
ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum - GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, March 7, 2022 - 09:00 to 10:00 AST

GULTEN TEPE: This session will now begin. May I ask tech team to start the recording, please?

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Welcome to the ICANN73 GAC opening plenary session being held on Monday 7th of March at 13:00UTC.

Recognizing that these are public sessions and other members of the ICANN community may be in attendance, the GAC leadership and support staff encourage all of you who are GAC members to type your name and affiliation in the participation chat pod to keep accurate attendance records. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please type it in the chat by starting and ending your sentence with a question or comment as indicated in the chat. The feature is located at the bottom of your Zoom window.

Interpretation for GAC sessions include all six UN languages and Portuguese. Participants can select the language they wish to speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon located on

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your Zoom toolbar. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand. Once the session facilitator calls upon you, please unmute yourself and take the floor. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking.

Finally, this session, like all other ICANN activities, is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. In case of disruption during the session, our technical support team will mute all participants. This session is being recorded, and all the materials will be available on the ICANN73 meetings page.

With that, I would like to leave the floor to GAC Chair, Manal Ismail.

Manal, over to you, please.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Gulten, and good morning, good afternoon and good evening everyone. Welcome to the opening plenary of the GAC meeting held on the margins of ICANN73. I hope you all continue to be well, safe and in good health, and we've been meeting online for more than two years now and I sincerely thank

you all for your continued participation and active engagement despite the challenging circumstances.

During the upcoming hour, we will go over the block schedule very quickly, provide an opportunity for GAC members to make interventions or statements, and then time allows, we will review the intersessional GAC work highlighting notable topics at ICANN73, developments since ICANN72, and efforts by the GAC working groups and other GAC community interactions that took place intersessionally, and a quick overview on the onboarding and engagement efforts. And before concluding, I'll be going over the communique drafting process, and will hand over to Gulden for the meeting logistics and technical capabilities. So without any further ado, let's go to the next slide please. Thank you, Gulden.

Our meeting is taking place from Monday, 7th to Thursday 10th and working hours will be 9:00 to 17:30 San Juan time, 13:00 to 21:30UTC. The GAC plenaries, we have GAC plenaries focusing on important topics to the GAC. The new addition this time is the Global Public Interest Framework, and then our regular topics on WHOIS and data protection, DNS abuse, IGO protections and future of new gTLDs.

We have four bilateral meetings this time with the Board, GNSO, ALAC and with the ccNSO which we have not met for quite some time. There are two community panels, one on moving forward with the Global Public Interest Framework and the second on DNS abuse focusing on maliciously registered versus compromised domains.

In addition to the community sessions, there is also a Q&A session with ICANN executives, a discussion forum on geopolitical legislative and regulatory developments, the usual public forum, and a regular meeting of the ICANN Board. Sorry, I just recognized I was speaking a little bit quick. I apologize for our interpreters. I'll try to slow down.

We have also dedicated some time for three GAC working groups, GAC working group on Operating Principles Evolution, and GAC Human Rights and International Law Working Group, and the GAC Public Safety Working Group. The leadership will continue to provide a 30-minute daily update from, 11:30 to 12:00 UTC, on the 8th, 9th and 10th of March so it's starting tomorrow for GAC members on observers disadvantaged by the meeting time zone. Daily updates are outside the official working hours of the meeting and hence will not be considered part of the official records and will not benefit from language services, but of course will be supported by our GAC support team.

And lastly, we have four communique drafting sessions—the process of which will be covered later—and the wrap-up session at the end of the week which always serves as an opportunity for stock taking and forward planning.

So, if we can go to the following slide, please, and as mentioned earlier, due to the developing global events we have fine-tuned our agenda accordingly. So in response to the e-mail from our Ukrainian colleague, Andrii Nabok, requesting an immediate meeting of GAC members to be held with the participation of all possible experts, the GAC leadership held an urgent meeting, discussed the matter, took note of the GAC meetings starting today and decided to allow time for prepared statements or brief interventions during the GAC opening plenary for GAC members and observers who wish to do so.

