ICANN78 | AGM – GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, October 23, 2023 – 1:15 to 2:30 HAM

GULTEN TEPE: Hello and welcome to the ICANN 78 GAC opening plenary session being held on Monday 23rd of October at 11:15 UTC. My name is Gulten Tepe. I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that the session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair of this session. Interpretation for this session will include six UN languages and Portuguese. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room, and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. To view real-time transcription, click on the close caption button in the Zoom toolbar. To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model, we ask that you sign into Zoom sessions using your full name. With that, I will hand the floor over to GAC Chair, Nicolas Caballero.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Gulten. Good afternoon and good morning and good evening for those online, for those participating online, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished GAC representatives. Welcome to ICANN 78 in Hamburg, Germany. It is an honor and a pleasure to be here with you today as we celebrate ICANN's 25th anniversary and the achievements and challenges of the DNS around the world.

Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city and Europe's largest commercial harbor, a city with a rich and diverse history, culture, and innovation. It's been home to many prestigious historical figures in many different fields. Let me mention just three of them. Frederick I Barbarossa, leader of the Holy Roman Empire in the 12th century. He gave Hamburg the title of free imperial city, and that way the tax-free access to the river Elbe, I hope I'm pronouncing the words well, to the lower river Elbe, enabled the city to become a key trading power in Europe. Klaus Stortebeker, the legendary pirate who defied the authorities and challenged the status quo in the 15th century. He is remembered as a hero and a rebel who fought for freedom and justice on the seas. In more modern times, Angela Merkel, the first female chancellor of Germany and one of the most influential leaders in Europe was born in Hamburg where her parents met and studied. Even though they were obviously not German, the Beatles, the iconic British band that revolutionized music, the Beatles themselves, they started their career in Hamburg, as far as I understand, where they played hundreds of concerts and developed their unique style and skills. These are just some examples of Hamburg's historical significance in my humble opinion.

Today Hamburg continues to be a hub of creativity, diversity and innovation, especially in the digital field. This year marks the 25th anniversary of ICANN, which began back in 1998, constituted by internet industry experts and enthusiasts who shared a common vision and passion for the DNS and digital technology. Since then ICANN has grown and evolved into a global platform that brings together governments, businesses, academia, civil society, registries and registrars to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices on how to harness the potential of the DNS industry for the benefit of all.

ICANN has also witnessed and reflected the tremendous progress that has been made in terms of DNS and digital technology in the past 25 years, as has already been mentioned many times during the opening speeches and the opening plenary and so on and so forth. From the emergence of the internet and social media platforms, the development of artificial intelligence and blockchain, to the advent of cloud and quantum computing and big data, technology has transformed every aspect of our lives and societies, however, it also poses significant challenges that require our collective attention and action. These include issues such as cyber security, data protection, DNS abuse, digital inclusion, digital rights, digital ethics and so on and so forth. These are some of the topics that we will address and discuss during ICANN 78 with the aim of finding solutions that are innovative, inclusive and responsible.

I would like to thank our local hosts and the German government in the person of Mr. Benjamin Bracke, Director General for Digital and Data Policy in the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, and Mr. Rudy Nolde, over there, representative, GAC representative for Germany, for

their generous support and hospitality. I would also like to thank very especially all the speakers, moderators, sponsors, partners, volunteers and staff who have made this conference possible and most importantly I would like to thank all of you distinguished GAC representatives who have joined us today both in person and online for your interest and participation. I hope you will enjoy this conference as much as I do and I look forward to learning from you and with you. I'm confident that together we can make a positive difference for the DNS and for our digital future. And now without further ado I would like to give the floor to Minister Bracke, please join me in welcoming him with a warm applause.

BENJAMIN BRACKE: Thank you very much, thank you very much, dear Nico, dear GAC vice-chairs, distinguished members of the Governmental Advisory Committee, I'm really happy to welcome you all here in the most beautiful city in Germany, Hamburg. As has been mentioned before, this is only the second time an ICANN meeting is held in Germany. During ICANN 02 in Berlin, the GAC met for the second time. Germany has been a founding member of the GAC and was one of only 25 members and observers that were present during the GAC inaugural meeting in March of 1999. And while today 182 governments and 38 observer organizations are part of the GAC, the number was only 33 in total when the GAC met in Berlin in 1999. This shows that the GAC has stood the test of time and that it is indeed the legitimate representation of governmental stakeholders within the ICANN system.

Back in Berlin in 1999, the GAC established its first operating principles. They discussed pressing topics of that time such like the protection of intellectual property in the domain names, but also procedures for the management of country code top-level domains. I might also add, back in 1999, the GAC communique was only two pages long. Remember that. 24 years later, the digital world has changed quite significantly. The application layer of the internet has dominated the digital discourse in the past years. With the rise of social media platforms, blockchain, artificial intelligence, IoT, governments have been challenged with redefining their roles in digital policy without risking fragmentation. Infrastructure also remains a key aspect of our digital policies example when looking at the digital divide within and between countries and regions. It is quite obvious, in confusing terrain and with a view to a constantly changing world, we all need a compass. The internet is global and that is why digital policy must also be global. We need to avoid fragmentation and segmentation.

