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ICANN80 | PF – GAC Strategic Planning  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 10:45 to 12:15 KGL

GULTEN TEPE: Hello and welcome to the ICANN 80 GAC strategic planning session on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June at 8:45 UTC. Please note that this 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 be read aloud if put in the proper form. Please 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, and make sure to mute all other devices when you are speaking. You may access all available features for this session in the Zoom toolbar.

With that, I will leave the floor over to GAC Chair, Nicolas Caballero. Over to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Gulden. Welcome, everyone, to our session on strategic planning, a very important session in my opinion. Let me review the agenda with you. We'll be talking about the background on the GAC strategic planning efforts, some milestones up until today, a short review of GAC input on the drafting so far, and then the preliminary draft, the wording to eventually include in the communique.

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So if we can go to the next slide, please. So why a strategic plan for the GAC? That's a very simple and straightforward question. And the answer is also simple and straightforward. For a more [practical GAC], for increased readiness to provide timely and effective advice and policy input, which at the end of the day is our job as GAC representatives, and also for communicating the GAC's priorities with governments and stakeholders.

So with that, let me give the floor to Fabien, who is going to walk us through the different parts of the strategic plan. Over to you, Fabien. Go ahead please.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Thank you, Nico. If we can go to the next slide. Before we get to reviewing the draft annual plan, which is a key objective of this session, we wanted to remind everybody of the process that we followed. You may recall this diagram from the presentation during ICANN 79. And so this is just to remind you of the approach that was chosen by the GAC leadership to proceed with this effort of strategic planning.

So the idea was to look at the various horizon of time (long term, midterm, short term) and to adapt to each of those horizon elements of planning that would enable the delivery of the GAC's objectives. And so to the long term horizon corresponds strategic objectives that were discussed, which determine the expected outcome, which is what to be expected to be delivered in the midterm, and based on those expected outcomes, a certain number of action items can be determined and targeted. And so this is for the planning phase where strategic

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objectives determine expected outcomes, which determine action items.

Conversely, these structures also enable revision and refinement of the various strategic and annual plans, because from the action items that are implemented, the GAC can draw conclusions in terms of the attainability of its expected outcome, which then themselves inform the achievability of strategic objectives.

So the GAC is looking at a sort of a dynamic process here. We've been conducting the planning aspect of it, defining strategic objectives, expected outcomes, which will eventually determine action items. And as the GAC proceeds, as the GAC topic leads and the GAC members proceed to working towards those outcomes and action items, this will inform in a feedback loop, the, again, attainability of the expected outcomes and the achievability of the strategic objectives.

Next slide, please. So, as I mentioned, as far as a strategic objective, you may recall those were defined in a GAC strategic plan, and the expected outcomes are defined in a first 2024-to-2025 annual plan. Annual plans, as their name indicates, will be considered on a yearly basis.

So if we go to the next slide, you'll recall that this process started in December (so I'm just going to catch up here—

NICOLAS CABALLERO: [2023, yeah].

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FABIEN BETREMIEUX: --(2023, absolutely)—with the GAC leadership initiating the process by suggesting priority areas which were suggested to GAC topic leads, who then considered developing strategic objectives in each of those areas. And that was in the January-February timeframe.

You may recall that a first consultation of the GAC occurred in February for feedback on those suggested strategic objectives for the GAC. And then you may also recall the ICANN 79 plenary session in which, as recorded in the communique, the GAC adopted in principle a set of eight strategic objectives.

Based on the plenary discussion of ICANN 79, the GAC leadership moved to finalize a GAC strategic plan, on the one hand, including the strategic plan, including the strategic objectives, and to, in parallel, develop a GAC annual plan, which includes the expected outcomes that correspond to each of the strategic objectives.

Next slide, please. And so, starting in April, as mentioned, GAC leadership worked on those two tracks, finalizing the strategic plan and developing the annual plan. And as part of this process ... I'm not going to go into too much details here, but just to remind you, there were a number of consultations of the GAC on the proposed final strategic plan (this was in the April-May timeframe) that led to the adoption by the GAC of the proposed final strategic plan, which includes nine strategic objectives, as one was added in that process.

And as far as the GAC annual plan is concerned, you may recall that the GAC was consulted on this draft annual plan at the end of the month of

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May, and the GAC also had a call on the 30 May to discuss the draft annual plan.

This takes us to ICANN 80 today with the objective of that the GAC leadership set to get to a place where the GAC can endorse both the strategic plan, the four-year strategic plan, and the first annual plan for the period 2024-2025.

Next slide. And so, Nico, before we get onto the draft annual plan, going section by section, maybe we should go to the last slide and discuss what is the ultimate objective for ICANN 80 if we go to the next slide.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Yeah, actually we need to go to the very last slide. Yeah, there we go.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Do you want to do so?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: And so I think what is suggested here is potential text that would be inserted in the ICANN 80 communique, which would confirm the endorsement by the GAC of both the strategic plan and the first annual plan.

