ICANN72 | Virtual Annual General Meeting - GAC Working Group Updates
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 10:30 to 12:00 PDT

GULTEN TEPE: This session will now begin. May I ask tech team to start the recording please?

Welcome to the ICANN72 GAC working group update session on Tuesday 26th of October at 17:30PMUTC. We will not be doing a roll call for the sake of time but GAC members a tendency available in the annex of the communique and minutes. May I remind GAC representatives in the attendance to indicate presence by updating their participant's name to reflect their full name and affiliation.

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please type it by starting and ending your sentence with question or comment, to allow all participants to see your request interpretation for GAC sessions include all 6 U.N. language and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon located on the Zoom tool bar.

Your microphone will be muted for the duration of the session unless you get into the queue to speak. If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the Zoom room when spooking 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 to allow for accurate interpretation. And also make sure to mute all your other devices.

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

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

Manal, over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Gulten. We will be using the coming 90 minutes to receive updates from 3 GAC working groups. 30 minutes allocated for the GAC operating principles evolution working group, and 45 for the Human Rights and International Law and 15 for the underserved regions working group. With that, allow me to hand over to Feng, chair of the GAC operating principles

evolution working group, and GAC representative of China for his presentation. Thank you.

CHINA: Thank you, and let's begin our session here. So dear colleagues, good day to everyone. Welcome to the session of operating principles evolution working group. Ism Guo Feng with the Chinese government and the chair of this working group. I would like to extend my welcome to working group members as well as GAC colleagues in this on-line meeting room.

So in terms of today's agenda, the proposed agenda of this session is agenda item one, opening remarks. Is which -- we are at now. Agenda item 2. Update on recent working group activity. Agenda item 3, we will be briefing on updated analyze of GAC operating principles, and Work Plan. Number 4, comments and discussion. And number 5, any other business.

So I would like to pause here to see if any GAC member would like to comment on the agenda? If no, then I think we can proceed to the next agenda item which is agenda item 2. Recently the GOPE working group resumed activities for its work, mainly in a prioritization effort aimed at reviewing each GAC operating principle in preparation for the -- for this session, so in preparation for ICANN72, the working group, updated analyzed of GAC operating principles document, which aims to identify which

GAC operating principles require minor changes or no changes or substantive changes, and discussion by the whole working group.

So, with assistance from ... the document updated, analyses of GAC operating principles was circulated among working group members, and we asked working group members to provide input to GAC operating principles. Then a version with working group members input was circulated with GAC membership for discussion at ICANN72 for GAC wide input.

And also, a draft Work Plan for 2021 to 2022 of the working group was also produced and shared with the GAC. Benedetta will brief you the draft Work Plan a minute later which identify the next steps of our process. So taking this opportunity, I want to thank GAC support staff, in particular Benedetta and Rob for the effort in drafting and refining the documents, and the communication with GAC working group members. I also would like to thank U.S., Switzerland, Canada, for providing thoughtful and input to the reviewing document of the GAC operating principle.

So this is the update on the recent working group activities. So because of time limitation I would like to move to the next agenda item which is a briefing and updating analysis of GAC operating principles and the Work Plan. Next slide, please.

So in this agenda item I would like to hand over the microphone to Benedetta to brief you the 2 documents. Benedetta?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you, Feng. I'm Benedetta Rossi from GAC support staff for the record. So following working group deliberations on how to prioritize the review of the GAC operating principles, GAC support staff was asked to provide the GAC operating principles working group with a preliminary report outlining which articles and principles may require mere administrative updates, such as numbering on formatting issues, or to ensure a principle reflects current GAC procedures, which articles and principles may require more complex amendments and should be subject to the consideration of the working group, and which articles and principles may remain unchanged.

The updated understand assist of the GAC operating principles provide that information and was shared with GAC membership a couple of weeks ago I believe for review after input from GAC operating principles working group members, and in preparation for this session. If you could go to the next slide, please.

Thank you very much. So GAC operating principles working group members provided input on the analysis of GAC operating principles in writing. No discussions actually taking place as of yet within the working group, but they are expected to resume

following ICANN72. Based on the responses received from working group members and then the preliminary review from GAC support GAC support identified areas of the GAC operating principles where reference to the ICANN bylaws are somewhat outdated so refer to the previous set of ICANN bylaws, so some preliminary alignment was suggested for working group review. That's considered a first potential step for the working group prioritization effort to start in collaboration with the working group chair.

Then in terms of minor changes identified by GAC support and working group members they include just to give you an idea. References to in-person meetings versus on-line meetings. The need for some alignments of areas identified within the operating principles, which don't necessarily align right now with the current practice in the GAC, so some quick examples are the elections of vice-chairs and the replacement of vice-chairs among others.

