
ICANN80 | PF – GAC Communique Drafting (1 of 5)
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 13:45 to 15:00 KGL

GULTEN TEPE:

Hello, and welcome to the ICANN80 GAC Communiqué Drafting Session on Wednesday, 12 June at 11:45 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're 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 back, everyone. I hope you enjoyed your lunch and you enjoyed the good random coffee we are provided with. Before we actually start with the GAC Communicate Drafting, let me just refer to some notable GAC transitions that happened since, in some cases, since ICANN79. Specifically, I would like to welcome 13 new GAC participants. That is since the San Juan, Puerto Rico, ICANN79 meeting. At the same time, we have to say

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

goodbye to 15 departing GAC colleagues also since Puerto Rico, since ICANN79 in San Juan.

I would also like to welcome to the newest GAC member, which is the Principality of Liechtenstein, Dr. Rainer Schnepfleitner, and I hope I'm pronouncing the last name well. So again, Liechtenstein - Dr. Rainer Schnepfleitner. Also, we want to thank Catherin Bauer-Bulst, the Public Safety Working Group Co-Chair, and at the same time, give a warm welcome to Janos Drienyovszki. And again, I hope I'm pronouncing the last name well. Drienyovszki, who's going to be the Public Safety Working Group Co-Chair for the next, if I understand correctly, next year, or is it two years?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

There isn't really a term specifically, but it regularly rotates based on people's assignments. So probably for the next couple of years, at least.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Hopefully. Thank you for that, Fabien. Also, a big thank you to Jason Merritt from Canada, who's leaving his position as the New gTLDs Next Round Topic lead, and a warm welcome to Nigel Hickson from the UK, who's the New Coordinator for the Next Round Small Group Team. Also, a warm welcome to Tracy Hackshaw from the UPU, who's the New Underserved Regions Working Group Co-Chair. So let me pause here and see if we have any reactions at this point. Anything you would like to say, any question? Is everything clear? I don't see any

hands. So that means that we can move on to the actual draft, sorry, Communiqué drafting. Over to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Thank you, Nico. And before we start, we're just going to remind everybody of the structure of the Communiqué, the purpose of the Communiqué itself and each of the sections in the Communiqué, as well as go through the process of Communiqué drafting. Again, just to remind everyone of all this before we jump in into actually drafting text. So we're showing the Communiqué document, which we'll share again on the mailing list. I think we shared it yesterday. So you should have the link in your email. It's coming from me, Fabien Betremieux, and the title is Draft Communiqué Text. But again, we'll share it again in a few minutes. So this is what we're showing. We're showing the Google document, which is our draft. We'll just pass over that for now.

A reminder that this is a shared document. Until the GAC leadership closes direct editing of the document, you're welcome to provide text in a document. And if you do so, please make sure to use the suggesting mode to identify in the bubble that will show up once you add text to identify yourself or the group with whom you collaborated to draft the text that you insert. And do not forget to hit that reply button to make sure that this is visible to everyone. So if we go down to the Communiqué itself. You may be familiar or may not be familiar with the Communiqué, the GAC Communiqué, which is the usually the main output of the GAC meeting during an ICANN meeting.

Its structure has evolved over time over the 80 ICANN meetings that we've known to date, but we're trying to ensure that the structure is consistent as much as possible so that people know where to find the type of text they expect. So the first section of the Communiqué is an introduction in which we recall the attendance during the meeting of GAC members and GAC observers. If we go down in the second section, Interconstituency Activities and Community Engagement, this is where the GAC reports on its engagement with other parts of the community. We generally do not go into the details of the discussions and only record the topics that are discussed with the various groups.

And then in the next section, which is internal matters. So in internal matters, as the name indicates, the GAC reports on developments that are specific to the GAC, so we generally have an update on GAC membership. We, as we will discuss, include references to election processes, nomination period, voting periods, when applicable. This is also where working groups provide their reports when they've conducted activities during a meeting. We also have added sections such as the GAC strategic planning.

There's been discussion of capacity building or capacity development in the past as well. And we also have generally a subsection on operational matters, I believe, which in this case we have not identified any for this Communiqué. But again, this is the internal matters of the GAC. The next section is the issues of importance to the GAC. This is where the GAC discusses various topics. So you'll see here we have the HLG, which is not usual because HLGs are not as frequent as ICANN meetings. But this is more an area for discussing

substantive issues, policy issues, regarding which the GAC shares its views and potential positions for consideration by anybody in the community, by the board. And the board, since I believe ICANN70, has started to respond to the issues of importance in a structured manner.

