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ICANN79 | CF – GAC Opening Plenary  
Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 09:00 to 10:00 SJU

GULTEN TEPE:

Welcome to the ICANN79 GAC Opening Plenary Session being held on Saturday, 2nd of March at 1300 UTC. Recognizing that these are public sessions and other members of the ICANN community may be 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 bot. This is to keep accurate attendance records.

To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multi-stakeholder 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 a question or comment as indicated in the chat. The feature is located at the bottom of your Zoom window. Interpretation for GAC sessions include all six UN languages and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen 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. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking. Finally, this session,

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like all other ICANN activities is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. In case of disruption during the session, our technical support team will mute all participants. This session is being recorded and all materials will be made available on the ICANN79 meetings page. With that, I would like to leave the floor to GAC Chair, Nicolas Caballero. Over to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much, Gulten. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the ICANN79 Community Forum in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This is the third time that this beautiful island hosts an ICANN public meeting. And we are delighted to be here again. Puerto Rico has a rich and diverse history, culture, and heritage that we can all appreciate and learn from. As we gather here today, I would like to pay tribute to some historical figures of this country, as I usually do every time we go to a different country, since the beginning of my tenure, at least.

So, in 1581, Juan Ponce de Leon II, the grandson of the conquistador Juan Ponce de Leon, studied an eclipse and its effects on the island and was able to establish the exact geographical coordinates of San Juan with his observations. Later on, during the 19th century, the economies of many countries in the world suffered from the spread of crop failures. Puerto Rico, whose economy depended heavily on its agriculture, felt the effects of some of the crop diseases.

So, scientists such as Agustin Stahl, Fermin Tanguiz, and Fernando López-Tuero conducted investigations and experiments in the fields of agriculture, botany, ethnology, and zoology, helping Puerto Rico's

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agricultural industry to recover. We are honored to be in their homeland, and we thank the local hosts, the US government, and the ICANN community for making this event possible. Ladies and gentlemen, this year marks also the 25th anniversary of the GAC, the Governmental Advisory Committee, one of the key components of the ICANN multi-stakeholder model. The GAC serves, as everybody knows, as the voice of governments and international governmental organizations in ICANN, providing advice on issues of public policy, especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements.

Over the past 25 years, the GAC has grown in size, diversity, and influence, reflecting the increasing importance and complexity of the issues related to the domain name system and the internet governance. The GAC now has 182 member governments and 39 observer organizations, representing all regions and perspectives of the world. The GAC has also produced 77 communiqués as of today, numerous public comments, and many pieces of direct correspondence, providing valuable information and advice to the ICANN board and community. The GAC's achievements are remarkable, but they are also accompanied by many challenges.

The DNS industry and the internet ecosystem are constantly evolving, driven by the rapid pace of technological innovation and the changing needs and expectations of the users. Some of the current challenges, just to name a few, include the encryption of DNS messages, the centralization of the DNS infrastructure, the security and stability of the DNS, the protection of human rights and public interests, and the coordination and cooperation with other stakeholders. These

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challenges require us to work together, to share our knowledge and experience, to respect our diversity and commonality, and to seek solutions that are inclusive, transparent, and accountable. This is the essence of the ICANN multi-stakeholder model, and this is the spirit of the GAC.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude by extending again a very warm welcome to all of you, whether you're participating in person or online. I hope we will have a productive and enjoyable meeting and look forward to engaging with you in the coming days. Thank you for your attention, and now it is my privilege and pleasure to give the floor to Mrs. Susan Chalmers, my distinguished colleague from the USA, who will deliver some opening remarks on behalf of the host country, the USA. Susan, the floor is yours.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the United States government, it is my pleasure to welcome colleagues from around the world to San Juan, Puerto Rico. This is the third ICANN meeting to be held in Puerto Rico, and it is easy to see why we keep coming back. In Puerto Rico, the coffee is as strong as the mofongo is delicious. At the outset of this meeting, I was thinking to reflect on a positive trend that I have noticed over the past few meetings.

GAC participation is increasing. Over the past year or so, we have seen deeper engagement by a diversity of countries in GAC meetings, a more polyphonic contribution to GAC views and positions. New GAC representatives are increasingly finding their voices at the mic and contributing fresh perspectives. Governments coming to participate in

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the GAC at ICANN to address topics, they are coming to address topics that matter to their citizens back home and making their participation more meaningful by driving discussion forward within the GAC on different topics. We've addressed issues like cybercrime, like mobile phishing schemes and malware. We address this through our DNS Abuse work. Different governments raised awareness about ccTLD issues that matter to them in Hamburg. Some view the state of the IPV4 market and deployment of IPV6 as a priority.