So we're starting with the end here, I suppose, to just give you an indication of the goal of this session. And now we can probably get to

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the actual draft annual plan that we need to finalize before it can be endorsed by the GAC.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you so much for that very detailed and professional explanation, Fabien. Before we do that, let me actually read it so that we all have an idea of what we want to accomplish here at the end of the day. So the text is the drafted text for internal matters within the ICANN 80 Kigali communique. So this is the possible text. “For GAC operational matters, building on a process initiated in December 2023 by the GAC chair and vice-chairs, the GAC plenary discussion during ICANN 79 in San Juan, and several consultations of the GAC membership intercessionally, the GAC finalized and endorsed the four-year GAC strategic plan 2024-2028 and the corresponding 2024-to-2025 GAC annual plan. The GAC expects that these strategic and annual plans will serve to bolster the GACs proactive stance in ICANN deliberations, increase the committee's readiness to provide timely and effective advice and policy input, and to assist in communicating the GAC's priorities with higher levels of governments and ICANN stakeholders.” That's the gist of it.

So with that, let's go back to the document, Gulden, if you may, please—the annual plan itself.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're working on it. [inaudible]

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Sure, sure. So it's going to take a little while.

In the meantime, let me tell you that, as you may recall, we had nine strategic objectives—there we go. Yeah. Thank you. We have nine strategic objectives, the first one being the role of governments in ICANN; the second, the effectiveness of the GAC; the third, future rounds; fourth, DNS abuse. And so on and so forth. I'm not going to read the whole thing, but for the first two strategic objectives, let me give the floor to Mr. Nigel Hickson from the UK, who's going to walk us through the details. Nigel, over to you.

NIGEL HICKSON: Thank you very much, Nico. So I'll take objective one. It's a pleasure to speak on this. And as Fabien and Nico said, this objective has been consulted on, and we had some excellent feedback. So many thanks to GAC members on this.

So the overall objective, I think, you can read there. I think the important part is this is the GAC will seek to—

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Excuse me, Nigel, could you please speak closer to the microphone?

NIGEL HICKSON: I'm sorry. Yeah.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you. Thank you.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Yes, of course. So we have the objective in in the gray box, and that's an important text. We want to ensure that governments can pursue their public policy interests through both existing and future ICANN processes and procedures. So we clearly have an objective here to ensure that as ICANN develops, as the multistakeholder community evolves, we always look for opportunities and we ensure that our commitment to advise and give advice on public policy processes and procedures is always top of our minds.

And some expected outcomes in 2024, '25. I think some of these are fairly self-evident: stakeholder understanding of the role of governments to ... And this is why we have different sessions at ICANN and on different roles and responsibilities. We had the high-level government meeting, of course. We had the plenary session on Monday on the role of ICANN in the wider Internet governance ecosystem, if you like. And during that meeting, of course, we discussed a lot about the role of governments in the whole process.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

If I may interrupt you there, Nigel, let me just add that basically for expected outcomes numbers one, two, and, I would say, three, we have already gained some ground. The HLGGM itself is a proof of that. We had a very successful HLGGM last Sunday, and that in turn allowed us as GAC representatives to have these interesting discussions with our ministers and vice-ministers.



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And by the way, regarding topic 1.3 regarding the non-represented governments in the GAC, at this point, I'm very glad to tell you that I was approached by two potential new GAC candidates, so to say.

So having said that, back to you, Nigel.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Well, that's incredibly encouraging, Nico. We will need to put more chairs in the room, which is a great result. And yes, the high-level government meeting, I think, helped us to see the real relevance of these expected outcomes.

I'll be very quick. Transparency of ICANN processes, which we've discussed, of course, with the Board ... We discussed transparency, discussed statements of interest, and that's very important to us as well. And the GAC influence on policy outcomes, of course, is something we always discuss, not just for our own communique, but through the work of GAC members in the wider ICANN community.

So if we could go on through the KPI's, these, some of the suggested key performance indicators that have been—

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Nigel, excuse me, we're not going to be talking about KPIs today for the sake of time, because otherwise we would need three or four more sessions. So we agreed not to talk about KPIs at this point and to do it intercessionally. So we're just going to concentrate on the outcomes. Sorry to interrupt you.

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NIGEL HICKSON: No, no, I wasn't going to spend too long on the KPIs. I was just going to thank people for their inputs.

And I think we can go to objective two now, which I think someone else is going to take forward.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: It's actually you, Nigel. Still you. But I can do it if you want. No problems.

NIGEL HICKSON: Well, I'm quite happy to do it. So the effectiveness of the Government Advisory Committee, I think, is something that's close to all of our hearts, in that we have to be effective, we have to be efficient, we have to be seen to be participating in the multistakeholder processes at ICANN, we need to be seen that our views are appropriately expressed but also represented in terms of the different ICANN constituencies.

And I think that if we look at the expected outcomes in 2024 –'25, we see that we are already accomplishing many of these. A survey of GAC members and observers ... I'm not sure if that's something that's happening later in the year, but clearly we are reviewing and updating the GAC operating principles under the distinguished chairmanship of Ian Sheldon from Australia.

We have GAC participation in the empowered community when it's needed. The empowered community is this vehicle we had post-IANA, that, if there's a real issue of concern of ICANN (and that can be

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triggered by a number of different issues), then the different constituencies, including the GAC, come together to resolve it. And our chair obviously is the key figurehead for that.

The ICANN Board response to GAC advice. We now have a table and I think we have a much more effective way of looking at and dealing with GAC advice than we did some years ago.

