
ICANN74 | Policy Forum – GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, June 13, 2022 – 10:30 to 12:00 AMS

GULTEN TEPE:

Hello, everyone. Welcome. Please be seated. We are about to start. Thank you.

Tech team, could you please start the recording? Hello, everyone. Welcome to the ICANN74 GAC Opening Plenary session. Please note that this session is being recorded, and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behaviour. During this session questions or comments submitted in the chat will be read out loud if you put it in the proper form.

If you are remote, please wait until you're called upon, and unmute your Zoom microphone. For those of you in the main room please raise your hand in Zoom when called upon, unmute your table microphone. For the benefit of our other participants please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. You may access all available features for this session in Zoom tool bar. With that I will hand the floor to Manal Ismail. GAC chair, over to you, Manal.

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.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulten, and good morning, good afternoon and good evening everyone. A very warm welcome to everyone, both in the GAC physical room, and in the GAC Zoom room. This is the GAC Opening Plenary held on the margins of ICANN74 policy forum in the beautiful city of the Hague. I hope you all continue to be well, safe and in good health and I would like to start by thanking the Dutch government, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy for hosting our first GAC meeting with in person attendance, and after 2 -- more than 2 and a half years of being virtual only meetings.

And also for organizing a very timely and needed social event for the GAC yesterday, at the magnificent Peace Palace. I regret not being able to join, but I'm sure everyone enjoyed -- and I hope you also had the time to socialize, network, and get introduced. Our last in-person meeting was held in Montreal in 2019 at ICANN66 so I'm very excited we are able to meet again in person and at the same time accommodate those who cannot make it, and can only join on-line.

I hope we can provide everyone with an equally positive and smooth experience irrespective of being here in person or joining on-line, so please make sure to join the Zoom room and to use it to request the floor so we can maintain a fair chance for everyone by managing one queue. I also hope that you will all respect

ICANN's health and safety measures put in place for the well being of everyone, and also respect everybody's comfort level of socializing with other participants, which you can identify through their choice of the colors of their lanyards.

One more thing is to please try to speak closer to the microphone, and maybe with a little bit louder voice because this mask thing is an additional barrier between you and the microphone, so just try to speak clearly, and close to the microphone, also for the interpreters.

So during this plenary session we will go over the GAC block schedule for ICANN74 and provide an overview of logistics and technical capabilities at this meeting. We will also reconvene our tour de table, so glad to give everyone a chance to introduce themselves, after which we will be receiving updates from GAC working groups. First on -- from the Operating Principles Evolution working group and then Human Rights and International Law Working Group, and finally from the GAC IGO small group.

At the end we will review the Communique drafting process, and if time allows we will be sharing other notable GAC works since ICANN73, including SOAC chairs interactions, the Board GAC interaction group discussions, and other developments.

So without any further ado let's go to the block schedule please, and I'm trying to do what I asked, and speak closer to the microphone.

So our GAC meeting will take place from Monday 13th to Thursday 16th, and our working hours will be from 1900 to 1730 the The Hague time which is 1700 to 1530 UTC. The GAC plenaries continue to focus on priorities topics to the GAC, so we will have sessions to discuss the future rounds of new gTLDs, WHOIS and data protection, as well as DNS Abuse Mitigation.

We have three bilateral meetings with the Board, the GNSO and ALAC, and in addition to the ICANN org panel on SubPro which has just ended half an hour ago there are also 2 plenaries worth noting, first, the community plenary on who sets ICANN as priorities which is taking place tomorrow, and the geopolitical forum takes place on Thursday.

We have also dedicated I believe around 7 hours over 6 sessions for Communique drafting on Wednesday and Thursday, and we will be speaking to the Communique drafting process towards the end of this plenary especially for the benefit of new GAC colleagues.

Finally, we have our usual wrap-up session, which always serves as an opportunity for stock taking, and forward planning, and you can see we continue to provide the 30-minute breaks between each two consecutive sessions, and a 75 minute lunch break now that we are meeting in person that starts every day at 12 The Hague, 10:00 UTC.

On the social side, we have dedicated one hour for social gathering and further introductions later today. As we continue to welcome new representatives who have never met in person before, so ever since our last face-to-face meeting in 2019 in Montreal, we have at the pleasure of being joined by 150 new GAC representatives, so I'm sure it's also a well needed slot and I hope everyone will participate actively and I understand we have a few interesting things to look forward to during this session.

So, I think I'm done with the introductory part, so Gulden, would you allow me to hand over to you for a quick overview on the logistics, please.

GULTEN TEPE:

Of course, Manal. Thank you. Hello again everyone. This is Gulden Tepe. I'm sitting in the back of the room right here. This is the first time we are gathering in person since ICANN66 so it's very good to see you all in person. This will be about a general

overview of what to expect on site and remotely during the meeting.

About calendar invitations I will keep sending updated invites so you will have the remote participation details throughout the week. You may find the briefings and slides published on GAC website. There was an integration between GAC website accounts and ICANN accounts recently so if you are having access issues please let us know, and our Web team will resolve your problem.

Requesting floor procedure is a bit different for on site and virtual participants. If you want to help Manal, please raise your hand via Zoom because the queue will be managed by the list on Zoom, and if you are an on site attendee do not connect your Zoom audio to the -- disconnect your audio click on the up arrow and select leave computer audio, otherwise it will create an echo just like the beginning of the session we experienced.

Raise your hand in Zoom reactions to join the speaking queue, and use the physical microphone at your seat or in the aisle. Please do not try to speak via your laptop or device, and for the virtual participants, procedures will remain the same. Just a note, it would make our session more engaging and interactive if you turn on your Zoom video, and regarding our interpretation,

this time around our interpreters aren't here with us in The Hague but they are listening to us very closely. You can help them by following simple guidelines.