These are topics that we as governments can address at ICANN because ICANN plays a direct role in these topics. And GAC leadership's work on strategic planning is very exciting because it will direct our work with more focus and collaboration. So, I find this to be all very energizing, but to be more effective in our work, the GAC could engage in a deeper and more meaningful way with the different constituencies within ICANN. So, during today's capacity development workshop, we will focus on ccTLDs and regional internet registries. We will engage directly and informally with representatives from these constituencies, as well as with ICANN staff on the role that it plays in ccTLDs and in the global allocation of the internet's numbers.

We also have formal bilateral meetings this week with these constituencies for the first time and in a very long while. This is an opportunity to connect with the people who actually work to deploy and maintain the internet's global resources in their day to day. So, I hope that you stay with us in the GAC room today for the capacity development workshop. Just as we did in Washington, DC, we will organize language breakout sessions this afternoon. Yes, we want to multilingualize the DNS through IDNs and universal acceptance, but we

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also want to multilingualize the GAC itself. And today gives us the opportunity to spark ideas and conversation, to create new relationships and to build upon existing ones and to foster the energy that will carry us through the week ahead. So, in closing, bienvenidos Puerto Rico and let's have a great meeting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so much for that, US, Susan. And I can see your Spanish is improving a lot. So, thank you for that. Again, welcome everyone. I didn't forget to introduce my distinguished vice chairs, Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon and Mr. Nigel Hickson from the UK. I assume Francis Olivier Cubahiro from Burundi is around. Mr. Ola Bergström from Sweden should be around as well. No? Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, and I see Christine Arida and Tiago Dal Toe from Colombia. Christine Arida from Egypt. Of course, Manal Ismail, our beloved former GAC chair. And I'm not forgetting anybody, right? And Wang Lang from China.

I'm sorry, I haven't seen Wang Lang yet. Ah, he's online. All right, he's online. So, thank you so much. So, let's have a quick review of the agenda for this session. Sorry about this. So, we're going to have some highlights that I will give you myself a little bit later. Then we'll have a review of the meeting logistics by ICANN GAC support staff. Madam Gulten, or I assume it would be Julia, we'll see. Then we'll have the tour de table for in-person and remote GAC participants. And then I'll give you some news right at the end.

Can we move on to the next slide, please? So, I'm not going to go into details here. We have already seen and reviewed and discussed, as a matter of fact, this blog schedule. You have all the information there.

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One notable thing to mention here is our reception, which will be happening tomorrow in this room. We're going to be celebrating, as I said before, and as Susan also pointed out, our 25th anniversary. We'll be here for some toasts and some, exactly, and a small celebration.

Do we have any questions so far? Everything all right with the blog schedule? We had enough time to discuss this, but just in case, it's always good to ask. If not, please, let's move on to the next slide, please. So, these are the agenda highlights I wanted to mention. The ICANN79 Community Forum theme, which as you already know, again, I wouldn't like to repeat everything, but we'll be having meetings with the board, with the ALAC, with the ASO, ccNSO, and so on and so forth.

The NomCom as well, and the contracted parties, which, if I recall correctly, didn't have the chance to do in the last two or three ICANN meetings. Then we'll discuss some priority policy topics like DNS Abuse, as Susan also mentioned before, registration data and new gTLD next round issues, and so on and so forth. Also, as Susan pointed out, we'll have the capacity development workshop, which is now under core meeting week umbrella, so to say, and we have those sessions today. And as a matter of fact, I will be here at least at the beginning.

And I apologize beforehand for not being able to stay for the whole three or four sessions that we will have today, given the fact that I have to be with the board in all the meetings, but I'll join at the very end of the day, which is the session for the HLG agenda preparation session for the HLG in Rwanda, in Kigali, right at the end of the sessions today. Another highlight I would like to point out now is the strategic planning session that is scheduled, I think it's at the end of the day tomorrow.

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Yeah, at the end of the day tomorrow, right before the 25th anniversary celebration. Another interesting, and this is something where we're trying out this time, let's see how it goes.

If it goes well, we'll keep it, otherwise we'll see, which is the open microphone listening session. This is as you can see, an experimental endeavor. Let's see how it goes. Hopefully everything will be all right, but it would be an interesting exercise to be able to listen not only from the different constituencies, but the public in general. Even though we run the risk of discussing many, many different topics that might not have everything to do with the DNS. We don't know, but maybe that's an advantage, maybe not. We'll see, but in any case, we're trying it out. And then we'll dive into the communiqué development.

