ICANN74 | Policy Forum – GAC Wrap-Up Session
Thursday, June 16, 2022 – 15:00 to 16:00 AMS

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone, I hope you enjoyed your lunch and a slightly longer break. And welcome to the last session of the GAC meeting, the GAC wrap-up. And we normally use this session to announce anything related to the elections, do some stock taking regarding what worked well and what can be done better, some forward planning, and I already see the slides on the screen and as always, thanks to Rob for compiling a slide deck to help us [Audio distortion - Please stand by] interactive, less normal session, and again, this comes after our finalization of the Communiqué, so normally this is a session that is not also reflected in the Communiqué. It has been finalized and you should be receiving it shortly over email. The agenda covers the 2022 GAC leadership election briefing, identification of substantive next steps for ICANN74 follow-up. Discuss planning for next GAC high level governmental meeting, assess GAC ICANN74 public meeting implementation, key ICANN74 meeting dates, and we will adjourn our GAC ICANN74 meeting. But again, please feel free to add to the agenda, I hope time allows. Next slide please. And this is on GAC elections and handing this over to Rob.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Good afternoon, everyone, just about four or five slides to share with you. It seems as if the election or selection of GAC leadership almost takes on a life of its own every year. We have a conversation related to some part of the election process. The policy forum midyear is an important kick-off for the annual cycle. What will be happening in an hour or so, I will send an email announcing the opening of the nomination period for this year's election cycle. It is significant this year because we're going to have six positions open on the committee leadership team, including the GAC Chair position and five Vice Chair positions. The Vice Chair positions are a one-year term, so they are a part of every election cycle. This particular year we're at the end of the term of the current Chair, Manal, and so there is, as a result of her term-limited status, also an opening for the seat of GAC Chair as well.

The nomination period will open and be opened until August 5th and if there are only enough nominees for the positions available, no need for a balloting process and we will simply move on to agree who the next leadership team will be starting next year. However, if there are more nominees than positions, we will have a ballot process.

We will outline what the process looks like. As soon as the process opens in a couple of hours, from there until early August nominations will be at GAC-staff@ICANN.org. this allows for third party nominations as well as self nominations for anyone to declare their interest in a particular role or position. Those nominations are shared on the GAC list so that everybody on the membership can see that there is a nomination, and from a staff perspective we do two things. If it's a third party nomination, we not only confirm to the nominator that we have received the nomination, but we ask the nominee to confirm their willingness to serve if elected. We also record the various nominations on the special election page, which is now up on the GAC web site so you can track who the various nominees are, who made the nominations and for what positions. Next slide please.

So if more nominees or nominations are received than there are positions, so for example if there is more than one nominee for GAC Chair or more than six nominations for Vice Chairs, that triggers an election, a balloting process, if you will. What we have traditionally used for GAC support staff for elections is an electronic voting system called the tally system, something that has been used successfully for a long period of time so we have a high degree of confidence in it. It is based on an email address system. So an email goes out to a particular elector, and that identification which is anonymized so that elector -- the way we

think of it, by default we send it out to the official GAC repetitive. If the repetitive is not going to be the person who asks the ballot, then we ask that you let us know as GAC support staff, and we will reflect the appropriate email addresses in our system.

So fairly simple. You will know by mid August whether a balloting process is necessary and we will send out the ballots. Very simple process. Not much consideration to be given beyond that. On the next slide I think I identify a number of critical dates to pay attention to. I will get to that later, sorry. In terms of expectations for those who may be newer to the committee or who may be wondering about who you might nominate on the next slide, Gulten, I have identified a number of the high level considerations you may want to give. Generally, collectively, Chair and Vice Chairs have the overall responsibilities of managing and coordinating GAC operations, particularly the public meetings and a number of other relationship responsibilities within the community. In particular the GAC Chair has some specific responsibilities outlined in the operating principles.

