ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum - GAC Communique Drafting Session (1 of 4)
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - 12:30 to 14:00 AST

This session will now begin.

[Recording in Progress]

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Welcome to the ICANN73 GAC Communiqué Drafting Session on Wednesday, 9 March at 1630 UTC. We will not be doing a roll call today for the sake of time, 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 their attendance by updating their participant's name to reflect their full name and affiliation.

To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model, we ask that you sign in to Zoom sessions using your full name. You may be removed from the session if you do not sign in using your full name. 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 UN languages and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen to, by clicking on the Interpretation icon located on the Zoom toolbar. 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 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 to allow for accurate interpretation, and make sure to mute all your other devices.

Finally, this session, like all other ICANN activities, is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. You may find the link in the chat for your reference. With that, I would like to leave the floor to the GAC Chair, Manal Ismail. Over to you Manal, thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Julia, and welcome back everyone. This is the first communique drafting session. We have four sessions dedicated I tell indicated for our communique drafting, so we have one tomorrow that we may or may not need but for the sake of the session, it's scheduled for 90 minutes. I hope you had the chance to go through the communique. We had one reading yesterday of the communique range that was available, and I

reiterate my thanks for support staff and GAC colleagues who managed to insert language in the communique at that early stage.

So with that, I think we can go slowly through the Communiqué just checking on things that needs to be reviewed in light of our discussion yesterday, and then we can follow up on the parts that we are missing, check the status and plan our coming sessions. So with that, if we can scroll down stopping at parts that have changed since yesterday. As mentioned yesterday, highlighted parts subject to confirmation in due time, so they are in the Communiqué but highlighted until the appropriate time comes. So this is a minor under inter constituency activities, we have here a minor change in language -- or addition in the agenda of tomorrow's bilateral meeting with ALAC, which is the ALAC and GAC coordination at the national level. So this continues to be the topic of interest that is proposed from the ALAC side and appreciated also from the GAC side, and it's going to be on our agenda tomorrow.

Scrolling down, just to see if there are other changes. So there is a minor typo under internal matters, the first sentence under the title of the GAC leadership. It reads: The GAC thanks its outgoing vice chairs and then another change here in light of the fact that the term of the Vice Chair is two years and not one year, so by the

end of this meeting this is going to be the midterm of the Chair and not the beginning. So the sentence now reads the end of the ICANN73 meeting marks the start of a new term for the incoming vice chairs as part of the GAC leadership team composed as follows -- and then listing of everyone. So thank you for the correction, I appreciate it. And we're accepting the text. But please, if you have comments, just raise your hand. And we have new text from the PSWG. I'm going to read this slowly, if we can.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Manal, if I may, just to flag to Benedetta who is taking care of the scrolling that we're having -- I don't know if this is only on my Zoom screen, but it seems like we're having refreshing issues.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Exactly.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: So Benedetta, maybe try to scroll again slowly. Yeah, sounds like we're having a persistent display -- so as you scroll, are you able, Benedetta, to check how it renders in Zoom in parallel?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: No, I see it perfectly fine on my end. Let me try stopping and sharing.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: And meanwhile, let me give the floor to Nigel. Please UK, go ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you very much and thank you Manal. I'm sorry but we would just like to take you back to the beginning of the Communiqué where we referenced the statements that were made on the GAC opening plenary session on Monday.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah, we're scrolling back, and thank you, Benedetta, I see the screen is much better.

UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you very much, the screen is fine. So we had a sentence in there kindly provided I think about the secretariat that we looked at last night very briefly, and it said the GAC would like to reference the statements made by GAC members, et cetera. We discussed this in London earlier, and we would like toll suggest a slight change to this, both to make it slightly more specific but also to make it perhaps more understandable to a wider audience when this is read in the future on what these statements were primarily about. Because the statements, although they're related of course to the Ukrainian letter to ICANN, et cetera, they

had a wider significance. So the text, the minimal text that we thought could be used would be, and using the same language, the GAC would like to reference the statements made by GAC members on the action taken by Russia against Ukraine, during the GAC opening plenary session.