There's some flexibility on the, initial session overviews as, as we are fitting in the ICANN, fitting in the ICANN compliance team on Monday. And as I mentioned, like twice already, the acknowledgement of the GAC 25 years in ICANN, which we'll be celebrating on Sunday. We have a couple of surprises there. You'll see on Sunday, apart from the toasts and drinks, we'll have a surprise for you. So, with that, can you move on to the next slide, please, Gülten? I will give the floor to Gülten, as a matter of fact. Over to you, Gülten.

GULTEN TEPE:

Thank you, Nico. Hello again, everyone. This is Gülten for the record. 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. During the roll calls before each session, we mentioned that in-person



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participants also raise hands via Zoom room, not only physically. That would help Nico to manage the queue. So, either if you're here in San Juan or joining us remotely, please remember to raise your hand in the Zoom room. Just a note for our remote participants, it would make our sessions more engaging and interactive if you turn on your video on Zoom. About the calendar invites, I'll keep sending updated invitations via GAC mailing list.

So, you will have the remote connection details throughout the week. And you may find more details on GAC logistics document regarding the resources available to help you prepare for and participate in GAC sessions. I'll share the link in the chat and a note for in-person attendees. Seats with a table microphone in the middle across the head table are for GAC delegation members only. Of course, other community members are always welcome to join GAC sessions, but it would be much appreciated if they can take the seats on the both sides in the corner of the room. Seats will be reserved for our guests in the front rows for some sessions, including the joint meetings with ICANN board, GNSO and ALAC. And ICANN org implements a very comprehensive plan to ensure a safe and productive meeting.

So, masks wearing while indoors is by choice and enhanced venue cleaning is still being found very crucial. So, there are relatively long breaks between the sessions. More details on health and safety measures are outlined on ICANN meetings website. I will also add a link in the chat to that page. And that's end of my notes. Back to you, Nico.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Gulten. Do we have any questions at this point from the floor? And for the benefit of our distinguished translators, please wave or do something if I'm running, I tend to speak a little bit fast. Please let me know. Are we okay so far? Can you wave your hands or something? Thumbs up. So, far so good. Okay, thank you. Thank you again. And my apologies beforehand because I know I sometimes tend to run a little bit. So, can we move on to the next slide, please, Gulten? And now we will have the traditional tour de table. You can say anything you want.

This is basically to introduce yourselves. And by the way, for the ones participating online, I would ask you to please turn your cameras on so that we can associate faces with names because otherwise we run the risk of running into each other in the corridor or something and having no idea who the other person is, which might seem a little bit, I would say not so polite. So, thank you in advance for that. So, let's begin over here on the left with my distinguished colleague from Rwanda, Mr. Charles. Please go ahead.

CHARLES GAHUNGU: Good morning, everyone. Good afternoon for some people online, depending to the question. My name is Charles Gahungu. I'm the GAC representative of the Republic of Rwanda. And as you know, we'll be the next host for ICANN80 as well as the HLG. You are welcome.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Rwanda.

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ASHWIN SASONGKO: Thank you. My name is Ashwin Sasongko Sastrosubroto, one of the GAC members from Indonesia. Thank you.

FINN PETERSEN: Good morning. My name is Finn Petersen and I come from the Danish government.

RUDY NOLDE: Hello, everyone. My name is Rudy Nolde and I'm the GAC representative for Germany.

ANA MALDONADO: Good morning, everyone. My name is Ana Maldonado and I'm very glad to come here again to represent the Spain in this meeting. So, looking forward to have another very productive meeting. Thank you.

ANA NEVES: Good morning. I'm Ana Neves from Portugal. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Owen, please go ahead.

OWEN FLETCHER: I'm sorry. I'm Owen Fletcher from the United States alternate GAC representative. Thanks.

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STACEY CHENEY: Stacey Cheney, part of the US delegation.

KENNETH MERRILL: Kenneth, excuse me, Kenneth Merrill, also part of the US delegation.

PEARL RISBERG: And Pearl Risberg, also part of the US delegation.

T. SANTOSH: Good morning, members, the GAC. I am T. Santosh, alternate GAC representative from India and also good afternoon and good evening to the people who have joined online. Thank you.

MARCO HOGEWONING: Good morning, colleagues. Marco Hogewoning, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy representing Netherlands here on GAC.

JORGE CANCIO: Good morning, Jorge Cancio, representative of the GAC of Switzerland.

LUCAS PRÊTRE: Good morning, everyone. My name's Lucas Prêtre. I'm working at the Swiss Federal Office of Communications with Jorge Cancio. And it's my

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first in-person meeting and I'm looking forward to meeting you. Thank you.

