ICANN87 Bali | AGM – Joint Meeting: GAC and CPH
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GULTEN TEPE

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I will now leave the floor over to Jorge Cancio, GAC Vice-Chair. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO

Hello, good morning. My name is Jorge Cancio. I'm the Swiss representative here in the GAC for those who don't know me, and also one of the vice-chairs. And due to the fact that our Chair, Nicolas Caballero, had to leave early, we are sharing a little bit the burden. Not everything is falling on Ian's capable shoulders, but

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almost everything, of course, but we are trying to share a little bit. So, very good morning.

We are up to a session of 60 minutes with the Contracted Party House, the CPH, one of our nice acronyms, important, extremely important constituency within the GNSO and within ICANN, especially in what regards the contracts with registries and registrars, and obviously also for the policy development process in the GNSO. So, let's get started.

I'm joined here at the head table by my colleague and incoming Chair, Ian Sheldon, and by David Bedard from Canada, one of our topic leads here, and then by our very esteemed colleagues from the Contracted Party House. Let's start with Prudence over there.

Then we have Keith, also very well known in this community; Jeff Neuman, who used to be our liaison to the GAC for many years and who established a lot of the good cooperation with this committee; and obviously Owen, also here to my left. So, without further ado, let's get started. We have some introductory remarks.

I think I've done enough from my side, and I will pass the floor to Keith, please.

KEITH DRAZEK Thank you very much, Jorge. Good morning, everyone. My name is Keith Drazek. I work for Verisign. I am the current interim chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group, and outgoing at the end of this meeting. So, the registry's new chair will be Catherine Paletta from

Identity Digital. She'll assume her duties at the close of this meeting.

I just wanted to say thank you very much for hosting us here in the GAC room. The contracted parties greatly value our engagement with members of the Governmental Advisory Committee. We're very happy to be here today and look forward to continuing our engagement moving forward. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you so much, Keith. Any other intro remarks? Owen, I see you seeking the floor.

OWEN SMIGELSKI Thanks, Jorge. Owen Smigelski from the registrars. I am the outgoing chair of the Registrar Stakeholder Group. Sarah Wyld from Tucows will be stepping into that role at the end of this meeting. Both Sarah and Catherine are not here in person, but they are both remote and in the Zoom room. So, welcome to them, and thank you for having us here.

Echo what Keith said, it's good to have these types of engagements and discussions, and hopefully have a good, fruitful session. Thanks.

JORGE CANCIO Wonderful. Thank you so much. I will also see if David, do you have anything to share from your side?

DAVID BEDARD Thanks, Jorge. Nothing specifically to share, but just a big welcome to folks from the Contracted Party House. Thank you so much for being with us today.

JORGE CANCIO Wonderful. So, let's get started. We have a second item on the agenda is the next round. What round are we talking about? I'm wondering. And the NTAG. And I think, Jeff, you are going to introduce us to this important development. I think we have around 10 minutes for this agenda item, so let's make it short and sweet. Thank you.

JEFFREY NEUMAN Thanks, Jorge. Jeff Neuman, I'm one of the vice-chairs of the Registry Stakeholder Group, and I will keep this short and sweet, as I like to think that I am short and sweet. The NTAG, yes, another abbreviation, stands for the New TLD Applicant Group. This is a group that originally was formed for the 2012 round, back in 2012, for applicants to have their issues heard.

Applicants, New TLD applicants have different interests than the Registry Stakeholder Group, and certainly have their own items that they, during that round, wanted to address as what we call an interest group within the Registry Stakeholder Group.

The first NTAG was disbanded somewhere around 2017, 2018, because by that time all of the New TLD applicants in that round

became registries. However, now we have the 2026 round, as you have all, I'm sure, sat through a lot of sessions on. So, the New TLD Applicant Group is going to be officially formed after the String Confirmation Day on November 17th.

Any New TLD applicant, whether you're a Brand TLD, a generic TLD, a Geo TLD, or a Community TLD, or anywhere in between, are welcome to apply for membership within the NTAG. And when you apply for membership within the New TLD Applicant Group, you are also applying to be an observer in the full Registry Stakeholder Group.

And the way that the Registry Stakeholder Group treats its observers is essentially you are a full member of the Registry Stakeholder Group; you just don't have the right to vote if there's ever items that we vote upon. And generally speaking, like most groups within ICANN, we do things by consensus.

