

ICANN72 | Virtual Annual General Meeting – GAC ICANN72 Wrap-Up Session  
Thursday, October 28, 2021 – 12:30 to 14:00 PDT

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you. Welcome to the ICANN72 wrap-up session on Thursday 28 October at 19:30UTC.

We will not be doing a roll call, but GAC members attendance will be available in the annex of the GAC communique and minutes. May I remind GAC members in attendance to indicate attendance by updating participant name to reflect the name and affiliation.

Should you like to ask a question or comment type by starting and ending your sentence with question or comments to allow participants to see your request. Interpretation for GAC sessions include all 6 U.N. languages and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon.

Your microphone will be muted unless you get into the queue to speak, if you wish to speak raise your hand in the Zoom room. When speaking please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace.

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Finally, the session like all other ICANN activities is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behaviour. You will find the link in the chat for reference.

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

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Welcome back to the wrap-up session. As we agreed in the previous session we will take a few minutes at the beginning to finalize the communique, and then we will start our wrap up.

So if I may ask that we have the communique on the screen, and while the topic is fresh in our minds, let's go to the text we have moved from GAC advice section to issues of importance to the GAC. So the 2 bullets were agreed and there was a request by European Commission that we keep the rationale text as well. I am assuming the text on the screen is ready to be read as final is it? So let me -- yes Fabien, please.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Yes, Manal, so what we've done is bring the text together and keeping the comments that have been proposed in the U.S. on the margin, so we did not you know re-organize anything. There might be a need, and some desire to have a reorganization. I note in the comments on the last chunk which used to be rationale

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suggesting that it be moved before the 2 previous points that used to be advice so maybe that might deserve some discussion.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Thank you very much, Fabien. I'll read it quickly and then we can see -- we can fine tune it before moving on. So the plan is we finalize this part, we do a quick read of the very small section of follow up on previous GAC advice and then we will go section by section making sure that we haven't overlooked anything that was not read before.

So now the text reads, the GAC acknowledges the procedural bases for the Board's rejection of certain recommendations in that report. So do we know which report we are referring to here? However, the GAC also -- okay it's the SSR2 report I'm sorry, thank you. However, the GAC also notes the useful substantive aspects of certain rejected recommendations, including those that I'm to provide ICANN org and ICANN contractual compliance with appropriate tools to prevent and mitigate DNS abuse.

In the GAC's view the substance of these recommendations could be the subject of further exchange in conversations during the Board GAC interaction group. And certainly we need to link to the bullets, provide further information on how ICANN effectively monitors compliance with, and improvements of contractual

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provisions with the purpose of tackling DNS abuse, takes into account recommendations 14 and 15, and explore ways and means to better make use of current contractual provisions in order to incentivize and enforce responsible measures to prevent and combat DNS abuse.

The GAC notes that the Board rejects a number of recommendations, example under recommendations groups 14 and 15, that I'm to provide ICANN org and ICANN contractual compliance team with appropriate tools to better deal with policy breaches. The GAC considers that addressing DNS abuse is in line with ICANN's mission to ensure the security, stability and resilience of DNS in the public interest. Also, the GAC notes that the ICANN Board has pointed to certain limitations and ambiguities in the standard registry and registrar contracts with regard to DNS abuse, with reference to a letter from Maarten on 12 -- 2020. The GAC would therefore encourage the Board to consider and inform about available means to hold contractual parties accountable in cases of insufficient measures to prevent and mitigate DNS abuse under current contracts, considering the public interest as provided for in the bylaws and then the section ends by reference to the registrar helping presentation.

I'm pausing to see if there are any comments or questions? I'm

seeing Switzerland helpfully is trying to provide links between the different -- yes, Jorge and then Olivier.

SWITZERLAND: Yes, thank you, Manal. Just very quickly, I just wanted to include a text to link up for the rest of the text with the 2... we have introduced, and I think that as we are SSR2 we could well say in this context the GAC would work on the Board to provide and explore and in this way I hope it reads better together. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge. Indeed it reads much better to me and thank you Nigel also for suggesting in the chat that it could start the GAC seeks from the Board to -- I'm flexible. Olivier, please,

European Commission.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Thank you, I think we have now copy pasted the advice in the text of the issues of importance. The logic is a bit difference in issues of importance. I think the explanation should come first so I am the anonymous -- I don't know why but I appear anonymous propose to move the paragraph which was the explanation in the advice up right after the paragraph that finishes with SSR2 report, and that will explain then the 2 romans. Of course, there is a bit

of -- we need to make a choice I think between this paragraph and the new paragraph that has been proposed by Susan, but for me it's really important that we make an explicit reference to recommendations 14 and 15, and the objective of these recommendations which were to as it's written here to provide the compliance team with tools to better...

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, European Commission. I see support in the chat for moving the explanatory text before the 2 bullets.

