
ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum – GAC Wrap-Up Session
Thursday, March 10, 2022 - 15:30 to 16:00 AST

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I believe we already have Brajesh Jain with us in the Zoom room?

BRAJESH JAIN: Yes, thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, and welcome to the GAC. So again, to colleagues as we noted earlier, we are having a guest speaker from NomCom. As you may all already know, the GAC submits annual input to ICANN nominating committee with some guiding criteria from government perspective in order for the NomCom to use during its selection process of ICANN leadership positions. And we have shared this year's GAC criteria with the NomCom I believe yesterday, so I hope it reached everyone in the NomCom. And with that, I welcome you, Brajesh, and hand the floor over, thank you.

BRAJESH JAIN: Thank you, Manal. I really appreciate you and the GAC to permit this outreach effort of NomCom 2022. I am happy to state that the closing time has been extended which was to close on 11th March, 24 hours from now, to 15th March, 23:59 UTC. So we still have five days to complete the application, and those of us who have an interest should definitely go ahead.

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

Now I just wanted to -- you all know about the nominating committee. First of all, we do not nominate the person. We do select out of the applications which come into the NomCom 2022, and NomCom is an independent committee tasked with selected ICANN leadership positions. It is important to know that NomCom is designed to function independently from the Board, the supporting organization and advisory committees. Just for example I have been selected by ASO AC as delegate to NomCom, but ASO AC do not provide any guidance or oversight on my work in NomCom, and so is the situation for all others.

So basically NomCom is looking for leaders who represent a variety of cultural, geographical, professional backgrounds while also striving for diversity balance, which of course remains a big challenge. You should see that, do you have what we are looking for? Basically cultural awareness, knowledge of the Internet ecosystem, Board or executive experience. Relevant experience, it could be sometimes legal, finance, government, technology, business, or nonprofit sector. A question often comes whether the person putting the application has to be an ICANN insider, the answer is clearly no. Of course the Internet ecosystem knowledge has to be there but it could be a person who is outside ICANN and still apply and could be a good candidate.

The question which comes up is why should one apply? Because this gives you the opportunity to become part of and maybe influence global Internet policy, impact the evolution of the Internet, enables to enhance professional skills, gives opportunity to collaborate with a

diverse group of registry leaders, and of course engage with the global community. And information on how to apply, this website provides more information. Next slide, please.

So as I mentioned, we're looking for leaders, three members for the ICANN Board of directors. As we know, you know, there are eight ICANN members NomCom selects every year, either three or two members come from NomCom. This year we have the mandate for three ICANN Board of Directors. Next slide, please.

So this year we also have one member for PTI Board of Directors. PTI as you know works with technical identifiers of registrars, registries and IP addresses. Next slide, please. This year, we have regional representatives to the At-Large Advisory Committee, ALAC, and this year these are open for Europe and North America because they're regional. So this year it is open for Europe and North America. Next slide, please. One member of the Generic Names Supporting Organization GNSO Council also to be selected by NomCom. Next slide, please. One member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, ccNSO Council. Next slide, please.

So basically in summary, we have three ICANN Board members, one PTI Board, two regional representatives for ALAC, one member of the GNSO Council, one member of country code -- ccNSO council. Next slide, please.

As I mentioned earlier, the deadline to apply has been revised as of this morning from 11 of March to 15 March, allowing five calendar days to be able to apply. Please note that any application received after this deadline or incomplete will not be considered. This is what at this moment I have to say, and I am standing by for any questions which I can answer now or maybe later. Thank you, Manal. Back to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Brajesh, for reaching out to the GAC and for the information you are sharing with the GAC and with the wider community, and good luck to the NomCom with the selection process and we look forward to many more ICANN capable leaders selected by the NomCom. Thank you.

BRAJESH JAIN: Thank you, we will do our best. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thanks. So with that, I think we can have on the screen the wrap-up slides. Thank you.

So this session is meant to be an interactive session, so please feel free to share your views on anything that we're discussing. You will find on the screen or anything that is not even mentioned on the screen. We use this session normally to take stock, brainstorm, and plan forward. So if we can go to the following slide. So this is the agenda for the wrap-up session 2022 nomination committee briefing which we have already

listened to. Then GAC Vice Chair transitions, brainstorming on GAC public meeting implementation. Identification of substantive topics for ICANN73 follow-up and the same for operational topics and then key dates post ICANN73 meeting. If we can go to the following slide.