So the board does pay particular attention to this section of the communiqué. And it's been proposed over the last few years that a position expressed by the GAC in issues of importance may eventually lead to potential advice to the ICANN board should it elevate to that level. So it can be, issues of importance can be in some instances a precursor to eventual GAC advice.

If we scroll down to the next section, which is GAC consensus advice. This is where the GAC provides its advice to the ICANN board. And it is particularly important from an ICANN bylaws perspective because there are provisions in the bylaws for processing of advice. And in particular, if the ICANN board determines that it will not follow GAC advice, there are specific bylaw provisions that define the process that must be followed. And for instance, should the board vote to not follow GAC advice, it has to do so by 60% of the board. And in such events, the ICANN board and the GAC must find a mutually agreeable solution to the topic of that advice.

So this is why we refer to the bylaw process for GAC advice, and this is why the text in this section has a particular importance, both to the GAC and the board, obviously. And so a piece of advice, sorry if you can just scroll up a little bit, a piece of advice has the actual text of the advice and a rationale. And this is to ensure that the advice is as clear

as possible to the ICANN board. And you may also be aware that there are meetings between the GAC and the board following the issuance of the communiqué, especially on the advice part. There is a clarification call that generally is scheduled within a month or two following the communiqué for the board and the GAC to discuss potential clarification questions from the board on the advice. And this is again to ensure that the board does have a good understanding of the advice.

If we scroll down to the next section, which is follow-up on previous advice, this section is specifically to follow-up on previous advice that were issued by the GAC. And there has been a practice to try to make sure that the follow-up on previous advice is precise. It refers to the actual text of a previous advice and adds as little as possible to the previous advice to avoid any kind of confusion as far as the board's consideration of those follow-up on previous advice.

For instance, if the text implies adding to the potential previous advice, that may create some difficulties because of that additional dimension of potential advice that may need to be handled separately. So the tendency or the practice has been to try to be as succinct as possible when following up on a previous piece of advice. I believe with that we've covered the substantive part of the communiqué.

The last section is just a reference to the next meeting. If you can scroll down just to the next section. So again, nothing substantial here, just a reference to the following ICANN meeting. With that, I've covered the different structure of the communiqué. Please let us

know if you have any questions. We can take them at this point. Otherwise, I'll take a few more minutes to walk us through the process for communiqué drafting and the adoption of the communiqué.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Do we have any questions so far? Switzerland, go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Nico. Just very quickly, as there was a request for the link of the Google Doc, I've shared it on the GAC list because on the chat, as I'm told, it's better not to share because we couldn't really track who's making comments if we share it beyond the GAC. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Switzerland. Any other comment? Go ahead, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I wanted to comment on something. I'm thinking about the high-level governmental meeting. Should we not mention the countries that were represented at the high-level governmental meeting at the ministerial level? This could help foster more participation of other authorities at these meetings. So, I believe we could address this in this communiqué.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Mentioning the 81, I think there were -- You want to mention all the 81 members? Is that what you mean?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Not exactly. They were not all present at the ministerial level at this high-level governmental meeting. I want only to mention the states that were represented at the ministerial level. That brings a bit more weight to the meeting, and I believe it could foster increased participation in the following high-level governmental meetings. But this is just a suggestion, it's not a red line.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: The way reporting on the high-level government meeting works or has worked to date is that the GAC communiqué makes a reference to the meeting, and you'll see that we'll discuss some text in the communiqué that's been proposed to that extent. And there is also a chair's report, which is a report by the host of the HLG. And in the past, there has been a full list of attendance, including all the delegations and the titles and levels of participation for each of the delegations. It's not been systematic, but it's been a precedent, so I believe this would need to be discussed with the Rwandan government as host of the meeting to convey your request, potentially.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Fabien, for that. Just to make sure we're on the same page, basically the report needs to come from the Rwandan

government, and they're going to take their time to produce that report. It could take one month or two months. We don't know, but we have no way to put pressure on them. So that's basically why we are going to be including some text in the communiqué that is produced by the GAC itself. I don't know if that answers your question. Thank you. Any other comment? I don't see any hand up. I don't see anybody asking for the floor in the chat room. So back to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Thank you, Nico. And so this diagram here is to remind you of the process of communiqué development, which goes beyond drafting. So we are during the ICANN meeting week, so we're in that gray box in the middle. It is Wednesday, the third day of the meeting, and we are starting the actual communiqué drafting sessions. But beforehand, as you may recall, the GAC chair requests before the meeting for GAC members to consider sharing issues that they might want to deal with in the communiqué and provide potential text. So this is before the communiqué.