That is why the German government is developing a strategy for international digital policy under the auspices of my ministry, the German Ministry for Digital and Transport. Our vision in this strategy is to shape a rule-based digital order with partners that promotes democracy, prosperity and resilience to our digital societies. To this end, we define common action guiding principles including working with partners in a value-based manner, actively shaping international standards and norms, and strengthening a secure digital infrastructure.

Another very important principle in this strategy is we advocate a global, open, free and secure internet based on the multi-stakeholder model. This could not be mentioned often enough. This principle too is

deliberately strategic in nature. It is intended to serve as a long-term compass for our international digital policy. But concrete action is naturally derived from those principles. We see the multi-stakeholder approach as essential for global digital networking. Thus, we will continue to advocate for the central role of established institution in technical internet governance.

Impulses from both national and international stakeholders were incorporated at an early stage. We had two stakeholder forums in May 2023. The involvement of stakeholders has greatly helped us to understand and to take into account the priority and expectations of such a strategy. In addition to close coordination within the federal government, we intend to continue this exchange with stakeholders.

As I'm sure many of you are aware, the federal government was also represented at the Internet Governance Forum in Kyoto two weeks ago. There, State Secretary Stefan Schnorr renewed our commitment to the multi-stakeholder model. In the upcoming negotiations on the digital and the global digital compact and the WSIS+20 review, we will work to ensure that the involvement of all stakeholders remains a cornerstone of global digital cooperation.

ICANN has also proven its worth as a multi-stakeholder platform. This not least to the fact that ICANN plays a fundamental role in the technical administration of the internet. ICANN and its community can work day by day—No, not can, they actually do, ICANN and its community work day by day to ensure that our internet remains interoperable, stable and secure. The coordination of the internet's unique identifiers, especially IP addresses and the root zone of the domain name system

is a task that bears tremendous global responsibility. After 25 years, we can say ICANN has proven to be up to the job. And I say that being well aware that the solutions coming out of the ICANN policy development processes are not always satisfactory for everyone, including the GAC. But only the multi-stakeholder model guarantees that ever voice can and will be heard. I encourage everyone here to engage in the GAC to make sure your voice will be heard.

In closing, I wish you success in your work during the next days and as I have done so this morning, I invite you to our welcome reception hosted by our Parliamentary State Secretary Daniela Kluckert today at 5:30. Thank you very much and wishing you successful work.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much Minister Bracke, I heard by the way we'll have the best beer in Germany for that reception if I'm not mistaken. So thank you so much. Before I give you a short review of our weekly agenda, let me also introduce my Vice-Chairs, Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon and Nigel Hickson from the United Kingdom. Wang Lang from China as well. I think the only one missing unless he's sitting around here is Mr. Ola Bergström from Sweden. Is he around? And I don't see him.

So let me just give you a short review of the meeting for today. So first we will review the weekly agenda, then we'll have another review of meeting logistics by ICANN support staff. Then we'll have a Tour de Table for in-person and remote GAC participants. Then we'll have a short briefing on notable GAC activities since ICANN 77 in Washington, D.C. Then we'll touch a little bit upon the GAC communique development for ICANN 78. I'm sure you all received the emails

regarding the communique drafting. And then finally we'll give you the results of the 2023 GAC Vice-Chairs' election. So with that, can you move on to the next page, Gulten, please? Let's review the weekly agenda.

So I'll go basically day by day and then at the end of each day I'll pause for a while in order to see if there are any questions or anything you would like to clarify. So let's begin with Monday, which is today. As you can see, we have this session going up until 2:30. Then we'll have a short break until 3:00 PM. And then we'll have a meeting with the GNSO running for 60 minutes. Then another break at 4:00 until 4:30. Then we'll have the geopolitical updates and that session will also be running for 60 minutes. Right after that we'll have the welcome reception by the German government with the best beer in the country, according to Minister Bracke. So do we have any questions, anything so far?

If not, let me move on to Tuesday, October 24th. This is the only day, and apologies beforehand, this is the only day in which we will start at 8:30 in the morning. So we'll have the discussion on the new gTLD program, the first session basically, out of two. That session will be running for 60 minutes. Then we'll have a short break from 8:30 to 10:00. Right after that, the number you see there is actually the number of the sessions according to the GAC schedule. It doesn't necessarily coincide with the rest of the sessions, just in case. On GAC operational matters, NomCom, planning, working groups, and so on and so forth. That session will be running for 60 minutes. Then we'll have another short break. Right after that, we'll have the GAC and ALAC meeting. That session will also be running for 60 minutes. And then we'll have, unfortunately, a little bit shorter lunch break, until 1:00 PM. Right after that, we'll have the ICANN board and GAC meeting. Again, that session

running for 60 minutes. Short break at 2:30 till 3:00 PM. Right after the break, we'll have another session on the GAC discussing WHOIS data protection policy, including accuracy. That session will run for 60 minutes. The break at 4:00 PM till 4.00. And finally, we get to the first communique drafting session, running for 60 minutes again. So I'll pause here and see if there are any questions. Any comments?

If that is not the case, let's talk about Wednesday, October 25th. We start at 9:00 AM, as you can see there, with GAC discussions on new gTLD program next round. The second session, basically, running for 60 minutes. Then a short break from 10:00 to 10:30. Right after that, we will have the GAC discussion on DNS abuse. That session will be running for 90 minutes, as you can see there. Then a longer lunch break, a 90-minute break for lunch. And right after that, we'll continue with the communique drafting. As you can see there, that session will run for two hours, that is 120 minutes. We'll have a short break at 3:30 PM. And then right after that, at 4:00 PM, we'll have the final, not the final, the final for the day, right, GAC communique drafting session, running for 90 minutes. And then we have the ICANN 25th anniversary reception. I'm not sure about the beer arrangements for that session, but I can find out and let you know later on. Any questions? Any questions so far, up until this point?