I'll try to see the links now, so -- and Netherlands also was supporting the move. The GAC also wants to emphasize the importance the GAC faces in the work of ICANN compliance not least in ensuring registrars and registries comply with the undertaking they give when registering a name. In this respect the GAC supports timely action and progress being made on the relevant recommendations made in the SSR2 report. The GAC notes that the Board rejects a number of recommendations and then it goes on and reading the last sentence of this paragraph the GAC would therefore encourage the Board to consider and inform about available means to hold contractual parties accountable in cases of insufficient measures to prevent and mitigate DNS abuse under current contracts, considering the public interest as provided for in the bylaws.

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The GAC acknowledges the procedural basis for the Board's rejection of certain regions in that report, however, the GAC -- and it goes on -- and now the last sentence of this paragraph, in the GAC's new substance of these recommendations could be the subject of further exchange in conversations during the Board GAC interaction group N this context the GAC would welcome the Board to, and the 2 roman bullets.

Any comments? Okay, seeing none then I think we're good to delete the old text at the end, and we can now move to follow up on paragraph GAC advice so seeking approval on the final draft we have read it before but not in the last session so I'm reading it now. First under domain name registration directory service and data protection. The Board accepted the GAC's advice to "instruct the ICANN organization to ensure that the current system that requires reasonable access to nonpublic domain name registration is operating effectively. This should include first, educating key stakeholder groups including governments that there is a process to request nonpublic data. Second, actively making available a standard request form that can be used by stakeholders to request access based upon the current consensus policy, and last point, actively making available links to registrar and registry information and points of contact on this topic."

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The GAC would welcome the Board providing an update on these 3 efforts, in particular the GAC observes that information on how to make a request for nonpublic data does not appear to be prominently located or easy to find on ICANN's website. The GAC also recognizes that the contracted parties have developed guidance on the minimum required information for WHOIS data requests, and notes that relevant stakeholders would also benefit from the prominent display of this information in the relevant section of ICANN's website.

I'm pausing here. Any comments? Seeing none, then I'll continue reading over the following bullet point 2. Titled EPDP Phase 1 policy implementation. And the text reads the GAC notes its previous advice within the ICANN66 Montreal communique and follow up within the ICANN70 and 71 communiqes with regard to Phase 1 of the EPDP on gTLD registration data, and the request for "a detailed Work Plan identifying an updated realistic schedule to complete its work" the GAC highlights with -- sorry, ends quotes and then the GAC highlights with "continued concern that the Phase 1 implementation review team IRT lacks a current published implementation time-line".

I'm pausing here again to see if there are any comments okay seeing none. I think we are -- we have finalized the drafting of the communique, and we have read it all, but I'll go section by section

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to make sure that we haven't overlooked anything, but before that, Fabien, please you have the floor.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Yes, Manal, sorry for interrupting. We -- I believe we have uncertainty as to the heading of the GAC advice, and so if you go back searching GAC consensus advice to the Board, we have not quite -- the title here and also just to make sure you've seen that a footnote that used to be part of the rationale itself is moved as a footnote after some discussion. So I just wanted to flag those 2 items.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Fabien.

Helpful reminder. So just -- so how is number 2 titled? I mean do we say GAC -- I mean how do we normally title it? I would leave it as -- it's GAC advice.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Right. So we usually do not write GAC advice in the heading. So what I mean to refer to is what's highlighted here on the page. The heading of the advice itself. We usually this a short description of the topic. Here the topic is the Board scorecard on the SSR2 recommendations and so there are issues was written as GAC advice on Board scorecard, and there was some

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discussion and so this applies to the advice A as well as B, and so you know we're just -- want to make sure that this is fine.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah, I think we can delete the text between square brackets and the word on.

And it's.. So I'm just seeking opinions? I would have preferred to start with SSR2 report in relation to the Board's scorecard or leave it as is. The Board scorecard. I think there was a suggestion to change the word to. I believe it didn't read well to a few of us so maybe Board scorecard on SSR2 report. Does this make sense to everyone? Final report thank you.

I see no requests for the floor. And now regarding the footnote, so is footnote 7 what's written in red? I'm sorry.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: No, sorry, footnote 7 is a footnote that explain why the section is -- the entire section of the communique is named GAC consensus advice to ICANN Board so we just removed it for purposes of... the communique, we will put that back in so here we are looking at footnote number 8. Which is associated to the second sentence of the rationale. Noting the need expressed by the Board for further analysis and consultation here is the footnote.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay, thank you, Fabien. Any comments on the removed footnote and the inserted footnote after consultation? And the footnote 8 reads for several recommendations the Board A requires cross benefit analysis as a prerequisite for the Board to take informed decisions. B directs ICANN org to seek clarity from the SSR2 implementation shepherds and or to evaluate parts or whole recommendations for action in a coordinated way. Including through ICANN's organizer's -- ICANN org's program dedicated to DNS security threats mitigation, and C notes that the outcome of the engagement with the SSR2 implementation shepherds will inform the Board's decision on next steps, which may include wider community consultation.