The Vice Chairs don't have the same degree of specificity in the operating principles, so we have shared in a number of considerations for anyone considering serving in that role, in particular there is the recognition of serving in the absence of the Chair, the fact that the CVC holds meeting on average about every

three weeks -- I will let the Chair or other Vice Chairs talk about what level of commitment that is, meetings can go anywhere from an hour to a couple of hours.

There are opportunities to engage with other leaders in the community from other supporting organizations and advisory committees. There is regular meetings with ICANN executives, getting more perspective of what is going on at ICANN org, and then something that has not happened in awhile and I don't think even the current Vice Chairs have the the opportunity for this experience but as we get back to in-person meetings, there are regular -- I don't know, courses or training opportunities for leaders of all the SO/AC to participate in various training workshops at ICANN meetings. So in addition to serving the committee itself, there are professional opportunities that can be attractive to some applicants or folks interested in the roles.

I will pause here just to see if you, Manal, or any of the Vice Chairs, maybe you, particularly, Pär, who has been around for a longer period of time might want to share in terms of insights about the responsibilities, the tremendous satisfaction you get out of serving in your roles and giving back to the community. So I will pause for a moment and see if there are any comments or questions about that. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob. And I hope GAC colleagues will consider either self nominating or discussing with their nominees. And happy to answer any questions, not necessarily during the session but please feel free to reach out over email, and happy to address any questions you may have. Also, in terms of the GAC Chair, one substantial thing I would like to add is also participating to the Board, ICANN Board. So it's an additional task. The GAC Chair gets to attend the Board workshops, and these are six workshops throughout the year, three inter-sessional and three back to back with ICANN meetings. And of course as Rob mentioned, there are also some activities related to SO/AC chairs, so chairs of other supporting organizations and advisory committees. We also have also a separate mailing list for the SO/AC chairs, monthly calls in addition to the [indiscernible] calls. Which were a little bit more during the pandemic period, which should be a slower rate given back to face-to-face.

Would anyone like to share a positive experience, I hope [chuckling] and as Ron mentioned, we announce the results at the annual general meeting. and afterwards we normally add the new upcoming chairs and Vice Chairs to the GAC leadership mailing list and invite them to the calls we regularly hold every two to three weeks so that we can have a smooth handover

between the outgoing leadership team and the in coming leadership team. Because the terms end after the March meeting but we can have a smooth handover between the annual general meeting in September and the March meeting. So I hope this is good news to colleagues who may be hesitant. So there should be a smooth handover to the new leadership team. Anything else? Please Rob, go ahead.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal, I have final slide, seeing no comments either in the chat or here in the room. And we have a little more compressed periods than usual, because the gap between ICANN74 and ICANN 75 is about a month narrower than usual. Normally you would have about a month to get in nominations. In this case it's a little bit earlier. If you are thinking about nominations, something to think about sooner rather than later, folks wait until the deadline but giving consideration to that sooner rather than later is helpful.

One of the things I skipped over in my introduction. Although Manal's term limited, the current Vice Chairs the only term limits apply to about that. So thank you, Pär, for all of your service. But he's not eligible to run again as is Manal. So it's a consecutive nomination, the idea is to provide fresh voices, brains on the leadership team. In this case four of the five Vice Chairs will be

eligible to be nominated and serve for another year. So the opportunities there still exist for them to participate in this.

The other aspect or unusual circumstances of an earlier meeting than you would otherwise expect that the transition period Manal has mentioned will be an extensive one. Typically it's only about three and a half months and in this case it's going to be closer to five and a half or six months, which is why we find ourselves almost constantly talking about elections, and this is more a circumstance of this year than anything else.

I know many people tend to disconnect, at least in the northern hemisphere, during that August period, the GAC's work does not hesitate. We will, if there is a balloting period required, be hold be a webinar to explain in detail the balloting process. I'm not wasting your time today going through the particulars of that because it may not be necessary. But if a balloting period is necessary, support staff will conduct a webinar just to familiarize folks with everything. That is always an important consideration for people to take into their schedules for accounting. And then as Manal noted, after the transition period is over, it will be after ICANN 76 that anyone who is elected in this cycle will begin their term. So the current leadership team will still be in place for a significant period of time, and certainly from a support staff perspective, we're quite grateful for that.