If you intend to speak in a language other than English please notify the audience, and state your name every time you speak, and please speak at a reasonable pace. It will, it will be really helpful. Otherwise I need to -- I'll need to interrupt you and remind you to speak slowly, which is very distracting. And interpretation for GAC sessions includes all 6 U.N. languages and Portuguese, and our on site participants may get their head sets from the table behind, behind the room. Thank you for pointing that, Rob.

After the sessions recording and transcripts will be available on GAC website under each session, and finally a couple of notes for our in-person attendees, we are all good global citizens and we don't want to spread the virus, so there will be daily temperature checks when you enter the venue, and please keep your masks on, be mindful of social distancing, and please stay in the same seat during the entire day instead of moving around and using different chairs.

Our meetings team put so much effort to prepare the venue and rooms so we are very grateful for their efforts, and they have a

message for all of us, please don't move the chairs. You may share your feedback by sending an e-mail to the ICANN74 feedback at ICANN.org, and that would help us while preparing the future ICANN meetings, and that's all from my part. Over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden, and with that allow me now to start the tour de table, and I would like to start by the -- our Dutch colleagues, so Alisa please, if you may.

ALISA HEAVER:

Good morning, everyone. So can everyone hear me well? Okay. Welcome, well first to The Hague, it's a pleasure to speak you to here for the first time actually in person, and in my hometown. I just like to start with a little bit about The Hague. It's also known as the city of peace and justice. That's because there are many international peace organizations based here like the criminal court, the international court of justice, the OPCW, Europol, Eurojust and the significance of peace could be felt yesterday during the pre GAC event in the Peace Palace.

The tour guide explained that every country has contributed by donating an object of significance to the Peace Palace, and actually that's also what we are doing today, or in these days, we

are contributing now with our time, dedicating it towards the Internet, an open, free, Internet, and inclusive for everyone.

Thankfully, now we are able to meet each other again after 2 and a half years sitting at home, and not being able to look each other in the eye, seeing each other -- or seeing that everyone is nodding or looking, no this is not a good proposal, we shouldn't do that. It's, it's a very different atmosphere.

As Manal just pointed out, we are with 115 new GAC members, myself included. It's the first time that I'm seeing you, and it's a great pleasure to be here. Even though we have had the opportunity to meet each other on-line, I am already experiencing a different atmosphere, and I'd like to stress the importance of ensuring that we make the most of these in-person meetings because I think it's time to do that.

We're seeing that more regional and national rules are being made with regards to the Internet, and I believe firmly in a multistakeholder model of Internet governance but we must understand that we have a big responsibility in this, so I'd like to invite everyone -- everybody to participate as actively as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank Manal, her fellow chairs, and the GAC leadership and the GAC support staff in advance because I know

how many effort they have been putting into the preparations of this meeting, and ensuring that everything is ready for us to meet each other here. Thank you. Back to you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Alisa, and thanks to the Dutch government for the generous hosting and the warm welcome. So, next maybe we can start by the GAC leadership introductions, and my name is Manal Ismail although this may be coming a little bit late, and I'm the GAC chair, we will go through the vice chairs. Then we will move through the room for the introductions, and then I would like to ask colleagues joining in the Zoom room to please raise your hands if you are a GAC member or observer so that I can recognize you and give you the turn.

So maybe by Francis here, if you may. Francis, if you can please introduce yourself.

FRANCIS CUBAHIRO, VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Manal. I will be speaking French. Thank you very much, Manal. My name is Francis Cubahiro, and I come from the ministry in charge of ICPs and I am the new vice chair within the GAC. I would like to thank you all and Manal said the last time we met in person was in Montreal so I am very glad that we get to meet in person.

I think the main takeaway from COVID is the fact that we all need Internet very much, in particular in my country we've seen that without the Internet we were very isolated, so Internet allowed us to stay connected to the rest of the world, but it's also shedded some light on matters relating to the risks associated to the Internet, in particular when we speak of the digital fatigue, and that's also related to one of the technical aspects of the Internet.

So, I have committed to bring my own 2 cents to the GAC and the chair's team and vice chair's team so thank you, Manal. I'm here to work with you.

PÄR BRUMARK, VICE CHAIR: I'm Pär Brumark. I'm the GAC representative of Niue, a very small nation in the Pacific but I'm also the GAC vice-chair, I would like to welcome everyone both on-line and present here in The Hague the symbolic city of The Hague and not least newcomers. We've all been newcomers.

In the GAC we are all representative of our governments, though your opinion is your government's ... matters. According to the ICANN vision and incorporation, your national laws always supercede ICANN bylaws. That's something very good to have in mind when you're trying to understand all the business

communities and everything that you should look at your own national interests, and your own national laws.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Par. Jaideep?

JAIDEEP MISHRA, VICE CHAIR: I'm Jaideep Mishra, the GAC representative from India and also the vice chair for this year. So coming from India which is nearly around 830 million Internet users. We are the largest democracy engaged in the Internet platform so I've been engaged with GAC since 2018 and we have collaborated with several policy matters and specifically working since I mentioned coming from India, the 3 key teams that we focus on, on equal access, on inclusion, and also on the digital ... these are the 3 key teams with GAC and with ICANN we have been actively collaborating and engaged in taking forward the multilingual agenda, universalization much the IDN he is the 2-character code that we have done with several of on your colleagues here and then besides working on the current topical issues of the new gTLDs, the WHOIS and the data that happens how can the law enforcement agencies still be there with the GDPR coming in and finally on the latest one they show in the DNS Abuse Mitigation we are working on.