Any comments? Seeing none, I think this is good to be finalized Fabien please?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Done. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Great, thanks. If we can go to the very first part of the communique, and as I mentioned earlier we will go section by section to confirm that everything has been finalized, so first part on the GAC communique ICANN70 virtual annual general meeting

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and we have explained the highlights in yellow would go in due time. Then the section, section 1 on the introduction, any comments on this part? Again, with the understanding that numbers of GAC members and observers will be inserted as soon as we finalize the counting. If not then let's scroll down please.

Section 2 can inter constituency activities and community engagement. Again we have read meeting with the ICANN Board. Any comments? Then meeting with the at large -- Fabien please go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Yes, sorry to interrupt. I just wanted to flag that we've added the 2 main agenda items of the meeting with the Universal Acceptance that happened earlier today. So –

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Perfect. Perfect. Thank you.

So anything -- any comments on the bilateral with the ALAC? Okay and then our bilateral with the GNSO? Hearing none then the meeting with the Universal Acceptance steering group, which was last session, this is new text, and it reads "the GAC received a briefing from the Universal Acceptance steering group and discussed first Universal Acceptance strategy and the need for

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enhanced collaboration, and second GAC UASG collaboration discussion."

Any comments? Okay, if not, I think we can accept the text as someone seeking the floor. Nigel, please. Go ahead. CTU.

CTU: Quickly, there doesn't seem to be a need for the word discussion after collaboration because the GAC and UASG discussed collaboration so that next discussion seems to [inaudible] thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Nigel, and I also see Luisa agreeing in the chat. So it now reads Universal Acceptance strategy and the need for enhanced collaboration, and then GAC universal -- UASG collaboration. Thank you for the enhancement. Seeing no further requests for the floor, we are moving on to cross-community discussions and the reporting on the panel, and then to section 3 internal matters. The GAC membership, and then GAC elections will be filled in shortly as soon as we announce the election results. And then the GAC working groups, any comments on the reporting from PSWG?

Seeing none, then universal -- I'm sorry, underserved regions working group? Then the GAC operating principles evolution

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working group? And finally the GAC Human Rights and International Law working group? Okay seeing no requests for the floor we can move on to section 14 and issues of importance to the GAC.

We have first the DNS abuse. And I see European Commission's hand up. Olivier, please go ahead.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Yes, thank you, Manal. I would just suggest to add one word in the paragraph I also suggest to move up which is the paragraph that starts with the GAC notes, I would put the, however, because the last sentence is respect the GAC supports the reaction being made under the recommendations however the GAC notes -- or the GAC notes however that the Board rejects a number of recommendations. I think it, it makes well the link between the 2 paragraphs.

And then in the following paragraph we refer to in that report I think we should point to in the SSR2 report. It's a bit clearer. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Olivier, for the enhancements. Any other comments? Okay, then I think we go to accept the changes, and

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move. Second point is registration data. Any comments? Okay hearing none and seeing no requests for the floor then the third topic under issues of importance to the GAC is subsequent rounds of new gTLDs. Any comments? Seeing none then we are now at section 5. GAC consensus advice to the Board, and we have one topic with 2 -- or one topic which is Board scorecard on SSR2 review final report, and any comments on the first advice and the rationale? Okay, if not then let's scroll down please to the second piece of advice and rationale.

And seeing no asks for the floor we are now moving to section 6 titled follow up on previous GAC advice, and we again have 2 topics here, first domain name registration data service and data protection, any comments? And if not then let me ask if there are any comments on EPDP Phase 1 policy implementation? Okay and finally there is the sentence on our next meeting.

Okay. With that -- yes, Nigel, please U.K.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you. Good evening. Thank you very much Manal. I mean this is a really small point. The first line of the PDP Phase 1 the GAC notes its previous advice within the ICANN Montreal communique, and follow up, and follow up within the ICANN70 and 71 communiqes. It just doesn't quite read right. And, and

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the follow-up advice in, or -- and the follow-up -- yeah, and the follow-up advice -- I don't think there's any problem repeating advice -- advice in, yeah, not within, but in. Yeah. Something like that. Yeah thank you very much. It -- it's not a great point of importance. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Nigel, and it reads better to me at least. Jorge, please, Switzerland go ahead.

SWITZERLAND: Sorry to intervene between us and finalizing the communique, but I thought that on point 1 domain name registration services and data protection we are quoting GAC advice but not identifying what GAC advice we are referring to, so perhaps support staff can find the source and include a footnote.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Maybe I can interject right away and mention it's in the... as well here.

SWITZERLAND: Okay, that would be great. Yeah, so we avoid any doubt, thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge. It's a good point. And thank you Fabien and Laureen for confirming it's the Montreal communique and Nigel also for agreeing on the enhancement. Fabien, please go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: May I suggest to clarify by adding in response to the ICANN, to the Montreal communication, the Board accepted the GAC's advice to -- by way that is clear from the outset.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It makes perfect sense to me, and I see the U.S. confirming also. Thank you Fabien. This is very helpful. Nigel, is this a new hand? And.

