
ICANN82 | CF – GAC: Opening Plenary
Saturday, March 08, 2025 – 13:15 to 14:30 PST

GULTEN TEPE

Hello and welcome to the ICANN82 GAC Opening Plenary Session on Saturday, 8th of March at 18:30 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. 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. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. And please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking. You may access all available features for the 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. Thank you, Gulten. Welcome, everyone. Distinguished GAC representatives, it is my profound honor and privilege to welcome you to ICANN82 Community Forum here in the beautiful and innovative city of Seattle, Washington. As we gather in this iconic hub of technological advancement and cultural richness, we

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are reminded of the remarkable individuals who have shaped this region's legacy.

Chief Seattle, whose profound wisdom and leadership bridged cultures and fostered mutual respect. Ralph Anderson, an architect who restored Pioneer Square, saving buildings and repurposing them. And the great, illustrious Jimi Hendrix. I don't know if you knew that Jimi Hendrix was born in Seattle, but just in case, whose artistic genius continues to inspire creativity and innovation across the world. Their contributions remind us of the power of collaboration, vision, and resilience, values that resonate deeply with our work here at ICANN.

This week, we embark on a journey of dialogue, strategy, and progress guided by a thoughtfully crafted agenda that reflects the critical priorities of our global community. Our discussions will delve into GAC priority policy topics, including the New gTLD Next Round issues, DNS Abuse, and registration data. These are not just technical matters, but foundational pillars that uphold the integrity, security, and inclusivity of the global internet ecosystem.

On Saturday afternoon, we will reflect on our strategic and annual planning progress, ensuring that our efforts remain aligned with the evolving needs of the global community. This session will provide an opportunity to assess our achievements, to identify areas for improvement, and chart a course for the future. A key focus this week will be fostering bilateral community relations as we engage in meaningful dialogues with stakeholders across the ICANN ecosystem. These interactions are essential for building

trust, understanding diverse perspectives, and advancing our shared goals.

Additionally, we will dedicate significant time to the Communiqué drafting process on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This document is a testament to our collective voice and a crucial tool for advocating the interests of governments and public authorities in the global internet governance landscape. We will also discuss proposed leadership elections and term limit changes, ensuring that our governance structures remain robust, transparent, and forward-looking. These discussions are vital for maintaining the credibility and effectiveness of the GAC as a leading voice in the ICANN community.

So, as we begin this week, let us draw inspiration from the collaborative spirit that defines Seattle, a city built on innovation, as I said before, inclusivity, and resilience. Together, we have the opportunity to shape policies that will have a lasting impact on the global internet ecosystem, ensuring it remains open, secure, and accessible to all.

In closing, I wish you all a week of productive sessions, meaningful connections, and shared success. Let us work together with determination and unity to achieve our goals and strengthen the foundation of a trusted and inclusive internet for all. Thank you, and welcome to ICANN82 in Seattle. May this be a week of inspiration, collaboration, and progress. Thank you again.

So, with that, can we go to the-- Gulden, can we go back? There we go. So, I already talked about this, but just in case it was not clear,

these are some notable agenda highlights the community forum, the meeting format, the GAC priority policy topic sessions, the New gTLD Next Round issues. I already talked about this, the DNS Abuse, registration data, etc.

Again, as I said before, we'll be talking about strategic and the annual planning progress, Saturday afternoon, the leadership elections and the term limit changes. Potentially, there might be no changes at all, depending on what we decide here altogether. Or we might move forward with my proposals as explained before. The bilateral community relations throughout the week, and the Communiqué drafting for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Next slide, please, Gulden. Can you go back to the block schedule, just for a second, in case there's any kind of question here, anything, any comment? If not, everybody has a copy of this, so should be fine at this point. So, for the review of meeting logistics, I don't know if, Gulden, you will go ahead with the explanations. Please go ahead, Gulden.

GULTEN TEPE

Thank you, Nico. I will provide a brief overview of meeting logistics and details regarding some technical capabilities. Please make sure that you have updated your version of Zoom and all the features are available to you. If you're experiencing an issue that might be related to an outdated version of the Zoom application, so please remember to update your Zoom before the sessions. Otherwise, it might disrupt your connection to the sessions.