So I look forward to working with you and collaborating with you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you at this level. Thank you.

SHI YOUNG CHANG, VICE CHAIR: Hello. I'm GAC representative of the Republic of Korea and vice chair and looking at the GAC point of contact to ALAC, and as many of you guys I'm new since 2020 so I think it's going to be a great chance for me to... many new colleagues and new subject through this meeting. And I hope this will be a great chance to enhance the collaboration between each other especially as a to ALAC I hope the 2, GAC and ALAC as a motive for collaboration between this session and also I'd like to know many peoples and many issues through this meeting.

And again, thank you for inviting me for this and also thank four the Dutch government and for the Dutch representative ALISA for the session and thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. And, of course, we have a 5th vice chair, Ola Bergstrom from Sweden is not here at the moment but--

OLA BERGSTROM, VICE CHAIR: I am on-line, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay, I'm sorry, please go ahead.

OLA BERGSTROM, VICE CHAIR: Yeah, I flew in this morning and it took longer than expected so I will be there in half an hour or something so maybe I can do the proper introductions later but very nice to be here and I really look forward to meet all of you in person, it's been a long time without interaction [inaudible] in this very important area so I'm the director for international affairs for the telephone regulator [inaudible] issues object global [inaudible] on the European level but hope to see you in person very soon. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ola. Great to know you're here, and sorry to overlook you in the on-line attendance.

So with that let's start moving in the room, and please starting tomorrow for GAC members and observers please make sure you are sitting behind the microphone, and also try to avoid sitting behind the pillars in the room so that we can have a line of sight, and be able to see each other. So I think we can -- we will move row by row and I can start which Velimira, European Commission, please.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Good morning, can you hear me? Good morning to everybody. So my name is Velimira Neminquatcheva-Grau and I'm representing European Commission to the GAC, as part of the Internet Governance Team, European Commission.

Unfortunately, my colleagues could not be present on site for a couple of logistical reasons, but they are on-line with us. As you may know European Commission is represented at several levels, and we have representatives coming from the different fields of expertise and as far as I'm concerned I'm part of Internet governance team, and we are part of the director general of the so-called connect for those of you who know, but we all represent the same vision and to also meet some of me colleagues in the course of today and tomorrow from other parts of the commission dealing with ... and consumer protection.

So I'm very happy to be here with all of you, and also for my part, I joined the work of the GAC at the beginning of 2021, and I'm immensely happy to meet all of you on site today and looking forward to hopefully meet the rest of the GAC members and also observers in September for those who could not make it today. Thank you very much, and looking forward to meet you all. More in detail later on.

UGANDA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Gloria Katuuku, GAC representative Uganda. As we come to this... digital inclusion has never been more important especially after this lockdown of COVID-19. I'm very happy to see you all and we hope that we take ... in this forum. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Jorge, please.

SWITZERLAND: Thank you so much, Manal. This is Jorge Cancio, Swiss government. I'm very happy to be here and to thank you actually in person, many of you, and others on-line. I think we have a very good presence also on-line. I, as I said, I'm representing the Swiss government. We do different things.

I'm part of the international team, so we cover media, Internet, and telecommunications and... affairs so if beyond ICANN there is anything you would like to discuss I'm at your disposal here in the GAC I'm also a point of contact between the GAC and the GNSO I try to exchange as much as possible information between the two committees, and to feed our topic leads with the right and timely information on what's going on in the GNSO.

And, this time I will be doing a hybrid meeting myself because I'm here today in person and tomorrow morning also during some time, but then I will switch over to virtual, so happy to be here with you. Thank you.

INDONESIA:

Thank you. My name is Ashwin Sastrosubroto. I'm from Indonesia ... council just to give some more information that Indonesia is hosting the G20 meeting at the end of this year, and one of the main topics -- not one of the main topics -- many topics of this meeting is related to Internet governance so it is really important for me to get information of the Internet governance here because I can relate that one to, relate it to many activities in the G20 discussion meeting. Thanks a lot. And it's very nice to be here to see all of you in person. Thank you.

BRAZIL:

Hello. Good morning everyone. This is... director of science technology in Brazilian foreign affairs... entrepreneurship with the ministry of science and coordinator the ... Brazil's Internet steering committee and we have a team advisors from Brazil Internet steering committee... we are glad to be here as part of an effort to re-engage in the activities of GAC so we brought the strong team to gradually get more involved again and have a better sense of what are the main relevant points from governmental and public interest perspective. And with this in

mind I want to take the opportunity to make a brief statement and issue I think it relevant for the organization.

I would like to update the GAC members on recent developments involving exchanges between Amazon Corporation and the Amazon Corporation Treaty Organization Act concerning the litigation of the .Amazon top-level domains much ... made for the record and informational purposes and not coordinated in advance with other member states that have organization.

As you may recall a number of public interest commitments were attached to the delegation of the .Amazon gTLD including a possible list of requested reserve domain names and participation in a proposed joint steering committee to assist... in June 2021 Amazon's vice president for public policy sent a letter to act as secretary general reminding the organization that it had until December 19, 2021 to provide Amazon with a list of proposed names to be included in the list of requested reserved domain names.

On December 17, 2021 the secretary general of ACTO, after consulting the member states of the organization sent a letter in reply recalling the maybe elements of the Amazon country's position on the matter. Among other points it underlined ACTO member states did not give consent to the process of

adjudication of the .Amazon top level domain and that they did not consider themselves bound by said decision or the conditions attached to it including the above mentioned public interest commitment.