So we have departing, as has been mentioned, the meeting ICANN73 marks the end of term of GAC Vice Chairs. So those who have completed two consecutive terms are now stepping down, and we have Jorge Cancio, GAC representative of Switzerland, Pua Hunter of Cook Islands, and Rodrigue Guiguemde, GAC representative of Burkina Faso. And I am sending my sincere thanks to the three of them. Thank you very much for your help. Jorge, you were always a great help for me and filling in for me whenever needed, volunteering whenever we lacked volunteers and leading on several topics, and I always benefit from your wisdom and support. And Pua was always our outreach arm for the Underserved Regions and I would hope you continue to be so, Pua, we still rely on and count on you. And Rodrigue has always also been our outreach arm for francophone countries within Africa, an extremely important task that we bring more engagement and more contribution from African Francophonie. So I really hope you continue to lend a hand, Rodrigue and we still rely and count on you as well.

And I would like to warmly welcome Pär Brumark, GAC representative of Niue, his second term, and also Francis Olivier of Burundi, Shi Young Chang of the republic of Korea, Jaideep of India, and Ola Bergström of Sweden. So I really look forward to working with each and every one of you, and we can collaborate as a leadership team to better serve the

GAC. I would also like to grasp the opportunity to indicate that the term of the chairs, the term of the Chair is two years. I am in the middle of my second term, it should end on March next year, so exactly this time next year would mark the end of the GAC Chair term, and by next June we will be opening the nomination period for the chairperson.

So again, I'm trying to get everyone ready to either self nominate or nominate someone else and to those who would be nominate to also be ready to accept or do any necessary work at the national level so that you have the support of your government as well. And I stand ready to answer any questions now or one-on-one later, at any time you can reach me over email and we can either chat over email, Skype, or any other means. Happy to answer any questions.

So I'm pausing to see if there are any comments or questions. And I see an active chat, thanking the outgoing Vice Chairs and welcoming the incoming Vice Chairs. So I see also Velimira's hand and then Jorge.

VELIMIRA GRAU:

Thank you very much, Manal. Forgive if I'm a bit outspoken at this session. I saw the many messages in the chat. I want to however, take the floor and to of course thank all the GAC Vice Chairs that are departing, and I also want to give a special and sincere thanks to Jorge for his invaluable [inaudible] motivation and always inventive ideas on how to proceed and overcome difficulties. And for his availability, I think for providing also support to all GAC representatives, especially in difficult moments, irrespective of his own views on the topic. So thank

you, Jorge, and I hope we keep you as motivated and dynamic as you were so far. Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Velimira, and I second and echo every word you said. So thank you very much. Jorge, please. Go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO, GAC VICE-CHAIR: Thank you so much, Manal, and thanks so much Velimira. You basically caught me getting red although you don't see it, perhaps, with this video tool. And I just wanted to grasp this opportunity to thank especially Manal, of course, first of all, she's a great Chair, a greater leader of this leadership team where so many things are cooking all through the year, and she is always very kind, very wise in her decisions, and very balanced. So we are very fortunate to have you here leading, steering this ship, especially in this very special and difficult times we have had during the last two years and special times that unfortunately continue to be difficult due to the other crisis we have been discussing during this meeting.

I would also like to thank of course my fellow outgoing Vice Chairs Pua, Rodrigue, and Pär, although Pär getting back to the Vice Chair team so he will maintain some part of the continuity in that regard, and also a very special thanks to Rob, Fabien, Benedetta, Julia, and Gulden – I hope I don't forget anyone -- they are very important in making the GAC work and being so effective as a committee and improving our work.

I can only recommend this experience to all of you. It's great insight into how the ICANN works, the GAC in its relationship with the different committees, with ICANN org, with the Board. And I would like to finish of course with many thanks to all of you, and the best of wishes of luck and success to the incoming team. Thank you so much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you so much, Jorge. And thank you for passing the redness to me [chuckling] and again, sincere thanks to outgoing Vice Chairs Jorge, Pua and Rodrigue, and a very warm welcome to the incoming chairs, Pär, Francis, Shi Young Chang, Jaideep, and Ola, looking forward to working with both outgoing and incoming Vice Chairs and hopefully will continue to form a great team.

So with that, if we can move to the following slide, and this is on GAC public meeting implementation and if there is any feedback on how we prepare for the opening session and whether you have any comments or suggestions or ideas on how we can better prepare for the opening session and also assessment of the community bilateral meetings. We have meetings with the Board, ccNSO, ALAC and GNSO. And we have points of contact with each from the GAC. So Pär is our point of contact with the ccNSO. Shi Young with ALAC and Jorge with the GNSO, and they do an amazing job inter-sessionally so that we can prepare for our sessions during meeting week. But again, we would benefit so much from any guidance or feedback from GAC colleagues.

