
ICANN82 | CF – GAC: Strategic Planning Discussion
Saturday, March 08, 2025 – 15:00 to 16:00 PST

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Hello, welcome to the ICANN 82 GAC strategic planning discussion on Saturday 8th March at 23:00 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 the session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. And please make sure to mute all other devices when you are speaking. You may access all available features for this session in the Zoom toolbar. And with that, I will leave the floor to Nico Cavallaro, GAC chair. Over to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Julia. Welcome back again, please take your seats. So welcome to the GAC strategic planning session. The agenda for today is divided into three subtopics, the first one being the background on the GAC strategic planning efforts. Then we'll have an update on progress, you know, and the expected outcomes as per the GAC 2024-2025 annual plan. And then, as you may have guessed at this point, you know, the idea is to develop the GAC 2025-2026 annual plan. We need to start thinking about that as

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.

soon as possible. So in terms of the background, you know, the GAC strategic planning background, and if we can move, Gulden, please, to slide number four. You know, this basically takes us back to Kigali, to Rwanda, back in June 2024. You know, we discussed under internal matters, you know, the need for the GAC to have a strategic planning. And what we mentioned there, if you remember, was that building on a process initiated in December 2023 by the GAC chair, that is myself, and the vice chairs, considering the GAC plenary discussions during ICANN 79 and 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. And then we said that we expected that these strategic and annual plans would serve to bolster the GAC's proactive stance and so on and so forth. I'm not going to read the whole thing, but that's kind of like the background at this point. And as I said before, we need to start thinking ahead. You know, we need to start thinking of, you know, the next steps. So moving on, Gulden, please, to slide number five at this point. Let me give the floor to Fabien, who will walk us through, you know, the details and nuances of the actual development of the GAC strategic plan. Fabien?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Nico. This is Fabien Betremieux from the GAC support team. And so this is a reminder for those who were not around at the time this was developed just of the approach and so that you can make sense of the existence of those two documents, the strategic plan and the annual plan. It's fairly straightforward, and I

think the approach that the GAC leadership has chosen to take is a fairly streamlined approach. The idea was to define long-term strategic objectives that would then be translated into expected outcomes on an annual basis, which would then inform the regular work of the GAC through its topic leads, working groups, and discussions among GAC members. And so the idea was also that there would be a feedback loop in a way that the actual work informs whether the expected outcomes were indeed attainable, which themselves and their attainment inform the achievability of the strategic objective. So a fairly simple approach. If we go to the next slide, this is to connect this sort of diagram with the actual document. So the strategic objective at the highest level are written in the GAC strategic plan, which is intended to cover the 2024-2028 period. And so it's a fairly short document that has those nine strategic objectives of the GAC. Then on the next slide, just one more, I think, yeah, so that's the strategic plan, next slide. The expected outcomes are annual, they're sort of a mid-term perspective, and those are in the GAC annual plan. Right now, we have the 2024-2025 GAC annual plan in place, and we'll talk at the end of this session about preparation of the next annual plan. And so if we go to the next slide, that's just a visual of the annual plan. So you find both of those on the GAC website. You can use the link here at the bottom of the slide, or you can also look in the activity pages of the GAC website for strategic planning, and you'll have access to those documents. Next slide, please. And we've since created a third document that is more of a tracker, where we try to record progress of the work on those expected outcomes in the

annual plan. So that's another reference document you can use to see where things are, if you're interested to contribute, just get in touch, and we can certainly involve you. There's a color code here to show you, to give you a sense of progress. It's outdated, because this screenshot dates back to ICANN 81, but we'll show you an updated picture shortly. Next slide, please. And the GAC leadership determined that it would be useful to have a sort of a bridge between the work ongoing on each of the strategic objective and the GAC chair and the GAC leadership itself. And so it was decided that for each of those strategic objectives, there would be a caretaker, which right now are the GAC vice chairs. And so you see here the distribution, and I think now we're going to move on to discussing each of those strategic objectives one by one, to give you a sense of where the work is at, at the moment.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Fabien, for that update. As you can see on the screen, you know, we have different caretakers. The different strategic objectives were basically divided among the five vice chairs and myself and the GAC chair. As you can see, Zeina Bou Harb is in charge of SO, or strategic objectives, numbers one and two. Nigel Hickson with SO number three, DNS abuse for Colombia, Thiago Daltoe, domain registration data for the GAC chair, universal acceptance for Wang Lang. Wang Lang is not in Seattle, unfortunately. There were some visa issues apparently, so, you know, we deeply regret not having Wang Lang in the room today, but Rob is going to be basically reading his part as of today. Then I'll be talking a little bit about new technologies and whatever

