
ICANN83 | PF – GAC: Opening Plenary
Monday, June 09, 2025 - 9:00 to 10:15 CEST

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Welcome to the ICANN83 GAC Opening Plenary Session on Monday, 9 June at 0700 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Stands of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-harassment Policy. During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted in the proper form in the Zoom chat pod. Interpretation for this session will include all six UN languages and Portuguese.

If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in the Zoom room. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. Please state your name for the record and the language you will be speaking when speaking a language other than English, and please speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. I will now hand the floor over to GAC chair, Nico Caballero. Thank you, and over to you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed GAC delegates and honored guests. Welcome to the beautiful city of Prague, the heart of Europe, and a city steeped in rich history and cultural significance. As the Chair of the GAC, the Governmental Advisory Committee, it

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is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the ICANN83 Community Forum.

Prague has long been a hub of intellectual and artistic achievement. From the legendary composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, my favorite, by the way, who premiered, I don't know if you know this, but he premiered his opera Don Giovanni, right here in this very city to the visionary reformer Jan Hus, and I hope I'm pronouncing the last name well, Jan Hus, whose ideas sparked a movement for change and justice. We find ourselves in a place where the spirit of innovation and dialogue thrives.

Let's not forget the iconic Charles IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, who established Charles University, one of the oldest universities in the world, fostering education, enlightenment, and enlightenment that resonate to this day. So, as we gather here, we are reminded of the importance of collaboration and dialogue. Principles that are at the very core of our work within the GAC. And I hear some background noise and some echo. If you can, please turn off your-
- There we go. Thank you.

So, this forum presents us with a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about the future of the internet and the policies that govern it. Our agenda for ICANN83 is robust. Addressing critical issues such as the evolving landscape of domain name management, the challenges posed by emerging technologies, and the need for inclusive policymaking. That reflects the diverse voices of our global community.

We will explore how technological advancements can enhance our governance frameworks and ensure that they remain relevant and effective in meeting the needs of our citizens. The discussions will also touch on the importance of cybersecurity, data protection, and the role of governments in fostering a safe and secure online environment.

Moreover, we will delve into the GAC's role, our very role, in advising the ICANN Board on matters that impact the public interest. That's a very important concept, the public interest. It is essential that we provide sound, evidence-based recommendations that not only address current challenges, but also anticipate future developments. After all, we wouldn't want to be caught off guard like Mozart when he realized he had forgotten his score during a performance. Though, I can assure you, you can rest assured that we will be more prepared.

So, as we embark on this journey together over the next few days, I encourage each of you to engage openly and share your perspectives. Your insights are invaluable, and it is through our collective wisdom that we can provide advice and help shape policies that benefit all stakeholders in the internet ecosystem.

In closing, let's embrace the spirit of Prague its history of creativity. It's a commitment to dialogue, and it's a dedication to progress. I look forward to our fruitful discussions and discussions ahead, and to the collaborative spirit that I know will characterize our time together here in Prague. So, thank you for being here and let's

make ICANN83 a memorable forum, welcome everyone to Prague. And later on, we'll talk a little bit about the very good beer they actually have here.

So, with that, let me welcome my esteemed colleague Zina Bumbalkova from the Ministry of Industry and Trade from the Czech Republic for welcoming remarks. Zina, over to you.

ZINA BUMBALKOVA

Thank you, Nico. Hello to all my dear GAC colleagues. It's really great to see you all here in Prague. And I am happy to welcome you, not only on behalf of Czech GAC representation, but also as someone who truly loves this city. We are proud that this ICANN meeting is happening right here. And I hope Prague gives you space to work, connect, share ideas. But also, to enjoy yourself a bit because June is a perfect time to be here in Prague. The days are warm, probably and long, and parks are blooming, and there is a special vibe and atmosphere in the city. I'm sure you will see.

If you have a chance, take an early walk across the Charles Bridge, who used to be there, or have a great Czech beer at the riverbanks. Yeah, that's a special idea. And my personal recommendation or tip is, go up to the Prague Castle in the evening when tourists are gone. But the history and beauty stay. And there's a wonderful view over there. So, yeah, do it.

And as Nico already mentioned, Prague is in the heart of Europe, and it always has been a crossroads of cultures, new ideas and creativity. And this week, thanks to all of you, it's also a global meeting point for the future of the Internet. And I really would like to thank all of you for the work you do to ensure open, free and secure internet for all. And I hope you leave Prague not only with new insights and connection, but also with a bit of Prague City's magic in your heart. Once again, welcome and have a great time here in Prague. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. Before we review the session, the agenda topics for today, I would like to start this with a minute of silence. I would kindly ask you to observe a minute of silence in memory of Nigel Hickson.

Thank you very much. And in that regard, there's a memory book on the table to my right, which would be your left over there. It's going to be there throughout the week. So, you're more than welcome to provide any memories, any comments, anything you would like as regarding our dear and esteemed and good friend, Nigel Hickson. We'll also have, it's on Tuesday, if my memory serves me well, on Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. Or is it 7?

JULIA CHARVOLEN

5:45.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

5:45, I'm sorry. We'll have a ceremony in memory of Nigel. So, everybody's more than welcome to attend that ceremony. Again, on Tuesday. Right here, right here. There's going to be some cocktail, some sort of celebration or something. Right there at the main hall, I understand. And right after that, we'll have our Memorial ceremony for Nigel.