So, becoming an observer member of the Registry Stakeholder Group by applying for the New TLD Applicant Group gives you all of those rights. If we want to go to the next slide to have our mission there.

So like I said, the NTAG is an interest group within the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group, and the NTAG represents interests of registry observer members that are individuals or entities preparing to become new gTLD registry operators by serving as a

bridge to the Registry Stakeholder Group, the GNSO Council, and the ICANN Board. Want to just jump to the next slide.

So, one thing I wanted to state is, so as a vice-chair of administration for the stakeholder group, I will just be the interim chair of the NTAG until the NTAG elects its own leadership, which hopefully will be somewhere around its first meeting. The NTAG is planning its first formal Zoom meeting on December 3rd, and the first face-to-face of the NTAG will obviously be at the next ICANN meeting in Lisbon. But one of the items, well, there are two items I wanted to just update you on.

One of the things that -- they're not members yet, but applicants for the New TLD Applicant Group have been discussing over this week is how can we respond to some of the GAC's conversations on not being able to contact New TLD applicants because, as you heard from ICANN, they don't publish that information.

So, one of the things I'll be asking the group to consider is voluntarily putting their contact information on our website so that if you have any issues with any of the strings and want to reach out to any of the applicants, hopefully we'll have information on our website of how you can contact them, even if ICANN staff is unable to post that information. So, we hope that that will be one thing that helps.

The other thing that the Registry Stakeholder Group discussed and agrees to do is that for ASP -- Well, let me go back a step. To join as an observer of the Registry Stakeholder Group, there is a nominal

fee of $500 to join. However, for New TLD applicants that are in the Applicant Support Program, the Registry Stakeholder Group will waive those fees, because our interest, like yours, is to get them more involved in the ICANN community. So, those are just two things that will initially be on the table for the NTAG.

And if you all are associated or know any applicants, please do ask them to apply for the New TLD Applicant Group. And when I say apply, it's really, what is your contact information and what strings have you applied for? That's really the application, so it's not much of a hassle to do. Again, we want to make it as easy as possible. So, that's our update on the NTAG. I'm happy to answer any questions.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you so much, Jeff. And welcome NTAG to the full list of acronym families within the ICANN community. No, but seriously, it's, I think, a very interesting initiative that you get organized so that make also our lives easier. And this idea for consideration of NTAG of providing a list of applicants would be very useful and very responsive.

Guess you will feed the relevant AIs, LLMs with that list so that people who only work with AI will find the right data, speaking for a friend. And maybe opening the floor to comments, questions. I don't know if, David, you have anything, any reaction, or anyone else from the head table. Otherwise, I would look into the rest of the community members present here.

There's a hand up. Thank you, Ian, for pointing me to Martina Barbero from the European Commission.

MARTINA BARBERO: Thank you. Sorry, no voice. Thank you very much to the presenter. Thank you, Jeffrey. I think it's very helpful to have this presentation. And I was wondering if you have any insights on what are the differences in terms of the registries that already know the process, etc., and the new applicants concerning the worries they might have towards the process, specifically towards governments.

I think there has been quite a few lessons learned from the 2012 round in terms of how governments, applicants discussion can go. I've exchanged with a few applicants this week. I know that they know about that, but I was wondering if you see a difference in how they approach things and if you see that they are more worried or less worried or have different worries than maybe a registry who has already some experience.

JEFFREY NEUMAN: Yeah, thank you for that question...

JORGE CANCIO: Go ahead.

JEFFREY NEUMAN

Sorry. Apologies, I forgot. So, I've had a couple discussions with some of the New TLD applicants that are also new in the community. They're like the New TLD applicants were for the last round in the sense that they're really just trying to figure this whole thing out.

What is ICANN, and how does it operate, and what role do the governments have, and what role does pretty much everyone have in this community? There's not enough really, truly New TLD applicants that are here to get any sense of whether the fears are different this round or not.

Like I said, they're just trying at this point, from what I gather, just trying to understand the community, and we're trying to welcome them in. There are a couple of new ASP New TLD applicants, or applicants that have applicant support, that are here, and I think that's great. And I think it's great that ICANN is hoping to cover the costs of some ASP applicants to the next ICANN meeting and so on. So, hopefully between this meeting and the next, we'll have a much greater sense of how they're feeling.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you so much, Jeff. I was told to speak closer to the microphone. I will try, for the interpreters. I saw Martina nodding, so I guess she's satisfied with your answer. Is there any other comment or question for NTAG? Otherwise, you have the email on the slide to contact them: secretariat@rysg.info.

