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ICANN75 | AGM – GAC Opening Plenary  
Monday, September 19 2022 - 10:30 to 12:00 KUL

[THIS SESSION IS BEING RECORDED]

SPEAKER: It will take a couple minutes for everyone to settle down, and then we will get started. Thank you.

GULTEN TEPE: Hello, everyone. This is Gulden speaking. We are still waiting on some people, so thank you for your patience.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, good morning, again, and good afternoon and good evening, everyone. A very warm welcome to all GAC members and observers in the GAC room and on Zoom, of course, as well. This is the GAC Opening Plenary held on the margins of ICANN75 Annual General Meeting, and I hope you all continue to be well, safe, and in good health. This is not the first ICANN meeting here in Malaysia, which is the home country of the second chair of the GAC [inaudible – 00:04:05].

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***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.***

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ICANN20 was held in Kuala Lumpur physically and ICANN68 was held virtually in the Kuala Lumpur zone time because of the pandemic, and today we are having the ICANN75 in a hybrid setup taking place in the beautiful City of Kuala Lumpur.

I would like to start by thanking our hosts and sponsors for hosting ICANN75. And, again, this is the second hybrid meeting after a very long time of virtual-only meetings. I hope we succeed in providing everyone with an equally positive and smooth experience irrespective of being here in person or joining online.

That said, as Gulden mentioned, please make sure to join the Zoom room and to use it also to request the floor so that we can maintain a fair chance for everyone by managing the queue. I also hope you all respect ICANN's health and safety measures put in place for the well-being of everyone and also respect everyone's comfort level of socializing with other participants, which you can identify through their choice of color of their lanyards.

During this session, we will go over the GAC block schedule for ICANN75, and provide an overview of the logistics and technical capabilities at this meeting. We will also have our tour de table which provides everyone a chance to introduce themselves. And

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we will, of course, announce formally the results of the 2022 GAC leadership elections for the Chair and five Vice Chairs.

At the end, if time allows, I will try to update you on other notable GAC works since ICANN74, including supporting organizations and advisory committee chairs interactions, the Board-GAC interaction group discussions and other developments.

So, without any further ado, let's go to the block schedule, please, on the next slide. As you may already know, we have reconvened the GAC capacity building activities and held the very first workshop in quite some time over the weekend; so the past 2 days on Saturday and Sunday, we had a GAC capacity building workshop. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this effort. We have the co-chairs of the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group, Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago, and Pua Hunter, Cook Islands, and also Tracy Hackshaw, the GAC Representative of the Universal Postal Union. Also, due thanks to Rob and Julia for support staff for the tremendous effort they have put into this activity.

Also, ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement team and the ICANN policy team. And in addition to the government engagement team, I would also like to thank all ICANN longstanding GAC colleagues who shared their experiences and

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contributed to the workshop. And, of course, to all community members and org staff who contributed information or spoke at the event.

The agenda spanned 2 days, Saturday and Sunday. It was designed to balance new and experienced attendees' requests, so I hope that everyone found it useful. I hope also that everyone benefited from the opportunity of informal communication and introductions.

So, there was an informal early gathering before the workshop, and also an opportunity to have some networking offsite afterwards. So, hopefully you had the time, also, to socialize, network and get introduced as we continue to welcome new GAC representatives. So, we now have around 180 new GAC representatives ever since our last face-to-face meeting in Montréal, ICANN66 in 2019.

So, as for the GAC schedule, we are starting today, as you all know. Our meetings will span through Thursday, 22nd of September. Working hours will be from 9:00 to 17:30 Kuala Lumpur time, and from 100 to 9:30 UTC, with, of course, sincere apologies to those disadvantaged by the time zone.

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GAC plenaries continue to focus on GAC priority topics and this will include discussion on future rounds of new gTLDs, WHOIS and data production, as well as DNS abuse mitigation. We have four bilateral meetings. This time, one with the Board and with the Generic Name Supporting Organization, the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, and the At-Large.

And we also have one community plenary session. It is titled: Internet Fragmentation, the DNS and ICANN, and this topic was proposed by our colleagues in UK and was submitted by the GAC and voted for by the community as the topic for the single plenary session we are having at ICANN75. I hope you will all attend this session and participate to this plenary on Wednesday.

On Thursday, there is the, now becoming regular geopolitical forum, which is gaining interest every meeting. I hope that you find it useful and informative.

And we have dedicated around 5 hours over five sessions for the communiqué drafting starting end of day tomorrow, so halfway through our meeting.

Finally, we will have our usual wrap-up session, which always serves as an opportunity for stock-taking and forward planning.

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As you can see, we continue to allow 30 minute breaks between each two consecutive sessions and a 75-minute lunch break. That starts every day at 12:00 Kuala Lumpur time, and 400 UTC.

With this overview, allow me now to hand it over to Gulden for a quick overview of ICANN75 logistics and technical capabilities. So over to you, Gulden, if you may.

GULTEN TEPE:

Thank you, Manal. Hello again, everyone. This is Gulden Tepe Öksüzoğlu. I'm sitting in the back of the room as usual in a very bright pink jacket near by the tech equipment. This is the second time we are gathering here in person. Since the Covid pandemic, I mean. There are always new GAC representatives joining the community.

So, assuming this part of the session is useful, at least for now and I will provide a brief overview of what to expect on site and remotely in terms of logistics and housekeeping rules.

Starting with the invitations, I will keep sending updates so you will have the remote participation details throughout the week. You might find the briefings and slides published on the GAC Website and both Julia and myself will be adding links to those documents in the chat. If you are having access issues, please let

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us know. Our web team will resolve your problems as soon as we submit the tickets.