Once we go through communiqué drafting all the way until tomorrow, which is the last day of the meeting, then we move into a review period of 72 hours. This has been introduced during the pandemic and the virtual meetings to ensure that all participants, all GAC participants and GAC members had enough time to consider the communiqué, given potential time zone issues or language barrier or connectivity challenges. And it's been decided that the 72-hour review period be continued beyond those virtual meetings, hence our

systematic adoption of a review period of 72 hours after the end of communiqué drafting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Just one thing Fabien, sorry to interrupt you, but one important thing to take into account here is that I'll be closing the live collaboration on the document right after the first session tomorrow morning. So tomorrow morning we have a communiqué drafting session from 9 to 10:15. Then we have a coffee break. Right after that, I'll be closing the live collaboration on the document. I just wanted to remind you of that little detail. Back to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Thank you, Nico. And absolutely, I was going to get to that. As it relates to drafting the process, as you've seen, this is a Google document on which you can contribute. And you will be able to do so until the end of the first session tomorrow, which is going to be our third session. And this is done in the interest of the stability of the text and to ensure that it is easier to get to conclusion on the text. And so if you want to contribute further editing after this end of the actual collaborative editing in Google Doc, you are welcome to send us texts or during the session to propose edits and we'll reflect that in the document.

And finally, just one last thing. At any time, please don't hesitate to use the GAC support team as a resource to ensure that your references are accurate. You may ask us to do a research of references for you, as

well as to ensure that the text you propose in a given section is consistent with previous practice. So we are here to help you on that. And with that, I think we've covered the process, Nico, and we can move on to drafting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you. Just one thing again. I just want to make sure that everybody understands that what I will close tomorrow morning after the first session is the live collaboration. It doesn't preclude in any way any country submitting more text, but in that case, it's going to have to be directly to GAC staff just to make sure the document is consistent and that there will be no confusions about anything. So with that, let's dive into the details. Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: So let's go, Nico, our usual practice is to go to the sections that have substantive discussion of policy issues. I don't think we have advice text yet. We only have a reference to a topic, if I'm correct.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Let's begin with issues of importance.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Exactly, because this is where we have the most substance at the moment. And so there we go. Nico, if you want to...

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Sure. Thank you for that, Fabien. So in order to make sure that we're all on the same page, literally speaking in this case, we're going to start in section four and then as we receive more contributions and more text from the different GAC delegations, we'll include them. But for the time being, let's just start with issues of importance to the GAC. Fabien?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: And so here the first section is a high-level government meeting. We have proposed, this is a proposal, a text proposed by the GAC support team based on previous such reports in the GAC communiqué of previous HLGMs. So this is not meant to be the end of what this could be. This is just a starting text based on previous practice.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Fabien. And again, we're drafting here. So let me read section four, issues of importance to the GAC. One high-level government meeting, HLG. The GAC expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of Rwanda for hosting the fifth high-level government meeting on 9 June 2024.

The meeting was attended by 81 delegations, including 12 intergovernmental organizations, and provided a valuable forum for ministers and senior officials to address a range of issues, including the importance of multi-stakeholder model of governance of the internet, the necessary cooperation between regulators and the technical community for effective regulation of new technology;

challenges and initiatives to ensure digital inclusion and meaningful connectivity to the internet. As you can see, it's a work in progress, and there's lots of fine-tuning still to be done here. But let me just pause here and see if we have -- I don't know if that addresses your question, by the way. So any question or comments so far?

So then I'll continue with the second point here, which is Transparency, GNSO statements of interest, SOIs, and Code of Ethics. The GAC welcomes the will expressed by the Board to develop a code of ethics to inter-alia, address transparency issues in SOIs. We look forward to community discussions ahead of ICANN 81 based on a discussion draft presented by the board. The GAC expects that transparency conditions contained in the code are binding for PDP participants. Am I reading too fast? And this is a question for the translators. Please give me thumbs up or down. Am I okay? Good? Thank you. Perfect.

So do we have any questions regarding the second topic, transparency, SOIs, et cetera? And I don't see any hand in the room or online, which means that we're to move on. So let's get to the third topic.

Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets in New gTLDs. That's the title. So it reads, the GAC notes the Board resolution of June 8th as well as its update provided by the Board on its current thinking about resolution of contention sets in relation with the GAC consensus advice on the matter from ICANN77. "To take steps to avoid the use of auctions of last resort in contentions

between commercial and non-commercial applications; alternative means for the resolution of such contention sets, such as drawing lots, may be explored.”

The GAC particularly notes that according to said Board Resolution, the Board intends to take action that is not consistent or may not be consistent with GAC Consensus advice item 4 a.i. in the Washington, D.C. Communiqué concerning Auctions. In this regard, and with a view to identifying alternative means to resolve contention sets between commercial and non-commercial applications, the GAC would welcome that before taking a decision and engaging in a potential Bylaws mandated process between Board and GAC, the Board would facilitate a focused community-wide discussion including ALAC, GAC, and other parts of the community, in order to identify possible ways forward consistent with the spirit of said GAC consensus advice that would address the need to avoid the use of auctions of last resort in such contention sets. And I'll pause here in order to see if we have any reactions.

I don't see any hand up in the room. I don't see any requests for the floor online. I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Please, state your name and your country just to make sure that next time I see you, I'll be able to identify you. Thank you. Go ahead, please.

WAHKEEN MURRAY:

No problem. Wahkeen Murray from Jamaica, for the record. Just for clarity, it may be useful to include the year of the decision because it just says June 8th and it might be useful to put 2024 if that's the date.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Very good point, Jamaica. Thank you so much for that. It's already included. Thank you. Any other comments or questions? Any edits? And again, I don't see any hand up. I don't see any hands up. And again, I don't see any hand up. I don't see any hand in the chat room. It means that we're to move on, Fabien.

So topic number four is registry voluntary commitments, RVCs, and public interest commitments picks in New gTLDs. And the text reads, the GAC notes that the Board resolved on June 8th, and here probably we need to follow Jamaica's advice and include the year as well. So it should be June 8th, 2024. So I'll read it again. The GAC notes that the Board resolved on June 8th, 2024 that, per the ICANN Bylaws, RVCs in new gTLD applications that “restrict or regulate content” will neither be accepted nor enforced by ICANN as part of its contractual relationship with registries.

In this regard, in order to maximize predictability for applicants, governments, and other participants in the community, the GAC requests that the board, in consultation with the community, provides clear guidance well before the launch of the forthcoming round regarding what the Board will consider as RVCs “restricting” or “regulating” content.

There's an extra quote there that we need to erase. Such guidance should include illustrative examples of RVCs which would and would not involve the regulation or restriction of content. The GAC also recognizes that other arrangements outside of the new gTLD registry

agreements could be made between the registry and other parties which address content restrictions and their enforcement. I'm not reading too fast. This is for the translators. We're okay? Perfect. Thank you. Can you scroll down a little bit? Thank you.

In its resolution, the Board acknowledges that this decision “may limit the types of acceptable registry commitments and, in turn, narrow applicants' options for addressing third-party concerns that arise from Objections, Advice, or comments with respect to their applied for gTLD strings.” The GAC wishes to also underline that this approach will impact the manner in which the GAC may consider applications and limits the types of remedial actions that can be taken to address GAC concerns. The GAC will continue discussing this matter and particularly in relation to possible remedial actions. And I'll pause here again in order to see if I have any comments or edits or questions. US, please go ahead.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to note and for my colleague Jorge in particular that we had a question about the restrict or regulate content just trying to understand the provenance of that phrase if it was directly cited and suggesting that we cite it. If so...

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you, US. Switzerland, would you like to answer to that point?

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Jorge Cancio, Switzerland for the record. I have to check the actual text of the board resolution, but the intention is to really be using the very same language. I'll check and come back to you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, Jorge.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, US. Thank you, Switzerland. Any other question, comments, thoughts, edits? I don't see any hands in the room. And there are no hands in the chat room either, so let's move on, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: So here we have a suggestion that DNS abuse will also be discussed as part of issues of importance. It looks like this is from the European Commission, so we are expecting text there. So we can probably move on to the Section 6, Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you for that, Fabien. So I'll read Section 6, Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team, IRT, and the text reads, During the bilateral sessions with the GNSO, the GAC posed a question about the high cost of the registry service provider technical evaluation fee planned for the New gTLD process. The GAC expresses its concerns regarding financial barriers to entry for new applicants participating in the next round of gTLDs, specifically those from within

the underserved, underrepresented regions. And I'll pause here in order to see any reactions. And I have the UK. Go ahead, please.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you, Chair. Just a small suggestion, and I think it's already been struck through up there actually, but just in the interest of specificity with the footnote, which refers to underserved regions, it might be clear just to keep underserved regions and remove the reference to underrepresented in line with the GAC's usual definition. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, UK. Done. Any other edit? India? Go ahead, please.