There's GAC community drafting. Our colleagues in the GACs support team are continually helping us to be more efficient and to be more effective in the drafting processes.

And we'll be obviously looking at this this afternoon, and this is really important, as will be flagged, I'm sure, by Rob and others this afternoon: that when we give advice to the GAC, we just don't say, "We don't like the colors of the rainbow." We actually say which colors we don't like. So we have to be specific and targeted.

There's GAC implementation of transparency and accountability recommendations from the workstream two. Recommendations is something that we are obviously doing as well.

And just touching on the last one (increasing the level of engagement and participation in the GAC), clearly having more GAC members is fantastic news, but also we of course want to enhance the engagement and participation of existing GAC members. We have the capacity-building sessions which have been really good at doing that, and we want to ensure that at every GAC session there are many people sitting in those chairs at the beginning of the meeting than there are at the end of the meeting. And that's something close to our hearts.

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A couple of other points, I think, here: GAC vice-chairs topic needs. Obviously, we don't just have the GAC leadership with the GAC vice-chairs and the chair, of course. We have topic leads, we have GAC liaisons to other organizations, and we have a GNSO liaison, we have an ALAC liaison, and others. And this is obviously just so important to ensure this community collaboration.

I think I mentioned capacity-building, so I think I'll stop there, Nico, unless there's any other points that you want to make.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so very much, Nigel. So as everybody can see, there are many topics in which we have already achieved significant progress. There are other things in which we still have some ground to cover, but that's precisely the idea, to have a clear guide, a clear way forward.

Let me open the floor at this point before we move on to the next topic. So do we have any question, any comment, anything you would like to say about this first two topics?

And I have Portugal.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Thank you very much. Well, I'm not going to speak in Portuguese because I know that people are not going to put their headsets on, and then they are—

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

[inaudible]

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No, but then they will read out what is on the screen, and that is not accurate at all. So I will prefer to talk now in English, only to underline that this is, as you said, a very important point for GAC members. I've been very quiet in all these GAC meeting because we are discussing the same things for such a long time, and the Board is not listening. And some members of the GAC don't have the same opinions, et cetera. So we are not really progressing, I think. Even if everything that was said—that we are progressing—... I totally agree with that. And it's very good; the way we are working nowadays. But still, we don't have dialogue in these meetings, despite all your efforts, Nico.

So, because we have very technical meetings, and the GAC is not discussing what I was yesterday discussing with my friend [Laurino Giamani] from Mozambique [,] here we are talking about policy, and policy has to have clear language for everybody to understand—and the citizens and as well. And all our GAC meetings are not very interesting at all. So we have a few and few members, for instance, from the region that I'm coming from, which is Europe, and I don't think it's a good sign.

And with this strategic plan, I think it's really, really good because we can put the GAC in the right track, I think, for the discussions that the GAC should have here. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Portugal. I really appreciate your kind words. I couldn't agree more with you. And that was precisely the idea of developing, on the one hand, the four-year strategic plan and on the

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other hand, the annual plan in order to be able not only to establish KPIs, which, by the way, if we happen to do, will be for our own internal consumption, so to say ... But I don't want to get ahead of myself. Thank you, Portugal. Thank you again.

Any other comment or question, thoughts?

I don't see any hand up. So that basically brings me to the next two strategic objectives. And for that, Christine Arida from Egypt is going to be walking us through three and four: future rounds of new gTLDs and DNS abuse. Christine, over to you.

CHRISTINA ARIDA: Nico, I prefer to take the ones that I was ... So maybe the IP addresses and the Internet governance. And if you can pass for] another question.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Sure, sure. Thank you Egypt. So we'll give the floor to Switzerland for three and four.

JORGE CANCIO: Hello, everyone. So as I'm just being voluntold to deal with objectives three and four, let me scroll up a little bit to find it. Basically strategic objective three is an old acquaintance of all of us. We've been working on this for many years, and you have the four-year GAC strategic objectives in this gray box which basically describes what we are already doing for a long time and what our substantive objectives are for this future rounds of new gTLDs.

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So I won't go into the specific content of the gray box because this was already agreed intercessionally, as I understand, and I will look into the headlines of the expected outcomes, and also without going into the reading of all the text.

So the first one, 3.1, is of course regarding the consensus advice and GAC early warnings in the processing of future new gTLD applications. As you know, those are very important instruments for the GAC to participate in that process, and we want to make sure that we maintain that availability.

A second, 3.2 which is what we have been also discussing this week in the context of the restriction or regulation of content, is that we also have the instruments of public interest and voluntary commitments as means to address concerns from the government, be it through GAC early warnings or be it through consensus advice. And as you know, we are discussing this week also one of the important aspects which relate to the regulation or restriction of content.

3.3 refers to closed generics. There you know that there has been an ICANN Board resolution ruling out the use of the possibility of this category of top-level domains in the next round, especially until such time that there is an approved methodology and criteria to evaluate if such close generics would be in the public interest. And we have received assurances from the Board that they will do this according to a multistakeholder process.

So 3.4 goes to another matter of strong interest by the GAC, which is the question of applicant support, especially for applications from

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underserved regions. You know that we are working very intensely on that, looking into that the diversity of applications in the next round is much higher than in the 2012 one.

