ICANN87 Bali | AGM – GAC Communique Drafting (5 of 6)
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 – 16:30 to 17:30 WITA

GULTEN TEPE: Welcome to the ICANN 87 GAC Communiqué drafting session on Wednesday, 21 October, at 04:30 PM local time. 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. 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, and please remember to state your name for the record and the language you'll be speaking in case you're speaking a language other than English. And please speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. I will now leave the floor over to Ian Sheldon, GAC Vice Chair. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON: Thank you, Gülten. Good afternoon. Welcome back to the final GAC session of the day, our communiqué drafting session. So I think we've made pretty good progress on the communiqué draft over the last session. We have a few sections outstanding, which I hope

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to wrap up, and then hopefully we'll give everybody an opportunity to check with capitals overnight. So with that, perhaps we can dive straight into registration data.

Six, registration data. A, Registration Data Request Service and System for Standardized Access/Disclosure, SSAD. The GAC welcomes the ongoing work of the GNSO's System for Standardized Access/Disclosure, SSAD, Supplemental Recommendations Team, SRT, and appreciates the Board's continued engagement through its liaisons. The GAC intends to comment on the SSAD SRT's recommendations when they are published for public comment shortly after ICANN 87. As the SSAD SRT finalizes its recommendations, the GAC reiterates that the SSAD should be permanent and mandatory for all gTLD registrars with optional participation by ccTLD operators, as stated in the ICANN 86 Communiqué. The GAC notes its awareness that the future SSAD could be either an enhanced registration request service, RDRS, or a successor system. The GAC also emphasizes the importance of requester authentication and of law enforcement agencies having the ability to act as authentication providers. The GAC appreciates the ongoing collaboration between ICANN Org and the PSWG to develop a technical proof of concept for authentication of law enforcement requesters. The GAC also appreciates Org's efforts in convening the Cross-Community Input Group on this issue and encourages a pilot with ICANN covering the end-to-end authentication process so that LEA authentication can be operationalized as soon as possible once the SSAD policy is

implemented. Regarding urgent requests, the GAC reiterates the need for clear timelines for operationalizing LEA authentication and the 24-hour urgent request requirement. The GAC also expects that the Board approval and implementation of the SSAD SRT recommendations will be sufficient for the relevant registration data policy requirements to take effect without a need for further policy development to enable authenticated requesters to start submitting urgent requests.

Can we scroll, please? Thank you. It further stresses the importance of ensuring appropriate alignment between the SSAD SRT recommendations and the recently adopted policy on urgent requests, as well as all relevant ICANN policies. For requests submitted through the SSAD concerning privacy or proxy domains, the GAC notes that registrars should be required to evaluate and respond to such requests in accordance with the Privacy Services and Proxy Services Consensus Policy once finalized. Registrars should treat requests regarding privacy or proxy domains as requests for disclosure of the underlying privacy/proxy customer data. The GAC looks forward to continued constructive engagement with the SSAD SRT. Okay. So let me check the room. Make sure Chloe got in as well then. Any comments or questions on this text? Just checking the chat. I see no hands and no comments. So can I take it the room is comfortable with this language? Perhaps we can scroll down.

LARS HOFFMANN You mean towards the end of the text or towards the—

IAN SHELDON Towards the end of the text.

LARS HOFFMANN Yeah. Almost at the last line of text. So we agree with the paper.

IAN SHELDON Any other comments? Just pausing to make sure everybody is comfortable. I can't tell if people are reading the text or doing other things. So perhaps we can move onwards.

"B, Privacy Proxy Services Accreditation Issues. The GAC continues to follow and engage in the work of the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues, PPSAI, Implementation Review Team, IRT, and intends to provide a submission in the upcoming public comment process. The GAC notes that ICANN policy should provide a straightforward process for legitimate actors to seek disclosures of privacy and proxy customer data, even when the privacy or proxy provider is not affiliated with the registrar. Registrars should be required to consider privacy or proxy disclosure requests on their merits and to ensure urgent requests receive a response within 24 hours. Registrars should also be required to ensure that all privacy and proxy services offered by their downstream partners are compliant with the forthcoming consensus policy, even when a downstream partner is not affiliated with the registrar." I will pause

here again to see if anybody online or in the room have any comments.

