
ICANN67 | Virtual Community Forum – GAC: Opening Plenary
Monday, March 09, 2020 – 13:45 to 14:30 CUN

GULTEN TEPE:

Hello, everyone, good morning, good afternoon, and evening. Welcome to the ICANN67 virtual meeting. This is the GAC opening plenary, and ICANN66 action items, and overview of sessions. The Zoom room audio in English, in order to access the French or Spanish audio, please join the streaming links, they have been shared on the main ICANN67 website. GAC agenda page under each session as well as on the calendar invite sent by myself. We will not do roll call but member attendance will be noted.

Recognizing that these are public sessions and that other members of the ICANN community may be in attendance, the GAC leadership and staff encourage all of you who are GAC representatives and observers to update your participant name in the Zoom room but adding GAC after your name, this will help identify GAC session attendees and keep accurate attendance records and facilitate the queue parts for comments and questions during this session.

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment in English, French, or Spanish, please type it in the chat by starting and ending your sentence with questions or comments and please keep them short if possible. French or Spanish questions will be translated to English and read out loud by our remote participation managers, Julia

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Charvolen. Staff will put periodic reminders of the process in the room chat. If you are in the room and wish to speak, you can raise your hand. And please state your names not only for transcription purposes but also for the interpreters to identify you on the audio stream. Please speak clearly at a reasonable speed to allow for accurate interpretation.

Finally, the session, like all other ICANN activities, is governed by the ICANN standards of behaviors, a link is in the chat to those standard for your reference. Without further ado, I will add to the floor Manal Ismail, GAC chair.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Welcome, everyone, to the GAC plenary on Monday March 9th 2020 at 18:45 UTC, scheduled for 45 minutes and as Gulden mentioned, we will be going through presentation -- yes, and we can have the first slide. So this is the content of our presentation. We try to put everything on slides so that we can keep your attention. I know this is the first ever remote ICANN meeting and the first ever remote GAC meeting as well. So I hope it's going to be a smooth and seamless experience for everyone. Our meetings will take place from Monday, the 9th of March, today, to Thursday, the 12th of March -- and the working hours of the meeting are from 900-1700 Cancun time or 1400-2200 UTC.

This advantage by those working hours and I hope this will still be manageable for everyone. As Gulden mentioned, we normally start our plenary with Tour de Table but given the remote setup, we will record

the attendance from the Zoom room and I would like to remind everyone again to write beside their names to indicate their GAC affiliation beside their names to help us manage the queue and take accurate attendance and also identify GAC members since all our sessions are open.

To request the floor, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and Gulten will explain shortly how you can do this in the Zoom room. And if you are not in the Zoom room just let us know. And again, please try to speak slowly and clearly for accurate transcription. As has been shared several times, there will be a live scribing in English, live interpretation in Spanish and French and for Spanish and French, questions, those need to be typed in the chat room and they will get interpreting and translated into English. Also recordings and transcripts will be posted in English after the sessions and I understand also transcripts of all sessions will be posted in other languages too, as soon as available.

So I think I will stop here now and hand over the floor to Gulten to start by making you all familiar with the Zoom room and so that you can find your way if you need to modify your name or to raise your hand or follow the realtime captioning and so on. Shall I hand it over to you, Gulten?

GULTEN TEPE:

Yes, thank you so much, Manal. I will be covering a couple of items for the virtual meeting, displaying the agenda page on our website the

first note would be remembering to log in. Otherwise you will not be able to see the documents since some of them are not public. They will be turned into public mode after the session has taken place.

As you can see, it says welcome Gulden, and I am logged in and able to see the sessions and some documents. We already published the briefings in English as well as their translations. And going to introduction page on the agenda. Here on the introduction parts you may find the agenda as a PDF document. The overall ICANN block schedule. And Zoom, RTT links and we put how to participate guidelines in Spanish, French and English. And as our usual practice, we posted the briefings as zip files, single PDF files and under each respective session which I will get into.