UNITED KINGDOM: Sorry, it was an old hand.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay, thank you. I was reading Laureen in the chat. Laureen I think the -- yeah the quotation starts before instruct and is closed after the bullet points. I hope this is okay, okay great thank you Laureen. And shall we accept the changes under EPDP phase one policy implementation? I saw everyone confirming that it is an

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enhancement so if we can accept the text please? One this very last call for any comments or any remarks before we conclude the communique drafting? And if not, I congratulate everyone and thank everyone for the effort, dedication, flexibility, collaborative spirit, and all the good things.

We now have a finalized communique, and appreciate your efforts, and please expect the communique. It will be circulated, and it should be posted on the first of November publicly after the 72 hours review time so we will be inserting the results of the elections as soon as we have them. I now conclude the communique drafting and let's start our wrap-up session. Appreciate having the slides on the screen.

So quickly this is the agenda, and as you may all know this is quite a flexible session so please if you have any additional topics or any additional issues you would like to flag feel free to do so. We will be presenting the 2021 GAC vice-chair election results. Evaluation of GAC ICANN72 meeting implementation. We will be seeking your feedback on this. Then identification of substantive topics for ICANN72 follow up. And this is just a one-stop shop of one slide with all topics that we need to attend to.

Then key post meeting activities and dates, and finally we will be adjourning.

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So with that let's go to the following slide. So as you may all know election balloting period ended at 23:59 UTC Tuesday 26th of October. 6 candidates for 5 seats, we had Par Brumark from Niue. Francis Olivier Cubahiro from Burundi. Shi Young Chang for Republic of Korea. Jaideep Kumar Mishra from India. Ola Bergstrom from Sweden and Mohammad Fatih Kafadar from Turkey.

I would like to thank all candidates for willingness to serve and I hope irrespective of the results of the elections that everyone will remain engaged, and you don't have to be on the leadership team to lend a hand and help with the GAC work, so please again irrespective of the election results, please stay engaged and we welcome you as part of our active pool.

Quorum requirements of GAC operating principles have been met so over 100 ballots were submitted and recorded and electronic election or voting system work reliably and this is the tally system and no ties that would prohibit identifying the candidates with the 5 highest vote counts, so we had no ties, and this -- so this was pretty straightforward, so no paper balloting was needed. If we go to the following slide and based on the votes cast the elected 2022 vice chairs will be Par Brumark of Niue, Francis Olivier Cubahiro from Burundi. Shi Young Chang from Republic of Korea. Jaideep Kumar Mishra from India, Ola Bergstrom from Sweden.

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I would like to congratulate all elected vice-chairs. I'm looking forward to welcoming you within the GAC leadership team, and I hope you wouldn't mind being invited to the upcoming cancer GAC leadership calls for a smooth transition. The final voting results will be posted on the 2021 GAC chair election page and you will find the link in the slides again as you all know the official term is one year for vice-chairs which normally starts off ICANN73 so it's going to start after the March meeting and go until the end of ICANN 76 which is again within the March time-frame, as I mentioned new vice-chairs will be invited to attend upcoming leadership calls, so please stay tuned for the calendar invites to enable onboarding and transition of the new vice-chairs.

And also, I would like to sincerely thank all its candidates and the voters, thank you very much, and I would like also to grasp this opportunity to bring to your kind attention that also during the next elections in -- there will be a call for elections for the GAC chair as well. And the reason I'm flagging this today is that the elections normally -- the nominations starts after the second meeting of the year so it's within the June, July time-frame, and then the results are announced at the end of the year, again around the annual general meeting as we did today.

And the reason I'm flagging this early is because I think specifically for the chair position it needs a little bit of

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presentations of individually and nationally, so if you would like to seek any specific information I'm happy to chat one to one. You don't need to be serious yet about it, but feel free to seek first information, and also at the national level you need to know that if you are the sole representative of your country then you will need someone else to represent the country because as you may all know the GAC chair does not speak for their own country, unlike the vice-chairs they can speak in both capacities.

And also we will need the support of your government, and also to spare you the time needed for all the obligations of the chair position.

One more thing on the chair responsibilities, so I see them as 3 tracks, one in relation to chairing the GAC, second in relation to serving as the GAC nonvoting. Liaison to the Board. Now he gets to attend all the Board meetings, all the Board meetings. Workshops or retreats, and this is already it has a lot of obligations particularly also the travelling and this was before the COVID pandemic of course. As the Board used to have 6 workshops a year, 3 of which are, 3 of which are held back-to-back with the ICANN public meetings.