Okay, so if there's nothing else, we will go speedily to the next point on the agenda. Okay, how to engage with contracted parties. And what are the contracted parties here in ICANN? The registries and the registrars. And for this point, I have Prudence. Is it you? So, the floor is you.

PRUDENCE MALINKI

Hi, good morning, everyone. My name is Prudence Malinki. I am the chair of the Governance Team at the Registrar Stakeholder Group. And thank you so much for having us here today. We're going to have a really interesting session today just talking about how to engage with each other, and also what the benefits are of engaging with contracted parties.

This session is actually a continuance of a previous session that we held, which was the other way around, where we were educating the contracted parties about the benefits of developing a relationship with the GAC. So, we're hoping that today is going to be informative. Just to warn you, please grab your coffees; there will be questions.

We're hoping to engage with polls and Mentimeters, so I'm not saying we're testing to see if you're awake, but we kind of are. Okay. Next slide, please. Next slide. Was it me controlling? Oh, great. Okay, on there. Cool. Okay, so in short, why should we engage?

So, when it comes to expertise, we look to you as registrars and registries as the experts of all things governmental, so we reach out to you to find out your perspectives and to add layers of knowledge to things and augment our understanding of what's coming in the pipeline, or just your experiences. And things should be receivable both ways.

So, you should come to us with any types of queries or questions that you have regarding anything to do with domain names and our ecosystem. Between the registries and the registrars, we basically are the experts for the end-to-end processes of all things domain registrations. So, at any point if you do have any questions, you should always feel free to reach out. And by reaching out and asking those questions, essentially you are collaborating with us. So, there's a sign saying, "Can you slow down?" So, I will slow down.

By collaborating with us, essentially you'll be augmenting your understanding and knowledge, and getting some much-needed perspectives with regards to positions that you may take, understandings of topics, and decisions that may happen in the future that you may decide to take later.

Ultimately, by working together, we'll foster better relationships and deeper connections between us all, which is always ultimately what we should be trying to achieve. And by that type of connection, will we be able to work and collaborate better on things such as NTAG, which was spoken to earlier by Jeff, but

there's lots of opportunities for us to collaborate better together. Next slide, please.

DAVID BEDARD

Thanks, Prudence. So, as Prudence mentioned at the top, interspersed with our questions for our panelists, we also have audience polls. So, the first question we have here is: Are you in contact with your local GAC rep or contracted party, either the registrar or registry? Yes, no, or sometimes.

JORGE CANCIO

David, maybe we need to -- It's on the chat itself. You can answer. Okay.

DAVID BEDARD

It is in the Zoom chat if folks can just select the answer that applies best to you. We will just give folks time to answer. Okay, we are going to close the poll now. All right, so we have 76% yes, 11 no, and 13 sometimes. I think that is pretty high. Great. Let us move on to the next slide. So, we have a second audience poll.

So, as a GAC rep or contracted party, how do you usually reach out to the other? To an existing known contact? To a publicly available contact? At an ICANN or industry meeting? You do not usually reach out, or you do not know how to reach out? So folks can answer that in the Zoom chat. We will give you a couple minutes.

All right, we are going to close it, and we will see -- we are going to head on to the panel questions now. So, the first panel question we have for our contracted party folks here is: What is the preferred way for GAC reps to reach out to contracted parties? So perhaps, Prudence, we can start with you, and then, Keith, we can move over to you. Please.

PRUDENCE MALINKI

So, registrars are not a monolith, and I guess that is my long-winded way of saying there is not one specific way that is always going to be perfect. There is lots of different ways you can reach out, and they are all viable. So it can be from extending an invite for lunch to actually having a session and inviting registrars specifically.

But ultimately, you have to just try. Sometimes you need a motivation, and that can be if you have an understanding or a question that you need answered, just reaching out to a registrar to have them provide that insight, that can be a really great way to start. Thanks.

KEITH DRAZEK

Hi, everybody. It is Keith again with the Registry Stakeholder Group. Thanks for the question. I understand that there is more than 90 new members of the GAC this meeting, which is really incredible. So I thought it might make sense to just level up just a little bit as I answer this question.

Because when we are talking in this context about contracted parties, ICANN's contracted parties, we are talking about gTLD registries and registrars, which is distinct from country code top-level domain managers or registries or registrars. So, just a little bit of context.

