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ICANN76 | CF – GAC Opening Plenary  
Sunday, March 12, 2023 – 10:30 to 12:00 CUN

GULTEN TEPE: Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Welcome to the ICANN76 GAC opening plenary session being held on Sunday, 12th of March at 15:30 UTC.

Recognizing that these are public sessions and other members of the ICANN community maybe in attendance, the GAC leadership and support staff encourage all of you who are GAC members to type your name and affiliation in the participation chat pot. This is to keep accurate attendance records. To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model, we ask that you sign into Zoom sessions using your full name. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please type it in the chat by starting and ending your sentence with question or comment as indicated in the chat. The feature is located at the bottom of your Zoom window.

Interpretation for our GAC sessions include all six UN language and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listened to by clicking on the interpretation icon on the Zoom toolbar. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand. Once the session facilitator calls upon you, please unmute yourself and take the floor. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking.

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Finally, this session, like all other ICANN activities, is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. In case of disruption during this session, our technical support team will mute all participants. This session is being recorded and all materials will be made available on the ICANN76 meetings page. With that, I would like to leave the floor to GAC chair, Manal Ismael. Manal, over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Gulden. And good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. A very warm welcome to all GAC members and observers here in the GAC room and on Zoom. This is the GAC opening plenary held on the margins of ICANN76 community forum. I hope you all continue to be safe, well and in good health. And finally, we made it to Cancún after being obliged to cancel twice because of the global pandemic. So I hope you will get some time to enjoy.

I hope we succeed to provide everyone with an equal opportunity and positive smooth experience irrespective of being here in person or joining online. So I would ask you to please make sure you join the Zoom room and use it to request the floor so that we can maintain a fair chance by managing one queue. I would also like to start by thanking the government of Mexico for hosting us here. And we will be getting the chance to make our tour de table and hear the self-introductions and also receive a welcome from our Mexican colleagues.

So with that, if we can go to the following slide please and maybe start with the block schedule. So first, we will go over the block schedule and then provide some overview on the logistics and technical capabilities at the meeting. Then we will have the tour de table allowing everyone

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to introduce themselves. Then review the communiqué drafting process. And I hope that time would allow us well to share an update on notable GAC work since ICANN75. And this includes the SO/AC chairs interactions and the Board-GAC interaction group discussions. So yes, thank you, Gulden, for putting us on the right slide.

If we can go now to the block schedule. And just a few highlights on our meeting week. So as you may all know, we have reconvened the GAC capacity development activities. We held the first one in Kuala Lumpur a couple of days before ICANN75 and the second one was held here yesterday. I hope many of you had the chance to join. So many thanks to all involved, and we will be receiving an update on this during the working group's reporting session. This one-day workshop was designed to bring attendees up to speed on topics that we will be discussing throughout the week. And I hope this helped new GAC colleagues to be brought up to speed.

I also thank GAC support staff. I understand they managed to organize a social event yesterday for GAC colleagues who were present. And I hope many of you managed to join, socialized, network and get introduced as we continue to welcome new GAC representatives at every meeting. As you can see, the meeting will take place from Sunday 12th to Thursday 16th of March, and our working hours will be from 9:00 to 17:30 Cancún time, which is 14:00, 22:30 UTC, with sincere apologies, of course, for those who may be challenged by the meeting working hours. We continue to allow 30 minutes break between each two consecutive sessions and a 75-minute lunch break. That starts every day at 12:00 Cancún time, 17:00 UTC.

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GAC plenaries continue to focus on GAC priority topics, and this includes the discussion on future rounds of new gTLDs, WHOIS in data protection, DNS abuse mitigation, and IGO protection. During the week, we will have four bilateral meetings with the Board, the GNSO, the ALAC and the GNSO contracted party's house, which refers to the registries and registrars collectively.

There are a number of non-GAC sessions that may be of interest to GAC colleagues. So first, I hope you have all had the chance to attend the subsequent procedures work track session number two that was held earlier today just before our session. Tomorrow, the day we'll start by the opening ceremony followed by a Q&A session with ICANN org executive team.

On Tuesday, there is a recently introduced session titled, Listening Session for the Board Search Committee on the Future of ICANN and the Next President and CEO. And as you all know, currently, Sally, is the interim CEO. So the search committee is to either confirm her if she's one of the applicants or select the new CEO of ICANN. So it's definitely an important session to attend. Then on Wednesday, there is a community plenary session titled, Looking Towards WSIS+20, How Can We Improve the Multistakeholder Model for the Future?

This was proposed by our colleagues from UK, and submitted by the GAC to the planning team and voted for by the community representatives as the topic chosen for the one plenary session that we are going to have here at ICANN76. So I hope you will all have the chance to attend and participate actively to the plenary on Wednesday

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morning and come ready to discuss the same topic during our bilateral with ALAC.