3.1 then refers to the documentation. So it's more instrumental about the GAC and government's engagement with the future rounds. We plan to develop key messages to facilitate high-level governmental officials' engagement for these discussions and also a scorecard tracking the implementation of GAC advice, all the GAC advice we've been issuing these last years, and seeing how this has been addressed by the Board.

We also talk about the GAC guidance document because I guess that many of us ... At least, I speak for myself. I won't be learning by heart the Applicant Guidebook, which will have about 400 pages. And I would really welcome having something like a two-pages summary plus ten pages of detail. So we are talking about something like this.

So the KPIs, as Nico has mentioned before, is something that we will be developing later on.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

If I may interrupt you there, we're going to be doing the KPIs intercessionally right after we have implemented the annual plan.

But you touched upon a very important point here, which is the GAC scorecard. And this is an idea we came up with in order to be able to actually track implementation of GAC advice, in this case relating to new gTLDs. But it can be used for any other piece of advice that we



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might have given ten years ago, twelve years ago, or five years ago, and that, for whatever reason, we didn't do any kind of follow-up. So, that's more or less the spirit of having that kind of scorecard in place.

And as Jorge correctly pointed out, the guidance document is just a simple document, something, especially for the benefit of new GAC members, they can read very quickly and be up to speed on in, let's say, ten or 15 minutes instead of reading the 300 or 400 pages Jorge also mentioned.

So let me pause here, Jorge, before I give you back the floor. We have some questions, and I have Egypt. Go ahead, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, Nico. And thanks to the full GAC leadership for the significant effort you have put in this. Just a question on the GAC scorecards you have mentioned. And if I understand correctly, it's for tracking how the GAC advice has been dealt with. And I'm wondering, how is this different from the tool we have already to track GAC advice, the advice register that has been implemented already by Org.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Egypt. The idea is to have our own scorecard. To begin with, the idea was to have this scorecard in order to track implementation of GAC advice relating only to new gTLDs at this point. But again, the idea is to have it for any other.

And you're right. There's already some ... I forgot the name of the ... Can you repeat the name?

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CHRISTINE ARIDA: Me too.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: It's some acronyms, some nice acronym—PTRIDSF or whatever.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: I think it was AAR, maybe. Action Advice Register. Maybe something like that.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Maybe something like that. And with all due respect to ICANN Org and the efforts to have a tracking tool, I really think that that we the GAC should have our own tools in order to be able to ... Yeah, Switzerland, go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you. Nico. If I may (and this going back to when I used to be a topic lead for new gTLDs), we used to have a scorecard, the GAC scorecard, on the important issues for the GAC at the policy level. So I can very well imagine that with the able help of our GAC support staff, especially Benedetta, we may work this out again. And of course, as Manal said, the record-tracking tool that the Board maintains is a good reference but of course doesn't offer the level of detail of substance we would need for such a scorecard to really know whether we are satisfied or not with how the Board has addressed our advice. Thank you.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Switzerland. Any other comment or questions? Mauritania, go ahead, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you very much, Chairman. Here as GAC representative, we have, to my understanding, a twofold mission. One of them is to contribute, obviously, as you put in this strategic plan, to the development of ICANN, and this addresses that. But on the other hand, we have the responsibility also to liaise back with our own government and countries. And part of that, I believe, is probably to extend this idea here for the future engagement of new gTLDs to all the topics that are relevant to government and at least have maybe not a strategic plan for that but at least a one- or two-year action plan that could be put forward to all GAC representatives to make sure that they are crossing on all the issues that are related to them. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Mauritania. We'll get there. We'll get there. That's more or less the idea. We're just trying to develop the annual plan, agree on the outcomes, and then do the fine-tuning, including the KPIs. But yeah, the idea is to get there. Thank you for your comments. Mauritania. I have Spain next.

ANA MALDONADO: Thank you, Nico. And thank you very much to all the leadership team, as always, to make the effort to work on this and to develop the

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strategic plan and the annual plan. I just wanted to propose to the committee the idea to use the scorecard that you have mentioned in the new gTLD list that we were discussing, not only for following up the GAC advice, but for following up precisely on the annual plans. So I would like to know if you agree or your insights about what do you think about this idea. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much, Spain. But as a matter of fact, I couldn't hear your question, so could you please repeat it? The volume was not working well in the room. Can you repeat, please?

ANA MALDONADO: Perhaps it's the computer microphone. I just wanted to propose to use the scorecard not only for following up on the advice on the new gTLD matter, but also for following up on all the strategies plans. So it's to track/record all the progress in the annual plans. So I would like to know what you think about this proposal. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Spain. Thank you so much. Well noted. We'll take it into account, for sure. Thank you very much.

Any other comment or question?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Oh. Go ahead, please.

IBISO KINGSLEY-GEORGE: Good morning, everyone. My name is Ibis Kingsley-George from Nigeria, head [of] Internet governance. Just with respect to the assignment of the new gTLDs, the registry service provider evaluation program will evaluate the RSPs before the gTLD application window opening, therefore reducing duplicative work and testing. This will cost each RSP \$92,000 if there were fewer than 50 participants on top of the estimated \$250,000 for each application. This high cost will essentially eliminate the RSP market in the global south even though they could have the technical ability to run the gTLDs.

