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ICANN84 | AGM – ICANN84 GAC Communiqué Review + Meeting with WSIS+20 co-facilitators  
Monday, October 27, 2025 – 16:30 to 17:30 IST

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Welcome to the WSIS+20 discussion on Monday, 27 October at 16:30 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Julia. Welcome back, everyone. I hope you enjoyed your Irish coffee. So, we are delighted to have the opportunity this afternoon, you know, to connect with His Excellency, Ambassador Lokaale. Am I pronouncing your last name well? Locale? Lokaale, with two As.

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In order to get his perspective, his and his team's perspective on their visit to Dublin this week, and their expectations for what will come from the community engagement here at ICANN84 in Dublin. We only have a short period of time here at the beginning of our communiqué drafting session, so I will turn things over to our GAC Vice-Chairs and Topic Leads, Jorge and Christine, for proper introductions and moderation. Over to you, Jorge.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you so much, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Swiss Representative and Vice-Chair of the GAC, together with Christine and my colleagues. So welcome, first of all, Ambassador Lokaale. Great to see you here, and also thanks for being here and making your time.

We've thought that basically maybe you could kindly introduce the state of play, or where we stand, more or less, with the WSIS+20 process, and then we could briefly open the floor for some interaction with colleagues if there are any remarks or questions, and that segment would be moderated by my dear colleague Christine Arida from Egypt. So, the floor is yours.

EKITELA LOKAALE

Thank you very much. I'm very pleased to be here, again and to see all of you. On behalf of Ambassador Yanina, I would like to thank again ICANN and GAC for this very kind invitation. I'm here with Denise from UNDESA, who have been supporting us as the Secretariat.

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Now, I'm struggling not to repeat myself, because I said quite a number of things in the morning, and I've met quite a number of you in bilateral meetings so far. So, I don't know whether I'm going to say anything new, but I'll do that very briefly, because I would be more interested to hear if you have any questions that you'd like us to clarify. But just to say first that we are grateful for the feedback that we received from the technical community, from yourselves and other stakeholders, on the Zero Draft that we published in August.

The responses were quite overwhelming in a positive sense. A lot of them, actually most everything was useful, because then it's shaping the way we are preparing the next draft, which is REV1, which we are currently working on, and we hope to be publishing by 7th of November.

So the request I place before you again, is please, interact with that draft as well, and we hope to receive your feedback in the manner that I think Denise is going to explain at some point in the course of this interaction. But just to say, as expected from a process of this nature, as complicated as, not complicated, but as complex as this one is, and with the enormous interest that is obviously there, there are a lot of areas or issues on which there is broad agreement, and I use broad very loosely.

Like I mentioned some in the morning, there are also those on which there's going to be more work to be done by Ambassador Yanina and I to get the different viewpoints to some form of middle

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ground. But the perspectives I think of stakeholders like government, because I believe that those are the people in the room, representatives of government, you know, and others would be important.

The only encouragement, because I speak now as also a representative of a member state, is that we've been reaching out to our colleagues to encourage them, to plead with them, that let us approach this in a constructive manner, let's have constructive engagements that are going to advance the WSIS vision and try as much as we can.

I know it's not an easy thing to do, to leave out the other controversies that might be there, particularly in a geopolitical context such as the one that we find ourselves in right now. So, if there are any controversies that have attended the WSIS process at inception 20 years ago, or during WSIS+10, or in between, our appeal is that the matters that are settled, you know, if it's not desirable for us to relitigate them, we would plead that we leave them behind and see ways of elevating the WSIS vision even higher, so that we can move closer to bridging the digital divide.

So with those remarks, I think I'll be interested to listen to what colleagues will have to say and provide responses where I can. I thank you.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you so much, Ambassador Lokaale, and I think we can all agree with those points to really look forward. Now I would pass the floor to my dear colleague, Christine, so that she moderates the interventions. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Thank you very much, Jorge, and thank you, Ambassador Lokaale, for this, and I think we are all eager to have this interaction, and for that I would like to invite colleagues to raise their hand if they would like to raise a question, and also colleagues that are online.

