ICANN74 | Policy Forum – GAC Communiqué Drafting Preparation
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 17:00 to 17:30 AMS

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I believe we're good now to move to the Communiqué. We normally cover the process during the opening plenary but since the Tour de Table took more than we expected, maybe we can go quickly before getting into the topics itself or the substance, maybe we can go quickly on the process for the benefit of new GAC colleagues.

So as you can see, the diagram illustrates the Communiqué drafting process, and preparations start two weeks prior to the meeting week. During the meeting week we schedule a Communiqué review point which is the session we are currently in, and we normally try to decide during this session any potential topics that warrant to be reflected in the Communiqué and also assign penholders so that we know who will be providing the text. And of course if colleagues are interested, the drafting could be worked out collaboratively.

We have six drafting sessions between tomorrow and after tomorrow, as indicated, and we use a Communiqué Google Doc which is open for live contributions by GAC members. And based on how much we advance in the drafting, the decision will be

taken to close live collaboration at some point and time and everything will go only through GAC support staff.

Drafters of Communiqué text are of course encouraged at any stage to reach out to GAC support staff, to research precedence GAC advice, ensure accuracy of references and check consistency with usual practice as needed. After the meeting, after finishing the Communiqué drafting and being finalized, we allow a 72-hour review period and this is to give everyone a chance, particularly those in remote, to review at their own convenience and time zone. But important to note that the objective of the review period is not to re-open what has already been negotiated and agreed throughout the week but only flag things that may have been overlooked.

The GAC Communiqué becomes formally adopted at the end of the 72-hour review period, of course provided that no objections were raised. But in the unlikely case that objections are raised, we introduced in the process the option to schedule a call or meeting on the Wednesday of the same week so that we can resolve the problem and post the Communiqué as soon as possible.

If we go to the following slide regarding the drafting itself, as said we use a Google Doc. So please make sure you are in the suggesting mode and propose your text in the appropriate place.

Make sure you are identified properly so that we know the author of the text. And finally, don't forget to hit reply, otherwise your edits will not be identified. So I will stop here and pause for questions or additions by support staff, if I have overlooked anything important that needs to be brought to the attention of GAC colleagues.

And if the process is clear, then maybe it's time to talk to substance. So we need to identify topics that are expected to be reflected in the Communiqué. I recall we mentioned the Subsequent Procedures and that this is an issue of importance to the GAC. So if I may, before giving you the floor, Benedetta, just again to note to colleagues that we intend to divide the Communiqué -- okay, I already see the Communiqué on the screen. So it is divided in sections. First the introduction, and then we report on our activities here, the inter constituency activities and community engagement, so basically our bilaterals and whom we met with, and then I believe internal matters, if there are any changes in membership, anything that has to do with elections for example, working groups reporting and so on.

And then if we go further below then we get here into substance, issues of importance to the GAC where we report on substantial discussions or things that we need to bring to the attention of the community and the Board of course and early sharing of our

thinking before getting to a formal advice to the Board. Paraguay, please.

PARAGUAY: So these are the operating so to say working groups so far; is that correct? I am asking because I don't see the Underserved Regions Working Group. Is that group still active?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, and you can find the whole list of all active working groups on the website, but here we are reporting on working groups that were active during this meeting and we received reporting from them. So this is a subset that we have heard from at this meeting.

PARAGUAY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. So we have issues of importance to the GAC as mentioned, and this gets discussed with the Board usually through the Board GAC interaction group. Because as I said, it gives an essence of where the GAC discussions are heading, and it is an early indication of what may materialize later into GAC advice. If we can scroll down please, Benedetta. This is the section on GAC consensus advice to ICANN Board, and this is where we

need to make sure we are in full agreement on every word that goes in this section. And this is what the Board takes and votes on and since it is a consensus GAC advice, if the Board is not to follow the advice, this triggers the ICANN bylaws which means that they have to have more than 60 percent objecting, and they have to come back to the GAC to find a mutually acceptable solution. So this is really a special section of the Communiqué.

If we scroll down, we we have the last section which is sometimes we need for follow-up on GAC advice? Again, it's not that commonly used but if we feel there is a need, this is a placeholder where we can follow up on advice that we have provided the Board earlier and finally, the next meeting and where we are going to meet.

So as you can see, we already started filling parts of the Communiqué and those are parts that are straightforward, support staff helped filling for example the next meeting, a number of current membership when it comes to the bilaterals, we normally put the agenda that was discussed so it's all very straightforward text that support staff helps in filling.

Other parts like -- or namely the issues of importance to the GAC and GAC advice and follow up on GAC advice, this comes from GAC colleagues. And also reporting from the Working Groups, we

receive text from the relevant Working Groups. So sorry to spend so much time but I think it may be needed.

And now looking at issues of importance to the GAC, I see a placeholder for SSAD Light, the standardized system for access and disclosure. And I see subsequent rounds of new gTLDs where we also have received some text here. So anything else, Benedetta? We have EPDP on specific curative rights protection for IGOs. And that's it.