impact they might or might not have on the DNS system. And then internet governance and internet numbering resources, you know, are basically in charge of Christine Arida from Egypt. So without further ado, next slide, please. Let's begin with the updates, and for that, let me handle the floor to Lebanon. Zeina, the floor is yours.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Yes, thank you, Nico. Gulden, can we please move to the next slide? Okay. Regarding the strategic objective number one, strategic objective number one is the role for government in ICANN. We had different expected outcomes for the year 2024-2025. The main points to highlight are point number 1.1, which we considered as complete because the HLGGM was already held, and we have a report that you can all see on the website of the GAC. So in our consideration for this year, the outcome regarding the understanding the role of government is already completed. Regarding the other outcomes, we have outcome 1.2, discussion of current issues at senior levels, 1.3, which is the non-represented governments, and 1.4, transparency of ICANN processes. These are already on track, and we still need to discuss with GE, GSE, and ccNSO to decide how to progress on this. On 1.5, Governmental Advisory Committee influence on policy outcome, also this is on track. Actually the GAC leadership initiated, will initiate some discussion with the topic leads and the representative of the GAC involved on these various past and present processes, and to discuss, to actually assess how can we also progress on this. It will

likely be continued in the next action plan, which is for 2025-2026.
Next slide, please.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Let me stop you there for a second, Zeina. Let's see if we have questions or comments in the room. I just wanted to point out that on 1.3, non-represented governments, we have made some progress so far, given the fact that Liechtenstein, the Grand Duchy of Liechtenstein, and Monaco have actually joined, and the African Parliamentary Union have also joined the GAC, so we basically have 184 members and observers so far, so there's progress made. Sorry, Zeina, for interrupting you. Please go ahead.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Okay, on strategic objective number two, which is the effectiveness of the Governmental Advisory Committee, the expected outcomes 2.1, we consider it on track, because we already are working on a series of surveys to collect some information from the members of the GAC about what they think should be enhanced in our processes, in our work, so this is something that this survey will be launched very soon, and probably also we will continue to work on it, because it will be like waves of surveys, so it will continue during 2025-2026. On 2.2, which is the review update of the GAC operating principles, I think there are discussions within the working group on operating principles, mainly currently regarding the tenures of the GAC Chair and the Vice-Chair, we will discuss them during the coming session, and on 2.3, the improvement and development of GAC advice-related processes, there are also discussions that need

to be taken with the topic leads to see what else can be done, what can we do more on the assessment of the ICANN Board advice scorecard, and this is something also to be continued in the coming annual plan. We are also working on the art of the GAC communique, and also this is something to be included on the surveys that will be shared with the GAC members. Next slide, please. On 2.4, which is the GAC implementation of transparency and accountability recommendations, we need also to check with the topic leads and the working group to assess future actions that need to be taken on that regard. On 2.5, increasing the level of engagement and participation in the GAC, this is something also to be included in the survey to assess what are the barriers for participation, what are the challenges, priorities, and here it's worth mentioning that there was some kind of coordination with the global engagement team within ICANN and the stakeholder engagement in order to have some webinars on issues of interest to the GAC. On 2.6, which is GAC onboarding and capacity development, including mentorship, here we need to discuss if the introduction of mentorship is something that is acceptable or that is needed for the coming participants in the GAC, and here also we would need volunteers from the experienced GAC members to be mentors in this program, and this I think will be also discussed to take a decision if we will proceed with this in the coming plan or not. Do we have next slide, Gülten? So now it's up to Nigel, unless there is any question regarding the first two SOs. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. Thank you very much for that, Zeina. Greatly appreciate it. I don't see any hand in the room. I don't see any hand online. So this has a direct impact on, as a matter of fact, on our next session starting at 04:30 PM today here, which is operating matters operating matters discussion. So as you can see, you know, the idea was to be able to discuss the important issues we might identify at this point and then take a deeper dive during our next session right after the coffee break. So thank you again, Zeina, for that presentation. I see no hands in the room. So let me give the floor at this point to Nigel Hickson from the United Kingdom. Nigel, all yours.