And then the renumbering of some of the GAC operating principles since we've identified some in numbers are actual missing and those would need to be changed. And -- where substantive working group discussion is needed include principles... principles mentioning procedures to tackle the GAC chair's absence or GAC chair no longer being able to form the functions of the office. Principles referring to the GAC chair

election, and then principles referring to GAC quorum. Again, this is a non-exhaustive list but just to give you a bit after idea of the areas that were identified in the preliminary analysis.

If we can go to the next slide please. Thank you. Additionally, input was received from working group members, which flagged that some operating principles include several points so working grew members may wish to discuss dividing those principles into groups for clarity anise of reference much additionally there are op pending questions which the working group members and GAC members may wish to discuss. Areas that we've identified as such include whether there are any items procedures or topics currently missing from the GAC operating principles, this hasn't been discussed yet at a working group level but also obviously noting the neat for the operating principles to remain high level, so we don't want to go into necessarily too much detail either within the GAC operating principles.

And then another open question would be the formatting of the operating principles, which may be something for potential further discussion just to see if GAC members think it should be changed to include for example subsections for clarity, or just retained the current format of simple numbering. If we go to the next slide please, here you can see the draft GAC operating principles working group Work Plan for 2021 and 2022, which is

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based on the analysis of the GAC operating principles since it provided a good opportunity to draft the basis of the Work Plan.

This will be submitted for GAC leadership endorsement. It hasn't yet been done but includes several steps have been taken this far by the working group so including the review of the updated analysis of the operating principles and this current discussion taking place in 1972 in terms of next steps the work plan identifies the focus of the operating principles working group and reviewing the principles for the rest of the year, so through to December 2021.

With regular updates on discussion with GAC membership at ICANN73 and 74 and the operating principles review will also include some focus on Work Stream 2 accountability recommendations to see how they might fit in with the GAC's operating principles.

If we go to the next slide then I will leave with this and turn back over to Feng for discussion and questions. Thank you very much.

CHINA: Thank you, Benedetta, so we are here to seek input and comments from GAC members, so I see Kavouss's hand, and U.S., and Kavouss please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Kavouss.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Do you hear me please?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, we can hear you now.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: I am human being, I need to touch a mouse, I need to put the mouse on the microphone. I need to de-activate the unit -- please leave me a second. Please kindly and slowly and patiently. I have raised 3 point yesterday distinguished friend. I don't have in a document, but these are the point to be taken by yourself kindly.

The first point is that criteria for the GAC vice-chair can be ... do we have criteria or anyone, just being a member of the GAC could put his or her name, either self-candidate, or recommended did I someone for the GAC. This is the first point. Do we have criteria, if we have I want to suggest that we look at the criteria and make some changes.

The second point I raised is the election do we need to make election everyone year or every 2 years? i.e., to inject some degree of continuity. Some degree of continuity. Having

discussed this I have a third point I will raise later. I'm sorry this is what I made last night and the distinguished chair of the GAC kindly mentioned that yes, that will be taken on Board. So please kindly either yourself, or someone advise whether we have any principle in those 2 records, and thank you very much, I mute myself now thank you.

CHINA: Thank you, Kavouss. Thank you for your 2 points. One is criteria of candidates of vice chair, and another one is about the election. Thank you very much.

So if we can go to the next speaker. U.S. please.

UNITED STATES: Thank you to our colleague from China, and to Miss Rossi for her efforts in undertaken on the operating principles revision in advance of this meeting.

Benedetta had mentioned earlier that there has yet to be discussion amongst working group members at least in this... of the working group. We think that the preliminary analysis exercise that was undertaken prior to this meeting ensures that some further discussion by the working group members is needed prior to finalizing the Work Plan. We appreciate then in advance of this meeting GAC support staff reviewed each

operating principle, however we seem to have skipped a more fundamental discussion on the principles or the working methods or processes and an assessment of which working methods the GAC finds are working well. Where is the GAC encountering trouble in its working methods?

Just as an example we should know that the operating principles seem neither to inhibit nor interfere with the GAC's successful development of a new working method, which was the work that we all undertook to develop a communique in the virtual environment this year. So as such we would recommend that the working group arrange for meetings following ICANN72 to have this discussion, and further refine the group's approach.

Thank you.

CHINA: Thank you, U.S.

Yes, I think indeed, we need some more discussion in detail on some of the substantive issues around the operating principle, so I think that perhaps after this, this GAC meeting we can arrange working group call to have the members of the working group to have the discussion among ourselves, so look forward to your active participation as well as other members participation.

So I see next is Finn from Denmark, please, and then Manal.