Before moving on to Thursday, it's worth noting that we will find some time on Wednesday to announce the results of the special election held for the empty GAC vice chair seat. As you all know, the official voting period commenced on Tuesday, 21st of February, 2023, of course. And it will close on Tuesday 14th of March 2023 at 23:59 UTC, which is 18:59 Cancún time. We have four excellent candidates. And please make sure to cast your vote before the deadline.

On Thursday, Yeah, there is the ICANN public forum, the ICANN Board meeting, and the geopolitical forum. The geopolitical forum was originally scheduled on Tuesday, but was then moved to allow the session, the listening session for the Board President and CEO search committee. So two more things before we conclude on the schedule. We have dedicated around six hours, over six sessions for communiqué drafting, and this will start tomorrow, Monday until the Thursday. And we will talk more about the details of the communiqué drafting towards the end of this session.

And finally, we will also have our usual wrap up session on Thursday, which allows an opportunity for stock taking and forward planning. And this time, it will also be an excellent opportunity for handing over the chair position to the GAC new Chair, Nico Caballero. And so I think this concludes the block schedule. Allow me here to hand this over to Gulten for a quick overview of ICANN76 logistics and technical capabilities. Gulten, if I may.

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GULTEN TEPE:

Thank you, Manal. Hello, again, everyone. My name is Gulden Tepe Öksüzoğlu from GAC support team. I will bore you with overview of logistics, a bit of technical details and housekeeping rules. This might be helpful for our new community members and a good refresher for the experienced GAC participants.

Starting with calendar remarks, I will keep sending updated invitations. So you will have the remote participation details throughout the week. You may find the briefings and slides published on GAC website. Julia and myself will be adding links to those documents in the chat. If you are having access issues to GAC website, please inform us. Our rep team would resolve your problem as soon as we submit them a ticket. During the roll calls before each session, we mentioned in-person participants also raise hand via Zoom room, not only physically, that would help Manal to manage the queue. So either if you are here in Cancún or joining remotely, please remember to raise your hand in the Zoom room.

Just a note for our remote participants. It would make our session more engaging and interactive if you turn on your Zoom video. And regarding the interpretation services, our interpreters will have a hard time to catch your remarks and questions if you speak too fast or too far from the microphone. If you intend to speak in a language other than English, please notify the audience so everyone's start to using their headsets. And you might get the device from the table on the side of the room. And remember to state your name every time you speak, this would be really helpful in terms of scribing matters. After the sessions, recordings transcripts and presentations will be available on GAC website under each respective session.

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Another note for our in person attendees, seats with a table microphone in the middle and across the table are for only GAC delegation members. Other committee members are always welcome to join our sessions, but it would be much appreciated if they can take the seats on the Board sides in the corner of the room. And that's the end of my notes. Over to you Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you. Thank you very much, Gulden. And if we can go to the following slide, please. And this is the time for our tour de table. And we will give everyone a chance to introduce themselves and share any comments or statements they would like to make. But first, I would like to start by our host and allow me to hand over the floor to Mr. Carlos Gorostiza. I hope I'm pronouncing your name right, Director General at the secretariat of infrastructure communications and transportation of Mexico. Over to you. Please go ahead.

CARLOS GOROSTIZA:

Thank you. Welcome to all GAC members. In our secretariat, we are very proud to welcome you all to Mexico after the postponement of these meeting twice, as our chair has already said. I hope you all have a very productive meeting. I'm sure it will be like that. Thank you again for being here and welcome. A lot of success in your work. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much Carlos. And we are also very excited to make it to Cancún after it has been canceled twice. And thank you for hosting us.

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So with that, we will start introducing ourselves here at the head table and then go through the room and then we will go to Zoom. So let me start by Ola, please.

OLA BERGSTRÖM: Thanks, Manal. Ola Bergström. I'm head of international Affairs at the Swedish Telecom Regulator. So happy to be here.

MANAL ISMAIL: And one of the GAC vice chairs as well, and I always recognize I never introduced myself. So my name is Manal Ismail. I'm GAC chair. Outgoing GAC. GAC chair only till the end of this meeting. Yes, Pär. Please go ahead.

PÄR BRUMARK: My name is Pär Brumark. I'm the special envoy at the government of Niue. This is my last meeting as I'm outgoing vice chair. Last meeting as vice chair.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Pär. And let's start from Tracey, and we will go across the rooms. So Tracey, please go ahead.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Hi, good morning, everyone. Tracy Hackshaw [00:17:48 -inaudible]. Welcome. Thank you.