NIGEL HICKSON

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. obviously a lot going on on the new gTLD program, as you know. We had capacity development sessions today. We've got plenary sessions tomorrow on it. In terms of a number of objectives and commitments that we're making here in this strategic plan, one is for governments to have the necessary instruments to identify and screen applications that raise public policy concerns. So as mentioned in the capacity building session this morning, and we'll discuss this tomorrow as well, now is the time, so to speak. You know, we're a year out from the next gTLD round and we have to ensure that our governments have processes and procedures in place. So on the reveal day, I think that's what it's being called, the reveal day, I don't know what day of the week it is, I don't know what day it will be, but it will be when the applicant string, applicant names or applicant strings are announced. And that will give everyone an opportunity to

understand obviously the volume of applied for names, how many are international domain names, etc. And will give GAC the first opportunity at looking at the range of names. And therefore we want to ensure, obviously, that GAC members are aware of their responsibilities in this area. The GAC reps, you around the table here are from certain ministries. If you're lucky, I suppose you're in a ministry that is going to take all the decisions about the new names, but you might well have other government departments, other agencies in your administrations that will also want to be involved on certain names. This was the experience that governments had last year. So that is something that we'll be talking about a bit tomorrow, but also a lot in the next session in Prague. The section of the applicant guidebook has gone out already for public comment, and we'll talk about this a bit tomorrow. And GAC members have been involved in commenting on some of that. Public interest and voluntary commitments by new gTLD registry operators. Well, there's been a lot of discussion on these, of course. The public interest and voluntary commitments, first of all, PICS stands for public interest commitments, and RVCs is voluntary commitments. And they are different, and we'll go into some of that in due course, but perhaps not this afternoon. But the important point for the GAC and the board in coming to the agreements which have been reached in the applicant guidebook is that, and to put it very simply, if someone applies for a name and some countries have problems with that name, not necessarily the name itself, but the sort of applications that might be made under that name or various other issues

concerning that name, rather than saying, yeah, we don't like this name, we're not having this name at all, they can go back to the applicant and can ask the applicant questions about how that name is going to be used. And therefore, you can come up with a registry voluntary commitment. These are on top of the commitments, the public interest commitments that are already laid down in the rules and regulations concerning names that incite violence or names that are not suitable for a whole range of other purposes. So this is where we are. Now, as some of you remember, there was a discussion on content-related restrictions, and this was a discussion which the Government Advisory Committee had and the board had, and the board have opined that they will not agree to any registry voluntary commitments that involve content. So if GAC said we're quite happy with this, we're quite happy with this name being applied for, but we don't want any applicants, sorry, registrants applying for websites that might be colored in a certain color or whatever, or something trivial to do with content, then that is not something that could be enforced. So that is something that we'll also be discussing, because there's quite a fine line between content and other commitments. If we could go down a bit. Can you go down from 3.2? Yeah, sorry, next slide, yeah. Now, some of these have been already closed generic. TLDs, as you know, are now not allowed in this application round, so that was sorted. Support of new gTLD applications, that's already been discussed, of course, in terms of the applicant support program. Now, the documentation to enable GAC and Government's engagement in future rounds, the key messages, etc., that is something that we

still obviously need to work on. Next slide. Oh, that's it. All right, well, can we just go back very briefly, so I can conclude. Yes, so the last one, 3.5, is what I was discussing earlier. The need for GAC members, and we appreciate that we're not going to give you the applicant guidebook and ask you to read through every section. I mean, that's probably something you should do. But if you want, if you need something that you can be able to circulate to other government departments, to talk to other people in your governments about, then we'll have a sort of summary document. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Nigel. So, this is where we are at this point, as regarding the next round of new gTLDs. This is kind of like the hot topic nowadays. As Nigel correctly pointed out, it's still too early in the implementation process. So, as you can see on the slides, you know, the deliverables are expected for 2025. And this is for sure, you know, you know, most certainly, I would say, you know, part of our next annual plan for 2025-2026. So, with that, let me give the floor to Thiago Daltoe from Colombia, who's going to walk us through DNS abuse and the latest updates in that regard. Over to you, Thiago.