DENMARK: Thank you, Feng, and thank you for the work that you have done, and also Benedetta and Rob on this issue. I've been members of the group ever since this started and I am a little shameful that I have not been able to come in writing with comments on the different proposals put forward in the paper you have produced.

First of all, I think that these are old principles but actually they have functioned good, and they have even functioned good during the COVID crisis, of course they can always be improved but from the outset they functioned, and they have been able to reflect the... of the GAC members to be interpreted in a way so that we can perform our function. So one thing is important, this is really to analyze and discuss the different principles whether there is a need to amend them, and then have a common idea, how they could be amended and then there's a drafting process, so I -- I will agree with the U.S. that we should have a working group meetings where we can discuss principle by principle and look into whether we need amendments and if we need amendment then try oral to agree in which direction, and then there will be a drafting process, and discussion.

And also after we have had some discussion we might put up a working plan. I think the working plan which have been produced

here at least to my knowledge is very ambitious also looking back what we have achieved during the past couple of years, so I will be in favor of really process who leads the working group members through the different principle we discussed the purpose, and where an amendment might be appropriate, and thank you.

CHINA: Thank you, Finn, and next Manal, please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Feng and Benedetta, and Rob, I know you're all working on this. I'll try to be short as I see a queue forming, and in addition to the very good comments we already heard, I'm just asking, and apologies if this has been mentioned and I missed it -- are we prioritizing the changes, or everything is going to be done at once and adopted at the end? And I'm asking because I got alerted by what was mentioned recording the chair elections, as you may know we will be opening nominations for chair elections by June, July next year, so I'm just wondering whether this -- there is a pressing need to finalize this part and get it adopt -- and get it adopted separately or we're good to work would the old operating principles until everything is adopted at the end. And one more thing I'm -- I see this as a priority, and I would be -- I encourage everyone to participate. We need to drive some progress, and happy to hold an inter-sessional GAC wide

call as soon as the working group finalize its discussions and feels the needs or feels ready to discuss with the wider GAC.

Thank you.

CHINA: Thank you, Manal. Because of time limits, so I next I want to go to Canada and then U.K., and then perhaps the point you made all the working group members need to think perhaps in a future discussion, so next Luisa from Canada please.

LUISA PAEZ: Thank you very much, and hello everyone. This is Luisa Paez -- (audio interrupted) and I wanted to start by thanking our co-lead from China as chair of this working group as well as support staff and Rob. And the work done thus far, and also those GAC members that have contributed to date. This is of course a very important working group for Canada, and I believe others as well.

We just wanted to echo other's comments from Denmark and the United States, and we would like to encourage GAC members of this working group to continue and we support meaningful discussions as we think it is -- it's very important to make -- to ensure we're not rushing and we're really taking our time to look at each principle, and so likewise we believe the Work Plan that

has been carefully developed to date as Finn from Denmark mentioned at least to our eye it is seems a little bit ambitious, so again we just want to make sure we are really taking the time to really do a deep dive on each principle, again -- and really encourage and strongly support having meaningful discussions, and which we can -- we're happy to do inter-sessionally. But as we know sometimes GAC members have competing priorities, and so perhaps we can make some progress inter-sessionally but of course it's always important to come together during these ICANN meetings, and, of course, report back to the GAC as well.

But again, thank you very much for the work that has been done thus far and we look forward to contributing to these important discussions. Thank you.

CHINA: Thank you, Canada. Nigel from U.K., please.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes. Thank you very much, Feng, and good evening, good afternoon to everyone. I'll be very brief as I think most things have been said already.

First of all thank you to you and the working group for producing this material, it certainly, I think of great interest, and I think I would echo what both Manal and -- well nearly everyone has said

that, you know, this is very important work. This is work which we need you know really in-depth discussions on because it's important that we reflect the views of all GAC members that are interested in this, in this work going forward.

Thanks very much to Benedetta for putting all the tables together. I think this is -- you're really constructive and made it easy to follow. So I mean just two further points. One I fully agree with Manal that we perhaps could have a, you know a GAC-wide call on this in due course to sort of go through some of the, to go through some of the points. I think it's important that the time-line reflects lots of time for not just working group discussions -- which of course are very important -- but also discussions between the working group and the wider GAC, and clearly the points that Kavouss raised at the beginning in terms of the duration of the vice chair terms and other issues are obviously need to be taken into account in those discussions, so you know, thank you.

CHINA: Thank you U.K. for your points, and suggestions.

Next, Benedetta, please, I see your hands.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you very much, Feng. I just wanted to address some of the comments received throughout the session so in terms of the -- just to clarify in terms of the analysis document, it was sort of aimed at commencing the review of the operating principles. I just want to clarify that in case my presentation was completely clear.