LARS HOFFMANN Yeah, no activity in the chat. We'll watch the chat.

IAN SHELDON Okay. I see no hands and no comments. Perhaps we can green this text and continue.

LARS HOFFMANN So continuing would be going back up. So we're done with the substantive portion of the communiqué to the extent of at least of issues of importance. We're not aware of a proposal for GAC Advice, so we've removed those sections at the bottom of the communiqué. And so if we go back up, I think next in the order of amount of substantive text, it's GAC Working Group, and specifically the GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law.

IAN SHELDON Okay, let's go with this text. "GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law, HRILWG. In the months following ICANN 86, the GAC HRILWG has continued to advance several initiatives in line with its mandate. One of the key outcomes of this work is the GAC Diversity Survey, developed as part of the implementation efforts stemming from Workstream 2, WS2, Community Coordination

Group, CCG. The survey was circulated to all GAC members shortly before ICANN 87, and its results are expected to be presented at ICANN 88. The working group has also continued its efforts to promote sign language interpretation as a means of enhancing the participation of persons with disabilities in ICANN activities. Unfortunately, ICANN's budgetary constraints have brought this initiative to a halt, leaving further implementation dependent on the willingness and support of host countries. The working group intends to pursue opportunities to resume these efforts at future ICANN meetings, ideally with renewed support from ICANN. The HRILWG welcomed and supported the ongoing cooperation with UNESCO on Universal Acceptance and the Internet Universality Indicators, expressing hope that these efforts will lead to positive and concrete outcomes. In this context, the working group also welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Indonesian government as host of ICANN 87 to introduce local language domain names using non-Latin scripts under its national ccTLD. However, the working group expressed concern over the limited number of internationalized domain name, IDN, applications submitted in the new gTLD Program 2026 round. As highlighted during the GAC's discussions with the ICANN new gTLD Program team in Bali, only 21 IDN applications were submitted, representing approximately 1.3% of the total applications. While the final figures will be confirmed following string confirmation day in November, these preliminary numbers raise concerns that the 2026 round may

not deliver the anticipated increase in linguistic and geographic diversity."

Pausing to check the chat and the room. I did just have one comment. The phrase, "brought this initiative to a halt, " reads as a little bit informal for a communiqué document, and I'm wondering if there might be some alternate language. So for my clarity, has this initiative been ceased or has it been paused? Is there a pathway? Giacomo, please.

GIACOMO MAZZONE I don't know if you remember, but initially we had applied for an extra-budgetary initiative, but as you know, this was suspended because of budgetary funding problems. We hope that now this could change after the new situation with the new gTLDs round. So it was halted with hope to be eventually restarted, and this is why we want to keep alive the promise eventually.

IAN SHELDON Perhaps we can say it's...

GIACOMO MAZZONE Van?

IAN SHELDON Sorry, I can't tell if somebody's asking for the floor.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Shakespearean suggestion here that he's so shy to tell. Please. So what you said then? If the initiative is unable to go further. Initiative is unable to go further? Is this leaving the open door for... I ask the English native. I don't want to close the door. That's my question.

IAN SHELDON: We could say something like, ICANN has decided to deprioritize this work due to budgetary constraints. Martina, please.

MARTINA BARBERO: Not an English speaker, unfortunately, but so yes, not a native English speaker, I hope so. I was thinking maybe we can say ICANN's budgetary constraints have left further implementation dependent on the willingness and support of the host country, at least temporarily. So we mean that ICANN has budgetary cuts. Further implementation is dependent on the host country, but it might be temporary because ICANN could resume funding the initiative; it could try again.