There was also a resolution passed by the Board yesterday resolving to allocate emergency financial support of an initial sum of 1 million US dollars to be used to provide financial assistance to support access to Internet infrastructure in emergency situations with an immediate focus on support for maintaining Internet access for users within Ukraine.

So I'll allow now prepared statements, and we have already received a number of preregistered requests. I'll let you know the

order of speech and it is by the order of requests received so that no one is taken by surprise and you all get prepared. We'll start with Ukraine and I have next U.K., then France, U.S., Canada, Burkina Faso, Switzerland and Australia. With that, I'm calling upon Ukraine. Would you be willing to start?

UKRAINE:

Yes. I am ready. Hello, dear colleagues. I requested ten minutes for my speech. One world, one Internet. This slogan in our opinion is wonderful. Multistakeholder model, a community-based, consensus-driven approach to policymaking, this model is great. Ukraine admires both the slogan and this model. Ukraine believes both in this slogan and this model. The Ukrainian government showed its support for them in its numerous actions and statements before.

On February 24th at 5:00 am, my family woke up from explosions. We saw a little fire and smoke in the window. Our city near Kyiv was shelled by rockets. I cannot put into words the feeling when you have to explain to your seven-year-old daughter that we urgently need to leave home to save our lives. In a few minutes, my friends from all parts of Ukraine confirmed that there had been missile strikes in the whole country. At once, all the values you lived with yesterday cease to exist, and now the main task is to save our families, relatives, and friends.

So Russian missiles attacked Ukraine. Putin said it is a special military operation in the territory of independent country. Putin said the goal is demilitarization and denazification to ensure the security of Russia. Security of the largest country in the world with the most enormous nuclear potential seems to be defending itself against [inaudible] without nuclear weapons.

Logic has left our chat. Today is the 12th day of the war. Not some operation, but a war. A war in Europe, undeclared Russian war on Ukraine. It is the 12th day of Russian bombing in our peaceful Ukrainian cities and even villages, schools, kindergartens, maternity clinics, even nuclear stations. But Putin's blitzkrieg became blitz failure. The whole world admires the courage of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, on social media, in private messages, on TV. Unfortunately, thousand Ukrainians have been killed, including 38 children.

Millions of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes. Many of you sent us many words of support, sheltered us, and helped our army. Many thanks to you. Many of you understood that the real goal of Kremlin and Russian dictatorship is to destroy freedom, peace and human rights, right to life, right to dignity, right to freedom, and right to Internet.

Last year our team carried out a large state infrastructure project for deploying fiber optics networks in the most remote villages of our country. According to our last data, we had the highest level of coverage of high-capacity networks among all the European countries. About 97% of the Ukrainian population had the opportunity to connect to Internet based on fiber optic technologies.

Those settlements where the Russian army enters are cut off from the Internet. For example, in one of the villages where my relatives live, there are currently several thousand Russians. As soon as they captured the village, they immediately cut the optical cable and shot at the mobile operator's base station with a machinegun. People are now cut off from the world.

Today is the 12th day of destroying Ukrainian Internet infrastructure by Russian bombs. Our heroic ISPs rebuild it under fire, risking their lives to save communications for people. Thanks to our heroic ISPs and Elon Musk's support, people in bomb shelters still have a chance to know whether their relatives are safe or not, whether they are alive, or unfortunately, no more.

Our cybersecurity is also under threat. Thanks to heroic efforts, the .UA domain is stable. All services have been moved to backup positions and function independently from the Ukrainian

infrastructure. Hostmaster LLC strengthened Anycast secondaries to prevent possible attacks on domain service. ICANN has been built to ensure that the Internet works, not for its coordination role to be used to stop it from working.

I fully support these words of Göran Marby, ICANN CEO. But I would like to ask you, will it be okay for you if Internet is working for all except Ukrainians? Just because Russian assassins will kill Ukrainians. Of course, This is an apocalyptic scenario that will not be implemented. Ukrainians will not allow this. Ukraine has already received invaluable support from nearly all ICANN constituencies and at individual level. We are grateful for your help in strengthening the cybersecurity of .UA as well as other items of our critical infrastructure. We welcome the decision of ICANN Board to allocate an initial sum of 1 million US dollars to be used to provide financial assistance to support access to Internet infrastructure in emergency situations.