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ANA NEVES: Thank you very much, Manal. I'm going to speak in Portuguese. It's good to start with a different language, please. I'm Ana Neves. I'm from Portugal. As from December, I've been in the Ministry of Communications. I left GAC in 2019 and after three years, I'm back here once again in the GAC family in different faces, and different places. And it's really a pleasure to be here again. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Ana. Yes, please go ahead.

LUCIANO MAZZA: Thank you, Manal. Just for a change, so I'll speak in Portuguese as well this time. I'm Luciano Mazza. I represent Brazil in the GAC. It's a pleasure to be here again. Thank you. And we'll continue participating very actively in these sessions.

JASON MERRITT: Hello. Bonjour everyone. My name is Jason Merritt. I'm the GAC representative from Canada. It's a pleasure to be here in Cancún, and looking forward to a very productive week. Nice seeing you all.

RIDA TAHIR: Thank you, Jason. Hello, everybody. My name is Rida Tahir, also GAC Canada.

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FINN PETERSEN: Good morning, everybody. My name is Finn Petersen, and I'm from Danish government. Thank you.

STEFAN VOUK: Good morning, everybody. Stefan Vouk from the Austrian government.

WOLFGANG HOLZAPFEL: Good morning, with Wolfgang Holzapfel from the Germany, Ministry of the Interior.

RUDY NOLDE: Hello, everyone. Rudy Nolde from the German government.

OLIVIER FRANCIS CUBAHIRO: Good morning, everyone. Mr. Cubahiro from the Government of Burundi and vice chair of GAC. Thank you.

MARÍA GABRIELA MATTAUSCH: Good morning to you all. I'm Gabriela. I am GAC representative for Argentina. I would like to thank Mexico for the welcome and for organizing this meeting. This is my third in person meeting. So I hope all of us have a good time here and make the most of this meeting. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: I'm also going to speak in Spanish, since we are in Mexico. And I also want to start by thanking our Mexican colleagues. I'm Nico Caballero.

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I'm the GAC representative from Paraguay. I'm honored to be the incoming GAC chair. So I just wanted to welcome you all to Mexico. And I hope I can do a good job as the next GAC chair. It will be quite difficult because our dear Manal has placed a very high bar for me, but I'll do my best, at least to get as close as possible to the standard that she has set. Thank you and welcome.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you. Thank you, Nico. I'm sure you're going to do an even better job definitely. Thank you.

LISA: Good morning, everyone. I'm going to speak in Spanish too. Okay. Good morning to you all. I'm Lisa [00:22:01 -inaudible]. I represent the regional telecommunications organization, the technical regional telecommunications commission that is based in Tegucigalpa Honduras, including countries such as Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico as its members. Thank you for having me, and I'm pleased to be here with you.

PHILIPPE KOUAME: Hello. I am Philippe. I represent Cote d'Ivoire here at GAC.

FAIG FARMANOV: Good morning, everyone. I'm Faig Farmanov, representative of Azerbaijan.

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ASHWIN SASONGKO: Good morning, everybody. My name is Ashwin from Indonesia, from the Indonesia National ICT Council. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. I'm [00:23:06 -inaudible]. And I come from the Islamic Republic of Iran. I have no access to my computer this far because my luggage is still lost. So unfortunately, I have no access to the computer, so I cannot take the floor. So if you allow me, I will exceptionally raise my physical hand. Thank you.

JOSÉ MIRZAPUR: Hello. Good morning, everybody. My name is José Mirzapur, GAC run and I'm just appointed as the chair of working group, GAC Working Group on IDN and UA. Thank you, Manal.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Since we're all speaking different languages, I will greet all of you in Russian. I'm from Armenia. My name is [00:24:04 - inaudible]. It's a pleasure for me to take part in this conference and greetings to everyone especially to the Mexican colleagues who did a great job organizing everything.

SHELLEY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Good morning to you all. I am Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds, GAC representative for Trinidad and Tobago. And it's good to be back after being away for four years.

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GLORIA KATUUKU: Good morning, everyone. My name is Gloria Katuuku. GAC representative, Uganda. Thank you.

NIA NANAN: Good morning. My name is Nia Nanan, representing the Caribbean telecommunications union.

PUA HUNTER: Good morning. My name is Paul Hunter from Cook Island.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Good morning. My name is Suada Hadzovic, GAC representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Good morning, everybody. My name is Karel Douglas. I'm also from Trinidad and Tobago.

SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI: Good morning, everybody. I'm Sasho Dimitrijoski, representing Macedonian government.