So, let's review the session agenda for today and welcome my distinguished vice chairs, again, welcome everyone. You already know them. I don't need to introduce them, but just in case we have Christine Arida from Egypt, welcome. We have Jorge Cancio from Switzerland, we have Ian Sheldon from Australia and Marco Hogewoning from the Netherlands. And again, I hope I pronounced your last name well. There's Tiago Dalto, unfortunately he won't be able to make it. He's not going to be here with us in person, but he's following online. So, that's the agenda for today.

As you can see on the screen, we'll be reviewing some meeting logistics. And for that, I will have the support of our very capable GAC support staff. Then we'll go for a tour the table in person, and then remote GAC participants. We'll talk about some notable GAC transitions and activities, and then we'll review some GAC communiqué development processes, and we'll take, and rest assured, we'll take the time to explain what each of the acronyms we mention are going to be duly explained.

And I'm saying this because between ICANN81 in Istanbul and ICANN82 in Seattle, we had 60 new GAC government representatives on the one hand. Between ICANN82 Seattle and ICANN83 Prague, we already have 23 new GAC representatives. So, all in all, that's 83 New GAC reps from ICANN81 to ICANN83, that's a lot. And bear with me, be patient. If there's anything you don't understand, if there's any weird acronym. And you need any kind of clarification about any of the concepts we'll be dealing with, please do interrupt, do ask questions. All questions are more than welcome.

So, with that, I'll give the floor to GAC staff, they're going to walk us through some meeting logistics. Over to you, is it Julia, Rob? Please go ahead, Julia.

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Sorry, Nico. I wanted to make sure we were on the correct slide. Thank you. Thank you, staff. In terms of notable meeting logistics for this week, the first item for all attendees is the Zoom session infrastructure. Please log in to Zoom and use your full name. So, leadership and staff can easily identify you, as this will help for attendance purposes. And it will help also for everyone to get to know each other. Another important aspect of your participation in Zoom is that all GAC participants' interventions will be monitored by support staff and the leadership, and so to facilitate this, please raise your hand in Zoom rather than the physical meeting room.

For calendar invitations, you should have received calendar invitations for each session of the GAC, including community sessions from my colleague, Gulten, and those calendar invitations have links to the ICANN meeting website for the Zoom links. The GAC Logistics Document is also a great resource document for you to plan for the meeting the best way possible. You can find it on the agenda page of the GAC website.

And lastly, for all attendees, the GAC support team is going to be managing a second Pilot Attendance Process for ICANN83, which will be dependent on your registration contact information. It's the same process, will be used as for ICANN82. But this time, we'll be using a new application called e-Ballot to conduct the check-in. And you can find an example of the high-level check-in statistics in the ICANN82 minutes. And this will also allow staff to test the tool prior to any formal vote that is required of the GAC.

Now moving to in-person attendees in particular. If you're sitting at one of the tables up front with the microphones, you should be a GAC member or GAC observer. And behind those tables are seats for community participants who wish to observe the session. Scenes in the front row will be reserved for some specific sessions, such as joint meetings with ALAC, GNSO, the ICANN Board. And to that effect, reserved seated signs will be indicated on the tables.

And the last couple of bullets, there will be no circulation of written materials in the room. All session materials can be found online on the GAC website page. And finally, regarding health and safety

protocols, make yourself comfortable, wear a mask if you want to, take a break if you need to. This is not the longest meeting format. Meeting days can be long, and taking some distance and breaks that day will be needed. And with that said, I'm happy to hand it back to you, Nico. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Julia. If you could, please go back to slide number five. I just wanted to comment on some notable agenda highlights. As you can see, this is a policy forum, as Julia just mentioned a shorter format only four days. Basically, the meeting's running till Thursday. And we have some GAC priority policy, topic sessions, New gTLDs, as you can see on the screen, right, DNS Abuse, registration data, and some other things that might be, might or might not be familiar. With you, especially for the new GAC representatives. So, again, New gTLD, that's Global Top-Level Domains Next Round Issues, DNS, domain name system, abuse, registration data, and so on, and so forth. And I swear to God will be translating each and every single acronym.

Then we'll have an update on strategic and annual planning progress that's going to be on Tuesday. Will final, this is an important topic, right? We'll finalize leadership election timing and term limit changes. You remember, we started this conversation all the way back in Istanbul, and even before Istanbul. We made some little changes and some brainstorming sessions and we discussed this in Seattle.

And now is the time to make, basically make a decision and agree on certain things. And then as regarding our bilateral community meetings with different stakeholders and supporting organizations, we'll have a meeting with the ICANN Board, with the ASO Address Supporting organization, with the ALAC, At-Large Advisory committee, the GNSO, the Generic Names Supporting organization, and the SSAC. Security and Stability Advisory Committee. Sorry to bother you with the translation of the acronyms, but this is for the benefit of our distinguished new GAC representatives.

Then on Wednesday and Thursday, we'll be very busy with the communiqué drafting, and we have some ideas about improving our efficiency, the timing and many other things as regarding the communiqué drafting. There are going to be evening networking events all week long, thus the reference to the good pilsner beer in Prague. So, you'll have the chance to experience it. And then, as I mentioned right at the beginning, and out of respect to our distinguished colleague, Nigel Hickson. We'll be having that memorial gathering on Tuesday at 5:45. Again, and I repeat, you have the memory book right on the table there, to my right. So, let's move on to the next slide, please.

You have the full, the block schedule right there in case there's any question. But we talked about this during the prep calls. We had three prep calls. In theory, we're all in agreement. There's nothing to discuss, and this is what we have. Next slide, please. We have already talked about this. Julia has already walked us through the

nuances and details of the logistics. Any question regarding logistics? If you can go back one slide, please. Any question about this?