We don't have much time. I think we have like another less than 20 minutes, which we can make best use of. So, I'm wondering if there are any questions at this stage. Well, if not, maybe I can start with kicking the discussion, and so my question obviously is we here at GAC, we are a part of the ICANN community, which is the technical community, if I can say, and I know that the multi-stakeholder sounding board is a novel modality that has been put forward for having stakeholder views within the WSIS review process.

So, my question would be whether there is any vision how to integrate those views into the process of the WSIS. I know it's member states based, but it would be good to know how, if there is a process, to integrate the views of the sounding board. Thank you.

EKITELA LOKAALE

Thank you very much. Very, very important question there. You know, we are drawing our inspiration from the modalities

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resolution, which was adopted by the General Assembly last year, and the instruction from the modalities resolution to the co-facilitators was to conduct a participatory intergovernmental process to ensure the participation of all stakeholders as much as possible.

So that is consistent with the WSIS approach or model, which has been to involve all stakeholders as much as possible. And it's for that reason that we came up with the informal multi-stakeholder sounding board as a platform that would enable different stakeholders to collect their views, express them, and channel in a way that is a bit more structured.

And I can confirm to you that the multi-stakeholder sounding board has been very, very useful, because between the time we produced the elements paper and the Zero Draft, it benefited not just from inputs from member states, but also inputs from other stakeholders that were put forth through the framework of the sounding board.

So we see that a lot of value, you know, is going to derive from the role that that board is going to play. We are mindful that as we get closer to the actual negotiations, it becomes in many ways an intergovernmental process, but we're leaving room, you know, for other stakeholders to be able to channel perspectives that they are going to have.

Then the second thing is that we've been encouraging members of the multi-stakeholder sounding board to be in touch with

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yourselves, with representatives of governments and member states, so that if there are any country-specific or region-specific issues that they would like to channel through the people negotiating on behalf of member states, then they channel them through those colleagues. But we've also committed to remain available to stakeholders as much as possible, so that we can continue to benefit from their views and perspectives. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Thank you very much. Any other questions? Okay, I have Australia.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you, Christine. Ian Sheldon, GAC Australia. I'd like to thank the co-facilitators of the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society for taking the time to engage with the ICANN community here in Dublin.

One of the things you just mentioned was taking the time to channel views and perspectives to negotiators in New York. Across the week here, you will have met with a lot of the deep technical experts who understand the internet. Here in the GAC, a lot of that deep technical expertise also exists.

Do you have any advice for GAC members here to help support their colleagues who are negotiating in New York, and how to facilitate that knowledge transfer from GAC members to their New York colleagues to help facilitate deeper technical conversations where they may arise through the negotiation?

EKITELA LOKAALE

Absolutely, the answer is yes. That is a felt need which we've seen, because the colleagues in New York might not necessarily be experts in the subject matter, because submissions might not have within their complement experts on these issues, and only a few are lucky to be able to send people from capital who have been following these issues for a long time.

So I agree with you and endorse your proposal that if you're able to get in touch with your colleagues in New York and just channel your views and positions as you see it from a technical community point of view, that will greatly enhance the negotiations, because then we'll be negotiating not just on the basis of political positions, but those that are informed by technical considerations. So, I think that would be a very, very useful thing to do going forward. Yeah, thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Great, thank you. Next, I have China.

GUO FENG

Thank you very much. China for the record. Thank you very much for coming here to interact with us on this very important topic, the WSIS+20. And I would also like to join my colleague Ian to thank co-facilitators to coordinate these very important processes. At this moment, perhaps I have perhaps a comment. Since now we have



the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 document, but I know that it's a very lengthy document, a lot of pages and paragraphs.

Personally, I don't have the chance to read through all of this. But as I look at this document on about the WSIS+20, since we have the first basis summit in Geneva, we have a Geneva plan of action. And the next is Tunis summit. And in Tunis summit, it was producing the Tunis agenda document, this very important document in the past.

So perhaps my comment is, is there any paragraphs or sections in the Zero Draft of WSIS+20? I call it the first paragraph of the document. And I would also like to thank the co-facilitators for coordinating those two previous important documents. Because as I remember, in those two documents, there were some important action lines and also some to-do lists I think it is perhaps at this point of time, it will be good to review those action lines and to check those to-do lists to see where is the element and to what extent the community, the global community have achieved. So, I think it is my personal comment. Hope it will help. Thank you.