There is an icon on Zoom toolbar that says Interpretation under More tab. You may click on this icon in order to select the language of your choice from the menu. We have six UN languages and Portuguese available. To view the real-time transcription, you may click on the Show Caption button in the Zoom toolbar. Links to scribes have been shared on the calendar invitations, which were sent out last week.

During the sessions, please remember to sign into Zoom platform using your full name. There's a rename function available on Zoom participants' section. It is possible to do that by hovering over your name on attendee list. Present here in Seattle or joining us remotely, all attendees should raise hand via Zoom. That would help our chair, Nico, to manage the queue.

Regarding the calendar invitations, if you recall, I shared the invites for each GAC session last week. You may want to check those invites as you would find the links to GAC website as well as ICANN meetings page for each respective session. I will not be updating the calendar invitations with Zoom links this time around as this is advised by our ENIT team. So, please check the ICANN meetings page to access the remote connection details 24 hours before each session.

Under introduction part on ICANN82 agenda page on GAC website, you may find very valuable resources, materials, and reports. GAC logistics document is one of them and you may want to review this reference guide if you're a new or experienced GAC participant. And I will share the link in the chat so you can take a peek.

A couple of notes for our in-person attendees. Seats at the tables with microphones are only for GAC delegation members. Other community members are welcome to join the GAC sessions, but we would much appreciate if you can take the seats on the back of the room and leaving the seats on the tables to GAC community members. Seats will be reserved in the front rows for some sessions including the joint meetings with ICANN Board, GNSO, ALAC, and circulation of written materials in GAC room is not allowed.

Moving to health and safety protocols. Mask wearing while indoors is by your choice and enhanced venue cleaning is still being found very crucial so there are relatively long breaks between the sessions. More details on health and safety measures are outlined on ICANN meetings website. And with that, I will hand the floor back to you, Nico. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much for that, Gulten. Regarding the circulation of written materials in rooms during sessions, that is to avoid any kind of interruption or distraction for the presenters and the flow of the sessions and so on and so forth. If there's anything you would like to distribute, please do it in the corridor or before the session or after the session or outside the GAC room.

Do we have any questions regarding the meeting logistics so far? Very straightforward, self-explanatory, I guess. So, with that, let me

hand the floor to Rob for some housekeeping details. Rob, over to you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH

Never stop the housekeeping details. Thank you very much, Nico. And thanks very much, Gulten, for the very thorough overview. Appreciate many of you listening to that each time. It does change. It adjusts a little bit in terms of what's going on in a particular meeting location. So, thanks for all paying attention to that. Very good to see many of you. Saw a number of you in the hallway. For those who I haven't seen yet, hi.

What I wanted to share with you is a little bit of information that we have already talked about during the agenda-setting calls to set you up and prepare for the meeting. The GAC leadership under Nico's direction has had a clear focus for the last year or so on improving metric collections, data information, and being able to share that information with all of you, not only to help gear up and improve engagement throughout the committee, but also to be able to give you the accurate information for you to share with your colleagues and with others.

One of the components of that work has been an overhaul of our membership records. Many of you have now had interactions with Barry Cobb. Barry is in the back of the room today again, who's really helped us in terms of identifying and helping keep up all the information with respect to delegations. So, thanks for all of you

who have contributed to that effort through your follow-up and work.

An aspect of that is the attendance at meetings. There are a few people in this room who remember 10 years ago when basically a sheet of loose-leaf paper was passed around the room and everybody wrote their names, somewhat unprofessional or at least not reflecting of current technologies. So, we're trying to be more accurate in that respect, more rigorous in terms of being able to help you all be assured that not only your colleagues are participating, but that you get credit either at home or here throughout the community that you've actually attended and participated in the events.