It's absolutely not replacing any working group or obviously GAC membership discussions on the operating principles. The purpose was basically to prioritize. And just seek, to seek working group membership input on the areas which for instance may remain unchanged or which areas should be changed. Both.

So I think that's sort of in line with some of the comments received today. In terms of the vice-chairs I don't believe that we have specific criteria in the operating principles as it stands other than the reference to potential geographic diversity. So I've made a note for -- regarding that Kavouss. Thank you for noting that.

And I just wanted to respond to Manal's comment regarding the GAC elections. I did -- I mentioned -- I realized but it was mainly because it was one of the areas that required further discussion. I just wanted to clarify that there isn't anything in the current analysis that means it would change the actual election itself, but there are areas within the principles which might slightly be

modified, but since this is an important topic we wouldn't be proceeding with any suggestions to modify the principles without proper discussion within the working group.

So I don't think that would need to be finalized before an upcoming GAC election but of course I will defer to Feng for any further clarifications. Thank you very much.

CHINA: Thank you, Benedetta. So as we are approaching the end of this session, I will say that thanks to GAC members who make comments during intercession, thank you for your good suggestions and points, in particular I would like to echo that this work is very important, and so we want to -- we may want to keep it in a manageable way, so we can so we can conduct our task in a most efficient process.

So -- and another thing is if you have further comments on the Work Plan as well as the current documents on the pre-analysis of principles you're welcome to provide your input and comments by e-mail after the session. So I think this concludes this session, and the microphone can be hand over to Gulten or perhaps Manal. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Feng, Rob, Benedetta and all members of the working group. Good progress, and good discussion. I hope we continue driving progress and hope to see us finalizing the review of the operating principles.

It's time now to move to another working group, and the GAC Human Rights and International Law working group, and I would like to hand it over to -- I see Suada, GAC representative of Bosnia Herzegovina, and Lina, representative of Lithuania both co-chairs of the working group as well as Giacomo so over to you, please, Suada.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you, Manal. So good morning. Good evening, and good afternoon to all.   My name is Suada Hadzovic I'm GAC representative from Bosnia Herzegovina and I am also co-chair of GAC working group and Human Rights and International Law.

So I'm happy to welcome you to this session and I hope you are all well and thank you for your presence. Unfortunately, my colleague, Lina Rainiene, who is a co-chair couldn't join this session today due to health reasons so I would like to thank Giacomo who will also lead the session. Giacomo is GAC representative of broadcasting... and chosen to represent Italian government... in the negotiation for the cultural diversity

convention his knowledge and experience in this topic of diversity is of great help us to.

I would also like to thank staff and especially Julia Charvolen. So let me start by presenting the agenda, firstly I will give you a brief introduction to the background and goal of this session and then we will have a discussion in the way that we will review each element of the diversity, recommendation, and in the third point we have any other business, and we will define the following steps. Next slide, please.

So, just to remind also briefly, that on November 2019 the ICANN Board approved the work stream recommendations and we have a precisely 116 recommendations on various aspects and total of 42 recommendations have impact the GAC in some way or form. This Work Stream 2 report is divided into the 8 issues, and our focus today is and the issue number 1 diversity. And some history. At ICANN69 meeting last year the Human Rights and International Law working group agreed upon leading the implementation of recommendations one and diversity and 3 human rights core value.

So as you remember from the ICANN70 communique, among the next steps relative to the Work Stream 2 recommendation is implementation process our working group will be consulting DDNS to explore the Internet... indicators which measures and

which measures how elements are diversity disability language, human rights, among others are represented in Internet environment. In a given country. So last month in September UNESCO held a webinar to Human Rights International Law Working Group, and underserved working region working group on Internet universality indicators and objective of the webinar was to discuss whether the universality indicators should be considered into the -- within the Work Stream 2 implementation process, and particularly returning to recommendation 1.1 and the definition of diversity and potentially recommendation 3 human rights.

We have a proposal for a new element of diversity. It is cultural diversity. So prior to this session we share the job proposal was sent to both working groups for their consideration. Next slide, please.

So this slide shows a list of 7 elements of diversity. This list may not be exhaustive. Each of the ICANN groups have some elements of diversity that are important to them based on their role within ICANN but not necessarily important to other groups across ICANN.

So additional elements or diversity that important to GAC for example the developing and underserved region and we know that underserved region is defined as one that doesn't have a well

weld DNS and or associated industry for economy or has low awareness within its government of ICANN. ICANN's role and function and policy processes, and the way that this policy affected. So for us definitely we need to include that.