Seeing none, let me continue with the sessions on Thursday, October 25th. We'll continue with the GAC communique drafting session, running for 60 minutes. Then at 10:00 AM, a short break. 10:30 AM, running in parallel with the ICANN public forum, we'll have another communique drafting if needed. Hopefully not, but you never know. The devil is in the details, as the old saying goes, so we might need to

fine tune and adjust whatever wording at that point. Then we'll have the lunch break and at 1:15 PM, depending on the situation, we'll have the GAC wrap up or another final round of fine tune for the GAC communique. As you can see there, then we'll have a break. Then there's an approval action community forum running for 30 minutes. This basically has to do with the ECA, empowered community administration. Then another break at 3:30 and then at 4:00 PM, finally, we have the 25th annual general meeting and including the public meeting of ICANN board, that session running for another 90 minutes and I also have to be there as the GAC liaison with the board. I'll pause here and see if there are any questions. Is everything all right?

Seeing no questions, now we'll have a short review of meeting logistics. For that, let me turn this over to GAC staff. Gulten, the floor is yours. Please go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:2   Thank you, Nico. Hello again, everyone. I'll provide a brief overview of the meeting logistics, as Nico mentioned, and some details about the technical capabilities. Initially, about the calendar invitations, if you recall, I already shared invites for each GAC session last week. You may want to check those invites as you would find the links to GAC website and ICANN meetings page for each respective session. If you are not able to attend the session due to time zone difference or because of other commitments, you may want to listen to recordings or review the slides. I will be sharing a link to the page in the chat for your convenience where we would publish the materials being presented.

Just like previous meetings for ICANN 78, we didn't share any Zoom room link on the calendar invitations, as this was advised by our E&IT team. I will be updating the invites once remote connection details are available. This would be before 24 hours each session.

Regarding the session page on the GAC website, the first note would be to always remember to be logged in, otherwise you will not be able to see the documents, since some of them are visible only to GAC members, and they will be released publicly after these sessions take place. We already published the briefings in English, and their translations will also be available. After the sessions, I will be adding links to recordings and transcripts on the GAC website for each session as well.

Under the introduction part on the ICANN 78 agenda page, you may find other valuable resources and materials. I will be sharing the link in the chat to that page very shortly. During the sessions, please remember to sign into Zoom platform using your full name. There is also a rename option available on the Zoom participants section. You are able to add your affiliation, country, or organization you are representing nearby your name. It is possible to do that by hovering over your name on the attendee list. More options will appear, and you can click on Rename. It will allow you to update your name and enter GAC into parentheses. This will help us to keep accurate attendance. You can also help our interpreters by following simple guidelines. If you intend to speak in a language other than English, please notify the audience. This will be a good heads-up for our interpreters. There will be a brief switch over time when switching between interpretation from a language to the other one. Please remember to state your name every time you take the

floor, and don't speak too close to the microphone or too far away. Remember to mute all other devices, your phone, iPads, and so on. Please turn off your notifications. If you intend to read a statement, please kindly provide it to us in advance. Always remember to speak at a reasonable pace, otherwise our interpreters will have difficulty to catch your remarks. There is an icon on the Zoom toolbar that says Interpretation under More tab. You may click on this icon in order to select the language of your choice from the menu. As I also mentioned during the opening roll call, we have six UN languages and Portuguese available. Please make sure to update your version of Zoom and all of the features are available to you. If you're experiencing an issue, this might be related to an outdated version.

A couple of notes for our in-person attendees who are here in Hamburg, Germany with us. We have reserved GAC delegation seats at the tables with microphones. Other committee members are welcome to join our sessions, but we would much appreciate if they can take the seats on the back of the room, leaving the seats on the tables to GAC committee members. Also seats will be reserved in front rows for some sessions, including the joint meetings with ICANN Board and GNSO, as well as ALAC.

Additionally, I would like to display a couple of visuals on the screen regarding Zoom functions and remind in-person attendees only to use microphones on the tables. If you try to use your laptop to speak, it would create an echo in the room. And a slide that shows how remote participants can join the audio. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer. Please share that in the chat pod or you can always

send us an email by gac-staff@icann.org. That concludes my part, Nico. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Gulten. So now we'll go ahead with the tour de table. Basically what we need to do here is state our names and the institution and the country we represent. Of course, unless you have a statement or something you would like to share with the whole GAC. But for the sake of time, I just beg you to keep it short and sweet. We will begin with the distinguished colleagues who are in the room and then with the online representatives. We will start over here. Please go ahead.

