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ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – GAC Communique Drafting (1 of 6)  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 13:15 to 14:30 IST

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Welcome to the GAC Communiqué Drafting Session 1 on Tuesday 10 March at 13:15 local time. Please note that the session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

During the session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted in the proper form in the Zoom chat pod. Interpretation for this session will include all six UN languages and Portuguese. If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and please remember to state your name for the record and the language you will be speaking, in case speaking a language other than English. And please speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation.

And now I will hand the floor over to GAC Chair, Nico Caballero. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Julia. Welcome back, everyone. I hope you enjoyed your lunch. I myself had some excellent Ristretto coffee right before coming in order to make sure that the energy levels would be good enough, which is the case, of course.

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So, we're going to have a 75-minute session on the GAC community drafting. Right after that, a coffee break, a 30-minute coffee break. Then the meeting with the ICANN board, which is going to be rather short, I would say. It's going to be a 60-minute session.

We have lots of questions and lots of topics to discuss. So, we're going to have to make sure to be succinct and straight to the point in order to, you know, make sure that we'll have enough time to actually cover all the topics we included there.

And then finally, another coffee break and from 4:30 to 5:30 PM, the last GAC Communiqué Drafting session. So, for this session, Fabien, you know, from GAC staff, Fabien and Benedetta Rossi are going to be walking us through the different parts of the communiqué. I understand that we don't have any text yet, correct me if I'm wrong, but in any case, the floor is yours, Fabien, please go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Yeah, we'll mention that as we go. So, we're just going to go through the structure of the communiqué so that for those of you who may not be familiar with the communiqué, you'll get a sense of how the content is organized, and then we'll talk about the objective of this session specifically.

So, what you see on screen is the top of the communiqué. Obviously, the date of the communiqué usually now is, we're sort of dating it in advance to after the review period. So obviously,

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we'll confirm that date when it becomes effective, when we do publish the communiqué.

So, this is just the header that provides high-level reminders of the meeting and how the communiqué was drafted, along with a link to the minutes of the GAC meeting. So if we scroll down, the first section is the introduction, where we recall the dates, the participation, and you'll see for this time a reference to remembrance for a long-time GAC representative that was proposed by the U.S. delegation. So, this is the introduction.

The second section of the communiqué is the inter-constituencies activities and community engagement. So, this is where the GAC reports its meeting with various bodies or stakeholder groups in the ICANN community. And we only refer here to the topics that were discussed between each group, not to a substance. The substance of the discussion will be in the minutes.

If we continue going down, so you'll see here listed all the bilateral meetings the GAC had during ICANN85, or will have. There is one more or two more. And we also refer to the cross-community discussion. So, we here have a bit of work which in yellow remains to be inserted, and we'll take care of that.

The third section of the communiqué is internal matters. So, this is where we report on the membership of the GAC, where for this time around we announce election periods, in this case for the GAC chair position. We usually also refer subsection 3, GAC leadership, to the transitions in the leadership team. And this is also the section in

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which we have the working group reports. When working groups have had activities they'd like to report, this is where we insert it in the communiqué.

So, this section is where we report on everything that the GAC deems necessary to report on, and that relates to its own activities, that are not necessarily policy position, but more of activity reports. And so, for instance here, we've added for this communiqué a section on the high-level government meeting to reflect the discussions which are really for the GAC to continue organizing.

And you'll see also that we're anticipating there could be a need for a specific section into internal activities related to the work that the GAC is doing to be ready for the next round of new gTLDs. And subtext is being developed at the moment.

The next section of the communiqué, section 4, is issues of importance to the GAC. So, this is a section where the GAC, over a number of years, has stated policy positions or statements on issues it deems important.

This has been proposed several years ago to serve as a potential precursor, as a potential signal that the GAC could eventually, on any of those matters, potentially provide GAC advice. This is one of the potential functions of issues of importance is to signal some concerns that the GAC may have with certain initiatives or policy issues. So you see here some headings of topics we are aware are being considered as topics for potential text as issues of

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importance. And we are expecting that text and we'll be providing it once it's available.

And so, if we scroll down, I think that that's -- so you see here four themes, four main themes, the main registration data, DNS series mitigation, next round of new gTLDs, and UDRP review. Those are the themes we're aware of at the moment.