The upshot of that is that I've reminded you many times over the course of the last several months to make sure that you registered for the meeting. And thank you. I'm sure that everybody who's sitting here has done so. You've got your badges. What we're going to be doing starting this evening, and that's our little red arrow today in terms of the membership attendance, is you'll all be getting an email basically asking you just to acknowledge, yes, I'm here. I showed up. That's going to help us in terms of just maintaining our record keeping, being more consistent.

Some of you have observed the rigor that we take on the meeting minutes and have had good dialogue, but every once in a while we'll miss somebody online. By having not only those in person, but those of you online registering, that will allow us to be able to record your activities and participation here. So, we really

appreciate you all making that effort, and we hope that that will improve things. Again, Nico, just another step along the line and more rigor from a record keeping and engagement perspective.

I'm happy to answer any questions in the back of the room. If you have any outstanding exchanges of information with Barry or Gulten, they're right there in the back of the room throughout the week. So, we encourage you to have that dialogue. Thanks very much. Back to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Rob. Before we start with the tour de table, let me ask, is the Monaco GAC representative in the room or online? No. Is the APNIC African Parliamentary Network of On-Internet Governance in the room or online? No. Okay, so those are the two new GAC members. I would have liked to welcome them in person or online, but given the fact that they're not here. Anyways, let's go ahead with the tour de table.

So, we'll begin. Basically, what you need to do is to introduce yourself, both in the room and remote. Just any short comments you might like to share short, please keep them short and sweet for the sake of time. And just introduce yourselves and share any short comments you might or might not have. So, we'll begin over there with my good friend, Tracy Hackshaw from the UPU. Tracy, would you like to start?

TRACY HACKSHAW

Tracy Hackshaw, Universal Postal Union. Happy to be here. Did a good capacity development session and I'm looking forward to having a good meeting in Seattle. Congratulations to the host of the meeting as well. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON

Good day. Ian Sheldon, GAC Australia. I'd like to thank the hosts for hosting us here in their wonderful wet city. Looking forward to a fantastic and productive meeting with you all today and over the course of the next week. Thank you.

INGRAM NIBLOCK

Hi, everybody. Ingram Niblock, also GAC Australia.

ESTHER JAROMITSKI

Hi, everyone. Esther Jaromitski, working with Nigel Hickson for the UK GAC. I'm very, very grateful to be here in Seattle and looking forward to a good week. Thanks.

FINN PETERSEN

Hello, everybody. My name is Finn Petersen and I come from the Danish government.

PAUL NGAMIRANO

Hello, everyone. My name is Paul Ngamirano. I'm from Uganda. I work with the National IT Authority.

MANA AIDARA

Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Maana Aidara. I'm from Senegal and I am one of the GAC members of Senegal. Thank you so much.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Good morning, good evening, good afternoon, everybody. Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago and one of the co-chairs of the Underserved Regions Working Group and we had a session this morning. Happy to be here. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us. So, thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Hopefully. So, we'll continue over there with my good friend, Par.

PAR BRUMARK

Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Par Brumark. I'm representing a small nation called Niue. I'm the special envoy of the government of Niue.

SUADA HADZOVIC

Hello, everybody. My name is Suada Hadzovic. I am from the Communications Regulatory Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ

Hello, everybody. My name is Saša Kovačević, GAC Serbia and happy to be with you here today.

LUCAS PRÊTRE

Hi, I will speak in French. Hello, everyone. My name is Lucas Prêtre, and I represent the government of Switzerland. I work at OFCOM, and I'm very happy to be with you and to spend a week in your company. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO

Hello, everyone. My name is Jorge Cancio. I represent Switzerland. And I would like to thank the government of the United States of America and all our hosts for having us here and welcoming us in Seattle. Secondly, I would like to have a productive meeting here, and I will be very happy to work with you during that week. Thank you.

RUDY NOLDE

Hello, everyone. I'm Rudy Nolde and I work for the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport in Germany. I'm the German GAC representative. I'd like to thank the host for this meeting and I'm looking forward to a productive week. Thank you.

JANOS DRIENYOVSKI

Thank you, Nico. Hello, everyone. My name is Janos Drienyovszki. I'm from the European Commission and also, I'm one of the co-chairs of the Public Safety Working Group. I'm looking forward to this session.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Thank you, everyone. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Gemma Carolillo, also from the European Commission, looking forward to the meeting.