CELLOU DIALLO: Good afternoon, everyone. I represent the Republic of Guinea. I have the pleasure to give the floor to the ICT minister of the Republic of Guinea, [inaudible]. He wishes to take the floor. We thank the GAC's leadership for giving this opportunity to the minister.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very much, dear participants. I would like to thank the German government for providing us this opportunity to speak to this audience and welcome us in this GAC session. The Republic of Guinea has made the digital transformation a cornerstone of its action because it fosters development and gives the population essential public services at a lesser cost and with more effectiveness. I would like to illustrate this. The Republic of Guinea is around 200,000 square kilometers. If a national wants to get a passport, he must drive 1,200

kilometers to go to the capital in order to get a passport, and it's the same for many official documents. We wanted to give the opportunity to our citizens to collect these official documents digitally. This approach is based on a multi-stakeholder approach. We also want to develop the Internet in our countries thanks to this approach, and to this end, we need to collaborate with the government, with civil society, and with the private sector, as well as the Internet community at large. This digital transformation must also be supported by the way we manage the DNS, and repatriating the TLD .NG took more than 20 years for us. We want for this domain name to be a testament to the sovereignty of our country. It was a tall order, but we were able to wrap this up recently thanks to many stakeholders, and we are now able to provide this domain name for many an organization, commercial or public. And I know we're getting help from the U.S., but also from [inaudible] one of our nationals, and they were able to help us to that end. We were able to overcome a number of issues, and these issues were really troublesome for the development of our digital network. So having this domain name is as important as having our flag flying at the United Nations. It's as important as the Guinea phone number. It was important for the development of the digital sector in our country, which is currently benefiting from tailwinds. So we are proud that we have been able to repatriate the .NG, and this happened thanks to the collaboration of a number of actors, including international organizations. We were able to move forward with this. We benefited from technical and administrative support from a South African company. This South African company has been helping us since 2019, and we were able to benefit from the delegation of the ccTLD. In October 2022, we were able to acquire and deploy the infrastructure

necessary to host this technology. We also have a local data center. We have our own company managing the underwater cable network, and we were able to manage the registry locally. We were able to train engineers, and we benefited from the invaluable support of the ECH that is operating in Guinea since July 2023. This collaboration was also possible thanks to the help of [Randy Bush] in Texas, and this is a major milestone in Guinea's history. ICANN, which provided a lot of technical support for these efforts. So this is not a unique experience in Africa. There are many countries that are at pains with having their own domain name, their own ccTLD. And sometimes it is really discouraging. Many people and many companies in a number of countries are discouraged by this, and I believe it is high time that the ICANN thinks about another approach, an approach that helps countries and organizations that are involved in the digital sphere to facilitate this action. It took us 30 years before we had our ccTLD, 30 years before we had our own digital identity, an identity which is instrumental to maintaining Guinea's presence in the digital world. So this is really a milestone for our country. It is a crucial step towards digital sovereignty, towards our online independence, and this will foster further digital development and will ensure the availability of public services for the population. Thank you very much. Thanks for everything you did to help us overcome this challenge. And in the name of digital companies in the Republic of Guinea, in the name of my ministry, of the country's authorities, I want to thank you for this essential contribution. Our vision for a digital Guinea has been made possible with your help, because we were able to create a local ecosystem, managed locally, and this way we were able to do our part in this global digital society.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much. Thanks to the Minister, thanks to the Republic of Guinea.

FAIG FARMANOV: I'm Faiq Farmanov, representative of Azerbaijan.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Hello and good afternoon. My name is Susan Chalmers and I am the GAC representative from the United States and I'm joined here by several of my colleagues.

LAUREEN KAPIN: I'm Laureen Kapin and I am from the United States Federal Trade Commission, focusing on consumer protection issues and also serve as one of the co-chairs of the Public Safety Working Group.

KENNETH MERRILL: Kenneth Merrill in the Office of International Affairs at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the United States.

OWEN FLETCHER: Owen Fletcher also in the Office of International Affairs at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the US.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Good afternoon. My name is [inaudible] and I'm representing the European Commission. Thank you.
MARTINA BARBERO:	Good afternoon. Martina Barbaro, also representing the European Commission alternate.
SUSHIL PAL:	Good afternoon, colleagues. I'm Sushil Pal, GAC representative from India. I'm joint secretary in Ministry of Electronics and IT. Let me congratulate by the government of Germany for providing the support and for a warm reception. And this is my first time in GAC and I look forward for a very fruitful and productive discussion. Thank you.
T. SANTOSH:	Good afternoon, colleagues. I'm T. Santosh from Ministry of Electronics and IT. Thank you.
BRIAN BECKHAM:	Good afternoon. Brian Beckham with the World Intellectual Property Organization.
RUDY NOLDE:	Good afternoon. This is Rudi Nolde, GAC representative for Germany and I work for the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport in Germany.
PHILIPP SCHULTE:	Good afternoon. Philipp Schulte, also from the Digital Ministry.

WOLFGANG HOLZAPFEL: Wolfgang Holzapfel, I'm from the German Security Authorities on behalf of the German Ministry of the Interior, alternate GAC member and member of the PSWG. I'm Anna Neves, Portugal representative in the GAC.

ANA NEVES: I'm Ana Neves, Portugal representative in the GAC.

ALISA HEAVER: Good afternoon. My name is Alisa Heaver. I'm here on behalf of the Dutch Government, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and I'm the Dutch GAC representative.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [inaudible] also from the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, representing the Netherlands.

JORGE CANCIO: Hello everyone. Good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening for those remotely. My name is Jorge Cancio. I represent the Swiss Government in the GAC.