So today we will have a discussion in the way that we will review each of these 7 elements of diversity as well as an additional element to the cultural diversity. So the core issues concerning the diversity revolve around the need for a uniform definition or the parameters of diversity and the community discussion. On the ones that are identified so geographic regional representation, language, gender, age, physical disability, diverse skills, stakeholder... and so and, so and one agreed upon definition of all of these is necessary before its Board approved and application consistently through the various parts of ICANN in addition it is also required to formulate a standard template for diversity, data collection and reporting generation.

So many of these recommendations need to be analyzed for compliance by the GDPR started collecting information related to deliberating for example. Next slide, please.

So our proposal is to discuss elements at each slide because we have the element description and proposed GAC perspective on the screen. So on this slide we have 2 elements, first bullet is... Work Stream 2 recommendation and the second bullet is a

proposal of draft proposal of GAC perspective. So in the first one it is proposal that GAC agrees with the Work Stream 2 final report. And on the second it's about language, what is new. It is that GAC suggesting to do thing sign language during plenary sessions as a pilot project for community feedback due to the broader group of participants attending those sessions.

So we shouldn't have in mind always spoken language, but our proposal is to include sign language also. So now I would like to invite Giacomo to take the floor and open the discussion.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you. I appear to replace Lina who I wish all the best hoping she will recover promptly. As has been said by Suada now we focus on those 2 points. 2 aspects of diversity. One is geographic and regional representation and the other one is the language. You have all received this in time so. I hope you have made your mind and we would like to have your feedback if any or if you don't have any feedback it means the document is fine, and we can continue to work on the group as forecast in the schedule.

Of course, there's 2 points are totally integrated because of the geographic regional representation and the language are both in insisting on the same... gives a different dimension of diversity. Manal, I see that you want to take the floor?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: No, I was just going to tell you that I don't see any hands up, so maybe this means that both our fine with everybody?

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Perfect, that's good. So Suada, you go to the next.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you. Next slide, please. So we have next 2 elements. Just note that we would like it noted that for our proposal is that diversity is an evolving concept, so we couldn't have a strict definition, and we would like to propose that GAC recognize that diversity is an evolving concept because the Internet and our society in the digital age are not static … definition is not sustainable.

So we have 2 elements, of course in gender we would like to underline the freedom of gender expression. And gender equality as a reality, and our proposal that we will see that once when we agree with the commission, and during the proposal or method of metering, maybe to have instead of female, and male, to have a man, woman, option to not to declare, and the one option like open-ended to self-describe, so to get -- to give opportunity for a person to express what they want to express.

So we have age additionally, so we agree that this should be measured and collected through the monitoring process and now again we would like to open the discussion on these 2 elements. Giacomo, please.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you, Suada. Yes, absolutely, we have discussed this, and the document has been seen that the -- has been seen within the working group, are our working group but not probably by all the GAC, so it's important that you get acquainted to it, and by -- I hope that you can go quite quickly through it. As you can see in the gender this was one of the points absolutely in the mandate that we got since the beginning of the existence of this group, and like this is one of the main points for the GAC activity so the gender that is absolutely a must in all the action that we have to perform as an ICANN.

Also on the age we have seen that in many, many cases the -- for instance the digital divide can be within the same country, within the same region, within the same language, but the is done by the age because for instance the younger people in certain areas are more distant from the digitalization or the digital transition, and so we need to take in consideration this element that can be very divisive, and we need to improve the work on this aspect and try to complete the diversity of the reach that ICANN action can do -- can do.

Manal, do you see any comment for the moment? No? So this means that there is an enthusiastic consensus on the work done by Suada and Lina and we are glad for that. Probably we can move to the next then?

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you. So this element is very important for us so we notice that they have physical disability in 2 reports and our proposal is that disability shouldn't be restricted to... disability in this case. In this case physical disability as it is noted in report and we would like to underline that disability needs to be perceived as an interaction between an individual's personal condition, and environmental factor.

So it's about the barriers, not about disabilities because if we put barriers people, a person -- because of these barriers become a person with a disability. So our proposal is that we need to enable people with disability to access information and, of course, to participate in ICANN's decision regardless of the sensory cognitive or physical abilities. So that is our proposal. Giacomo, please. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Yeah, thank you. First this is -- we talk of diversity. This is the most obvious let's say that is considered by everyone, but I think that it's interesting if you look into the text that it proposed to you and

the work that has been done in the last month is to have an approach to the disability that is larger, is in the broader sense because is not only a question of making access easier for certain category but also to recognize the access to all the information regardless of physical or sensory abilities.

So it's crucial if we want to fulfill our mandate in terms of diversity.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I see no requests for the floor, and I agree with you, this is most obvious, so.

[Voices speaking simultaneously]

GIACOMO MAZZONE: It's the most obvious, Manal, but I think that the approach is quite innovative if we compare to other FORA in which we participate also because there's very holistic approach, so I think this is a step forward. But Suada?

