
ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum - GAC Discussions on Work Stream 2 Matters
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 - 11:15 to 12:00 AST

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Feng and Benedetta, and all Working Group members. Thanks everyone, it's a huge task and we look forward to your leadership in having this accomplished. So now we're going to start our Work Stream 2 discussion, and we have Suada, human rights and international law Working Group co-chair, and Giacomo also World Broadcast Union representative. Sorry. So with that, it's another important matter, another hot topic and hot topic even across the community and we're trying to coordinate efforts, particularly on recommendations that need coordination among the different parts of the community, and we already have Suada as our representative in the relevant coordination group, and Giacomo observing along with other colleagues as well from UNESCO and Switzerland. But allow me to hand it over to Suada and Giacomo who will get us started.

SUADA HADZOVIC: Thank you Manal, very much. So good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all, my name is Suada Hadzovic, I am GAC representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I am a co-chair of the GAC Working Group on human rights and international law. I hope you're all well, and thank you for your presence. So my colleague, Giacomo Mazzone, member of the international law human rights Working Group will lead the session with me, and Giacomo Mazzone is

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GAC representative of World Broadcasting union. So thank you to ICANN GAC support staff, to Julia Charvolen, and all of you who have contributed to the GAC proposal document.

So let me start by presenting the agenda. Today the purpose of this session is to review and to discuss the GAC perspective proposal document on Work Stream 2 recommendation 1.1 defining diversity. And to define – bit louder, okay, and to define the next steps. In the second point we will present the aim of the Work Stream 2 Community Coordination group and in the third point we will discuss the next steps and take aways. Next slide, please.

So I will try to give you just a brief introduction to the background just to remind ourselves briefly that on November 2019 the ICANN Board approved the Work Stream 2 recommendations and report and the Work Stream 2 final report has 160 recommendations on various aspects ranging from diversity to transparency. And this Work Stream 2 report is divided into eight topic areas. Six of these eight topic areas contains implications for the GAC. So you could see on the slide and then precisely in these six topic areas we have a total of 42 Work Stream 2 recommendations that had impacted the GAC in some way or form.

So just to remind us, at the ICANN69 meeting in October 2020, our human rights international law Working Group agreed upon [leading] the implementation of recommendation 1, diversity and 3, human rights core value and the focus of this session is defining diversity recommendation 1 and as we know, the core issue here is concerning the issue of diversity revolved around the need for a uniform definition

of the parameters of diversity and community discussions on the ones already identified.

So we have seven elements of diversity, it's about the geographic representation, language, gender, age, physical disability, diverse skills and stakeholder constituency. And our GAC proposal for your review is to new one. Next slide, please.

So on this slide this is the beginning of our discussion today on GAC perspective proposal document. So that is document regarding the assessment of recommendation 1.1 on the elements of diversity. As you remember, during the ICANN 72 meeting our Working Group presented a GAC perspective proposal document for each of the seven diversity elements and additional two elements pertaining to cultural diversity and diversity in attendance. As per the action point from the ICANN 72 meeting, our Working Group wants to edit the draft GAC perspective document to reflect the additional elements of diversity, discuss and share the document for GAC review and input. So last week we sent an email with the attached GAC perspective proposal document to GAC colleagues by emailing list on the third of March. So in light of changes to the document made based on remarks collected during the discussion at ICANN 72 and after two later talks, we would like to provide you today an update of document with objective to discuss this document and comments received, made by GAC colleagues and subsequently to share the proposal once agreed with you with recently created Work Stream 2 Community Coordination group. Now, I would like to give the floor to Giacomo Mazzone, my colleague and our

colleague to present the GAC perspective proposal document and to open and lead the discussion. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE:

Thank you very much, Suada. If we can see the text on screen. I think Julia could help us in presenting it. The document is the one that we have seen in the meeting of ICANN 72 included the recommendation and suggestions that came from discussions we had on that occasion. Thank you very much. As you can see in the first part there are no modifications because the first principle about geographical or regional representation there has been no remark or observation. So we stick to it. Then the second point was about the language, and on that not a lot of observation but there is a comment from UNESCO. There is with us also the representative of UNESCO, so eventually if he want to take the floor. But the suggestion we got is eventually to make a reference to the atlas of languages in danger that UNESCO has published where we have a repertoire of all the existing languages with particular attention to the languages at risk. So in this regard we have the slight suggestion that you can see highlighted on the screen that says the GAC agrees with the Work Stream 2 final report approach, it is of high importance to give the opportunity to users of minor languages to enjoy the rights to access information in cyberspace by promoting the inclusion of languages in the digital ecosystem. I think this satisfied the UNESCO suggestion unless the colleague at UNESCO may have different wording on that.