MARTINA BARBERO: Sorry. Good morning, Martina Barbero, European Commission. Happy to be here.

HAZEM HEZZAH: Good morning. Hazem Hezzah, representing the League of Arab States. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Good day, everyone. Manal Ismail, Egypt GAC representative.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Hello, everyone. Christina Arida, alternate GAC representative for Egypt, also incoming GAC chair, the vice chair. Sorry, Nico.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Good morning. Karel Douglas, one of the GAC representatives for Trinidad and Tobago.

LEONARD OBONYO: Good morning. Leonard Obonyo from the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization. Looking forward to fruitful discussions. Thank you.

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TRACY HACKSHAW: Good day, everyone. Tracy Hackshaw, Universal Postal Union. And thank you to the wonderful hosts, Puerto Rico and dot PR.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Tracy. We'll continue right behind you with a gentleman over there on the left. Please go ahead.

HAMIDOU TOGO: Okay. Good day, everyone. I am Hamidou Togo, GAC representative from Mali. Hello, everyone.

SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ: I'm Saša Kovačević, coming from Serbia, from Office for IT and the Government. It's nice to be here.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Good morning. My name is Suada Hadzovic. I'm GAC representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. I'm Nigel Cassimire from the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, one of the GAC's observing organizations. Thank you.

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**THIAGO DAL-TOE:** Good morning, everyone. I'll take the floor in Spanish. Good morning, everyone. I'm Thiago Dal-Toe, advisor to the Ministry of Technology, Information and Communications of the Government of Colombia, here representing the Government of Colombia and also one of the vice-chairs that we'll be starting and ending the ICANN79 meeting. Thank you very much.

**DR. SHAMSUZZOHA:** Hello. Good morning. This is Dr Shamsuzzoha from Bangladesh. I'm one of the GAC representatives from Bangladesh. And this is my very first physical meeting. I think it's an excellent place to be physically present. And I've been participating online for the last couple of meetings. And just as a short note, it's becoming increasingly important from Bangladesh, especially we started the ICANN engagement with the IDN, ccTLD allocation. That was the first time that we feel the importance and gradually we're becoming more and more engaged with ICANN activities. So, I'm really looking forward to more engagement with my peers and participating in the ICANN meetings. Thank you.

**GLORIA KATUUKU:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Katuuku Gloria, GAC representative from Uganda. I join my colleague from Rwanda. We are looking forward to having you in East Africa. Thank you.

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LIZANIA PÉREZ: Good morning, everyone. Good morning to you all. I'm Lizania Pérez. I'm the executive secretary of the Technical Regional Commission on Telecommunications, including countries in Central America, Mexico, GAC. Thank you so much.

SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Sasho Dimitrijoski, representing Macedonian government.

MONIKA SURMA: Good morning, Monika Surma with the Canadian delegation. This is my first ICANN meeting. So, I look forward to the sessions and meeting many of you. Thanks.

RIDA TAHIR: Good morning, everyone. Bonjour tout le monde. My name is Rida Tahir and I'm the GAC alternate representative for Canada.

ADERONKE ADENIYI: Good morning. Hello, everyone from all over the world. My name is Aderonke Adeniyi. I'm one of the GAC's alternate representative from the largest, biggest black nation in Africa, Nigeria. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much. We'll continue over there, right behind. Yes, please go ahead. On the right.



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**MINA OKIHARA:** Good morning. My name is Mina Okihara and I'm from Japan. I am one of the GAC members. I'm working at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Thank you.

**SANAE KATAYANAGI:** Hi, I'm Sanae, alternate representative of Japan. This is my first in-person ICANN meeting. So, I'm so excited. Thank you.

**IGNACIO VELÁZQUEZ:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Ignacio Velázquez and I'm the GAC representative from Paraguay.

**NASSOUR ALI LOOL:** Hello everybody. I'm Mr. Nassour Ali Lool. I am the Director of Cooperation at the Department of Telecommunications level and the Chief Representative of GAC at ICANN. Thank you.

**ABDELSALAM SALEH:** Hello. I am Abdelsalam Saleh, a member of the Chadian delegation.

**TOMBOYE IBRAHIM:** Good morning, everyone. I'm Tomboy Ibrahim from Chad. Thank you.

**DJIKOLMBAIBET KENNEDY:** I'm Djikolmbaibet Kennedy, representative of GAC-Chad.

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**KAMMIRI SOUROUMPO:** Hello everybody. I'm Kammiri Souroumpo. I am the representative of Niger to the GAC.

**BRIAN BECKHAM:** Good morning colleagues. Brian Beckham from WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization.