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you. Because this -- we don't have this particular disability. Convention on rights of persons with disabilities it is all talking about persons with disabilities, not with particular disabilities. So next slide, please.

So on this slide we have diverse skills, and our perspective proposal is that we agree with the description or this document and diversity, and we should consider skills such as expertise, experience and knowledge of a certain topic, and in the future when we try -- when we try to define the ... model we need to see how to measure because some job skills are hard to measure but hard skills like education is much easier. Okay, Giacomo, please.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you. In fact, as I briefly mentioned before for instance the -- a lot of the regional divide is produced by diverse skills, and so we need to have not only to increase the bottom level in order that there is a minimal level of skills that allow people to freely profit of the, the diversity of the ICANN ... and offers but also there is a problem of putting value, a different kind, on skills that are needed in order to reach the horizon of the digital [inaudible]. It seems to me it is Nigel want it take the floor. Can we give the floor to Nigel, please?

UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you very much. Nigel Hickson, U.K. I didn't really want it say anything because I'm a no expert on this but it's good to see you Giacomo and thank you so much for this perspective. I just wanted to comment on the skills, only -- and again not from a position of expertise, but I think we have to be rather careful on skills.

I mean, from you -- you know wide range of skills is always useful, but skills are formal and informal, and if we are interested in diversity and inclusion, we have to recognize that you know, skills are not always measurable. Skills are not always obtained through you know professional education or other types of quantifiable you know quantifiable sort of establishments, and so I just wonder whether this perhaps ought to be slightly sort of widened to stress that the, that you know the informal skills can also be incredibly valuable in terms of experience, and knowledge. I mean perhaps it does say that but for me I just thought it needed to say something else. But those will have more informed views. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you, Nigel. We've been -- to Suada to answer in deep on the question, but I want just to remember you that after the conclusion of this work you will receive the text of what has been put in the document, and you will have a window of time to intervene into eventually modify the wording and suggest different wording so I hope that in the meantime Nigel can find a better phrasing, but Suada, please.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Just to reply to Nigel, we heard today Kavouss's proposal regarding the GAC vice-chair and chair election, and I think that this is -- this because when we elect somebody we need to have

in mind experience in ICANN, activity, and their -- etcetera. I think this is the -- that question.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Yes, Manal, please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Just to note that Denmark also, Finn has his hand up.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you very much. Finn the floor is yours.

DENMARK: Thank you and thank you for the hard work that you have done. I have no comments to the definition. I was only thinking about how are we going to practice this afterwards? Is it when we have elections? I don't think it's -- would be suitable for the membership of the GAC because the membership are we are all appointed by our government or institution, so in what way do you foresee this principles or definition to be used and practiced afterward? Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you.

SUADA HADZOVIC: I think.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Suada, please.

SUADA HADZOVIC: I think just exactly what Kavouss proposed that, this is matter, and this is the first step, so once the definition is adopted the next step will be to discuss the methodology, and if it is possible we will do it in consultation with UNESCO.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: So what I, I think the can add to answer what the question of Finn is that eventually one of the solutions could be (audio interruption) ideal profile of what you request to add in terms of skills for instance. And then this ideal profile can be shared and put as a model to which the people to take the decision aspire. This is a solution I've seen in some other places. But at the moment I remember that what I've seen there on paper is the path we want to go through, and then all the work about the measurement as Suada mentioned before, and as other mentioned, the rest of the part is the implementation. That is the next step of our work.

SUADA HADZOVIC: So we have Kavouss, Kavouss is raised his hand. Kavouss, please go ahead.

IRAN: Yes, yes, thank you very much, Giacomo, thank you Suada for good work you have done. I think at the outset I would like to congratulate Suada because she made a lot of improvement now. She's not the same Suada as she came to the GAC. Now is full in command of speaking, discussing arguing and so on and so forth. So this is a deserves some sort of admiration.

Now having said that, the proposals this might have different players and actors, whatever is addressed to GAC is inside our own activities and we could try to do, how to implement that. Something which is outside the GAC but in the entire ICANN community or ICANN Board or ICANN organization, you have to see what are the actions being taken, pursuant to the forecasting 2 and if there are some actions being taken either they may ... or they may be followed and so on and so forth.

The third category may be something, may be that neither we could do it inside GAC nor inside the ICANN community, but we could first to raise it in appropriate or -- to an appropriate vehicle elsewhere. So I suggest that we do not limit ourselves with just

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representation and good work that has been done by Giacomo and Suada, but also we should think of implementation, and that is important.