MARIELZA OLIVEIRA: Just to express enormous appreciation for the update on this comment and also to inform that since we started the international decade of indigenous languages, we are about to launch also a World Atlas of languages that will contemplate all languages spoken and signed, not only just the languages in danger, with their levels of endangerment, and this can constitute a useful resource to make available to the ICANN community and to other communities as a source of information that underpins the uptake of languages as a diversity approach. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you, Marielza from UNESCO. Do you have any idea when this document, this repertoire will be available?

MARIELZA OLIVEIRA: Yes, it's a platform that will be open to the member states for their final perusal on the 18th of March and open to the general public in the third week of April when we will have a launch ceremony for the international decade the indigenous languages. It does contain all 8324 languages, including those that are no longer spoken, including those 7061 that are still in use, either being spoken or signed in the world. So with their degrees of safety and endangerment completely available everywhere, so it's a great resource, and I will be sure to share the links with the ICANN constituency when it's available.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: That's good, it means that for ICANN 73 we can have a look at it, because it will be fully operational then.

MARIELZA OLIVEIRA: Absolutely. I will be delighted.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you very much. Any other comment on this point? If not we can move to the next one and today -- no reason to mention why it's important -- sorry, I will close the telephone. Sorry. So today as probably more than half of the people participating are aware, probably the other half forgot, but I don't think so, today is the day one of the multiple genders that is celebrated and this is one more reason for taking into consideration this important point in the diversity. So there is no reason to explain, but of course, there has been a slight modification in the text that has been suggested from taking into consideration something coming from the UNESCO perspective, that is a little bit enlarging the original text perspective that was in the original version.

MARIELZA OLIVEIRA: Thank you so much, in UNESCO, we are very aware that of course so is the ICANN constituency that the largest gender gap and digital gap is actually around gender, it's one of the biggest gaps that we have, as well as the fact that one of the groups that tends to be particularly targeted by harassment and hate speech tend to be the LGBTI community, so of course we would recommend a sociological approach to gender to complement the biological approach, so thank you for

that. Hopefully we will see a non-binary perspective taking place.
Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: I think that the wording respects this approach, the new wording suggested.

MARIELZA OLIVEIRA: Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Okay. We can move to the next. This is the age, and I am concerned personally because the age [laughter] so many years, more than many people around. So on this, the observation from -- is about should we highlight the inclusion and empowerment of youth and young girls particularly from the global south? I think that in the original text this was in a certain sense already concerned. Suada react on that, and the proposed solution is to be more open and attentive to this element and try to measure and collecting data through voluntary process for the way forward. Suada, I don't know if you want to comment on that?

SUADA HADZOVIC: No, my comment is that.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Okay. So the wording is the answer to the consideration that we received, and we think that this in a certain sense answered to the need.

Okay, then we move to the next point. The physical disability, this is always something which we have been very keen. And there is the final point that has been added. Again, reacting to a comment we received about the fact that disability could be multiple disabilities because you can have a very diverse range of problems that could be combined and have a huge impact when they are combined. So this is why we say people with disabilities to access the information provided regardless of their physical, cognitive, or sensory abilities. So we encompass a large range of situations.

I think there are no objections so we can move. The next paragraph there has been no change at all. So I think we can skip it. And stakeholder group and constituency also there were no changes. Then there is another point, the last two points are the results of the discussion of ICANN 72. The point 9 comes from an observation from Manal that you remember, the introduction of the virtual or hybrid meetings has introduced another level of diversity and possible discrimination that we have to consider between those that are in presence attending meetings and those who are not present to meetings. This text has been already circulated, we have seen and there were no further observations, so I will not come back to that.

While the point on which I think we need the reflection of everybody in the collective brainstorming is diversity of economic resources. And this is a concept that we find that was lacking in the previous version, there has been many observations on the text. Because we have considered that another element that creates -- could create

discrimination is -- or a difference in approach, diversity in approach is the availability of resources. We said the economic just to be easier to be understood as a concept but it's not only economic. This means that in accessing the Internet and to the ICANN in general, ICANN services or the Internet connectivity, of course there is a huge diversity according to the resources that everybody could have available. You can be in a rich country with very high-speed connectivity but in the same country you -- so it's not a question of country -- you can have people that have not at all a good connectivity. You have people that access through mobile telephone and there are some limits in the kinds of services you can use. Others can access through portable computers that are very powerful, et cetera, et cetera.

This digital divide can exist within the same geographic area, language, and age group but it is also determined by the economic dimension. So this is the way we formulated it, even if it is not perfect and we will be very happy to receive suggestions and a better formulation if you have any to suggest.

I will read it slowly so that you can reflect on it and make your observation. So diversity is not only determined by geographic and linguistic matters for instance but also by the economic availability of resources that could have a very large impact on access to ICANN services. For instance, Internet connect actively, but not only. Digital divide for instance can exist within the same geographic area, language and age groups but can also determined by the economic dimension.