So we think this more accurately notes what the statements made were about. But obviously other GAC members will have views. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Nigel, if you can confirm now what is written on the screen on the action taken by Russia against Ukraine.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, indeed. And during the GAC opening plenary session, full stop.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay.

UNITED KINGDOM: Sorry, and one would obviously need the footnote still to reference the statements. Yeah.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. So thank you very much, Nigel. Thanks UK. We now have proposed text on the screen and just pausing to see if there are any comments on the proposed text. If not, then I think we're good to move on. And we're having this sentence now with the footnote, so we took care that the footnote doesn't go away with the strike-through texts. Thank you very much.

And again, reiterating that the statements will be annexed to the minutes, and we already are compiling the statements and Julia has compiled one file including all the statements, and as soon as -- we're missing two translations of two statements. As soon as everything is complete, this will be attached to the minutes. But as you may appreciate, the minutes might take some time to come out, not as quickly as the Communiqué. Nigel, is this an old hand or new one? Okay. Then in lack of other comments, I think we can scroll down back to the PSWG language. Someone, yeah, needs to mute. Thank you.

So the text we received from the GAC Public Safety working group, and thanks to Laureen and Chris, co-chairs of the PSWG and of course all involved, the GAC PSWG continues its work to combat DNS abuse and promote affective access to domain name registration data. The PSWG led a session to update the GAC on DNS abuse that included, one, a presentation from one of the

authors of a recently released study on DNS abuse commissioned by the European Commission. Two, updates on various initiatives from ICANN org, the GNSO, and private entities to research, assess, and mitigate DNS abuse. And three, a follow-up presentation by Japan regarding malicious domain name registrants and the strategies they use to avoid detection and responsibilities. The PSWG also emphasized its continued focus on DNS abuse, discussing possible steps forward, including assessing how contract provisions may be improved to respond to DNS abuse.

So going through the second paragraph: The PSWG continued its active participation to support the GAC small group through participation in the Phase 1 implementation review team, the GNSO accuracy scoping team, and the GNSO small team discussing ICANN org's operational design assessment, ODA, of EPDP Phase 2 recommendations. The PSWG emphasized the importance of accurate registration data to better investigate DNS abuse. The PSWG highlighted that the ODA raised many questions about anticipated usage and costs and noted the possibility that a pilot program could be a valuable addition that could, quote, reduce overall risk through the use of a prototype to reduce the unknowns for specific technical and operational concerns, end quote.

During ICANN73, the PSWG held discussions with ICANN org, including representatives of the office of the chief technology officer, the security stability resilience team, global domains and strategy, and contractual compliance. The security and stability advisory committee, SSAC, the registry and registrar stakeholder group, and the commercial stakeholder group, between brackets, intellectual properties, business constituencies, and Internet service providers of the GNSO, IPS, BC, and ISP. Thank you, Fabien.

So do we have any additional text below?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: That's it.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Fabien. I am pausing to see if there are any comments. Okay. Seeing none, then if we can move on to anything else that is new from yesterday.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Manal, I believe yesterday we went through global public interest, and I believe there was thanking of Avri of the org, and we were also working on reflecting footnotes but we have had challenges with the formatting so far so we will be adding that, just adding

footnotes as far as we're concerned and for additional text to thank you to Avri Doria, I believe.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Fabien, and apologies to keep challenging my own suggestions.   And I'm just wondering -- and not challenging but just wondering -- if we're thanking Avri Doria whether we should also thank Ivett, I think was her name, the lady who presented the presentation on the European Commission study on DNS abuse. I'm also wondering whether we're opening the door for many other thanks or is it just Avri Doria? Should we be consistent and thank everyone else?   It's a brainstorming question so if any comments from GAC colleagues or factual in fact from support staff would be much appreciated. Because I noted, Fabien, that -- yeah, so thank you for providing me with the exact name. So it was Ivett Paulovics. And thank you, Nigel, for sharing your views in the chat, confirming that we should thank her, particularly that she was an external speaker. So this could be one criteria.