The very last part, well, the one before health and safety protocols, the masks and everything. The No Circulation of written materials in room during our sessions is meant not to distract us from our duties, on the one hand. And, on the other hand, to avoid any kind of, let's say, political interference with our duties as well. So, let me pause here in order to see if we have questions. I don't know, regarding calendar invitations, GAC logistics in general, the attendance pilot number two, and so on, and so forth.

And I see no hands, so let's move on to the next slide, which is to the table. So, I usually open the floor to GAC representatives and delegates to introduce themselves. And to share any sort of comments or statements they would like to make, assuming they will be brief. Bear in mind we have more than 80 people in the room. So, please take no more than two minutes for whatever comments or statements you might have. This is not to preclude by no means anything you would like to share with the GAC, but for the sake of time and again efficiency, please try to keep them short.

So, Basically, the introductions will follow the table seating, like starting on the left or the right and so on. And then we'll give the online participants the chance to introduce themselves. So, without further ado, let's begin to my right, the gentleman sitting right there on the right. Please introduce yourself and say, if you

have any comments or statements, more than welcome to go ahead.

OLIVIER FRANCIS CUBAHIRO Thank you very much, Chair. My name is Francis Olivier Chubahiro, Burundi GAC Representative and former GAC Chair. Thank you very much. Always a great pleasure to engage with the GAC and the internet governance challenges and opportunities. Thank you very much, Chair.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much, Francis. My apologies, I can't see very well from here, so please go ahead.

INGRAM NIBLOCK Hi, my name is Ingram Niblock. The GAC Alternative Representative for Australia.

FINN PETERSEN Good morning. My name is Finn Petersen from the Danish government.

RUSSELL WORUBA Thank you. Russell Woruba from the Government of Papua, New Guinea. Thank you.

OWEN FLETCHER	Hi. Owen Fletcher, alternate GAC Representative for the United States.
SUSAN CHALMERS	Good morning. Susan Chalmers, GAC Representative for the United States.
ISABEL GATES	Hi. Isabel Gates, United States.
LEONARD HAUSE	Hi, I'm Leonard Hause, United States.
GABRIEL ANDREWS	Gabriel Andrews, United States.
BEATRIZ RODRIGUEZ	I'm going to speak in Spanish. I'm Beatriz Rodriguez, and I come from Uruguay.
PÄR BRUMARK	Good morning, my name is Pär Brumark, Special Honorary for the Government of Niue and GAC representative.
ASHWIN SASONGKO SASTROSUBROTO	Good morning, my name is Ashwin Sasongko Sastrosubroto, one of GAC members from Indonesia. Thank you.

LUCAS PRÊTRE

Good morning, I will be speaking in French. Hello, my name is Lucas Prêtre. I am at the Telecommunication Office in Switzerland. Thank you.

ANA NEVES

Hello, good morning. I'm going to speak in Portuguese. Good morning. I'm Anna Nevis. I'm the representative of Portugal in GAC. Thank you.

RUDY NOLDE

Good morning, I'm Rudy Nolde and I'm the GAC representative for Germany.

HAZEM HEZZAH

Hazem Hezzah. I'm the GAC representative for the League of Arab States.

MANAL ISMAIL

Good morning. Manel Ismail, GAC Representative of Egypt.

MAAIKE VEENSTRA

Good morning, everyone. My name is Maaïke Veenstra from the Dutch government.

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- VINICIUS OLIVEIRA SANTOS Good morning, everyone. Vinicius with the Brazilian delegation and the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. Thank you to the hosts and the organization for this event and for having us here. Thank you.
- JOSÉ RAÚL SOLARES Good morning, everyone. I will speak in Spanish. Hello. Nice to see you all. I'm very pleased to be in this beautiful city. I'm Raúl Solares. I represent Guatemala here in the GAC.
- MARINA FLEGO EIRAS Good morning, everyone. This is Marina Flego Eiras from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the GAC alternate Representative for Argentina. Thank you very much.
- DAVID BEDARD Good morning, everybody. I'm David Bedard, GAC Representative for Canada. I'm also joined by my colleague Rita Tahir, who is in another meeting, but she'll be joining us later this morning. It's nice to see everybody.
- KLAUS PARRER Good morning, everybody. My name is Klaus Parrer. I'm the GAC representative for Austria.

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- PRADEEP KUMAR VERMA** Good morning. I'm Pradeep Verma, alternate GAC representative from India. Thank you.
- MZIA GOGILASHVILI** Good morning, everybody. I am Mzia Gogilashvili. I represent Georgia.
- NINI SHAVGULIDZE** Good morning. My name is Nini, and together with my colleague Zia, I'm also representing Georgia.
- BO MARTINSSON** Good morning. My name is Bo Martinsson, representing Sweden.
- KATUUKU GLORIA** Good morning, everyone. My name is Gloria Katuuku, GAC representative for Uganda.
- MICHAEL BAMWESIJE** Good morning, everyone. Michael Bamwesije from the Ugandan government.
- MOHAMED EL MOCTAR MOHAMEDINE** Good morning, everyone. My name is Mohamed El Moctar Mohamedine, and I'm the GAC Representative of Mauritania. Thank you.

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

CHARLOTTE SPENCER Good morning, everyone. Charlotte Spencer from WIPO too.

WAJDI GARALI Good morning, everyone. My name is Wajdi Garali. I'm the GAC representative of Tunisia.

DEOLINDO COSTA DE BOA ESPERANÇA Good morning, everyone. I'll speak in Portuguese. I'm from São Tomé and Príncipe, and thank you very much.

KHALED ALTARHUNI My name is Khaled. I am GAC Representative of Libya. Thank you.