So these are the three topics that were identified by colleagues as issues of importance to the GAC. And I can see that the Subsequent Procedures part is already populated. Maybe we need to identify who will be our penholder for EPDP on specific curative rights protection for IGOs. We already have here initial text, I can see it is from Nigel. And also the SSAD Light, we need a penholder. And if there are any other topics that need to go into this section. I will stop here and see first if we have missed any topics that we need to add. And if not, then let me ask who is our volunteer for the SSAD? Should we await the text from the Small Group on EPDP? I'm sorry, Velimira, please go ahead.

VELIMIRA GRAU: Thank you, Manal. Just to mention that it was not in relation to your question actually, I had raised my hand before that. But just

EN

to mention that the GAC topic leads [indiscernible] and US colleagues and probably colleagues from UK reflect on the issue of [indiscernible] and accuracy. So it might be based on their discussions currently ongoing we may have also a point under the issues of importance on accuracy of registration data, but I think we will be able to come back to this tomorrow.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay. Then let's put a placeholder and subject to further confirmation tomorrow. And I know also tomorrow is our bilateral meeting with the Board as well where things become more clear probably after we meet with the Board.

So we have added a fourth placeholder. Fabien, you were asking if we probably should expect text on SSAD Light from our topic leads? Can you please confirm?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: I have no updates specifically on that but that is my understanding from last week in the pre-ICANN74 oral briefing of the GAC. So that is [indiscernible]

ICANN|74
THE HAGUE

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you Fabien. And EPDP on specific curative rights protection for IGOs, I see initial text from Nigel. Yes, please, Nigeria.

NIGERIA: Thank you very much. Maybe as clarification we include the meeting we had with the GNSO yesterday in the Communiqué, just asking.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Indeed, we will report on the GNSO meeting but it's under the earlier section that has to do with the bilateral meeting, so more under the exchange. Thank you. Yes, thank you, Benedetta, this was the part.

So we have identified four topics and let's also ask whether there is anything we should expect under GAC consensus advice to the Board, and I already see accuracy of gTLD registration data. Yes, I see Susan, US, and then Nigel, UK.

UNITED STATES: Thank you Chair. Very briefly, this relates to the issues of importance section. I think that in light of the rich discussions that we had this afternoon, it would be appropriate to reflect upon those discussions in this section of the Communiqué. So

adding -- apologies. So adding another section for DNS abuse. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Susan. It makes sense. Nigel please, go ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, thank you very much, Manal. Nigel Hickson, for the record. I was going to propose the same in terms of the excellent discussion that we had on DNS abuse. I mean, of course we might reflect on discussions with the Board tomorrow whether we need it in the advice section as well but I think issues of importance, it certainly needed to go in there. And just to comment, I just put in the sentence on the IGO work. Clearly others are more experts but I think in the past it has been an issue of importance to the GAC. And given that it is before the GNSO Council, I thought we might be able to reflect on that. Thank you.

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

PARAGUAY: Just a little detail, Madam Chair, going back to the IGO. Shouldn't it be EPDP? Unless it's some kind of acronym romance again? Are

these new acronyms? Because there's -- PDP -- just wanted to make sure. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Paraguay. It's taken care of now and we will make sure to [indiscernible] it if needed. Anything else? And support staff, anything I have overlooked? Are we good? Okay. If -- yes, please.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Apologies, Manal, I should have raised my hand in the Zoom room, couldn't get the screen to open. Apologies. Earlier today I believe the chairs of the various supporting organizations and advisory committees were made aware of the recent Board resolution with respect to auction proceeds, I believe? And staff wanted you to contemplate at least at the leadership level, maybe by tomorrow you could share whether the leadership thinks that a mention of that development warranted some inclusion in the Communiqué. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob for flagging this. I normally don't reach out to my email until very late at night. So this was to [indiscernible] chairs and not yet to the whole GAC? So if we can please circulate it to the whole GAC so we can come tomorrow

with a complete view or an agreement to include a mention of this in the Communiqué. So I don't think there is anything else, for tonight at least. Domenico, please. Italy.

ITALY: Do you think it's possible to put our proposal in the interest for GAC in the section of issues of importance? Do you think it's possible?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, we will reflect this, you are right. We agreed that we insert one factual sentence indicating what we have agreed, so apologies for overlooking to add a placeholder for this.

ITALY: Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Noted, thanks. Yes, Netherlands.

NETHERLANDS: Yes, thank you, Manal. For the record, this is Alisa Heaver. I was wondering, do we also usually reflect on the plenary session? So this time it would be on who sets the ICANN priorities. I wasn't sure if it's already in the Communiqué.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, my fault, I didn't mention this explicitly but it's under the GAC activities and exchange with the community, so it is with the bilaterals. Thank you.

So I think we're good for today. Thank you very much, it has been an intense day. We are starting tomorrow at 9:00 The Hague, 7:00 UTC with our bilateral with ALAC, and then we have our bilateral with the Board. I would like also to share with you that we have received a few flyers, a number of flyers from the virtual school on Internet governance, and they are at the back of the room. If you are interested, you can pick up one on your way out and we will put them on the table at the back of the room. Please stay safe, have a good rest of your day and enjoy the networking hour. Thank you. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]