VINCENT MUSEMINAL: Good morning. My name is Vincent Museminal, GAC representative for Rwanda. Thank you.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, madam chair and everybody. My name is [00:25:32 - inaudible] from ministry of information and communication of Vietnam and the new GAC members. Madam chair, we also need to update our new and GAC representative from Vietnam later on. Thank you, ma'am chair.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Christine Arida. I represent the Egyptian government at the GAC. Thank you.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Good morning, everyone. This is Zeina Bou Harb. I represent Lebanon in the GAC, and this is my first on-site meeting.

MANAL ISMAIL: And the incoming vice chair as well. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Good morning, everyone. I am at the Abdalmonem Galila, Egypt.

HAZAN HAZAN: Good morning, everyone. My name is Hazan Hazan representing the legal for up states.

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ANDRII NABOK: Good morning, everyone. I am Andrii Nabok and I am representative of Ukraine in GAC.

ANH TU HOANG: Good morning, everyone. My name is Anh Tu Hoang. I'm from Ministry of Information and Communications of Vietnam.

IAN SHELDON: Good morning. My name is Ian Sheldon. I'm from the Department of Infrastructure in Australia. It's an absolute pleasure to be here in Cancún. And I thank our host for welcoming us. I'm also the co-chair of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group. And I look forward to a productive meeting with you all. Thank you.

RONKE ADENIYI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Ronke Adeniyi from Nigeria.

OLATOKUNBOH OYELEYE: Good morning, everyone. My name is Tokunboh. I work with NCC. GAC Nigeria. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo in GAC.

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TOSHIHARU MOCHIZUKI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Toshiharu. I come from Japanese government, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Thank you.

NANA TAMAOKI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Nana Tamaoki. I also from Japan GAC member. Nice to meet you.

JONAS ROULE: Hello, everyone. I will take the floor in French. Hello. I'm Jonas Roule from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. First ICANN session for me. And I'm very pleased to be here and work with you.

ESTEVE SANZ: Good morning, everyone. My name is Esteve Sanz. I represent the European Commission in the GAC.

DAVIDE COLUCCINI: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone. My name is Davide Coluccini and I represent the Holy See - Vatican City State. Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Good morning, chair, vice chair and GAC colleagues. Thank you to our Mexican colleagues for hosting ICANN76 and ICANN staff for their excellent support, including language and translation support, which is wonderful to have. My name is Susan Chalmers. I represent the United



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States government at the GAC. I am joined by my colleague, Kenneth Merrill. And we look forward to a productive meeting with you all.

JAN VANNIEUWENHUYSE: Good morning. My name is Jan Vannieuwenhuysse. I'm from the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services in Belgium.

DENIS GONZALEZ: Good morning, everyone. My name is Denis Gonzalez, from the under Secretariat Telecommunication from Chile. And I'm returning to the GAC after perhaps four years. Thank you.

JI YENAN: Good morning, everyone. I'm Ji Yanan from China. Thank you.

SOFIA FENG: Good morning, everyone. I'm Sofia Feng from CTNS from China.

TOMBOYE IBRAHIM: Good morning, everyone. I'll be speaking in French. My name is Tomboye Ibrahim from Chad. I represent Chad, in GAC. It is my fourth in-person participation. It's always a pleasure to be here with you.

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**THIAGO DAL-TOE:** Good morning. I'll be speaking in Spanish. I'm Thiago Dal-Toe. I belong to the Colombian government, and I'm one of the participants and one of the candidates for the special elections for the vice chair.

**BRIAN BECKHAM:** Brian Beckham from WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organization. I am one of the topic leads for rights protection. And also one of the topic leads for IGO protection. And in that regard, just to mention that I'm here also on behalf of IGOs who I'm in contact with during the course of the meeting. Thank you.

**EUNITERAMOLO:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Eunita Amolo from the Communications Authority of Kenya. I look forward to a very productive meeting. Thank you.

**ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH:** Good morning. I'll be speaking in Spanish. Hello and good morning to you all. I'm Rosalind KennyBirch, I am the alternative representative of the UK. It is fantastic to be here in Cancún. Thank you.

**NIGEL HICKSON:** Morning. How can I follow that? Nigel Hickson, UK representative on the GAC work for the ministry, I think, of, what is it? Science and technology and innovation or something like that. Delighted to be here. Thank you so much for our Mexican hosts for making us so welcome in

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this party town. It's delightful. And I have the honor to be an incoming vice chair. Thank you.

NGUYEN HONG THANG: Good morning, everyone. I'm Nguyen Hong Thang from Vietnam.

LI XIAOLI: Good morning, everyone. I'd like to speak in Chinese. I am Li Xiaoli from China. Last year, I replaced my colleague to become the GAC member. This is my first time in Cancún and also my first time to be an on-site participant. I would like to thank GAC and also that ICANN team. I look forward to a fruitful discussion this week. Thank you.