Please feel free to raise your hand if you would like to share your views.

Meanwhile, I'm also asking for assessment and feedback on the Communiqué drafting. So the process has been changed slightly with the -- or maybe more than slightly -- with the virtual meetings. We didn't used to have a two-week prep phase prior to the meeting week, and we didn't used to have a 72-hour review period after the meeting week. So all these aspects were introduced with our virtual setup.

As we're now moving and transitioning back to what is going to be hybrid meetings, it's maybe worth seeking feedback and revisiting either confirming the current process to continuous during the hybrid meetings or flagging any needs to change or fine tune anything within the process, preparation process or drafting process or application process, so we have three phases for the Communiqué. And also it would be great to hear your feedback on the briefings, whether the written briefs you receive prior to the meeting or the newly-introduced oral briefings. We have been doing these oral briefs for two meetings now. Is it something good that we should continue; do you feel it is redundant and no need?

And finally, on the logistics part as we plan for ICANN74, as said, we're now moving to a hybrid format of the meeting, so we would have an in-person aspect and online aspect of the meeting. Of course we will do our best to have everyone feeling in one meeting. So we're working with the ICANN org to see if there could be for example screens within the rooms showing who is speaking from remote and asking everyone who is attending physically to also log into the Zoom room so that we all feel we're in the same room.

So again, any ideas, suggestions are most welcome at this stage. And as mentioned during the opening plenary, ICANN org is already seeking feedback from the SO/AC chairs on any specific needs or suggestions as we plan for ICANN74, particularly with changes that may have taken place with the virtual setup. So again, if there are any views on this?

And finally, the travel support which is coming soon. So there will be a travel support opportunity for the upcoming meeting. I know there is nothing much yet on this now but Julia, anything in specific you would like to add here apart from what is coming?

JULIA CHARVOLEN:

Thank you, Manal. This is Julia Charvolen. Yes, the part is coming and indeed, ICANN org is still trying to set things up in terms of the travel support but really just giving a heads-up to the GAC that travel support to the meeting is likely to be provided. There is a GAC travel support process already in place. It actually was updated right before we moved to the virtual meetings, and I will put a link in the chat to the travel support guidelines if GAC members wish to take a look. But yes, the travel process takes time, and it looks like the time frame will be rather short between the time when there is a call for travel support applications and up to when the selection of travelers is submitted to ICANN.

But yes, as soon as we have more information from ICANN relative to travel support, we will make sure to notify GAC members about that

and also about everything in terms of the planning process for ICANN 74. Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Julia. And I see already Alisa's hand up, so Netherlands, please. Thank you for breaking the ice.

NETHERLANDS: Yes, I hope you can see and hear me. Thank you to all departing Vice Chairs and good luck to the new Vice Chairs and Manal for guiding us through all the sessions. Unfortunately I have not been able to participate as much as I wanted due to a COVID infection so I have only been attending a few sessions. But yeah, I very much look forward to meeting you all in The Hague soon, as that is in the Netherlands, and I hope I can meet many of you, as we haven't been able to meet each other in the past two, two and a half years, and I'm very much open to also think about the forms in which we can do this hybrid meeting. So yeah, if you need any help from my side, I'm willing to think with you on this topic. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Alisa, and thank you for welcoming us to your home country. We look forward to visiting The Hague and seeing each other in-person again and meeting yourself as well.

Rob, I see your hand, please go ahead.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Manal. I wanted to reinforce a couple of points you made and a couple of points that Julie made. It will be a new experience for all of us at ICANN74, particularly if planning for the hybrid meeting continues as it appears to be doing. So we will be doing a couple of things, returning to some of the face-to-face meeting experiences that we just want to be sure you are alerted to. One is that we will once again ask for RSVPs prior to the meeting, so expect that we will reach out probably a month ahead of time so we can get some perspective as to who might be showing up or who wants to travel.

I think you make an excellent point, Manal, with respect to the hybrid meeting format. It's interesting, for those who were here before COVID, the experience that the meetings team was always trying to provide was to replicate the in-person experience remotely, and I think the script has flipped as we go forward and we need to be thinking about recreating the online experience face-to-face, so any insights that you all can provide that will help us achieve that goal I think will be very helpful. There will be a number of logistical things to discuss, I don't know if we will have time to chat later about the prospective webinars we are looking to hold over the next couple of months but given the time frame between the meetings, we are likely to schedule some group discussion that is not just the agenda-setting call but to talk with you all about some of the logistical preparations so that ahead of time we can be thinking about some of those eventualities that we may experience, particularly for those who will not be traveling to be sure

we continue to maintain the productivity that we have been able to do.