THIAGO DALTOE

Thank you so much, Nico. Not less sexy topic from the previous one. Can you put the next slide, please? The DNS abuse is another topic that we've been working closely with different colleagues. I just want to say that they are really the ones driving this topic. I'm

honored to be the caretaker, but I do really want to recognize our colleagues, Tomo from Japan, Owen Wilson from the US, and Martina Barbero from the European Commission. Obviously, under the close coordination of Fabien that we've been working on this issue. And we're happy to report that both of our strategic objectives or the action lines are on track, being the 4.1, the survey GAC members and observers on DNS abuse matters. As you've seen, you have received emails and reminders in order to respond to the survey, which was conducted right between after ICANN 81 and ongoing before we get here on ICANN 82. We have been carrying the analysis of the responses that will be shared with the GAC plenary session on DNS abuse Tuesday, March 11 at 10:30 AM. The results are going to be shared with you to inform discussions and additional future outcomes. And you'll be quite pleased to hear some of those results. And also, as usual, we're working in progress and we'll be discussing in the GAC plenary on that day on Tuesday, March 11. The GAC topic leads are considering current developments and reports. As you may know, for example, Domain Metrica, Enfirmal final report. There's also some information that we'll be receiving and dialoguing with the ccNSO about their DASC, the Domain Abuse Standing Committee, to hear a bit about the results that they have gathered from their own survey, which is already on the second instance. So definitely all this information is expected to inform the GAC. And we may consider that in case we want to do recommendations or advice during this meeting. I don't know if you have any questions. I think that's all we had for this strategic objective.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much for that, Thiago, Columbia. This is a good point, given the fact that we're halfway on the updates, to take some questions, if there are any in the room. Niue, please go ahead.

PAR BRUMARK

Thank you, Nico. I'm just a bit surprised going back to the, I do understand that we're working on the gTLD agendas, but we do have pending and long lasting cases of ccTLDs that are not solved.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you for that, Niue. We're not actually discussing anything related to ccTLDs at this point. We're just going over the, but more than welcome to talk about that for any of the next sessions. As a matter of fact, we had plenty of time during, you know, the intersessional period to add anything you would like to the agenda,. We can still arrange, not sure we'll be able to do it for ICANN 82 as a matter of fact, but there's plenty of time for ICANN 83 in case you have anything specific to discuss regarding ccTLDs, for Prague maybe, but please bear in mind that we had three agenda setting calls and there was lots of time to suggest any topics. I'm just saying that we're not going to be able at this point to include that kind of discussion as of today at least. But please go ahead. Go ahead.

PAR BRUMARK

No, no. But we can take it later.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Perfect. Thank you. Any other comment or question? If not, let's move on. And again, you, please feel free to reach me, you know, during coffee break or whatever and we can arrange to discuss. I'm not, I mean, this is not to preclude any kind of discussion, you know, in the GAC.

PAR BRUMARK

No, I know because it's a ccNSO and PTI issue very much and GAC has been very silent for 10 years about these matters. So we, you know, we leave it for the time being.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

