ICANN72 | Virtual Annual General Meeting - GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, October 25, 2021 - 12:30 to 14:00 PDT

GULTEN TEPE: This session will begin. Technical support team, would you please start the recording.

[Recording in progress]

GULTEN TEPE: Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Welcome to the ICANN72 GAC opening plenary session on 25th of October at 1930UTC. Recognizing that these are public sessions and other members of the ICANN community may be in attendance the GAC leadership and support staff encourage all of you who are GAC representatives to type your name and affiliation in the participation chat box 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 at 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 collect 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 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 speak -- 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're speaking. Finally this session, like all other ICANN activities is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behaviour. In case of distraction during the session our technical support team will mute all participants.

With that I would like to leave the floor to GAC Chair, Manal Ismail. Manal over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulten, and good morning good afternoon, and good evening everyone. Welcome to the opening plenary of the GAC meeting held on the margins of ICANN72. I hope you all continue to be well, safe and in good health. We've been meeting on-line for almost 2 years now. This is the second virtual and union general meeting and I sincerely thank you all for your continued participation and active engagement despite the challenging circumstances and challenging time zones to some.

And I really hope we are able to facilitate a smooth experience for everyone. The ICANN72 meeting was launched earlier today, and you can find the recorded message from ICANN president and CEO and ICANN Board chair welcoming everyone to ICANN72. There was also an announcement that the 2021 Dr. Campbell award for capacity building award was received Satash(sic) for his outstanding efforts meeting the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and capacity building on a local and regional scale. During the coming 90 minutes we will go over the block schedule. Review notable developments since ICANN71 including GAC priority topics. Inter-sessional GAC interaction with the community, GAC vice chair's election and other onboarding and engagement activities.

I will then -- then we will review the communique drafting process and go over the meeting logistics and review the available technical capabilities before we start preparing for 3 bilateral meetings. First with the GNSO will take place later today, and second with the ALAC taking place tomorrow, Tuesday, and finally -- I'm sorry, the one with the Board taking place on Wednesday.

So I hope we would be able to dedicate enough time during the session for our bilateral preparations. So without any further ado let's go to the next slide please.

And our GAC meetings will take place from Monday 25th, until Thursday 28th of October, and starting tomorrow our working hours will be from 900 until 1730 Seattle time, 1600 until half past midnight UTC. The GAC plenaries continue to focus on priority topics to the GAC including future rounds of new gTLDs on DNS registration data. DNS abuse, and IGO protections. We have 4 bilateral meetings with the Board. The GNSO, the ALAC, and the universe acceptance steering group. There is one community panel, which has been proposed by the GAC on designing hybrid ICANN meetings, so you are all encouraged to attend and participate to this community meeting.

There is also an executive Q and A session. The usual public forum. The ICANN Board annual general meeting, and all will be taking place throughout the week.

We have dedicated some time to hear from 3 GAC working groups, the GAC operating principles evolution working group, GAC Human Rights and International Law working group, and GAC underserved regions working group. The GAC leadership will also provide 30 minutes daily update from 1,430 until 1500UTC and the 26th, 27th and 28th of October, for GAC members and observers disadvantaged by the meeting time zone.

And, of course, we will continue to allow 30-minute breaks between consecutive sessions. Worth noting the daily updates

are outside the official working hours of the meeting, hence will not be considered part of the official records, will not be recorded, and will not benefit from language services or technical support, but of course will be supported by our great GAC support team.

Last but not least is the wrap-up session where we will announce the results of the GAC vice-chair's election and allow an opportunity for everyone to provide feedback on issues discussed throughout the course of the week. Next slide please I will go through the 4 GAC priority topics displayed on the screen very briefly as thanks to all topic leads we have already done a deep dive into each of the topics during the oral GAC briefing a couple of weeks ago on the 12th so if we go to the following slide please, starting with the subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, and again I'll skip over the importance to the GAC and go directly to recent developments.

GAC members has participated very actively in the recent GNSO SubPro PDP process much the GNSO submitted the final report, and ICANN Board approved the relevant operational design phase. During the relevant session the GAC will review relevant materials and positions particularly in relation to GAC priority subtopics including clarity and predictability of application process, public interest commitments. DNS abuse mitigation, GAC early warnings and GAC advice, closed generics, and options. We will also discuss input on key topics for potential GAC advice

to the Board and review recent developments including the operational design phase status, and potential follow up on the GAC collective comment that we have filed on June 20, 21. And the relevant GAC session is scheduled tomorrow at 19UTC, and I will pause here if topic leads would like to add anything that I have overlooked?

And seeing no hands we can go to the following slide please on the WHOIS and data protection. Again going directly to recent developments Phase 2A of the EPDP on gTLD registration data is concluded and the GAC has submitted a GAC minority statement on the final report. The GAC also responded to ICANN Board clarifying questions regarding the ICANN70 GAC advice, and a survey of GAC members on activation of government entities and users to a potential future SSAD, the survey is part of ICANN's operational design phase, the deadline for this survey was extended until the 31st of October. So please make sure you respond to the survey if you haven't already responded.