IAN SHELDON: That works. Thank you, and look, I should probably be very clear. The starting, even though I'm not an English native speaker, is really no qualifier for the quality of your input into the communiqué drafting. I find non-native speakers largely have a better grasp of the language than those who have grown up speaking it. Any other comments for this section? I see no hands. Perhaps we can green this and, Martina, please.

MARTINA BARBERO Sorry, Ian. I was just suggesting that we also add, "at least temporarily, " after "support of host countries, " because we don't know if this is going to be long-term or not.

IAN SHELDON Okay. Thank you for the qualifier. Any other comments? No? I see no hands and no comments. Perhaps we can green this and continue.

LARS HOFFMANN Next is the GAC Universal Acceptance and IDN.

IAN SHELDON Okay. Next section, GAC Universal Acceptance and IDN Working Group, UA IDN WG. The GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group held a session at ICANN 87 in Bali to explore how governments can accelerate Universal Acceptance, UA, adoption and advance a more linguistically diverse, and therefore more accessible and multilingual internet. The discussion highlighted the importance of integrating UA into national digital strategies, where a number of governments expressed their interest in the GAC UA Champion Initiative and shared their experiences and challenges in implementing UA at a national level, aiming to encourage UA adoption within digital public sector policies and services. It was noted that the window for other governments to express their

interest remains open. Updates provided during the session included the UNESCO ICANN Policy Brief, preparations for UA Day 2027, and the ICANN UA Expert Working Group. So I think there are probably two core decisions we need to make in the second paragraph, assuming the rest of the amendments are amenable. Was there a discussion on these issues in the break? I can see two hands. Egypt, then Iran. Christine, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Ian. Christine Arida. I'm just seeking clarification. In the first paragraph, I thought we had a discussion yesterday, and did we agree not to include "therefore"? I think we had a discussion about that, and we were saying that being UA-ready or accessible is not necessarily related or linked to linguistic diversity, but it's also UA applies to new gTLDs and how to make them accessible. So I think we don't need the word "therefore."

IAN SHELDON: Thank you. Strike the word. Iran, please.

MOHSEN NIKBIN: Mohsen from Iran. I just have a question. This GAC UA Champion Initiative, does it exist, or is it something which would be established someday? I don't know.

IAN SHELDON The proponents of this language in the room who might be able to expand upon this further? Christine, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA Just if Iran can repeat the question. Is it about what the UA Champion Initiative is? I think this is what was discussed in the working group session, where there are the six countries that we took out the number six, and we had listed them yesterday or today. I can't remember. We took them out, but we kept the initiative that says that they are interested to champion UA activities in their country. So it was discussed in full in the session.

IAN SHELDON Thank you. Does that address your question?

MOHSEN NIKBIN No, I just asked whether this is an initiative which should be established one day or it is.

IAN SHELDON Okay. Thank you. So which language should we adopt within square brackets here? "In all countries" or "particularly among governments"? Are they str—Argentina, please.

ARGENTINA Thank you very much. I feel that this question must be determined by the leaders of the group. But in my view, the Universal

Acceptance, it's intended to advance in all countries rather, I mean, furthermore, their economic or financial condition.

IAN SHELDON: Thank you. European Commission.

MARTINA BARBERO: Thank you, Ian. I also subscribe to the "all countries, " but I think that it's the underserved regions that face the challenges in implementing UA linked to the lack of resources. I guess that was the point of colleagues. So maybe we can put, "and shared their experiences and challenges in implementing UA at the national level, especially from underserved regions, aiming to encourage UA adoption within digital public sector policy in all countries." So we recognize the specific challenges that underserved regions might face in this context, but we also don't discourage other countries from promoting UA, which is important to everybody. I don't know, just a suggestion.

IAN SHELDON: So would that mean we remove the language in the second half of that square-bracketed portion?

LARS HOFFMANN: Right.

IAN SHELDON Is that right?

MARTINA BARBERO Yeah.