And the third thing is being one of the ICANN's SO-AC chairs you also get to be on the leader's mailing lists, and calls and roundtables, roundtable discussions among the leadership team,

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and also with the CEO roundtables with the CEO, and one to one calls with different leaders of the community. So, again, this is just to make sure you all start thinking about it, and please, please, please, feel free to reach out to me.

I'm happy to share anything information or provide any further information that you may need to know, even out of curiosity until you decide your mind. With that, I hope I haven't overlooked anything regarding the elections. Any questions before we move on?

Okay. If not, then congratulations again to our new vice-chairs, and if we can go to the following slide, I see a hand up? I'm sorry. I saw a hand up and then down. So evaluation of GAC.

OTHER SPEAKER: Excuse me, excuse me is it possible are questions possible from the observers?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: If you -- it's a GAC session, so you are welcome to type your question in the chat and maybe we can get to you later. Thank you for your understanding.

So on evaluation of GAC ICANN72 meeting implementation, and I

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hope you can start providing your feedback on the opening session. I'm just flagging that now we try to use slides as a resource for everyone, but also to help keep the attention of everything during the session. We try to make it less intense also by introducing the oral briefing prior to the meeting. We try to have more speakers to make it less boring, and we welcome any feedback on the opening session. And thank you Susan for indicating that the oral briefing was helpful. Good to know.

And I hope we can also agree whether one was enough, or we need 2 as we ran out of time, any details you would like to provide now is the time. Also, assessment of community bilateral meetings with the Board ALAC and GNSO, how you see the preparations, so we normally consulted at the leadership level, and then seek views on top inks from both constituencies and then consult at the leadership level short list the topics, and come up with a final agenda, but we also try to pose concrete questions which help the other side to prepare and make the discussions more interactive.

And same with the Board, as you all know we start asking for topics that the GAC would like to discuss with the Board, topics or questions, so again any feedback on how we prepare, and the effectiveness of the format would be helpful. I continue through the list to give you a chance to think of your feedback and then I'll

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stop to see if there are any comments. Also, your feedback on the communique drafting, again, early flagging of issues, I don't think we, we fully utilized this yet, but again, it's an option that we flag topics early for early heads up to facilitate our discussions during the meeting.

The drafting, the idea of having breakout rooms, the 72-hour review period, anything else that we can make it to facilitate our discussions during the virtual meetings. Then the informal daily briefings and whether you find these useful for not they I'm to give quick summary of the day for those who missed any of the sessions, either because of other obligations or because ever the challenging time zones and finally additional discussion regarding future ICANN and GAC public meetings, so any ideas you have regarding the future meetings, the need for example for social gathering. We have done a couple before. I'm not sure how, whether we need more. Whether we need them in other formats or anyone -- does anyone have any creative ideas? And also, if there are any reflections from the plenary on hybrid meetings, and I would like here to really thank the U.K., and... for volunteering first of all. They proposed the plenary, which was supported by the entire community, and this was the only plenary we had during the annual general meeting.

She also surveyed the GAC and provided an update during the

plenary with the results of the survey, which I hope she can share with us the slides, and Anna, if you would like to reflect on the results of the survey, please feel free to let me know. Please Anna, go ahead

ANNA GOULDEN: Thanks, and I'm very happy to share some results from the survey. I do have a couple of slides just depicting the results so if you're happy for me to share my screen I can do so now and briefly one through them.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: If it is not much trouble for you please do so. Thank you.

ANNA GOULDEN: Yeah, for sure. Okay. Can you see them now? Oh, no problem. So yes, just a couple of slides, to show the results of the survey and first of all thank you so much to everybody who took the time to fill it out and also to those who sent in written comments as those are really, really helpful for the plenary session. I'll briefly go through them. So the first question was around you know how likely GAC members are to wish to attend the next ICANN meeting in person, so we had 42.9% responding as highly likely. So you know it seems that there is a strong appetite for you know members of the GAC to be attending in person albeit with

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obviously some sort of limitations with regards to travel restrictions and you know the pandemic situation.

There was also a question around sort of the kind of provisions that we'd like to see in if place in the next hybrid meeting, so we had 71.4% of GAC members highlighting opportunities for virtual networking so these options were based off comments that I had in, and so we had opportunities for virtual networking on 71.4%. And then 47.6% highlighted and a real-life screen to display the participants to bring them into the room and 51.7% and selecting an effective fair on-line system for managing requests to the floor. 23.8% selected new interactive virtual event tools so things like WANDAME to enhance interactivities and then 47.6% integrated real-time application and we had several other suggests put in so things like you know making sure that tools are accessible for all. And having more immersive participation coordination and interaction.

And lastly there was a question on the biggest concerns around the transition from virtual to hybrid meetings and the point that came out here was around potential inequalities manage participants and for those at the plenary session you would have heard that was really a key sort of theme throughout discussion and there are lots of helpful suggestion how to make sure on-line participates are treated on par. And we had people who sort of

highlighted the response to health concerns around returning to in-person meetings and also the need to manage travel advise and restrictions is obviously these varies between regions.