No, no. And I totally understand. Perfect. Thank you. So next slide, please, Gulden. So in terms of domain registration data, which basically belongs to strategic objective number five, and I'm the caretaker in that case, just bear in mind that we'll be discussing this during session number 13 on Monday, right? So we'll have ample time, we will have lots of time to discuss, to go into the details and the nuances of everything I'm mentioning here. So this is basically on track in terms of following up, right, and the tracking and the urging as regarding registration data policy, including urgent requests, registration data access, and PPSAI or privacy proxy services accreditation policy. We'll get the details on Monday, because these are discussions that as we speak are taking place. So we'll have a full update on Monday. Accuracy of registration data is something that is potentially challenged at this time. You know, the

work of the GNSO accuracy scoping team was basically suspended for more than two years at this point. And as a matter of fact, we, if I recall correctly, we suggested, you know, that work is resumed. The GAC small group plus the Public Safety Working Group proposed a GAC input on the threshold questions as part of a consultation, which basically aims to provide a foundation for the GNSO to decide on next steps. And again, these are ongoing discussions and we'll have more updates during the week. And you're certainly encouraged to prepare some questions in this regard for that session with the GNSO, which will be happening, let me see, let me check the block schedule, that will be on, oh, it's tomorrow as a matter of fact, yeah, Sunday, Sunday at 03:00 PM. So bear in mind, we'll have that meeting with the GNSO tomorrow. So in terms of collecting and the collection and publication of registration information related to legal entities, which is basically registration data policy, at this point the update I can give you is that there are no enforceable obligations from EPDP phase 2a. There was a GAC minority statement, and you have the link right there in case you want to go back and check the, we don't have time to review the details today, but you're certainly welcome to click there and take a look at the background. That goes back to September 2021, during the pandemic, and there's no current venue for discussion of this issue. As I said before, we'll have lots of time to discuss this on Monday, and as a matter of fact, with the GNSO tomorrow at 03:00 PM. So let me pause here in order to see if there are questions or comments. I don't see any hand online, and I don't see any hand in the room. So please do prepare some

questions for tomorrow. So with that, let me give the floor at this point to Wang Lang, who's online. I see Wang Lang online. Would you like to go ahead, Wang Lang, with your presentation, or you prefer I give it to Rob? It's up to you, Wang Lang.

WANG LANG

Yes, yes. I can. Yes, this is Wang Lang from China. Thank you. Thank you very much, Chair. I'm the caretaker of strategic object number six, universal acceptance. Sorry for not being with you in Seattle in person. First I would thank Fabien and our working group leader, Hossen, Iran, and liaison, Abdalmonem, Egypt, for their great work. In summary, the goal of this strategic object is to promote multilingual Internet and to provide universal access by ensuring all domain names and email addresses are treated equally. As for the expected outcome of this strategic object in our annual plan, five out of six are on track. First, there's a lot of information of UA for ourselves, such as GAC UA strategies in ICANN 79 and the latest update of UA community on pre-ICANN 82 just last month, as well as our UA IDN working group meeting last month. There is quite a little information on UASG wiki and our ICANN website. Second, government give some support of relevant efforts. For example, the UA day report of last year analyzed the participation regionally, as you can see over the chart. Next page, please. Next slide. Okay. Thank you. Third, UASG got involved in dialogue and the information exchange, such as a joint meeting with us on ICANN 79, and then our Egypt GAC representative takes the role of liaison to UASG. Fourth, the new G relevant policies in GNSO's IDN EPDP phase one and two were approved or considered by ICANN board.

And the fifth, there are some cross community collaborations, for example, ICANN and UNESCO will champion our UA day 2025 from March to May. And the ccNSO has a committee of UA to do some regular work. But what is worth noting, I think, is that there are many things that need to be done about the registrar readiness, such as making portal website of the credited registrars UA ready. There is still a long way to go, I think. That's all I want to express for the object number six. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, China, for that update. Do we have any questions for Wang Lang at this point? So let's move on to next slide, please, Gulden. And I'll give you a brief, a very quick update on the impact of new technology on unique identifiers. As you can see on the slides, everything's on track. So in terms of information gathering and issue monitoring, the support staff, the fabulous five are in contact with OCTO, ICANN's office of the CTO, for monitoring of relevant developments at this point. The GAC continues engaging with SSAC, continued, as a matter of fact, with SSAC during ICANN 82, on the impact or the potential impact of emerging technologies on the DNS. We're not talking about technologies in general, but the direct effect they might have on the DNS system. Some GAC members flagged issues. And as a matter of fact, any new issue you might identify and that you might want to flag at this point would be more than welcome. As regarding artificial intelligence the GAC and the SSAC basically discussed some DNS abuse issues. As related to the use of artificial intelligence during ICANN 81 back in Istanbul. And there are some developments this