ROLAND Good morning, everybody, I'm Roland. I was almost your secretariat about 15 years ago.

HILARY WILLIAMS Hilary Williams, from Cambridge. My main interest is in the internet of things and communications for them.

IGNACIO VELÁZQUEZ	Good morning. My name is Ignacio Velázquez and I'm the GAC representative from Paraguay.
ABDALMONEM GALILA	Abdalmonem Galila GAC, Alternative Representative for Egypt.
YOUNG-EUM LEE	Good morning, I am Young-eum Lee from Korea Network Information Center. Thank you.
KRISTINA HAKOBYAN	Good morning, Kristina Hakobyan, advisor to GAC Representation, also a point for ALAC. Thank you.
RUZAMRI RUANDI	Good morning, everybody. My name is Ruzamri Ruandi from GAC Alternative Representative of Malaysia.
MYO SWE	Good morning, everyone. My name is Myo. I am Director General of Ministry of Transport and Communication of Myanmar. I am also GAC representative of Myanmar. Thank you.
HEI-PO WU	Good morning, everyone. My name is Hei-po Wu. I come from China. Thank you.

PAUL BLAKER Good morning, everyone. My name is Paul Blaker. I'm from the UK government.

ESTHER JAROMITSKI Good morning, everyone, my name is Esther Jaromitski and I'm also from the UK government. Good to be here with you all.

JANOS DRIENYOVSZKI Good morning, all, my name is Janos Drienyovszki, I represent the European Commission. I'm also one of the co-chairs of the public safety working group, together with my colleague and good friend Gabriel Andrews.

GEMMA CAROLILLO Good morning, everyone, Gemma Carolillo from Digi Connect European Commission, I'm the GAC representative. I just wanted to congratulate you. The organizers for this very good organization. Thank you.

WENDY PALAS Good morning, I'm Wendy Palas from the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism, Suriname.

CLAUDINE KARIGER	Good morning, my name is Claudine Kariger from the Luxembourg government. I'm the GAC representative.
ZINA BUMBALKOVA	Good morning again, I'm Zina Bumbalkova from Czech. GAC representation and welcome again to Prague.
MELTEM ERGÜN	Good morning, my name is Meltem Ergün. I am the GAC Group representative of Turkey.
MINA OGIHARA	Good morning, my name is Mina Ogihara from Japan.
TOMONORI MIYAMOTO	Good morning, everyone, my name is Tomonori Miyamoto from Japan. Nice to see you all.
CHENG-NAN CHIANG	Good morning, everyone, my name is Cheng-Nan Chiang from Chinese, Taipei. Thank you.
KEN-YING TSENG	Good morning, everyone. My name is Ken-Ying Tseng. I'm from Chinese Taipei, too. Thank you.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE	Morning everyone. My name is Nigel Cassimire, alternate GAC representative for the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. Happy to be here in historic Prague and my compliments to the hosts.
WAHKEEN MURRAY	Morning, everyone. My name is Wahkeen Murray, GAC Rep. for Jamaica.
REBECCA MUNGAI	Good morning, everyone. My name is Rebecca Mungai from Kenyan government.
GUO FENG	Hello, everyone. I'm Guo Feng from GAC, China. Happy to be in this beautiful city, historical city full of beautiful buildings. Thank you.
WANG LANG	Good morning, everyone. I'm Wang Lang from China. Nice to meet you here again. Thank you.
QIU MING-SHAN	Hello, everyone. My name is Qiu Ming-shan. I come from China, Senate. Thank you.

SHAOHONG WU	Good morning, Chair and everyone. My name is Wu Shaohong. I'm Chinese GAC Representative. Thank you.
WU ELTABMUM	Good morning, everyone. Wu Eltabmum from Telecom of Yemen.
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ	Good morning, everyone. I'm Javier Rodríguez. I'm the representative from the Spanish Ministry for Digital Transformation. Thank you.
NICOLAS CABALLERO	Okay, so thank you very much. Anybody else who hasn't spoken yet over? Okay, please go ahead.
MUHAMMAD ALMSAWI	Good morning, everyone. My name is Muhammad Almsawi. I'm the GAC Alternative representative from Kuwait.
NICOLAS CABALLERO	Please go ahead.
SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ	Good morning, everybody. My name is Saša Kovačević. I'm coming from Serbia. GAC Alternative Representative. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Serbia. Anybody else in the room apart from the vice chairs, Of course, I'll give them the chance right away. But anybody else in the room who hasn't spoken yet? Any GAC representative or alternate? Please go ahead. Bangladesh, welcome. You can use any of the tables here. You have microphones and everything. So, please, these tables are reserved for GAC reps. More than welcome to join us here. So, now I'll give the chance to my distinguished vice chairs to introduce themselves, starting to my right.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Good morning, Marco Hogewoning, Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands and GAC Vice Chair and the GAC Representative for the Netherlands.

IAN SHELDON

Good morning, good evening for those joining us online. My name is Ian Sheldon, the GAC, Australia. I just wanted to thank our lovely Czech hosts for the warm welcome this morning and looking forward to a fantastic and productive meeting with you all this week. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Australia. My name is Nico Caballero. I'm the GAC chair. I don't think I need to introduce myself, but just in case.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you. Jorge Cancio, Swiss GAC representative, and thanks very much to our Czech colleagues for hosting us in this very beautiful city of Prague. Thanks.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Hello, everyone. Christine Arida, alternate GAC Representative for Egypt, also GAC Vice chair, and I join others in thanking the Czech Republic for hosting us.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Egypt. Now we'll go with the GAC representatives online. Can you help me with the queue, Julia? We should start with? Sorry, I can see the queue now. Yeah, Slovakia, please go ahead.