In its conclusion in the letter of reply the letter of reply reaffirms and "reaffirms the position of the ACTO member countries that the adjudication of the top-level domain to a private company without our approval and authorization does not respect the applicable rules expressly contravene the multistakeholder nature of ICANN's decision-making process of interest, and is incompatible with expectation and sovereign rights of the Amazon peoples." And close this intervention. Thank you, thank you very much."

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I'm sorry, we cannot hear you.

SPEAKER: Good morning. Thank you. My name is... I'm the GAC representative of... I work for the ministry of foreign affairs and I am glad to be here in person. It is my first meeting in person, I have attended the last 2 remotely, but so -- and I hope and look forward to work with you and discuss all these important issues this week. Thank you very much.

CHAD: Good morning everyone. I'm ... from Chad. I am a director in charge of electronics and communication. It's my first time to attend this very meeting. I'm sure that I can share on the long look from that very policy, once again I can say thanks to everyone. Thanks.

BURKINA FASO: Good morning, everyone. I come from Burkina Faso and my name is Rodrigo ... I am an outgoing vice chair of the GAC and so I am currently here as a GAC member. I am very happy to be here with you today and to see that there are new faces joining and the dynamic is promising, so I wish you all a great meeting. Thank you.

SPEAKER: ... GAC advisor representative, I'm very glad to be here in a face-to-face meeting for the first time and I wish ICANN74 the best.

SPEAKER: I'm from... island in the Gulf of ... advisor from the... very happy to be here in person. Thank you very much.

CONGO: My name is Blaise Fundji, from Congo. Senior advisor to the... telecommunications city standing in the position of DRC GAC representative within ICANN. Thank you.

NORWAY: Good morning, everybody. My name is Frode Sorensen. I'm representing GAC Norway, happy to be here in the Hague for a physical meeting at last, and happy to meet you all physically, or virtually. Thanks.

AUSTRALIA: Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. My name is Ian Sheldon. I am the GAC representative from the Australian government.

Like many of you I have participated the last handful of GAC meetings virtually on-line so this is my first meeting in person. It's an absolute pleasure to be here in The Hague I'm very much like to thank our hosts, Alisa and the Dutch government for the hospitality here, and I'm very much looking forward to working with you all throughout the course of the week. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Good morning all. My name is Davide ... representative of [inaudible] this is my first in-person session. This will give me the possibility to (indiscernible) with the other GAC colleagues. I

would like to thank Alisa for the opportunity that gave us yesterday to better, know each other in such a significant and beautiful venue I am glad to be here, and thank you, thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So if we can continue introductions, please.

GULTEN TEPE: Manal, a reminder from our interpreters, please speak closer to the microphone, and slowly. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Gulden.

SPEAKER: Hello. Hello. Can I speak? I raise hand. Hello?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, we will come shortly to those who are on-line.

SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. U.S., please U.S.

UNITED STATES: My name is Susan Chalmers, and I am the GAC representative for the United States. I work for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which sits within the United States Department of Commerce. It is my great pleasure to attend this ICANN74 hybrid meeting and to make the acquaintance of all of you, and again thank you to our Dutch hosts, and GAC colleagues, it's a pleasure to be here The Hague, a venue well known for fostering peace and justice, so thank you.

UNITED STATES: Good morning, good afternoon good evening, my name is Laureen Kapin and I'm part of the United States delegation to the Governmental Advisory Committee, and I work for the Federal Trade Commission focussing on consumer protection issues, and I'm also co-chair of one of the GAC working groups much the Public Safety Working Group.

WIPO: Good morning, colleagues. My name is Brian Beckham. I'm with WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organization. In that capacity I am one of the topic leads for rights protection. I am also here on behalf of intergovernmental organizations and I will

provide a brief update on working group efforts on that topic later.

LATVIA:

Good morning to everyone. My name is Zita Kanberga, and I represent Latvia in GAC. This is my first ICANN meeting and also my first GAC meeting and I'm happy to be here. I work for Latvian ... represent to the EU Brussels based and following telecommunications and postal affairs including Internet governance issues. Happy to meet you all here.

NIGERIA:

Good morning, everyone. My name is... I work with Nigerian Communications representing Nigeria. I have colleagues here with me and will hand over to the next person.

NIGERIA:

Good morning, everyone. My name is... I'm from Nigeria and I work for the Nigerian Communications Commission ... telecommunications and I also represent the GAC in the fellowship selection committee. It's good to see you all, thank you.

AUSTRIA: Good morning, colleagues. I'm Stefan Vouk. I represent from Austria. I'm a lawyer from the department for telecommunications, and I'm very happy to be back at the physical meeting in such a beautiful city, thank you very much.

AUSTRIA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Klaus Parrer. I'm the Austrian and GAC representative and I'm very happy to be back in ... and to see so many of you colleagues and friends after more than 2 hard years where we had not the chance to meet physically, so I'm really looking forward to a very interesting discussions, and exchange of views with colleagues and friends and to meet now friends maybe, which is always a good opportunity in such a forum and such an environment. Also thanks for the hosts, it's a pleasure being here The Hague, beautiful city, a lot of historical background.

So I'm -- deputy head of the legal service department in the ministry of agriculture regions and tourism in Vienna, and in this respect I'm responsible for national and international telecommunications affairs and as well Internet governance issues. Looking forward to a very interesting week. Thank you.

UNITED KINGDOM: I'm Nigel Hickson. I work for the Department of Digital Communication Media, and sport in the U.K. government and I work on Internet governance issues, and I would -- I suppose echo what others have said. It's a real privilege and honor to be back in a hybrid setting able to meet meet colleagues.