EKITELA LOKAALE

Thank you very much, distinguished colleague from China. That's an important comment. First, many people have remarked that the Zero Draft is perhaps a bit too long. So, we intend to shorten it a bit. I don't know to what extent we are going to succeed in doing so, considering that new proposals are coming, including from the engagements that we've had here. Some very useful ideas. So, we

intend to shorten it a bit without losing any important elements of the document.

On the Tunis agenda and the Geneva, yes, we've referenced them. If you find time and look at the throughout the document, there are references to those documents, including in the introduction. So, we've tried as much as possible to keep the Tunis and Geneva spirit alive. And for that reason, based on consultations also with many of you, we don't intend to reopen the action lines, because as they are, they are technology agnostic. And we feel they are elastic enough to take on the new developments that have taken place. So, I think we'll keep it that way for now. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Thank you, Ambassador. Next, I have Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Christine. And maybe to continue the conversation, I just wanted to inquire what's your current state of thinking about what are the possibilities that we may use the opportunity of WSIS+20 to really get our current framework, our current architecture, which was created 20 years ago, up to speed with the new developments, how we can learn, for instance, from multi-stakeholder initiatives and organizations like ICANN, but also from others, in order to really make the best of it in delivering on the vision that we agreed upon 20 years ago in WSIS of a people-

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centered and inclusive and development-oriented information society.

EKITELA LOKAALE

Thank you. When we started off, the first question we were asking ourselves was whether the WSIS vision is still relevant under the current context or whether there was a need for us to revise it or change. And in the course of all the consultations we've had there is a reaffirmation that the WSIS vision is still relevant.

The other dimension is what happens with the rapid technological advancements that have been witnessed over the years. Is the WSIS framework broad enough to accommodate those and advance them? That was another question we asked ourselves. And in some ways, the answer is yes, with respect, for example, to action lines. But then there have been strong suggestions from different stakeholders for us to at least acknowledge developments in emerging technologies such as AI and others, and not to undertake the current review in a way that's completely oblivious of those developments.

That's the reason, for example, you find in the text a section on AI. We're careful to acknowledge that there have been developments in that space without going deep into the discussions on AI, partly because we are aware that there are parallel processes mandated to deal with AI, including the recently adopted modalities

resolution on the establishment of the independent scientific panel, the global dialogue, and so on.

So we did not want to duplicate that, but find a way of expressing it. But more practically, during the IGF in Norway, as well as the last couple of days and another one or two days that we are going to be around, we've benefited immensely from feedback from yourselves as people who are involved in the development of technology around subjects that WSIS is dealing with.

And what that does to us is to clarify the importance that we should assign to different sections of the text. For instance, looking at what it means for young people, what it means for end users, what it means for the Internet to remain open for open standards to be applied, what it means for non-fragmentation and so on.

So, I think being in touch with yourselves has given us more clarity about how to treat the text and manage those negotiations as we go forward. I hope I responded to your question. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Thank you, Ambassador. Next, I have India.

T. SANTHOSH

Thank you, Christine. This is Santosh for the record. Ambassador, the WSIS+20 outcome document may also emphasize on the role of technical bodies in maintaining the security, stability, and interoperability of the Internet and the DNS. India supports language that promotes timely verification, accountability, and

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responsible use of digital identifiers to combat DNS Abuse while ensuring privacy and data protection safeguards. Thank you.

EKITELA LOKAALE

I thank the distinguished representative of India. We've taken note of those very useful comments. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Okay. I think I see no other hands in the room. And we only have one minute to go. So Jorge, I will turn back to you for conclusion or possibly to Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. Thank you, everyone, for your questions, for your comments. Thank you, Ambassador Lokaale for this brief overview and discussion. We know the Ambassador and his team have other very pressing commitments, and we need to break for three minutes as well in order to prepare the room for our discussion on the drafting of the communiqué. So, thank you very much. Let's give a big round of applause. Thank you so much.

Okay. Thank you very much for your patience and your tolerance and your flexibility. Gulten, are we going to be recording this session? Okay. Please go ahead.