JAKUB KUBAŇ

Thank you. I'm Jakub Kubaň representing Slovakia. I am sorry not to be able to be present in person, but I'm sure our Czech friends and neighbors are doing an amazing job hosting. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Slovakia. I have Ireland next.

OWEN CARNEY

Good morning, everyone. This is Owen Carney and the GAC alternate from Ireland.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. Timor-Leste, Mr. Lay.

JOSE A. LAY

Good morning, everyone. Jose A. Lay, rep. Timor-Leste.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. Russian Federation.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN

Good morning, colleagues. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin. I am alternative GAC Representative of Russian Federation.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. I have Saudi Arabia. Please go ahead.

WALEED ALORINY

Good morning. This is Waleed Aloriny, Saudi Arabian Government GAC representative. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Saudi Arabia. And once again, everybody in the room or online has had the chance to introduce themselves. Is that correct? Has anybody not spoken yet? Please go ahead. Please go ahead. We have two.

NOORA AL-MERAIZEEQ

Yeah, this is Noora Al-Meraizeeq from Qatar.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Qatar. Anybody else in the room or online that hasn't spoken yet? Okay, so thank you very much. So, with that, welcome again, everyone. And a big thank you to the Czech government for hosting us. Again, it's a real pleasure to be in this beautiful city. Great food, great drinks, great coffee. I'm sure we'll have a great time together this week.

So, without further ado, please let's move on to the next slide. And there have been some, as you can see on the screen, some notable GAC transitions. As I mentioned before, we have 23 new GAC delegates since ICANN82 in Seattle. But by ICANN82 Seattle, we already had 60 new GAC. Representatives. That makes up 82 new GAC reps, all in all. So, bear with me, we need to be a little bit patient regarding acronyms and many other things, and that's a good thing to do anyways. So, all you know, that makes up for 184 GAC members and 40 observers.

I already mentioned the ceremony we'll have for remembering Nigel Hickson on Tuesday evening. And with that I'll give the floor to Fabien at this point. Next slide, please, in order to walk us through some notable GAC activities over to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Nico. I was coming for the next topic, but I'm happy to go to this one as well, if you need me to. So, bear with me as well

here, because I'm not the author of this slide. So, I think this slide is meant to speak to the activities that have occurred since ICANN82. And so, that includes how we work effort for this global ICANN community, work to determine how to best conduct the work of ICANN, and that was in the form of a GAC Public Comment. There was the usual engagement between the GAC and the ICANN Board regarding the issues of importance that were identified in the ICANN82 communiqué.

There were three agenda setting calls to prepare for this meeting, so the GAC has several opportunities in preparation for a meeting to weigh in on the decision to be made regarding the agenda, what topics are discussed and what is discussed in each of those GAC plenary Sessions, as well as with what group the GAC engages during the ICANN meeting.

Then, there is ongoing attention in the GAC regarding the outreach that ICANN Org is conducting as it relates to the Applicant Support Programme. And so, that remains an issue of importance and priority for the GAC. There was work, obviously, in preparation for this meeting and sessions today regarding capacity development effort in the GAC regarding the Next Round of New gTLDs. And with the goal to ensure that GAC members are informed and understand the New gTLD application process and the role the GAC is called on to play in this process.

There's been obviously some work in the community and engagement among various groups of the community regarding

the WSIS review process, as well as the ICP2 evolution, and that relates to the governance of the regional internet registries. And finally, as you may be aware, since the Kigali meeting in June of last year, the GAC has initiated a Strategic Planning effort that has led to the adoption of a Strategic Plan, as well as annual plans. And so, we, as a GAC support team, support the GAC leadership and the GAC generally in conducting the work according to those plans. And I think that completes the main activities in ICANN82.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much for that. Fabien, sorry to put you on the spot. I thought you were in charge of that part of that, but no problem whatsoever. And thank you very much to all our distinguished GAC representatives and delegates for their active engagement. Since ICANN82, 81, and all the way back to, in my case, at least since ICANN74, when I rejoined the GAC and started working with GAC Issues. Again, as you can see the how we work efforts. And there's been many, many chances for Public Comment, including, of course, the GAC. This basically has to do with having two, three or whatever number we decide of face-to-face meeting, with the possibility of having one online meeting during the year or not or combine, or making some of those meetings shorter by one day, by two days, or, you know.

Again, the floor is open for, I mean, the Public Comment Period is still open. It is still open, right, Fabien? Just want to make sure that there is still time.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

So, the GAC did submit a Public Comment already in that process?

NICOLAS CABALLERO

No, I know, but in general, I mean, anybody could still send comments. Any supporting organization or advisory committee can still submit comments, ideas, contributions in general. No? Is it closed already? Oh, that's good to know. I thought it was. So, thank you for that. I thought it was still open.

Thank you. Thank you for that. And there was, as Fabienne mentioned very good engagement with the ICANN Board regarding those 10 issues of importance for the GAC. But shifting gears a little bit the most important part of our work here. And the very reason why we get together for four days in a row, or for one week, is to produce the GAC communiqué which is our formal advice in case there is consensus advice to the ICANN Board. And for that because we're in the process of reviewing the way we produce the communiqué in order to try to make it more efficient, faster, if possible, because we clearly understand that you are busy people, we are busy people, we have all the things to deal with back in our capitals, and we need to process to be seamless, smooth, and as efficient as possible.