IAN SHELDON

Thanks, Fabien. Just a note, I think while everybody's drafting text for issues of importance, I would urge brevity and clarity. This is kind of one of our core vehicles to communicate with a lot of parts of the ICANN community. And I think there's been a tendency to try and load this up with as much complexity and narrative as possible and I think it's good as we approach the next round to be crystal clear what we're trying to convey.

We do have the luxury of relying on previous communiqué documents as well. We don't always have to rehash a lot of the same narrative and a lot of the same details. So just a minor point to encourage clarity and brevity through this section because I think perhaps at times, we might also have a tendency to forget that this is intended to help the board and other parts of the community understand the GAC, and it's perhaps less so for us and more important that others understand this.

And if there's any conflict of understanding within the GAC, let's have that discussion within ourselves. We don't necessarily need

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to bring that complexity to this document, if that makes sense. So, thanks. Thank you, Fabien. I just wanted to outline some of my thoughts on this.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Ian. And indeed, as part of objectives for those of you who may have been exposed to the document which we've titled The Art of the Communiqué, where we try to capture the practice of developing and drafting a communiqué, brevity is one of the principles as well as clarity, I believe. So, thank you for that very useful reminder.

So, if we move on to the next section, section 5 of the communiqué, GAC consensus advice to the ICANN board, this is where the GAC states any advice it might have for the ICANN board when it does. So, when there is no advice, we do not insert that section in the communiqué.

And as you see in preamble, we refer to the ICANN bylaws because GAC advice is part of the ICANN bylaws and the issuance of GAC advice to the ICANN board comes with requirements for processing that advice from the perspective of the ICANN board. So, this triggers a bylaw process when the GAC issues advice to the ICANN board.

As objectives for this section, obviously, the objective of brevity and clarity certainly apply here as well, where the text of a piece of advice is intended to be very clear, as clear as possible, and this is

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why a rationale is provided to provide additional explanation that goes with the text of the advice.

And so, this is why you see this structure, the GAC advises the board. There's text that may be potentially several items that are related to a given topic, and then there is a rationale that explains the advice. And once the GAC issues advice to the ICANN board, and the communiqué is adopted, finalized, published, the ICANN board goes through a process of organizing a call with the GAC.

So, several weeks after the meeting, the GAC and the ICANN board will meet to discuss potential clarifying questions on the advice so that the board ensures it has clarity of understanding of what is the meaning of the advice and the intent of the GAC so that it can then formally consider the advice and respond to that advice before the following meeting. So that's for Section 5 of the communiqué, GAC consensus advice.

Then we have Section 6, which is for follow-up on previous advice. The purpose of this section here is for the GAC on a given previously issued advice to follow-up. And the point here in terms of follow-up is really to recall the advice and request potentially an update from the ICANN board.

One aspect of follow-up and produce advice that has created difficulties in the past is when additional consideration are added on top of the initial advice. That can lead to somewhat complicated situations where there is additional consideration in addition to

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the previous advice and that creates difficulty to process from a board perspective and a procedural perspective.

So, we try to advise proponent of those follow-ups to be very clear, very focused on the text of the initial advice. So that's for Section 6. And finally, Section 7 is just a mention of the next ICANN meeting. And with that, I think we've covered the structure of the communique. We could respond, address any questions there might be.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

I was going to tell you that. Yeah, I think it's very clear and straightforward for everyone. If that is not the case, this is a good time to raise your hand and ask any kind of question. There are no right or wrong questions. Please, go ahead. Don't be shy. If there's anything you don't understand, we can talk about it at this point. That doesn't seem to be the case. Everything apparently is very clear for everyone, which is always a good thing. So, without further ado, let's continue. Fabien, over to you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

And so, then in this first drafting session, what we try to do is focus on understanding what text is being currently developed. So, if we go back to issues of importance, we currently understand that there is work going on to propose text on domain registration data, on DNS abuse, on the next round of new gTLDs, and on the UDRP review.



So, it would be interesting to understand from potential drafters of those texts where the text stands and when we can expect to have it for consideration of the GAC. As well as understand whether there are any members interested in contributing to any of those topics that are listed. And then finally, maybe, if there are additional topics that we have not captured yet for potential issues of importance.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Fabien. And that is the case for these four main topics. And there are sub-topics, as you can see there, the first one being domain name registration data, and A, B, C, and D, and the same thing goes for DNS abuse mitigation, A, B, C, and if you can scroll up a little bit.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Scroll down, you mean?