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So that's all I had. I'm happy to answer any questions online or offline. For those who are either here in the room or remote, you will be seeing an email from me within the next hour or so, officially opening the nomination periods. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob. And I had something that I needed to share which I forgot. But meanwhile, thanks, Luisa has hand up, GAC representative of Canada and former Vice Chair of the GAC.

CANADA: Good afternoon, everyone, it's Luisa Paez can you hear me?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Loud and clear.

CANADA: Thank you very much (audio distortion) I wanted to share a little bit my positive experience as a vice chair for two consecutive years. And of course I welcome any questions during this wrap-up session or afterwards via email, always happy to answer questions from those potentially interested GAC members for the Vice Chair role. and I would say in terms of time commitment,

different from the Chair position, I think with the Vice Chairs there's a little bit more flexibility that is offered. So for example if there is one month where GAC Vice Chair is busy -- I mean, I think all to say you can get more involved or less involved depending on your availability that month, so that is always something to keep in mind for those of you that are considering this in terms of time commitment.

As Rob mentioned, there are more emails you will be copied on because there is a GAC leadership meeting list and there is the ICANN community leaders meeting list. But I would say where you receive more of the traffic would be in the GAC leadership mailing list. And then as Rob was mentioning, there are GAC leadership calls probably every three weeks or so. But of course there's always a Google, a doodle that goes out on trying to decide on the best timing for everyone.

Another point is that, as Rob mentioned and Manal as well, there will be a good period of transition and handover where you start to be part of the GAC leadership mailing list and the calls starting even I believe right after ICANN 75. So again, that gives you an opportunity to learn and get a feel of things. The last two points is that you really get to know very well your GAC leadership colleagues as well as the GAC Chair as well as GAC support staff and also other parts of the ICANN community leaders. So it is

really a very positive role, and you also get a lot of exposure in terms of how GAC meetings are organized, and you really are able to of course influence that and also in a way influence a little bit of GAC agenda setting so that is very interesting.

And finally, I would say we have excellent GAC support staff so you will always feel supported. And it's really a great opportunity even for newer or new GAC members to be involved. So please do not feel intimidated. Because as I mentioned, GAC support staff is excellent and you will always have a period of around six months to transition into the GAC Vice Chair role. So my last point is that I really encourage GAC members to consider these leadership positions within the GAC. I really had a very positive experience.

And finally, I remember in the in-person meeting in Japan, when you are part of GAC leadership you are also able to be part of some of the training that ICANN org organizes with other parts of the leadership, it was a two-day ICANN leadership training. So again, you really get exposed to other parts of the community and then get to understand their perspectives. So I just wanted to share that and welcome any questions. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Luisa. And I cannot agree more on how supportive staff is. So please, I'm sure you will feel supported by

the outgoing GAC leaders but also ongoing support staff.

Two quick things before we wrap on elections, now that I remember again what I wanted to say. First, according to the operating principles, we encourage geographic diversity in Vice Chairs. So it's not mandated but it's an encouraged thing so -- in fact, this was one of the reasons why we increased the number of Vice Chairs from three to five, just to even have more diverse leadership team.

Second is that Vice Chairs get to participate in a double capacity. So as a vice chair, part of the leadership team but also they can speak as a GAC repetitive of their countries. This is not the case for the GAC Chair. The GAC Chair should not represent their country during the meetings. And if a GAC representative is to assume responsibilities of a GAC Chair, then the country needs to think of a replacement or their GAC representation. And that is why I think the GAC Chairing explicitly needs government endorsement and more consultation so that you are spared the time. Because as Luisa mentioned, it's really an additional commitment. And also have a succession plan of who will be representing the country. Paraguay, please.