JOSE RAUL SOLARES CHIU

Hello. Good afternoon, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here. I am representing Guatemala.

ABDELJALIL BACHAR

Hello, everyone. My name is Abdeljalil Bachar Bong from the National Agency of Cybersecurity in Chad. And I do represent Chad, and I'm happy to be with you today.

ANA NEVES

Good evening. I'm Ana Neves, and I'll speak in Portuguese, of course. I represent Portugal in the GAC. Thank you.

PETER MUJTABA

Good afternoon, everyone. I am Peter Mujtaba from the CTO. Thank you.

JAKUB KUBAN

Good afternoon. My name is Jakub Kubanj, representing Slovakia. I'm looking forward to this meeting. Thank you.

MAAIKE VEENSTRA

Hi, everyone. My name is Maaïke Veenstra. I work for the Dutch government. I would like to thank the host and I'm looking forward to a productive week.

MARCO HEGEWONING

Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Marco Hegewoning, working for the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the GAC representative for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Marco. We'll continue with the lady right behind you. I can't see very well, but if you could, please go ahead.

SHANEA LEWIS

Good afternoon, everyone. Shanea Lewis from the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. It's a privilege to be here today and I'm joined online by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Nigel Castaner, who will be following along as he can.

PRADEEP VERMA

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Pradeep Verma from India, alternate GAC representative. Thank you.

SHUSHIL PAL

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Sushil Pal, GAC rep from India. Happy to be here and looking forward for a fruitful deliberation. Thank you.

BO MARTINSON

Good afternoon. My name is Bo Martinson from Sweden.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN

Hello, everyone. I'm Kristina Hakobyan from Armenia, advisor to GAC Armenia, also GAC liaison to At-Large Advisory Committee. Thank you.

OWEN FLETCHER

Hello. I am Owen Fletcher from the United States National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

SUSAN CHALMERS

Good afternoon, GAC colleagues. Welcome to Seattle. My name is Susan Chalmers. I am the GAC representative for the United States. We look forward to a productive meeting.

LAUREEN KAPIN

Hi, folks. I'm Laureen Kapin, part of the USG delegation to the GAC, also a member of the Public Safety Working Group, and I practice consumer protection law at the United States Federal Trade Commission.

ISABEL GATES

Isabel Gates, also with the United States government and MTIA. Thank you.

DR SHAMSUZZOHA

Hi, everyone. I'm Shamsuzzoha, the GAC representative from Bangladesh. I'm working for the Telecom Regulatory Commission of Bangladesh. And this is my second physical meeting, though I'm participating in the online meeting for a couple of years. And we thank the host on behalf of the administration. I'm looking forward for a productive meeting. Thank you.

LAURINO CHEMANE

Thank you for such a rich agenda. I'm from Mozambique. Thank you.

IDRIS IDRIS

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Idris Idris from the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority in Nigeria. Thank you.

ONUR GENCER

Hi, everyone. I'm Onur Gencer, and representing the Turkish government. Thank you.

AMINA RAMALLAN

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Amina Ramallan. I'm a GAC observer from Nigeria, and I work for the Nigerian Communications Commission. Thank you.

GEOFFREY HARRIS

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Jeffrey Harris, Secretary for ICT from the Republic of Nauru.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS

Good afternoon, everyone. I am Marina Fuego Eiras, representing the Argentine Republic. I'm very pleased to be here today with you, and grateful to the hosts for receiving in such a beautiful country and city, of course. Thank you very much.

KHALED ALTARHUNI

Hello, everyone. My name is Khaled. I work for the ICT regulator in Libya. I am a GAC representative. Thank you to the hosts for organizing this meeting.

MYO SWE

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Myo Swe, GAC representative of Myanmar, and I am the Director-General of Busan Telecommunications Department's Ministry of Transport and Communication, Myanmar. Thank you so much.