And during the relevant session the GAC will consider public policy concerns related to recommendations of EPDP phases 2 and 2A, as well as public interest impact of the delay in implementation of EPDP Phase 1 recommendations, and the continued suspension of the privacy proxy services accreditation policy implementation. And the relevant session will be held also

tomorrow at 2330UTC. I'm pausing again if topic leads would like to add?

And if not, we can move to DNS abuse mitigation, noting that the ICANN released the results of its audit of registrars' compliance with DNS abuse obligations on the 24th of August, and on the 22nd of July the ICANN Board took action on the SSR2 review team's 63 final recommendations that were released on the 25th of January, and it's worth noting that ICANN org posted a blog summarizing all types of actions taken.

During the relevant session the GAC will consider ICANN Board's resolution and scorecard on the recommendations of the security, stability and resiliency review and consider the results of ICANN's audit on registrar's compliance with DNS abuse obligations and consider developments following SSAD proposal for an interoperable approach to addressing abuse handling in DNS. And this discussion will be taking place later today at 22:15 UTC.

And I'm pausing again for topic leads, if they would like to chime in? Otherwise, let's move to IGO protections. The GNSO EPDP on IGO delivered its initial report for public comment, and the GAC submitted a consensus comment on the 24th of October. The GAC is seeking to resolve longstanding issues created by the diversions of policy recommendations provided to the ICANN

Board by the GNSO, and GAC advice regarding protections afforded to IGOs. Where the GAC advice -- the ICANN Board to abstain from taking a decision on these recommendations in the Alia to allow the parties sufficient time to explore possible ways forward, and in response the ICANN Board informed the GAC that it would form a Board caucus group for the GNSO's PDP working group recommendations, 1, 2, 3 and 4. So subsequent Leah Board GAC consultation process on IGO protections is submitted and still under way. During the relevant session the GAC will review recent developments from the EPDP specific curative rights protections for IGOs including the publication of the initial report and GAC input to the EPDP.

And we will also engage in discussions on the GAC ICANN Board consultation on IGO protections. This discussion is also taking place later today at 2130UTC.

Now moving to inter-sessional activities if we can go to the following slide please, and before that also if topic leads on IGOs would like to chime in, or add anything? Okay if not, then inter-sessional activities, community leadership meets regularly before ICANN public meetings to review matters of cross-community impact. And topics of recent roundtables included implementation of work stream 2 accountability recommendations, particularly those requiring collective efforts, and the idea of establishing a community coordination group for

certain recommendations directed at the community was discussed including the scope of the group, which recommendations they should look at, why the ... is needed, the role of the group, the representation of the group and so on.

Also community prioritization and planning framework was a second topic that was discussed during the roundtables, and how this framework can be used during the annual planning process where coordination is needed to come up with common priorities across the community. Again we were presented the prioritization framework design elements, its scope, participants, and consultations that would take place -- that already started to take place on the elements scope and participants, but would also include at later stages the techniques, reports, tools, and a pilot to test all this together.

Another hot topic was returning to in person or hybrid public meetings and how to best plan for those meetings. Also, the idea of ICANN org working with the SO-AC chairs to develop community wide guidelines for using monitoring and managing the Zoom chat was discussed, including having some chat -- guiding chat ethics to complement ICANN Expected Standards of Behaviour.

Now, if we go to the following slide regarding the BGIG the Board and GAC interaction group has proven to be an effective venue for

discussions to ensure efficient Board and GAC collaboration and communication. Recently the BGIG developed a streamlined approach for discussing issues of importance to the GAC. There has been more active consideration of additional consultations, and this included our discussions on IGO advice, and also the recent early warning regarding the... CCC.

Most recently on the 5th of October the group has discussed ICANN71 GAC communique, including IGO advice and issues of importance to the GAC, and the need for process clarity with respect to Board GAC consultations including a suggestion to compile a flow chart describing the process which is currently under development. I mean the flow chart of course is currently under development, the process is already there. And, of course, like other working groups the BGIG membership is open to any interested GAC representative.

Moving to onboarding and engagement, many new faces has joined the GAC since ICANN66. Over 100 GAC delegates joined since November 2019, which is the start of our virtual meetings. GAC delegate count has rebounded to a pre-Pandemic high of 462, and the GAC leadership is working with support staff to improve on and off boarding and engagement of new members with continued emphasis on engagement resources. There is planned expansion of ICANN learned curriculum for

governments, and expectation is that future meetings will settle on being hybrid in format.

Finally we are working on evolving a pre meeting briefing, such as the oral briefing that we held prior to our meeting today. There are also the written briefs and tools such as GAC action and decision radar, all of which are designed to facilitate your engagement and interaction, and we would very much appreciate your feedback in order to keep improving.