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Sorry, scroll down. Sorry, sorry. Yeah, A, B, and C, associated domain checks, future DNS abuse policy, and possibilities for future efforts and collaborations, and then the next round of new gTLDs and the applicant support program. And I also understand that some text for the UDRP review issue is also being produced at this point. I have two hands, actually, one from Portugal and the other one from the UPU. Portugal, please go first.

ANA NEVES

Thank you and I'm going to speak in Portuguese. Let's see the first paragraph, the initial part. Let's go up, please, up, up. Scroll up. Sorry. Okay, the Mumbai communiqué was drafted and agreed in a hybrid setting during the ICANN85 community forum with some GAC participants in Mumbai, India, and others remotely.

So, we have participants in Mumbai, India. I don't know if this is clear in English, but what do you mean by this some participants in Mumbai and others remotely? The Mumbai communiqué was draft and agreed in a hybrid setting during back in ICANN85 community forum, period, no?

Is it other participants from Mumbai? I don't know if this is really accurate or we should put a full stop after a community forum. It's always by the GAC participants, so it doesn't make sense because you're already saying that is a hybrid setting. So, if it is hybrid, we don't have any need to say that we had some GAC participants here and others attended remotely.

And of course, the communiqué is always done, drafted, and agreed by GAC participants, whether they are here or they are attending remotely. Well, it sounds strange, I think. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Portugal. Good catch indeed. I didn't think about that, to tell the truth, but you're right. You're absolutely right. Unless anybody has any kind of, you know, hard feelings in

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this regard, I don't have a problem, you know, redrafting that part of the text. Anybody against? Okay. So, thank you so much, Portugal. I have the UPU next.

TRACY HACKSHAW

Thank you. I'm just responding to Fabien's call to indicate who has text being drafted. So, the underserved regions working group is drafting text along with the new TTRD topic leads on applicant support program. That's currently being done on the mailing list and in the Google Doc as we speak. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. UPU, on the point, any expectation as regarding the time?

TRACY HACKSHAW

We hope it's not very contentious. So, I was talking to Benedetta and I think hopefully within the next session we should have it in the communiqué pending any significant opposition. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, thank you so much. So that means that we might have it for after the session with the board, right? Today? Like 4:30-ish?

TRACY HACKSHAW

Once there's no drastic opposition to it on the small, small groups. Thanks.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO

Perfect. Thank you, UPU. I have India next.

T. SANTHOSH

Thank you, Nico. Santosh for the record. So, under this subheading, we would like to include ICP-2 because I'm unable to see it anywhere. And I believe Marco, who is online, is providing the test on this.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. Thank you, India. As a matter of fact, I have a hand from the Netherlands at this point. Marco, please go ahead.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Thank you, India. Well, to your last point, at the moment, I do not have text, Mr. Chair, if you allow me to delve into this a bit. If India can quickly say what they feel is the issue of importance because my personal, speaking as the Netherlands, readout from this session with the ASO is that not much has happened.

And we're all waiting for the next revision of the document to be published, which kind of makes me think, is there anything in particular that the GAC would signal at this point via the communiqué issue of importance? And so far, my mind has drawn a blank.

So, as the Netherlands, our position is we do not feel the need to put in any text, of course, as caretaker, if other GAC members feel

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the urgent need to put something down. But I welcome a bit more insight in what the message should be and the rationale behind this. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Netherlands. And as a matter of fact, I have another hand from India. So please, go ahead, Santosh.

T. SANTHOSH

Yeah, so we will be proposing a test shortly and circulating. Yeah, and it could not be under issue of importance since we have deliberated on this, on the discussion so we would like to highlight it. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, well noted. Thank you, India. Thank you, Netherlands. Is that a new hand, Marco?

MARCO HOGEWONING

Yes, just to clarify, India, are you suggesting we put it somewhere else than the issue of importance? Because of course elsewhere in the communiqué, there is room to recognize that we have spoken with the ASO at a bilateral basis. So, in that case, we have it covered. Of course, happy to also look into that text, but it is somewhere in there as per usual.