**DALE BUTTFIELD:** Good morning, I'm Dale Buttfeld, part of the Australian Delegation, and this is my first in-person meeting.

**IAN SHELDON:** Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. My name is Ian Sheldon, the GAC representative from Australia. I'm looking forward to a fantastic and collegiate meeting with you all, and thank you again to our hosts for this wonderful location.

**ALFONSO BEZZAR:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Alfonso Bezzar, a member of the Brazilian Delegation.

**LUCIANO MAZZA DE ANDRADE:** Good morning, everyone. Good morning, everyone. Luciano Mazza de Andrade, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, part of the Brazilian Delegation. Thank you.

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RENATA MIELLI: Good morning, everyone. My name is Renata Mielli. I'm part of the Brazilian Delegation.

MOZART TENORIO: Good morning, everybody. My name is Mozart Tenorio. I'm also Brazilian, part of the Brazilian Delegation. I work for the Telecoms Regulation, and I'm part of the Brazilian Steering Committee of Internet as well. Good morning.

ABDELMONEM GALILA: Yes, this is Abdelmonem Galila. At the moment, I am wearing the hat of GAC Alternative of Egypt.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Hello, everyone. My name is Marina Flego Eiras. I am Secretary of Embassy at the Directorate of Human Security, Innovation and International Technological Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina. I have recently taken over the role of GAC Alternative representative for Argentina. So, this is my first ICANN meeting. And of course, it's an honor and a pleasure to be here today with you. Thank you very much.

OPHELIA BLANCHARD: Greetings, everyone. My name is Ophelia Blanchard. I'm part of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Delegation, and I'm happy to be here. Thank you.

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CHERYLEANN PEMBERTON: Good morning, everyone. I am Cheryleann Pemberton, GAC representative for Saint Kitts and Nevis. This is my second meeting, and we're happy to be here.

CONSTANZE BÜRGER: Hello, everyone. My name is Constanze Bürger. I'm a part of the German Delegation, and I'm a member of the ASO.

SANDER STEFFANN: Good morning. Sander Steffann, ASO AC member, and here to meet the GAC.

LOUIS WANG: Good morning, everyone. I'm Louis Wang from Chinese Taipei. Thank you.

CHENG-NAN CHIANG: Good morning, everyone. My name is Cheng-Nan Chiang from Chinese Taipei. Thank you.

WEN-FONG TSEN: Good morning, everyone. And I'm Wen-Fong Tsen, the GAC representative from Chinese Taipei. Thank you.

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**KEN-YING TSENG:** Hello, everyone. My name is Ken-Ying. I'm also from Chinese Taipei GAC members. I'm also with Taiwan Network Information Center. Thank you.

**PHILIPPE KOUAMÉ:** Good morning. My name is Philip Kwame. I'm the GAC representative from Ivory Coast.

**NICOLAS CABALLERO:** Is there anybody else in the room who didn't introduce himself or herself? Any other GAC representatives? If not, Gulten, please go ahead with the... Sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. I already introduced Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon, and my good friend, Nigel Hickson from the United Kingdom. But more than welcome to introduce yourselves. Please go ahead.

**NIGEL HICKSON:** Yes, good morning. I'm Nigel Hickson from the UK. I'll be joined later by Rosalind Kenny-Birch, who's on her way. Absolutely delighted to be back in Puerto Rico again. And it's really great to see so many old but new faces as well. And it's great that so many people were able to make it here. Thanks to our hosts. And thank you to Susan for welcoming us.

**ZEINA BOU HARB:** Zeina Bou Harb, Alternate GAC representative from Lebanon, and also GAC vice chair.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you again. So, with that, let's go on, Gulten, with the online GAC representatives. Please go ahead.

GULTEN TEPE: Thank you, Nico. We have a queue lining up, starting with China, Norway. Go ahead, Langman.

WANG LANG: Thank you, Gulten. Thank you, Nico. Hello, everyone. This is Wang Lang from China. First, I would thank the US government and NIC.PR hosting this great meeting. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend this meeting on site this time. I wish this meeting a complete success and fruitful outcomes under the leadership of Nico and other vice chairs. The support of fabulous five and topic leads. May everyone a pleasant, fulfilling, and joyful six-day conference period. Thank you very much.

FRODE SØRENSEN: Hello, everyone. I am Frode Sørensen, GAC representative from Norway. Looking forward to follow ICANN79 online. Thank you.

GULTEN TEPE: Thank you, Frode. We have Bena from Hong Kong next on the queue.

BENA DZIT-WAI PANG: Good day, everyone. This is Bena Pang, advisor to the GAC, representative of Hong Kong, China. Thank you.

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GULTEN TEPE: Waleed, you're next on the queue.