So we understand that as members of the GAC, you may be in quite close contact with your local ccTLD registry, but the gTLD registries and registrars are sort of a different animal in this sense. So I think that as the Registry Stakeholder Group, we are the policy-making group within the GNSO, the Generic Names Supporting Organization here at ICANN.

We have members of the Registry Stakeholder Group that are in many different countries, many different regions. Most of us operate globally, so we are not typically limited to a jurisdiction or a country in terms of our sales and our operations, but we are quite geographically diverse.

And so I would offer up that to the extent any member of the GAC would like to engage with a gTLD registry, the Registry Stakeholder Group, or as Jeff mentioned earlier, through the NTAG for applicants, we would be very happy to engage with you and perhaps help you to connect with the appropriate or relevant contracted party.

So please consider us a resource, and that we, as I said in the opening, very much value our engagement with the GAC as a body

within ICANN, but also with individual government representatives. So thank you.

DAVID BEDARD Thanks, Keith.

JORGE CANCIO David, we have a request from the floor. Let us see whether it is related to this.

DAVID BEDARD Sure. We do have time for some questions after the presentation, but you can certainly ask.

JORGE CANCIO Okay. So let us run through the presentation, then.

DAVID BEDARD Okay. Thanks, Keith. I think that was a really good point, especially about the ccTLD space. And I believe we have a bilateral later today with them, so we will certainly get more information and context in terms of how works with the cc space. So, okay, let us look at the poll from our previous poll. Let us look at the results.

So, we have to an existing known contact at 67%, also a little surprising in a good way. At ICANN, 14%. I do not usually reach out, 12%. And I do not know how to reach out, 7%. So there is certainly room to bring those numbers up in terms of awareness and how to

reach out. Great. So, let us move on to our next audience poll. What do you expect from engagement between...

What do you expect from engagement between local GAC reps and contracted parties? A, building a relationship; B, assistance or advice on a topic or problem; C, just collaboration; or D, other. All right. So while folks answer that question, we will move on to another panel question. So, what do contracted parties value from engagement with GAC reps?

So Keith, maybe we can start with you.

KEITH DRAZEK Thank you very much. That is a great question. And I will say, in the ICANN policy context, I think that coordination and the sharing of information between contracted parties, a registry in this case, and our Governmental Advisory Committee colleagues, representatives, the sharing of information on substantive issues I think is extremely important as we work through the bottom-up, multistakeholder consensus development process.

As we develop policies in the GNSO, those policies must be informed by the perspectives of governments. And I think that with the Governmental Advisory Committee being an advisory committee, I think we as those that are developing the policies for generic top-level domains do not want to wait until the end of a policy process to hear from governments.

Advice is certainly within the remit of the GAC, but we very much value the engagement of government representatives in our policy development processes. So just as an example, in the DNS Abuse PDP 1 that is currently active, and the work that is going on in the SSAD SRT, there are members of the GAC who are actually participating, and we very much welcome that.

We think it is critical, and having early input, early engagement, and the sharing of governmental perspectives in our policy development work rather than sort of waiting until the end to hear concern or advice at that stage. Certainly, welcome advice at any stage, but we really do value the ongoing engagement. Thank you.

PRUDENCE MALINKI

And Prudence Malinki here from the registrars. And following up from Keith's brilliant response, again, there are a lot of things that we get as registrars from collaborating with representatives from the GAC. It is not just an information exchange, but we learn about what is impacting you, what is affecting you. That can help us understand challenges that we make.

But one of the things that I think that would be really beneficial from a GAC perspective with regards to developing relationships with registrars is understanding the nuance of registrars, which can really give context as to things you may be hearing or seeing during policy sessions or positions that certain parties may be taking.

So having these really good conversations can really make sure that it makes a little bit more sense. And these types of outreaches can really help you with regards to how you develop and what decisions you decide to make and your thoughts and feelings as to when you experience policy stuff. Thanks.

DAVID BEDARD

Thanks both. I think you have really highlighted the importance of ongoing collaboration, just in terms of better understanding how processes work and various priorities, and helping to shape the GAC's own knowledge of some of the main issues. Thanks. So let us move on to the poll results.

All right, so we have building the relationship at 20%; assistance or advice on a topic or problem at 31%, so a little bit higher; and then we have collaboration, which is great, which is I think what Prudence was speaking to in terms of ongoing collaboration, at 45%; and other. Curious to hear what that other might be, but that is great.