Otherwise we accumulate input and input suggestion and suggestion and then we don't know what happen. So I suggest that perhaps maybe next meeting but not at this meeting anything that is now submitted we would at the end of each put players or entities to implement that. That would help us to do something. I would like to get some results of the good work which has been done. This is not only for this group. For other group as well so whatever group you have you have to have some implementation but not remain on the table and not remain as the work. This should not be interpreted that I do not appreciate -- I very much appreciate the work that everyone has done including the 2 speakers, but I would like to have some general observation. Thank you.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Kavouss, thank you very much. I just wanted to note that in Work Stream 2 evaluation report it is written that these recommendations are estimated to be implemented in 6 to 18 months. So this is only the first step, and it is for sure that once the definition is agreed, and the measurement model is defined that the third step would be implementation. That is the next step after measurement model definition. Thank you.

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GIACOMO MAZZONE: Kavouss, in fact, was spoiling -- was anticipating one of the next slides that Suada will present so I thank you, Kavouss, for your very pertinent observation. I think that we can conclude that there is consensus on this slide, and we can pass to next. Suada, please?

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you. So we have this element. It's a group constituency and a proposal, draft proposal perspective with GAC is that GAC agrees with this Work Stream 2 final report approach.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: This is probably even easier than the point before about the ... of course, the stakeholder group of constituency diversity it's essential. I think this is the basis on which ICANN exists, and so this is -- I think that is in the end of the ICANN itself in a certain sense, but nevertheless again we need to measure it properly, vent Wall through to act on that. I see a hand of Kavouss. Is it a new hand or the one of before? Has to be hand of before? Manal do you want to say something?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, please. Thank you, Giacomo and Suada. A couple of things. Of course I don't disagree with this diversity, the stakeholder

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group. I just feel it's conflating 2 things that I see could be separated and I'm talking about diversity in views because I don't see it one to one. The stakeholder group with the views so it's -- it is not necessarily that everyone within the GAC has the same view, which differs from everyone who is in the GNSO. On the contrary we still have diverse views within the GAC, and there are diverse views within the GNSO, so -- and we try to accommodate this when we try to nominate, for example, representatives from the GAC.

We try to have all views represented in those who are going to speak on behalf of the GAC. Again, I don't have a strong position, but just saying that to me, the diverse views could be separate from the diverse stakeholder groups. This is one thing.

Another thought that came to mind when I was skimming through the material before the meeting, is whether the pandemic is enforcing a new diversity like for example diversity in -- I don't know how to call it but diversity in attendance. I mean both on site versus those on-line versus those in person versus those remote. So again we shouldn't be discriminating against those who may not be able to make it, and it could be out of their hands because of vaccination issues, whether the vaccine is available or not, or whether their health condition permits the vaccine or not. So I was just wondering whether this introduces a new kind of diversity, but again it's all food for thought, and finally on the

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implementation, I think it's an exhaustive list of diversity, so probably in terms of -- it's good to have it as a check list, but in terms of implementation, probably it depends on the activity. We may be prioritizing or using different prioritization during the implementation because again, for example if I'm forming a working group of 5, I will not be able to satisfy the full list of course but if I'm organizing a list of... [voices speaking simultaneously] so again I think it could be fulfilled according to the type of activity.

But again it's good to have the list as a check list. It's good to make sure we're satisfying as many as we can, and that we have good reasons for not satisfying whatever we're not. And I'll stop here. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you very much, Manal. Very pertinent remarks. I think that the one of the COVID, yes probably we need to -- is transverse al because it affects the consequences and the age, it affects various parameters, but probably we need to introduce something into the documents that take into account this. And, of course, about the implementation of this for Suada because this is exactly what we have to discuss later, the implementation we have to go through priorities. And in this sense of -- in identify the work that has been done by this group identifying existing measurement tools already some were available, could give us easiness to go

where some fruits can be taken quickly because we have already measurement in place whereas for others we have to have a long-term or mid-term plan to work.

But Suada, I think that can complement this. Thank you.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Yes, I agree, and, of course, after this session we will consider all comments, and prepare a new draft proposal, and send it to all GAC members. So next slide please so we have a new element, cultural diversity. And this is very important element and thanks to Giacomo who identify this element. Today we would like to propose this new element, and I would like to ask Giacomo to present this very important element. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you, Suada. I will be brief because we are near the end of our slot. The partially is exactly what Manal was identifying before. We have other... to diversity that are not simply based on the age. Based on diversity of access, or disabilities or gender, but also other elements about linked to the cultural aspects. And so we have been lucky to -- that thanks to the UNESCO Internet... indicators we have seen that they are already -- they are working on measuring these kinds of aspects because they do the analysis in concern countries through this magic of elements that they are

starting and checking. They can see if there is something wrong in the transition to digital world after certain country.