So, for that, this time, I'm pretty sure that Fabien is in charge of walking us through the details of the ways we think would be the best, I would say, path forward in order to achieve that efficiency.

And whatever improvements we might or might not decide to implement at this point. Over to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Apologize. I didn't introduce myself earlier. I'm Fabien Betremieux from the GAC support team and indeed, I am well prepared to discuss this slide with the intention to remind everybody of this important process of developing the communiqué. And hopefully also to help new participants either in the GAC or also in the community with interest in activities of the GAC to understand that process.

So, as Nico mentioned, the communiqué is one of the main, if not the main, input output of a GAC meeting. This is a document where the GAC reports on its activities, internal activities, on its engagement activities with other community groups. This is a document in which the GAC also states its position on issues it deems of importance, that may either be policy issues or also process procedural issues in the ICANN community. And this is also indeed the document in which usually the GAC provides its consensus advice to the ICANN Board.

This is not the only output of a GAC meeting. Another important document you should be aware of is the GAC meeting minutes. This is a document that the support staff drafts and in collaboration with the GAC leadership to reflect the discussions that occurred in the meeting. And so, you may want to consider that we ourselves, as support staff, use the minutes, usually as a reference of past

discussions. So, this is a different document, but you may want to keep that in mind. Obviously, this is not the most public document. The key outcome document is the GAC communiqué, as you're probably familiar with. But do not forget the minutes. They may prove useful in your own work.

As far as the communiqué development process goes, it is divided in three main phases. The communication preparation phase before the ICANN meeting. The drafting phase during the meeting. And the review period, which is also a phase in itself, after the meeting. So, I'll go through each of those. The communiqué preparation phase takes place in the last two weeks before the meeting, and the intention of that phase is to help GAC members and GAC topicals identify topics that are likely to be of importance in the communiqué. Either as issue of importance or as potential advice, and to also enable the possibility of sharing key messages and potentially initial text for advanced consideration before the meeting.

And this to help for GAC members being prepared to engage on specific topics or consult with either GAC colleagues or in capitals about those topics before the meeting. And the GAC leadership is trying to make this period as productive as possible, with the objective to make the drafting phase later during the meeting more efficient. Drafting the communiqué takes a lot of time in the GAC agenda. And if we can manage to reduce that time a little bit.

That leaves more time for discussions and deliberation. Hence the objective to try to help make that process a little more efficient, a little faster by trying to make that communication preparation phase more effective and more productive. And for instance, you may be aware that this time around, following the GAC chairs communication, which occurred last week, on Monday of last week, the topic leads, the GAC topic leads on DNS Abuse and on registration data have offered some potential topics that they believe are important for the GAC to consider and that could feature in the communiqué.

So, hopefully that was useful and I think we'll be interested as a support team and, I'm sure the GAC leadership to understand if GAC members have found those messages useful. And we hope that they will eventually this week be useful in the drafting of communiqué text. So, that's for the communiqué preparation phase.

I'm moving on now to the gray box in the middle, the drafting phase. There are several elements. During the week, in each plenary session, it is expected that GAC Topic leads leading those sessions will take some time in the agenda to ensure that the GAC can discuss potential. Start discussing some potential consideration for the communiqué, and GAC Topic leads themselves, propose potential topics and issues for the communiqué.

One objective of this discussion is also for GAC members to identify who the topic leads are to be able to go and engage with them should they wish to participate in the initial drafting of text that will eventually be proposed in the communiqué. So, this is another important element of ensuring an efficient drafting process eventually, by ensuring that any party interested in a certain topic can engage with the topic leads that are expected to draft the initial text.

Over the first few days of the meeting, especially here in this case for ICANN83, day one and day two. We have most of the plenary sessions. We'll have consideration of communiqué text at the end of each session and then towards the end of the week, we will move into the actual drafting. Upon preparing this presentation, I was wondering if drafting, in this case what we call the communiqué drafting sessions, are really drafting because, in fact, it's more of an intended to be a review of text that has been drafted by interested GAC members. And so, it's more of a review and editing, sort of a collective editing, in fact, it's drafting.

So, as long as it makes sense for everybody. But I just want to make that clarification that usually the text is brought to the communiqué and then the GAC discusses a text that's proposed and edits. Please go ahead, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Let me interrupt you just for a second, Fabien. If we can go back to slide number six, please, so that everybody understands exactly

what we're talking about here. So, as you can see, the slots in pink are basically GAC communiqué drafting sessions. You can see on the screen we have one introductory session on Tuesday at 4:30 p. m., A very brief, that's kind of like the introduction. We agree on certain basic topics and things and the way forward. And then on Wednesday, we have two full sessions, and then on Thursday, three or maybe four full sessions.

What we want to try to avoid, what Fabienne is talking about here is, which I referred to at the beginning as well, is, the best way, or we don't know what the best way, we don't have, like, a magical answer to make it more efficient and less painful for you and for us as GAC representatives, and make it more efficient at the same time. We don't have a magical formula or anything, so we're trying new things in order to make it faster on the one hand and more efficient on the other hand.

Again, nothing, this is not meant to preclude any country representative from participating, from giving ideas. We're just trying to find some sort of logical order to the flow of the contributions you bring to the table. So, let's go back to the slide, to slide number. Yeah, 11.

Sorry to interrupt you, Fabien, but I really think that that's an important thing to take into account. Back to you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Absolutely, thank you. So, in terms of the drafting in those pink session you saw on the agenda, we do this, as you may be aware, through a Google Doc. So, we will be sharing a link, which it was already shared in the GAC chair email of last week. But we will share a link to the Google Doc in which you will be welcome to review and potentially help with the editing.