You may find the short session detail part here, realtime links and audio. Briefing translations and canceled session briefings. We created an activity page for that purpose. You may find them here under ICANN67 meeting additional briefings and updates. And I am sharing this link in the chat for your reference. If you missed a session, I would recommend you to check the ICANN meetings page. You might find the recordings here. Our tech team will be sharing the links when available. And you listen the roll call at the beginning of the call. I will try to go over that script before almost every session. It might get a little bit boring for our remote participants who join most of the GAC sessions, but this is a requirement of organizing a virtual meeting and we are also expecting attendees from other communities. Therefore, please bear with us and thank you very much for your understanding,

everyone.

With respect to the Zoom room, you are all familiar by now so just a refresher: You may see a hand raised icon on the bar on the participants' bar. When you click on hand raised, you will be able to view that you are on the queue. And on my opening remarks I already asked you to add GAC by your name. You can do that by hovering over your name. More options will display and you can click rename and it will allow you to update your name and enter GAC in parentheses. This is all from my end. Just checking with my colleagues if I missed anything. Rob, Julia, clarify any parts or further information?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden. I can see Rob confirming that you have covered everything very well.

GULTEN TEPE: Thank you, Manal. And if there are any questions, please share it here in the chat box or you can always send us an email by GAC -- staff at ICANN [indiscernible]

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, and I hope this was helpful for everyone to find their way on the website. So if we can move now to the slide on the GAC agenda for this week. So the GAC, like other parts of the community, worked on reducing the number of sessions to important and pressing sessions. So together prioritized to introduction of new

gTLDs, subsequent procedures, the WHOIS registration data, given the interest expressed by GAC colleagues and accordingly bilateral meetings that will tackle any of the mentioned topics. Namely we kept the bilateral with the board and the one with the ALAC and of course the capacity building session that took place earlier today.

I hope you were all able to attend the capacity building session that was intended this time to bring all GAC members up to speed on the topic of new rounds of new gTLDs and I think there were interesting discussions and we have reached something like 117 participants in the session. Not necessarily all from the GAC but again, there was a good presence from the GAC. I hope those who attended found it useful and I hope you had the time to attend the first public forum dedicated to community feedback on .org as well as the GNSO new gTLD subsequent procedures working group meeting that has just concluded before our plenary.

It's worth noting that we have avoided conflict with GNSO PDP sessions of interest to the GAC, namely the subsequent procedures and the EPDP and I encourage everyone to participate in those sessions in order to help us all to have an educated discussion and informed decisions at the end of our meeting. It's also worth noting that the co-chairs of the subsequent procedures PDP working group has participated to the capacity building workshop earlier today and will also be joining us for other GAC sessions during the week.

We also try to avoid conflict with sessions of interest to the community

like both public forums, the ICANN public board meeting and the Q&A session with ICANN organization executive team. So I would encourage all GAC members and observers not to limit their participation to GAC sessions only but benefit from the time we freed on our agenda to attend other important sessions. As we noticed that some GAC members and observers will be disadvantaged by their time zones, the GAC leadership will be meeting an hour earlier than our official start time as you can see on the screen. If we can get the slide on -- yes, please. The one with the sessions. Thank you, Gulten.

So the GAC leadership will be meeting an hour earlier every day earlier than the official start time, and we welcome GAC members and observers to the second half of this hour should they wish to provide any comments or ask any questions on sessions you may have missed due to painful hours. That said, it's important to note that this session will be outside the official ICANN working hours or meeting hours so they will not be considered part of the official ICANN67 public meeting schedule. They will not be recorded, and they will not benefit from any language services or technical support. But we will be supported as usual as our normal by our wonderful GAC support

As Gulten has explained, the agenda is posted on the GAC web website and meant to serve as one-stop shop or a single place where you can find everything you need in terms of session times, material, links to Zoom rooms of all GAC sessions but also of all sessions of interest to the GAC as well. Finally, on the wrap-up session, we will start by agreeing on next steps regarding our subsequent procedures

discussions during the week. Then time permitting, we will be addressing some administrative matters including the GAC website improvements, GAC membership recordkeeping, GAC consideration of ICANN org budget and operational matters, empowered community guidelines, investment of GAC process for consideration of board response to GAC communique advice and at the end of the session we will allow some time to hear from you all how this first ever fully remote event was, and try to gather your feedback on meeting preparations and implementations so that we can learn from this experience and try to apply those lessons to future ICANN meetings, whether held in person or virtual of course. It would be very helpful to know from you what worked well, what needs to be improved, enhanced, or what needs to be introduced.