And one of the factors that could accelerate or slow the process of integration of a country there is a cultural factor that could be very strong and need to be absolutely a consideration. So this is something that was not to be able to be received because it's been elaborated recently based on the first analysis from the UNESCO, but we will include in the final version so that we can go ahead and including also this in the work that we have to do. Suada?

SUADA HADZOVIC: We don't have any comments, so fine go to the next slide. Thank you, Giacomo. So the next slide steps so we will consider today's discussion and your comments, and we will prepare a new draft proposal which we will send by e-mail. In 2 weeks at the latest after the ICANN72 to GAC members in mailing list for consideration and input.

After receiving comments and input we will prepare a final proposal, final draft proposal which we will send to GAC leadership for consideration. Once the definition is adopted the next step will be to discuss a measurement model. Methodology, and if it is possible in consultation with UNESCO, and after that we will go to the implementation. Thank you. So any questions? There is no question, so thank you very much for your presence,

and I hope that we will see each other next year. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Suada, and Giacomo, excellent presentation, excellent efforts an excellent timing, and I would like to extend my thanks also to Lina and wishing her a full and speedy recovery. And also thanks to Rob and Julia from support staff. I think it's now time to move onto hear from the underserved regions working group co-chaired by Pua Hunter, GAC representative of cook islands and Karel Douglas GAC representative of Trinidad and Tobago. So am I handing it over to you Pua or --

PUA HUNTER: Yes, thank you, Manal. Hello, everyone. For this session we're just going to be updating you, the GAC on our Work Plan, so we -- the working group reviewed our Work Plan in August, and would like to share the revised 2022, 2023 version with you.

We shared this original Work Plan during one of our face-to-face ICANN meetings, but unfortunately,, we stalled on it but anyway it's Work Plan that remains on the underserved region working group's to-do list, so we are introducing with amendments for your input, and subsequent endorsement.

Can we move to the next slide please? Thank you. So the Work Plan is divided into 3 pillars. Number 1 is the knowledge base and capacity, number 2 the policy engagement and participation, and number 3 the relationship building. So each pillar consists of work topics aligned to its defined strategic goal and the work topics outline the description and expected out coming of the work, the deadline when the work is expected to be completed, the identify leads and stakeholders, and additional notes.

You will note that under deadline most of the work topics are continuous or on going, so this is an indication from my perspective that this is a working group that is here to stay or will remain permanent for the GAC. So if you're keen to contribute to the work of the GAC, this working group is a good starting point. You can reach out to us, the underserved regions working group co-chairs, myself and to Karel Douglas. The GAC representative from Trinidad and Tobago or to our wonderful GAC support team, in particular Julia Charvolen.

In the interests of time I won't go through the detail of the Work Plan, however I would like to briefly draw your attention to the work topic 2.1, under pillar 2. Thank you the policy and engagement and participation thank you also Julia for highlighting that the work topic.

I'm actually and anticipating some changes to reflect recent developments in subsequent procedures from... GAC topic leads, from Canada and Jorge Cancio from Switzerland as well as from our GAC support staff Benedetta. Specifically around the SubPro operational design phase. I'm also noting that we will be discussing subsequent procedures in our next session in approximately 40 minutes, so I'm -- like I mentioned I'm anticipating some changes in this particular work topic.

Also, a potential topic that was raised but not included in the Work Plan is the working group's participation in the international domain names IDN expedited policy development process EPDP. For this topic I respectfully seek our U.K. GAC representative Nigel Hickson's views because he's the current member in this EPDP team. I'm not expecting any responses now, but we'll take notes if any, and in this instance however, I encourage you to share your views or provide input to the Work Plan, Julia if you can share the link in the chat, so our GAC colleagues can go to the link or else I can send you the link via e-mail.

Perhaps a time-frame of a month is sufficient to allow for your comments and feedback, and I can always follow up -- Karel and I can follow up with any updates via e-mail.

That's my short and brief update on the underserved regions working groups Work Plan. Questions? Or comments? Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Pua, and thanks to Karel of course as well, and Julia. Any immediate comments or questions on the Work Plan of the GAC underserved regions working group? Okay I see no requests for the floor, and I see only thanks in the chat, so thanks again Pua, Karel, Julia, and all involved, and, of course, Jorge Luisa and Benedetta from SubPro. I think we are good to conclude. Thank you very much for the 3 working groups. Very informative updates, and thanks for -- to GAC colleagues for the engagement and useful discussion.

It's now time for a break. It's going to be 40 minute break. Please be back in the GAC Zoom room at 12:30 Seattle time. 19:30 UTC to start our discussion on subsequent procedures.

Thank you all very much. Everyone.

[Recording stopped]

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