PARAGUAY: Yes, Madam Chair, are there special procedures regarding the ministry of foreign affairs? I mean, it's something that needs to come from the embassy? What is the official procedure in case anyone is interested in applying for or being nominated for Vice Chair?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: No, this doesn't have to be a formal nomination from the government. It can just be, as Rob mentioned, either self nomination, you can send an email -- and Rob, please correct me on the process. You can either on an email, self nominating or another colleague nominating you. And then support staff will be reaching out to be to make sure you are accepting the nomination before listing you among the nominees.

PARAGUAY: So no official letter of support or anything like that from our embassies or ministries of foreign affairs. Just to be sure I understood well, sorry to insist on the point.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So the practice is, and again, Rob, correct me -- some chairs get national endorsement, and I'm speaking specifically about the chairs. I haven't seen it with Vice Chairs. But for chairs I saw

national endorsement from the relevant entity. But also if a new representation is going to be in place, also the normal procedure is an official letter to provide us with a new representation, right Rob?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I was raising my hand in the Zoom room. I think there are two points there that are valid. One is the point you were making, Manal, that the Chair performs in a neutral capacity. So if one were to become Chair, they would need to be backfilled, someone would need to take that role. As support staff, as long as we have that link in the chain, so that the former GAC Chair says hello, this is my replacement, we have never required a formal letter.

So Manal's other point, the commitment is not an insignificant one. And typically to perform effectively in the role, you should have -- if not the formal endorsement, certainly the approval or acknowledgment of your own government that this is going to take more than your normal workload, and you want to have that level of backup and commitment so that you don't find yourself tremendously stressed. And various ministries or governments handle those things differently. I think I addressed the points. Thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Very eloquently, thank you. Rob. Was looking at you but not at your hand [chuckling]. Any other questions before we leave the election aside and look forward to nominations later? Seeing none, then let's go to the next slide please, Gulten.

And this is identification of substantive next steps for ICANN74 follow-up. So as discussed throughout this week, we continue to have the subsequent rounds of new gTLDs and the Operational Design Phase and the discussion on Closed Generics. So as mentioned, Closed Generics did not conclude during the discussion on the second round, and there was no default to fall back to from the first round, so that is why it needed special attention and the Board invited the GAC and the GNSO and potentially maybe ALAC too to really a small group discussion to get us started on a way forward. And also we need to consider whether we will be providing GAC advice on the topic, as this may need coordination and maybe consultation also at a national level.

We continue GAC engagement in GNSO EPDP policy and implementation matters, so yes, we continue to have expedited policy development process, GAC's engagement in GNSO expedited development processes, and I would like here to

specifically refer to the GAC action and decision radar. It's an extremely useful tool developed by support staff. It has everything that is on our action plan. It has the due time frame, whether it is an immediate action or within the coming three months or the coming six months. And we have it online, it is being updated regularly by support staff, but we also circulate it monthly in a PDF, so a snapshot of the current status is being shared with GAC colleagues on the mailing list in a PDF.

But again, don't panic from how big or how long -- I mean, you can focus either by topic or by time frame if you are looking at what needs to be achieved within for example the coming three months or if you are interested in a specific topic or subject. And your feedback on the usefulness and how we can make this better would be incredibly useful, so please make use of it.

Also, data accuracy, next steps on data accuracy and of course we have discussed this during the course of this week and also in the Communiqué. DNS abuse mitigation strategies, the same, and IGO protections list update. And this is the list where we have the IGO acronyms reserved. And we need to agree on a mechanism on how to maintain this list. Also the GAC operating principles evolution Working Group, which is currently reviewing the prettying principles, and we have een as a co-chair and Guo Feng from China as second co-chair, and they are doing a great job

helping us to review the GAC operating principles, they date years back and we have amended them very slightly, first to allow electronic voting, and second to allow expanding our leadership from three Vice Chairs to five but there are many other things that need to be updated to reflect how we actually work now. So it's a huge exercise, and thanks for the efforts.