JULIA CHARVOLEN

It is currently being recorded.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Oh, it's all right. Thank you, thank you. I thought we needed to go ahead from the beginning. So, welcome back. Yesterday, if you recall, we had a general view of the different parts and the general structure of the GAC communiqué. And again, this is going to be boring and repetitive for the distinguished GAC representatives, but as you may understand, we're doing this for the benefit of the new GAC representatives.

We have 32 new GAC representatives since June this year. That is right after ICANN84 in Dublin. And that's why we're making sure that everybody understands the different parts on the one hand, again, in order to make sure that we're on the same page for the sake of clarity.

So, without further ado, again, as I said before, we're not going to review the whole structure of the communiqué. And we're going to, again, for the sake of time, we're going to concentrate on the substantive parts and the substantive text we already have. It is my understanding, Fabien, that we already have plenty of submissions. So, can you please walk us through the part in which we'll be concentrating now? Over to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Nico. So, plenty is quite generous. I would say we do have some contributions that we can start reviewing. Just maybe as a reminder, we had identified yesterday, if we could scroll up just

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a little bit. So, we are in issues of importance in the substantive part of the communiqué. So, we do have text on issues on the Next Round of New gTLDs. Adjusting the spacing here. So on two subtopics, on the Applicant Support Program, implementation and outreach, and on the additional fee for evaluation of geographic names, let's just review all the topics we have and then we'll come back to the text we have, Nico, if you don't mind.

Then we do have a section on community statements of interest, SOI, with a text suggested here. The rest of the headings don't seem to have text yet, and so that's systematic visa issues undermining global inclusion, ICANN reviews, DNS reviews, domain registration data, governance of regional internet registries.

And so, on those topics, it would be interesting to get a sense of how far we are from reviewing text. So, if the topic leads wouldn't mind kind of giving a sense, maybe, Nico, that would help us organize and potentially, as suggested yesterday by Ian, to consider setting time aside during communiqué drafting for small groups to potentially progress their discussions if necessary. So, maybe we can start here, reviewing where each of those empty sections stand at the moment, and then go back to the text we have, if that works with you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

That makes sense to me. Thank you for that, Fabien. So, let me ask the topic leads at this point if they have produced some text. If not,

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I mean, we can deal with the situation with the text, of course. We can add it now. We can read it, at least on a preliminary basis, and then we can go back to the text we already have there. So, this is a good opportunity for the topic leads to speak. Netherlands?

MARCO HOGEWONING

We can use a bottom-up process and start at the bottom, as the caretaker for the regional Internet registry topic. There has been some draft text circulated. I received input from one GAC member. I'm waiting feedback for a few others. I hope to have something by tomorrow noon to show to the community, but again, to stress other members that have seen the text, please respond, and if you are curious and have not yet received the text, let me know ASAP, and I can share what we have right now.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Netherlands. This is not to put you on the spot, but let me ask the DNS Abuse topic leads if we have any text so far that you can share with the GAC at this point.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

I'm taking the risk to speak on the behalf of my colleagues, Tomo and Susan. When I say that we have the session tomorrow on DNS abuse, we aim at sharing something probably straight after the session.



NICOLAS CABALLERO

So you don't have like any preliminary observations or anything you'd like to-- No, just in case. And the same thing goes to the topic leads on the ROR, or review of reviews. Again, in case you have any preliminary text you would like to be read at this point. If that is not the case, no problem. It's not the end of the world. We can move on, which is what I suggest we do right now, Fabien.

Let's go straight to the part of the communiqué where we already have text. Let's give it a preliminary read, and then we take it from there. Over to you, Fabien. There's a hand from the UPU. I'm sorry. Please go ahead, Tracy. I didn't see your hand. Sorry.