CHULUUNBAT TSENDSUREN

Hello, everyone. My name is Chuluunbatt. I'm from Mongolia, Communications Regulatory Commission of CRC. I'm the head of the Internet Regulation and Service Division. Thank you.

CHEN-CHIN HUANG

Hello, everyone. My name is Chen-Chin Huang from Chinese Taipei.
Thank you.

KEN-YING TSENG

Hello, everyone. I'm Ken-Ying Tseng from Chinese Taipei. Thank
you.

MANAL ISMAIL

Hello, everyone. I'm Manal Ismail, from Egypt. I work with the
National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt. I would like to
thank the hosts for their generous hosting of this meeting, and look
forward to our discussions. Thank you.

VINCENT ROBERTS

Good day, everyone. My name is Vincent Roberts. I'm the
Chairman of the National Telecommunications Regulatory
Commission of Grenada and the GAC representative. Thank you.

TESSIE LEVA

Hi, I'm Tessie. I'm from the Department of ICT, Papua New Guinea.
And my Deputy Secretary, Mr. Russell Woruba, would be also from
time to time be online.

GLORIA KATUUKU

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Katuuku Gloria, GAC
representative for Uganda. I'm happy to be here. I'm looking
forward to good deliberations. Thank you.

AMPARO ARANGO

Good afternoon. I'm Amparo Yango. I come from the Dominican Republic, and I represent the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency. It is a privilege for me to participate here in person once again in the GAC, and I want to thank the hosts. This is my first time in this beautiful and iconic city, so I look forward to a productive meeting. Thank you.

GUO FENG

Hello, everyone. I'm Guofeng from China. I'm very happy to be here and look forward to a productive discussion in the next few days.

EOIN CARNEY

Hello, everyone. I'm Eoin Carney, the GAC alternate from Ireland and looking forward to meeting everyone. Today is my first ICANN meeting, so looking forward to it. Thank you.

TOMONORI MIYAMOTO

Hello, everyone. My name is Tomonori Miyamoto. Please call me Tomo from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan. And I'm happy to be here in beautiful city, Seattle. I'm looking forward to a fruitful discussion here. Thank you.

MINA OGIHARA

Hello, my name is Mina Ogihara. I'm from Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Thank you.

RENATA MIELLI

Hello, good afternoon. I'm from the ICG in Brazil. I represent Brazil in the GAC. I'm Renata Miele. I'm sorry I'm late. I'm from Brazil, Innovation and Sciences.

ARETHA MARE

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Aretha Mare from the Smart Africa Secretariat. Happy to be here. And thank you to the hosts for the wonderful reception so far.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Thank you very much. Rodrigue Guiguemde de from Smart Africa as well. Happy to be here. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

So, there's nobody behind you, right? So, everybody in the room had the chance to introduce himself or herself. Anybody who didn't? Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, of course. Of course. Go ahead. Go ahead, Thiago. Go ahead.

THIAGO DAL TOE

Good afternoon. I will be speaking in Spanish. I'm Thiago Dal Toe. I'm the alternate representative of the Colombian government before the GAC, and I'm also the GAC vice chair. I would like also to show my appreciation to the hosts of this meeting, and I look forward to a highly productive meeting with very good deliberations. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Well, given the fact that everybody's using their native tongues, I'll speak Spanish myself as well. So, I'm Nicolas Caballero. I am the GAC chair. I was the first Latin American person to be elected as GAC chair. That is thanks to you. I don't know if that is good or bad. You will know better. I was elected in the last elections, and I'm pleased to be here.

I want to especially thank the US government and the NTIA, Susan, Owen Fletcher, the whole fantastic team of the NTIA for arranging this meeting in this beautiful city of Seattle. If you have the chance of visiting Ralph Anderson's works, this architect that I mentioned, I truly recommend that you see them. He is quite modern, but at the same time, he's quite conservative. It might seem some contradiction, but well, I don't want to take too much of your time. I'm so happy to be here in Seattle. UK?