I'd like to express our thanks on behalf of the U.K. government to our Dutch hosts, for what they've done in putting this meeting together to that being the ICANN organization, and the GAC support staff as well for their efforts to make this a successful meeting. A number of us met at the Peace Palace as our friend Dutch said earlier, and had an excellent session yesterday afternoon discussing issues connected with the GAC and other issues as well.

We look forward to an excellent week of discussion, we have an obviously a whole host of issues on the agenda, but we know because of the collaborative spirit that the GAC always works in that we are able to tackle these issues together. Before I finish I would like to introduce a new colleague of mine, Ros here on my right who is joined the team on the government and will be helping me because I need an awful lot of help on the GAC issues, and to my left... is the head of our section in the department looking after digital standards and Internet governance and it's a

great she's here with us today to experience what we do at these ICANN meetings. Thank you very much.

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, my name is Suada Hadzovic, and I'm the GAC representative from Bosnia Herzegovina and I work for the communications regulatory agency, and I am a co-chair of GAC working group on Human Rights and International Law, and also I am GAC representative in WorkStream 2 community coordination group, thank you all for efforts for making this meeting possible, it is real nice to participate on an on site. Thank you.

UKRAINE: Good morning to all present. My name is Andrii Nabok, and I am representative of Ukraine in GAC ICANN. Very glad to see everyone in person, the journey from Kiev to the conference took me more than 2 days the reason is that Russian missiles and bombs have been destroying our country for more than 100 days. A large amount of Internet infrastructure is being destroyed, and we are grateful to ICANN to allocations funding for maintain our Internet and infrastructure.

I hope for preserve fruitful co-operation. Thank you very much.

CTC: Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to all. My name is Gary ... representing the Caribbean Telecommunication ... happy to be here. And I do look forward to meeting and interacting with you all, and look forward to productive and fruitful session.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So thank you very much. Anyone at the far left is a GAC member or observer? If not then maybe we can go down the line and have please the gentlemen here go ahead.

SERBIA: Hello, everyone. Good morning, my name is Sasa --

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I'm sorry, can you please -- yeah, speak closer to the microphone.

SERBIA: Okay, thank you. Hello everyone, good morning. My name is Sasa Kovacevic. I'm coming, GAC, Serbia from office of ... government where I working at head of international corporation and strategic planning. This is my first time participating in such event in person on site and it is my honor and pleasure to be here.

This is great opportunity to exchange information and experiences, and gathering experiences and knowledge for sure will be big help in my further work, so I would like to greet you all, and thanks for hospitality.

COMTELCA:

Good morning everyone. My name is Lizania Perez. I represent the Regional Telecommunications Technical Commission which has 8 countries as members. Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. We have members of the governments represented by the regulators and ministers of telecommunications and education technologies in the commission. It is a pleasure to attend this ICANN74 meeting face-to-face, and I'm here to serve you. Thank you very much.

UAE:

Good morning good afternoon and good evening everyone. My name is ... I represent the UAE within the GAC. And I work as director of policies and programs department within the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority in the United Arab Emirates, and I also on certain topics I represent the Gulf Corporation Council, very pleasure to be here.

I've been visiting and participating within the GAC since 2006, and I definitely miss working with the colleagues physically. Very

pleasure to be here in this beautiful city. And I'd like to take this opportunity as well to thank our hosts. The Dutch government, and thank the ICANN organization and the GAC support for making this meeting happen physically. Thank you.

PARAGUAY:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Nicolas Cabalero representing Paraguay, ICT ministry. It's a real pleasure to be here and have the chance to see my distinguished colleagues face-to-face again after 4, maybe 5 years, I'm back in the GAC. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So any further introductions here to the right? Okay then if, if we -- so anyone in the room -- yes, please go ahead.

KENYA:

Thank you very much. Chair, my name is Michael Katundu. I'm here representing communications... of Kenya, and with a number of my colleagues who are part of the delegation. I've been involved in the GAC for a couple of years, I think since the GAC started in 2001, the chairman ship of.... and I look forward to meeting new members working here as part of this hybrid meeting and I also look forward to deliberations as an outcome

of this meeting. Thank you. I have my colleague who will introduce himself. Thank you.

KENYA:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Gimode Chiimbiru. I work for the Communications Regulatory in Kenya and part of the delegation to the GAC. It is my first time at ICANN, also I consider this a singular pleasure. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Anyone in the room GAC member or GAC observer who has not yet introduced themselves. Yes, sir, please go ahead.

GABON:

Hello. Good morning, everyone. My name is Daniel Christian. If I may I will continue in French. Good morning good afternoon good evening everyone I'm here at a represent of Gabon and this is my first time participating at the conference. I'm very glad to be here. I am a currently the head of the National Agency for Digital Infrastructure and we work in infrastructure Gabon which we wish to enhance. Thank you very much.

RUPUBLIC OF CONGO: Hi, good morning. I am the general director of the digital economies and I represent the republic of Congo within the GAC. I'm ... and it is a pleasure to meet you all once again after ICANN66 which was held in Canada. We are very happy to meet with the different governments to -- who work on the defense of our digital world here at The Hague. Thank you. Manal, thank you very much.

POLAND: Good morning, everyone. My name is ... and I'm representing Poland. I'm a newcomer to ICANN meetings I'm a head of the Internet governance and European... at the chancellor of the prime minister of Poland, and this unit was also tasked with organization of the last year IGA20201 in Poland.