It will be great to spend a part of this sum to buy more Starlinks for Ukrainian Internet users. Of course, ICANN cannot close the sky over Ukraine, but I would like to ask all of you to appeal to your governments to protect Ukraine, and the infrastructure of the Internet for that matter, from the barbaric actions of Putin's Russia. We fully support ICANN's commitment to ensure a single and global Internet. Moreover, we have already asked to limit the

Kremlin's influence on our common free digital space since the national Russian peculiarities of Internet governance are known worldwide. Kremlin wants and will be happy to get the sovereign Internet, and they will get it by destroying one world, one Internet if we do not unite against such threats.

On March 11th, Russia will completely disconnect from the global Internet but the Russian representative will retain his role as one of the 12 holders of the DNSSEC root key. Are you serious? That is why we call on ICANN community., IANA, registrars and registries and the vendors who make the Internet free and available for everyone on the earth to join the enforcement to the sanctions of the civilized world recently imposed on Kremlin, Russian companies and individuals. Do not allow them to use the Internet as a cyber battlefield against fundamental human rights and do not allow them to attack critical infrastructure [for bloody warfare.]

We also call on public and private entities to make steps in technological exodus from the Russian Federation, the empire of evil, the terrorist state number one, the fascist of 21st century. Last person out turns off the lights. I hope it will not be ICANN.

Thank you, dear community, for your support. We believe that you are also on the side of freedom and right. That's all, dear colleagues.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Andrii. Thanks, Ukraine, and our hearts go out to all people affected by these ongoing tragic developments, sincerely hoping that peace and serenity would prevail shortly.

I have next U.K, please.

UNITED KINGDOM: Yes. Thank you very much, madam chair. And good afternoon, good morning, good evening to all. I hope you can hear me.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, loud and clear.

UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you for this opportunity to speak, and it's an honor to speak after our distinguished Ukrainian representative.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The U.K. and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian

government's reprehensible actions. We note the ICANN letter to Ukraine's deputy prime minister, the minister of digital transformation. Deputy prime minister Fedorov highlights Russia's use of disinformation to attempt to justify its military action against Ukraine. Russian authorities falsely cast Ukraine as a threat to justify their aggressive stance. This is a transparent attempt at disinformation and to provide a pretext for military action.

Access to communications, as our Ukrainian friend has mentioned, and digital transformation is important to all of us here in the Government Advisory Committee. It is outrageous that Russia is destroying the infrastructure that supports our digital future, and in this way, we join with Ukraine and no doubt others in welcoming the ICANN announcement for emergency funding to ensure access to the Internet for all.

We remain committed to working in partnership with GAC colleagues in furthering the important role of the GAC, and our shared ambition to ensure that all, wherever they live, have access to an open Internet, free of disinformation. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, U.K.. I have France next, please.

FRANCE:

Good morning, everyone. I have the honor of reading this statement on behalf of the European Union and all of its member states, France chairing the European Union council currently.

In this dark moment for Europe and the international community, the European Union and its member states condemn in the strongest possible terms the unprecedented military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. By its unprovoked, unjustified and premeditated military actions, the Russian Federation is grossly violating the UN Charter and attacking the very foundation of international law.

It has turned its back on the spirit of peace and dialogue that forms the basis of multilateral and multistakeholder cooperation.

We call on the Russian Federation to immediately cease the hostilities, to withdraw its military forces from Ukraine and to fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. We stand by the people of Ukraine and its democratically-elected institutions and representatives.

Since February 24th, the European Union and its member states, together with partners, have taken far reaching economic and political sanctions against the Russian Federation and its leaders to stop their destructive cause. In many organizations, above all

in the United Nations system, we have seized every opportunity to express our solidarity with Ukraine and a condemnation of the war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation. We believe that the unacceptable actions of the Russian Federation must be denounced wherever it is possible as we are doing here in ICANN.