NIGEL HICKSON

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm Nigel Hickson from the UK, vice-chair of the GAC. It is delightful to be here. Thank you so much for all the cooperation and work that's gone on to make this possible. Thank you United States authorities. I'm sure we're going to have an excellent week.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Hello, everyone. My name is Zeina Bou Harb. I'm the GAC representative of Lebanon and GAC vice-chair.

CHRISTINE ARIDA I will speak in Arabic. Good afternoon. I am Christine Arida. I work in the telecommunications national center in Egypt. I am the vice chair of GAC, and I am Egyptian representative for GAC. Thank you so much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much. We'll continue with the online participants. And for that, I have Spain next. Please go ahead.

ANA MALDONADO Hello, everyone. I hope that you hear me well. I will speak in Spanish if it is possible for online participants.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Of course.

ANA MALDONADO Thank you, Nico. Good afternoon to you all. Good evening from Spain. I'm delighted to be once again attending the GAC meeting. I'm Ana Maldonado. I'm the Spanish representative in the GAC, and I'm very pleased to be here with you. I would like to say thank you to the US Government, to the US for being the host of this productive meeting. I would love to be there with you. It was not my own decision, but despite the time difference and the distance, I will participate, and hopefully this will be a highly productive meeting. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Spain. I have the European Commission next.

MARTINA BARBERO

Thank you very much, Chair. Good evening from Brussels. This is Martina Barbero, European Commission. I'm looking forward to joining this community forum remotely for once and looking forward to the very productive discussions. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. I have the Russian Federation next.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN

Hello, everyone. My name is Vyacheslav Erokhin, and I'm the alternative GAC representative of the Russian Federation.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Russian Federation. I have a question. Gulten, can you help me out with the name of the next country in line? I'm not sure. It says HK GAC. Hong Kong, I assume. Would that be Hong Kong? Yeah, go ahead, please. Hong Kong.

IRIS SUI-CHING LAU

Good afternoon. I'm Iris Lau from GAC of Hong Kong, China. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. And that brings us to the end of the tour de table. Anybody who didn't have the chance to introduce himself or herself in the room? I don't see any hand up. And as far as I can see online, everybody had the chance to do the introductions. So, with that, let's move on to the next slide, please. Yeah. Thank you.

As I mentioned before, we're welcoming at this point 60 new GAC delegates since ICANN81 in Istanbul. That's a surprising number, as a matter of fact. 60 new GAC representatives. We have a new GAC member, Monaco, and also, we're welcoming the African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance, APNIC. I hope I'm pronouncing the name well. Who's a new GAC observer. So that makes up 184 members and 40 observers.

So, at this point, it's actually time to say thank you to the departing distinguished GAC vice chairs, Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon, Nigel Hickson from the United Kingdom, and Wang Lang from China. So, let's give them a big round of applause. Thank you so much. You will be missed for sure, especially during the planning sessions. And even more especially during the Communiqué drafting and reading, given the Shakespearean experience my good friend Nigel has in that regard.

Also, a big round of applause for Ian Sheldon from Australia, Jorge Cancio from Switzerland, and Marco Hogewoning. I hope I'm pronouncing your last name well. My apologies beforehand. But anyways, Marco Hogewoning from the Netherlands. A big round of applause for them as well. So those are the most notable GAC transitions so far. So, at this point, Rob, I don't know if you would

like to speak a little bit about some GAC activities, or we'll give the floor to Fabien at this point. Or I can do it myself. No problems, no problems.

So, thank you all GAC representatives and delegates for your active engagement since ICANN81, since Istanbul, and all the interesting conversations and the emails and everything else. We have had so far four formal GAC public comments, seven formal letters on various topics. We're going to get to the details later.

Engagement with ICANN Board regarding 11 issues of importance, those 11 issues of importance coming from our Istanbul meeting to governments, three agenda setting and preparatory calls for ICANN82 for this meeting. We'll try to make it shorter next time. We'll see if we can do it in two intersessional calls, that would be ideal. But if we can't, for whatever reason, we'll try to maintain then the three preparatory calls that is for Prague for ICANN83. Let's see how it goes. If we can do it in two calls, we'll have to do it in three.