One last thing on the agenda, as you can see, breaks allocated throughout but as necessary and as long as it won't shift our agenda, particularly for bilaterals we may choose to pause for five minutes or so, it may become painful for remote sessions without breaks. So before proceeding, I will stop here and pause for any questions or remarks. And one thing I will be coming back to is the communique drafting as this will need a little bit more of a discussion. But let me stop here and see if we have any requests for the floor.

GULTEN TEPE:

Not at the moment.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulden. Seeing none, the following slide, please. And this is to review and note action items from ICANN66. So with many thanks to your active participation inter-sessionally, the GAC contributed to a number of ICANN community public forums and cross community efforts in the last months, including implementation plan for the GNSO consensus policy relating to protection of certain Red Cross names, the registration directory service, the rts WHOIS 2 review, the final report of it, and also the draft report of the third accountability and transparency review team and the proposed dates for ICANN public meetings 2024-2028. All GAC submissions are recorded and tracked and available on a special web page of the GAC website, and you will find the link to this in the GAC briefs.

Also since ICANN66, the GAC has also sent and received correspondence regarding several matters of importance to the GAC. Includes ICANN's consumer trust and consumer choice review, the CCT review, the GNSO 3-point [indistinct] date, ICANN fundamental bylaws attempts, EPDP Phase I implementation and clarification of GAC's Montreal communique. Again, all those exchanges and documents are also posted and tracked on the GAC website and again, the relevant link is available in the GAC briefs. I am also glad to note in that I have received an email from the European Commission indicating some good news in relation to an action point we had from previous meetings regarding list of public authorities requiring access to nonpublic WHOIS data. Would you like to speak to this? I'm sorry to put you on the spot. So whenever you would like to speak to this, just let me know. Yes.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Yes, hello. Am I audible? Yes, thank you. This is, Manal, one action item we had from the past regarding entities that were in the [indiscernible] states that were seeking access to the WHOIS data. So we have an updated list and would like at a certain opponent to share this list of authorities in the [indiscernible] states requesting WHOIS registration data with the rest of the GAC. This is to a certain point still a work in progress but we find at this point we could share this information with the rest of the GAC members, thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, this is excellent news and we very much appreciate your efforts and thanks to the European Commission. So I understand you will be sharing this on the GAC mailing list?

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Yes, we have this possibility now.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, thank you very much. So moving on, there were also some administrative work that is being carried out by GAC support staff related to membership records and working groups and matters and action items following on matters and action items from ICANN66 in Montreal. Then if we can go to the next slide, please just before discussing the communique, I would like to quickly brief you on an SO AC chair meeting that took place on the 27th and 28th of January in

Los Angeles for the very first time. So this roundtable was very useful and beneficial and all exchanges were held under Chatham House Rules, all the meetings started by discussing the role of the SO and AC chairs and principles of collaboration and how to make engagement more effective and efficient, discussed succession planning and chairs can quickly catch up with and preserve institutional knowledge of the organization and also how to do onboarding for new chairs on their individual responsibilities but also on issues of collaboration among the different SO and AC chairs. The discussions mainly focused on prioritization and planning and how to initiate the development of active planning process among the SO and AC leaders. Also received a summary and status update of board and CEO goals for fiscal year 20 and each of the SO's and AC's presented work along with priority topics.

Some comment priorities were identified at the end of the meeting and also discussed how they relate to the five-year strategic plan and reflected in ICANN planning process. There was another interesting discussion on policy versus implementation, how recommendations are implemented in policy development work, the roles of the board, review teams and the various SO's and AC's and end the two-day meeting with a discussion on the availability of funding during this fiscal year that was not accounted for in the budget which is what we refer to sometimes as flexibility fund. So outcomes from this meeting included consensus on holding this meeting on a regular basis. Also the common priorities identified included DNS abuse, capacity building outreach to engage new participants, governance issues and

new EPDP. The challenge of simultaneous timing of public comments was also mentioned and the need to reply to those public comments and ways to de-conflict them. Also the need to reexamine the timing of cross communities process -- priority setting for ICANN. A summary report with the outcomes and action items is being developed and will be shared with you all as soon as it is ready.