IAN SHELDON How does this language look to the room? I see agreement in the chat. And I see no further hands. Great. So I might just read that second paragraph again. Okay. The discussion highlighted the importance of integrating UA into national digital strategies, where a number of governments expressed their interest in the GAC UA Champion Initiative and shared their experiences and challenges in implementing UA at national level, especially in underserved regions, aiming to encourage UA adoption within digital public sector policies and services in all countries. It was noted that the window for other governments to express their interest remains open. And slight editorial, but perhaps it should be "at a national level" in this third line.

LARS HOFFMANN A or the?

IAN SHELDON Either A, or "at the national level."

LARS HOFFMANN You tell me. Yeah.

IAN SHELDON Zeina, please.

ZEINA BOU HARB Just to clarify, maybe I didn't get it. What is the difference between "linguistically diverse" and "multilingual internet" in the first paragraph?

IAN SHELDON So you're suggesting we pick one of those two phrases rather than have both?

LARS HOFFMANN It's like linguistically, it's redundant.

IAN SHELDON Would that arrangement work?

MARTINA BARBERO Yes.

IAN SHELDON Marco, please.

MARCO HOGEWONING I don't want to go up and down the document, but isn't this the same thing we just touched upon earlier today on the issues of importance text on UA? Can we align those?

IAN SHELDON Marco, are you proposing we take this language here?

MARCO HOGEWONING If that's acceptable to the proponents, then my suggestion would be to align. I see nods from Lebanon, but...

IAN SHELDON Okay, let's see how that reads. The GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group held a session at ICANN 87 in Bali to explore how governments can accelerate Universal Acceptance, UA, adoption and accelerate the progress of linguistic diversity and inclusivity online.

LARS HOFFMANN So I guess you've removed, sorry.

IAN SHELDON Marco.

LARS HOFFMANN Yeah, maybe for readability, "UA adoption that addresses to accelerate" or something similar. Maybe I sense that there's a verb missing, but I don't want to hold the discussion up forever.

IAN SHELDON Zeina.

ZEINA BOU HARB Maybe we remove "accelerate, " but just we keep "linguistically diverse and inclusive, " so to be similar to the other paragraph, not necessarily the same wording.

IAN SHELDON Did you have some specific language, Zeina?

ZEINA BOU HARB Yes. We also delete "online, " and we keep "inclusive internet." So we replace the "accessible and multilingual" by "linguistically diverse and inclusive internet."

IAN SHELDON Accelerate Universal Acceptance. Would this work? Can accelerate Universal Acceptance adoption and a linguistically diverse and inclusive internet.

LARS HOFFMANN Maybe towards a linguistically—

IAN SHELDON: The GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group held a session at ICANN 87 in Bali to explore how governments can accelerate Universal Acceptance, UA, adoption towards a linguistically diverse and inclusive internet. Is the room amenable to this language? I see no hands. Perhaps we can clear this up and see how it looks.

LARS HOFFMANN: Things we delete.

IAN SHELDON: Any further comments on this section? I see none. Perhaps we can agree on this section and continue.

LARS HOFFMANN: Yes.

IAN SHELDON: Six, GAC capacity development. During ICANN 87, two capacity development sessions were held focusing on GAC readiness for the new gTLD Program 2026 round, and laying the groundwork for subsequent GAC plenary discussions. The first session provided an overview of the program, including application types, key milestones, string evaluation processes, and the Application Publication and Statistics, APS, system. The second session covered community input mechanisms including application

comments, singular/plural notifications, GAC member early warnings, objections and appeals, and GAC consensus advice, followed by an introduction to the GAC operational readiness materials developed to support members' engagement in the application review process. I will pause here. Any comments or questions? I see none. Let's agree on the language and continue.

LARS HOFFMANN

And so that leaves the introduction and interconstituency activities and community engagement parts of the communiqué to read. And so as a reminder, and also the top of the third section, internal matters, where we report on the membership, elections, leadership. So those are the non-substantive parts of the communiqué that we might read from top to bottom, or we can start here and work our way up. Raise your hands.