Fabien, please.

Thank you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you, Manal. In terms of the thank you's with the Communiqués, we did not check to see if there was systematically done compared to presentations made to the GAC at various meetings, but over the past ten years we have seen thank you's to a variety of presenters so it wouldn't be inconsistent, I believe, with past practice to also thank sort of an external -- non-ICANN, or directly a member, ICANN community presenting to the GAC.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Fabien. So I think it would be fair enough to thank Ivett, being an external guest speaker, and Avri Doria as a Board member, who availed her time twice to speak with the GAC. I'm looking to see if there are any requests for the floor. Otherwise, I will take this silence as agreement, and I already see explicit confirmation from Jorge in the chat. Thank you very much, Jorge.

Anything additional on subsequent rounds? I think we went through the text yesterday. And thank you Jorge for your comment in the chat. Avri has shown great flexibility and time allowing [indiscernible] our sessions, I fully agree. And I see Luisa also of Canada agreeing.

So if we scroll down we're now missing -- and we have more text under DNS abuse mitigation, so maybe we can read the text one more time.

So the text now reads: The GAC discussed a recent study on DNS abuse provided by the European Commission.   That study provides many valuable case studies, clarifies the different actors in the Internet ecosystem and provides recommendations on how the different actors, for example registries, registrars, resellers, hosting providers, registrants, et cetera, can respond to DNS abuse that takes place within the different layers of the DNS system. While not all harmful or illegal activity covered by the study -- sorry. While not all harmful or illegal activities covered by the study fall into ICANN's remit, the GAC is an important venue for governments to discuss DNS abuse and work towards solutions that can be accomplished both within and outside ICANN.

Additionally, the GAC expressed appreciation for the DNS security facilitation initiative technical study group's final report commissioned by the ICANN CEO which addressed real world security incidents targeting the DNS infrastructure and recommended actions to ICANN org to sit at a time and promote security.   Finally, the GAC notes the news pertaining to the forthcoming launch of a centralized abuse reporting tool as

developed by the DNS abuse institute and expressed interest in receiving more detailed informs about this tool as it becomes available. So I think we could insert abbreviation, between centralized abuse reporting tool and in brackets CART, and we have additional submitted by Japan.

So let us read. Building upon ICANN 72 discussions on the topic of registrar hopping, where registrants avoid consequences by DNS abuse transferring different domain names to a different registrar. The GAC discussed the scenario whereby the registrant who seemed to be the same is involved in multiple different abusive domain name register vague with the same registrar. Registration data accuracy as well as effective and continuous auditing of registrars by ICANN compliance could help reduce this type of DNS abuse. The GAC believes the cooperation with other groups and trusted notifier programs among the many options currently under discussion within the ICANN community are worth further discussion as well.

So I am pausing here and trying to pick up with the chat. So I see Nigel, I believe agreeing with deleting finally and Susan too. So thanks UK and US, and please, US, Susan, go ahead.

UNITED STATES: Hi, Chair.   I think we're considering following its very robust discussion that happened during the plenary session, whether to add a very short sentence or two reflecting on that topic. So if I may just put that out there and say that we will be following up briefly.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Sure. Thank you, Susan. Do you mean at the very beginning or something here that fits within this section? I'm sorry.

UNITED STATES: Yes, something that would fit within this section. I'm not entirely sure specifically where it would go but it would just be a brief sentence reflecting the subject matter of the plenary.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Perfect, noted, Susan, thank you. And I see Nigel's hand up.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you very much. My comment is just a minor one on the last paragraph we looked at. I think the word discussion right at the end is not quite right. Perhaps it's worth further consideration or worth further contemplation or -- because it's not just discussion, I mean, I think it's a bit more than that. But it's not a

significant point but I think it would read better like this. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Nigel, noted. And I hope Japan also -- I believe the text was submitted by Japan or at least reflects the discussion on Japan's presentation, and I hope they are okay with this minor enhancement, I would say, and I see Japan in the chat confirming. Thank you.