And will be a concern that we will have to deal with when the time comes. So those were the sort of the -- that's an overview really of the outcomes of the survey. And thanks again so much everyone who sent in their responses, and also to those who gave some really thorough and helpful written responses. Thanks a lot, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much ANNA for all your efforts, and indeed thongs to everyone who participated. So, while we get the slide back on the screen, I'm pausing to see if there are any comments or reflections either on the topics you see on the screen, or on the findings of the U.K. representation, and also noting what Benedetta typed in the chat and thank four the reminders also your feedback on the written briefs. We tried to shorten them this meeting so again your feedback is crucial to help us meet your expectations for next meeting.

Stopping here to see if there are any comments, any questions, on this is really a candid exchange so please feel free to seek the

floor, and, and if there are no immediate -- Kavouss, please go ahead.

IRAN: Excuse me, I missed the election of the vice-chairs who are the 5 vice-chairs please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: The vice-chairs are Nuie, Burundi Republic of Korea, India and Sweden in the order we received the nominations.

IRAN: So welcome the new member. Welcome.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss. Any if we go back to slide -- or go forward to slide 6. Yes thank you. Any comments Jorge please go ahead. Thank you for breaking the ice.

SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Manal. Jorge Cancio for the record. I just wanted to make a comment on the communique drafting, and, of course, we benefit from our excellent chair, from Manal who is so experienced, so calm, so patient, and is able to really bring us to a safe port with the communique drafting supported by Fabien, and all the team who are all very experienced in this, but maybe

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we, we shouldn't risk so much if we have the tools and the means and the opportunity of at least starting to discuss some of the communique text in advance, and there are parts of the text which obviously depend on our interaction with the Board, on our interaction with other parts of the community, but there are also blocks of text or at least drafts that could be up there one week, 2 weeks before, which we could familiarize ourselves with them, and so we would avoid the last minute drafting exercise, which I think is quite a risky business.

I just have to think about a different chair, a different team there and this could be much more difficult as it was many years ago in the past where the GAC used to go into very late hours in the night to draft a communique. So, to cut the story short, I would urge really all colleagues to use the opportunities to inform about what their priorities are, and to come forward with proposed text, even with options or with blank parts which have to be filled off the conversation with the Board, etcetera. So that at least we can have a very solid basis, and not depend so much on the mastery of Manal in chairing our discussions. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge. I see Susan and Shi Young, USA and the Republic of Korea agreeing in the chat. I think it would be to the benefit of everyone if we really start flagging the issues early.

It would significantly facilitate our interactions here.

So, and I can't agree more on the significant efforts around the clock that support staff are giving to the leadership team and entire GAC membership, and, of course, the -- my leadership colleagues as well, so it's all teamwork, and it wouldn't have happened without also flexibility and team spirit of the GAC colleagues as well. Irrespective of the chair if GAC representatives are not willing to compromise, we will never finish, so collaborative efforts indeed.

If there is no more comments on –

IRAN: Yes, I have a comment.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, please, Kavouss.

IRAN: Yes, Jorge did not leave any word for me to add to what he said. However I could say you are the best of the best as a chair that I have seen. Not only calm, patient, competent, collaborative, and dealing with all of us and sometimes we may not be -- we may be a little bit harsh, but you have been patient and we try to settle that.

I think someone I have to mention maybe people mentioned that -- someone's -- yes leadership team, and the leader of the leadership that is yourself, however staff, Rob, Julia, Fabien, and also Gulten. Gulten working very, very hard. Many links every day for us. Very easily you click. First meeting, sec meeting. Third meeting. 4th meeting. Very, very efficient everybody she is always listening to everybody, any question in a minute or so, replies she's always collaborative and we would like also to put a record all collaboration that she made, Julia and others and these are the supporting staff that we are really happy to have them, and we are proud that having our Manal as the chair, and I think that the GAC has make a lot of development and preparatory works for future that under your leadership people learn the many things from you, and continue to learn from you. So you have been working very hard between the 2 meetings. So many e-mails that you have replied and so many communications so on and so forth it's not an easy job.

It's very, very difficult, and very deep. We sincerely appreciate that, and we ask everybody to virtually have an applaud for you. A virtual applause.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, thank you, thank you, very much, Kavouss. And indeed we have a great support team, so Benedetta, Julia Gulten, Fabien and Rob they are -- I feel like I'm working with a team of ten, so they are doing a great job, and things that we take for granted as Kavouss mentioned, the links for the meetings, and everything is working very smoothly, that you might not feel the effort behind the scenes, but indeed an amazing support team, so thanks, a big thank you to every one of them.

So, I hate to go to the following slide on substantive topics. I know you want to unwind, and forget about substantive topics, so I'll try to make it short concise and maybe in tweets we have the subsequent rounds of new gTLDs where we need to follow up the operational design phase and think of any potential GAC advice in relation to the subsequent rounds of new gTLDs.