ISABELLE LOIS: Hello everyone. Isabelle Lois and I represent Switzerland as well at the GAC.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Good afternoon, colleagues, and a big thank you to Germany for hosting this ICANN and also a big thank you to all of those that put in a lot of hard work to organize a great opacity development weekend. My name is Roz Kenneybirch and I'm the UK GAC alternate. Thanks.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE: Good afternoon. My name is Andrew Molivurae. I am the alternate GAC rep for the Republic of Vanuatu. I'm glad to be here. Thank you.

RUSSELL WORUBA: Good afternoon. I am Russell Wuruba from the Government of Papua New Guinea in the beautiful Pacific Ocean. We are very, very happy and very grateful for the Government of Germany for hosting us here. Thank you.

PUA HUNTER: Hello everyone. My name is Pua Hunter, GAC representative from Cook Islands. Thank you.

KLAUS PARRER: Good afternoon, dear colleagues. My name is Klaus Parrer. I'm the Austrian GAC representative. I'm the director of the unit dealing with telecommunications law and internet governance in the Ministry of Finance in Vienna. Thank you.

STEFAN VOUK: Stefan Vouk, deputy director from the Department of Telecommunications Law and alternate GAC Austrian member.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:	So we'll continue over there with the gentleman on the left.
AFIQ AMMAR:	Hello. My name is Afiq Ammar. I am one of the delegations for GAC Malaysia. Hi.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Good afternoon. My name is [inaudible] from the GAC Malaysia.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Hello. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is [inaudible] I'm a GAC representative from Nigeria, specifically working with the regulator, the Nigerian Communications Commission. Just for the record, the last presenter mentioned .NG, which is actually associated with Nigeria. I believe he wanted to say GN instead, just for the record. Thank you very much.
MISTURA ARUNA:	Good afternoon. Good evening. My name is Mistura Aruna from Nigeria. Thank you.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Good afternoon, everyone. I'm [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [inaudible] I'm GAC representative of United Arab Emirates. Hello, everyone. I work for the Telecommunication and Digital Government Regulatory Authority.

ASHWIN SASONGKO: Hello, everyone. My name is Ashwin. I'm from the Indonesian National ICT Council as a GAC Indonesia, and today I'm also accompanied by two experts from the Indonesian Ministry of ICT, [inaudible] who's sitting down there. After this, they have to follow the [inaudible] meeting.

PAR BRUMARK: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Par Brumark. I'm the Special Envoy of the Government of Niue and GAC representative for the Government of New Way.

ANA MALDONADO: Hello, everyone. I'm Ana Maldonado. I'm representing Spain in the GAC, and as always, it's a pleasure to be here. So looking forward to a very productive meeting. Thank you.

JANNE HIRVONEN: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Janne Hirvonen representing the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. I'm the Finnish GAC representative. Also would like to extend my gratitude to the German colleagues for hosting the event this year. Looking forward to insightful, informative and constructive discussions in this regard. It's my first ICANN meeting, so I'm open to discuss also bilaterally. Please stay in contact. I do want

to add that I also have high expectations regarding the beverages at the reception. Thank you.

PHILIPPE KOUAME: Hello, everyone. My name is Philippe Kouame, GAC representative from Ivory Coast.

CLAUDINE KARIGER: Hello, I'm Claudine Kariger from the Luxembourg Department in charge of media, connectivity and digital policy in the Ministry of State. I'm the Luxembourg GAC member.

MOHAMED EL MOCTAR MOHAMEDINE: My name is Mohamed El Moctar Mohamedine, and I'm the new GAC representative of Mauritania. And I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the GAC support staff for the tremendous onboarding and support we've received from them, and I look forward to useful and fruitful discussions. Thank you.

MANAL ALMAZYAD: Good afternoon. My name is Manal Almazyad. I'm Public Sector Governance Director in Telecommunication and Information Technology Authority in Kuwait, and I am the representative of my country in GAC.

NASSOUR ALI LOOL: Hello everyone. Dear colleagues, my name is Nassour Ali Lool. I am the GAC representative for Chad, and I am in charge of cooperation and

partnership at the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who is involved currently in this meeting in order to promote the successful mission of ICANN. Thank you.

ZINA BUMBALKOVA: Good afternoon. My name is Zina Bumbalkova, and I am a GAC representative of the Czech Republic.

JASON MERRITT: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Jason Merritt, GAC representative from Canada. It's a pleasure to be here.

IAN SHELDON: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. My name is Ian Sheldon. I'm the Australian GAC representative. Big thank you to the Government of Germany for hosting us in beautiful Hamburg, and I look forward to a productive and collegiate meeting with you all.

TOMBOYE IBRAHIM: Good morning, everyone. I am Tomboye Ibrahim from Chad. I am the director of domain name and IP addresses at the Agency of ICT Development of Chad. Thank you.

DANIEL CARLETTI: My name is Daniel Carletti. I'm representing the Government of Argentina, but at this meeting I'm just representing the entity of American regulators, the forum of American regulators. It's a pleasure

to be here at the GAC after so many years, and thank you very much to the GAC staff for the constant support, and thank you to the German government for hosting this meeting in this beautiful city.

SHELLY-ANN CLARKE-HINDS: Good afternoon, everyone. I am Shelly-Ann ClarkE-Hinds, GAC representative for Trinidad and Tobago and head of external relations at the Ministry of Digital Transformation. I, too, would like to thank Germany for hosting us here in this lovely city and also commend the organizers of the capacity building workshop over the weekend. It was absolutely wonderful, and I'm hoping that we have similar levels of engagement and interaction as we had over the weekend and looking forward to working with colleagues this week. Thank you.