Thus, the proposed \$92,000 RSP pre evaluation fee is going to be a barrier to entry and discourage diverse participation in the next gTLD round, especially from the developing region. The lack of an applicant support program for the [Ara] space is something that we need to take into consideration for the next round.

Also, this is something that the GAC could look into so as to avoid limited diversity in the next round.

I also noticed that part of the things we have discussed today showed that there was need to take into consideration the judicial divide in the allocation, and I thought it's a hot topic and I think that is something that the GAC should step into as soon as possible. Thank you.

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[JORGE CANCIO]: Many thanks to my esteemed colleague from Nigeria. In fact, we're actually going to be putting some text into the GAC communique pertaining to this topic, which is of interest to us, just so you know, and we'd be happy to have your collaboration on it.

IBISO KINGSLEY-GEORGE: Great, thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: So thank you again, Nigeria. I don't see any other hand up, which means we can go back to Switzerland in order to continue with the next strategic objective. Over to you, Jorge.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Nico. So I would go to objective four, DNS abuse. Okay, thank you so much, Nico. And in relation to the gray box, this is again agreed-to text, as I understand, with our high-level objectives regarding DNS abuse, which is a matter that we work intensely on time and again, trying to move the needle every time a bit further into the right direction.

And if we look into the expected outcome comes for 2024-'25, a first point we have agreed on with topic leads is to survey GAC members and observers on DNS abuse matters to increase the level of awareness and knowledge about the matter.

4.2 is to make recommendations and, where appropriate, deliver advice, as we have been doing.

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4.3 is considering the DNS abuse data reporting, which we periodically look into: relevant work and recommendations by ICANN Org.

4.4 is to keep on engaging with the ICANN Board and the GNSO regarding these matters, especially regarding the potential initiation of policy development process or processes focused on DNS abuse.

4.5 is a more open category: other outcomes as determined by the developments in this area and the results of 4.1, the GAC survey.

And of course, 4.6. We also seek to cooperate with the ccNSO, which has a very important role in improving cooperation also with the ccTLDs, which obviously play an important role in this matter.

So with this, I don't know if, Nico, you want to open the floor.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Switzerland. And again, just to make sure that we're all on the same page, when we talk about DNS abuse here, it's obviously within the remit of ICANN. So we're talking about phishing, farming, botnets, malware and spam. Of course, there are many other cybersecurity threats. We're not going to be discussing that. So thank you again, Switzerland.

Any question so far? Any comment regarding expected outcomes for DNS abuse? I think it's pretty straightforward. Sorry, go ahead, please, Colombia.

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THIAGO DAL TOE: Thank you, Nico. I really like the idea of increasing cooperation with the ccNSO. So obviously we're talking here on DNS abuse, but from what we've seen yesterday when we had the meeting with Kim Davis from IANA, there are tons of issues where policy starts at ccNSO that may affect ccTLD issues in our countries, and there have been many delegations here that posed an interest on it.

So I think that we should be enhancing and having more relationship with the ccNSO and meetings and bring back that information to the GAC for our wider audience. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Colombia. Any other comment or question?

I don't see any hand up. I don't see any hand in the room, which means that we're okay to move on to the next strategic objective, which is number five, domain name registration data. And for that we'll go back to Colombia. Over to you, Thiago.

THIAGO DAL TOE: Thank you, Nico. So for objective five, we have domain registration data. Here we are acknowledging the evolution of the use of WHOIS data and all of our work within the community to ensure that registration data policy reflects and addresses the complexities.

I won't read everything, but here on the expected outcomes, on 5.1, we have everything related to registration data policy. Again, it's many of the things that we've been discussing here about urgent requests and publication of information related to legal entities. Then on the 5.2 we



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have registration data access. On 5.3 is issues of privacy, proxy services and accreditation policy. On 5.4 we have accuracy of domain name registration data. And that's what we have for objective five.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Colombia. Questions, comments, thoughts? Anything you would like to add at this point?

As you can see, it's pretty straightforward. Nothing different from what we have already discussed on the Zoom calls, intercessional Zoom calls we had so far. But again, the GAC leadership thought that it would be very important to put it in a very simple and straightforward way so that everybody would understand and wouldn't need to read 200 pages and 25 different links.

And so again, I don't see any hand up. That means that we're okay with this strategic objective. Let's move on to the next one, which is universal acceptance. Back to you, Colombia.

THIAGO DAL TOE: Thank you, Nico. So again, under objective six on universal acceptance, it's recalling our idea of working with all stakeholders to promote a multilingual Internet and to provide universal access by ensuring that all domain names, internationalized domain names, and emails are treated equally. Within the expected outcomes for 2024-2025, we identified ...

So 6.1 is bringing more information to GAC members so we are all aware of these issues, and I must say that I really want to take

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opportunity to learn a lot more about the topic. On 6.2, we have government support of relevant efforts bringing to our community what we've been doing to support and promote these efforts locally, regionally and globally. Under 6.3, we have engagement with the UASG, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. More acronyms. Under 6.4, we have policy development for future new gTLDs to continue GAC participation in the GNSO. In 6.5, we have cross-community collaboration with other communities here at ICAN. Under 6.6, we have registered readiness. And that's all of the expected outcomes for objective six.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

And again, at this point, let me thank all the countries that provided inputs. Greatly appreciated. I'm not going to mention each one, but certainly we greatly appreciate your help.