On GAC vice chair elections if we can go to the following slide, balloting period will continue until 23:59 UTC on Tuesday, 26th of October. New or updated ballots can be submitted until the deadline, and results as I mentioned earlier, will be announced on Thursday, 28th of October, at the GAC wrap-up session (interrupting voice).

MANAL ISMAIL (GAC CHAIR): The 5 elected vice-chairs will begin their one-year terms at the conclusion of ICANN73 but will start joining the GAC leadership meetings off ICANN72 to ensure a smooth transition. All election information is available on the GAC website at the shown URL, and I would like to thank all candidates for the prompt sharing of their background information and their willingness to serve, share their knowledge and dedicate time and effort to the work of

the GAC. I would also urge anyone who hasn't submitted yet to please do so before the deadline.

And now allow me to hand the floor to Fabien for the communique drafting process. May I Fabien?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you, Manal. This is Fabien Betremieux from the GAC support team, and I will just take you through a short reminder of the process that the GAC has now adopted for a number of meetings in the virtual setting to ensure that all members are able to contribute and participate to deliberations that go into drafting the communique and adopting the GAC communique.

So as you see the diagram and the screen we show the 3 periods that the GAC now goes through to draft the and adopt the communique. What you see in the middle, the red box is the ICANN virtual meeting week, which we are starting so the GAC will deliberate and eventually draft the communique this week. As you may be aware, as you have seen on the mailing list over the last 2 weeks, we were in the pre meeting preparation period during which GAC members were invited to consider and identify issues of interest for potential inclusion in the communique.

Then last week we received a message that we entered into a communique preparation phase of that period in which GAC

members were requested to share the text of potential key messages, and as you will see in the draft communique collaborative documents which we shared a little bit before this meeting on the GAC mailing list, one piece of input in the issues of importance to the GAC and so you will find there a theme and the text that is suggested already.

This process is not meant -- I think it's been made clear on several occasions by the GAC leadership that this process is not meant to preclude any of the GAC's discussions and deliberation during the week, but it is more an opportunity to facilitate discussions this week. Once the GAC goes through its deliberations and the drafting of the communique, with the drafting starting on Wednesday and potentially ending on Thursday, we will enter the review period where for 72 hours all GAC members will be provided an opportunity to review the communique that has been drafted, and should there be any objections to substance, to any substance in the communique, there would potentially then be a decision by the GAC leadership to resort to a review of that objection with GAC members before the communique is formally adopted.

This has never been needed so far in -- I believe the 3 meetings in which the process was implemented, so this has not yet been implemented. I will then hoping that this is clear, move to the next slide to remind you of your ability to contribute at any time,

any text in the communique, and in order for you to do so you need to go on the link that was shared to the collaborative draft communique, and when you do insert text we ask you to make sure that you select the suggesting mode so you can see here number 1 to the right of this screen, then you can enter your text, and in the box that will appear on the right-hand side of the document we request that you identify yourself, or -- and possibly the group of drafters to whom you belong, and suggested text. Before then you make sure to keep reply on that box so that your identification was appear. It helps everybody know who authored and suggests the text that was entered there.

And that completes the reminder, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Fabien. So, just to add quickly that again as Fabien mentioned, the communique will be up for review for 72 hours. This may differ depending on whether -- I mean the end of the 72 hours may differ depending on whether we finish the communique drafting on the Wednesday or Thursday, but in all cases, the Monday after the meeting week GAC membership should be attuned to receive the formally adopted communique, nor the unlikely case of receiving objections, the Monday message will be used to schedule a session within the same week to resolve the issue and formally adopt the communique to be published by the end of the same week.

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One more thing I would like to bring to your attention is that we will try to use breakout rooms during the communique drafting if needed in order to allow for small groups drafting of communique language of common interests, so I hope if we use the breakout rooms you will find them beneficial. With that, allow me to hand over now to Gulten for an overview of the meeting logistics and available technical capabilities. So may I, Gulten?

GULTEN TEPE: Thank you, Manal. Hello again, everyone. I will provide a brief overview of meeting logistics and hoping that it will be a good refresher for you. Regarding the calendar invitations if you recall I already shared call in lines for each GAC session. You may want to check those calendar invitations. They will take you to GAC website and ICANN meetings page for each respective session.

Just like previous virtual meetings for ICANN72, we didn't share any Zoom room link on those calendar invites. This was advised by our ENIT team, but I will be updating the calendar invitations 24 hours before the sessions, and you may also find those remote connection details on ICANN meetings website as well. Again, only 24 hours before the session start time. Let me quickly share my screen.