IAN SHELDON

Can you—Okay. Three, internal matters. One, GAC membership. There are currently 185 GAC members, GAC member states and territories, and 41 observer organizations. Two, GAC elections. The GAC elected Thiago Dal-Toe, Colombia, to serve the remainder of the Vice Chair term of Ian Sheldon, Australia, ending at the close of ICANN 90 Annual General Meeting in October 2027. Three, GAC leadership. The GAC expressed its sincere appreciation to Nicolas Caballero for his dedication as GAC Chair since 2023. Under his tenure, the GAC adopted a four-year strategic plan and reiterated annual plans which have contributed to increase the committee's

readiness to provide timely and effective advice and policy input in the short term and for the future in the furtherance of the global public interest. At the end of the ICANN 87 meeting, the GAC leadership team will be composed as follows until the close of ICANN 90 in October 2027: Ian Sheldon, Australia, Chair; Thiago Dal-Toe, Colombia; Zeina Bou Harb, Lebanon; Marco Hogewoning, the Netherlands; Jorge Cancio, Switzerland; and Gloria Katuuku, Uganda. Any comments on any of these paragraphs?

I might also read out that explanatory footnote as well. So, the terms of the current Vice Chairs will end at the close of ICANN 90 in October 2027. The term of the incoming GAC Chair will end at the close of ICANN 93 in October 2028. For reference, the terms of the GAC Chair and the Vice Chairs are defined in GAC Operating Principles 21 and 31, which were revised on 10 June 2025, and there's a link to those specific operating principles. Any comments? Let's continue.

Two, interconstituency activities and community engagement. Meeting with the ICANN Board. The GAC met with the ICANN Board and discussed DNS abuse mitigation policy gaps, readiness of SSAD SRT recommendations, urgent requests for disclosure of registration data and law enforcement authentication, privacy/proxy services, GAC preparation for the new gTLD Program 2026 round, regional internet registry governance. So this language is taken directly from the agenda of each of our bilateral and community meetings. Meeting with the Country Code Names

Supporting Organization, ccNSO. The GAC met with members of the ccNSO and discussed ccNSO disaster recovery.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX CcTLD.

IAN SHELDON Thank you, Fabien, for the pickup. So the GAC met with members of the ccNSO and discussed ccTLDs disaster recovery. Meeting with the Generic Names Supporting Organization, GNSO Council. The GAC met with members of the GNSO Council and discussed DNS abuse mitigation, registration data accuracy and the 15-day verification timeline, SSAD next steps on common priorities. Just pausing here. Meeting with the Contracted Parties House, CPH, of the GNSO. The GAC met with representatives of the CPH and discussed next round and New gTLD Applicant Group, NTAG, how to engage with your local registry/registrar, DNS abuse mitigation, SSAD, SRT, and law enforcement authentication. So there is a note here that we did not have time to discuss law enforcement authentication. So the suggestion would be, even though it was on the agenda, perhaps we should remove it from this dot point given it wasn't discussed. Is the room amenable? I see nods and thumbs up. Thank you. And we will spell out NTAG in full. Meeting with the Commercial Stakeholder Group, CSG, of the GNSO. The GAC met with representatives of the CSG and discussed DNS abuse mitigation, registration data accuracy and access, review of reviews. Cross-community discussions. GAC members participated

in relevant cross-community sessions scheduled as part of ICANN 87, including building a secure, inclusive, and multilingual internet for the next decade and the gap in registrant recourse. Any final comments on any of the paragraphs just read out? I see no hands. Let's check what else there is to review.