There's been engagement with ICANN Board and GNSO regarding urgent requests, as you may know, for disclosure of registration data. And we're basically ensuring that regular reporting on ICANN org outreach and the status of the ASP, the Applicant Support Program is provided on a regular basis. And there's been also active cross-community engagement on WSIS+20 preparations. And thank you again to Zeina, to Christine and to Ana for preparing that session, which happened about three weeks ago, not even a month ago, right? So, thank you so much for that.

This year, as everybody knows, it's going to be very active in terms of WSIS+20 discussions. There's all kinds of news coming like on an everyday basis. GAC representatives, as far as I know, are going to do their best in order to be in Norway for the IGF as well in June. I believe it's from the 23rd to the 27th. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but I think it's 23rd to the 27th of June. So, lots of news, lots of activities going on in parallel.

Let's move on to the next slide, please, Gulten. So, in terms of Communiqué development, at this point, I will have the pleasure of handling the floor to my good friend, Fabien Betremieux. By the way, congratulations for the victory this morning against Ireland in rugby. Very good game. I think it was what, 43-27? 42-27? Sorry, Ireland, no offense. But it was a very good game. So, congratulations to you as well. Fabien, all yours.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Nico. So, this is the usual slide for most of you. You're probably quite familiar with the process now, but I think there's value in going through this slide and explaining the process for those of you that may be new to the GAC. We've seen that a number of participants have joined the GAC since 1981.

So, the Communiqué, the GAC Communiqué, as you may be aware, is one of the key outcomes of an ICANN meeting for the GAC. And this is where the GAC formulates its potential advice to the ICANN Board, as well as its position on issues of importance. So those are two key sections of the GAC Communiqué, which are the subject of this drafting effort. The entire Communiqué is drafted in as a

committee, but those two sections and some other parts of the Communiqué are particular areas that are discussed in session, in plenary session, amongst the GAC.

And so, this is what you see at the top of this slide. You may recall from emails you have received from the GAC chair in the last two weeks that prior to an ICANN meeting, the committee is invited to share topics of interest and potential key messages or potential text of GAC advice in advance for consideration by the community, not as a replacement in any way of deliberations during the meeting, but more as an opportunity to start discussions as necessary.

Now that we've entered the meeting week, we're going to go through this process of, so today is the introduction, recalling the process. And from now on, during each plenary session, the organizers of the sessions, the topic leads, the GAC topic leads are invited to ensure that there is time in each of the sessions to potentially identify need or intention to suggest Communiqué text and to have some initial discussion, which also enables GAC members to identify who may be pen holders for those portion of text that may be proposed in the Communiqué. So, consideration of the Communiqué starts now and throughout each of the sessions until we reach those drafting sessions, the first of which is going to be on Tuesday. There will be then two or three on Wednesday, I'm not sure, and then two on Thursday.

The idea of spreading the Communiqué drafting sessions across several days during the week is to enable participants to potentially

communicate with their capitals across time zones overnight, et cetera, to ensure that there can be, there is time for this as opposed to spending an entire day that may be completely off hours in some time zone on the Communiqué drafting and without the ability to consult if necessary with capitals. We're spreading the drafting effort through over several days. And it also enables potential conversations in between sessions among participants that are interested in contributing to various pieces of text in the Communiqué. So, this is why you see those blue arrows there spreading the effort.

And on the last Communiqué session, we go through a final review of the entire Communiqué to ensure that everybody present agrees with the text. And once this is done, once the Communiqué text is drafted and adopted in session, we go through 72-hour Communiqué review period, which is an additional step that was born out of the COVID experience and the virtual meetings then to ensure that not only there was an additional opportunity for those GAC members that were prevented to participate because of time zone issues. That's also a potential way to address language barriers and other logistical barriers.

And so, the purpose of that review period is for all the GAC members to review the text and ensure that there is no substantive issue with the text. This is not for discussing variation of text. This is really to identify if there is an issue that would necessitate to not publish the Communiqué, reconvene and discuss this issue.