First note would be, always remember to be logged in, otherwise you will not be able to see the documents since some of them

aren't public, and they will be released publicly after these sessions take place -- I mean the briefings especially session briefings. And you can see it says welcome Gulten over here. That means I'm logged in, and able to see this session -- sessions briefings and presentations, which are only open to GAC members. Taking a closer look at the ICANN72 agenda page for that you need to go to the top banner where it says meetings and records here it says select ... so you may also be going back to previous meeting agendas and find the materials as well.

Under introduction part on the agenda we already published valuable resources and materials. You may find the GAC schedule as a PDF file, and overall ICANN72 block schedule. To be able to view the full agenda you need to be registered. Here, as you may see it says Gulten Tepe. And a link to prep materials. As our usual practice we posted the briefings in a zip file as a single PDF and additionally under each relevant session. Rob sent you a notice when we posted these documents so you might want to review the session briefings to get an idea of the topics and details of what will be discussed.

These documents are only visible to GAC members, so again, please remember to log into the site with your website credentials. We already published the briefings in English as well as their translations, and if you missed a session, I would recommend you to check the ICANN meetings page. You might

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find the recordings and transcripts here. I can also quickly share this link in the chat box. Our tech team will be posting the links when they're available, and after these sessions I will be adding links to recordings and transcripts on GAC website under each session as well.

And these documents will be turned into public mode. So coming back to introduction part. You would find the other resource briefing documents including virtual meeting details one-stop shop document. This document provides you meeting overview, some technical and logistical details, and more materials including GNSO briefing and policy... report.

With respect to Zoom room you're already familiar by now, hand raise eye cock related on the reactions tab. Please remember to add your affiliation the country or organization you're representing nearby your name, you can do that by hovering over your name. Options will appear and you may click rename. It will allow you to update your name and enter GAC into parenthesis. If you can't manage how to do that you can also request that from us through chat, and we would be happy to do that on your behalf.

You can help our interpreters by following simple guidelines. If you intend to speak in a language other than English please notify the audience. This will provide a heads up for our interpreters,

and there's a brief switch over time when switching between interpretation from non-English language and back to English. Please be mindful that have and state your name every time you take the floor. Please do not speak too close to the microphone and mute all additional devices. Your phone, iPad, so on.

And remember to review your notification settings and turn them off please. If you intend to read a statement, please provide it to us in advance, and remember to speak at a reasonable pace. Let me quickly share my screen again. Moving forward to remote simultaneous interpretation, there's icon on Zoom tool bar that says interpretation. You may click on this icon in order to select the language of your choice from the menu. We have 6 U.N. language and Portuguese. Make sure that you have updated your version of Zoom and all features are available to you. If you are experiencing an issue that might be related to an outdated version of Zoom application, please remember to update your Zoom before the sessions, otherwise it will disrupt your connection to the sessions.

And some of our participants aren't able to download the Zoom app so we will be providing the listen only MP3 streams and ... application is also available for your views. Regarding the daily updates in formal sessions, Manal already touched base during her remarks, and I already shared in advance of these sessions for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, at 14:30 UTC. Manal will be

going over each session took place the day before and provide a brief overview of what was discussed, decided and so on. GAC members who missed these sessions due to time zone difference are welcome to join these sessions. And that concludes my part. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer, or please share it in the chat box. Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulten. Any questions? If not, Kavouss, please, I'm sorry, go ahead. Kavouss, I think you need to unmute.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: I'm sorry, good morning to colleagues in Seattle and the other area. Good morning good afternoon good evening to everyone. Manal, if you allow me I have few comments to take. First comment that I have is with respect to the election of the vice chair. I don't have any comments for this meeting, but I suggest that we consider whether we need to change the operating principle for the GAC vice-chair. Whether we need to have some criteria, and some qualifications. Doesn't mean that colleagues data they are not qualified. They are very qualified, but we are not questioning that, but principle is different. Principle is that -- would like to know whether the people, candidate for GAC if possible be considered how many years they should have been participating in activities of GAC either continuously or intermittently.

And also, people that have been vice chair their last 6 years whether they should be candidate for re-election. All of these things is to allow the new plan to come in as a vice chair, and to become in future GAC chair. I'm not suggesting any proposal, but I just ask that -- whether we need to review those considerations.

And also whether we need to elect all 5 vice chair each year, or half of them each year, and having another half remaining in order to maintain the continuity of the experienced people because the vice chair are important element to assist the chair in the leadership. I don't go beyond that. That is just for your consideration.

I have already proposed something but due to the time limitation it was left to the last day, but I have not been able to follow whether these suggestions have been any follow up actions. I request you kindly to consider them.

Second issue I want to raise -- I have raised it before -- we have 3 types of communication with the Board. One is the highest level is GAC advice, very highest level. Second is follow up action of the GAC advice, and third is some sharing views with Board member in a communication so we'd like to categorize that and not put everything on the one single category as GAC advice. So if we have distinguished and discrimination between all 3 we might have many issues to share with Board. It is not necessarily GAC

advice, nor a category of follow up action but communication for consideration and so on and so forth.