Now on the communique, again it is worth noting here this is the first time ever to develop a remote meeting communique. We hope that past experience with the Google Docs will enable collaborative drafting and review efforts. On the process, the GAC leadership and we shared this over email -- I'm sorry, am I missing questions? There is a question from Kavouss? Is this limited to country members of Europe or covers other countries outside of Europe?

Kavouss, I am sorry to have missed your question, I think this question is addressed to -- Georgios, if you can respond to Kavouss and he responded in the chat. Kavouss, this is a survey we performed with our EU member states. And I see a comment in Spanish and while we await this to be translated, will explain the process that -- or the approach that was proposed by the GAC leadership. First of all, we encourage you all to share any draft communique language as early as possible. It would be helpful if you indicate this in the subject line if you are going to send it by email or otherwise you can simply put the text Google doc following the instructions, we will discuss the communique as we usually do but this time in a remote session. Then circulate the agreed version of the communique on the GAC mailing list. We will allow some time. We will not post the communique

immediately after the last session. We will allow some time so everyone can review the communicate in their own time zones before adopting and posting it online. This is one thing we need to discuss, the other is related to the content of the communicate.

So there was a proposal that this time we may need to keep the communicate for information only, meaning that it would serve as reporting back on our meeting without any consensus advice and there was another suggestion to keep -- to stay flexible in terms of whether or not to provide consensus advice and see how discussions would go and whether we would find ourselves pushing for a certain piece of advice.

So I will stop here. I would like to hear from you, your thoughts and views on the communicate in specific and I also see a comment in the chat -- will be shared on email as usual? Sure, the final version will be shared over email, and we usually do this during discussions as well but for your convenience it is also available in a Google Doc for everyone to collaboratively participate in the drafting of the communicate.

And there is a question from Kavouss. Is it technically possible to have screen sharing when we finalize the communicate? So can someone from support staff please help me? I think we can share it in the Zoom room as we are sharing this presentation now. But, again, if support staff could confirm this, it would be helpful. And a comment from Venezuela, wishes to take the floor to discuss our issues on the

agenda, yes, please, Venezuela, if you are requesting the floor, go ahead. Rob, I can see your hand up?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Yes, Manal, I can wait until Venezuela, was going to respond to your communicate question, thank you.

GULTEN TEPE: Sorry to interrupt. [indiscernible] if you would like to make an intervention, please type it in the chat and our interpreters will translate it and then we will be sharing it out loud. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Gulden. And I do apologize, the realtime interpretation is listen only so what I'm saying is being interpreted and you can listen to it in Spanish but if you need to ask a question or comment, you will need to type it in the chat so that it gets translated. Apologies for the inconvenience. So from Kavouss, referring to drafting onboard line in screen sharing fashion.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: With the understanding that Fabien is listening closely and can clarify my remarks, you will see a sample I believe in what we will try to do in a couple hours when we have the board preparation session. We are going to, like the GAC has done the last many meetings, operate using the Google collaboration documentation infrastructure. So what we

hope to be able to accomplish is Gulden will log on to the Google Doc from the shared screen and we will be displaying that in the Zoom room. At the same time, we as staff will be logged into the Google document and as the discussions takes place during the session, we will be doing the live editing. The hope and the testing bore this out that you will see the editing live as you would in the face-to-face room. That's our plan. We are ready to take back up notes if we need to do something else.

Fabien will share via the GAC email list the Google Doc link, we had shared in the one-stop shop document several times giving information about preparing for the meeting but Fabien will send a separate email so you can start to look at that and perhaps begin to make contributions there. At this stage based on what Manal has already said from a staff perspective, we're following our typical process which is to take notes of each of these sessions, to then edit and fine tune the notes, enter as the [indiscernible] part of the communique and to the extent you decide the remaining sessions of the week if there are topics or matters you want to become formal GAC advice or other comments you want to expand the communique, we will attack that via the collaboration effort.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thanks very much, Rob. Any other comments or questions on the communique? So just one thing I to confirm with you all is the suggested or proposed timelines. We finish our meetings on Thursday. Just checking, on Thursday 2200 UTC, which is 1700 Cancun time. So

the proposal is to give it until Friday, the 13th of March, end of the day in all time zones for any final, final comments. And then we can have it posted on Monday, the 16th of March. Any comments? Are you okay with this proposal, with those dates? Rob, is this a new hand? Okay. Old hand. Any new hands? Kavouss, go ahead.