is something that is evolving very quickly. New algorithms and new, not only chatbots, but whole systems are being developed as we speak with direct consequences from an economic, but also from a security and even a geopolitical point of view. So we'll keep you updated so far. There hasn't been we haven't identified any big breakthrough except what is public information at this point. Everybody knows about DeepSeek and all the other AI systems on the market as of today. Regarding the IoT or Internet of Things, there are no relevant developments identified at this point, at least relating to the DNS system or to the unique Internet unique identifiers. Again, we would greatly welcome any flagging of issues that you might identify or that you may have identified so far. Now, blockchain is something that we're actively discussing not only among GAC members, also with the board. And as a matter of fact, OCTO released two publications, the first one in October 2024 on blockchains and their relationship to alternative or alternate. I still don't know which word to use here because some people say alternate. Some other people say alternative. So let's say alternate. But anyways, thank you. My Shakespearean friend is helping me here with the terms. Naming systems, right. These were presented in a webinar during ICANN 81, as you may recall, the prep week for Istanbul on October 28th. And you have the link there in case you want to see any more details. We also discussed with the SSAC security and stability advisory committee for the benefit of the 60 new GAC members in the room today. We discussed blockchain and its potential impact on the DNS during the Istanbul sessions as well. And you can check that. There's a link, I understand, Fabien,

with the videos and the full sessions from Istanbul available on the GAC webpage. So finally, as regarding cryptography and security the DNSSEC is being discussed with the ICANN board. And as a matter of fact, it was discussed during the BGIG call last October in response to issues of importance in the Kigali communique dating back to June 2024. Excuse me. So we're supposed to continue discussing with the SSAC, particularly one topic that might affect the way cryptography and security is actually affected by quantum computing. You know, we're not saying this will happen in six months or one year or tomorrow or in six years. Nobody knows it would be easier if we had some sort of crystal ball. But one thing is for sure, it will directly affect all cryptography, all current cryptography, symmetric and asymmetric cryptography systems. And in general overall security, not only of the DNS system, but our emails, our servers, our computers, it will affect basically everything. Again, this is a potential threat on the one hand, but it's also the way science and technology move forward. So something to take into account, certainly. So let me stop here in order to see if we have any feedback online or in the room. Switzerland, please go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. I was just wondering, as you were explaining the progress on strategic objective number seven, to what extent we are trying to involve or to gather insights also from ccTLDs from the practice there. Because, for instance, I see that we have reference to, on the 7.2, to the discussion with SSAC and in relation with DNS abuse. And at

least, for instance, nationally, we are cognizant that we are using algorithmic systems to detect suspicious behavior and connect it to suspension or delayed registration. So this led me to thinking maybe it could be a dimension we could take generally into account in the strategic objectives to check with ccNSO or directly with the ccTLDs what is happening on that front. Because sometimes there's also bottom-up innovation happening there. And looking through the strategic objectives, maybe four, five, six, and seven are relevant to such kind of ccTLD extension of the dimension of what we are looking at. So I just wanted to share that thought with you. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much for the heads up, Switzerland. Greatly appreciated and well noted. So we'll make sure to include that. As a matter of fact, that would be a very good topic of discussion, as you correctly pointed out, with the ccNSO. That discussion happening on Wednesday at 10:30 AM. So thank you again, Switzerland. Very good point. Well noted. I have the Netherlands next.

NETHERLANDS

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and of course all the other caretakers. I think we've seen some great examples of what has been done in a relatively short time. I'm just wondering, and I might be a bit ahead of the discussion to have here, but as it's currently on this screen and it's not only to your own topic, number seven, but I saw that there's others as well. As I see a lot of markings that say are on track

who basically just looked like there are round-off deliverables. It was done. So I kind of wonder whether it is suited to say on track or whether we should also introduce the concept of things being done in future reporting. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. I'm not sure I understood your question, though. Was that a comment or a specific question? Sorry, I need more caffeine.