WALEED ALORINY: Hello, everyone. This is Waleed Aloriny, GAC representative of Saudi Arabia. Looking forward for fruitful discussion with you, guys. Thank you very much.

GULTEN TEPE: Slava, you're next in the queue.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN: Good morning, colleagues. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin. I'm an alternative GAC representative from the Russian Federation.

GULTEN TEPE: And we have Mohamed from GAC Malaysia next.

MOHAMAD AFIQ AMMAR: Hello. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. My name is Afiq Ammar, speaking on behalf of GAC Malaysia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the host country for having and organizing this ICANN79 meeting. It is unfortunate that we could not participate in person this time due to other commitments. But regardless, it is fantastic to continue joining the discussion with all of

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you and forward to a productive discussion throughout the week and learning from all of your diverse perspectives. Thank you.

GULTEN TEPE: And we have Amparo from Dominican Republic on the line.

AMPARO ARANGO: I'm Amparo Arango. I represent the Dominican Republic, the GAC. Unfortunately, I was not able to join you in person, but I wish you, success. Enjoy coffee and mofongo, and I will be following the discussions throughout the week. Thank you.

GULTEN TEPE: And next in the queue is Mistura Aruna from Nigeria.

MISTURA ARUNA: Good morning, everyone. This is Mistura from Nigeria, part of GAC delegation. You will all see me soon. Thank you.

GULTEN TEPE: And that concludes our remote participants. Thank you all.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Gulden. Thank you, everyone. Did everybody have the chance to introduce himself or herself? Hello. I'm sorry. Go ahead, please, Iran. Go ahead.



KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Yes. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everybody. It is a pity that I could not attend the meeting in person. I applied for visa two months ago. Many documents have been asked and all of them put at the disposal of the embassy. I had the letter from ICANN traveling constituency. I had the invitation letter from Mr. Pablo Rodriguez. They have asked me many information. Last thing they asked me to provide the original of my military service 60 years ago. I was sorry that I was not in a position to provide the original document of 60 years ago.

Then I went to my embassy and they give certificate that I have been exempted. Then they ask another for another time the CV. I send the CV. Then they send me the letter saying that your visa may take weeks and months. That is a standard text. Never replied to my request. Whenever you send a request, a standard text comes that your visa takes months or more than that. But when I want to reply, there is a no reply situation that I could not reply them.

So, it is a pity. I think the invited government need to make every effort to provide visa for the people that they are merited to have the visa. I have been attending many US meetings, many GAC meetings in US before 2016. But after 2016, the rules have been changed. So, I think I miss all of you, the lovely GAC colleagues and lovely ICANN meeting. I'm totally disappointed of this sort of action. I think there should be something from the GAC chair to the ICANN authorities to say that if the person in question does not have any difficulty at all and does not have any problems, visa should be provided in time.

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The ticket was prepared. It's cancelled. I went to the burn and paid everything and so on and so forth, waiting and tens of the messages was passed to a table saying that helping you. But the help was that, sorry, we are not in a position to help you. Please talk to the embassy. Talking to the embassy is impossible. One hour and 15 minutes to get in contact. And at the end, the line was interrupted. I'm sorry not to be with you. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Iran. Is anybody else missing? And by the way, I'm very sorry to hear that, Iran. We're also deeply disappointed of the fact of not having you here. We will miss you as well, for sure. And we'll try to make sure that next time we'll be able to hopefully help you a little bit more. We have somebody else in the... Yeah, please go ahead, introduce yourself.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN: Hello, everyone. Kristina Hakobyan from Armenia, advisor to the Armenian representation and also point of contact to Erdogan. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Armenia. Anybody else? Over there, please. Go ahead.

TESSIE LEVA: My name is Tessie, one of the delegations from Papua New Guinea.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Papua New Guinea. And I don't see anybody else. Gulten, do we have anybody online? No? So, so far, so good. So, as you can see, this is a very simple exercise in which we just identify ourselves, we give our names and who we represent for the sake of transparency, as I mentioned during my opening speech. Transparency is a very important thing, not only for governments, but to every other member of the multi-stakeholder model.

We'll be discussing about that a little bit later. I don't want to get ahead of myself. But again, I want to put emphasis on the very concept of transparency especially in terms of who you represent, country, constituency, or business, maybe, which is fine, you know. But so again, for the sake of transparency, it's always good, to be extremely clear about the whole thing. So, thank you again. Can we move on to the next slide, please, Gulten? So, I just wanted to mention some GAC transitions, as you can see there, there are 28 new GAC participants since Hamburg, since our last meeting last October in Hamburg. 20, that's a high turnover, I would say.