During the roll calls before each session, we mention in-person participants also raise hand via Zoom room, not only physically, please. That will help Manal to manage the queue. If you are here with us in Kuala Lumpur or joining remotely, please remember to raise your hand in the Zoom room first.

Just a note for our remote participants, it would make our sessions more engaging and interactive if you turn on your Zoom video. Otherwise, we will miss seeing you.

Regarding the interpretation services, this time around our interpreters are with us on site. They will still have a hard time to catch your remarks and questions. If you speak too fast or too far from the microphone. So, if you intend to speak in a language other than English, please notify the audience so everyone will start to use their headsets. You might get those devices from the table behind the room. I hope you already saw them.

Remember to state your name every time you speak. Yes, each and every time, please. This will be really helpful in terms of scribing matters. After the sessions, transcripts and recordings

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and presentations will be available on the GAC Website under each respective session

.And a couple of notes for our in-person attendees, please continue to keep your masks on. I know this is very difficult, even for myself.

Be mindful of social distancing. Please use the same seat throughout the entire week instead of moving around and using different chairs. More to add on seating, during the Joint Sessions, we have ALAC, ccNSO, GNSO and ICANN Board, and seats will be reserved in the front rows for our guests. And seats with a table microphone in the middle section across the head table are for GAC delegation members.

Other committee members are always welcome to join our sessions. It would be much appreciated if they take the seats on both sides of the corners. Thank you, Rob, for -- thank you. That is the end of my notes, Manal. Back to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden. If we can go to the following slide, please.

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It is now time to have our tour de table where people get to introduce themselves and their delegations. Before we start, allow me first to welcome the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the most recent member of the GAC bringing our GAC membership up to 180 members and 38 observers.

So, a very warm welcome to [inaudible – 00:17:39]. I understand you will be participating remotely. And Razan Alzoman, and I believe maybe others also. Warm welcome, and we will get to introduce everyone. Please, if we can welcome Saudi Arabia. Thank you for joining.

So, with that, allow me to start the tour de table. I would like to start by our host, if we have our Malaysian colleagues in the room?

MALAYSIA:

This is [inaudible – 00:18:25], Malaysia, welcome to Kuala Lumpur. We hope you enjoy your stay in Kuala Lumpur. We have full sessions and discussions for the whole sessions. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you for the brilliant opening ceremony. I very much enjoyed the performance and everything that was held during the opening ceremony.

So, with that, I think we can start by the GAC leadership, and then GAC participants in the room, then we will go to GAC remote participants and then I would like also to give the chance to support staff in the room and online to introduce themselves as well. Can we start by you, Ola, please?

OLA BERGSTRÖM, VICE CHAIR: Good morning. My name is Ola Bergström, the Director for International Affairs at the Swedish Telecom regulator..

JAIDEEP KUMAR MISHRA, VICE CHAIR: Good morning. I'm Jaideep Mishra, additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and IT from the Government of India. I have been with the GAC for about 5 years now. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Apologies for starting without introducing myself. My name is Manal Ismail, and I'm GAC Chair. Thank you.

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PAR BRUMARK, VICE CHAIR: My name is Par Brumark, I'm the special [inaudible – 00:19:59] for the government of Niue.

FRANCIS OLIVIER CUBAHIRO, VICE CHAIR: Hello. My name is Francis Olivier Cubahiro from the ICT Ministry of Burundi. I'm also a Vice Chair of the GAC. Diversity is very important. As we have an interpretation service, I thought I would make use of it. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Can we start from yourself, Finn, please?

FINN PETERSEN: Good morning, everybody. My name is Finn Petersen, I'm from Denmark from the Danish Business Authority and I'm the Director of International ICT Relations, and I have now been quite a while in the GAC. Even I still feel like a newcomer. It was very pleased that you arranged that capacity building, and I had the possibility to participate yesterday, and I will thank everybody for arranging it. Really good. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Finn. I hope it went well. We will go through the room in zig-zag. Please go ahead, Peter.

PETER MAJOR: Thank you, Manal. I'm Peter Major, I'm representing Hungary. I'm an advisor to the Permanent Mission of Hungary and Geneva to the United Nations. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Please, colleagues. Maybe we can continue with you, Velimira, and then we can go to the side of the room. Okay, then you are ready? Please, go ahead. Okay.

MALI: Okay, thank you very much. I am Dr. [inaudible - 00:22:03] Mali and University of Bamako. Thank you.

VELIMIRA NEMIGUENTCHEVA-GRAU: Good morning, everybody. My name is Velimira Nemiguentcheva-Grau, and I'm the European Commission's representative to the GAC. I also wanted to take the opportunity to very much thank the support team and the rest of the ICANN team for organizing the capacity building weekend. It was a very good opportunity to catch up. Especially for those like me who have joined the GAC during the Covid time. We are looking forward to all these changes.

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**KAREL DOUGLAS:** Good morning, everybody. My name is Karel Douglas, I'm the Executive Officer of legal and enforcement at the telecommunications authority of Trinidad and Tobago and I'm here representing Trinidad and Tobago. Thank you.

**GABRIELA MATTAUSCH:** Good morning. My name Gabriela, I'm representing the Argentinian government. I'd like to have the opportunity to thank the organizers of this meeting, the GAC leadership and the GAC support for organizing the capacity building sessions Saturday and Sunday. For me, it was especially insightful the sessions with the ccTLDs and the registrars and registries. Thank you very much.