So this is something that we think is important because we have a lengthy discussion on this point, trying to remember that during the 72 ICANN meeting we discussed about the concept of cultural diversity. But cultural diversity is reductive, it can be language, skills, et cetera, et cetera. While I think that what is not – yeah, I see what Nigel says. He's right, it's larger than. But what is missing, if you look at the old lists we have of diversities that we have tried to encompass in this document, the dimension that is missing in the list of diversity that we have considered is this, the economic one. So as I said, if you have better wording that doesn't forget this dimension, of course we are more than happy. Manal, you are one of the bright ideas. Do you have something it share this time?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Giacomo. No, nothing comes to mind at this point. But thank you for capturing my previous suggestion, much appreciated.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: The more we are living hybrid meetings, the more we're experiencing, the IGF hybrid meeting Katowice was -- I have to say that contrary to what you said, for instance that in Katowice when the moderators and also the speaker were not in the room, the discriminated people were the people in the room more than the people online because you are missing a lot of information that cannot be accessed. So you are right in pointing that we are still far from having a good balance in the situation, unfortunately.

I'm not looking at the chat because -- but I don't see. If there are other considerations contributions in the chat that we need to... yeah, I see Jorge mentioned that it's not only ICANN services, you are right, it's larger than that. And yes, Zeina mentioned there is a difference between culture and economic. Absolutely agree. But if you look at the list of the diversity elements that we have considered until now, the cultural in a certain sense has been considered under skills, under languages, it's scattered in various places while the economic is still missing. And we cannot say that this is not something that have an impact and could bring discrimination.

But anyway, I remind you that this text is there for consideration and there's still time to reflect on it and if there is a better proposal for wording, we will consider it. But I think this is the conclusion of the debate that start last year, the last ICANN 72, and now has arrived to crystallization. Of course we need to find the right wording, and I will appreciate if you can bring your contribution to the next idea.

Okay. Waiting for these wise suggestions, diversity in attendance we have said, I don't think there were observations on that. The last point, and this I would like to ask for UNESCO to intervene but also to have a debate with you all, is about -- there are all this work that we have done in the charter identifying the diversity principle. Need them to be measured, because if we leave this as an exercise, we know this problem exists and we do nothing, then it's not very useful exercise. So if you have to move to measuring, we have identified in our discussion that there are two possible tools that can be already existing, already in

place that can be seen as useful for our reflection on how to measure this diversity and the impact to this diversity.

And one of the elements that we have identified are the UNESCO Internet universality indicators that has been presented to this assembly in past meetings. So if Manal agrees, I would like to ask Marielza to tell us how these indicators could be eventually beneficial for the ICANN work to measure some of the diversity that we have identified.

MARIELZA OLIVEIRA:

Thank you, Giacomo. Well, as presented to you, the Internet universality indicators presented on a previous occasion, stem from principles that have been approved by all UNESCO member states in 2015. So there were 195 member states on that occasion and contemplate 303 indicators out of which several cover the issues of diversity specifically. The ROAM principles are for human rights-based openness, accessibility, multi-stakeholderism, and they contemplate exactly that currently there are about 44 countries producing reports. So there will be a ready dataset available for looking at these elements of diversity at no cost to the ICANN community. There will also be complemented by, like I said, indicators or data coming from the world Atlas of languages which is also going to be available. And we are planning also to distill analysis of trends and projections out of the work being done to identify the various elements of human rights based inclusive approach to the Internet. You know, one thing it shares in common with -- one of the many things it shares in common with you is

that we're all talking about the issue of having universal Internet and the universalization of the Internet needs to be measured in terms of how people can access it, where it's available, whether people have the resources to access it, whether they have the capacities to access it, and whether the Internet offers them the content that they need in order to find, use, and desire to access the Internet. So those indicators are captured in the ROAM framework and the Internet universality indicators so I hope we can offer you this instrument as a means of measurement.

GIACOMO MAZZONE:

Thank you, Marielza, for this explanation. So this confirms what we were imagining that this document can be very useful for the work and the reflection. I also think that we have to explore, but unfortunately we don't have today here, somebody from ITU unless I'm wrong, but the ITU also is doing a very important job with the broadband commission on access and the meaningful access concept that has been also taken on board by IGF. So I think these are two fields on which we need further exploration. But I want to close because we have to go back to Suada to present the slides. I just want to remember that this document is a proposal that will be presented to the CCG under GAC agreement, but I think Manal is there to say something on that. Thank you very much, and I hand it back to Suada after that. Thank you. Was Manal asking for the floor?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It's okay. I was just bringing to your attention Finn's question in the chat on how are we going to apply these elements of diversity? And one more thought that came to mind, I'm not sure whether it qualifies as a type of diversity as well or not, but you triggered my thinking, Giacomo, is the diversity in views. Because this is something we normally are very cautious in the GAC that we don't discriminate for example when we're nominating our GAC representation somewhere or forming a GAC Working Group, we make sure all different views are represented, we do not exclude someone or a country because of their views. We try to have every view represented as much as possible, of course. So it's just a thought that came to mind in response to your question, not sure if it qualifies, but again, leaving you with Finn's question and then back to Suada.