Any question or comment, anything you would like to add at this point regarding strategic objective number six?

Again, pretty straightforward, right, which is exactly the idea. So let's move on to topic number seven. Unless there are questions. I don't see any hand in the chat room. I don't see any hand in the room. So let me give the floor to my esteemed colleague, Wang Lang from China, to walk us through strategic objective number seven: impact of new technology on Internet unique identifier systems. Over to you, Wang Lang.

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WANG LANG:

Thank you, Nico. Good morning, everyone. I'm Wang Lang from China. The number seven objective is about the new technology. We should raise our awareness of the challenges and the opportunities of new technologies in our fields. And we should leverage the expertise in our community.

So on the expected outcomes, there are five of them. Firstly, we should be gathering the information and monitoring the issues. The methods include interaction with experts and capacity buildings. And the second one is the hardest topic of these years. That is artificial intelligence. We should consider the development, use and impact of AI and AI literacy. Especially, we should promote safe and responsible practices. The third one is the Internet of things. That is the IoT. We should pay more consideration of standards for IoT security and privacy. And the fourth one is blockchain. [inaudible] naming and [inaudible] resolution systems. We should use it in connection to the DNS. The last one is cryptography and security. Okay, that's five of our expected outcomes in our annual plan. That's it. Back to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much for that, China. So, as you can see, this is like the sexy topic, so to say, because we have artificial intelligence, Internet of things, blockchain—all very sexy topics, no pun intended.

But we have a comment here from Susan Chalmers from the US, where she says, “It would seem that the GAC should first assess whether, and if so, to what extent AI has implications for governance of the Internet's unique identifier systems.”

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I really think it does, but I'm not sure we'll have enough time because that would take another whole session to discuss how AI actually has implications, unless you tell me you want to stop here and allocate 15-20 minutes to that discussion. Susan, would that be the case or we should just go on?

SUSAN CHALMERS: No thank you, Chair. I don't think it would be a good idea to stop here for 20 minutes and have that discussion. Just pointing out that the discussion on the use and impact of AI should indeed be undertaken by the GAC and narrow and focused on the remit of ICANN, of course. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, USA. Greatly appreciated. So with that, I don't see any hand in the chat room. Any question, comment, anything you would like to add? Any edits?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Brazil?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, a comment from Russell.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: From Russell. I'm sorry. There's a comment from Russell. Can you read it please?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sure. Russell comments, "That would be a good takeaway for the ICANN CTO office and advice back to GAC for its government members."

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Indeed. So thank you again. I don't see any hand. That means that we're okay to move on to strategic objective number eight, Internet governance. As a matter of fact, for topics eight and nine, I will kindly give the floor to our esteemed colleague from Egypt., Christine. Go ahead, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Nico. So on, Internet governance, the objective was to make sure that GAC members are kept regularly apprised of development and challenges of the overall IG ecosystem as they impact the Internet unique identifier systems, and also to coordinate efforts among members to make contributions within the framework of the multistakeholder model. And in that respect, the expected outcomes are twofold. One is in terms of monitoring and information sharing—so an ongoing review of the WSIS+20 review process, staying apprised of developments in this area and how they are affecting the review, and also the communication and engagement strategy that was put by ICANN, the WSIS+20 review communication engagement strategy, being informed so GAC members stay on top of what is happening there

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and also proposing and communicating as early as possible, either as individuals through individual governments or collectively as a committee, and then also webinars on ICANN's IG role and GAC IG priorities.

And the other expected outcome was about committee consultation and organization. And in that respect, [in use is the] GACs small group for the committee consideration for the development of a working group dedicated to our small group dedicated to Internet governance issues but also conducting surveys on issues of interest as related to Internet governance, potential topics from ICANN Org based on the ICANN activities, and of course, the HLG, to leverage the HLG discussions, which I think is something also that has been taken through our meeting in Kigali. Yeah, I'll stop here.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

So let's pause here in order to see if we have any immediate reactions from the floor or online.

I don't see any hand online. I don't see any hand in the room. This is basically connected to the four-year GAC strategic objective in terms of ... As you can read there, the GAC will work to ensure that governments, the ICANN Board, ICANN Org, and ICANN community participants are kept regularly apprised, which is what we basically did during the HLG last Sunday. And it worked very well, by the way. I had very positive feedback, not only from my minister, but from other ministers as well. So somehow where we're getting there.

I see that you came. Go ahead, please.

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[NIGEL HICKSON]: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad you had good feedback from your minister. Just to note that a couple of these paragraphs, of course, are focused on the WSIS+20 review, which as was discussed in the plenary session on Monday, sort of important for ICANN and for our continued work in this area.

But also taking place now in the UN in New York are negotiations on the global digital compact, which we've mentioned before in this room, so to speak. Negotiations started in earnest last week and are going on this week. I think there's a session on Friday. There is a specific paragraph in the global digital compact on Internet governance and the work of institutions like ICANN.