GUO FENG: Hello. I'm Guo Feng from China. Happy to be here in person again. And I'm also one of the co-chairs of the GAC Working Group on printing principle.

TANG ZICAI: Thank you, chair. I will also speak in Chinese. Thank you very much, chair. I am from the Chinese Ministry of Industry and in Information Technology. I'm responsible for the International Corporation. I'm Tang Zicai. It's my great pleasure to be here in-person participating in the GAC meeting. 10 years ago as a representative to GAC, representing the Chinese government, I participated in GAC discussions. So today, it's my pleasure again to be here again, and I would like to thank the

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Mexican government for your hospitality and your considerate arrangements. Thank you.

WANG LANG: I'm Wang Lang from China. I'm candidate for the special vice chair election. Nice to meet you here face-to-face. Thanks.

CHENG-NAN CHIANG: Good morning, everyone. My name is Cheng-Nan Chiang, and I from Ministry of Digital Affairs, Chinese Taipei.

WEN-FONG TSEN: Good morning. It's pleasure to meet with all of you at the ICANN76 GAC meetings after the global pandemic. My name is Wen-Fong Tsen. I'm from Chinese Taipei's Ministry of Digital Affairs, MODA. MODA has taken over the GAC fair since the end of this year. It's our honor to join GAC and work with every one of you. Thank you.

KEN-YING TSENG: Hello, everyone. My name is Ken-Ying. I'm also one of the GAC member of the Chinese Taipei. I'm with Taiwan Network Information Center, TWIC. I'm also rounding for the vice chairman. Thank you.

RIYADH ALTARHUNI: Good morning, everybody. I am Riyadh Altarhuni from Libya from the Ministry of Communication, and waste. It's my pleasure to be here for the first time and looking forward for productive meeting.

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ANA ISABEL MALDONADO: Good morning. My name is Ana Maldonado. I'm from Spain. And I'm pleased to be here as it is my first ICANN meeting in person. So thank you very much for the organization of the meeting. And looking forward to a very productive one. Thank you.

SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ: Hello, everyone. My name is Saša Kovačević. I'm coming from Serbia government office. And it's real pleasure to be here with you. Thank you.

HOANG: Hello, everyone. My name is Hoang from the government of Vietnam.

MANAL ISMAIL: So do we have anyone else at the back who did not introduce themselves? Okay. If none here, then let me look at Zoom. And yes, please. Jose.

JOSE LAY Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. Greetings from Timor-Leste. My name is Jose Lay representing the Government of Timor-Leste. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing GAC leadership team, especially Manal. Thank you very much for your super chair to GAC. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Jose. I have Jorge next.

JORGE CANCIO: Hello. Did you hear me okay?

MANAL ISMAIL: Yes. Jorge, loud and clear.

JORGE CANCIO: Okay. This time I will briefly speak in Spanish. Good morning. I'm Jorge Cancio. I work for the Swiss government. Unfortunately, I was not able to be there in person, but I would have liked to accept that invitation from our Mexican colleagues. I really hope that all of us have a very fruitful meeting. And I'm very happy and I'm looking forward to seeing you in the next meeting in Washington. Greetings to you all.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Jorge. Alisa, please go ahead.

ALISA HEAVER: Good morning, afternoon, or evening. My name is Alisa Heaver. I represent the Netherlands. Unfortunately, this time, I will be participating remotely, as I just came back from the from the IGF multistakeholder advisory group meeting in Vienna. And I would beforehand like to thank the full tech team for making it possible for me to participate online. And I look forward to seeing and meeting you all again, hopefully, in Washington. Thanks.

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MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much. Netherlands, I have Viacheslav, Russia, next. Please go ahead.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN: Good morning, colleagues. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin. I'm a representative of our Russian Federation in GAC. I'm a policy adviser involved in activity related to Internet aspects in international organizations such as ICANN ITU, IGF and so on. Unfortunately, I couldn't join you in person due to my illness, but hope that next time we will meet face-to-face. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much and speedy recovery, Viacheslav. I have Tonga next.

TONGA: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: I'm sorry the line is breaking. I can't hear you well. If you can repeat, please. So we are not able to hear you well, but a very warm welcome. Thank you. I have Norway next, please.

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FRODE SORENSON: Hello. My name is Frode Sorenson. I am the GAC representative from Norway. Looking forward to the ICANN76 week. Thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Norway. I have Saudi Arabia next.

WALEED SULEIMAN: Good morning, everyone. My name is Waleed Suleiman. I'm the representative of the Saudi Arabia. I'm participating remotely and looking forward to meeting you on the next ICANN meeting. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you very much, Waleed. I have Pelle next.