T. SANTHOSH: Thank you, Chair. Now the topic related to WHOIS accuracy and the urgent request, where it will be mentioned, whether it will be mentioned in DNS abuse?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: No, we would add sections to this part of the communiqué. We are aware that there are maybe several suggestions of text on these topics, and so we encourage the various proponents of text on these matters to get together and potentially merge their text before we consider them in the communiqué, just in the interest of time.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: So in that regard, do we know how many countries or how many contributors we have so far? We have India and the European Commission.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: That's my understanding at least.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Do we have any other country providing text on the US? Go ahead, please.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, Chair. Apologies. Oh, is that working?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: We have an issue with the microphones over here. Could you please help the US delegation with the microphones? Thank you.

SUSAN CHALMERS: Check one, check two. No?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Well, is the whole section here to my left? If you can please help us, because the microphones are not working here. Hello?

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you. The DNS abuse topic co-leads intend to provide text on the DNS abuse section.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you, US. I don't see any hand in the chat room. Any other edit at this point? UK, go ahead.

NIGEL HICKSON: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I just had problems raising my hand. On this text at number six, which I think is really necessary, I was wondering if we could try and add an additional paragraph which actually asks the board to consider something in relation to this particular issue. I'll put something in writing so I won't dictate it now. It's just that I think we've identified, and it's been identified by a number of distinguished GAC delegations, that the high cost of the registry service provider technical evaluation, which has been proposed and hasn't actually been signed off yet by the IRTT, as far as I'm aware, is not only a barrier, as has been identified, to participation of registry service providers from the Global South and from elsewhere, but also, of course, has a direct impact on the application fee.

So I wonder whether we ought to be seeking the view of the board on whether, as we have done in the application support area, having a reduction of fees for applications from underserved regions, et cetera, whether we ought to consider the applications for RSPs from underserved regions or whatever the term is, it should be considered

whether some financial compromise would be needed. I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, go on.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, UK, well noted. I assume you will be providing some text later on, so yes, no problem at all. Thank you for that, UK. Any other edit, comment, question? so let's move on, Fabien, back to you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you, Nico. So I think we've covered all the substantive text we've received so far. We understand that we're waiting for text on DNS abuse as part of issues of importance, as well as on various registration data-related issues. As far as GAC advice is concerned, we're waiting for text on the applicant support program, same for follow-up on previous advice, as well as urgent requests. It seems that there is a consideration of follow-up on previous advice if you go to the next section, on urgent requests as well.

Any advice, indeed? It looks like we will also receive text on private resolution of contention sets for advice. We do not have the text for those. And so maybe what we can do is walk our way back to internal matters, maybe, and look at the text regarding GAC membership, GAC elections, and GAC working group, in particular the report from the UNICEF regions working group.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

As a matter of matter, maybe we should start from the beginning and get somewhere. So let's get to section one. I'll read the whole thing right from the beginning, and then we'll stop wherever you tell me to stop. So the text reads, GAC communiqué Kigali Rwanda. The Kigali communiqué was drafted and agreed in a hybrid setting during the ICANN80 policy forum with some GAC participants in Kigali, Rwanda, and others remotely.

The communiqué was circulated to the GAC immediately after the meeting to provide an opportunity for all GAC members and observers to consider it before publication, bearing in mind the special circumstances of a hybrid meeting. No objections were raised during the agreed timeframe before publication. We don't know about that yet because, as Fabien mentioned before, that will be happening the day after tomorrow. So I'll read the first section. Can you scroll down a little bit, please?

Introduction, the Governmental Advisory Committee, GAC of the Internet Corporation for Assign Names and Numbers (ICANN) met in Kigali, Rwanda, in a hybrid setting, including remote participation from 9 to 13 June 2024. XX GAC members and X observers attended the meeting. The GAC meeting was conducted as part of the ICANN80 policy forum. All GAC plenary and working group sessions were conducted as open meetings.