We ask that with that link, you be careful not to share it in the chat, or especially the public chat in the Zoom room, because this is a document that we want to keep for GAC participants and avoid any kind of interference. Contribution in this document. And so, there's two deadlines that we're working with. One is newer, I think, and we will discuss further with the GAC leadership exactly what it will be. But the intention would be to request that all the text contributions be brought in the document at a certain point.

And so, it could be the start of the second communiqué drafting session. It could be the start of the third. This is still something that we need to refine and define. But the idea would be that very quickly in the process, all the text is available. And that avoids having to wait for text and potentially not being able to use the communiqué drafting time for its purpose. So, that's a first deadline that will be communicated when we start the drafting effort.

The second deadline is the ability of GAC participants to edit the document. And that's to ensure that when we arrive at some point of completion of text, we avoid risking affecting a stable text and

having to manage difficulties, as has been the case in one time. So, we're trying to avoid, again here, inefficiencies and interference with stable text. And so those two deadlines may be different, may be the same. So, this is something that we will communicate on.

And pass that deadline once it is not possible to edit the document directly. As a GAC support team, we're always available, and we would be the conduit to provide edit to the text. So, you can come through us, and we'll reflect the edit you want to be made in the document. And finally, during the drafting process, starting now all the way until the end of the drafting process, please feel free to reach out to us. We're here to help research precedent, to ensure accuracy of references in the text. And also, consistency with the usual practice in the document. So, we are here to assist in that matter.

And finally, once the communiqué is drafted and adopted in session, we move on to the 72-hour communiqué review period. As you may recall, this period was instituted during the global pandemic and the virtual ICANN meetings to ensure that there were enough opportunities for all participants across time zones, across languages, across any sort of barriers to participate in the drafting, to have enough time to review the communiqué, to consult regarding the communiqué, and to finally, either accept the communiqué as adopted or flag any issues.

It's important to note that this review period is really for substantive issues. It is expected to only be used in situations

where a piece of text is not acceptable to a GAC member. And it is to be taken quite seriously because this would lead, if an objection were formulated during the review period, this would lead to the need to organize, to reconvene the GAC to discuss again the text, and it would delay publication of the text. With that, I think I have completed my review of the process. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Fabien. Very clear, very detailed, very straightforward. If we can go back one last time to slide number six. In practical terms, ladies and gentlemen, what we're trying to avoid here, in order to give you a clear example, is, let's say we're on Thursday second session of the GAC communiqué. It's 10 a.m., and then, all of a sudden, our distinguished delegate from the Government of Paraguay comes up with a text that deals with DNSSEC implementation in Paraguay.

Even though that's reasonable, it's within the remit of ICANN DNSSEC implementation. I mean, that would make sense. It wasn't discussed at that point. So, what I'm saying is that we're trying to avoid a text to avoid including anything that was not discussed clearly and thoroughly discussed during our regular sessions. It was just an example. Of course, our distinguished delegate from Paraguay will not do that, and we will not be discussing the DNSSEC implementation unless you tell me otherwise. But as far as I understand, that's not the case.

So, if we can, please go back to slide 11. And that's exactly what we mean when we say, okay, the pre-agreed deadline for initial text contribution will be Wednesday. In this case, in Oman for ICANN84, we might decide otherwise. We might need to be different, depending, again, on the situation. And as you can see on the screen, and as Fabienne mentioned already, starting on Thursday, in this case, it will be day four. The draft communiqué will be edited only through staff for the sake of order and everything that was already mentioned by Fabien.

So, next slide, please. I don't think we need to go over this. Fabien has already explained the whole thing. Let me pause here in order to see if we have any kind of feedback from the floor. As a matter of fact, if you have a more efficient idea, if you have a better way to do things, your ideas are going to be more than welcome. Because, again, the important thing here, especially, very especially regarding the GAC communiqué drafting, are the ideas, not the process by which we include those ideas in there. So, if there's any way you think, you have any better idea, it will be more than welcome. The floor is open for ideas, contributions, or comments. Fabien, please go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

If I may ask one question, and that is what members think of those communications that they receive regarding DNS Abuse and registration data as potential topics for the communiqué. I think it

would be helpful to understand if that was indeed, as we hope, helpful for the preparation of the meeting on those two topics.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

That's a very important point, Fabien, indeed. So, it would be good to have some feedback from you as regarding those communications and the whole process, as a matter of fact. And again, as I said before, we're trying our best. We're not saying this is a magical solution.

Perhaps and just perhaps some sort of ERP System for the GAC, some way of having our own ERP system to deal with. I don't know how that would be implemented. I don't know how, but I'm just brainstorming on the spot here. But it would be certainly very good to have feedback from you at this point. So, let me open the floor for comments or questions at this point. Netherlands, please go ahead.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Speaking as the GAC rep for the Netherlands, I do find it useful to see those ideas circulated well in advance. So, thanks to the colleagues who did that already. Putting on my hat as one of the topic leads, in particular for our engagements with the ASO and about the RER governance. So, please, if you have any ideas, either already or after the session, please do come and find me and let's talk about this because I do indeed think it helps, especially in the

end of the session. If we can consider text to go into the communiqué and not wait for the very last moment.

So, looking forward to engaging with you, and I hope indeed this. This helps in reducing the time we spend on actual communiqué drafting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Netherlands. The floor is still open. Okay, and I don't see any hand in the room or online. And a good question would be what the procedure would be in case you do have some good idea. We haven't established any kind of procedure yet. Perhaps that would be a good thing to talk about. But so far, the way forward would be to come and talk directly to me or to any of the five vice chairs.