And we're, we also said goodbye to 38 GAC colleagues, also since October, since ICANN78. I don't see Loreen Capin, my good friend from the USA, from the PSWG group co-chair. I made a mistake and I sent an email, I think it was the day before yesterday or something, saying goodbye, because I thought she was leaving, actually, the GAC and the US delegation and everything. But I'm very happy to learn that she will be with us, and she will be around, not as the co-chair, but she will still be with the US delegation. And also, I would like to welcome Gabriel

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Andrews from the USA, as well as the PSWG co-chair. Is he in the room, by the way? I haven't seen him. Anyways, welcome, Gabe.

Also, I want to say thank you to Pua Hunter, I assume she's not here, from the Cook Islands. She served as the co-chair of the underserved regions working group. I'm not sure, maybe she retired, is that correct? She retired, right? So, we'll miss her big time. We also said goodbye to Gabriela Mataus from Argentina, the Argentina GAC representative. And welcome to the new Argentina representative. A warm welcome to you.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Thank you so much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Nico speaking. We will have a chance to speak when the Spanish speaking group will meet in the afternoon. So, welcome, really welcome.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS: Thank you so much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: A big thank you to Jorge Cancio from Switzerland, the next round's topic lead and GNSO point of contact, who's here and who also was kind enough to take the floor in Spanish. And finally, welcome to the next round's small group team. We're going to have more details on that tomorrow. So, at this point, let me check with Rob and Gulden. Do we have any housekeeping details you would like to share at this point? I

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assume Benedetta is going to give us some very valuable information. Is that correct, Rob? Please go ahead.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you, Nico. Yes, you noted earlier in your remarks about the flexibility of talking a bit about the communique. You've moved some things around, but noting that we've got about 10 minutes, Benedetta is going to offer a brief introduction on what's been transpiring to date and what the plan is for pulling the communique together this week. This seems like an ideal opportunity. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, Rob. And my apologies again. I forgot to introduce, the GAC support staff. Rob Hogarth over there, with his fabulous five team, made up of Benedetta Rossi right to my left. There's also Madame Julia Charvolen. I assume she's online. Fabienne Betremieux, who's also online. Gulden Tepe Oksuzoglu. I hope I'm pronouncing your last name well, Gulden. Thumbs up. Good. Oksusoglu. Is that correct? And I hope I'm not forgetting anybody. I mentioned the fabulous five, right? So--,

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you, Nico. We'll also be joined by additional support members this week because we don't have Julia in person. Our friends Christian and Dan will also be helping us out from the policy support team. Thank you.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you so much. I forgot to mention Daniel Gluck, our good friend from GAC staff. So, with that, let me give the floor to Benedetta for some housekeeping details. Benedetta, please go ahead.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you very much, Nico. And my name is Benedetta. I'm from the GAC support team. I think we're waiting for some slides to go up. Oh, there we go. If we go to the next slide, please. Right. Thank you. That's the timeline for the communiqué development. We thought we'd take advantage of this time to just quickly go through this. You can see that there was a communiqué preparation phase which preceded the meeting.

We're now on, well, ahead of time, actually, because we were looking at Monday as the communiqué process introduction, which we're doing today. We'll then on Tuesday, so the meeting day four, we'll have the first plenary sessions with communiqué drafting session one and two. Throughout all of the GAC plenary sessions, GAC members will be encouraged to consider topics to include in the communiqué. So, during each plenary session, we'll try to find moments for you to flag any items that you would like to include in the communiqué.

And on Wednesday, there will be three more sessions for communiqué drafting. And drafters of the communiqué text will be encouraged at any stage of the communiqué development to use the GAC support team as a resource to research any precedent, ensure accuracy of references and consistency with usual practice for the communiqué as needed. So, please don't hesitate to reach out for that if you're considering drafting any text for the communiqué. And then the GAC

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chair will decide normally around Wednesday evening to close the live collaboration on the document in the interest of clarity and stability in the text. And then on Thursday, we're looking at two more sessions to draft the communiqué. And then there will be a 72-hour communiqué review period after the communiqué closes.

This has been practiced since the initial hybrid meetings that we've been having. And if we can go to the next slide, please. Yeah, so here we have more information on the timeline. I don't think that we need to really focus on this. I think I've already covered that. So, if we just go to the next slide, you can see here just an example of the usual practice for the Google document that we use for the communiqué.