And so, you will receive at the end of the week with the Communiqué text that was adopted in session, an email explaining the modalities of that review period, which again is not for rediscussing text. It's really for flagging a serious issue that merits reconvening the GAC. And there's not been a precedent of such an issue. So, it sounds like Communiqué text has always been appropriate and I've gone through this review period without change. And so, we wish that it will be the case this time as well.

Now on the second half of the slide here, the bottom half, this is addressing how contributions to the text work. We provide a Google document, the link to which we will share again after this session or maybe if my colleagues are able to circulate that. So, you'll receive a reminder. You've already received it from the GAC chair in the previous emails of the last two weeks, but we will share it again. We ask you not to share this link in chat or in any public forums to avoid any interference in the process. And so, this document is the tool we use to allow you to share text directly in the document. And so, you are invited at any time to do that during the meeting.

There will be a point at which the GAC chair will propose a deadline for initial contributions, after which we will only be collaborating through GAC support staff. And that's to avoid some frictions we've experienced in some times with changes that were not expected or that happened after some adoption of some parts of the text. And so, this is to facilitate the process, give you the maximum

opportunities to edit the document until we reach a near final place where we ask that you go through us for final edits.

And also at any time, please feel free to reach out to us, the GAC support team, to help with any research of precedent with practices of how certain topics are addressed or where in the Communiqué. We are also available if you would like us to help you with ensuring the accuracy of references in text you propose. And again, consistency with the usual practice, we try to make sure that the Communiqué is consistent in the way it addresses, in the way it's formatted, in the way it addresses issues so that the audience of the Communiqué, which is the ICANN Board and the entire ICANN community, can expect to find the information that they usually look for in the Communiqué where it usually is. And with that, I think I've covered what I think was most important to say, Mr. Chair.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Fabien. So once again, very quickly today, tomorrow and Monday, well, days 1 through 3, we enter the Communiqué process intro and plenary sessions phase. So, to say, Tuesday, which is Day 4, consideration in sessions, plus the first drafting, as you can see, I'm just reviewing.

Wednesday, plenary sessions and Communiqué drafting sessions 2 to 4. And there, we stop right there and that's why you see that stop sign there saying, pre-agreed deadline for initial text contribution.

I'm not going to repeat everything that Fabien has already read, but just in case making sure we're on the same page.

Please I would like to emphasize the last part of his presentation in terms of using the GAC support team as a resource. This is very important to research precedent, to ensure accuracy and references, and mainly consistency with GAC usual practice as regarding what we've been doing for the last 25 years, as a matter of fact, I remember, yeah, 26 this year, if I'm not mistaken. 26, right? Was it 1999? When was the first? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think, yeah, it's going to be 26 years this year. So, thank you again, Fabien. Any questions, anything you would like to clarify, anything that is not completely clear for anybody? I think this is very self-explanatory again.

In terms of consistency and usual practice, we mean that everything that is discussed during GAC plenary sessions will be included in the Communiqué, right? Just to give an example, let's say Portugal doesn't agree with the deployment of DNS, it's just an example, right, DNSSEC, which is not the case, but it's just an example, but we did talk about DNSSEC during GAC plenary sessions.

We had opinions from 20, 30 or 45 countries and that will be reflected in the GAC Communiqué, even though Portugal doesn't agree with the deployment of DNSSEC. I'm just giving a ridiculous example so that we're all on the same page. That is obviously not the case, Portugal, and my apologies for that. It was used just as an example. I'm talking about procedural issues so that we're all on

the same page. I hope this is for the benefit of all participant countries.

I'll stop here and see if we have any reactions, any comments online or in the room. And as a matter of fact, yes, I was right, it's 26 years because the first GAC meeting was in March 1999. So, my memory is working well, which is good, right? So, at this point, we don't need to artificially extend the session. I'll give you five extra minutes for coffee. We were supposed to stop at 2:15 p.m. Enjoy local coffee. I also understand that Starbucks was actually started right here in Seattle, right? So, I like Seattle very much. Jimi Hendrix, the architect. We're going to have a 30-minute coffee break. Please be back at 3:00 p.m. sharp. Thank you. Enjoy your coffee.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]