**NICOLÁS CABALLERO:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Nicolás Caballero, representing the government of Paraguay, ICT Ministry. It's good to be here and see all-time friends. Thank you.

**GERMANY:** Hello, my name is [inaudible - 00:23:57]. I'm representing Germany and I work for the Federal Ministry for Digital and

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Transport. This is actually my first in-person ICANN meeting, so I'm very happy to be here.

ALISA HEAVER:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Alisa Heaver, I'm from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy in the Netherlands. I would like to take the opportunity to also thank the GAC leadership for their always very helpful way of managing the meetings. And obviously, also the GAC's support staff, and in particular, I believe Carol and Tracy were instrumental for organizing the capacity building sessions, so I would also personally want to thank them for these very useful sessions. So, thanks.

GARY KALLOO: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Gary Kalloo and I am representing the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, we are headquartered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This is my second GAC meeting, and I must say I was very happy to take part of the capacity building workshop over the weekend. I think it was very, very rewarding, and I hope it continues, I look forward to a productive and enlightening week of activities. Thank you.

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LUCIANO ANDRADE: Hi, good morning, everybody. It's Luciano Andrade from Brazil, I'm representing the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I have my colleague here also from the Ministry who introduced himself, but also our delegation includes others colleagues from the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. I want to also join my colleagues in thanking all involved in the organization of the capacity-building effort, I had the pleasure to watch yesterday. I think it was very interesting and useful. Thank you. Thank you very much for that.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm [inaudible - 00:26:13], also from the Brazilian delegation. I'm very new to the process, so I would like to thank GAC organizing team and all those involved with the capacity-building session during the weekend. It was invaluable.

Also, I would like to thank colleagues for the very warm welcome. It is great to be part of the group. Thank you.

DEOLINDO COSTA: Good morning, everybody. I'm Deolindo Costa from São Tomé and Príncipe, GAC representative and ICT advisor for the Ministry of Infrastructure. Thank you.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is [inaudible - 00:26:55], I'm from the Kenyan GAC delegation here. Thank you.

VINCENT NGUNDI: Good morning. My name is Vincent Ngundi, representing the government of Kenya and I work for the Communication Authority of Kenya. I'm happy to be here.

KATUUKU GLORIA: Good morning, everyone. Katuuku Gloria representing Uganda. I will take the opportunity to thank the organizers of yesterday and yesterday but one training as a way of bridging the digital divide and bringing everybody into the discussion over what happens here at GAC. Thank you very much.

UNKNOWN: [inaudible - 00:27:41] from Uganda. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON: Morning. My name is Ian Sheldon and I'm the Director of Internet Governance from the Department of Infrastructure in Australia. It's an absolute pleasure to be here and accompanying me today on the Australian delegation is my colleague Veronica Deutrom as well. Thank you.

VERONICA DEUTROM: Good morning, everybody. Veronica Deutrom, Australian delegation as Ian described.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Abdalmonem Galila, I am the Numbering Planning Manager of the Telecom Regulatory of Egypt. I am here to represent Egypt as my colleagues. Thank you.

ANDRII NABOK: Good morning, everyone. I'm Andrii Nabok from the Ukrainian government and GAC Representative since 2018. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Good morning, GAC colleagues, and thank you to our Malaysian hosts. My name is Susan Chalmers and I work for the National Telecommunication and Information Administration within the United States Department of Commerce, and I'm the GAC Representative for the United States.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Good morning. My name is Christine Arida, I work for the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Egypt and I'm here

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to represent the Egyptian government with colleagues. Thank you.

JASON MERRITT:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Jason Merritt, I'm from the Canadian government, the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. I'm the Canadian representative to the GAC, it's my first meeting here and it's a pleasure to represent Canada here and attend this first meeting, so thank you.

CHARLES NOIR:

Good morning, colleagues. My name is Charles Noir, I'm the Senior Director of International Telecommunications and Internet policy and Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Canada. It is a real pleasure to be back in the room again, this is the first in-person meeting for me, I think, since Japan; I'm trying to remember. First came on board in Abu Dhabi ICANN60 and it's really great to be a part of such a new group and looking forward to the work together.

BLAISE AZITEMINA:

Good morning, colleagues. Blaise Azitemina, I'm the Senior Advisor to the Ministry of ICT and Telecommunication in the

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DRC, Democratic Republic of Congo and attending the ICANN meeting in my position of GAC representative. Thank you.

**ABDULADEEM AL SALEH:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Abduladeem Al Saleh, commissioner member at Communications and Media Commission in Iraq and this is the first time meeting here. Thank you very much.

**WAJDI GARALI:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Wajdi Garali, I'm from the National Regulatory Authority of Tunisia. I'm here to represent the government of Tunisia. Thank you.

**RUZAMRI Ruwandi:** Good morning, everybody. This is Ruzamri from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, representing the ICANN mission, and a warm welcome to everybody. Thank you.

**MELISSA KAMARUZAMAN:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Melissa Kamaruzaman, and I work for the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission from Malaysia. Thank you.

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MOHAMAD AFIQ: Hi. Good morning, everybody. My name is Mohamad Afiq, I'm the Deputy Director, I'm working on the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and currently I'm the advisor of GAC Malaysia. I'm looking forward to fruitful discussions for the following days, and welcome to Kuala Lumpur.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Next, please?

RAZAN ALZOMAN: Hello and good morning, everyone. As already Miss Manal mentioned, this is Razan ALZoman from The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thank you.