Can you scroll down, please? Section 2, Inter-Constituency Activities and Community Engagement. Meeting with the ICANN Board, the GAC met with the ICANN Board and discussed GNSO statements of interest,

resolution of contention sets, public interest commitments and registry voluntary commitments, name collisions, DNS resiliency, new DNS technologies, applicant support in Next Round of new gTLDs. Meeting with the at-large Advisory Committee, ALAC. The GAC met with members of the ALAC and discussed mechanisms of last resort, private resolution of contention sets in new gTLDs, new gTLD applicant support program.

Meeting with the generic names supporting organization, GNSO. The GAC met with members of the GNSO Council and discussed high-level government meeting, GNSO statements of interest, SOIs, next round of new gTLDs including applicant support program, singular/plural TLDs, implementation review team, resolution of contention sets, public interest commitments, PICs, registry voluntary commitments, RVCs, Latin script diacritics in new gTLDs, urgent requests for disclosure of registration data and registration data accuracy. Can you scroll down a little bit, please? Thank you.

Cross-community Discussions. GAC members participated in relevant cross-community sessions scheduled as part of ICANN80 including “Navigating the multi-stakeholder approach.” The ICANN community's role in global internet governance. GAC members welcome the active engagement of ICANN org and the ICANN community in ongoing discussions such as the Global Digital Compact, the WSIS+20 review process, as well as the active involvement in the recent NetMundial+10 event, acknowledging its outcome statement, which includes the São Paulo multi-stakeholder guidelines.

Finally, we have the ICANN organizational stability. The GAC has noted the recent decision from ICANN org regarding the layoff of a certain number of ICANN staff and would like to express its concern and interest in the organizational stability of ICANN, which hinges fundamentally on its human talent. I'll pause here and see if we have any reactions, any edits, questions or comments at this point. The floor is open. Jamaica, go ahead, please.

WAHKEEN MURRAY:

Again, Wahkeen Murray from the record, Jamaica. As under the heading meeting with the GNSO, as this referenced a high-level government meeting is the first time that that meeting is going to be referenced, it is suggested that a date again be included because otherwise it could be any high-level government meeting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Perfect. Thank you. Thank you, Jamaica. Done. Any other edits? And I don't see any hand up. I don't see any hand in the chat room. Go ahead, please, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

As far as the ICANN organizational stability section, should this be under issues of importance? And the reason I'm wondering is because it's not being discussed, to my knowledge, in any of those discussions that usually go under inter-constituency activity.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: I agree. We haven't discussed that. If you all agree, maybe we should move that to internal matters.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Issues of importance, I would suggest.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Sorry, issues of. My laser brain is not working well at this time without my flu medicine.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: And noting, actually, that the choice of location matters also to the extent that if this is included as part of issues of importance, this will be discussed with the ICANN board eventually when the ICANN board processes that section of the communiqué and holds the traditional board GAC interaction group called BGIG, which discusses issues of importance. So, I don't know if it's the intention to have that discussion. So, I just want to make sure you're aware in terms of the consequence of the choice of where this is inserted.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Fabien. The floor is open. US?

SUSAN CHALMERS: Thank you, Chair. Could your GAC support staff kindly point us to the session where this organizational stability has been discussed during this meeting?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: My understanding is that this was a potential topic for discussion with the board, but that was not discussed. We need to double check. It may have been in the list of topics, but we didn't get to those. We need to double check, but it effectively hasn't been discussed.

SUSAN CHALMERS: So, we have some reservations with representing a GAC consensus view and a communiqué on a topic that has not been discussed during the course of the meeting. So, we may revert back on this. Also, just noting if we've also recognized that a new CEO has been announced in the communiqué. Just throwing that out there for colleagues' consideration.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: So, just a follow-up question. Are you asking us to look at precedents of the communiqué referencing a CEO selection?

SUSAN CHALMERS: I'm asking if anybody, if that has been noted in the text thus far. No?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Not this far. On this communiqué, no.

SUSAN CHALMERS: I just think it's somewhat relevant, the subject. But at the moment, we have some hesitation about this addition, but also think it would be an excellent topic for the BGIG call.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, US. I have Egypt.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Chair. So, those are not different topics. So, I don't know if you want to continue the thread because I see other hands, and then I can come back.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Egypt. Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio for the record. Just to elaborate a little bit, following up on Susan's question on this para on ICANN, organizational stability. We discussed in the preparatory meeting, I think it was last week, when we prepared all the bilaterals with the board, with the GNSO, with ALAC, that we would touch on this point with the board. So, I remember discussing this in that meeting and

even mentioning something very similar as what you have on the document as speaking notes for our intervention with the board.