Last but not least for the issue that Board has not yet considered, I believe there is no need, or it is not effective, to put any GAC advice... because they have not been considered. If a recommendation or Phase 2 has not yet been considered by the Board we could not ask any GAC advice or should not give any GAC advice nevertheless in a communication we could mention if you have a minority statement or any other thing, so these are the simple things. I'm sorry at this earliest stage I raise this with you I just wanted to share with you, with your agreement and allowance. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss, for your valuable remarks, all well noted, and we will be channeled throughout the week during the appropriate discussions, but all are noted, and we already have a discussion we will be having a discussion on the operating principles as well so thank you for flagging your views.

With that, I think we will be starting our preparation for bilaterals, and we will start by the GAC GNSO bilateral, and for that allow me to hand over the floor to Jorge, GAC point of contact with the GNSO, GAC vice-chair and GAC representative of Switzerland. So over to you, Jorge, please.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, thank you so much, Manal, and hello everyone. This is obviously a picture, what I have in my background because it's deep night now in Switzerland, so hello everyone, and very happy to be meeting you at least virtually.

On the GNSO bilateral we are having later tonight here in Europe, later this day we have already agreed an agenda with the GNSO leadership, and if we go to the following slide we see some of the, some of the talking points we have already agreed, or at least we have consulted with the GAC and we have communicated these to the GNSO. And I won't go into all the details of these talking points, as you have already received them, but we will be talking about the EPDP Phase 2A related to the registry data and the so-called WHOIS, and there we will be sharing our opinion on the results of Phase 2A. We will be noting this and also sharing that the view that the multitude of minority statements in this EPDP Phase 2A is something to reflect on.

Second topic we will be discussing will be accuracy, which is a follow-up topic flowing from the discussions about WHOIS, and where the GNSO has established a scoping team which has very recently started its work, so we will be sharing some views on the start of these works, and if we go to the next slide we will also be discussing on DNS abuse.

As you know this is a longstanding topic of interest for all of us for the GAC, in which we have been discussing about with the GNSO council for long, so we will be very happy to hear their, so some potential next steps. We have heard that they have already had some discussion, or they are having some discussion, so we hope to see some, some further information from their side on how they intend to approach this very important issue.

Finally, the 4th issue we will be having on our agenda is the EPDP on IGO curative protections. As you may know, yesterday the... comment period on the initial report of this GNSO working group has finalized. We as GAC have provided an input to this public comment period, and we will be sharing the, the latest information we have on this with the GNSO. Also, regarding the discussions we are having with the ICANN Board.

Finally, if time permits we may also share some information, or ask the GNSO views on their opinion or potential input to the Board question on how the ICANN community or ICANN can improve its communication with governments all around the world, and maybe we may also discuss on the latest news regarding subsequent procedures as has been suggested on list by Nigel Hickson from the U.K.

Of course, people may chime in into discussions will be moderated by our chair, and where topic leads will be parts

participating on each of the agenda points I've mentioned. So that is for the state of preparations of this bilateral. If there is any question or comment I'm happy to also try to respond to them.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge, not only for the presentation but also for the inter-sessional coordination efforts with Jeff on behalf of the GAC. Any questions? Okay, if to the then thank you again Jorge I'm handing it to Shi Young, GAC of point of contact and GAC representative with the Republic of Korea, so over to you.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you for allowing me to attend the bilateral preparations, so we will discuss about 3 important topics and for the first topic it's about ICANN and government... which is related to the to GAC and also ALAC on how ICANN could improve their engagement with governments, so we are going to discuss about these issues including such as GAC ALAC expanded load to the ICANN place making which is related to the... issues and so on.

And second ICANN is about the DNS abuse and beyond so for the second item we will discuss about the issues which relate the discussions of the DNS abuse issues as additional cross-community initiative to take continuous malicious registration and other issues such as maybe fraudulent website

and other DNS... which are outside the DNS abuse IGO protections and finally for the final issue is on the reflection on public Internet processes. As you may know as GAC ALAC has achieved... police co-operation and important issues. So this is a topic to reflect on their laws in public Internet places so we will try to... such as to what extent the public interest has been affected in this sense ICANN outcomes and structure challenges and the way to strengthen our co-operation to promote public Internet framework because in ICANN this is making so for all these important topics we are going to have active discussion from both sides by having a group, by having topic leads so I ask all other colleagues to active participation for those important issues to have active discussion.

Thank you. Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Shi, and also for your efforts inter-sessionally and for the presentation. And to GAC colleagues this is meant to be an interactive discussion with the ALAC so please take some time to look at the proposed questions and be ready to engage in an active discussion with the ALAC.

And we have the ICANN and governments from ALAC, Joanna will be leading and Shi Young from our side for the abuse DNS abuse and ... Nigel volunteered from the GAC side and on public interest

we have Justin Allen and Hadia from ALAC and Jorge leading from the GAC side. But again, as said this is meant to be interactive so please take your time and be ready to engage.