IRAN:

The number of [indiscernible] renewed functioning and less possibility to intervene in appropriate matters. So I think that the [indiscernible] topics of the communique have been already identified to see which area we want to have items and then we see that whether it is absolutely necessary to have communique at this very, I would say, special meeting that still we need to learn how to do it. That I just wanted to share with the distinguished colleagues. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:

Thank you very much. Kavouss, for this practical suggestion. And I hope by the end of every session we can agree whether -- (distorted audio) and I can see Jorge in the chat saying it looks reasonable so I hope the overall approach is reasonable and Rob, I believe this is a new hands.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Yes, ma'am, it is, on behalf of Julia, who I believe has the translation from the comment from Venezuela that she will read out, thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Please.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, Manal. Hello. Venezuela would like to make a statement related to the Amazon TLD allocation. We understand that this has not been commuted on the agenda but would like to reiterate our country's position in this regard. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: So this is a request to find some time on the agenda for this intervention or...

JULIA CHARVOLEN: This has not been indicated. I believe they will reply to your question. And I see -- no, that's the previous comment. So there has not been indication whether they wanted an additional session or not.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: In all cases, an additional session would be very difficult. But I mean, if it is a specific intervention, if we can clarify the needed time, whether a couple of minutes, five minutes, and we can -- so more information would be helpful, please. And Kavouss, go ahead.

IRAN: Yes, Manal, I have no difficulty with any suggestion but I think the first thing is like I did with you, the question should be shared with yourself, you will study the matter and to see whether you can accommodate it as appropriate so -- because the question may generate another question and may not be properly replied and so on, so forth. So this is what I suggested the Venezuela share the intervention with you first and you see with the GAC leadership to see if you can accommodate that as relevant and appropriate. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kavouss. So I appreciate if this could be shared over email with some indication of the time needed, please. And as Kavouss mentioned, this will be discussed among the GAC leadership and we will get back to you. So we are right at half past. It's difficult to say the hour because it's different for everyone. But I think this concluded our plenary session if we don't have any further requests for the floor. Kavouss, this is an old hand, right?

IRAN: Yes, it is old hands and the new hand I indicated something in the chat that I have a one minute of [indiscernible] but perhaps you did not see that one so at the beginning I wanted to say that if you have one minute I want to say that. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: I'm sorry, is this different from the slot you requested and we indicated --

IRAN: Yeah, it's totally different, it's something about the renewed participation meeting. -- no, this is different.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Sorry, if I missed the chat, please go ahead and then we can start --

IRAN: Yeah, distinguished chair of the GAC, I would like at this outset of this meeting express our sincere appreciation to the ICANN chair and the board, ICANN board, for their very wise decision to convert the physical meeting to the remote participation which is very, very helpful to everybody and taking into account all the staff involved in that decision. Moreover, I would like to thank you, Manal and thank you as the GAC chair and the leadership and also Julia, Rob, and

Gulten for their very [indiscernible] preparatory work and actions and documents, including Fabien for all of us which enables to us actively participate in the discussion. No one can see how much work you have done, but considerable time and effort has been spent to provide all of this very useful material and for that we really appreciate that and I would like that this appreciation would be properly recorded in the minutes of this plenary. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Kavouss. It's on record, and I convey this to the ICANN CEO and chair of the board and I can see other confirmations to what Kavouss just mentioned. And I have also to echo my appreciation to the support staff and I see others in the participants list putting green check marks. Frankly, the support staff went out of their way. We simply repeated everything again in a very short time to pull this schedule together and try to put everything in place. And it's not only GAC support staff, I mean, all ICANN staff did an amazing job and even community members were very collaborative and I thank you as well for your active responses and helpful remarks which helped us conclude everything in time for this meeting. So thank you, and thank you, Kavouss. And we need to move on to the following session so this concludes the GAC opening plenary. Please remain in the Zoom room. We will proceed with the new gTLD and subsequent procedures scheduled for 45 minutes, and as I said, I hope everyone had the chance to attend the capacity building session.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]