Susan, is this a new hand?

UNITED STATES: No, my apologies.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It's okay. So if there is nothing else on DNS abuse, again, thanks for the submitted text and noting US's request to add a sentence later. So with that, we can move on just reading Chris in the chat. Agree with change to consideration but as well [indiscernible] no longer needed. Can we go back to the text. Under worth further consideration -- let's delete as well. Objections to this second enhancement? Fabien, I see your hand.

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FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Just wanted to flag that now that we have completed subsection 5 of importance to the GAC, I believe we have skipped over subsection subsequent rounds --

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Manal, just a note to flag the topic leads changed just the last sentence in terms of referencing rather than actually changing the meaning of the sentence, so it's just a reference, the GAC Beijing Communiqué with the actual reference, so maybe worth another read.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Issue. Thank you very much, Benedetta, and Fabien. So the text under subsequent rounds of new gTLDs reads: The GAC discussed subsequent rounds of new gTLDs and received an update from ICANN org about the current state of work of the Operational Design Phase, ODP relative to policy recommendations in the final report of the GNSO policy development Working Group. On subsequent procedures for new gTLDs. The GAC will continue to maintain open communication channels with ICANN org throughout the ODP, providing input as appropriate during community consultation phases. Following the ICANN Board invitation for a GAC and GNSO facilitated dialogue aimed to employer a mutually agreeable way forwards on closed generics,

the GAC intends to respond fairly, noting its willingness to contribute to this effort. The GAC will continue to engage in seeking a compromised solution relative to closed generic applications in the next round of new gTLDs and keeping with the GAC Beijing Communiqué whereby -- exclusive registry access should serve the public interest goal, end quote. So I think it's a good reference if it makes reference to previous Beijing Communiqué which we're consistent with. So any comments on this? And if not, please stay tuned to receiving the mentioned letter, I'm not sure if it has already circulated but if not, it will be shortly. It's a simple affirmative reply to the Board's request. I hope we can get this out as soon as possible.

I'm just reading Velimira in the chat: We are still exchanging on accuracy among topic leads, but we will soon be ready, I believe. So thank you, Velimira, and Benedetta confirming that the letter was circulated to the membership today. So thank you, Benedetta, very efficient multitasking

So with that, so we have two headings missing on the accuracy and Velimira confirmed they will be submitting text soon and EPDP Phase 1 recommendations implementation where I believe Chris said he could help with some draft text here. Anything else we're missing? And if not, most importantly anything that needs

to be put under -- I mean, should we expect anything under GAC advice to the Board, Fabien, please.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: On the DNS [indiscernible] in the comment we have text by the US, IP wonders if we should try to localize it within the existing text, I think we have guidance on that. We have pasted where it is the most appropriate. Maybe after the first [indiscernible] coherence.

UNITED STATES: Sorry, it's Susan. Apologies for not raising my hand.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It's okay, please go ahead. So we're trying to insert the text you shared with Fabien, if you can confirm this is okay.

UNITED STATES: I think that would be quite fine and welcome the views of other colleagues, but that works for the US. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Susan and let me read the sentence: The plenary session explored DNS abuse issues related to distinguishing between malicious registrations and

compromised websites. It was universally agreed that the distinction is important, a number of opportunities for future work were highlighted. Does the last sentence read well, or do we need -- where a number of opportunities for future work were highlighted, so I would appreciate confirmation whether this is reading well or not, but I see Velimira's hand up, please go ahead.

VELIMIRA GRAU: Yes, thank you, Manal. The sentence is perfectly okay with me, I was just wondering whether given the rest of the text under the DNS abuse is related to our GAC plenary, whereas what is written here is related to the ICANN plenary, where it would probably make more sense either putting it after what we have drafted after this or where we had before, I don't have strong feelings on this.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Velimira, it makes sense to me. So I'm just thinking out loud whether we can put it -- so should this go at the end of the DNS abuse section or go into the plenary sessions where we had reported on our participation? Susan, any preference?