Also we have volunteering opportunities, the GAC Chair and Vice Chair, GAC Chair for Universal acceptance and IDN Working Group and I hope -- will shed more light on the topic and expectations and help colleagues here to consider volunteering. On the same topic we were approached by the universal acceptance Steering Group inviting us to have a point of contact with them or a liaison so that we can have an open channel, because they see a significant role for governments in advancing and promoting IDN and universal acceptance.

And finally, the GAC capacity building plan and efforts now that we are back face-to-face, we try to have capacity-building programs. We used to have sometimes one day prior to the GAC meetings, and with the large number of new GAC members, I think this would be of benefit to many of us. Let me pause here to see if there are any questions or comments or -- yes, please.

BRAZIL: Just a clarification, given the discussions we have had on all the issue of the Proof of Concept and the SSAD, and the understanding I had was that was going to ICANN Board for an assessment of the scope and how to work and perhaps what the timeline for completion of that would be. I just wonder if that is a topic that should be here as well, because I think that is something that is very much on the agenda, and we may have definitions from now until the next one. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, indeed. It's a significant task, and I think it's included under the second bullet, the continued GAC engagement. But it deserves to be a separate bullet indeed. But I take your point and thank you for flagging this to everyone. Any other comments? If not, can we go to the next slide please.

And this is related to the planning for next high-level governmental meeting. So as we have touched on the topic approximately once every two years one of the GAC members hosts a high-level governmental meeting in conjunction with an ICANN public meeting and in addition to the usual GAC meeting. The concept grew out of recommendations made by previous accountability and transparency review teams, the first and the second review teams. Previous high-level governmental meetings have taken place in Toronto in 2012, London in 2014,

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Marrakech 2016 and Barcelona 2018, and you will find more information on the reference web page, and as you can see, the last was Barcelona 2018.

The following should have taken place around 2020 but with the pandemic was delayed and now as we reconvene face-to-face, I think it's high time to consider when and where we will hold our following high-level governmental meeting, of course with the blessing of the host and relevant government. This usually takes a lot of planning. And we start planning for it at least one year in advance. We issue -- the host country issues invitations to peer ministers or whatever high-level government official we are given by the relevant GAC member. And afterwards also we need to look carefully at the agenda and what will be discussed, identify speakers and so on. So it's a long process and I'm sure we can also benefit from colleagues who have hosted a high-level governmental meeting, they can help. And I think we have an initial document -- not a document but two or three pages on best practice or experience of the documenting experience of colleagues who have hosted high-level governmental meetings. Can we go to the following slide? Please, Nigel, go ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you very much. Just briefly on the high-level meeting, we were fortunate to be able to host the meeting in London, it

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seems a long time ago now, so obviously the UK would be delighted to share experience on hosting such a meeting, and of course you are right, Manal, that it takes some time to put into effect. And I think also reflecting on the sequence of high-level meetings that we have had, that they are more successful where we have, if you like, an issue to discuss -- and we always have issues to discuss but whether there's something of importance. And I think we do have that as we go forward over the next two to three meetings, and we might reflect on this later in the geopolitical session, the [indistinct] review, the review UN ga in 2025 I think is one of those, if you like, focus points that a high-level meeting might touch on as it touches on ICANN's remit. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Nigel, and thank you for the offer to share UK's experience in this. So quickly on the opportunities that the high-level governmental meeting provides, it reaffirms the critical role that governments play, it enables all parties to gain a clear understanding of the role of governments, discusses current policy issues and challenges at the very senior level, expose very senior administrative officials and senior elected officials to ICANN, and finally, allows us to reach out to administrations and governments who are not yet part of ICANN or the GAC.

And I think this would be very helpful, particularly to new GAC members, so to bring to the attention of the high-level government officials the work of GAC and ICANN so that they can spare everyone the needed time to participate, the needed resources to participate, and the needed authority to engage actively during the discussions. Let's go to the following slide. I think we still have one more slide.