The European Union and its member states are frustrated that ICANN and the Internet governance community must be consistent in terms of an open Internet and focus on the necessary technical assistance to ensure the resiliency and security of the global Internet. As the ICANN CEO said, it is not within ICANN's remit to interrupt the connection to Internet of any country since Internet is supposed to be global system that was created as a decentralized system which cannot be turned on or off.

Further, at this dark moment, the Internet needs to be open and accessible to all, including to Russian citizens who have the right to access free information on the war in Ukraine. So Internet is a factor for peace. We can find other forms of sanction. The European Union and its member states reiterate their solidarity with Ukrainian citizens and stress the importance of having an open, interoperable Internet and oppose the interruption of Internet for any state. We ask that this text be included in the

ICANN73 GAC communique and the minutes of the GAC opening plenary. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, France, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and thank you for flagging the need to have the statements reflected. So statements will be linked through the communique. We will provide a link in the communique to the transcripts of the session, and the minutes will also reflect the statements, but the communique comes out immediately, 72 hours after the GAC meeting, and the minutes take a little bit longer but we will provide the link to the transcripts of the session in the communique.

I have next the U.S., please, United States.

UNITED STATES: Madam chair. GAC members. The United States stands steadfastly with Ukraine and condemns in the strongest terms Russia's premeditated, unprovoked and unjustified war. We call on Russia to cease its blatant and brutal violation of international law. We stand firmly in solidarity with the people and the democratically-elected government of Ukraine. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, U.S. I have Canada next.

CANADA: Thank you, madam chair. This is Luisa Paez with the government of Canada, just making sure you can hear me well.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: It's better now. It was very noisy at the beginning. Thank you, go ahead.

CANADA: Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening, distinguished GAC colleagues. The government of Canada would like to take this opportunity to strongly condemn President Putin's unjustifiable and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The attacks are causing widespread humanitarian consequences and are resulting in the senseless deaths of innocent people.

The international community must [inaudible] of this issue. This is not just an attack on Ukraine. This is an attack on international law, including the UN Charter, as well as democracy, freedom, and human rights. The consequences of Russia's actions will extend well beyond Ukraine's borders. The world must reject this behavior. Canada stands with the government of Ukraine and its brave and resilient people. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Canada. I have Burkina Faso next.

BURKINA FASO: (Speaking French) hello, good morning everyone. This is Rodrigue Guiguemde from Burkina Faso speaking, GAC vice-chair. I would like to address a few words on the concerning situation in Ukraine which has been the subject of an opinion that was issued by the African Union and we have already shared our concerns and the need to preserve Ukraine's sovereignty and the respect of international law. Authorities have called to an immediate ceasefire, and to negotiation of peace under the auspices of the United Nations.

A few moments ago, our Ukrainian colleague shared a letter that was addressed by the vice prime minister to the ICANN CEO so we know what they had asked within the framework of the current conflict. And I understand that it is hard for any country to face the situation that Ukraine is undergoing currently, so it is only natural that they would call upon us to try and help and stop the suffering of their people by any means necessary. It is within their right and their honor.

If the international political authorities decide to mediate in the situation, and although we have decided to express our opinion,

we would like to say that we believe ICANN does not have the power to take such measures as the Ukrainian government has asked of us. We fight rather for the development of an open, accessible, interoperable Internet that is available to all. Following the bylaws of ICANN and in particular following section 2, such measures would exceed our mission and our remit which were agreed by consensus by the international community in 2016 at the occasion of the IANA transition.

The Russian Federation has its own sovereignty and we need to respect at ICANN the rule of law and the principle of states' sovereignty on national territories and on first level domains, top-level domains, which are country codes.

In Tunis in 2005, we met at the WSIS and we agreed upon that as well. We need to guarantee the correct operation of our country codes and follow the main principles of openness, interoperability and accessibility of Internet in terms of our technical capabilities and the development of our global connectivity and to fight against the digital divide. That is our remit.