On continued engagement in GNSO, RDS WHOIS EPDP matters, again encouraging colleagues to respond to the survey with the deadline extended until 31st of October. Also we need to continue to contribute to the relevant operational design phase and consider the recent SSAC regions, SSAC 118 that the recommendations from SSAC to the GNSO and ICANN org.

And it focuses on building and operating an effective differentiated access system. Regarding data accuracy, we will be

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participating to the... GOPE team and I would like to grasp the opportunity to thank all GAC members who volunteered their time and effort to participate on behalf of the GAC and keep the GAC well informed in different PDPs, working groups, and other activities, so data accuracy, scoping team and follow up on making sure all 4 assignments of the group are considered, and by now we all know the 4 assignments from the communique.

Next DNS abuse mitigation. We need to consider ICANN Board's resolution and scorecard on the recommendations of the security, stability and resilience review of the SSR2, and I could see there was a lot of interest on the discussions on the recommendations so if need be we can certainly organize a webinar and go through the scorecard thoroughly to make sure everyone is up to speed, and we can reach agreements easier. We also need to consider the outcome of the registrar audit launched on the 15th of January and concluded, and with publication of its results on the 24th of August.

And finally consider the SSAC proposal for an interoperable approach to addressing DNS abuse handling, to addressing abuse handling in the DNS.

On GNSO, IDN, EPDP, so, as mentioned between brackets and as

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I mentioned today, we need a volunteer to chair Universal Acceptance and IDN working group so please think about it and consider putting down your name. Regarding the EPDP we need to continue to follow and participate to the work of the GNSO expedited policy development process on internationalized domain names which is the IDN EPDP. We have confirmed participation with volunteers from U.K. as a member, India as an alternate, and Nigeria also as a participant. So thanks to everyone again who is participating on our behalf.

We have received a list of questions for optional community written input with a deadline of the 10th of November, so again, it's optional but I'm just bringing it to everyone's attention, and in relation to IDN's as well there is the ccNSO working group on the deselection of IDN, ccTLD strings and they define the criteria and process and procedures for the selection of internationalized domain names as ccTLDs, and this will be replacing the IDN ccTLD fast track.

On GCC and we also have discussed this before, there was an application by a company to be delegated on GCC and GTLD and the GCC countries United Arab Emirates and others, Kuwait, Oman and others did not support so the GAC in 2013 issued a GAC advice in the... communique for the application not to proceed, and at the time the GAC was not required to provide rationale for

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its advice so if you recall the rationale we were discussing in the communique this was not a requirement at the time.

Accordingly, the Board accepted the GAC advice and application was removed from further processing, the company filed an independent PENTD review process challenging ICANN Board's acceptance of the GAC consensus advice, and they, they said that the Board accepted the GAC advice despite lack of any rationale provided by the GAC, and without requesting a rationale from the GAC. So accordingly the Board resolve to have had open an in normal dialogue with the GAC regarding the rationale of the GAC consensus advice, and they -- we are now expecting a letter from the Board in a pre-suspect and we need to be ready to provide the Board with needed rationale that will support the GAC decision of 2013. So please let me know if you have all the information you need for this decision or if we need we can also organize a webinar. We've been offered by ICANN org to organize a webinar to make sure that we have all the information we need for this.

Eventual -- I'm sorry, on voluntary public interest commitments, and I see U.S. in the chat saying that a webinar would be very helpful, also Nigel U.K. and from Egypt. So note everybody. Thank you. And we will get to the expected calls and webinars on the following supplied.

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On voluntary public interest commitments again in 2020 in October 2020 the registry stakeholder group presented potential process for registries to change their voluntary public interest commitments, and again I'm saying voluntary. These are not the mandatory ones. And the GAC leadership sought additional briefing from ICANN org. ICANN org shared the briefing document with a proposal for registry operators to modify the voluntary commitments. And it includes a background on the topic, how this matter is connected to outputs of the SubPro PDP and Board inputs on public interest commitments and also the possible process including the DWROOER and so on, and they are requesting GAC feedback.

In order to inform their decision making on the roll out of such a process.

So the document will be circulated for input regarding the proposed process, and I hope we can provide the necessary feedback.

Next is the Board IGO consultation process, and I'm sure by now you all know about the bylaw consultation between the Board and the GAC that is triggered by the bylaws following the expected Board rejection of GAC advice at the ICANN Board resolution of 22nd of October 2020. And the other issue on IGOs

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is the process for adding and removing from the IGO list the 2013 GAC IGO list. With appending request from the African --. Then the potential collaboration with the ALAC in light of our bilateral, a couple of days ago, and I noted 3 things out of -- in relation to the 3 topics. First the ICANN in government and I think there was agreement that the ALAC white footprint and maybe useful and how to benefit from linking between the at large structures and GAC members at the national level.