HAZEM HEZZAH: Good morning, everyone. I'm Hazem HEZZAH, representing the League of Arab States. This is the first in-person meeting for me as a GAC meeting; not first ALAC meeting but it's the first GAC meeting. Thank you.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Good morning, colleagues. Rosalind KennyBirch from the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. Thank you very

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much to our Malaysian hosts and thank you so much to all those involved with developing and planning an excellent capacity-building weekend. Also, welcome to new colleagues. This is just my second ICANN meeting so I'm very much looking forward to working and meeting with you all this week. Thank you.

HOSSEIN MIRZAPOUR: Hi, everybody. My name is Hossein Mirzapour, I'm the youngest member of the Iranian Communications Regulatory Authority and I'm very happy to be here as my second in-person meeting. Thank you, Manal, and all organizers of the host country.

MYO SWE: Good morning, everyone. My name is Myo Swe, GAC representative from Myanmar. I'm the Director General of Posts and Telecommunications Department, PTD, and Ministry of Transport and Communications. My department [inaudible - 00:33:22]. I joined GAC since [Indiscernible] and is my first in-person meeting. Thank you.

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: Good morning and namaste, everyone. My name is Laxmi Prasad Yadav from Nepal. I am representing the liaison to the Customer Standing Committee on behalf of GAC and [inaudible - 00:33:52]

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liaison by coming up to work. I hope to get a new active role from the GAC. Thank you.

DAI MORISHITA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Dai Morishita, I work for the Ministry of Information and Communication, I'm happy to be here. Thank you.

NOBU NISHIGATA: Hello, everyone. My name is Nobu Nishigata from Japan [inaudible - 00:34:23] from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Personally, just recently I joined the committee and I'm happy to come to my first meeting on site. Thank you very much [inaudible - 00:34:36] and colleagues and all of those who organized this meeting. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm [inaudible - 00:34:44] and I'm from team India.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello. I'm [inaudible - 00:34:52]. I'm here as a delegate to listen to what is going on there and take the opportunity to block your day as 16th of February for all of you for the Universal Acceptance

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Day that we will celebrate globally. So please block that day, we will come back to you very soon. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes. Next, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello, I'm [inaudible - 00:35:18]. I'm just an observer here.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. My name is [inaudible - 00:35:26], I'm from the Nigerian Communications Committee, Nigeria. I have some colleagues with me and some will be joining us later. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: : Can I ask everyone to please speak closer to the mic so that we and the interpreters can hear you? Thank you.

TOMBOYE IBRAHIM: Good morning, everyone. I'm Tomboye Ibrahim from Chad, I work for the ICT Development Agency. I'm here to represent Chad at the GAC. Thank you.

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SIZO MZIZI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Sizo Mzizi from South Africa, I'm here as a board member of a company called Zadna in South Africa.

QUEH SER PHENG: Good morning. My name is Queh Ser Pheng, I'm representing Singapore. I'm from the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore. I'd just like to echo the sentiment of fellow GAC colleagues and thank you to the GAC leadership and ICANN support staff for organizing the capacity building for the weekend. I find it very useful and I hope it has been useful to new GAC members, and this week I look forward to reconnecting with existing GAC fellow colleagues and new members. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Indonesia, please.

ASHWIN RANGAN: Thank you. I'm Ashwin from GAC Indonesia, I'm from the Indonesian National ICT Council. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Do we have a -- please.

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CLAUDINE KARIGER: Good morning. My name is Claudine Kariger, I am a digital Policy Advisor in the Ministry for Media Connectivity and Digital Policy in Luxembourg, and also the Luxembourg GAC member. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, next, please. Do we have other GAC members who are observers, of course, who did not introduce themselves?

PHILIPPE KOUAMÉ: Hello, my name is Philippe Kouamé, I'm the GAC representative from Cote D'Ivoire.

MICHAEL KATUNDU: Good morning. My name is Michael Katundu from Kenya, Communications Commission of Kenya. I'm one of the Kenyan delegations for this GAC meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Any other GAC members or observers who have not introduced themselves? In the room, of course. Then we will go online. Yes, please. Go ahead.

ARTHUR CARINDAL N'GUESSAN: Yes. My name is Arthur Carindal N'guessan, I'm working for AfriNic, I'm in charge of Engagement

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through the African government as a delegator, so I'm here as an observer. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Yes, please, Sudan.

TARIK MERGHANI: Hello. My name is Tarik Merghanifrom Sudan, I'm a GAC member from Sudan as a new member, but not a new member for ICANN and I'm happy to be here with you. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Any other GAC members or observers in the room?

TRACY HACKSHAW: Yes.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, please.

TRACY HACKSHAW: This is Tracy Hackshaw, I represent the Universal Postal Union. I would like to thank all folks who were involved in the capacity building weekend, all organizers and all staff, as well as all who participated. So, I would like to thank, especially, the GAC

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members who participated and engaged so willingly and fully, and I would like to ask that we keep this up and continue engaging and engaging with each other and meeting each other. We do hope you will continue this activity going forward interessionally up to Cancún. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Any other GAC members or observers? Yes, please.

ONUR GENÇER: Good morning, everyone. My name is Onur Gençer, I'm working as a General Director for Communications for Turkey. I'm also the GAC representative of Turkey. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, colleagues, my name is [inaudible - 00:40:34] from the Kingdom of Eswatini. I'm representing the kingdom. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Hello everyone, my name is Bruno Parente. I am representing CGIbr and I work for the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology

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and Innovation. Thank you for the building capacity, it was an amazing experience. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. Hi, my name is Stalis, I'm from Brazil and from the Brazilian mission. I come from CGI and I work in the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation from Brazil. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So, I hope we haven't missed anyone. Any other GAC members or observers in the room?