TRACY HACKSHAW

Thank you. Yes, I'm just saying that under item 3, there is some draft text that's been worked on by several members of the underserved regions Working Group. It's under review, and several countries have been chatting with us on this. So, there's something happening there, but it's not ready for insertion as yet. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, UPU. Any other comment or question before we actually start reading the draft communiqué text we have so far? Fabien, go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

That's just a reminder, particularly on the DNS reviews and domain registration data topic. Since the plenary sessions on those topics will be tomorrow, at the end of those sessions we have time that's

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planned for specific discussion of potential communiqué text, including questions and contributions from members. So, I do not expect that we would also have domain registration data text before tomorrow.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you for that. Thank you for the heads up. So, this is where we are. I don't see any hand up. So, let's begin reading, Fabien. You know the part where we have text, and I'll begin, and then I'll get the invaluable help of my vice chairs to help me reading. So, number one, Next Round of New gTLDs, A, Applicant Support Program Implementation and Outreach.

The GAC recognizes that the Applicant Support Program, ASP, is meant as a key instrument intended to facilitate applicants from underserved regions and economies to participate in the Next Round of New gTLDs. While acknowledging a significant increase in ASP applications in the pipeline since ICANN83, the GAC notes the limited uptake and geographic imbalance in the ASP.

Despite extensive outreach efforts by ICANN and stakeholders in a spread of regions, the number of completed applications remains lower than expected. The low uptake and limited geographic breadth, poses a risk to the credibility of the program. It may further impact the overall objective of the Next Round of New gTLDs to further diversify and broaden the global base of the DNS.

The GAC recognizes the efforts by ICANN Org to support ASP applicants in the process and the extension of the deadline to finalize those applications that are in the pipeline. Given the low program uptake, the GAC considers it important that an adequate ex post analysis is performed to identify problems and provide input to improve any future programs of a similar nature beyond the 2025 ASP.

Is that the end? Okay. Further, the GAC appreciates a dialogue with ICANN to ensure outreach on the Next Round of gTLDs. The Next Round of gTLDs will be held in September. ICANN and ICANN can help in improving global diversity of the DNS and encourage applications from underserved regions. I'll stop here in order to see if there are reactions.

I already can say, and I'm not Shakespearean like our good friend Nigel Hickson who's in heaven watching us right now, but I see the word uptake repeated three or four times, and I'm not that comfortable with that, but I would leave it to my distinguished native speakers in the room to decide. Maybe it's just me, but if we can find a synonym or something for the uptake, uptake, uptake word repeated three or four times.

Again, it's not the end of the world for me. That's not a hill I will die on, but I'll stop there. I see two hands, one from the Netherlands and one from the European Commission. Netherlands, please.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Thank you. And of course, we are in the GAC's hands, but to acknowledge that use of the phrase limited uptake, as we, the topic leads and a few other interested parties in drafting, have spent considerable time coming up with this particular sentence, so I'd rather keep it, but if anybody has a better idea, of course, we're in your hands. We're open to just to stress that this was already quite an effort to reach this compromise. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Netherlands. By no means I'm trying to be difficult or anything like that. It was just an observation. I have the European Commission next.

MARTINA BARBERO

Thank you very much, Chair. This is Martina, European Commission, for the record. I have an editorial suggestion that is very small, and I hope it doesn't bother the compromise reach, but at the beginning of the second paragraph, while acknowledging a significant increase, ASP is repeated twice.

Increase in ASP application and geographic imbalance in the ASP, I think the first ASP can be deleted probably because it's quite clear that we're speaking about the ASP application, and then we were wondering from the authors if they could clarify a tiny bit, maybe the very last paragraph, where we say that the GAC appreciate a dialogue with ICANN.

Is it a further dialogue that we appreciate, the current dialogue? Is it the context of the ASP or it's broader in the context of a new round? So, just asking for a small clarification there.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, European Commission. Good catch, by the way. Netherlands?

MARCO HOGEWONING

I think, indeed, from an editorial perspective, could catch on the further, but what we discussed and what we anticipate as the ASP is drawn to a close, there will still be outreach on the Next Round. So, incorporating some of this and especially some of the intention of the Next Round outreach towards underserved regions.

So, I think you're right in terms of further, it's not really a further dialogue as we're starting it, but the idea behind it is to initiate some talks with ICANN to see if some of the Next Round, the general Next Round outreach can be used or directed to serve the purpose.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Netherlands. I have the UPU next.