And one final point we don't have on the slide is ICANN75 planning. It was very much a lightbulb over my head during the executive session earlier this week when somebody asked the question about three ICANN meetings in six months, and I went back and I did the math and indeed that will be the case if you count in meeting and then the meeting in September for Kuala Lumpur. So that will have operational implications including potentially a shorter nomination period or balloting period for the GAC leadership. So just a number of things that we're going to have to be paying close attention to over the next several months and we look forward to all of the recommendations, guidance, and suggestions that you all provide to us as support staff. So thank you very much for that, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Rob. And yeah, it's a good point that this time we're having the annual general meeting in September which is earlier than what we used to have, and I think this is related to everything rushing to in-person meetings. So I believe the venue was not vacant unless in September.

So I see Tracy's hand up and Nigel, and I see also confirmation that the oral briefs are useful from Luisa, Canada and Velimira, European Commission. And I was going to get to Tracy's suggestion, but I see his hand is up, so please go ahead.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Manal, glad to be back in the GAC again. My suggestion perhaps, if it doesn't exist already, not sure, have a small group assist the secretariat and leadership with the planning for 74 and 75, and perhaps the people who would be in that group would be those who may have had experience with hybrid meetings recently. I know there has been a hybrid IGF, there have been some hybrid UN meetings recently and of course other meetings, conferences have happened in hybrid form and I think the only thing we would want to do is not go on with replicating mistakes that some of those meetings might have made in trying to do hybrid. But it's trial and error. You want to make the experience as best as possible and those who've had the experiences maybe to lend that to the teams so that we don't -- it may seem on paper to be great, as Rob said, to just try and replicate the online meeting in person, but there are some challenges with that as the IGF proved, there are quite a lot of challenges with that modality.

So I think having this small team and especially those who've had experiences with hybrid meeting would be useful and we don't overburden the secretariat or leadership with a volley of ideas, but it would be good to have experiences so pitfalls are avoided. Thanks a lot.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Tracy, and thank you for the kind effort to help. It's a good idea. I think we hold you to your offer, and let's open it also

up for other colleagues who may be interested. Please share your interests with the support staff or on the GAC mailing list, and we will pick it up from there. Nigel, please, UK.

UNITED KINGDOM:

Yes, thank you very much, good afternoon. Yes, and I join with Tracy and others in saying, yes, very happy to help and contribute to anything in terms of planning for the hybrid meeting and very much looking forward to ICANN74.

But going ahead of that, and really this is just to flag something which we have been thinking about for a while and I think I have discussed with one or two other folks, and that is the issue of having some sort of high-level GAC session at a meeting in the not too distant future. It must be probably 2018 since we last -- or I stand to be corrected, of course, since we had a GAC meeting with a high-level component, high-level session on the first day where senior officials or ministers could discuss particular public policy issues of interest. And I think it would be good both for ICANN and the GAC to have such a session in the near future but also to demonstrate the commitment of governments to the multi-stakeholder model, so I think that is very important as we look forward to the process.

When we would have such a session obviously is dependent on logistics and other things but if we were going to have a session in the near future, then having a session at ICANN75 would be off tune in the sense that this would be directly ahead of the ITU plenipotentiary when

discussions on Internet governance and the multi-stakeholder model and the governance of the DNS will no doubt come up for discussion, so that would be at least one topic that might be relevant for a high-level segment. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Nigel. Thank you for bringing this up and for reading into our following slides. So this was one of the items on the slides as well. As you rightly mentioned, we used to have a high-level governmental meeting every other year to bring to the attention of senior officials and ministers the work of the GAC so that they can spare their delegates the authority and resources and the time to carry out the work of the GAC, so it's ultimately to support GAC members in the tasks they are carrying out for the GAC.

So I hope one of our upcoming host countries would pick up the high-level governmental meeting idea and I hope it gets blessed by one of our upcoming hosts, and we can definitely take it from there and work closely to have it as a success in the near future. We definitely need one; the last one was in Barcelona.

So that said, then, we always run out of time during our wrap-up sessions, but let's go to the following slide and we have eight minutes. But again, as I said, this is just brainstorming and please feel free to come back to us with ideas over email or with feedback, it doesn't have to be necessarily during the wrap-up session.