Please make sure that you're in suggesting mode if you include any text and that you identify yourself and the government that you represent just for the sake of Nico when he goes through the communiqué. Then propose your text where appropriate and don't forget to hit reply. Otherwise, your edits will not be identified. And I think that's pretty much it. I don't know if Nico, if you have anything that you would like to add on the process.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Not really, unless we have any question or comment from the floor or online. Can you go back a little bit, Gulden? One slide or two. There we go. One more slide back. One more, please. There we go. So, this is like an overview. Is everyone okay with this? Anybody has a better idea? Good ideas are always welcome. So, please go ahead. If you have a more efficient system or a better idea, we're very happy to hear. But at that point, the decision by the GAC Chair, as you can see there, will

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be based on advancement of drafting to close collaboration on the document for the sake of clarity and stability of that. Otherwise, it will be way too complicated to do anything from that point on. But again, I'm in your hands. If you have a better idea, more than happy to hear. Seeing none.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Nico, we have Switzerland in the line.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: All right. Go ahead, please, Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. Just to abound on what you were saying and urging all colleagues to come up with text as soon as possible, because otherwise it gets a challenge if we get new text on Wednesday or even Thursday. And as somebody who's been here for too long time, perhaps, I would really urge colleagues to get the text they are suggesting as soon as possible on the Google Doc or circulating it to a list. Thank you. Hope this is helpful.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Oh, absolutely helpful. Very good point. Thank you for that, Switzerland. Any other comment or question?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: We have Iran next on the queue.



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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Okay, Iran, go ahead, please.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Chair. Do we know at this stage a very high-level topics that we have to discuss? If I have missed, I'm sorry, but I wish you know whether we have some idea the area of which we will start to work. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. I don't understand your question. I mean, high level topics for the high-level government meeting session, you mean? Or what exactly are you referring to, Kavouss? Please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: I don't refer to high level government. I said that topics at the very top level which are the topics that we are interested to commence or to start drafting something. Do we have an idea of that before? Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. Yes, as a matter of fact, we do. We discussed that during our last agenda setting calls. I'm very happy to have Rob or Gulten to send you an email with the content. Gulten, would you please send Iran a copy of the agenda items for, I assume you're asking for the whole week, Iran? Is that correct?

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**KAVOUSS ARASTEH:** I'm sorry. I was misunderstood. I'm not asking agenda. I understood you at your previous agenda setting. You had some ideas of the topics on which we would like to have communicate. That is my question. Which are the topics on which we would expect it to start working for drafting communique? Just communique. I'm not talking of agenda.

**NICOLAS CABALLERO:** Thank you for that, Iran. Sorry for my misunderstanding. Now I understand you're referring to the communique. So, for that, Rob, please go ahead.

**ROB HOGGARTH:** Thank you, Kavouss and Nico. As one of Benedetta's slides showed, there is, and on the slide you've got, there's a communique preparation phase that the committee has worked to develop over the course of the pandemic. And now as you've returned to hybrid meetings, the chair sends out an initial email that was done back on the 19th of February, asking for members to identify issues that they anticipated including in the communique.

Then as many of you will recall, Nico sends out a second email asking for additional information on key messages or GAC advice text. I think, correct me if I'm wrong, Benedetta in person or Fabienne online, that we don't have any issues identified yet. So, the short answer to you, Kavouss, is there are none yet. The hope is that by having this presentation here during the opening plenary session, that will inspire,

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motivate, or encourage those of you who are anticipating presenting issues or identifying topics to please do so at your earliest opportunity. As I indicated in the chat, either Benedetta or Fabienne will shortly be resharing with you the link to the Google collaboration document. And that will enable you all to start entering at the very least topics. If you're not comfortable doing that, please just indicate your topics or other areas of interest on the GAC email list. And we will be more than happy to incorporate those into the document. Thanks very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Rob. So, Iran, sorry again for the misunderstanding. So, the short answer will be no communique topics identified yet. Any other comment or question at this point? We're getting close to the end of the session.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: We have Iran next.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: All right. Go ahead, please, Iran.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Chair. I think perhaps maybe you may recall or encourage that distinguished GAC colleagues present or remote provide topic or list of topics that they wish to be discussed as a candidate for the communique. That would be beneficial to everybody. Thank you.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. Any other comment or question. If not, that brings us to the end of the session. Thank you so much again. And as a matter of fact, I'm very happy to have my Paraguay GAC representative here. You know, I was feeling a little bit alone, so I'm a little happier now that I have my compatriot here with me. So, Ignacio Velasquez over there, can you wave or something? Thank you, Ignacio. So, with that, let's have a break. We'll reconvene in, is it 15 minutes? 30 minutes, sorry. 30 minutes. We'll have a 30-minute break. More than happy to share some cappuccino with you and, for some corridor talks. Welcome again. Let's have a break. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**