ICANN87 Bali | AGM – GAC Communique Drafting or Wrap-up
Thursday, October 22, 2026 – 13:15 to 14:30 WITA

GULTEN TEPE

Welcome to the ICANN87 final GAC Communiqué Drafting Session on Thursday, 22nd of October at 13:15 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'd 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 speaking a language other than English. And please speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation.

I'll now leave the floor over to Ian Sheldon, GAC Vice Chair. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you, Gulten. I'm Ian Sheldon, GAC Vice Chair for the record. I hope you've all had a great lunch break and were able to drop in on the community forum. Welcome to the final session of the GAC

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for the meeting. We have a little bit of extra communiqué text to work through. I'll hand it off to Marco to walk us through these final amendments before I'll do the closing. Thanks, Marco.

MARCO HOGEWONING Thank you, Ian. Good afternoon, colleagues. The colleagues from the Human Rights and International Law Working Group have supplied us with further edits to their section of the communiqué that describes the working group activities.

Let me read this to you: In the months following ICANN86 the GAC HRILWG has continued to advance several initiatives in line with its mandate. As part of the implementation efforts stemming from Workstream 2, WS2, Community Coordination Group, CCG, the group was asked to prepare a survey, which has been developed for GAC members and distributed. The results are expected to be presented at ICANN88.

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 left further implementation dependent on the willingness and support of the host countries at least temporarily. The Working Group intends to pursue opportunities to resume these efforts at future ICANN meetings, ideally with renewed support from ICANN.

The HRILWG supports the ongoing work on Universal Acceptance and hopes these efforts will lead to positive and concrete outcomes. The Working Group welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Indonesian government, the host of ICANN87, to introduce local-language domain names using non-Latin scripts under its national ccTLD.

However, the Working Group noted the limited number of internationalized IDN applications submitted in the New gTLD program 2026 Round. as highlighted during the GAC's discussion with the ICANN New gTLD Program Team in Bali, only 21 applications were submitted, representing approximately 1.3% of the total applications. While the final figures will be confirmed following String Confirmation Day in November, this is preliminary, if you can scroll up, thank you, numbers raise concerns that the 2026 Round may not deliver the increase in linguistic and geographic diversity expected by the ICANN community.

I believe there was already some consultation with some people in the room. I kindly ask you if you all agree to what is in front of us. And I see no hands up, so I read that as agreement. Thank you. With that, Mr. Chairman, I think we finally have a completed text.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you, Marco. Perhaps we can do one final read through section by section to make sure we do have full consensus on all the language. We start with our standard preambular text, as well as our introductory paragraphs and a paragraph mourning the

passing of Bertrand. Scroll down, please. Inter-constituency activities and community engagement. Meeting with the ICANN board. Meeting with the ccNSO. Meeting with the GNSO, meeting with the CPH of the GNSO, meeting with the CSG, cross-community discussions. I see no hands.

Internal matters, these sections talk about the current state of the GAC membership, recent elections, as well as our current leadership. Again, expressing some appreciation to Nico and his time as the GAC Chair. I see no hands. Continue. We have a section here on GAC Working Groups. Work undertaken by the PSWG, the GAC Capacity Development Working Group, the section we have recently just explored on the Human Rights and International Law Working Group. Followed by a section on Universal Acceptance and the IDN Working Group. Pausing here for any final comments or last reflections. I see none.

We have a section here on the operational matters and recent changes to the operating principles followed by a final section on capacity development. I see no final hands or comments here. Let's continue. Issues of importance. We have two paragraphs on the Review of Reviews followed by our section on the New gTLD program 2026 Round. There's two paragraphs here on safeguards, followed by one paragraph on geographic names and community applications. Section on GAC Operational Readiness, and a number of paragraphs discussing the Applicant Support Program. Just pausing here, I see no hands, we can continue.

So, we have a section here on Universal Acceptance, followed by a number of paragraphs on the great work on DNS Abuse achieved so far. No final requests for additional thoughts here. Next, we discuss the 15-day registration data verification timeline. Pausing. Nigel, please.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE Thank you, Chair. Nigel Cassimire, CTU. This is just editorial. The heading here, the format is quite different from all the rest. I think it should be capitalized as opposed to not. That's all.

IAN SHELDON Thank you, Nigel. I should also add that if you do pick up any editorial amendments that are required, please do feed them through to leadership or secretariat and we can fix those up in the final period for review and check, which Fabien will go through once we've concluded this process.

Next, Registration Data. So, we've got some language here on RDRS and SSAD. I see no hands, followed by privacy, proxies, services, accreditation issues. And I think that brings us to the end of our substantive portion. And there's a final sentence here acknowledging the next GAC meeting is scheduled for Lisbon, Portugal next year. Is there anything else to note at this stage, Fabien?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Nothing from us apart from indeed the editorial review that we'll go through before we share the last version for your approval. And that's when we'll start the review period for which we'll send an email to the GAC mailing list confirming the actual deadline, date, and time and as well as the usual instructions that go with this period. And that will be it for us.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you. So, that concludes our communiqué drafting section. Thank you very much. Well, done. Please join me in a round of applause. So, I think that brings us to the end of the meeting and please forgive me, I was not prepared to chair the closing.

For those who are wondering, unfortunately, again as mentioned, Nico has had to depart early. So, what we will be doing is, there will be an email going out and you'll be able to provide some written comments farewelling Nico in his role. We had tried to see if he wanted to come online, but he's unfortunately not available at this stage. So, please, stay tuned for any further opportunities for us to just collate some comments from the committee and we can relay them to Nico. Is there anything else we need to cover at this stage? Just checking with -- I think with that, we're about to draw the meeting to a close.

So, I'd like to thank the host country of Indonesia again for accommodating us here in Bali in this wonderful venue. Please, do join me in thanking our fantastic transcription and translator services. As well as our exceptional AV and tech support. And last,

but not least, our amazing GAC support staff helping shepherd us through this meeting. I'm wondering if Portugal would like to say anything before we close the meeting about the next meeting.

ANA NEVES

Hello, well, hopefully I will see you all in Lisbon in March. And please let me know if you have any questions about hotels or anything else, I'm always available, as you know. And if you have any special ideas, to say that Lisbon has a good opportunity for us to exchange in other ways, apart from our formal meetings, please let me know. And I'm very excited to host all of you in Lisbon. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you. Just checking with my vice-chairs. If there's nothing else, thank you once again for a fantastic and hugely productive meeting. I'd like to draw this meeting to a close and I'm looking forward to see you all in Portugal.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Please, before you do that, please, Jorge, you want to…?

JORGE CANCIO

So, as the meeting just closed formally, we can announce that Ian is now our new chair, effectively so let's give him a round of applause. We wish him all the best in his new role. Welcome to that

circus and yeah, best of luck in this endeavor from my side, from all the vice-chairs' side. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON: Look, thank you so much. Really looking forward to this opportunity. The GAC is such a special place. I think we've been doing some excellent work. The only thing I'll say is my door is open. If you have thoughts, if there are things you'd like to try, if you've got ideas about where else we can go, send me an email, happy to jump on a Zoom call. And really, really excited to be working with you all over the next little while. Thank you.

MARCO HOGEWONING: Sorry dear fellow GAC members, observers. Before you all go to enjoy lovely Bali or head out, it might be a nice idea, a farewell to our former chairman, Mr. Nicolas Caballero, to see if we can come up and take a little group picture and we'll pass on that message of course to him.

IAN SHELDON: So, please, come join us on stage as you eat your chocolates and we'll take one last group photo. Thanks, all.

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