PELLE WECKSELL: Good morning all. My name is Pelle Wecksell, from the Swedish police. I'm representing all the European police officers working with the sexual abuse against children on the internet.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you. I have India next.

T. SANTHOSH: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, colleagues. I'm T. Santhosh. I'm scientist in ministry of electronics and information technology government of India and also the alternate GAC



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representative from India. So I'm online right now, but I will be joining Cancun by coming Tuesday. So looking forward for a social meeting. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Santhosh. Anyone else online who would like to introduce themselves? Okay. If not, then maybe back to the room and allow me to introduce GAC support team at the back. We have our fantastic team, Rob, already standing and Fabien, Bernadette, Julia and Gulden. And they are the amazing team behind all the excellent service we've been provided. Thank you. So any introductions that we have missed? And if not, then thank you. Oh, I'm sorry. Please, go ahead.

JUAN DELHAIZE MUSANA:

I'm sorry. Good morning, everyone. My name is Juan Delhaize Musana from Eswatini in the Ministry of Information Communications and technology. I'm sorry. I was sitting in the wrong place when the round of introduction was going on. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Eswatini. Anyone else? Okay, if not, then again, a very warm welcome to everyone. And if we can go to the following slide, please. And this is our communiqué drafting process. So as you can see on the diagram, it illustrates the drafting process. We have started preparation for the communiqué two weeks prior to the start of the meeting week here with optional sharing of potential topics or key messages that need to be reflected in the communiqué.

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During the meeting week, as I mentioned earlier, we have dedicated slightly more than six hours with over six sessions starting tomorrow until Thursday. During tomorrow's session, we will try to decide on topics that will be covered in the communiqué. So basically building the structure of the communiqué and then we will assign penholders responsible to coordinate among interested GAC members and submit the communiqué language on the relevant topic. We will start then our active communiqué discussions on Tuesday, targeting hopefully to finalize the communiqué by end of Wednesday. But we still have an extra hour on Thursday in case needed.

We use communiqué Google Doc so that we can collaboratively use for compiling our communiqué. It's open for live contributions. It's already available. And based on advancement of drafting, we may take a decision to close the live collaboration on the document in the interest of clarity and stability of the text. After which the communiqué Google Doc will not be available for live contributions, but edited only through GAC support staff. So basically, as a start, we will start throwing text in the Google Doc, but at a certain point in time in order to manage the editing and not to confuse everyone, we may ask you to start sharing the text through the GAC support staff. Drafters of the communiqué text are encouraged, of course, at any stage to use the GAC support team as a resource to research president GAC advice, ensure accuracy of references, and check consistency with usual practice as needed.

After the meeting, we allow a 72-hour review period, which we introduced recently with the pandemic and our online meetings. But it's important to note that the objective of the review period is not to

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reopen, already negotiated and agreed text, but to flag things that may have been overlooked like typos mistakes and so on. The GAC communiqué becomes formally adopted at the end of the 72-hour review period provided that no objection are raised during the review period.

Worth noting that whether we conclude the communiqué drafting on Wednesday or Thursday, we target the Monday after the meeting week to circulate and post online formally adopted communiqué. And in the very unlikely case of receiving objections, the Monday email will be used to schedule a session within the same week around the Wednesday to resolve the issue and formally adopt the communiqué to be published by the end of the same week. But it's really worth noting that we have never been obliged to do so.

So, yeah, noting that the post meeting GAC session will only be held in a very exceptional cases only when there is a formal objection. And we will try, end of every session, I hope that we try to point out any key messages that we would like to see in the communiqué so that we start building up the communiqué as we go. So it would be very useful if at the end of every session we agree on any key messages colleagues would like to see in the communiqué. Fabien, anything I overlooked on this slide? First allow me to give the floor to Kavouss. Kavouss, please.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Thank you very much, Manal. I'm sorry, I have not asked to the system. Apart from the standard text of the GAC communiqué, which is meeting with other constituencies and so on and so forth, we have three points in the GAC communiqué. One is usually referred as important point for

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GAC. And the second is the follow-up action of the previous GAC advice, based on the development on the subject, but not repeating.

But the third issue, which is important is I would say a fresh draft GAC advice. We would like to know, as soon as possible, what are the fresh issues on which we need to work out for the GAC consensus advice. The sooner is the better and perhaps some of distinguish colleagues may be in an informal manner talk to each other to see whether there is something that should be prepared. Because if it left or leave everything to the last hours, maybe difficult to do so. It's better if you have any fresh point. We should think of that as soon as possible. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Kavouss. This is very helpful. And yes, indeed. So the communiqué is divided into three, as Kavouss mentioned. First, issues of importance to the GAC, and this is where we can put down our brainstorming more freely, if I may say this. And it serves as a good heads up to the Board and the community on where the GAC thinking is going. On the follow-up on previous GAC advice, this is more of a follow-up. So again, as Kavouss mentioned, it's normally pointing or referencing a specific advice that we would like to follow-up on. It should be rarely used because every advice is already logged in a tracking system and is not marked as closed until the whole thing is completed. But should need be, we may follow-up on previous GAC advice in this section.