Introduction. So perhaps I'll just start at the top of the communiqué and work our way down, and that should have concluded the first read-through of the document, I think. So GAC Communiqué, Bali, Indonesia. The Bali Communiqué was drafted and agreed in a hybrid setting during the ICANN 87 Annual General Meeting. The GAC's discussions during this public meeting are reflected in the GAC meeting minutes and the transcripts of all sessions available at the website. The communiqué was circulated to the GAC immediately after the meeting to provide an opportunity for all GAC members and observers to consider it before publication, bearing in mind the special circumstances of a hybrid meeting. No objections were raised during the agreed timeframe before publication, and that language will remain highlighted until it is true. One, introduction. The Governmental Advisory Committee, GAC, of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ICANN, met in Bali, Indonesia in a hybrid setting from 17 to 22 October 2026. X number of GAC members and observers attended the meeting. The GAC meeting was conducted as part of ICANN 87 Annual General Meeting. All GAC plenary and working group sessions were conducted as open meetings. The Governmental Advisory Committee acknowledges and mourns the passing of

Bertrand de la Chapelle, former GAC Vice Chair, long-standing GAC representative of France, and former ICANN Board member. Bertrand has made distinguished contributions to the GAC, ICANN, and it should be the governance of the internet. He will be remembered for his vision, his collegiality, and his unwavering commitment to dialogue and collaboration in advancing multistakeholder governance and the global public interest. Any comments on text on this page? Great. I think that concludes our final run-through of the communiqué, and I think this is a sensible spot to pause here, give all of you an opportunity to check this document with capitals overnight. Then please, Portugal.

ANA NEVES: Thank you. I wonder if you can include that the next ICANN 88 Community Forum will be held in Lisbon. Thank you.

LARS HOFFMANN: So we used to refer to the location, and we've, given a number of situations in which the meeting or meetings were moved, we decided for the stability of the communiqué not to put the city. However, I don't think there's any hard and fast rule. So, I think it's a friendly suggestion.

IAN SHELDON: If the host country GAC is comfortable, I'm amenable to including the location. Any final thoughts? Great. So tomorrow morning. Please.

JULIA CHARVOLEN Sorry. It was mentioned in the chat, Frederik Wolf, that should be 2027 and not 2026. Thanks.

IAN SHELDON Sorry, please, Manal. Floor is yours.

MANAL ISMAIL Same point.

IAN SHELDON Same point? Great.

LARS HOFFMANN Back to the future.

IAN SHELDON Yeah. Any other comments? No, I think that wraps up the last session of today.

LARS HOFFMANN Can we talk about tomorrow again?

IAN SHELDON Yes. So tomorrow we will reconvene, do a final read-through section by section, noting any grammar or minor wording cleanups will be done by leadership and Secretariat. Please take this

opportunity to check the document with capitals overnight if you need to do so, and then we will proceed directly to the GAC wrap-up. We will also be looking to provide an opportunity to collect written farewells to Nico, and then we'll be collating those and sending them to him as well. Look, I'm also exploring opportunities for us to perhaps sign something tomorrow, depending on if we can organize something suitable or practical. Any other... Christine, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA Maybe we can have, at the end of tomorrow's session, a group photo and Nico on the screen. That would be nice, and we can include it in whatever we're going to send him.

IAN SHELDON You mean put a photo of Nico up on the screen?

CHRISTINE ARIDA If he's not able to be with us online, at least a photo of him. If he's able to be online, we can do even better.

IAN SHELDON Yes. I think we've been trying to work out if the time zone lines up, and I think there's a reasonable chance he may still be in transit. So, we'll see how we go. But we can decide tomorrow morning how we want to manage it. Any other comments? Any other notices? Anything from GAC support for the night that I've forgotten?

LARS HOFFMANN Gülten, do we need any announcements of any kind, or we're just checking that we're not forgetting anything? I think from a communiqué drafting wrap-up perspective, we've covered it. So just in case. Okay, thank you.

MARCO HOGEWONING Well, if you're soliciting for AOBs and Lars's help, please send that through to the GAC mailing list. But in case you wonder, there is a global security issue going on with a piece of software that means that the new gTLD website has been taken offline. ICANN informed us that they're working on a fix.

IAN SHELDON Great. Thank you, Marco. Okay. With that, that wraps up the second-last session for the GAC. Thank you all. Have a good night, and I'll see you all bright and early tomorrow. Thank you.

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