Okay. If not, may I ask colleagues online to also raise their hands so that I can recognize everyone and give them the floor. I have Lina first. Please, go ahead.

LINA RAINIENE: Thank you, Manal. Good morning, good evening, good afternoon, everyone. My name is I'm Lina Rainiene, I'm here with Lithuania on behalf of the Communications Regulatory Authority. I'm also cochairing the Working Group on Human Rights and International Law together with my colleague, Suada Hadzovic. Thank you very much.

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

JORGE CANCIO: Hello, everyone. I hope you hear me okay. This is Jorge Cancio from The Swiss Federal Office of Communications where I'm a Deputy Director for International Affairs. I'm also the GAC representative for Switzerland. Thanks very much to our Malaysian hosts, I'm very sorry not to be there. I very much enjoyed the meeting in 2004, so I would have been very happy to be there today, but unfortunately, this was not possible.

I also very much appreciated the capacity development weekend. Thank you very much to Carol, to Tracy, to the GAC staff and to everyone involved. I think that is a very important initiative, which we should continue in the future to bridge the divide and the information divide also. So, looking forward to such efforts in the future. Looking forward to a very fruitful meeting even if it is online from my side. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jorge. And thank you for contributing to the capacity building workshop; I know the time zone wasn't in your favor. Thank you. Norway, please.

**FRODE SORENSEN:** Hello. My name is Frode Sorensen, I'm the GAC Representative from Norway from Norwegian Communications Authority. Thank you.

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

**PUA HUNTER:** Hello, everyone. My name is Pua Hunter, I'm the GAC Representative from the Cook Islands. I'm also the co-chair for the Underserved Regions Working Group and I want to take this opportunity to thank Karel, my other co-chair from Trinidad and Tobago, and also Tracy for the great work you both did to get the capacity-building initiative going. And I want to also thank you, Manal, for the support from the start, as well as thank Rob and Julia, and also the ICANN community, and all of the panelists from the GAC, and also the ICANN community who -- all of the panelists who gave their time, valuable time to support this very important initiative and this important work within the GAC. Thank you so much.

**MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:** Thank you very much, Pua. Viacheslav?

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**VIACHESLAV EROKHIN:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin, I'm the GAC representative of the Russian Federation. I work as a Policy Advisor for the Ministry of Digital Development and Mass Communication related to all Internet aspects, different international bodies and forums.

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

**BRIAN BECKHAM:** Good morning, colleagues. Brian Beckham here from WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization, where I head up the Domain Name Dispute Resolution section within our Arbitration and Mediation Centre; apologies to not be there in person.

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

**OLADEJO OLAWUMI:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Oladejo Olawumi from Nigeria from the National Information Technology Development Agency. I want to say a very big thank you to the organizers of the

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capacity building sessions over the weekend. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. I'm glad that everyone felt that the capacity building was quite useful. Any other GAC colleagues online? Yes, please. Jean, go ahead.

JEAN RAKOTOMALALA: Good morning, good evening, and a good night wherever you are. I'm Jean Rakotomalala, the GAC representative from Madagascar.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Jean. Sorry for mispronouncing your name. Anyone else online who hasn't introduced themselves?

Okay. If not, I would like to give the chance also to support staff to introduce themselves, and we have Gulden at the very back, and Julia, if you can stand. Thank you. And, of course, we have also Rob here with us on the panel.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you very much, Manal. I wanted to thank also some colleagues who are helping us here in the room this week. I'm

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also joining Julia and Gulden at the back of the room. You will, at various times in the week, see either Christian Wheeler and at present we have Alperen Eken from the ICANN staff. One of the reasons why we have Alperen and Christian with us this week is that we unfortunately don't have other members of the team here in person, both Fabien Betremieux and Benedetta Rossi, who unfortunately couldn't be with us in person; however, you will see them very active I imagine in the chat and they will be in the Zoom room throughout the week. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob. So I think we are done with the introductions and thank you very much, everyone. I hope you may excuse me if I cannot recognize everyone. We are meeting for the very first time wearing masks and the room is huge. So, I would ask your understanding. If you, please, when you seek the floor, introduce yourself before speaking for the transcripts.

With that, if we can go to the following slide, please. This is the GAC leadership elections. As you may all know the candidates, we had Nicolás Caballero from Paraguay as a candidate for the GAC Chair position, and we have Ola Bergström, Sweden, for the Vice Chair. Shi Young Chang from republic of Korea, also Vice Chair, and Francis Olivier from Burundi for a Vice Chair position,

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Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon, Vice Chair, and Nigel Hickson from United Kingdom, also as a Vice Chair.

And since we have already the same number of candidates as seats available, so I would ask you all if we can confirm the positions by acclamation, please.

Nicolás, if you would like to show yourself so everyone can know you. We have Ola here to my left. Shi Young, unfortunately, wasn't able to join in person. I hope at some point in time that he will join us remotely.

And as you can see on the screen, Ola is going to serve a second term. Shi Young for a second term as well. Francis is also for a second term, here to my very right. Zeina Bou Harb for a first term. I don't think she was online either. Nigel Hickson, also first term. He is not here in person. I hope that he will be joining remotely. Can we go to the following slide, please?