So no decision has been made yet about the next high-level governmental meeting. Traditionally, meeting host governments come forward on their own but now meeting locations are determined far in advance, and input from GAC members regarding views on auctions and next planning steps is most welcomed. So as I said, a very important point is blessing from the host, because the host will play an active role in that respect. So please, upcoming hosts, consider and let us know. If there are no questions on the high-level governmental meetings or no additions from your side Rob, then -- Ashwin, please.

INDONESIA: Yes, if you can give information, Manal, for ICANN 75 in Kuala Lumpur and Mexico, perhaps then we can identify the next high-level meetings can be done somewhere, that is number one, and number two is perhaps this is also possible, if the secretariat can identify several high-level meetings related to [indiscernible] for

example we have the ID -- we have some sort of timeline of high-level meetings in the IT sector.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Ashwin. This is to avoid conflicts?

INDONESIA: Exactly, yes.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: This is one factor to be considered, yes. And on the venue, I don't think we will be able to say we decided to do it in Kuala Lumpur, it has to be an initiative from the government. So we can discuss and brainstorm factors and bring it to the attention of GAC colleagues, but then the initiative should come from the host. And just mindful that for example Kuala Lumpur is a few weeks from now, so it needs really good planning and we will need time. Alisa please, go ahead.

NETHERLANDS: Thank you, Manal. So our colleague from Indonesia is saying we should take into account other high-level meetings to not concur with them. We could also see it as an opportunity to have a meeting, a high-level meeting during one of those sessions. So for

example the summit for the future will be held in September 23. It could also be that instead of having it together with an ICANN meeting, there would be a side session during an international event with high-level people discussing ICANN matters. If that would be easier to get a larger group of high-level people together, I think it should be something that we should consider. Thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Alisa. And an interesting thought. I think, yeah, we need to continue the discussion and consider all options. And once we have something to discuss, we can create like a Working Group or a task force to get us progressing on this important task. Mindful of the time can we go to the following slide please.

And this is assessing GAC ICANN74 meeting implementation. And let me go quickly through the list, and then please let me know if you have any immediate reactions in terms of feedback, first regarding the opening session and regarding preparation for meeting with the Board and preparation for the bilaterals in general, we had here a bilateral with ALAC and GNSO. What do you think about the preparation methodology, effectiveness of the format, and assessment or feedback on the Communiqué drafting. And I have to say we were thinking that maybe while

drafting -- if we're pausing for colleagues who are interested on one topic and need to have a small group to draft, we were thinking maybe of creating a Zoom breakout room or Zoom link so that we can also include colleagues remote who are interested on the same topic just to make sure that any small drafting exercises are as inclusive as possible. This is one thought.

Also experience from colleagues who attended the meeting in-person, remotely, and also colleagues who April tended in-person and remotely. And finally, if you have any additional thoughts regarding future GAC or ICANN public meetings. So I'm pausing here to see if there are any immediate reactions to this or any feedback that you would like to share with us. But definitely it's an ongoing exercise, and please keep us posted on the feedback.

And I understand also ICANN and we announced this during the opening plenary. ICANN has an email they created to collect feedback, and in fact this was intended realtime during the meeting. I'm not sure how it will be there, but again, this is another venue to channel your feedback. And seeing no requests for the floor, maybe we can go to the last slide.

And this is on key post ICANN74 meeting dates. So we have the publication of the GAC ICANN74 Communiqué, and this should be expected on the 20th of June. So again, we give it 72 hours for

review but then due to weekends and so on, it's not posted until the following Monday which is the 20th of June. Also stay tuned for the ICANN74 GAC minutes around July time frame. If you have any topics for ICANN 75 policy topics, Working Group updates, joint sessions, this should be due around mid July. And again, as we have just explained, the 2020 GAC election nomination period closes on the 5th of August. And we normally have an agenda-setting call to review preliminary agenda, and this is expected around early August 2022. And I think this was meant to be ICANN 75 GAC agenda.