If we can go to the following slide, and this is to prepare for our meeting with the ICANN Board, so the session will be divided into two, half an hour for discussing a question that was shared by the Board to the whole community, and not only to the GAC. And the second half for questions from the GAC to the Board. If we can go to the following slide? So the question that has been posed by the Board to the community as also mentioned earlier but Shi Young is asking for inputs or comments on how ICANN could efficiently identify and work more closely with governments globally as well as educate, train and interact whether it comes to geo-political issues relating to ICANN's mission.

The points you see on the screen are those received so far from Switzerland and European Commission, so please let us know if you have any additional points to make. I'll go quickly through the points.   First, continue to constantly engage openly on constructively with the GAC.   Sec point is on maintaining a constructive relationship, showing that the GAC deliberations and output are duly considered as this would encourage governments to take part in the GAC, and within community discussions.

And third, noting that a formal exchanging are not very conducive to substantive and interactive dialogue and instead they can draw the GAC and Board into protracted discussions, and fourth point, suggesting perhaps the need for more informal and substantive dialogue as an avenue to further explore especially when physical meetings are again possible.

5th point, noting that ICANN forms part of a wider Internet governance landscape, consequently ICANN has an interest in investing time and resources into a well-functioning Internet governance ecosystem in the alia into the IGF and to maintain constructive relations with players like WIPO ITU, etcetera.

6th, by continuing to play a constructive role in such... ICANN will be better placed to understand international and regional debates, interests and needs at stake, and contribute its fair share to potential addressing to relevant geo-political issues consistent with its mission and bylaws. 7th ICANN should further support the active participation of all governments to dedicated -- in the GAC through dedicated trainings and support actions, and last and 8th, ICANN should maintain and encourage multilingual interactions in -- at ICANN meetings.

So those are, with thanks to Switzerland and European Commission -- those are the points received so far. I'm pausing

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here to see if there are any comments or any additions? I see Nigel Hickson, U.K. Please go ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, yes, thank you very much, Manal, and I'll be very brief. Good afternoon good evening, everyone or good morning to some I suppose in Nigel Hickson, U.K. I just wanted to reflect on these points, and I think they're really excellent by the way, in light of the discussion that took place earlier today between the ICANN Board and the non-contracted -- not the non-contracted -- the NCSG, yeah.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Non-commercial stakeholder group.

UNITED KINGDOM: Noncommercial, you see I know so much about ICANN. [Laughter] thank you, Manal.

Anyway, I mean some of you might have caught that and apologies if you did but it was a good discussion, but what came across to me is that there is a certain amount of urgency in some of this work, and explain the excellent work gone done on education and awareness raising at the U.N. and elsewhere but in the early parts of the meeting -- Mamai(sic) raised the issue of the

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ITU potentially and what he saw some concerns on the developments that might take place there.

So I did wonder whether in this meeting with the Board we might ask -- we might ask you know ask the Board where ICANN is going to you know be engaging? Is it going to be primarily the ITU in relation to the... as a member now of ICANN. Is it going to be in the UN WIS process in regard to the mandate and there might be some other questions as well. It's just a thought and, of course, we might not have time. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Nigel, and if there is no specific addition that you want to put in writing please feel free to chime in during the session. I pause after going quickly through the points still allowing any additions, but if there are any written additions also please either mention them now, or if a verbal, feel free to chime in during the session.

I see Russia, please, go ahead.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Good evening colleagues. Do you hear me?

OTHER SPEAKER: Yes.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Okay. We won't†-- Russian Federation want to highlight one more issue related to interaction between ICANN Board and governments or co-operation between ICANN Board and governments. It's compliance with national regulation. For example GDPR, we see how many -- how much resources and ICANN is paying for implementation national regulation, but we don't see for the time being, the strategy for that, how ICANN Board or ICANN org continue -- will be global... or will be some selection or I don't know. We want to receive feedback from ICANN Board how they see interaction with governments regarding national regulation compliance. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Slava. Rob, I hope you captured this one as well? Thank you for doing so for Nigel's and Slava's interventions. The good thing is that we haven't shared our answer to this question when we shared other questions to the Board, so we are still flexible here, and thank you for the additions. Rob if we can share them on the GAC mailing list for any fine tuning if needed, so that we can incorporate them on the slides for Wednesday when we meet with the Board.

Going to the following slide, and this is our questions to the Board, and they fall under 2 things. DNS abuse mitigation and Board actions on SSR2 recommendations, and the second is

subsequent rounds of new gTLDs. So we have 3 questions under DNS abuse and SSR2 recommendations if we go to the following first question is regarding SSR2 recommendation 9.4, and I don't think I need to read background next slide. You have on the screen but going directly to the question is it the position of the Board that ICANN's compliance team cannot be asked to simply inform the community what tools they are missing from contracts to per address security threats which if negotiated for in future -- if negotiated for in future contracts might otherwise benefit ICANN in its selection to ensure the security and stability of the DNS.