MARCO HOGEWONING

It is a particular question to the reporting. I currently see the reporting being, it's being worked on on track or it hasn't started yet. I think I've yet to see any item reported as being done. Thank you. I think looking at this slide, I see a few that might warrant such a label. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Yeah, if we go back to slide 13, please, Gulden. As you can see there, Netherlands, Marco, there's very few that are actually completed. You know, most of the items there are on track, which means that they're being taken care of, or at least they're being followed, so to say, right? There's no way we can intervene or have any direct involvement with the development of any kind of artificial intelligence system, I mean the GAC itself, other than keeping track of the latest developments. So I don't know if that was more or less the question, but this is an overview of the situation as of today. So having said that, and thank you again, Netherlands, for the

question. Let me see. I have the Dominican Republic. Go ahead, please.

AMPARO ARANGO

Thank you, Chair. I'm going to speak in Spanish because I'm not sure if I'm clear of the question that I'm going to do. I think that Strategic Objective 7 is critical. It is extremely important because in each of our countries, we are precisely working on developments on digitalization strategies using new technologies. So this is my question. Has the GAC leadership taken into account the following? I know that this is ongoing. If we come to the end of this, if there is such an end, have you considered having some document or some materials that we could use in our respective countries so that the governments can distribute those documents to government and private agencies that are working in the field of new technologies? Because as you said, we expect to have some negative impact. We still don't know, but have you considered this as part of the strategic plan, perhaps to have something that we can use to do some information dissemination? Because these are quite complex and difficult issues. So that is my question. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much for that, Dominican Republic. So I'll answer in Spanish as well in order to make sure that we're on the same page. Thank you very much for the question, Amparo, Dominican Republic. Indeed, as everything we do in the GAC, everything is public. Everything is available on our website. Now, when it comes to the quality of the GAC website, well, that's a matter for a different

discussion. It's a story for another day. But at this point, we wanted to have a fully developed ERP system, an open source ERP system for all governments to access the source and the coding in order to distribute that among GAC members. With that said, and going back to your question, well, I agree. These topics might have a very significant impact on the DNS. I gave an example. I spoke about quantum computing, which would render all our cryptography systems obsolete, whether they are symmetric or asymmetric. All of them would immediately become obsolete. Now, going back to your suggestion, in addition to your question, which I appreciate, well, the reply, the answer is yes. We do not have a specific section in our strategic plan yet that would be available to all participating governments. However, this is a very useful idea, and I thank you once again for your suggestion, and it will be taken into consideration in our next strategic planning meeting. Thank you once again. Okay. So any other? I don't see any other hand up, so thank you so much again. So at this point, I need to give the floor to Egypt for Christine is going to walk us through the latest developments in terms of Internet Governance, which basically belongs to Strategic Objective Number 8. Christine, over to you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Thank you. Thank you, Nico. So while I have the mic, and before I talk about Strategic Objective Number 8, just to respond to Marco, and I think that's a very interesting observation, maybe as we review the next phase, we can look at the status, because there are some of those Strategic Objective outputs that will always be ongoing, so maybe we could have a flag of what is... So on Strategic

Objective Number 8, Internet Governance, we have a number of sub-items, and they are mostly on track except for one. So the first one, and I think that is one of the most important ones, is that we have a kind of monitoring of all the different activities happening in that area, and that we have a comprehensive sharing of information among GAC members, specifically in those two years, 24 and 25, which are very rich in terms of activities happening in that area. So in terms of reporting, we have the GDC that was adopted in September, and then we have had a couple of activities related to the WSIS Plus 20. One of them is the outreach network that was set up by ICANN, and it has a mailing list with a lot of activities there, most recent today. And there is the webinars that are happening also in that area. A couple of them have happened during the last few months. Most notably in November, there is the launch of the IG Advocacy Project, and a social media campaign that aims to raise awareness, and there is a wealth of information within that area that can be checked online. It's an open-ended thing that's continuing. And then we've had at ICANN 81 discussions, and we're going to have many of those also here in Seattle. And then we've had also in February the webinar organized by GAC, and I have to thank Ana Portugal for her leadership as topic lead in that area. The webinar, we're going to discuss more details maybe in the session on Tuesday, which we're going to have. Next slide, please. In terms of committee consultation and organization, there is a small GAC group that has been set up for interested GAC members in the area of Internet governance. There is also cross-community activities. Sorry. There is also a survey that we've