Candidates are going to assume their term starting the end of the March meeting and we announced leadership now. They are effective by the end of ICANN76, and meanwhile between now and ICANN76, we will be working on a transition, a smooth transition hopefully handing over everything in the good hands of the new leadership team. So please expect yourselves to be

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added to a new mailing list every day. And joining us on the GAC leadership calls, which take place every 2 or 3 weeks.

We can, of course, arrange for a meeting and plan for a smooth transition. So on behalf of the current GAC leadership team, we look forward to handing over and to collaborating with you until you feel comfortable for the coming period. Can we go to the following slide, please?

This is to report on intercessional activities. So intercessionally, we have roundtable discussions among the supporting organizations and advisory committee chairs, and we also have the Board-GAC Interaction Group. We meet regularly before the public meetings to review matters of cross-community impact.

Just to share with you the topics that were discussed during the chair roundtables, we had the upcoming community consultation on draft Terms of Reference for the pilot Holistic Review and fiscal year '23 Reviews recommendations implementation plan. We discussed the launch of the Policy Transition Program and pilot. And the update on ICANN org activities relating to mitigation DNS abuse, we have received an update from ICANN Org, And finally, design and scope of the proposed WHOIS Disclosure System, which we will speak to during the course of this week.

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Can we go to the following slide, please? This is on the Board-GAC Interaction Group that includes a subset of the board members and interested GAC members. It has proven to be an effective venue for discussions to ensure effective Board and GAC collaboration and communication. We had a call on the 31st of August and discussed the ICANN74 GAC Communiqué as it included only issues of importance to the GAC. If you recall, whenever the GAC issues a communiqué including GAC advice to the board, we take this through a call with the Board, post communiqué clarification call is what we call or how we refer to these calls and the intent of which is to provide any clarification needed to the Board so that we have the same interpretation of the GAC advice.

Whenever we have only Issues of Importance to the GAC, we go through them within the Board-GAC Interaction Group, which happened intercessionally between the ICANN74 and ICANN75. And of course, the membership of the BGIG as we call it, is open to any interested in GAC representatives, so please if you are interested to join, you can reach out to GAC staff on the e-mail address shown on the screen.

Finally, this is Other Notable Developments, so on GAC correspondence, we have seven incoming letters and two outgoing, and you will find everything posted on the GAC Website.

I am just checking the -- we had written correspondence regarding various matter of importance to the GAC, including the ICANN74 Communiqué of course. We had the supplemental information regarding ICANN74 discussions about the SSAD, now called WHOIS Disclosure System, and also ICANN compliance efforts and next steps regarding potential Board facilitated process for GAC, GNSO and ALAC discussions on the topic of Closed Generics, and again, we will get deeper into this discussion during the course of the week.

As I said, incoming and outgoing correspondence documents are all posted and tracked on a special webpage of the GAC Website. And since we still have more time, maybe we can -- oh, well, I didn't even finish this slide. I'm sorry.

So, there are three new Public Comment opportunities that have just been posted recently, and as we usually do, we share all public comments and opportunities on the GAC mailing list. Please share your views whether either be encouraged to submit an individual government feedback or input, or share your view if you feel these warrants collective GAC input to a certain public comment.

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As mentioned, we have more than 180 new GAC participants since ICANN66 in November of 2019 and happy, again, to welcome all new representatives to the GAC. And 49 new GAC participants only in 2022 calendar year so far, and 50 new GAC participants since the last meeting.

So, we continue to have new participants, and this makes our capacity building efforts needed now even more than ever and more of a continuous thing that we try to provide in order to keep everyone up to speed with discussions here within the GAC.

I believe this is the last slide. Okay. Thank you, Gulden. Since we have a little bit more time, maybe I can speak to the communiqué drafting process for the benefit of new GAC colleagues.

As you might have seen, we try to start 2 weeks before the meeting, and this is a process we have adopted ever since we started meeting virtually. So we start 2 weeks in advance to call for topics of interest that colleagues feel it needs to go as a GAC advice to the Board so that we can start the discussions early and facilitate our communiqué drafting here at the physical meeting.

We then, as I said, we will start communiqué discussions and drafting tomorrow by the end of the day. The first session, we normally assign pen holders and identify the topics, of course.

And we have an online Google doc for collaborative editing, and everyone is encouraged to, once assigned a topic or if they would like to review on comments, but please make sure you are in suggestion mode, and you are well-identified so that we can know who is typing what in the Google doc.

We then go through the communiqué. As I said, we have dedicated five sessions, five hours for the communiqué drafting, and at a certain point in time, we might ask you to please provide the text through support staff so that we can try to control things because once the text is submitted, it sometimes becomes very difficult to identify the changes.

That said, once we finalize the communiqué, we normally had it adopted and issued immediately at the end of the week. But, again, ever since we started to meet virtually, we adopted a slightly different approach and now we give it a 72-hour review time for colleagues to review the communiqué thoroughly in their own time zone, at their convenience. We urge everyone to keep their review only to mistakes or errors or typos.

We try to avoid reopening discussions that have already taken place during the course of the week. Once the 72-hour review period is over, we post the communiqué, and it is usually by the

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Monday after the meeting week. I'm not sure if there is -- yeah.  
Sorry. Please, Gulden, go ahead.

GULTEN TEPE: Thank you, Manal. We have calls in the queue.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden. And sincere apologies to colleagues online. Kavouss, please; apologies to miss your hand. Go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Good morning or for some people, good afternoon. Here it is still early morning. I think we need to be conscious and mindful of the communiqué.