Thiago is not here, but if you happen to see Thiago Dalto from Colombia during some hallway conversation, coffee break or whatever please do approach and tell us your idea. Yeah, Netherlands, go ahead.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I have no idea where we are on the time, but looking at the clock, we have 10 minutes left, maybe not only introduced to vice chairs, but I don't know how much time we have left to maybe for the topic leads to quickly identify themselves.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Very good point, indeed. We didn't consider that. That's a very good point. So, yes, we do have some PSWG topic leads in the room. I don't know if you would like to-- I don't know, Gabe, would you like to say anything in that regard? So, that people can approach you in case they have some contributions to your work?

GABRIEL ANDREWS

Well, Mr. Chair, with apologies for being so distracted by my own communication, I wasn't fully tracking. But, of course, any GAC members should always feel free to approach me and ask questions or engage in any capacity. It's something we're always here for. And, of course, my counterpart Janos has already introduced himself as part of the introductions earlier today. But we're both here today and should be through the remainder of the week.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much for that, Gabe. Any other topic lead that would like to say anything at this point in terms of approaching, or what the procedures might be for giving whatever contribution you might have? Please go ahead, US.

SUSAN CHALMERS

Good morning, colleagues. My name is Susan Chalmers, and I am the U.S. GAC representative. I also serve as one of the topic co-leads on the subject of DNS Abuse alongside my counterparts from

Japan and the European Commission, if they'd like to introduce themselves. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much for that, USA. I have the European Commission next.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Thank you, Nico. And thanks, Marco. This is really appropriate. So, if people are looking for those dealing with actually two topics. Here we have Janos from the PSWG for the DNS Abuse, which also Gabriel made reference to that, and Gemma for what concerns the registration data, or rather known as the infamous WHOIS, where we have, by the way, a lot of colleagues involved in the room, so I suggest perhaps we give the floor to Japan for the DNS Abuse, and then we'll go back to registration data.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, European Commission. I have Switzerland and then I'll give the floor to Japan. Please go ahead, Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. So, I think Marco's idea was very good. We didn't think about this. I was wondering whether our very able staff could come up with a short list of topic leads and share it per email with colleagues. So, that the information doesn't get lost. And now that I have the floor,

maybe I can assume that I'm more or less interim topic lead for New gTLDs, together with Tracy from UPU and Rita from Canada on New gTLDs. So, please approach us. If you want to include any text on that in the communiqué.

And maybe the facto, I'm also a little bit of a topic lead on the question of the code of conduct on SOIs and on the question of the ATR4 review process, which we will be discussing with the Board. So, if you have any questions, issues, ideas on those two things, and also on the New gTLDs, please approach me. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much for that, Switzerland. Again, please bear in mind, nothing precludes country representatives from bringing contributions, ideas. We just thought that, given the fact that we're human beings, it would be easier to identify faces and associate those faces with names. In order to talk during hallway conversations or coffee breaks or whatever, and say, oh, I might have an idea regarding DNS Abuse, because I happen to be a researcher from Cambridge or whatever, from Antarctica, And I really think that this would work as regarding avoiding phishing or firming, or botnets or malware in general. So, is that an old hand, Switzerland?

JORGE CANCIO

Yes.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Oh, okay. I have the USA next.

OWEN FLETCHER

Thanks. This is Owen Fletcher from the United States. Along with several other GAC colleagues, I am one of the topic leads for registration data. So, I wanted to introduce myself. That's including four Urgent Requests, Accuracy of Registration Data, Privacy, Proxy Services, and the RDRS. And what have you. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, USA. So, Yeah, Japan, Japan, I'm sorry. Yeah, go ahead, please.

MINA OGIHARA

Well, to be honest, I don't have many things to add, but the DNA Abuse topic is led by the U.S. and the EU, and me, Japan. So, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you again, Japan. Netherlands, is there anything? Oh, yeah. Egypt, please go ahead.

ABDALMONEM GALILA

Yeah, thank you, Nico. This is Abdalmonem Galila. GAC Alternate Representative for Egypt. I am the topic lead for Universal

Acceptance and IDNs. Actually, I am one of the members of GAC IDN UA Worker group, and recently there is an announcement from ICANN that are related to the aligning of resources and the financial support for Universal Acceptance Steering group, and now there are a lot of commitments.

A lot of commitments are there on the Advisory Committee or support organization. So, that's why we need to have more activation or have more support for GAC, IDN, UA workgroup. And also, there is a nominee that should be nominated from GAC to the new Universal Acceptance workgroup. And I am here. If anyone want to need to ask about something about UA and IDN, I will be happy to assist. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Egypt. Any other topic lead who would like to identify himself or herself? We still have two minutes. It's got to be quick. No? Oh, sorry. Yeah, I have UPU. Please go ahead.

TRACY HACKSHAW

Hi, everyone. I'm the topic lead for the Applicant Support Program within the next round. Feel free to talk to me about reaching out to your communities within the countries, and I'm ensuring that your community understands what's the next step for Applicant Support and the Next Round. Thank you. Tracy Hackshaw.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Tracy. Thank you, UPU. I have Egypt next. Please go ahead.

ABDALMONEM GALILA

Yeah, I have something I missed to add, that. Tomorrow, there will be a session for Universal Acceptance Committee within ccNSO that are related to the cooperation between government and ccTLDs in order to overcome the issues or to go for more adoption for Universal Acceptance. So, it is important to be exist at this session. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Egypt. So, that's all we have time for. We'll have a much-needed coffee break now. Please be back in the room at 10:45. Thank you very much. Enjoy your coffee during the break.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]