GAC leadership, and ALAC leadership call as well.

We have a couple of Board GAC interaction group calls, and we have monthly goes AC chairs calls as well as a monthly call with the government engagement team. We also had two roundtable

discussions between ICANN CO and the SO-AC chairs and just to note that the first one focused on work stream 2 implementation, and also, we had discussions on returning to in-person meetings talking about the critical mass that would allow us to return in person, but also this is a discussion we will take in a following session.

Just to note that we were flagged, and Internet governance, and legal proposal so there was the proposal for SO-AC chairs to had help finding a mechanism and provide feedback on this engagement mechanism between ICANN org, and the -- and the government regarding regulatory and governance developments.

So, last thing on CO one-on-one call with the GAC where the CO also mentioned that organize is looking into offering the GAC additional levels of support, and expressed willingness to invest more in resources to support the GAC, also reiterating a standing offer to provide the GAC with additional legal and research support. And with this, allow me to hand over to Jorge for the onboarding and engagement slide. Over to you, Jorge, please.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you, Manal, and hello everyone again. Just very briefly in the interests of time, you are all aware that we have many, many

new faces in the GAC since ICANN66, and actually between almost each and every meeting there's a huge turn over. Since the last time we saw each other face-to-face we have about 80 new GAC delegates. And the GAC community so to say, the delegates the advisors. The members of the working groups of the GAC, has grown to almost 500 participants. So we are aware that this is a huge challenge in terms of getting everyone up to speed, and in improving the onboarding procedures, so we are putting -- on the leadership teams so to speak, and, of course, staff are putting more emphasis on engagement resources and working to improve onboarding with new members, and also improving the inflow to share with government colleagues. So we see in the next slide some of the onboarding and engagement many efforts.

I won't read the each and every one because we are short of time, but we are having more pre meeting webinars, welcome webinars for new members, and we are amongst other things looking into the content, which is available to incoming members, amongst other places in ICANN, learn so to improve how our colleagues can get introduced, and familiarized with all the different work we are doing.

So, if you have any especially a newcomers but also veteran colleagues if you have ideas and suggestions to how to improve the onboarding and engagement, please don't be shy, an income

and get in touch with the leadership or with GAC support staff because this is after all shared effort for all of us to get our community working as efficiently as possible. Thank you, and back to you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge, and thanks, Gulten, for sharing the link to the slides we are speaking from so anyone can have access to the slides. If we go to the following slide, and you allow me to hand over to Fabian for the communique drafting process, Fabian, please over to you.

GULTEN TEPE: Fabian, we cannot hear you. Maybe he might be on mute.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Meanwhile, for the sake of time I'll begin, and if Fabien is available just let me know. Since ICANN679 GAC has not developed a GAC communique advice until last meeting, ICANN70. And this is because some GAC members have expressed concern that the virtual environment may impede the participation for some GAC members and observers. And some GAC members believe the GAC still needs to consider and provide advice. The new process for GAC consensus advice which was piloted and adapted at ICANN70 during previous virtual ICANN

meetings. The communique becomes formally adopted at the end of the newly agreed 72-hour review period provided no objections are raised; in which case the affected text would be deleted. Some GAC members expressed concerns with this current objection as it could potentially lead to loss of carefully considered views.

But now we have agreed the 72-hour review period, and we have piloted this at ICANN70 which seemed to work fine. So if we go to the following slide and have a look at the diagram which illustrates the process as discussed and agreed for ICANN70. So 2 weeks in advance of the meeting we start an optional issue identification phase for members and observers to declare interest in GAC advice. And highlight topics of interest. Then one week prior to the meeting, another optional communique preparation phase starts for members, and observers to share text of key messages. Both phases, as I mentioned are optional and do not record such efforts during the meeting. They only intend to facilitate discussions during communique drafting sessions.

The target is to finalize the communique during the meeting week and allow 72 hours review period. But it's important to note that the objective of this review period is not to reopen already negotiated and agreed text but to flag things that may have been

overlooked. The GAC communique becomes formally adopted at the end of the 72-hour review period. Again provided that no objections are raised, so by the Monday, GAC membership should expect to receive the formally adopted communique, or in -- the unlikely case of receiving objections. The Monday message will be used to schedule a session within the same week around the Wednesday to resolve the issue and formally adopt the communique to be published at the end of the week. So the post-meeting session will only be held in exceptional cases, only when there is a formal objection. So we continue to follow the same process and, of course, are open to any enhancements needed.

On the last slide, please, if we go to the following slide. We have four sessions scheduled for the communique drafting with two review points, today and tomorrow, and early sharing of draft communique language of course is encouraged. In the ICANN71 communique Google doc, and please when inserting text in the Google doc make sure you are in the suggesting mode, propose your text in the appropriate place. Make sure you as the author are identified properly, whether individually or a group of drafters, and finally don't forget to hit reply otherwise your... will not be identified.

I'll stop here, and see if there was anything else in the remaining minute or so? And please provide your feedback on our efforts to make opening plenary as informative and entertaining as possible. Kavouss, please. Kavouss, I think you are on mute. We can hear you.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Yes. Good morning. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to all of you. First of all, in the outset, allow me to thank you, Manal, and the leadership, and the support for the valuable information that have been provide I had to the GAC members which are very, very helpful, and also in particular efforts of the supporting team, and again in second in particular Gulden which provide many, many information, is always 24 hours contact with everybody, and so on and so forth at any time available and listening to everyone and immediately I don't know how many hours she has in 24 hours. In any case, thank you very much. Thanks to Jorge. Thanks to Brian, and thanks to Chris, and Laureen and others provided all these good information.

I have two small comments. Before that I would express my sincere apology that I may not be with you all the time because we have the RTU council meeting now, and every day from 12 noon Geneva time to 1500 hours and I am an active member of the ITO council and then I should attend. But I will be already in

the morning session and I try to find the way to come back again. I have one -- two questions or comments.

First my comments for the engagement. Maybe to Jorge, to kindly advise that whether we have a sort of the feedback with this engagement of the GAC members from increasing the awareness, the availability of -- whether they have any feedback whether they need more things, whether they are ideas that they need to be emphasized, to be focused on, because we should associate importance to the newcomers because we need successions, many success sessions ever the people bringing new elements and new blood into the GAC and promote the things. This is one point.

And the other small point that I have, this is pilot project that you have for the objection and so on and so forth, you have carefully mentioned that, yes, it is not to open the discussion, but is still -- I think that we should find a better with I to minimize that as you mentioned, on the rare cases. The last comment that I have it is our communique. If I look into the last five years, all of our advice around four or five subjects, so we need to wrap up to see that whether there are new elements that we have to add to our previous advice. I have mentioned that before. To repeat it again, it would be sometimes maybe inappropriate to review an advice adding that which may affect the previous language, which has

been carefully selected, and agreed by consensus. Which may not be perfect but agreed by consensus unless we have a better way to improve that. So these are some small reactions that I suggest. Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss, and good to see you. Thank you for switching on your camera on. We took note of your comments, and we will be discussing them particularly those concerning the communique maybe during the wrap-up session but for now, we took note of the comments and thank you for very much for always providing valuable feedback. With this, and since we are already four minutes after the hour.

This concludes the GAC opening plenary, it's now time for a 30-minute break, and after the break we will have our first session to prepare for our meeting with the Board. Will take place tomorrow so please be back in the GAC Zoom room at 10:30 the Hague time, 8:30 UTC.

The meeting is adjourned. Thanks.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]