I would like to thank everyone for organizing this meeting especially Dutch government for hosting this meeting and two fantastic colleagues Alisa and... for running the meeting ago the beautiful venue which meeting I personally found very very interesting. I'm looking very much forward to the discussions thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Anyone else that -- please go ahead.

RWANDA: Good morning everyone. My name is ... GAC representative from Rwanda, this is my first time to be here, and I'm ready to learn and share. Thank you.

RWANDA: My name is... I'm also a GAC representative of Rwanda, I've been attending the GAC for some years back, and I'm [inaudible] thankful we have had the new hybrid meeting now, and [inaudible] government of Netherland for organizing this meeting and ICANN for organizing the hybrid meeting. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Anyone else in the room who hasn't yet introduced themselves? Okay if not, then allow me to give the floor to colleagues on-line, and apologies to keep you waiting. Thank you for your patience. I can see Dominico, please go ahead.

ITALY: Yes, good morning, I don't know if you can hear me.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, loud and clear.

ITLAY: Domenico ... advisor for Italy. I work for ministry of economic development. I'm happy to have the possibility to follow the meeting remotely and for this I really thank the GAC staff and support for and I hope to be -- to meet you in person for the next one. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Italy. I have Slava next.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Viacheslav -- I'm representative of Russia federation, policy advisor and working in academy which support different governmental bodies. First of all our ministry of digital development is expertise in ICT. I'm personally responsible for Internet aspects and Internet... and working in different organizations and forms related to Internet such as ICANN, IGF, ITU, J20 in case of Internet questions or digital service question. I am working in GAC since Dublin conference. It was, if I remember, 2015. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, I have next Mr. Morris, please.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you, chair. Mr. Morris from Taiwan. Nice to see you in the ... on site. It's a pity I cannot attend in meeting in person but I wish to for a very successful meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you next. Sudan.

SUDAN: Hello everyone. My name is Tarik ... from Sudan. I represent Sudan GAC. I'm working for TBRA. And I am representing Sudan government, also I am also the head [inaudible] of the national I'm also the... and the leader on the ISOP Sudan. Also I am the manager of... the CCT in Sudan maybe international, a newcomer for that but in ICANN I'm very there from the 2010 working for (indiscernible) and as committees like generation... like IDN committee and other committees to ICANN. I'm working for the CCTld interested in (indiscernible) and looking forward to meet all you, and discuss such things to make [inaudible].

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Jason, please go ahead.

CANADA: Good morning. I'm Jason Merritt joining you from from Canada. It's a pleasure to take part in this meeting and participate virtually

and hopefully get a chance to meet everyone in person at the next meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Please, Tracy go ahead.

UPU: I'm Tracy Hackshaw. I represent the Universal Postal Union and I'm in full hybrid mode and I'm getting this very shortly. I just got to the country. And I hope to see you all soon. I represent as I said the universal postal... as an observer and also the (indiscernible) of the .post domain. That's something I want to share with you how we as a United Nations agency ... governance actually involved with a top-level domain. Most beautiful country I'm seeing it on the way now and I will I'll see all you have in a moment. Bye.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Luisa, please go ahead.

CANADA: Hello, Manal can you hear me well?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes.

CANADA: Perfect. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening GAC colleagues. I am Luisa Paez. The Canadian representative just about 5 years ago and a former GAC vice-chair. I work at the department of innovation science and economic development and Internet governance issues, very happy to be participating on-line from Ottawa along with my colleagues Jason merit and Rita TAHIR as unfortunately, the Canadian delegation could not attend in ICANN meeting in person but we look forward to attending future ones.

And we would also like to thank the Dutch government for hosting this ICANN meeting and we wish everyone a very productive ICANN74. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. I have Georgia next.

GEORGIA: Hello, Manal. Hello everyone. My name is ... and I'm representing Georgian government. I'm a chief expert of international relations, and international projects of Georgia nations communication commission the regulatory authority for electronic communications and broadcasting in Georgia, and

also I'm .GT CCtld advisory Board member working with the GAC since 2009. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Peter, please go ahead.

HUNGARY: Peter Major. Thank you, Manal. I'm happy to see you and the colleagues I've seen along time ago. I'm Peter Major from Hungary and I work for the Commission of Hungary here in Geneva. Through the United Nations I've been involved with GAC since 2012 my first meeting was in Prague. I'm really happy to be here, I hoped to be physically present at the next meeting, and I look forward to our discussions and deliberation this year. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Senegal, please go ahead.

SENEGAL: Hello everyone. Achime from Senegal. The... director and also GAC member. This is my first time meeting, and I very very proud to be with you. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Rudy, please go ahead.

GERMANY: I'm Rudy ... from Germany, the GAC representative from Germany. I work for the federal ministry from digital and transport and I am responsible for International Digital Policy and Internet Governance. And I'm -- I regret I cannot be there in the Hague in person. Unfortunately, there's another ITU conference that I have to follow simultaneously, but I hope that I will be able to join in person the next time, I will also like to thank the Netherlands for hosting the event and, of course, ICANN for organizing it. And, yeah I'm looking forward to fruitful discussions in the next days. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. MMA, please go ahead.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Good morning. This is Gemma Carolillo from the European Commission the acting head of the next generation... you have our representative for GAC Velimira on site. I must say I regret not to be present. Everything was arranged for participation but there have been currently some last-minute issues with those accessing the venue so I cannot be present in person, but I will surely intervene. And also from my side thank you for the Dutch

government to support the organization of this in person and hybrid ICANN meeting. Look forward to working with you over this few days. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. I have... next.

[Inaudible].

GULTEN TEPE: Santosh, we cannot here you. Please speak up.