UNITED STATES: No, thank you Velimira, and we recognize the point, agree. And so we'd be happy to place it at the end. And I think that either the word where or and, perhaps where is the more preferable choice. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Susan. So let's paste the text at the end, and we can now delete the square brackets. Perfect. Thank you. And I think when we did a final reading we can just make sure that the paragraphs are connecting well. Maybe we need to link it somehow. Thank you, Fabien, for the placeholder for now. Anything else? Velimira, is this a new hand?

VELIMIRA GRAU: Apologies, no, I don't know why my screen with the presentation I can't see.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It's okay. Anything else we're missing apart from text on accuracy and... just noting that we have nothing under GAC consensus advice to the Board which is okay. I'm just flagging this so that if there is something coming that we know of it early on. Fabien, I saw you were unmuting. Anything specific?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: I was just going to tell you that we're not aware of additional text in the works apart from the text on accuracy and PDP Phase 1 [indiscernible] and that is on issues of importance.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Sounds great. So anything else that needs to be reviewed in the Communiqué, Fabien, that I may have overlooked?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: You have not overlooked anything, Manal, I think we have covered our latest edits. I realize that as I am saying this there are just a few -- one edit being made but I think it's existential, and otherwise I think we can review what is available, I suppose.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. So anything from GAC colleagues? I see Nigel, please.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you, Manal. And apologies for intervening again. Nothing on GAC advice, you will be pleased to know, from the UK. On the issues of importance, as I flagged in a mail, I took part in a session yesterday on universal acceptance cross community session, and I think tomorrow we're talking with ALAC and universal acceptance on the agenda there, and depending on

how that discussion goes, I think it might be relevant to at least reflect on it and the importance of it in terms of our overall goals of universal connectivity and multilingualism on the Internet, et cetera. But I'm not trying to be controversial, I just think it might be worth noting this in the issues of importance but perhaps depending on how the discussion goes tomorrow. I obviously welcome other people's views.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Manal, you are muted.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Sorry, thank you. Thank you very much, Nigel. Indeed it's a topic of interest, not only to the back but also to the -- I mean, so many things are ongoing, particularly in relation to new gTLDs, and thank you for being our eye on the topic for the community. So maybe we can have a place holder for universal acceptance. And we have a session tomorrow just in case anything needs to be reviewed at the time, we can definitely do so. I don't expect much text, and I don't expect the topic to be controversial, as Nigel mentioned, so I think it would be okay if we're not able to finalize this today that we can put the placeholder and finalize tomorrow after the ALAC session before we start our wrap-up. Does this make sense to everyone?

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I see Nigel confirming in the chat. And I see no further requests for the floor. So if nothing else to be discussed at this point in time, I think maybe we can take a longer break and allow colleagues who are working on draft text to have more time to work on the draft text, and we can reconvene at the time of the following session, which is at 1430 San Juan time, 1830 UTC. Would that make sense? And I see Nigel of CTU asking for a link to the Google Doc, please, the Communiqué Google Doc if we can share it again in the chat please.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Manal, I will send an email to the meeting list as the link in the chat would be public.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Fair enough. So Nigel, please expect the link on the mailing list shortly. And thank you, Luisa for confirming that maybe a longer break would make sense, allowing colleagues to work on the remaining parts, and then we can reconvene and see the text and maybe make one final read of the Communiqué if this is going to be it.

So thank you again, everyone, I appreciate the efforts and where we reached so far and looking forward to receiving the remaining text. And again, just noting that we will need a placeholder for

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universal acceptance if we haven't done that yet, please add a placeholder under issues of importance to the GAC for universal acceptance per Nigel Hickson's suggestion.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Just to confirm, we [indiscernible].

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Perfect, and I see the email with the link so everyone should have the link to the Communiqué in their inboxes. Appreciate you working offline on the text and on the Communiqué, and we will be reconvening at 1430 San Juan time, 1830 UTC.

Thank you very much, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]