Unfortunately, on Monday, we didn't have the time to address this, but I think it's of insufficient importance to include a mention in the communiqué, although I'm flexible on where to put it and, of course, on the language, whether we want to say the GAC or GAC members or something in that direction. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you. Switzerland. I have the UK.

NIGEL HICKSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would concur with what Jorge said, although Susan, of course, is absolutely right in that we hadn't discussed it during this GAC meeting, but we did discuss it as a GAC before the meeting. There's often a fine line here. We've discussed this before, but, it's obviously up to all the GAC to take a view on this, but it was, I think, in many of our reflections a fairly serious matter when there is such a big organizational change in an organization, a global organization which we all take part in.

The second point on the CEO, I think, is absolutely right. I don't know whether there's precedent when the last CEO was appointed, but I would have thought that at the beginning of the communiqué, we could note with appreciation or note with satisfaction or something like that. ICANN has appointed a new CEO, and we welcome this and

look forward to meeting the new CEO in due course. That's if GAC members agree, but that, I think, would be polite.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, UK. Egypt, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Since I have the mic, I will also respond on that topic. I also think it's, even if we don't have a president, it makes sense to acknowledge the appointment of the new CEO, so I support that. And I also think that the text on organizational stability is an important topic that we should try to accommodate in a way or another in the communiqué. Again, we can look into ways or how to put it, maybe also regarding the text so that we can include it. Having said that, I wanted to ask just a question. We mentioned at the beginning the date from the 9th, so just a question. Do we include the high-level governmental meeting as part of the GAC meeting? This is why we say the GAC met, or do we start on the 10th? Just a question, because I wasn't really sure.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Very good point. From 10th to 13th. Thank you, Egypt, for that. So if everybody's okay, maybe we should move to internal matters. This is section three, internal matters.

GAC membership. Following the welcoming of Libya as a GAC member during the ICANN77 Washington, D.C. meeting, the GAC welcomes the Principality of Liechtenstein as a member during the ICANN80 Kigali

meeting. There are currently 183 GAC member states and territories and 39 observer organizations.

2, GAC elections. The 2024 election process for the positions of GAC chair and GAC vice chairs will be initiated shortly after the ICANN80 meeting with the start of the nomination period. The nomination period will close on 25th September 2024. If needed, a voting process will be conducted from 19th October until 12th November 2024, ending during the ICANN 81 public meeting where the election results will be announced. Can you scroll down, please?

Number 2, GAC working groups. The GAC notes and welcomes the appointment of Janos Drianyovszki from the European Commission. I hope I'm pronouncing the last name well, otherwise, my apologies. From the European Commission, as co-chair of the Public Safety Working Group (PSWG). The GAC and the PSWG extend their sincere appreciation to Kigali as a member of the European Commission and to Catherin Bauer-Bulst, who is stepping down from this position for both her valuable service and notable contributions to the working group and the GAC.

The GAC notes and welcomes the appointment of Tracy Hackshaw from the Universal Postal Union as a co-chair of the Underserved Regions Working Group (USRWG). The GAC and the USRWG extend their sincere appreciation to Tepua Hunter, who previously stepped down from this position for both her valuable service and notable contributions to the working group and the GAC. And then we're waiting for some text regarding the PSWG.

Let's move on to the next one, which is GAC underserved region's working group (USRWG.) Under the direction of the GAC underserved region's working group (USRWG) the capacity development and African engagement sessions were held on 11 June 2024. Being the first ICANN meeting in Africa in five years, this was an opportunity for session leads to tailor an agenda according to the needs of GAC members from the region.

The first session discussed the Internet Assigned Numbers Authorities (IANA) role in the delegation and transfer of ccTLDs. The various questions and comments from members demonstrated the importance of the topic, particularly as ccTLDs are considered a national asset. Continuing from the discussions during the capacity development session, members had the opportunity to learn more about efforts within the region from Smart Africa and the Coalition for Digital Africa, who respectively reported on their activities and Internet governance projects in Africa.