TRACY HACKSHAW

Thank you, Nico. When we use the word DNS in this, normally we use the word industry to attach to it as opposed to the DNS itself, which is a technical thing. So, I would perhaps suggest that we qualify whenever we say the global base of the DNS, we probably

mean DNS industry, and I think it comes up twice. So, that's a suggestion. So, I think the last paragraph also has a similar, thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, UPU. Well noted. I have Colombia and then the European Commission. Colombia, please go ahead.

THIAGO DAL TOE

Thank you so much, Nico. Thiago Dal Toe, for the record. On the second paragraph, when we start the phrase, the low uptake in limited geography breadth, I was wondering if we could put the current low uptake, because we're hoping that there will be better efforts from now on and we'll have more applications. And to maintain also, no, it's on the second phrase.

The current low uptake in limited geographic breadth poses a risk to the, yeah. In addition to that, I guess just to maintain cohesion and every time that we mention ICANN and mention that it's ICANN Org that we are relating to. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Colombia. European Commission.

MARTINA BARBERO

Thank you very much. I'm not wanting to open any Shakespearean discussion either, but if the last sentence as kindly explained by the authors refers to the outreach regarding the new round and not specifically the reach of the ASP, maybe in the title we could add

Applicant Support Program implementation and net New gTLD round outreach or something like that, just to refer to this broader outreach that is not on the ASP.

Otherwise, maybe people will be confused that we're still speaking about ASP outreach only. But just a suggestion from my side.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Martina. Where exactly would you like to put it?

MARTINA BARBERO

I think the GAC support staff already put it in the title of the section, actually.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

There we go. Okay, thank you so much. So, that's an all hand, Colombia, right? That's an all hand? Okay, thank you. I have Switzerland next.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Nico. I'm Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. As much as I hate to disagree with my dear colleague, Tracy, I think that maybe industry is a bit too reductive, because we have community applications, we have GeoTLDs that come from public authorities. I'm not sure whether they would identify themselves as industry. So, I would like to bracket the two additions of industry and see whether we come up with a better word. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you for that, Switzerland. And as you can see, we're dangerously entering Shakespearean territory. But we're good. So far, so good. And we have time. I have Argentina and Netherlands. Argentina?

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS

Thank you, Chair. Marina Flego Eiras, Argentina, for the record. In order to avoid the redundancy, my suggestion is that we replace one of these uptake nouns for penetration, maybe.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Argentina. Well noted. So, if everybody agrees, again, I will turn to our distinguished native speakers. Penetration sounds a little bit harsh to me, but I mean, again, another heel I won't die on. Again, I miss Nigel so much. Anybody? Netherlands, go ahead, please.

MARCO HOGEWONING

I see a native speaker queue up. But to me, penetration is a different one. That's sort of the verb that acknowledges how far outreach reaches. And this is not... it's really about sort of people picking up on the signal and working. So, that's why we picked uptake.

Again, open to alternatives. It does indeed start to stand out a bit. I raise my hand to try and address the Swiss comment on industry.



I'm also not sure whether it's fully properly translated. But in the Netherlands, we often use the word sector instead of industry. But that might also not be fully appropriate. I think, and it wasn't included in the first, because also the DNS, the domain name system. So, I mean, we are addressing the global scope of the system, I would argue.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Netherlands. Yes, that's an interesting choice we need to make there, right? Industry sector or system. Is that what you said? System? Yeah, which is already included in DNS, Domain Name System. Industry or sector. I have the UK next.

CRAIG STANLEY-ADAMSON

Thank you. Craig Stanley-Adamson, UK for the record. Not to make a full solution to the uptakes, but just I think the second one, given that we're talking about the specific program, I'm mentioning program here. This is program requests, is it not? So, could we say, given the low level of program requests, the GAC considers it as important? I know it's adding an extra word, but just makes it a little bit specific there. But just a thought. So, it'd be of low level of program requests.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, UK. Denmark.

FINN PETERSEN

Thank you very much. And alternative couldn't be for uptake number of application. I think that is what we are talking about here. Uptake is, for me, also something different. That is perhaps in the next phase. But number of applications could be used.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay. Thank you, Denmark. But we need to decide. We need to decide if we keep uptake. Sorry. Oh, UPU, please. Go ahead.