And of course, we as governments are often represented in New York by our ministry of foreign affairs or by our mission staff in New York. So no doubt they can keep you apprised to these negotiations. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, UK. Questions, thoughts, comments? Anything you would like to add at this point before we move on to the next topic?

I see two hands. I see. Is that an old hand, UK/Nigel?

NIGEL HICKSON: Oh, sorry.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO:            Okay, I have Spain next, please. Go ahead.

ANA MALDONADO:            Thank you, Nico. I wanted to build on Nigel's comment on the GDC. And I don't know if it would be worth it to add something on the GDC in this, in the text proposed for this strategic objective. So apart from talking about the WSIS+20 review, I would propose to put on also the GDC or something like that, because I mean, it's an important process. It's different than the WSIS+20, but I also think it's an important process that is carrying on right now.

So I don't know, I'll just give you these just last-minute thoughts to think about it. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:            Thank you, Spain. We can certainly do that. Do you have any draft text you would like to introduce at this point, Spain?

ANA MALDONADO:            No, Nico, I don't. I would propose just to add wherever there is: a WSIS+20 review process and also the GDC process or GDC negotiation processes. Just that.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:            Thank you for that, Spain.

ANA MALDONADO:            Thank you.



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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Okay, so thank you again, Spain. Any other, any other comment? I have Argentina. Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Nico. Well, in line with Spain and Nigel's comments, why not just suggesting a wording in the line of another appropriate fora so that it is wider and, well, we could include not only the GDC, but also another compatible or, I don't know, similar space or instance which could be appropriate, so to speak.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Argentina. Do you have any wording, any specific wording, you would like to add?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Well, maybe what I added as a comment, for example, and another appropriate fora. I don't know. What are your views on this?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Where exactly are you? On 8.1.1? 8.1.2?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think so.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: 8.1.1 or 8.1.2?

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 8.1.1.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Oh, okay. So it would read “WSIS+20 review, regularly apprise all GAC participants of Internet governance developments in 2024 and 2025 affecting the WSIS+20 review, and another appropriate” ... “and any other”, it should be, right?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Right, yes.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: “and any other” ...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [inaudible]

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Argentina. I have Spain.

ANA MALDONADO: Thank you, Nico. And thank you, Argentina, for the comment. I just wanted to clarify that the GDC is not a forum. So I'm not quite convinced

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about the idea to refer to fora because we are there discussing the WSIS+20 review process. The IGF is the forum, and it's the result of the WSIS review as far as I'm concerned. So I'm not quite sure about adding this other fora. I mean, I would be more comfortable to cite the GDC process or other upcoming processes regarding Internet governance, but that's my views. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Spain. Egypt, go ahead.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: So I have suggested a text in the chat. Maybe it could help. I mean, we can say “including the GDC process and other relevant processes and fora.”

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Egypt. I have Switzerland, Argentina and Portugal. Switzerland?

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Nico. So looking into how this is structured, if we take 8.1.1, we would need to change what is involved and put “WSIS+20 review, GDC, and other relevant processes.” And with this I think we would cover quite much.

And then in the sentence itself, “regularly apprise all GAC participants of Internet governance developments in 2024 and 2025[,] affecting” ... I would, after “2025,” change the wording and say “2025 relevant to

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ICANN and the GAC,” and then full stop because we already have mentioned the other processes.

So I'm seeing that Fabien is trying to keep pace. And then accordingly, in 8.1.2, we would need to change it to “input in ICANN WSIS+20 review and engagement strategy to input in ICANN WSIS+20 review, GDC, and other relevant processes.”

And then instead of “Communication and Engagement Strategy” in capital letters, I would put it in not in capital letters and have it be “communication and engagement strategies” because probably there are different strategies for each of these processes.

And in the text, [put] “inform GAC members of ICANN Org efforts to develop and implement communication and engagement strategies designed to address the above-mentioned processes,” instead of mentioning again the three kinds of processes.

And I think with that we would cover everything which is relevant at this level. Sorry for taking the floor so long, but I hope this has been helpful. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you, Switzerland. On the contrary, greatly appreciated. Greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for that.

I have two more hands. They're not there anymore, so let's give Fabien some time to do the drafting. So we're good, right?

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[FABIEN BETREMIEUX]: [We're fine].

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Okay, perfect. So I don't see any other hand. I don't see any hand in the chat room either. So that means that we can go back to Mrs. Christine Arrita from Egypt to walk us through strategic objective number five, Internet number resources. Over to you, Christine.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Nico, sorry, but actually I had my hands up on Jorge's. And sorry to go back on that because I think that 8.1.2 was actually referring to the engagement and communication strategy that was announced by ICANN. It was specifically on the WSIS+20. I know it's discussing partially within it points related to GDC, but I think that was what it is called. So I'm not sure if we are changing it that way. We are clear about what we were initially suggesting in that point, but I stand to be corrected.

So I was saying that 8.1.2 is referring to the actual communication and engagement strategy that ICANN has launched for the WSIS+20 review, and so this was the point of putting it here because it's actually a bit redundant with the first one, if you want, but it was to have the GAC either individually as government or collectively be part of that engagement strategy on the WSIS+20, which is, by the way, also discussing GDC matters, but it's called that, I think, if I'm not wrong. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Christine. Actually, perhaps we have to take this back for advisement, because at least my understanding is that the communication and engagement strategy under the lead leadership of Veni Markovski is wider than the WSIS+20 review. And actually, I think it covers the GDC. But of course, we are talking about something Org is doing. Maybe we have to check with them. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Okay, I think we'll leave that to Fabien to cross-check.