A post-session survey will be conducted to gather feedback from GAC members to guide the USRWG on future workshops and capacity development initiatives. In light of the high engagement demonstrated by members, the working group will continue to explore new modalities to enhance capacity development initiatives through webinars and workshops, intersessionally and during ICANN meetings. The capacity development planning team expresses its appreciation for the contributions of ICANN org, IANA /PTI, expert from the ICANN community and Smart Africa.

Can you scroll down or that's the end of it? So let me pause here and see if we have comments, edits, questions, if everything's all right. And I have a hand from Egypt. Please go ahead.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Yes, thank you, Chair. In the third paragraph in the GAC underserved region's working group, I think the word respectively is misleading. We're seeing who respectively reported on their activities. I believe the Internet governance activity was gathered from smart Africa. So either we switch Smart Africa and the coalition for Digital Africa and we keep respectively or we take out the word respectively. Unless I'm not understanding it right.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that. Egypt, any strong feelings against the change? I don't see any opposition in the room, which means that we can leave with it. So it would read, I'll just read that paragraph for the sake of time. So continuing from the discussions during the capacity development session, members had the opportunity to learn more about efforts within the region from Smart Africa and the coalition for Digital Africa who reported on their activities and Internet governance projects in Africa. I would put in the continent or something in order to avoid repeating Africa four times. But again, it's up to you.

Finn, you want to say anything? So there we go. There we are. I don't see any hands up. I don't see any hand in the chat room either, which means that we can move on. Fabian, back to you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: So the last subsection in this internal matter section of communiqué is GAC strategic planning.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: So let me read that part. So this is section four, sorry. Is it internal matters?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: We're in internal matters.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Internal matters. Sorry, thank you. So the text reads, building on a process initiated in December 2023 by the GAC chair and Vice-Chairs, considering the GAC plenary discussion during ICANN79 in San Juan and several consultations of the GAC membership intersessionally, the GAC finalized and endorsed the four-year GAC strategic plan 2024-2028 and the corresponding 2024-2025 GAC annual plan. The GAC expects that these strategic and annual plans will serve to bolster the GAC's 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. And I'll pause there. Should there be an S or a Z in finalized? My Shakespearean friend, Nigel, what should we use there?

NIGEL HICKSON: S, of course. What language are we using here?

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, UK. Questions, comments, thoughts? Fabien, go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: I'll just mention that we've referenced an activity page on the GAC website so that we will publish the finalized versions of the strategic plan and annual plan in PDF format on that page. So this is a way to simplify the linkage to the documents, noting that we still have a little bit of editing to do in the annual plan following our earlier session, but I believe that is just clerical to just clean up the document. And we will be doing that in the coming day to ensure that this is ready once the communiqué is proposed for review.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Fabien. So again, the floor is open, open for edits, comments, any question you might have, we're in your hands. So given the fact that we're almost at the end of the session, we're just going to recall the sections in which we still need text to be provided and then we'll have a coffee break. Over to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you. So I understand we're still expecting text on DNS abuse as part of issues of importance. I understand this is also the case of WHOIS registration data related issues. As part of the section on GAC

consensus advice, we're expecting text on applicant support program as well as private resolution of contention sets.

And finally, in the follow-up on previous advice section, we're expecting text on applicant support program and urgent requests. And maybe I'll mention if we go back to the top in the introduction section, we've looked at precedent and in the ICANN55 Marrakech communiqué, there was a reference to the CEO transition where the GAC expressed appreciation to the outgoing CEO, Fadi Chehade, and the incoming CEO, Goran Marby. So we can possibly adapt this text in this slightly different situations in which the interim CEO, the new CEO is expected to come in to start in his role in December.

And in the meantime, the interim ICANN CEO to continue her function. So we can propose text in that sense. And then if we go down at the bottom of inter-constituency activities, we have the ICANN organizational stability discussion that is still open in terms of where that should be located and whether it should still be in the communiqué. So this is, I think, in terms of what we're expecting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you so much for that, Fabien. And as a matter of fact, we'll have plenty of time to continue discussing that given the fact that we have one, two, three, four more sessions on communiqué drafting. I have the UK.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you, Chair. And thank you for that helpful recap. Just to say that on behalf of the GAC ASP small team, we've emailed over some advice, but would appreciate advice on getting in the Google doc given my copying and pasting skills aren't quite up to snuff on docs. Thank you so much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, UK. Well noted. Well, I'm very happy to tell you that I will let you grab your coffee two minutes before the time. So enjoy your break. Please be back at 3:30. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]