ONUR GENCER: Hello, everyone. I'm Onur Gençer, GAC representative of Turkey. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much. We'll continue on the right. Please make sure to speak a little bit closer to the microphone so that we can hear you. Thank you so much. We'll continue over there.

SILAS NGABIRANO: Yes. Hello, everyone. My name is Silas Ngabirano, GAC alternate member from Uganda.

PREETAM MALOOR:	Hi, everyone. My name is Preetam Maloor. I'm from the ITU, which is an observer, and I'll be the GAC representative. I'm joined by my colleague, Ms. Sadhvi Saran, who's the alternate. She's sitting at the back. Thanks.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Hello, everyone. [inaudible] working with the Uganda Communications Commission from Uganda.
MARCIEN MACKAYA:	Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Marcien Mackaya from Gabon.
OUSMANE LY:	Good morning, everybody. I'm Dr. Ousmane Ly from Mali, and I'm a GAC member.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Good afternoon. My name is [inaudible] I'm an advisor to the Kenyan GAC representative. Thank you.
THIAGO DAL-TOE:	Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Thiago Dal-Toe, and I'm the GAC representative of the Colombian government and an advisor in the ITC Ministry of Telecommunications.
LIZANIA PEREZ:	Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Lizania Perez. I'm representing the Regional Technical Commission of Telecommunications. It's the regional and international telecommunications regulators of

Dominican Republic of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. Thank you very much.

DAVIDE COLUCCINI: Good afternoon, Vice Chair. Hello, everybody. My name is Davide Coluccini, and I represent the Vatican.

LUCIANO ANDRADE: Good afternoon, everybody. Here is Luciano, Brazilian representative in GAC. I would like to thank very much the German government for their hospitality. We'll be very attentive to the quality of the beer this weekend. It's a pleasure to meet our colleagues again.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm [inaudible] from the Ministry of Technology and Innovation in Brazil. I'm a representative of the Internet Managing Committee in Brazil. I'm expecting very good discussions with you all this week.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [inaudible] Armenia, also a point of contact from GAC to the At-Large committee. Thank you.

AVET POGHOSYAN: Good afternoon. I am Avet Poghosyan, GAC representative from Armenia.

BO MARTINSSON:	Good afternoon. My name is Bo Martinsson, the GAC representative of Sweden.
MANAL ISMAIL:	Good morning, good evening, and good afternoon, everyone. My name is Manal Ismail. I'm Egypt GAC representative from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority. And I would like to thank very much the German government for the generous hospitality and the hosting of our meetings. Thank you.
HAZEM HEZZAH:	Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Hazem Hezzah, and I'm representing the League of Arab States at the GAC.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Hello. My name is [inaudible]. I was invited to be an observer to the Public Safety Working Group. I'm from Germany.
SER PHENG QUEH:	Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Ser Pheng Queh. I'm from the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore, GAC rep for Singapore. Happy to be back here attending the meeting physically. I hope to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and look forward to a fruitful discussion this week. Thank you.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Good afternoon, everyone. My name [inaudible] the GAC representative. I'm with the [inaudible] National Internet Center

Ministry of Technology and Communications. I would like to congratulate the government of Germany and ICANN and the organizing committee for the successful hosting of the event. And over the weekend, I had some chance to walk around the city. I think Hamburg is very beautiful, especially in this time of year with the colorful leaves in autumn. And thank you.

JOSE LAY: Good afternoon. My name is Jose Lay. I'm GAC rep of Timor-Leste. Thank you.

PETER MAJOR: Good afternoon. My name is Peter Major. I'm the GAC representative of Hungary. I would like to thank the German government for hosting this meeting.

MARIA CHRISTINA ABALOS: Hello. Good afternoon. I am Maria Christina Abalos. I am the alternate GAC representative from the Philippine Department of Information and Communications Technology. This is my first GAC meeting, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank ICANN for approving my request for funding and giving me the opportunity to participate here physically. I have learned a lot the past two days, and I appreciate the wisdom and expertise shared by the more experienced members in this room. I am looking forward to the discussions this week, and I would like to try to contribute. Thank you.

LAXMI PRASAD:	Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Lakshmi Prasad Yadav, representing GAC from Nepal.
MYO SWE:	Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Myo Swe. I am GAC representative of Myanmar. I am also the [inaudible] in Myanmar. My department has been a ccTLD domain registry since 2018. I hope from this meeting, I can learn and in this way, best practice and experience related with the mini-system and IP address issue. Thank you very much.
NICOLAS CABALLERO:	Thank you. We'll continue on the left with my good friend Tracy Hackshaw.
TRACY HACKSHAW:	Thank you, Nico. Tracy Hackshaw, Universal Postal Union. I'd like to thank the German government for hosting us at this meeting. And I also thank all of you for participating so excellently and well in the capacity development workshop over the weekend. Thank you very much.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Good afternoon, all. My name is [inaudible] from the Nigerian Communications Commission.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:	Bonjour. Hello. [inaudible], National Council of the Telecommunications Council in Haiti, which is a regulatory commission.

CHARLES GAHUNGU: Good morning. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Charles Gahungu. I'm from Rwanda. I'm the GAC representative. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of Germany for hosting us, as well as inviting everyone for the high-level government meeting that is going to take place in Rwanda next year, as well as, as you know, the ICANN 80 will take place also in Kigali. So it is a great opportunity to invite all of you to attend, as well as mobilize your ministers to participate. Thank you.