Let us move on to the next panel question. So, what is needed for GAC reps and contracted parties to work better together? Can you each give us an example of positive engagement with GAC reps? So maybe, Prudence, we can start with you.

PRUDENCE MALINKI

Hi, Prudence again. So this is a very simplified kind of way to say this, but more communication. I find that the more you speak with

the Contracted Parties House, be it registries or registrars, the better things will be, and obviously the more your relationship deepens, the more information will be shared, the easier information will flow between you, and the more your knowledge will be augmented, which again, will help you make decisions and understand things when you are participating in sessions and things of that nature.

I have two really good examples of how relationships or engagement has been really good with a GAC rep. One was really simple. I have had historically a GAC representative reach out with a specific question that they had relating to a registrar's experience relating to DNS abuse.

We sat, we did one of my favorite things as a Brit, have a cup of tea, and we talked all things DNS abuse. And at the end, they understood a little bit more, not just about what DNS abuse is, but also about some of the nuance about a corporate registrar's experience of DNS abuse, which is slightly different.

And then from there, they knew that they had a point of contact should they have any other questions, as long as there is tea provided. But there can be salient conversations, and that is my way of saying, yes, I will talk with you if tea, that is all it takes, cup of tea.

Another really good example is we have another GAC representative who goes one stage further, so it is a little bit deeper than having a cup of tea and a chat. They will actually organize a

meeting before ICANN meetings of all of the relevant and salient stakeholders of that geographical region. And so it is a prep meeting before the ICANN get-together.

And not only does that help them understand what everyone's position is, it also connects everyone together. Thank you. And makes them the salient point of contact, which can be incredibly helpful. So there are lots of different ways that you can have a positive engagement, and positive engagement can result in a number of really positive outcomes. And those are my two examples. Thanks.

DAVID BEDARD Thanks, Prudence. Really appreciate it, especially with the DNS abuse work going on, and we have lots of cross-community work going on right now, so it is a really good example of how GAC members who are maybe confused by the process or have questions for contracted parties, and how ongoing collaboration can really help build that understanding of some of the issues. Thanks.

And Keith, why do not I turn to you?

KEITH DRAZEK Thank you, David. And hi again, it is Keith. So I think one of the critical things that is needed, as the question asks for GAC reps and contracted parties to work better together, is a full understanding of the concerns of governments. And we, of course, understand the

role of governments in protecting citizens and in engaging in public policy.

And I think it is really important for members of the GAC to understand the role and the technical capabilities of the various actors in the internet infrastructure stack. So registries and registrars within the ICANN space have certain capabilities, certain responsibilities. Obviously, there is content layer providers, hosting providers, and CDNs that sort of operate outside of the ICANN context.

So I think as we look to develop new policies and to take on the concerns of governments as we develop those new policies for gTLD registries and registrars, that a real understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and importantly, the technical capabilities of registries and registrars is very important.

So I say that to sort of tee up that the capacity-building discussions that the GAC has had over many years right now, I think are critical, especially with the significant turnover and addition of new GAC members, is that I think the education and the information sharing of those technical capabilities and responsibilities continues to be very important.

So I would just suggest an example of positive engagement between contracted parties and GAC reps is the historical engagement that we have had in that capacity building, where we

have contributed to the work that you are doing here. And we look forward to continuing to do that.

We want to make ourselves available as contracted parties as a resource so we can help educate and understand and inform how we operate, what we do, what our capabilities are, so we can help to effect the positive developments as it relates to public policy concerns. Thanks.

DAVID BEDARD

Thanks, Keith. Really appreciate the insight, especially around the capacity building and how that can be an avenue of further collaboration. Great. Next slide. So we have another audience poll. Do you usually maintain contact with your local GAC rep or contracted party when the person changes positions? A, yes; B, no; or C, sometimes.

So on to our, I believe, last panel question here is: Given there is regular turnover, which is very timely since we have a pretty big turnover this GAC meeting or this ICANN meeting, so given there is a regular turnover of GAC reps, what is the best way to ensure continued engagement with contracted parties?

I know that we talked about how important that is, so what is the best way to ensure that? So Prudence, why do not we start with you?

PRUDENCE MALINKI

Thanks for that, David. And I love how I get the most difficult question of all. This is not a straightforward question, and it does not have a straightforward answer. Again, as I have mentioned consistently, communication is key, but knowing who to communicate with, especially when someone is left, can be really challenging.