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Maybe we need to play with the words here a bit if that's a solution. I don't know how eager staff is to wiggle with this, but I'm happy to also look into that instead of issuing issues of importance.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, thank you so much Netherlands. India?

SUSHIL PAL

Thank you, Marco. I think last time also and this was listed in the issue of importance and matter is still not settled yet, if you look at the GAC communiqué last year, it was there in the issue, I mean whatever issue of importance. The ICP-2 was listed and the multi-stakeholder path for recognition and the re-recognition as well as the objective criteria for evaluation of any RIR performance. I think it was there in the last communiqué. I think since we haven't reached anywhere, I think it would be good to repeat somewhat a similar text, keeping in view the fact because as Fabien said, it helps us to keep a watch on the issues on which we need to keep a watch out in the future.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, India, and I'm perfectly okay with that. So let me get a sense of the temperature in the room in that regard. Anybody against? I don't see any hand so we're good. We're okay with that. So, thank you so much.

All right, so let me handle the floor back to you, Fabien, in order to walk us through the sections that we need to cover from this point on.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

So, I think we want to make sure that we start with the most substantive parts, so we usually start with issues of importance. If there is no proposal to discuss at the moment, one practice is to potentially break the session and allow topic leads and any proponent of work on text and provide that opportunity to have the time to do so. And reconvene when we are aware that there is text available.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Perfect, we can do that, of course. I just wanted to make sure that, what I mean is that we can read you know the parts for which we already have text and then maybe break. I mean, I'm okay either way, but again, I'm in your hands. I see a hand from the USA. Please, go ahead, Susan.

SUSAN CHALMERS

Thank you. Check. Check one. Check two. Oh, sorry about that. Susan Chalmers, United States. To the extent that we can use some of this time to have discussions amongst different representatives off mic on different areas of emerging text, I think that would be useful. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much USA. The floor is still open. Australia?

IAN SHELTON

I just support Susan's comment and perhaps if the room is amenable, we could ask for a show of hands for who's interested in talking to which topic so we know which groups should coalesce and work. I think sometimes we try and do this via email, but we have a reasonably small cohort here today, so perhaps we can start forming some of those groups. And if there are online participants, we can work through a remote option as well through that ad hoc group formation.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

I agree. I agree wholeheartedly, but the main point right now is, do we have anything to start with?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Well, substantively, very little. And so, it's probably a good option at the moment to break, to do the show of hands that Ian was suggesting per topic, so we can start with domain name registration data [inaudible - 00:27:27].

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Fabien. So, let's go ahead, Ian. Sorry, yes, go ahead.



SUSAN CHALMERS

Forgive me if I did not intervene earlier, but on the topic of DNS abuse texts, the topic co-leads have drafted initial texts, so we're making good headway, and we can discuss that during the break. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Perfect. So, you think we'll have that text in the next, let's say, 10 minutes or something, or it will take longer than that?

SUSAN CHALMERS

I suggest that we just move forward, and it will come as soon as we can get it to you. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Perfect. Thank you very much USA. Australia?

IAN SHELDON

I think in a similar vein, I'd be curious about who's drafting the registration data section, who's got lead on that, and perhaps a status update on the drafting. Canada?

DAVID BEDARD

Sorry, this is David Bedard from Canada, and I couldn't quite figure out how to put my digital hand up, but yes, it's in train. It's going that the small team on registration data is working and we're drafting. It's certainly not ready now to be shared, but it should be in short order. Thanks.

IAN SHELDON

David, what are the other topics we have in this section currently underway and who has lead on drafting them? Perhaps scroll down. Next round and applicant support. Do we have some text underway for this point?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

On that one, Tracy had indicated that the underserved regions working group and the topic leads on the next round are currently working on text. So, I understand that that's going on. The UDRP review was proposed as a topic by WIPO, although the session that we'll discuss this matter will only occur tomorrow so we don't expect text today. It will come tomorrow. And on ICP-2, we understand that India is going to propose text.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

What is number six, though? I see only issue.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

It's a placeholder.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Ah, okay. Okay, and we certainly don't have any text yet in Section 5, right? Consensus, advice, as far as I know, right?