INDIA: Thank you, Manal. Good afternoon and good evening colleagues and I'm the GAC representative from India. So once again my congratulations to all. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Cambodia, please.

CAMBODIA: Good morning, chair, good morning vice chair and colleagues so my name is Rapid Sun. I'm from Cambodia from, representative at the GAC from Cambodia, I am a director to the... for the Ministry

of Electronic Communications and looking forward for the GAC meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Guo?

CHINA: This is Guo Feng speaking of, Beijing China. Congratulations to the GAC for the physical meeting again. However, I am happy to join the GAC meeting remotely. I also wish the GAC meeting a successful one as always. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. And I don't see any further hands up. Anyone who would like to introduce themselves? And was not able to raise a hand? Okay. If not then I think we are good to proceed but before moving on allowing me to also give a chance to our GAC support team. I just see one more hand, I'm sorry, please test it. Go ahead.

If you're speaking we cannot here you. So maybe for now, until we've checked the problem, if you can type yourself introduction. Okay, please go ahead. Yes, please.

SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Kammiri ... I belong to the National Agency for the Internet Society of Niger and I represent Niger within the GAC. I will follow the meeting remotely but I wish to be there next time. I hope I can make it next time in person. So thank you all.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yeah, Ingrid.

GUATEMALA: Good morning. I'm Ingrid Garcia from the Telecommunications Superintendent from Guatemala. It is a great pleasure for us to be joining this meeting from Guatemala on-line. Greetings to all.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Other colleagues on-line who would like to introduce themselves? Okay. If not, I'm really excited with the large number of GAC members that we have during this meeting, thank you everyone for either taking the time to fly, or joining us in a time zone that might not be the best.

With that, let's go -- yeah, let's go to our support team, and please, if you self introduce as well.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal. This is Robert Hoggarth in the back of the room and it was fun seeing a number of you and introducing myself earlier today. We figured since most of the staff have roles throughout this week that I would let them individually introduce themselves. So I'm Robert Hoggarth with the GAC support team, located in Washington, D.C., and we'll just go let's go in order; Fabien, then Benedetta, Julia and Gulden who you've already heard from. Please go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Hello, everyone. My name is Fabien Betremieux. I'm here in the back of the room as well. And I can be seen on the screen. And I am in the U.S. time zone in Texas, and I support the ongoing work on WHOIS and Data Protection Policy the Public Safety Working Group and other topics as needed. Thank you.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: And hello everyone. My name is Benedetta Rossi, I'm over here at the back of the room as well. And I mainly support subsequent rounds of new gTLD efforts, the GAC Operating Principles Evolution working group, and IGO protections. And I'm based in France so you'll find me in the European time zone. Great to see you all in person. Thank you all very much.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Hello, I'm Julia Charvolen. I'm also based in France, great to see you all. I support the human rights working group, underserved regions working group as well, and work closely with Gulden in terms of everything that pertains to GAC meetings and logistics and other things. And I'll give her the floor.

GULTEN TEPE: Hello again, everyone. This is Gulden Tepe. I'm based in Istanbul and great to see you all, we are here at the back of the room if you need anything, if you have questions, so please stop by, say hi, it's great to see you. Thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, and as you can see we have a support team in the different time zones so we're receiving service 24 by 7 almost, thank you very much.

So, I'm just looking at the time, and we have 12 minutes left, and we have like 10 slides left so we'll see how we can -- how much we can achieve during this session, and anything that we skip here I'll try to find sometime during other sessions to cover.

So we have first reporting back from the GAC Operating Principles Evolution working group, and this is co-chaired by Ian and Guo Feng so we will be starting. Please, Ian go ahead.

IAN SHELDON: Good morning I am Ian Sheldon. I am the--

GULTEN TEPE: We cannot hear you, I'm sorry.

IAN SHELDON: Sorry, could you -- go to the next slides please?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So Ian you may want to pull the microphone closer.

IAN SHELDON: I do apologize. I am Ian Sheldon, the co-chair of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group. So as you will recall at ICANN73 we sought and received endorsement of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group Work Plan, and committed to focussing on updating the working group guidelines.

After a number of inter-sessional calls and some fantastic work from all involved we now have finished our reviewed the guidelines and submitted to the broader GAC for endorsement of

the GOEB working group updated the existing guidelines taking into account the GAC membership input received at ICANN73.

As I mentioned the further intersessional work as well as in the put received from the other GAC working group chairs and co-chairs. The purpose of the GAC Working Group Guidelines is to provide recommendations on how working groups should be established, run, and closed within the GAC. Please note that these guidelines -- that these remain guidelines and are therefore intended to include flexibility as much as possible.

During the GAC review period, we didn't receive any comments asking for a delay in endorsement. One GAC member the U.K. responded in support of the work conducted and encouragement of the discussion at ICANN74. I would now like it turn over to my co-chair Guo Feng who will take us through a little bit more detail on the updated guidelines.

GUO FENG: Thank you. This is Guo Feng speaking. Can you all hear me well?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes.

GUO FENG:

Thank you very much. So in terms of the changes since ICANN73, so the major points are as follows. The texts were streamlined across the document to match current practice with GAC working groups and to avoid repetitions. And also document is renamed from framework of GAC Working Group Guidelines to GAC Working Group Guidelines.

The Work Plan section is also updated to reflect. Reflect the concept of working groups should -- how should working groups develop and update their Work Plans annually, and reflecting current practice. And updating the section working group ... which was thoroughly discussed at previous ICANN meeting, notably removing mention of consensus which was replaced by agreement now referring to GAC consensus advice or authorizations.