So we would like to echo the statement of Göran Marby, the ICANN CEO to the letter he received from the Ukrainian vice prime minister and we would like to stress the need to work together for

the development of an Internet where our technical progress will bring about social, economic development for all. ICANN73 starts today. As you see, this is the opening plenary, and many exchanges will take place here. So I would like to invite all of my African colleagues to follow in the different discussions that will take place on this matter. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Burkina Faso. Before giving the floor to Switzerland, just noting that we will have Australia next, and I'm adding to the queue Russia, Argentina and Burundi. So Switzerland, please go ahead.

SWITZERLAND: Dear Andrii, dear colleagues, let me share some words in form of a statement on behalf of Switzerland. Switzerland condemns the Russian military attack on Ukraine in the strongest possible terms and calls on Russia to deescalate the situation immediately, cease all hostilities and withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory without delay.

This is a serious violation of international law. Russian actions violate the prohibition of the use of force and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine as enshrined in international

law. Switzerland also condemns the involvement of Belarus in Russia's military attack. Russia's large-scale military attack against Ukraine represents a massive security risk for the entire continent, which is a matter of deep concern to us. Switzerland reaffirms its solidarity with Ukraine and its people. In this sense, we express our sympathy and understanding for the reasons underpinning the request made by Ukraine to ICANN.

At the same time, the public core of the Internet, including the global coordination of the DNS by ICANN as a precondition for one single, interoperable Internet has to be protected, as it inter alia allows for a free flow of information and facts which is crucial in the current circumstances. Therefore, we understand and share the reasons expressed by ICANN in its reply to our Ukrainian colleagues, which in no way or form diminishes our solidarity with them in the terms expressed above.

Finally, we welcome ICANN's announcement of an emergency infrastructure funding and hope this will help to contribute [to resolving] part of the situation. Thank you very much, colleagues.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Switzerland. I have Australia next.

AUSTRALIA:

Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. This is Ian Sheldon, for the record, GAC representative for Australia. Thank you for allowing me to provide a brief statement on behalf of the Australian government with respect to this important issue. Australia condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine which seeks to undermine Ukraine's national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We denounce what are unilateral hostile actions in Ukraine. Russia is flagrantly breaching international law, including the UN Charter. The Australian government is deeply concerned by the humanitarian costs which will be borne by the Ukrainian people as result of the conflict. Australia condemns malicious cyber activity by Russia that seeks to disrupt Ukraine's essential services and critical infrastructure and its use of the Internet to spread disinformation and lies.

Australia continues to provide cybersecurity systems to Ukraine. Australia stands with our allies and partners to hold Russia to account for its unacceptable activity. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Australia. I have Russia next, please.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. Can you hear me, dear colleagues?

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Yes, loud and clear.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to speak in Russian. The events that are occurring today are a terrible tragedy, clearly. At the same time, I would like to point out that ICANN is not a suitable forum for discussing these types of issues. I hope that during the ICANN73 conference, we will concentrate on the technical issues of the operation of the Internet and we will refrain from discussing political issues.

I would also like clarify one issue. This was the proposal of Ukraine to exclude the RU domain zone from service. We, on the other part, are doing everything in our power to keep the Internet as a global indivisible space. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russia. I have Argentina next.

ARGENTINA: Good morning, good afternoon good evening. I'm Gabriela. I'm representing the Argentinian government. Argentina has already condemned this action both at the United Nations and also in the Council of Human Rights within the United Nations regarding the aggression of the Russian Federation to Ukraine.

Based on what the CEO of ICANN has said, we believe that ICANN is not suitable for applying sanctions since it is an independent organization. It also welcomes ICANN's decision to protect the Internet infrastructure. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Argentina. I have Burundi next, please.

BURUNDI: Thank you very much, Manal. Can you hear me? Thank you. Thank you, madam chair. Distinguished colleagues and delegates, my name is Francis. I am the representative from Burundi to the GAC. We would like to echo the statement pronounced by Burkina Faso. We are favorable to the statements of the Ukrainian government. We would like to support the existence of an open, accessible and interoperable Internet

following our multistakeholder governance model. Thank you very much, madam chair. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Burundi, and thank you very much, everyone. I see no further requests for the floor, and I sincerely hope that peace and serenity would prevail shortly throughout the globe.