So I will go to objective number nine on the Internet number resources. And this is short and sweet. So it is about ensuring that GAC members have regular updates on developments that are pertaining to RIRs and to Internet unique identifiers, allocation policies, and any policy changes that might happen in that area, and that members may coordinate efforts to make informed contributions to relevant processes.

And so the expected outcomes are, on one hand, to keep tech members informed on any updates related to development within the RIR management of unique identifiers, or any developments in allocation policies and governance issues.

And the second point is about governments supporting relevant efforts—so identifying basically opportunities and in that sense build capacities of government to actually engage with or support engagement in regional policy developments for the different RIRs and

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also promote the policies and the best practices on a local level and as well as regionally and globally.

And the third outcome was cross-community collaboration and in that sense, maintaining an ongoing dialogue and exchange of information with RIRs and the ASO on topics of mutual interest, especially for policy changes and developments that might impact the distribution of number that might be of interest to GAC members. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you, Egypt. This is an important point. At least in my case in Latin America, at least the engagement with LACNIC could be better. I don't know what the case is with ARIN, RIPE NCC, AFRINIC, and APNIC, but this is something very relevant. And thank you again to the Netherlands for suggesting the topic, by the way.

So again, let me pause here in order to see if we have comments, questions or any edit from the floor. And I see Netherlands. Go ahead, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I'm a bit in doubt whether the additional helps, whether it actually makes things clearer by listing the specific RIRs. That's one thing I don't think is fairly helpful. Also, I like to point out that at least one region (the RIPE specifically) does a lot of policy development work offline via email and not only at the meetings. So this is also restrictive.

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So my personal suggestion would be to strike your addition as much as appreciated.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, Netherlands. No problem at all. We can do just that.

Okay. Thoughts, comments? Questions? Christine, go ahead.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: So maybe you can just say RIRs. If we're gonna take them off, it would be worth putting RIRs. And that's for what it is.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you would say with RIRs [inaudible].

NICOLAS CABALLERO: So it would be just “Identify opportunities and build capacity for governments to effectively engage in the regional policy development for management of Internet number resources with regional Internet registries.” Full stop. Would that be okay for everyone? And I see some nodding in the room. Thank you for that Netherlands, go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sorry for taking the floor again. I think then it's better phrased in the policy development for management of Internet number resources by RIR communities or regional Internet communities. The RIRs themselves don't develop policy. It's the community.



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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Netherlands. Well noted. So it would read “Internet number resources by Regional Internet Registries, communities.” Would that be better? And I see some nodding. Perfect. Thank you so much.

Any other comment? I don't see any hand in the chat room, which means that we're basically done. I'm very happy to tell you that we made it right up until the end.

So, Fabien, can you walk us through the next steps? Because obviously we're going to be dealing with the KPIs intercessionally, as we said at the beginning, and there might still be some fine-tuning to do. But so far you have the text, the possible text, for the GAC communique. But before we get there, Fabien, what are the next steps? Can you walk us through?

FABIEN BETREMIUEX: Thank you, Nico. So I think in terms of development of the GAC strategic plan and annual plan, this session concludes the process, pretty much. We'll clean up the draft annual plan and finalize it. And I believe from my understanding of the conversation in this session, it is ready for endorsement. So the next procedural step is the effective endorsement in the Kigali communique as proposed here in the text, and obviously work to implement the annual plan with GAC topic leads and GAC members.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you so much, Fabien.

Any final words from any of my distinguished vice-chairs? At this point, the floor is open anyways for any of the GAC members present here today. I'm very happy we have concluded the process for adopting and endorsing the GAC four-year strategic plan and the annual plan for 2024 and 2025. We deserve a big round of applause.

Nigel, you wanted to say anything?

NIGEL HICKSON: Well, I join in the applause, but I just wanted to thank Fabien in particular for the significant work that's gone into this and for the enthusiasm of our chair. We would have never got here without the enthusiasm of our chair. Some of us are less good than others at strategic plans. I'm completely less good at strategic plans. But I think the way this has come together has been excellent. So many thanks.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you, Nigel. And if I may, I think it was a very intense collective endeavor, not only under your leadership as the GAC leadership, but the entire support team actually contributed to work with the GAC topic leads who provided most of the substance in those documents, as well as GAC members who commented during the many consultations. So I think that it's a very impressive collective endeavor that very effectively concludes. And so we're very happy with the outcome and look forward to the work that it lays out for the GAC.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so much for that, Fabien. Thank you, UK. And I also want to thank specifically each one of the fabulous five. As a matter of fact, it is now the fabulous six, because we have Rob, Benedetta, Julia, Gulden Fabien and Daniel Gluck, who's the latest addition, as far as I understand. So again, thank you so much for that.

I'm very happy to tell you that we're finishing three minutes in advance, which is very good. We'll have a lunch break now for 90 minutes. We need to reconvene at ... Let me see. We need to be back here at 1:45. Please be in the room at 1:45. Thank you so very much. Enjoy your lunch.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**