On GAC advice to the Board, this is the really crucial part of the communiqué. This is the advice that the GAC provides to the Board.

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And per the bylaws, if the Board decides not to follow the GAC advice, they have to trigger a consultation process with the GAC in order to arrive at mutually agreed way forward. In this section, I would advise very concise to the point language. Because it's passed very carefully and logged in the advice registry and being followed up on each and every word. So it's good to be clear, concise, and to the point on this part. Unlike the issues of importance to the GAC where people may provide more freely text.

One more thing and then I'll give Fabien the floor. So the GAC support staff helps to fill in the traditional parts of the communiqué like any informational part, how many members attended, the agenda of our bilateral meetings and so on. So if you get to the Google Doc, you will find already text there that describes the informational parts of our meeting that we continue, of course, to develop across the course of the week. Fabien, would you like to add anything? Yes, please go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Thank you, Manal. So this is Fabien Betremieux speaking from the GAC support team. I have nothing to add actually, Manal. Your recollection of the process is infallible as we're used to. So thank you so much. And just I wanted to say simply that we've shared on the mailing list the link to draft communiqué. And please remember to be careful with the link and not sharing it outside of the GAC or in the chat of a Zoom room because these are public and this is to avoid any interference in the drafting process to ensure that the only users of the documents are GAC members. Thank you.

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MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Fabien. And yes, please make sure not to share a link in a public chat or a Zoom room because this will allow anyone who receives the link to contribute to the drafting of the communiqué. So the communiqué is public, but the drafting is strictly for GAC members and observers. So I think with that, we're good to move to the following slide. And it's just highlights on recent innovations.

So the communiqué pre-meeting preparation phase, which starts prior to meeting week. And I already covered this, but it has been introduced recently, as I mentioned, with the pandemic period. So it was worth highlighting. Also the communiqué touch point at the end of every GAC plenary, which is also important to note that at the end of each GAC plenary, we need to come to a conclusion whether or not we need to put something regarding this topic in the communiqué, and if yes, what are the key messages.

We will not go into drafting, but at least highlight the key messages we would potentially suggest for the communiqué. Heightened attention to editing efforts by contributors and edits processed by support staff to ensure appropriate tracking of the contributions. And we already went through this. As well as the 72-hour review period.

So anything on the process itself? And we still I know have one more slide. If we can go to the following slide. And this is on the technicalities. So please, when inserting text in the Google Doc, please make sure you are in the suggesting mode. Propose your text in the appropriate place. Make sure you as the author are identified properly for the rest to know who inserted the text. And finally, don't forget to hit reply, otherwise your edits will not be identified. So let me pause

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here and see if there are any questions or comments on the communiqué drafting process so far.

Okay. Seeing none. Then let's go to slide 12, please, on notable developments since ICANN75. And this mainly covers two things here, the community leadership. SO/AC leaders, meeting regularly before ICANN public meetings to review matters of cross community impact. And I'm sorry to be using abbreviations to new GAC colleagues. SO/AC is the ICANN support organizations and advisory committees. So basically, chairs plus one vice chair from each constituency meet in a round table discussion with ICANN chairperson of the Board and the CEO and the vice chair of the Board.

And we had recent discussions on community priority topics for the coming years. We went across the table and heard from all supporting organizations and advisory committees. And basically, I reported on our priority topics guided by the schedule we have at this meeting. Also, the Interim CEO shared their priorities and other ICANN org priorities and the Board community interactions at future ICANN public meetings were also addressed.

One important takeaway that I would like to share with you here and I have to note I attended this with Nico as the incoming GAC chair, and PÄR also as a GAC vice chair was there. And please feel free to comment if you wish. So one takeaway from the meeting that I would like to share with you is the initial agreement that working towards a date for the new round of gTLDs is something important and would encourage constructive dialogue, effective collaboration and continuous progress on pending issues.

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And hence, it was agreed to try to announce a launch date and try to work towards achieving it, of course, noting other relevant ongoing activities such as the EPDP on IDNs, the dialogue on closed generics, the GNSO guidance process on applicant support. So noting that there is dependencies, of course, and that we need to achieve on these topics, still there was a common agreement that nailing down a date and trying to achieve it would be a good thing.