So on substance, we have the subsequent rounds of new gTLDs. We are keeping a close eye on the operational design phase and we have also the effort on closed generics as mentioned between the GAC and the GNSO. We have already the letter in response to the Board's offer in your in-boxes. If there are any comments or feedback, we will be sending this shortly to the Board. We also have the continued GAC engagement in GNSO RDS and WHOIS EPDP matters, and of course as mentioned earlier, the data accuracy is just starting as an effort, this will continue to be a priority for the GAC. And also DNS abuse mitigation, and we could see a small group formed within the ccNSO and another within the GNSO and interest from the ALAC earlier today. So it is definitely something, and it is of course a high priority that we were pushing for this discussion to take place.

IGO protections, and please stay tuned to the draft process on how to add to this protection list, change or delete from the list, appreciate your feedback so we can finalize the process. And we have continued to have the voluntary public interest commitments pending in our action items, so this is something also that we need to attend to. And finally, the ALAC various topics that we have discussed earlier today, I'm sure they are all of interest to the GAC and they warrant follow-up and close collaboration with the ALAC.

And seeing no hands and before moving on, I would like to stress the fact that we have the GAC action decision radar, an excellent tool that would help you set your priorities, streamline the things, the activities you want to be part of, and set your work plan for the future. it comes

in different flavors, so you can see -- you can change the interface and have a different list depending on what you are looking for. If you have any questions or comments, please raise your hand. We don't have to get through the full deck. If you would like to comment please feel free.

On the operational side we have a long list of webinars in the queue. So one on IDN information sharing and another on Universal Acceptance knowledge sharing, a third on ICANN bylaws basics with ICANN org staff, GNSO policy consensus playbook which has been in the queue for a while, inter-sessional exchange with ICANN government engagement staff, which is what we have mentioned during the opening plenary, and review of IP and non-IP matters which is a recommendation by the government engagement team.

Again, we have volunteer opportunities. We are seeking a Chair for the GAC Universal Acceptance and IDN Working Group. As said, we need to discuss our Communiqué drafting process and format and I think we need to do this in a GAC-wide setup inter-sessionally prior to ICANN 74. And if you, Rob, would like to say something about the ITI initiative?

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Yes, thank you, Manal. Just a reminder that support staff will be reaching out to a number of you as part of this shift within the information transparency initiative to help everybody get set up with this new single sign-on concept which is basically what ICANN account is. We have been going through the records to see who has ICANN accounts and who doesn't. We encourage you to create one if you do

not have one, and we will follow up with all of you who have accounts and need to gear them along the same lines as what you have been using in terms of passwords and user names for your GAC website accounts. It will be very important so we don't have any downtime for you in terms of accessing private content on the GAC website. So those who need to know about it will be notified by email, and hopefully that's only about half of you, and that is a preview for some folks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: And while you have the floor, on empowered community as well?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Certainly. I shared with you all yesterday I believe it was, one of the latest trigger points for the empowered community administration of ICANN which is part of the follow up from the IANA transition that occurred a couple of years ago. The empowered community continues to be an important component, albeit a small one of the GAC's work and when it was first created, the GAC established some preliminary guidelines, and for the last year and a half or so the leadership of the GAC has been examining those, assessing based upon experience, and you will be seeing between ICANN73 and 74 some suggestions for how those guidelines can be updated to reflect changing circumstances and practicalities, so just keep your eyes open for that. We will be looking for your review, feedback, and I guess Manal, potentially approval of those changes at ICANN74. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob, and we have already gone through the high-level governmental meeting planning, and the remaining two here are the GOPE working group work party implementation which we committed to pursuing it further intersessionally and also the Work Stream 2 accountability implementation which continues also intersessionally, particularly with the coordination group that has been formed for recommendations that are within the wider community.

So if we go to the last slide, and it lists key meeting dates, you have the dates on the screen. I will not go through this for the sake of time. I would rather go through my thank you list because we're already over time, two minutes over time, so I would like to thank each and every one of you for the active participation and productive discussions and cooperative spirit throughout the week, and thank my GAC leadership colleagues, and again, sincere thanks to outgoing Vice Chairs and a warm welcome to incoming Vice Chairs. Thank you to topic leads, Working Group chairs and liaisons, GAC support team, IT and language services team, and interpreters and scribes.

So we will continue to engage inter-sessionally, and until we meet again at ICANN 74, please stay safe and enjoy a well-deserved break with sincere apologies for going overtime. This concludes the GAC meetings but there are still a few sessions on the ICANN agenda, so hope to see you around still. Thank you. Bye, everyone.

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