So what I would like to propose today, and I will talk about it a little bit later on, is about having visible points of contact that are accessible to you. So should you want to find or should you need to find a new registrar or registry, those are who to go to.

I would like to allocate myself as a lead for the Governance Team of the registrars, but should there be any new GAC member and you have a curiosity or a little interest in finding out who your registrars are, please feel free to reach out to me, and I am more than happy to facilitate that for you and find the right person for you, and also just help facilitate dialogue generally.

As Keith has been saying, we are all here to be points of contact to help facilitate knowledge and information sharing, and hopefully if you do have any questions, you should try and reach out to me, or Keith, or any registrar generally, or registry.

But again, if you are really needing a focal point, I am happy to be that if you do have any people that you want to try and find or hunt down. We have an initiative and an ask that I will have a little bit later on. But there is not really a straightforward answer to this

because it is something that is continuous, and it is a challenge, and it will remain to be a challenge that we need to address. Thanks.

DAVID BEDARD Thanks, Prudence. Yes, you are right. There is not a straightforward answer, and it certainly also helps when there is a GAC representative change within your own administration to make sure that a good handover is provided to the incoming representative, and to make sure that those connections are maintained. And Keith, what about you?

KEITH DRAZEK Thanks again, David. Keith Drazek. In addition to sort of the regular engagement at the three ICANN meetings per year, the in-person engagement and opportunities perhaps for contracted parties to contribute to capacity-building sessions, I think that perhaps the development of some resources could be helpful.

Resources that we collaboratively develop between contracted parties and the GAC that could sort of survive beyond just the regular turnover, that it becomes sort of a training module or some sort of reference material that might be sort of a continual resource for folks.

Obviously, it could be updated over time. It might be a technical perspective of what registries and registrars are and how we operate. It could be position documents as it relates to certain policies that are under consideration. I think there is a range of

things that we could consider, but I like the idea of having something as a resource that is sort of an ongoing and perhaps a living document or set of documents that could be referred to as new people come on, new relationships are established. It sort of sets a baseline or a foundation. Thank you.

DAVID BEDARD

That is a great idea in terms of a living document. And let us get to the poll results. All right. So, just a reminder: Do you usually maintain contact with your local GAC rep or contracted party when the person in the position changes? We have 48% yes. That is reassuring. 30% no, and 22% sometimes.

So certainly, some work to do to make sure that collaboration is maintained when we have such a high turnover, and certainly some of these tools can help, like Keith was mentioning, in terms of making sure that we are organizationally prepared to ensure that GAC reps and contracted parties have an ongoing collaborative relationship. And then I think we are passing it on to Prudence to take us through what is next in this.

PRUDENCE MALINKI

Thanks, David. So, as mentioned previously, this session today is a continuation of a previous session. So if we can go to the next slide. In the chat, we will share this link already. So for the first session, we provided an explainer document talking about the benefits of enhanced collaboration between the GAC and contracted parties.

What we are hoping to do today is, and as Keith nicely teed up, is provide a follow-up explainer document for you for this session and make it available for you, so you have a point of reference or something to start the relationship with. Also, as well, we will be using the content from the day today to augment that document. And what we are hoping is that will be the start of some more continued collaboration. And as I alluded to at the start of the session, I do have a little bit of an ask, or more of a proposal.

What we would like to propose as the Registrar Group and as chair of the Governance Team is we would love to extend an invitation to members of the GAC to participate with us, and to have a session with us and provide updates and talk to us, and we can talk with you. And you are more than welcome to sit in one of our Governance Team sessions and speak to the registrar groups. That would be great. Thanks.

DAVID BEDARD Well, thank you so much to you both. And I really encourage GAC reps to take Prudence up on her offer and reach out. I think it is a great initiative. And stay tuned for what is next. So, let us go to questions.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you, David. And thank you, Prudence and Keith, for the very interactive presentation and segment. I would kindly seek the

opinion of my esteemed colleague from India, dear Santosh. Would you like to take the floor, and thank you for your patience?

T. SANTHOSH

Thank you, Jorge. Santosh for the record. And first of all, thanks for all the presentation regarding the newly constituted group as well as the engagement with the Contracted Party House. So, in the morning, I have received a message from my head office asking me to get details of a particular registrar. I checked, and it is an ICANN-accredited registrar.