And finally, ICANN 75 itself scheduled for 17-22 September in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. So these are a few key dates that we thought to share with everyone. Rob, anything I have overlooked? And colleagues, any final requests for the floor? I'm sorry [chuckling] yes, Paraguay please.

PARAGUAY: Just to congratulate the whole ICANN team, especially regarding the Communiqué drafting. I remember in the good old days -- I'm talking about all the way back to South Africa, Durban, and Beijing -- we had to stay until 1:00 a.m. in the morning and order pizza -- the whole process is very smooth and even pleasant, so congratulations, it's a whole different story now.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, and yeah, we all remember the pizza at least. And with that, if there are no further requests for the floor, I think this concludes --

PARAGUAY: We can order pizza again?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I hope we can and eat it in daylight, not necessarily after midnight. [chuckling] yes, please, Ashwin.

INDONESIA: Just to [indiscernible] colleague from Malaysia, they're not here but perhaps can mention something if Malaysia is in September?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So please, if our colleague from Malaysia is present either in person or online and would like to share something about ICANN 75, feel free to do so. And meanwhile allow me to give the floor to Nigel, UK.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you very much, Manal. Just wanted to thank yourself and the GAC leadership team for this excellent arrangement for this meeting and of course our GAC support team for their excellent preparations, all the materials we've had, the briefings we have had and also of course during this meeting, the support. So thank you very much. And my colleague ros is not here to say it but on her behalf as a newcomer to the GAC, she was made to feel most welcome. She greatly enjoyed her experience, and I hope other newcomers did as well, it's been a really excellent meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Nigel. Luisa.

CANADA: Luisa Paez, for the record. And echoing Nigel's comments and a big thank you, especially to you, Manal, for excellent chairing as always and for the GAC support staff. Which I know they're always running around and working very, very hard in the background to make everything very smooth. And I also wanted to mention that as a participant remotely, the experience went very well, we really enjoyed the hybrid component, for example for the GAC social

session. So we wanted to thank and congratulate the support staff and ICANN team that really worked hard to be able to make the remote experience as equal and inclusive as possible. I mean, I am sure there's always things we can improve and lessons learned, but did want to say a big thank you. And again, a big thank you to all GAC colleagues, and looking forward to a successful ICANN 75 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Thank you, everyone.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Luisa, and this takes me to my never ending thank-you list. So first, we're concluding our wrap-up session of course, and please continue to provide your feedback over email. And to those interested, there is the geopolitical forum that will be taking place after the break at 1630 The Hague, 1530 UTC, and in addition of course to the daily community networking hour.

But at the end, I would like to thank the Dutch government, the ministry of economic affairs and climate policy, and Alisa, the Dutch GAC representative, for the very warm welcome and generous hosting of the GAC meeting.

[applause]

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And thank you all for the active participation, productive discussions, and cooperative spirit. As Paraguay mentioned, we used to take much longer in negotiating the Communiqué. And special thanks to my GAC leadership colleagues and their support, help, and guidance to help prepare for this meeting. And due thanks to all Topic Leads, Working Group chairs, and liaisons for the significant time and tireless efforts they all devote to prepare for and run the meeting. And as always, a big thank you to our amazing GAC support team -- Rob, Fabien, Benedetta, Julia, and Gulten.

[applause]

They really work around the clock to facilitate a smooth and seamless meeting for everyone, and I always feel we are supported by a team of ten. And special thanks to the IT and language services team, you continue to impress me with fulfilling all our requirements where everything works very smoothly irrespective of whether the meeting is in person, virtual, or hybrid, I am impressed. Thank you very much.

[applause]

And special thanks to our wonderful and professional interpreters and scribes who are supporting us for remote and

continue to be fundamental to our discussions. So thank you.

[applause]

And we will continue to engage inter-sessionally and ultimately at Kuala Lumpur. And until we meet again at ICANN75, please stay safe, enjoy your day and your stay, and thank you everyone. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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