GUO FENG: Hello, everyone. My name is Guo Feng. I'm with GAC China and also one of the co-chair of GAC printing principle evolution working group. And I want to take this opportunity to also thank Germany and German government for hosting this ICANN meeting, as well as GAC meeting. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is [inaudible] GAC representative, a commissioner member at communication media and commissioner from Iraq. Thank you very much.

LI XIAOLI: Hello, everyone. My name is Li Xiaoli. I'm a GAC representative of China. I work in ICT administration bureau, Ministry of Information and Industry and Information Technology. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is [inaudible] with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization. I'd like to thank the government of Germany for hosting us and the GAC leadership for the wonderful capacity building over the weekend. Looking forward to fruitful engagements during the week. Thank you.

SASHA DIMITRIJOSKI: Good afternoon. My name is Sasha Dimitrijoski, representing Macedonian government.

EMILE BECLE: Good afternoon. Emile Becle. I represent the International Organization of French-speaking countries, which is an observer at the GAC.

MANA AIDARA: My name is Mana Aidara. I'm from Senegal, and I am one of the GAC representatives. I work for the Post and Telecommunications Regulator Authority. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is [inaudible]. Thank you.

WEN-FONG TSEN: Hello, everyone. I'm Wen-FongTsen, and I'm the GAC representative of Chinese Taipei.

KEN-YING TSENG:

Hello, everyone. My name is Ken-Ying Tsen. I'm a GAC representative from Chinese Taipei. I'm also the managing director of Taiwan Internet Governance Forum. If any one of you is interested in Internet Governance Forum and also in Taiwan, I can invite you to our annual event next year. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Hello, everyone. My name [inaudible]. I'm one of the GAC representatives from Nigeria. I work with the Nigerian Communications Commission. I come from Nigeria, the biggest African country. Thank you.

EMMA JACKSON:

Hello, everyone. My name is Emma Jackson. I am the director of the Public Sector Reform Unit in the Ministry of the Public Service, Consumer Affairs, and Sports. I am the GAC representative for the beautiful island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It's my first ICANN meeting, and I enjoyed the capacity building and look forward to more. Thank you.

WENDY PALAS:

Hi, I'm Wendy Palas from the Ministry of Transport, Communication, and Tourism, Suriname. And for those who don't know Suriname, Suriname is in South America. Thank you.

VINCENT ROBERTS:

Hi, everyone. My name is Vincent Roberts, and I am the GAC representative for Grenada. I'm also the chairman of the National

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and the administrative contact for .GD ccTLD.

NOBUHISA NISHIGATA: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Nobu Nishigata from Japan. Also, I think you guys always know that it's Japanese, and Japan is a great, beautiful country, particularly in autumn. And first of all, thank you very much for the German colleague who hosted this meeting. And secondly, this is on behalf of the Japanese government. We would like to thank everybody who came to the IGF 2023 in Kyoto. I would say the event was a great success. And yes, of course, we worked very much, very hard to host the event. But let me emphasize that it is your participation and contribution that made the event great. So we appreciate that. And let me share some information about the event. About 9,200 people participated, including the online. And 6,200 people came to the event on site. 6,200 people on site. It's, so long as I know, it is a record high in the history of the 20 years IGF. To those who came to the venue in Kyoto, then we hope also that you enjoy the stay in Japan. And at the end, I'm not sure if they have the time from the online. So let me introduce my colleagues, [inaudible] and Toshi, who are waiting for the online. Then I pass the microphone to my colleague. Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon. [inaudible] from Japan, GAC advisory. This is my first time to participate in ICANN meeting. So thank you for having me here. And nice to meet you to everyone.

KHALED ALTARHUNI: Thank you. Hello, everyone. My name is Khalid. I am GAC member. And I work for Libyan regulator. Thank you.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong of Chad. I'd like to thank the German government for hosting this event. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Is there anybody else on the back row that didn't have the chance to speak? So if that is not the case, Gulten, let's go on with the online participants for the sake of time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:2 Thank you, Nico. We have Irene Amot from Norway on the queue.

IRENE AMOT: Good afternoon. I hope you can both see me and hear me. Perhaps it takes some time with the video. My name is Irene Amot. And I am the alternate GAC representative from Norway. I hope it's okay that I also give the floor to my other colleague from Norway.

FRODA SORENSEN: Hello. My name is Frode Sorensen, a GAC representative from Norway. Thank you.

WALEED ALORINY:	Hello everyone. This is Waleed Aloriny, Saudi Arabia GAC representative. Happy to participate with you. And my apologies, being not able to attend in person. I'm looking forward for a wonderful discussion ahead of us. Thank you very much.
BENA PANG:	Good afternoon, everyone. This is Bena Pang, advisor to GAC representative for Hong Kong, China. Thank you.
VIACHESLAV EROKHIN:	Good afternoon, colleagues. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin. I'm alternative GAC representative of Russian Federation.
JONAS ROULE:	Good afternoon. Jonas Roule for the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. I apologize for not being there with you in Hamburg. And I'd like to thank the German authorities for organizing this event, but also all the support staff and the interpreters for their kind work.
GLORIA KATUUKU:	Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Gloria Katuuku, GAC representative of Uganda. Thank you.
MAY MULCAHY:	Hello, everyone. My name is Amy Mulcahy. I'm the GAC representative from Ireland. Very sorry not to be there with you in Hamburg, but we'll be following closely throughout the week. Thanks so much.
CHRISTINE ARIDA:	Good afternoon, everyone. This is Christine Arida, GAC representative for Egypt. And so sorry not to be able to be with you. Thanking the

German government for hosting this meeting and wishing all the best for the week. Thank you.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Good afternoon. My name is Suada Hadzovic. I'm GAC representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Communications Regulatory Agency. Best regards from Sarajevo, and thank you.