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- FABIEN BETREMIEUX      We do not have text nor indication that advice text is being prepared.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO      Okay. Perfect. Can you scroll down a little bit in order to see if we have anything in section six? This, if I understood correctly, India, Sushil, this is more or less what you mentioned before, or I got it wrong? Ah, okay, okay. Yeah, it was an advice. Yeah, it was under issues of importance, right? So, okay.
- GULTEN TEPE      This is Gulten speaking, Nico. We have Netherlands on the queue.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO      Yeah, Marco, please go ahead.
- MARCO HOGEWONING      Thank you, Nico. I'm speaking as vice chair slash caretaker, I guess, of this topic. There is some ideas I know around the room to maybe mention the discussion we had with the Root Server System Advisory Committee, but it's still very premature. But just to give people a heads up that we might show up with some text in the next 24 hours. If anybody has a keen interest in that particular point, please, send me an email.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Netherlands, well noted. Okay, so back to you Fabien. Maybe we can start reading the parts for which we already have text, however bureaucratic that might sound.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

I think that's a choice, and we need to arbitrate between the two choices of giving time to the topic list to generate text, and then reconvening and reading what the text we have, or starting to read text at the moment. It's really a call to make.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, so let's break right now. Let's take a break and what's the time now? 10 to 2:00, right? So, unless you tell me you want to break for good, have the session with the board and only then, you know, resume this discussion, what should we do? I'm in your hands. We're in your hands.

IAN SHELDON

I'd encourage breaking, but please use the time constructively. Grab coffee, but form small working groups and work through the text. I think let's make use of the time, let's have conversations and exchange of views and see if we can come back with some submissions for this document. So, I think let's see if we can draft in small groups as much as we can during this time.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO

So, I would say, you know, let's have a 20-minute break and come back at, let's say, 2:10 in order to have 10 or 15 minutes to discuss I mean, before the break for the session with the board. Would that be okay for everyone? Are we okay? And I see some nodding in the room. Okay, so let's break now and come back at 2:10. Thank you very much.

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Go ahead, please, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Julia. Welcome back, everyone. I hope this 20 extra minutes for internal conversations and deliberations, you know, was enough for everyone. It is my understanding, Benedetta, Fabien, and I stand to be corrected, but we already have some text to read at this point in order to have something substantive before we break for the session with the board. Is that the case?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

We have started gathering and filling text in the first few sections of the communiqué so there's certainly text to read. It's not complete yet, but there is some text to read.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, so let's start right there. I'll be doing the reading along with my distinguished colleague from Australia. So, if you can get to that

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part, please. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, we can start with the introduction and then we get to the part for which we already have text. So it would read, number one, introduction, the Governmental Advisory Committee, GAC, of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, made in Mumbai, India, in a hybrid setting, including remote participation from 7 to 12 March 2026.

For the interpreters, is the speed good, bad? Show me thumbs up or down. Are we okay? Because you have the text in any case over there, just in case, right? Okay, perfect.

Well, X number of GAC members and X number of observers attended the meeting. Of course, we will put the numbers later on. The GAC meeting was conducted as part of the ICANN85 community forum. All GAC plenary and working group sessions were conducted as open meetings.

The Governmental Advisory Committee mourns the loss of Suzanne Riddell – oh, my God, she died? A long-time Senior Policy Advisor with the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, who beginning in 2003, served as the U.S. government's GAC representative for more than 15 years.

Suzanne was highly respected within the ICANN community, forged strong relationships with ICANN colleagues around the world, and

worked closely with government representatives to champion ICANN policies that protected the public interest.

When thorny issues arose in the GAC, Suzanne would convene side meetings with colleagues to brainstorm constructive paths forward to achieve consensus. Suzanne will be remembered as a consummate leader who inspired others with her dedication, wit, and commitment to multi-stakeholder internet governance.

She is keenly missed by many in the ICANN community who were fortunate enough to know her, including me, of course. She was a very good friend. So, I assume this is not controversial at all. Anybody would like to add anything or change anything at this point this is a good moment to say so. I don't see any hand online or in the room. Ah, please go ahead, Deolindo.

DEOLINDO COSTA

Thank you very much. I'll be speaking in Portuguese. In the first paragraph, I think that our colleague from Portugal made a comment, but the change that is introduced still repeats. It was saying hybrid setting, including remote participation. I think that there is no need of including remote participation when you mention remote.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much.