TRACY HACKSHAW

And I was going to suggest sector as well that Marco suggested. Just for Switzerland, industry is an economic activity, not necessarily by business, but I understand your point of view. So, I think sector is a very good replacement phrase for that. Thanks. So, I think we could scratch industry.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay. Thank you so much, UPU. So, I'll read again in order to see if we have some sort of understanding here. And given the fact that we only have five more minutes, let's see how it goes, right? So, it would read, the GAC recognizes that the Applicant Support Program, ASP, is meant as a key instrument intended to facilitate applicants from underserved regions and economies to participate in the Next Round of New gTLDs. While acknowledging a significant increase in applications in the pipeline since ICANN83, the GAC notes the limited number of applications and geographic imbalance in the ASP.

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Despite extensive outreach efforts by ICANN and stakeholders in a spread of regions, the number of completed applications remains lower than expected. The current low number of applications and limited geographic breadth poses a risk to the credibility of the program.

It may further impact the overall objective of the Next Round of New gTLDs to further diversify and broaden the base of the DNS sector.

The GAC recognizes the efforts by ICANN Org to support ASP applicants in the process and the extension of the deadline to finalize those applications that are in the pipeline. Given the low level of program applications, the GAC considers it important that an adequate ex post analysis is performed to identify problems and provide input to improve future programs of a similar nature beyond the 2025 ASP.

Further, the GAC appreciates dialogue with ICANN Org to ensure outreach on the Next Round can help in improving global diversity of the DNS sector and encourage applications from underserved regions. Again, this sounds a little bit weird to me. We need to cross out one of the further, but again, this is just me, you know. I'm not the native speaker. I have Lebanon.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Can you consider replacing the last, in the third paragraph, the uptake with insufficient engagement? We can delete one of the

three repeated words. In the third paragraph, yeah. Insufficient engagement instead of low level of request applications.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you for that, Lebanon. I have India. Sorry, I didn't see you. You were before Lebanon. I'm sorry about that, India. Please go ahead.

T. SANTHOSH

Thank you, Chair. Now, coming to the second paragraph, fourth line, which starts at the current low uptake number of application and limited geographic breadth poses a risk to the credibility of the program, and what to do is not mentioned. So, I have a test. Shall I read it? After program, full stop. It will be this necessitates taking measures inter alia, including disclosure of generic statistical data to concerned inter alia. Shall I add this test there?

Fabien, can I add it? Including disclosure of generic statistical data to concerned GAC representatives after redacting personal information of applicants. Full stop. Thank you. This is in alignment with the GAC recommendation in the ICANN83. This is in alignment with the GAC recommendation in the ICANN83 Prague communiqué. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, India. I have the Netherlands and then the U.K. Thank you.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Just as a reminder, I think I also still see UPU on the queue. I'm not sure whether that's an alternative. Thank you, India, for the text. My suggestion also given that it's 5:30 right now is to further consult on this. Not too much into the well-intentioned text. My personal view is this is getting longer.

My engineering brain is now screaming less is more. It also to me seems to address items that have already been taken care of as was expressed in the session. So, maybe park that for consultation. When I originally raised my hand, it was to address the addition from Lebanon.

I think insufficient engagement in the ASP is something completely different than low uptake or a low number of applications. So, again, happy to consult. But I think that's a different problem to address. I still, and we're in your hands, Mr. Chair, I still see the U.K. on the queue. But my suggestion would be for this to defer back to the topic leads and the caretakers to further consult with the people who have contributed to this text and come back to it tomorrow.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. As a matter of fact, I was going to suggest to park the whole thing until tomorrow, but sorry to keep you waiting. U.K., you have the floor, and then we need to wrap up. Please go ahead.

CRAIG STANLEY-ADAMSON

Thank you. Craig Stanley-Adamson, for the record. This will be very, very quick. Just the bottom paragraph where we start it with further. Obviously, we just added further a tiny bit so we can remove that further and just start the sentence with the GAC.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, U.K. So, let's stop here. Let's park it. We'll continue tomorrow. Some little housekeeping details. Tomorrow, we reconvene at 9 a.m. for the meeting with the ALAC. So, enjoy the welcome reception tonight. I'll see you there. And if I don't see you there, I'll see you tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the morning. Thank you so much.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**