So I thought to bring this to your attention. Also, before our discussions on SubPro and our meeting during the bilateral with other parts of the community as well as with the ICANN Board. Yes, Kavouss, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Thank you, Manal. I just want to draw our own attention that in our previous GAC advice, we have mentioned that before starting the new round, some issues should be resolved. This is important that we have a GAC consensus advice and we have to retain that position. So no date should be fixed before there is the clearance on this matter. So I hope that we need to raise it at appropriate time. Apart from some other difficulties that this morning was mentioned. There are a lot of things, which is not clear. We don't want to address that now. But I think that we emphasized that our GAC advice at the start of the new round is conditioned on the resolution of certain issue that has been raised by us and we have to reiterate that. Thank you.



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MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Kavouss. And indeed, I tried to make this clear during the session. And frankly, ALAC colleagues also, they were on the same page on this. So we made it clear that there are other important issues that needs to be completed. And although a date is something good and would drive progress, but it should not override the importance of things that needs to be completed. And we agreed that date is not casting stone, but again, it's a good think, a good incentive and good motivation for the community to collaborate on some controversial issues and try to reach an agreement because otherwise without setting a date, discussions may take longer than what may have been hoped for. So yes, please, Nico, go ahead.

NICO CABALLERO:

I wouldn't say that we talked about a specific date or an exact date, but more to a timeframe, the idea being not to delay the whole thing for another 5 or 7 or 15 years. But again, just to reassure Kavouss that we're not talking about a specific date, but more referring to a time frame. Thank you, madam chair.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much, Nico. And Yes. And we will be discussing the topic, of course, throughout the week. And there will be plenty of time to converge on this side. I just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention to be ready to discuss during the week.

Anything else on this slide before we move on? Okay, if not. I see we lost the slides. But anyway, the following slide was on the community, I'm sorry, the Board-GAC Interaction Group, the BGIG. And this group

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includes subset of Board members and interested GAC members. And we meet regularly or intercessionally between the in-person meetings.

And the group proved to be an effective venue for discussions to ensure effective Board and GAC collaboration and communication. During this intercessional call, we normally discuss issues of importance to the GAC, if there is no GAC advice. Because if there is GAC advice to the Board, there is a formal process for this. And we have a GAC Board clarification call to make sure that we have same interpretation of the GAC advice.

If the communiqué includes only issues of importance to the GAC, the Board still treats this with due consideration. They read it thoroughly and they come back to discuss during the BGIG calls. This time, unfortunately, we were not able to hold the call. We couldn't find a date that was suitable for everyone. But the Board is still caring about this and they are going to share with us. I think we will be receiving shortly the scorecard that we normally discuss on the call. So the call was not held, but the scorecard will be circulated with our colleagues very soon. And as always, the BGIG membership is open to any interested GAC representative. So if you're interested, please contact our support staff at [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org).

And seeing no requests for the floor. Maybe we can go to the following slide. Again, it's a continuation of the development since ICANN75. And this is just to note that in terms of correspondence, we have received eight incoming letters and sent one outgoing letter. And we have participated in seven public comment contributions. So thank you everyone for the active participations during the intercessional period.

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It's also worth noting that during 2023, we have been welcoming 20 new GAC participants so far. And since ICANN75, we had 30 new GAC colleagues joining the GAC. So a very warm welcome to all new GAC colleagues.

And finally, just to note that an annual plan is now in place for capacity development workshops. And this is to accommodate and make sure we continuously bring new GAC colleagues up to speed before we get into substantial discussions during the course of the week. One final remark, just to make sure you all know that incoming and outgoing correspondence documents are posted and tracked on a special webpage of the GAC website. So if you are interested in further details, please make sure to go to the [gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence](https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence). With that, I'm looking to see if there are any requests for the floor or if I have overlooked anything I should have covered. And we still have 21 minutes. Yes, Nico. Please, go ahead.

NICO CABALLERO:

Thank you, Manal. I just wanted to ask the exact number of GAC representatives we have so far, along with the IGOS. It is my understanding we have 180 so far and 40 IGOS. Is that correct? Just wanted to make sure.

MANAL ISMAIL:

It's about correct. So it's one 181 GAC members and 38 GAC observers. And I stand to be corrected, of course, by support staff. I see thumbs up. So, yeah, 181 GAC numbers and 38 GAC observers. So if nothing else, then happy to give you back 20 minutes. Oh, okay. It's lunch time

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as well. So 75 minutes lunch and 20 minutes [01:10:08 -? cadeaux]. And we'll be meeting after the break. We start our discussions on subsequent rounds of new gTLDs. So please be back in the GAC room or in Zoom at 13:15 Cancún Time, 18:15 UTC. Thank you very much, everyone. The meeting is adjourned.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**