Now, after 75 meetings, we have gained sufficient experience of the scope and the usefulness and appropriateness of some elements of the communiqué. The communiqué itself is the only means to reflect the views of GAC to the outside of GAC and in particular other communities and the rest of the world. So, there is no problem with the communiqué. But the issue is that what we need to now reflect.

First of all, as I mentioned several times, we need not necessarily to have GAC consensus advice at every GAC meeting. The reason is that this consensus advice will go to the scrutinizing process by first of all our distinguished colleagues from GNSO and these are very sensitive what we are doing. Also, it might create questions by the Board, which requires further clarification on the language and terms and conformity with the bylaws. This is about the consensus advice.

With respect to the follow-up action, we also should not put follow-up to the follow-up to the follow-up. We should leave sometime that the consensus advice and the first follow-up produce some reasons and Board-GAC Interactive Group indicated that sometimes the reply is that either they still don't have any criteria or way to proceed what we have asked and requiring some time. So, we shouldn't put this sort of follow-up and so on and so forth.

But more important, in a democratic world, the GAC is also part of that, everyone could suggest a topic, but there should be a criteria how this topic is to be followed. We are not following one or two countries or a GAC advice or follow-up action. We need to establish a criteria. The simplest of that would be a simple majority that is in favor of that GAC advice; the GAC draft advice or GAC draft follow-up action. This, as far as I know is missing.

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We are following proposals from the people, which might be right, but may not represent the views of everybody or the majority of the people.

These are important issues we have to look at. I'm not suggesting we do it at this very meeting, but I think that we should think it over. Maybe in your transition arrangement you also bring that issue to the attention to the new GAC Chair. By the way, the GAC Chair is a very difficult job, work, activity that requires considerable amount of time, knowledge, background and experience.

I am not qualifying anybody, but I just want to remind ourselves that this is not a simple task. It's different from the GAC Vice Chair, although the GAC Vice Chair member of the, you called them leadership group, I am always against the leadership. I call them coordination group, but not leadership. No one leading anyone else.

I mentioned that several times, but unfortunately, no one has listened to me. There is no leadership. We don't have leaders, we have a coordination group, but not leadership. In any case, the role of the Vice Chairman is much much simpler than the role of the Chair.

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The Chair requires considerable mark-up at this home country and additional staff to provide all the information, including sometimes gathering e-mails that they receive and put it to the attention of GAC because I don't know how many e-mails you have been receiving during the last 6 years. I think considerable. These are important. I would like to emphasize that. You should not take it as a criticism, but as a suggestion, as a suggestion to be looked at to have something.

Lastly, Chair, when we prepare the ICANN for discussion with the Board, again, this is many, many times that I have mentioned that we need to limit that to the time available. In my view, not more than three to four subjects without subsidiary subjects are possible.

You need about 3 minutes, sometimes 5 minutes to present that. 10 minutes for reply. The time is 1 hour. So, I have seen that sometimes 10, 12, 15 topics. Sometimes we just touch the question without going to the deep answer. This is important.

I am attending the GAC since several years. Not like you, Chair, working for 21 years, if I am correct, less than you, but sufficient member of the GAC. I have been a super active member of GAC representative in ICG, Work Stream 2, Phase 1 and Phase 2, and in

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the subsequent round and many others and recently in the Implementation Oversight Team IOT and the CRG.

Unfortunately, the two latter, as organized face-to-face closed meeting not unfortunately closed meeting but unfortunately that I was not allowed to participate at that closed meeting because I asked a fellowship 4 months ago, it was delayed by ICANN for months and the last 10 days or 7 days, they said that yes, one government was opposing to that because I'm coming from another country under the sanction of that country, and they mixed up the GAC activities, ICANN activities with a political sanction that has nothing to do with that. This is unfortunate that people apply this sort of thing, which is new. I have been attending some of these fellowships without this problem.

Lastly, the last 7 days, they told me, yes, you can go, but it was too late. It was too late. So, I think that it would not happen in future, and when I raised a point, I received a very disappointing reply from the president of GAC which went to some sort of unnecessary formalities teaching me something that I don't need any teaching from anybody; instead of saying that we are very sorry, that was too late and saying that it was out of our control. They tried to say something else, which I responded strongly my disagreement with that. That is the situation.

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I have at least to keep this fellowship for ICANN76 because I have to render my responsibility. IOT is a very difficult thing, we are just drafting rules for the panel and CRG selection of the panel. Out of 90 people, we have to select at the end of the day either 7 or 10 or maximum 15. I have been very active in those two and the record shows that I have not been able to attend. I am totally disappointed. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss. And again, apologies. The travel support thing took longer than expected and only came at the very last minute which I fully understand was not practical for you to join us in person. I confirm your dedication and active participation throughout all our activities and I look forward to seeing you, hopefully, at ICANN76. And to your participation during this week as well, we will be preparing for the bilateral with the Board at the next session and I hope you will be able to join us.

And just to add to your distinction between the GAC Chair and Vice Chairs, an important distinction is that the GAC Chair does not represent a country. So, once a member becomes a chair, the country has to appoint a new GAC Representative.

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As for the Vice Chairs, they can participate with the two capacities, as a Vice Chair and as a representative of their countries. So an important distinction. Thank you for reminding me to bring this to the attention of everyone.