So, if we can go to the following slide, please, and as mentioned earlier, we will be including the transcript to the session in the communique for the record.

So in the remaining 20 minutes I'll try to go quickly through our slides. We have four hot topics for our meeting, namely the RDS WHOIS and data protection, the EPDP, the DNS abuse mitigation, subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, and the newly added topic of global public interest and the available framework. For the sake of time I'll skip the details under each topic as they were already covered thoroughly by GAC topic leads during the GAC oral brief lasted week and, of course, you will have the slides for your reference later. So if we can go to the following slide.

Next, next, next, and next, yes, thank you.

So on GAC work—and we are here noting developments since ICANN72, and again reiterating my thanks to everyone for the hard work despite of the pandemic, we had an active intersessional period with six letters received by the GAC and five response letters sent back. We also had our regular interaction with the Board on the ICANN72 communique with our clarifying call, which takes place four weeks from the issuance of the GAC communique. We received the Board's scorecard and glad to know that the Board is also taking due account of issues of importance to the GAC, reading it and allowing a discussion through the BGIG, the Board GAC Interaction Group.

And notably, here we have agreed with the global -- with the government, I'm sorry, with the government engagement team of ICANN to extend our conversations to the full GAC. This was requested by some GAC colleagues that we widen our discussions to include the full GAC, and we have discussed this with the government engagement team and we are working on scheduling one intersessional call so we are planning one after ICANN73, and before ICANN74, and I invite everyone to join the discussions. They are normally very informative about the overall Internet governance ecosystem, and things, developments in other fora that relates to the ICANN work.

Moving to the following slide, and here noting the work of the GAC working groups, there are intense Public Safety Working Group efforts regarding the management of registration directory services and DNS abuse. Also the GAC Operating Principles Working Group will be presenting the group's workplan and the work methodology during this week, and the Human Rights and International Law Working Group will be updating the GAC on the work conducted intersessionally on the Work Stream 2 accountability recommendations implementation.

And, again, reiterating our continuous seek for interest from GAC representatives to chair the GAC Universal Acceptance and IDN Working Group. So we have a working group, the chair left the GAC, being promoted for other responsibilities, and we are seeking a new GAC chair -- a new chair for this GAC working group. We also have the new travel guidelines for the Underserved Regions Working Group which are due to be applied for the first time. And finally, the potential subsequent procedures reset, so we are in a transition phase, and we need to agree how to organize our efforts and views in the coming phase.

So with that, if we can move on to the following slide, reporting on GAC interaction with the community starting by the SO-AC chairs roundtables, and we had a few meetings intersessionally

revolving around three main topics. The first is the implementation of Work Stream 2 accountability --

OTHER SPEAKER: (Interrupting noise).

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Someone needs to mute, please. The first topic is the implementation of Work Stream 2 accountability recommendations, particularly those requiring collective efforts. And, of course, we discussed the establishment of a community — a coordination group for certain recommendations, and a summary of the role, composition and scope of this working group was shared with the SO-AC chairs seeking nominations from the different constituencies, noting that the group would serve as a central information sharing forum across the community.

The GAC has nominated Suada, GAC representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina and co-chair of the Working Group on Human Rights and International Law, as a representative and we also have three members of the GAC Human Rights and International Law participating as observers. So Giacomo, GAC representative of World Broadcasting Union, Marielza, GAC representative of UNESCO, Jorge, GAC representative of

Switzerland and also GAC vice-chair and was an active participant of previous Cross-Community Working Group efforts on Work Stream 2 accountability.

The second topic is the Community Prioritization and Planning Group framework, which will be used during the annual planning process where coordination is needed to come up with common priorities across the community. And, ICANN org requested that the community consider participating in the proposed planning prioritization framework pilot next month. Actually, this month, March, and the pilot will focus on those specific review recommendations that are pending implementation and is anticipated to be a limited project that will conclude by April.

So, we are asked to propose at least one primary representative with the option for an alternate, so I'm seeking volunteers here, please. And the results of the pilot will inform the development of the next iteration of the prioritization framework and resource documentation in time for the fiscal year '23 planning cycle. So please, if you're interested in this interesting prioritization exercise, please share your interest on the GAC mailing list.