launched to tap the interest of GAC members with respect to future discussions on Internet governance. I think we will be presenting the results of that in the session on Tuesday. And then there are also SOAC group that is discussing. It's an informal discussion group on WSIS plus 20, and I have to thank Nigel and Zeina for taking the lead on that. And one completed item is the HLGGM with its report available on the website. Next slide, please. Do we want to pause here for any questions, or should I, Nico, continue?

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Go ahead, and then we'll take questions.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Okay. On strategic objective number 9, the main thing on Internet number resources, the main thing that is happening here is the ICP2 review. The ICP2 review helps to review, review, review, review, review, I'm going to start with the presentation of the GAC process and there have been many exchanges on the mailing list. The public comment proceedings have opened and they were presented by GAC members, submitted input individually, but also through the African group. And I think the implementation and assessment procedures, we'll be discussing that during the ICANN, here in Seattle with the board, our bilateral with the board. And then we've had also some cross-community collaboration and we're going to have during ICANN 81 and I think this is a topic that we will be also discussing as we go. And in that, for that strategic objective, I would like to thank in advance Netherlands who have

agreed, has agreed to be the critical for that objective. So I'll stop here.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Egypt. Do we have any questions for Egypt regarding strategic objective number nine? We're a little bit over time, but we certainly can take some questions online. We have European Commission. Yeah, go ahead, please, Gemma.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Thank you very much, Nico. This is not something in relation to the last strategic objective, but if I may comment overall, I think it is very important that this strategic plan has been established, but also that it's been monitored and reviewed. One thing is that the strategic objectives from two to nine, they all impact on the first one, which is about the performance and effectiveness of the GAC. And it is since tracking all these policy objectives requires an enormous effort. I would like to say that it's very important that we keep and increase the share of responsibilities within the GAC, because it is very difficult to follow in detail some topics. And you have seen some that Nico, you personally provided update with some of the policy developments take longer that people stand here in the GAC. So it's like it's very important to follow and to share responsibility. But at the same time, it's important to review the priorities, because we might want at some point to redirect efforts to areas that are more, I would say, burning and to narrow the scope of what we are following in order to achieve one of the

objectives, which was having an impact on the policy. So this is a bit of a general comment. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much for that. And I wholeheartedly agree with you. As a matter of fact, that was precisely one of the reasons why I proposed the tenure extension for the vice chairs, and also for the chair, precisely because those PDPs, policy development processes, sometimes take three years, five years, maybe more. It's like, after 12 years, we're having the next round of gTLDs. When was the last one? 2012. So it's 15 years after, and we're still developing, I mean, it's a long and complicated process. You know, we'll talk about that. But thank you so much, Gemma, for the heads up there. Please bear with me just two more minutes for some last updates, Fabien, as regarding the GAC annual plan, which has to do with your comments. Fabien?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Can we go to the next slide, and the following one, actually? And it's just to say a word of the timeline and the process that we plan on following to develop the next version of the annual plan. And the idea is for the GAC to be able to have a plan reviewed and ready to be endorsed by ICANN 83. And for that, we'll go through a similar process and what we went through for the previous annual plan, which is that the topic leads will provide input in terms of what they would like to propose as the next year's plan for each of the strategic objectives. The GAC leadership will review that input, discuss as needed with the topic leads, in order to provide to the

GAC for review by early May the next annual plan, which would then be proposed once finalized with input from the GAC, from everybody in the GAC, for endorsement by ICANN 83. So that's just our plan going forward.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. And that's all we have time for during this session. We're going to have another coffee break. And as a matter of fact, coffee is very good here. Not because of Starbucks, of course. I'm not endorsing any particular brand by no means. So please go back at 04:30 PM sharp. Thank you so much. Enjoy your coffee.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]