And lastly, on the communiqué, again, I appreciate your valuable input. I fully agree that we shouldn't be rushing directly into GAC advice to the Board; that would trigger the bylaws, if not followed, so it's good that we started to populate the issues of importance to the GAC, which I believe serve as brainstorming until we have our ideas matured as an advice that we could submit to the ICANN Board. Thank you very much, Kavouss. Apologies to keep you, Rob and Christine, waiting in the queue. Rob, please go ahead.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: This is Rob Hoggarth, happy to give the floor to Christine before staff. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. So Egypt, please. Christine, go ahead.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Rob, for giving me your roll. So, I just feel it is due actually to congratulate the new GAC Chair and GAC Vice Chairs and I thank our colleague from Iran for reminding

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us of the tremendous workload that goes into being a GAC Chair and also into Vice Chair work. On that, I would also like to thank vice chairs that are outgoing and most notably, my dear colleague Manal for the outstanding performance as a GAC Chair. I just want to say that I would welcome having her back into Egypt's seat as the primary GAC Chair once the transition has happened.

And just one last thing, with all of the new GAC members that we have, I think the transition phase will be very important. I really -- we all look up to the outgoing group and the incoming to work together to actually maintain the smooth work. I'm sure that the GAC-Board team are going to be very instrumental during that phase. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Christine. And then thank you very much to everyone who has put their name as either as a GAC Chair or Vice Chair. I'm sure you will do an excellent job.

As said, we remain committed to support you until you feel you don't need it. So, as long as you need. And I especially would also like to thank colleagues who have volunteered to join the leadership group or coordination group as Kavouss said on their very early days within the GAC. We had members joining for the

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first time and volunteering for the Vice Chairs so sincere appreciation for everyone who is willing to lend a hand.

And Rob, sorry, again, to keep you waiting. Over to you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Manal. Rob Hoggarth from ICANN staff. A number of statements; one, just to clarify for everybody if they didn't pick it up. I have had staff coming up to me to say, “Oh, it has been so wonderful to have Manal as the GAC Chair, we’re going to miss her,” and I’m very quick to point out that the current Chair-Vice Chair team is still in place for the next 6 months, so we’re looking forward to working with all of you and the new team for that transition, so no premature departures, please.

On the comments that Kavouss made. He made some very valuable and helpful comments in terms of the content, the framework, the template of the communiqué, if you will, and for those of you who are new and some of whom will only experience the communiqué drafting here in the next couple of days, those comments were very helpful and show a lot of understanding of the evolution of the document over the last 10 years or so.

Staff recently went back at Manal's insistence to look at how the document has evolved, we collected some metrics which we will

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share with you that show an evolution, really, of how advice has been considered by the committee, how the follow-up to GAC advice that Kavouss mentioned has been minimized over the last several years, and how this new concept of Issues of Importance have become much more substantial in terms of the GAC's relationship with the ICANN Board.

So these are all innovations and evolutions of the document, and based on some of the comments from Kavouss, I'm sure that the GAC Working Group as well as the CVC team will have a lot to think about not just over the next several months but for the coming years as well.

From a process standpoint, the staff at the direction of the CVC team has begun the development of a process document that we hope will not only aide the new chair and vice chairs as they come on board, but that all of you might find useful. We have the standing title right now: The art of the communiqué, and it's in a draft form now. Once we get the approval of the team here at the head table, we will be sharing that more broadly for all of your input so we very much look forward to your input from those of you here in person and those online.

Manal, I think if we can, based on your direction, Fabien is prepared to share on the GAC e-mail list -- he may have already

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done so while I'm sitting here -- the link to the communiqué contribution document. Please check your e-mails for that.

You can begin adding things once you have that link. The key that I want to assure all of you is that over the last several years, we have developed a very good process. So, Fabien and Benedetta will be very active online. I will sort of be sitting up here maybe to pass messages to Manal, but we will fully be using the Zoom capabilities to conduct the review, drafting, editing and other contributions to the communiqué over the next several days, so I hope you will find that there is a seamless execution of that just like it would be one of the past meetings we have had. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rob, and thank you, Fabien, for confirming that you have already shared the link over e-mail. I ask colleagues that we don't put the link in the chat because it becomes public and open for anyone to put text in the GAC communiqué.

And also, we are good to recall the document that we are drafting regarding the communiqué and how it is drafted. I hope that the new GAC coordination team would find that useful and GAC colleagues as well, particularly newcomers. With that, I see Kavouss's hand up. Please Kavouss, go ahead, please.

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**KAVOUSS ARASTEH:** Yes, I'm sorry, I forgot to say something. With respect to the GAC-Board or Board-GAC Interactive Group, I would like to express at least my sincere appreciation to the Board of ICANN with their active and kind participation, and a smooth operation of that, that provide whatever information we ask; if sometimes they don't have the information, they try to welcome that, but the theme of the meeting is going in a very positive and well direction and if everybody in the GAC agree, we would like to put on record appreciation of GAC to that type of the meeting, which has helped us considerably. I hope that continues with that direction in the future. Sorry, I forgot in the first intervention.

**MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:** Thank you very much, Kavouss. I can't agree more indeed; our relationship with the board has been going very well and even more so through the Board-GAC Interaction Group and through a structured way of following on our GAC advice and the clarification calls that we take with the Board to make sure that we have a common understanding of the issues we discussed.

So, thank you for putting this on record. I see we are hitting the scheduled end time of the session. Christine, regarding the Egypt representation, you have taken me by surprise. We will need to

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discuss this later. But, for now, this concludes the GAC Opening Plenary.

It is now time for a 75-minute lunch break. After the break, we will start to prepare for our bilateral with the Board. Please be back in the GAC room, and on Zoom, of course, at 13:15 Kuala Lumpur time, 5:15 UTC. Thank you, everyone. The meeting is adjourned.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**