The last topic that was discussed among the SO-AC chairs roundtable with the ICANN CEO and chairman of the Board is the returning to in-person or hybrid public meetings, and how to best

plan for them. So, ICANN is working to hold ICANN74 in The Hague in June as a hybrid meeting with an in-person component. And collective role of the chairs to exercise oversight over ICANN meeting planning was sought, and we were asked to start sharing feedback about what each of our groups believes is working well, and what may require updating, especially in light of the changes that were made during our work in a virtual setup. So, this was all regarding the SO-AC chairs activities.

If we can go to the following slide on the Board GAC interaction group, and this is the usual brief on the Board GAC interaction group. Nothing new here so I will leave it to your own reading for the sake of time.

And if we can move to the following slide, on NomCom — and as you may already know, the GAC submits annual input to guide the Nominating Committee in their selection process, so we provide guiding criteria, and this week we will have a delegate from the NomCom outreach subcommittee joining the GAC wrap-up session on Thursday to do a five-minute presentation to recruit for the open leadership positions. Onboarding and engagement, if we can go to the following slide, this is mainly to indicate the large number of new GAC delegates joining the GAC since November 2019, which is the start of our virtual meetings. We have 130 new GAC delegates, and, of course, we continue to work

with support staff to improve onboarding and engagement and also evolve our preparatory efforts for the GAC meetings, including the CEO briefing, GAC oral briefing, written briefs, and tools such as the action and decision radar.

So a key thing here is your feedback, please, so that we can continue to improve and satisfy your needs.

Now, moving on to the following slide, and this is the communicate development, so the diagram shows the process that was triggered by our virtual setup to issue the GAC communicate at the end of each meeting, so preparation for the communicate starts two weeks prior to the start of the meeting week, with optional sharing of potential topics or key messages that needs to be reflected in the communicate.

This early flagging phase is optional and does not preclude efforts during the meeting. It is just intended to facilitate discussions during the communicate drafting sessions, and also to allow members to consult nationally before the meeting, allow support staff to research precedents and references, and allow us to be more efficient in our deliberations and have accurate references during the communicate drafting.

So, during the meeting, we have a communique review point tomorrow, and we have four drafting sessions as mentioned earlier, and we normally use a communique Google doc that is open for live contributions by GAC members, and based on how advanced we are in the drafting, we may take a decision to close live contributions on the document in the interest of clarity and stability of the text, and should we agree to stop the live collaboration, then the communique Google doc will be available through the GAC support staff. So, drafters are encouraged at any stage to use the GAC support team as a resource, also to research precedents and ensure accuracy of references and consistency with usual practices.

As has been the norm, we allow 72 hours review period after the GAC meeting week before issuing the communique, but it's important to note that the objective of the review period is not to reopen already negotiated and agreed text, so it's just to take care of any typos or mistakes that we may have overlooked, but not for renegotiating the text again.

The GAC communique becomes formally adopted by the end of the 72-hour period, provided of course that no objections were raised. And on the Monday after the meeting, members should be tuned to receive the formally adopted communique, or in the unlikely case of receiving objections, the Monday message will be

used to schedule a session within the same week so that we can agree on the final communique. But, again, as noted, this post meeting GAC session will only be held in exceptional cases, and only when there is a formal objection.

Going to the next slide, and just to mention very quickly that when using the Google doc, please make sure you are in the suggesting mode and propose your text in the appropriate place, make sure you are identified properly for the rest to know who was the penholder, and finally, don't forget to hit reply, otherwise your edits will not be identified. So we have a few minutes remaining, four minutes, now 3 minutes. Gulten, if there are any quick notes on the logistics and technical capabilities. I'm sorry to squeeze you at the end. Please, over to you.

GULTEN TEPE:

Thank you, Manal. Hello again, everyone. I will provide a brief overview of the meeting logistics and details regarding some technical capabilities.