GIACOMO MAZZONE: Thank you very much. Remember to me minority report, a big book, and the great movie [chuckling], so yes, we have to take care of the minority report and respecting all the views when we represent ourselves.

About Finn. How we're going to apply this element of diversity, this is exactly the reflection we need to have in the next phase, Finn. And I will be very, very happy if you can contribute with your wisdom to this. The indicators, like the one we have asked UNESCO to contribute, will be one pillar on which we can build, and we can find others. But then the question is once we know these elements are hampering the participation of the Internet and usage of services of the Internet and

the ICANN access, et cetera, et cetera, then we need to suggest to the community what to do as remedies but we're at the beginning of this process, but the aim is exactly what Finn said. I hand it over to Suada. Sorry for being so long. Thank you very much.

SUADA HADZOVIC:

Thank you very much. So on this slide we would like to present to you a short introduction to Community Coordination group. So this group aims to provide us with a collaborative space for discussions relating to implementation of Work Stream 2 recommendations that can benefit from Community Coordination. But we have only some of the recommendations so it is about recommendation 1.1, about proposed elements of diversity, recommendation 1.7, the process of handling complaints about diversity, and recommendation 2.3 on the standalone framework for exercising the empowered community powers, and also the group may also wish to share information about implementation efforts related to recommendation 3. So not all of these recommendations group, eight issues from Work Stream 2 report, just these ones.

So in order to facilitate the diversity related Work Stream 2 recommendations, ICANN Org do provide diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting services to the coordination group to help with implementation of these recommendations. So this coordination group doesn't operate as decision making body but rather it is a center point for discussion where each community group's views and progress are shared, where coordination of prioritization for community wide

implementation of Work Stream 2 recommendations takes place as appropriate and where information about best practices and tools used can be exchanged.

So each advisory committee and supporting organization is entirely independent in determining whether and how to implement Work Stream 2 recommendations. Members of the coordination group will therefore be expected to report back to their communities on the relevant and useful points discussed in the coordination group and to voice their community's views and decisions into the coordination group as relevant and appropriate.

So the Work Stream 2 Community Coordination group is populated by volunteers from each SO/AC and from GAC. That [I, Suada Hadzovic] representative in terms of GAC, and Giacomo Mazzone is observer, Marielza Oliveira observer, and Jorge Cancio is observer. So we would just like to note that regarding Sign Language, because if you remember from the last ICANN 72 meeting, with regards Sign Language element, initially our human rights Working Group has discussed working with ICANN org team, particularly regarding the Sign Language element. But because of the recent changing and the creation of coordination group, the GAC participants to the community coordination group will raise this issue with the group first for input and subsequently consult with the GAC membership for feedback. As you remember that our suggestion was to initiate some pilot project, to offer Sign Language during ICANN meeting plenary sessions in addition to real-time

transcription to promote inclusion of new languages in digital ecosystem.

So thank you, and I would like to invite Giacomo to conclude the session and make takeaways. Thank you.

GIACOMO MAZZONE:

Thank you very much, Suada. I think you have said everything. The only additional thing that I want to reiterate is, can we assume that you are all okay if we convey this document with the remarks and observations that has been incorporated after the last circulation we had, in order to distribute to the community, in order to advance? I can consider it as a yes. Yes, I look at Manal, and if Manal says yes, I am reassured, and she says yes. Okay. So thank you very much and the only other point remaining to mention that we are talking of diversity in a day that is a very special day, so it's very important that today we are talking of this, it means that we are right on time in trying to do our best to accomplish the mission. Thank you very much, and if there are no more remarks, I will hand it over to Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Giacomo, and just noting that we have a diverse set of colleagues supporting also, so it's not a one yes. We have Finn also agreeing and Marielza, Nigel, UK, Canada, Suada, of course thanking everyone, and Pär also thanking everyone for the great work.

So I think my thanks to you Giacomo, Suada, and Marielza, and to everyone who contributed and to GAC colleagues for a very good discussion and interactive discussion. I think this would conclude this session. So thanks again to both Working Groups for the significant work done inter-sessionally, much appreciated, and the informative updates we received today.

It is now time for a well-deserved 30 minute break, and please be back in the GAC Zoom room at 12:30 San Juan, 16:30 UTC, so that we can start our discussions on IGO matters and WHOIS and data protection. Thank you very much, everyone. Bye.

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