And under this we have 2 sub questions. If so, can the Board please elaborate why ICANN negotiations strategy cannot be so informed? B if not, might the Board consider clarifying its response to SSR2 9.4 to note that it does not object to ICANN compliance making the requested reports in order to better inform ICANN's future contract negotiations.

And I'm stopping here to see if there are any comments or any questions regarding the questions we are posing to ICANN Board. I would like also to identify, and I will give you the floor immediately Kavouss. Interested members who may be engaging with the Board if further information is needed because I understand during the preparations for this bilateral I know the Board has been asking a few questions regarding our questions so they may want to seek further clarification, so while giving the

floor to Kavouss I hope we can identify topic leads as well. Kavouss please go ahead

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Manal. Let me share with you my reaction to all the meeting WA we have with the Board. Generally speaking, when we meet with the Board, among the Board members one is the -- I would say big or main role player. Before this Board it was Chris Disspain. Always he was the one replying to all questions, 90% of the questions. Now is Becky Burr. We appreciate both of them. My question is that the following. We raise the question, how far we are satisfied with the answer? Have been given, convincing answer? Or their understanding and their policy, without really answering our question, or totally answering our question. It is many Board members as long as I am attending the meetings, always as a question. Always some question or answer. But there these question -- these answers were convincing?

If yes why we raise the same question again? So, we need to ensure that the answer given to us is convincing. Madam chair, when I chair a meeting, and someone raise a question, and someone else answers, then I ask the person raise the question, are you satisfied? Never this question has been raised in the GAC Board meeting. A GAC member raise a question, answer is given, never is he asked distinguished GAC member are you satisfied? Never we asked this question. Just they, the Board distinguished

Board member, which we are very appreciative of them -- give their own way of thought, without asking whether we are happy or not, whether we are satisfied or not. Maybe we have a different line of thinking. Different culture. Different background but we have to have some reaction. Yes, to some extent we are satisfied, never this question has been raised. So I suggest that the distinguished chairman of the Board when is attending a meeting, and give the task to one of the Board members, high qualified like Becky Burr although -- and he is the top key player answering our question, the chair of the Board ask that Mr. ... are you happy with the answer? If not further answer either at the same meeting or later should be given. This is my difficulty from ICANN.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss. I fully agree with the principle that we should avoid back and forth questions again evolving around the same topic. On the Board members who respond to GAC questions, I have the privilege of attending some of the preparatory meetings, and I see how they prepare for our meeting, and they normally take the subject matter experts on

the question that is being asked, or the person who is leading this topic within the Boards, so it is not fixing a certain person but rather choosing the subject matter expert or the topic lead if I may say within the Board.

And I think they normally ask that does this answer your question but again we can stress the point that those who ask the questions are satisfied with the answers, but I hope if not, then people can speak up, and we can try to find a mutual way forward. I see a question from U.S. in the chat. If they can -- if we can consider rewording of questions -- the question on recommendation 9.4.

So, Susan, we have already shared the questions with the Board in order for them to be ready for our discussion. Of if it is something that is not substantial, we can definitely share a modified version. Of course, at your earliest convenience so that we can allow them some time to look at the modified question. So if there is any fine tuning please feel free to do this and share it on the GAC mailing list.

So, I hope that we will also have topic leads who can make sure the answer is satisfactory as Kavouss said but can also answer any further questions the Board may have.

And if we can go to the following question, again under DNS abuse related to SSR2 recommendations 4.2, 7.4, 9.3, and recommendation groups 12, 13, 14, and 15. Again I don't think I need to read the background. I go directly to the questions for the sake of time and the question reads noting the need expressed by the Board for better analysis and consultation and to the extent that GAC members may wish to follow or contribute to specific security and or DNS abuse topics addressed in the report what are the processes and means through which the Board will facilitate to enable these actions?

Might the Board clarify how the GAC, and the ICANN will be informed of ongoing work and developments regarding these recommendations? Might the Board clarify what opportunities will be available for the GAC to contribute to these discussions which relate to important public safety issues? And finally, could the Board share a time-line for the engagement with the SSR2... and eventual wider consultation of the ICANN community.

I'm pausing here again to see if there are any comments on any of these 4 questions and seeing none, I'll move to the following question, and again I will call on topic leads to be ready if need be, and we need a deeper discussion with the Board.

Can we go to the following slide, please? Thank you and this is on SSR2 recommendation 9.1, and I think here I need to read the

background. There seems to be discrepancy in the perception in some of the issues raised in the SSR2 report in relation to compliance with DNS abuse contractual terms and enforcement of those. The Board appears to consider in its reaction to the SSR2 that the recommendation is fully enforced. While the SSR2 recommendations suggest that this is not the case.