In addition, balance the participation from underserved regions with added to the membership section as discussed at ICANN73, and a new template was created to outline the proposal for a new working group. So, I think the current version of this document is a balanced one, a pretty balanced one between suggested procedure and flexibility. So perhaps we want to take this opportunity to seek approval from the GAC, if not at this session hopefully by the end of this week to secure endorsement on this document. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay, please go ahead.

IAN SHELDON: Sorry, next slide, please. So pending endorsement of the guidelines, the next steps are reasonably straightforward, we will continue to work through the operating principles in earnest from this point forward. I'd very much encourage any GAC members who do have an interest in this to take part in the working group it is of vital importance that the operating principles reflect current as well as desired practice across the GAC as much as possible.

We will continue to provide updates across the following ICANN meetings before aiming to submit a final recommendation of the operating principles at ICANN 78. Next slide please.

I did want to pause to see if there are any questions from the broader GAC? Or any other comments?

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Do you see my hand.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I don't see any requests from the floor from the room but I see Kavouss's hand up. Yes, please, Kavouss go ahead.

IRAN: Good morning distinguished Manal, good afternoon, good morning, good evening. Just for the previous slides then this is replace consensus by agreement, could we have a look to that one if was now or later on? Did you get my point?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, and we've, we have now the slide on the screen.

Is this the right slide you're referring to, Kavouss?

IRAN: Yes. In the 4th bullet says an updated section of working group output which was thoroughly discussed a the ICANN73 notably removing mention of consensus, which was replaced by agreement. And not referring to GAC consensus. I don't understand this. What we are talking about?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss. Ian, would you like me to take the question?

IAN SHELDON: Yes, please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay, so there was a discussion last meeting on this part, and it was related to the outcome that comes to the GAC from from the working groups, and one of the options was a consensus document from the working group, but we didn't feel comfortable having the word consensus in the outcome of a working group that this may confuse with the GAC outcome, so we discussed that it may be better to avoid the word consensus when it comes to on an output of the working groups.

IRAN: Yes, thank you very much, and I fully understand and I fully agree with you. Thus one side of the coin much the other side of the coin is that consensus, not taking that for GAC advice because if GAC advice we have to mention consensus with upper case C, like advice with upper case A, but consensus is a known fact in the entire United Nations the GAC also government and advisory committee if not directly, but indirectly part of that, so we don't want to replace agreement -- consensus by agreement.

Agreement means that 100% unanimity, but consensus does not mean that. Consensus mean if even somebody is not happy but would not formally raise any difficulty, and say that okay, I can live with that, so perhaps instead of not having the problem that distinguished Manal you very rightly mention in future with respect to the GAC consensus in the Board meeting we could

repair at that to consensus with upper case C and then with consensus anywhere it is a standard procedure in entire U.N. family and so on and so forth not replace it by agreement, so I don't think that we -- maybe now you don't face that, but in future we may face this. If you say agreement means unanimous.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss. Your point is very well taken, and indeed, nothing changes when it comes to GAC output. It's consensus with the capital C, consensus GAC advice what we are discussing here and trying to avoid confusion is the output of the working groups, so I think we are on the same page, and in agreement, so thank you very much for allowing us to explain this more to everyone.

So please back to you, Ian. Anything?

IAN SHELDON: No further updates from us, thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. So any objections or comments to endorsing the GAC working group guidelines? Yes please U.S.? Go ahead, Susan.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Manal, this is Rob in the back of the room that. That was a national test. Alisa may be able to provide more details but nobody should panic. Thank you.

ALISA HEAVER: Yeah, on the first of Monday we always -- the if first Monday of the month we always have attest to see if everything is still works. No problems here.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Good to know. So U.S. please? No it's okay? So any other comments? If not, any objections to endorsing the working group guidelines? And I see Nigel Hickson's hand up. Please, Nigel, go ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you very much. -- (echo) sorry about that. I put it down to the emergency alert and nothing to do with my incompetence at all. No, just to thank the working group for this work and for the effort that's gone into this. I think this was an important, important initiative, and you know, puts us in a good position going toward so thank you very much to all the people that contributed to this work, and that particularly to Ian and colleagues. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. So with this I think we are good to announce the endorsement of the GAC working group's guidelines and I would like to thank very much co-chairs Ian and Feng, and all the working group members, but I see a hand up from the U.S. first. Please go ahead.

UNITED STATES: Thank you, Manal. And just a question for clarification on the, on the agreement point. Is it meant to represent 100% agreement or is it general agreement? I think we just wanted to ask a clarifying question.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, any comments? I don't think it has to be 100%. I think it's just if the group agrees to bring this back to the full GAC for endorsement then --

UNITED STATES: Thank you, Manal. And then with that you know we'd like to join our other colleagues, and endorsing the work of the working group, and thanking our co-chairs from China, Australia for leading us to this point. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Perfect. Thank you again and thank you for all the efforts. I can see that we are 3 minutes behind the schedule time, but I still see a hand up from Kavouss. So please, Kavouss.

IRAN: Thank you, Manal. Here is not important saying endorse, but usually in future please kindly use different word, agreed. Approved, adopted but not endorse. Endorse is very strong word. But here I have no problem. Just I want to say that the legal meaning of that. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss. Well noted, so with that I think we are done with the Opening Plenary. I do apologize for colleagues who were supposed to also report back to the plenary during this session. I'll discuss with support staff and see where we can inject those interventions throughout the week but for now it's time for 75 minute lunch break, and after the break we will start the GAC session on subsequent round of new gTLDs, so please be back in the GAC room and the GAC Zoom room at 13:15 The Hague. 11:15 UTC, thank you very much everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]