And on DNS abuse there was agreement to create a small group of interested volunteers from both constituencies to work on a joint white paper, so I hope those interested they can express their interest and we can start creating this working group. And finally on public interest there was great interest as well in the discussion, and I hope we can familiarize ourselves with the topic and the current framework in preparation for the wider community discussion at ICANN73.

Regarding the operating principles, I will not repeat what has been said during the working group session, but I hope everyone will be ready to provide feedback on this important exercise and stay tuned for the output of the discussion of the working group members.

And last but not least is the high-level governmental meeting

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planning so this is a meeting that we use to hold every other year, the last one was held in Barcelona in 2018, and due to the pandemic circumstances we were not able to hold the following one, which should have taken place around the 2020 time-frame.

So this is just that we start considering how we can plan for the next high-level meeting again with the caveat of whether it's going to be virtual or in person, so it needs some thinking and... being creative in order to overcome the uncertainty we were facing.

With that, I'm sorry if it turned out to be longer than I intended but let's go to the last slide. And this is on key post meeting dates, so potential GAC introductory webinars. We had on our list the GNSO consensus playbook which is termed to be very useful and we agreed that the webinar would make sense and we keep postponing this so we are targeting sometime around the December time-frame, also, a webinar on internationalized domain names again hoping to trigger more interest, and to -- in chairing the working group that we have, and this is targeting January on SSR2 as I mentioned earlier this is great interest and the scorecard is very intense so maybe a walk-through with benefit everyone around the February time-frame.

And if there are any other topics, I note we mentioned on GCC as

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well so if we can add this to our expected list of webinars. And then topics for ICANN73 will be due around late December, and GAC 2022 prep call, and this is the oral briefing, it's going to be around January February time-frame, and noting that ICANN73 is scheduled for early March 5 to 10. And, of course, before that, we will have the GAC agenda setting call around mid-January.

Any comments or any additions from support staff if I have overlooked anything? Just catching up with the chat. And Nigel agreeing high-level governmental meeting is needed not least to engage our seniors but think has to be hybrid.

Yeah, I have the same feeling, Nigel, that maybe we need to take a serious step and have it held as hybrid. Normally it's a one-day event, maybe we can think of a high-level session to avoid any real painful hour for senior officials but again it -- we can certainly have this discussion, and just reading also Rob in the chat noting that the GAC ICANN71 communique clarifying who will be scheduled for period late November to mid-December? Thank you Rob for adding one more call.

And one thing I forgot to note on the previous slide is the GAC action and decision... this is a very useful tool. It's been extremely helpful for the GAC leadership, and I encourage GAC colleagues to consult it regularly. It gives quick view of everything we have on

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our plate. It's not as long as it may look because it's repeated in different sorting's, so don't be discouraged by the size of the PDF you receive.

With that, I'm pausing if there are any requests for the floor before we adjourn? I believe this is the last slide. Can we go to the last slide? Yes. So any requests for the floor? I'm just reading Nigel in the chat; another thought is whether there may be a number of GAC... at IGF2021 perhaps an informal get together. So certainly if -- if colleagues are attending in person and would like to get together it's a good opportunity. And thank you Rob for sharing the link to the action decision data.

So, seeing no requests for the floor, this would conclude -- any additions from support staff or GAC leadership colleagues? Okay, if not then -- sorry, I see a hand up from Pua please. Pua, go ahead. Pua, you may be on mute.

PUA HUNTER:

Yes, sorry, it took me a while to unmute. I just want to thank Nigel for prompting this. That the underserved regions working group is also we are intending to have its Work Plan endorsed after a month of putting it out for any further input or comment from our GAC members. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Certainly. Thank you very much, Pua, and apologies for overlooking this. So, with that, I would like to conclude our wrap-up session, but please continue to engage and provide feedback over e-mail, and to colleagues interested there are still 2 more ICANN sessions before the ICANN meet concludes. There is the ICANN public forum and ICANN Board meeting afterwards. Before adjourning I would like again, to thank you all for the active participation. Productive discussions and co-operative spirit, and special thanks my GAC leadership colleagues for their help, support and guidance throughout the meeting.

And as everyone also helping due thanks to all topic leads working group chairs and liaisons for the significant time and tireless efforts they all devoted to prepare for and run this meeting. And as agreed by everyone, a big thank you to our amazing GAC support team, Benedetta, Fabien, Julia, Gulten and Rob in alphabetical order for working around the clock to facilitate a smooth and seamless meeting for everyone and special thanks to the IT and language services teams supporting us from remote during these exceptional times, I'm really impressed by the significant enhancement achieved over the past 2 years with everything working smoothly, and seamlessly for everyone, so kudos to all. And thanks to our wonderful and professional interpreters and scribes who are also supporting us

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from remote and our fundamental to our discussions. Again, another thing we sometimes take for granted.

So we'll continue to engage, and until we meet again in preparation for ICANN73, please stay safe, and enjoy a well deserved break. The meeting is adjourned. Thanks.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**