Question is how does the Board intend to reconcile these contradictory outcomes? Any comments. I see none. So if we can go to questions under subsequent rounds please and move to the following slide we have 2 questions.

First do Board members have any relevant information about the operational design phase they have just launched that they would like to share? With a link to the outputs final report outputs, and second question is reads do Board members have any questions regarding the GAC consensus comments on the GNSO SubPro PDP final outputs that the committee delivered in June? Again with a link on GAC -- to GAC comments.

I'm pausing again here to see if there are any comments or questions and I see Jorge in the chat saying that the questions on SubPro could, if need be, be answered later by the Board, so let's see in writing -- let's see how the time goes. But thank you for the flexibility Jorge, and the offer. So, Kavouss, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Yes, Manal. I believe that perhaps, perhaps if you agree, or other people agree, I would like to take a slightly different question. Do Board members have any relevant information? Yes they have some information. Which information we would like to have? They have given us already some information about ODP when we say any it is starting from 0. They have provided. Maybe further information additional information, yeah, so, so on and so forth so if we have to remove any by something, and also relevant, yes, the information of course always is relevant. They don't supply irrelevant information is he we don't need to put relevant. Any additional information apart from what has already been provided.

Then the question 2, do the Board member have any question? I suggest that we... question by comment. Any comments by GAC consensus. They should not ask question about a consensus advice of comments, if they have any comments but not question. We are not questions by them. There is no such a question or answer. Unless there is some ambiguity. If you are talking about ambiguity yes. But I would just say that the first question... provided many information so maybe additional information up to the information, further information about, so on and so forth. This is some simple -- but the small suggestion that I've made whether you review or not I leave it to you. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss, for the enhancements, and both modifications makes -- make perfect sense to me. I see also agreements in the chat sorry I'm just catching up with the chat. Jorge saying fair point, and when Board and GAC meet the output is the decision or orientation -- I'm sorry, I don't understand the question if you would like to maybe elaborate but -- either already nor the chat and seek feedback instead of comments. I see it already captured on the screen.

So any, any fine tuning or enhancements to the language are welcomed and we will circulate them.   Again to the Board particularly that they will not change their already prepared answers, so it's nothing we're -- fine tuning the language so this is very much welcomed. Kavouss, is this a new hand.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Yes, it's a new hand. Do we have consensus comment? Please correct me if I'm wrong. We have consensus advice. Whether it was full or not. But consensus comment what does it mean? Comment is comment. For comments we don't need consensus. But I don't know whether in a... or where the GAC recently maybe I have not been attending your meeting -- I don't remember we have consensus comment. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss, and in avoidance of confusion, is it okay to replace consensus by collective comments? Any objections to collective comments? Jorge please. Go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you. Thank you, Manal. And putting -- Jorge Cancio, Switzerland for the record. Putting me topic lead hat on and off subsequent procedures, what consensus implies there is the process whereby we reached -- or redrafted that comment, and it is a comment and not advice because it was delivered in a public comment consultation, and so it isn't considered advice in the sense of the operating principles or the bylaws.

At the same time, it is not just a summary or a recollection or a compilation of different opinions from the GAC, but it is written input, which is based on a consensus, which was -- which through a process we informed the whole GAC, and which was accepted by implication by the GAC. In this sense it is consensus comment, but I don't mind qualifying this in a different manner. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge.

Kavouss, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Yes. Thanks. Jorge, thank you very much. I would say collectively agreed comments.   Collectively agreed comments.   It's not consensus but collectively agreed that everybody agreed. There is no... collectively agreed comments. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss.   Any objections to collectively agreed comments? So I think we all understand it has been collectively agreed through the consensus approach that we take, and it's not a consensus advice per se, that is it does not trigger the bylaws, but it has the weight that it is coming out of the GAC collectively.

So if there are no objections to the wording as it stands on the screen, I think we are all set to the question, in the chat. Ing the output of the meeting -- this is just a dialogue between the Board and the GAC so it's just to have -- exchange views and have a common understanding of the issues, but nothing concrete in terms of output though the transcripts of the meeting are normally attached to the communique at the end of the meeting.

So, I think this was the last slide. Again, Susan, if there are any similar enhancements to the very first question please feel free to share. As I said if the -- if it is not a substantial change, and will not affect the Board preparations, I think we will go to accommodate and share own if not a new version to the Board at

least a refined one that was be displayed on the screen as Rob mentioned in the chat. So with this, if there are no further requests for the floor, we have -- we are 2 minutes to the hour, and this is the scheduled end time of our opening plenary. I would like to thank you very much everyone for your active participation during the preparations to the bilaterals that are scheduled throughout our week.

It is now time for a 30-minute break. After the break we will have our discussions on IGO protections and DNS abuse mitigation so please be back in the GAC Zoom room at 14:30 Seattle time, 2130UTC.

The meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]