I checked their website, but could not get any email contact. It was going to many social media contacts, but I could not get an email contact. In order to get the contacts of any GAC representative, it is very easy. That is what I believe. Whereas to get a contact of a registrar, even if it is an ICANN-accredited registrar, it is very cumbersome. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Santosh. I think we have lived through that situation sometimes, at least myself. I do not know if there is any reaction from the podium. Prudence?

PRUDENCE MALINKI

Hi, Prudence again. Thank you, Santosh, for taking the time to explain your situation. I can understand it can be quite frustrating. What I can suggest is if the registrar is a member of the Registrar Stakeholder Group, because again, not all ICANN-accredited

registrars are members, but if they are, you can reach out to either myself or the secretary of the Registrar Stakeholder Group, and we can try and relay a message or provide contact information or let them know that you are trying to reach out.

Again, this is the exact type of question that we are looking for. We are looking for this type of engagement. So let me extend that out to the rest of the GAC members here today. If you are having any challenges locating a registrar, knowing who is a member of the Registrar Stakeholder Group, please do feel free to reach out to myself, or any registrar you see running around in an ICANN meeting generally, or the secretary of the RrSG, and we are happy to provide assistance where we can. Thanks.

OWEN SMIGELSKI Owen Smigelski. Just want to add on to that that ICANN does maintain a list of all ICANN-accredited registrars in the IANA database, which does include an email contact for every registrar. And also, if you are having difficulty reaching out, there is the team of Andy Hill, where they maintain relationships with registrars, so they can certainly help you get in contact with a registrar if you are having difficulty reaching out to them.

JORGE CANCIO Okay, thank you. I think that was quite helpful, both the willingness to collaborate and this very operational tool. Sometimes we do not

really find the information because it is hidden somewhere. We had also Ian seeking the floor.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you, Jorge. Ian Sheldon, GAC Australia. First of all, thank you for the willingness to come, speak with us, collaborate. I think communication is absolutely vital to building a fruitful ICANN community, and certainly it will be important over the next couple of years as we navigate the next round.

And forgive me if this was covered in the complementary session, but the point I would probably like to make is that I think absolutely GAC members should be a front door into administrations. But as you may be aware, governments have quite a number of touch points with ICANN.

And so perhaps in the CPH, if you are in touch with other parts of governments or administrations, regulators, law enforcement, please give consideration to looping the GAC rep into those discussions. You might assume governments are coordinated internally, and certainly some are.

Law enforcement or regulators are well in sync with their GAC reps, but for many, that simply is not the case. And for some governments, they may not even be aware who their GAC rep is or what they do here at ICANN.

So if there is any way to help coordinate and just link up internally, your GAC rep may be able to help with some of those discussions,

or even giving them some of that visibility I think would be a really positive step forward. I understand some instances it is not always going to be useful or productive to link in the GAC rep, but please give it some thought. And I think we would be willing to explore how we can best do that going forward. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you so much, Ian. Any reactions on this from the podium or other colleagues from the Contracted Party House? Otherwise, I see Sushil requesting the floor. Please.

SUSHIL PAL Just a line. I think I completely second the concerns raised by our Australian colleague, Ian. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you so much, Sushil. And yes, if I may add the privilege of being at the mic, especially when it has to do with policy or with wider legal issues, it is in the interest both of contracted parties and of ourselves as GAC representatives because the issue might end up on our table, so it is best to be involved from the very beginning.

And I think that eases up our work and also your work because you will get more coordinated, more consistent feedback from the relevant administration. Is there any other request for the floor on this very interactive part of our session? Looking at the clock, we have nine minutes.

If it is not the case, I think we can try to have a very short dive into the next point on the agenda, which is DNS abuse mitigation. Also a very high interest topic for all of us. And I think I have Owen here to introduce us a little bit into this theme. I feel we have six minutes, also to take some reactions if that is possible, Owen. Thank you.

OWEN SMIGELSKI Thank you, Jorge. A little too close there, apologies. So, the Registrar Stakeholder Group recently published two new explainers. We wanted to get some more information out there just to explain about how we are, why we want to mitigate DNS abuse, and also the financial impacts of DNS abuse on registrars.

There are a number of reasons why we do not want to have abuse on our platform. It can hurt business and customers and reputation. So, there is some explanations in there, and then also what the financial impacts of having that DNS abuse on your platform can cause to a registrar. The links are there on the slide, and also Zoe, thank you for putting those into the chat as well.