RAPID SUN: Good evening. My name is Rapid Sun from Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia. Alternate representative. Today I'm joined with my colleague, Mr. [inaudible], also from the MPTC. Thank you.

MELINA STROUNGI: Hi, everyone. This is Melina Stroungi from the European Commission. I'm a GAC representative in the WHOIS working stream.

MZIA GOGILASHVILI: Hello, everybody. My name is Mezia Gogilashvili, and I'm alternate representative of Georgia.

SASA KOVACEVIC: Hello, everyone. My name is Sasa Kovacevic. I'm a GAC member from Serbia. I work for the Office for IT and E-Government as head of international cooperation for strategic planning and migrations from Belgium. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is [inaudible] from the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy from Nigeria. Happy to join the proceedings. Thank you.

ZAKIR SYED: Thank you. This is Zakir Syed from Ministry of IT and Telecommunications Pakistan. I'm the GAC alternate for Pakistan. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:2 Thank you very much. And that was all from our remote participants.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Gulten. Thank you, everyone. And now, again, for the sake of time, let me give the floor directly to Rob Hoggarth for some important updates and housekeeping details. Rob, please go ahead.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, that we weren't able to review the accomplishments since ICANN 77. And many of you who are familiar with the communique process, you can re-familiarize yourselves with what's on the slides. And we're happy to chat with others about that process.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Just one second. Before I forget, let me give the floor to the UK, to Lebanon. They didn't have the chance to introduce themselves. I'm very sorry about that. Nigel, the floor is yours.

NIGEL HICKSON.   Oh, yes. Thank you very much. Nigel Hickson, assigned from the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology in the UK. Delightful to be here. Wonderful place. And also looking forward to the dark beer rather than the light beer.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Zeine Bou Harb from OGERO Telecom, the incumbent public operator in Lebanon. And I represent the Lebanese government as alternate GAC member. And if I may, please, I would like to welcome the new GAC members and ask them, please do not hesitate to approach any of the other GACs if you have any question or any issues that you would like to inquire about. Please.

WANG LANG: Good afternoon, good evening. I'm Wang Lang from China. Glad to meet you here in person. Hope you have a fruitful conference these days. Let me thank Germany for hosting this fantastic event. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much. My apologies again. Rob, back to you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I like your theatrics in terms of postponing the election announcement until the very end of the session. Thank you. So as I was noting before, the communique is the critical element of your work product for the course of the week. Nico has shared opportunities to provide language for the communique and topics already. So we hope that many of you will take advantage of that opportunity. You've got about eight hours of

conversation scheduled later in the week and hope that those will be fruitful for you. Now, just turning to the vice chair's election, it's an election that takes place on an annual basis for the vice chairs who serve one-year terms. Nico serves a two-year term, so he was not subject to any election period. He actually, in that capacity, then acted as our observer for the election process. So thanks very much, Nico, for that oversight this time around.

We had a great slate of candidates for this year's election. In past years, there was not as much interest in volunteering and serving. I think it's a reflection of all of you and your interest and recognition of the value of the committee and the work that you do that many more of you are expressing an interest in serving. And I think the present vice chairs, as well as Nico, can note that that truly is a service that you all offer when you appreciate the amount of work that the leadership, the chair and vice chairs devote to the work that you all do. And it's very much appreciated, certainly by the staff and I know by the members of the committee.

So we had eight candidates for this year's election, from which only five could be selected. We had 119 ballots, and the purpose of this presentation is to confirm for you that there was the appropriate more than one-third quorum. In fact, we had close to two-thirds of you voting in this election. So thank you not only to those who stepped forward to offer your services to the committee, but to those of you who took the time, made the effort and made some difficult choices in your votes. So thanks very much for that. So I won't delay things any further. We're at the end of the session. So I'm pleased to announce that our present vice chairs, Nigel, Zeina and Wang Lang, were re-elected to their seats. And

you can go to the next slide, Gulten. And they'll be joined in the new year by Christine Arida from Egypt, as well as Thiago Dal-Toe from Colombia.

Now, Nico, just to clarify for everybody, it's a rather unusual process for the committee in that the election results are announced today, but the individuals don't begin their formal terms until the end of the next meeting. So next March, they'll serve for three additional meetings. However, the tradition of the chair, vice chair group is to invite those individuals to participate in activities, meetings and calls starting after this meeting. So we'll welcome those additional individuals to join the leadership group. That's really all I have to share today. Nico, thanks very much. I'll turn it back to you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much, Rob. So again, congratulations to the newly elected vice chairs. They will be invited to attend upcoming leadership calls after the Hamburg meeting, certainly for the Puerto Rico, for the San Juan session. So thank you again to all the candidates. We really appreciate your stepping forward for the position. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you so much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]