Initially, about the calendar invitations, if you recall, I already shared in invites for each GAC session. You may want to check those invites as you would find the links to GAC website and ICANN meetings page for each respective session. If you aren't able to attend a session due to time zone difference or because of

other commitments, you may want to listen the recordings or review the slides, and I will be sharing a link to this page in the chat for your reference. Just like previous virtual meetings, for ICANN73, we didn't share any Zoom room link on the calendar invites, as this is advice by our E&IT team, but I will be updating the calendar invitations 24 hours before the sessions. This is an extra security measure to prevent any Zoom bombing incident, and you may find remote connection details on ICANN meetings website as well. Again, only 24 hours before the sessions start time.

Regarding the session pages on GAC website, first note would be always remember to be logged in. Otherwise, you will not be able to see the documents since some of them are visible only to GAC members. They will be released publicly after the sessions take place. We already published the briefings in English as well as their translations. After these sessions, I will be adding links to recordings and transcripts on GAC website for each session.

And under the introduction part on ICANN73 agenda page, you may find other valuable resources and materials, reports and so on. And sharing the link in the chat pod as well. During the sessions, please remember to rename, and add your affiliation, the country or organization you're representing by your name. You can do that by hovering over your name, more options will

appear, and you can click rename. It will allow you to update your name and enter GAC into parenthesis. This would help us to keep accurate attendance. So thank you so much for doing that.

And you can help our interpreters by following simple guidelines. If you intend to speak in a language other than English, please notify the audience. This will be a good heads up for our interpreters and there will be a brief switch-over time when switching between the interpretation from non-English language and back to English. State your name every time you take the floor. Please do not speak too close to the microphone, and mute all other devices. Your phone, iPad, so on. Review your notification settings and turn them off, please.

If you intend to read a statement, please remember to provide it to us in advance, and remember to speak at a reasonable pace. Moving forward to remote simultaneous interpretation, there is an icon on Zoom toolbar that says interpretation under more tab. You may click on this icon in order to select the language of your choice from the menu. We had six UN language and Portuguese. Make sure that you updated your version of Zoom, and all of the features are available to you.

If you are experiencing an issue that might be related to an outdated version of the Zoom application, please remember to

update your Zoom before the sessions, otherwise it will disrupt your connection to the sessions. Some of our participants aren't able to download the Zoom, so we will be providing listen-only MP3 streams, and CRN application is also available for your use. I already talked about the recordings and transcripts, so moving on to daily updates informal sessions. Manal touched base on this during her remarks. These calls will be held tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:30 am UTC. Manal will be going over each session that took place the day before and provide a brief overview of what was discussed, decided, and so on. GAC members who missed sessions due to time zone difference are welcome to join these sessions.

And that concludes my part, leaving the floor back to you, Manal. You might be on mute, Manal, because I can't hear you.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: This is Benedetta. I believe Manal had a power outage. I see Manal back so I will turn it back over to you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you thank you very much, Benedetta, and sincere apologies everyone. I had a temporary power failure so I apologize. I see Ukraine's hand up. We need to wrap up, so please, Andrii, if it's really short, go ahead.

UKRAINE: So as a representative of Ukraine in Governmental Advisory -- sorry, sorry, sorry -- as a representative of Ukraine in GAC ICANN, I am grateful to all GAC members for support. It is very important for us in this hard time, and I want to ask GAC to plan the voting for advising GAC -- for advising ICANN Board to allocate this money, this 1 million American dollars for purchasing Starlink terminals for Ukrainians, because I'm deeply convinced that it is the most important thing now in Ukraine for Internet accessibility and Internet freedom in Ukraine.

And Manal, if it possible, text me about possible time for voting for this decision of GAC.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Andrii. We don't vote in the GAC, so let's maybe take this off record and see how we can help. Maybe you would like to bring it up with the Board during the bilateral, if you wish. This could be an option too.

So, for now I think we need to conclude. We are six minutes after the hour, and our interpreters need to have a break before the following session. So thank you again, everyone. Please, after the Q&A session with the ICANN executives and the break, we need to

reconvene at 12:30 San Juan time, 16:30 UTC. Thank you,
everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]