I do encourage you to look at those, go over them. If you have any questions or feedback, please do let us know. I am not going to dive into them because they are over 10 pages of information on there, so I do not want to necessarily take up all the time here. But just do know that registrars are motivated to tackle DNS abuse and

do stuff there. And often we do above and beyond sometimes what ICANN contracts require.

JORGE CANCIO Wow, thank you, Owen. That was much quicker than I expected. Thank you so much. Anyway, is there any -- I was feeling that Keith wanted to say something as well. Thank you.

KEITH DRAZEK Thank you very much, Jorge, and thank you, Owen, for those links. I thought it would be helpful just to remind or to inform members of the GAC that the contracted parties, over the course of the last several years, engaged voluntarily with ICANN to develop new contract amendments related to DNS abuse mitigation.

And I think it is important to note that this was a starting point. We voluntarily, as registries and registrars in the gTLD space, negotiated with ICANN to create new obligations for ourselves to act. And those amendments are now in force. We are starting to see ICANN Compliance actually use those tools to enforce the new amendments, the new obligations. And in some cases, now we are starting to see actual registrars and a registry being held to account when it comes to those obligations. We think that is all very positive.

But we always said as we started those contract negotiations that this was a starting point, that we were essentially creating a new baseline and that on that baseline we would build new policies,

new obligations through the consensus policy process in the GNSO. And so the PDP 1 on Associated Domain Checks is the first.

The second one will be focused on sort of high-volume registration tools. The third is likely to be focused on domain-generating algorithms. There is another list of five or six items identified in the GNSO Issues Report on DNS abuse that we as contracted parties are committed to engage on.

We recognize that the contract negotiations were a starting point, the new obligations that we took on are a starting point, but that further policy work is needed as it relates to DNS abuse.

So, I just wanted to reinforce that the contracted parties are fully supportive of this policy development work, and that we look forward to engaging ourselves, but also in collaborating with members of the GAC as we take on these future PDPs that should again create consensus policies that create even further obligations on contracted parties to act to mitigate DNS abuse. Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you so much, Keith. Any reactions, any colleagues from the GAC seeking the floor? I see Sushil, you have been very quick. The floor is yours.

SUSHIL PAL Thank you, chair. Sushil from India. I think very heartening to actually get this feedback from the contracted parties. And we also

are aware that with the recent contractual amendment, there is more obligation, but it still is a voluntary thing. And the ecosystem consists of good registrars, good actors, and bad actors.

Not in the case of registrar, in any ecosystem, even with the government you can have -- And you need these rules more for training or making the bad actors compliant to the good behavior. I think that is what we are looking at. We had some conversation with the Registrar Stakeholder Group in a pre-ICANN meeting, where this issue was discussed about mandatory reporting. And this was also discussed with the board; however, we were informed that this might require actually a PDP again, and for which I do not think ICANN has so much of resources as of now to spare.

Could we come out with some framework through which we can have more demonstrable implementation from all the registrar, more consistent reporting, and more transparent reporting, even from those who are actually not reporting? Any thoughts on that? Thank you.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you so much, Sushil. We have two minutes, so very, extremely quick reactions. Anyone from the head table? Owen?

OWEN SMIGELSKI Sure. That is something we have been considering and doing the discussions. There is different obligations for registries and registrars in terms of what types of information we have to provide

back to ICANN, and that is currently not something in there, but it is an ongoing discussion that we are having within the registrars, and we do hope to get back to you guys and continue those dialogue and see if there is a way that we can do some voluntary reporting there as well, to give a little more information and understanding of what the scenario situation is.

And also, just want to come back and say that the voluntary amendments I think certainly have been very fruitful or productive. I know ICANN Compliance has done several breach notices to registrars and registries with regards to the DNS abuse amendments, and recently there was a registrar that was terminated for not following those obligations.

So, I think that we have been achieving the goal there that the floor has been raised for what other registrars and registries have been doing and bringing it to all the other registrars. And it is good to see that ICANN has been able to enforce those. Thanks.

JORGE CANCIO Thank you, Owen. So, we have to close the session. Any concluding remarks from any of our invited guests from contracted parties? You are satisfied? It is okay? So, thank you so much, really, for the positive energy.

I saw there is wills are meeting, and there is a lot of work to do still on the basis both of voluntary and policy and contractual agreements to fight DNS abuse, and also to improve the continuing

collaboration between the contracted parties and GAC as a committee and the GAC representatives themselves.

So, with this, at the top of the hour, in keeping with Swiss tradition of being on time, I give you to the coffee break. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]