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DEOLINDO COSTA

No, on the following, yes.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Yeah, You're right. Good catch again. Thank you very much, Deolindo. Okay, so we're apparently in agreement here. So, for the next paragraph, I'll give the floor to Australia. Please go ahead, Ian.

IAN SHELTON

I'll skip the board meeting as that's to come shortly. Meeting with the At-Large Advisory Committee, ALAC. The GAC met with members of the ALAC and discussed linguistic inclusion, Latin Script Diacritics, DNS abuse, government expectations, and end-user harm, Applicant Support Program, ASP, WSIS+20 and global digital governance processes. Next section.

Meeting with the Address Supporting Organization, ASO. The GAC met with members of the ASO and discussed revisions to the governance document for the recognition, operation, and derecognition of regional internet registries. Next section.

Meeting with the Internet Engineering Task Force, which I might skip given we haven't had that meeting yet. Meeting with the Generic Name Supporting Organization. The GAC met with members of the GNSO Council and discussed DNS abuse, Registration Data Request Service, RDRS, and Standardized System for Access and Disclosure, SSAD. Urgent requests for disclosure of registration data, Human Rights Impact Assessment, HRIA. Next section.



Meeting with the Root Server System Advisory Committee, RSSAC. The GAC met with members of the RSSAC leadership and discussed the role of the RSSAC and the DNS root server system more generally.

Cross-community discussions. GAC members participated in relevant cross-community sessions scheduled as part of ICANN85, including sessions to be finalized. Any comments on the sections just read out?

NICOLAS CABALLERO

And I have a hand from Egypt. Manal, please go ahead.

MANAL ISMAIL

Thank you, Nico and Ian. Just a quick question on the part that's been strived through on the Review of Reviews. Any reason why we are skipping reporting on this session?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Manal. This is Fabien speaking. So, I think we need to clarify if this is a report of an inter-constituency activity or if it's a report on a GAC internal activity. So, it's more a matter of where we put it as opposed to not reporting on it. Does that make sense?

MANAL ISMAIL

Yes, it does and in fact, it's a good question. It was initially suggested on the schedule as a bilateral with the co-chairs of the cross-community group. Unfortunately, Chris and Avri, both were

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conflicted. We couldn't be the three of us at all, the bilateral, so we had to divide them among us. So, I'm not sure. Initially, it was a bilateral, but it ended up more of an internal session. Anyway, if it's just the place of it, I'm okay.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

So, in terms of whether --

MANAL ISMAIL

Maybe we can leave it as a bilateral. I'm sorry, Fabien, I interrupted you. Go ahead.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

I was going to suggest that depending on whether it's an inter-constituency activity or an internal matter, so it can affect the nature of the discussion of the issue. So usually if it's an inter-constituency activity, we only report the topics that are discussed. If it is an internal matter, we usually have a bit more flexibility and we could discuss a bit more the substance, so that could affect your preference, Manal, in terms of where that should be stated.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

So, in that regard, Manal, what would you suggest?

MANAL ISMAIL

I see a hand from Jorge. Maybe we can hear from him first, and then --

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay. Switzerland, please, go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO

And Jorge Cancio, Switzerland for the record. So, thanks very much to Manal for raising this. Actually, I think the presentation that Manal and Tracy made was really on behalf of the reviews, CCG. So I would keep it where it is because, at least to me, it wasn't an internal matter. It was really an inter-constituency reporting and discussion. So, I would leave it as it is now.

And apart from that, what we may have to consider is whether there is substance to have some issue of importance. I don't know. It depends a little bit also on the discussion with the board because it's on the agenda with the board. So I would wait and see and it wouldn't be the first time we have something in two different parts of the communiqué. So, we would have it here just to reflect that we had this inter-constituency meeting and if there's substance, we could have it may be under issues of importance, hope that is helpful. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Switzerland. Would that be okay for Egypt and the UPU?

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MANAL ISMAIL

Yes, I'm fine. It was definitely scheduled as a bilateral, so it's good to have it under the bilateral. If GAC colleagues are comfortable with some messages as an issue of importance to the GAC, I'm also happy to provide today's intervention with the board as an initial text. If GAC colleagues are fine with it, we can put it on the ratios of importance to the GAC after working on the language, of course. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Egypt. For the time being, let's leave it just there. Rest assured that we'll have five more communiqué drafting sessions. So, we'll have, you know, plenty of time to decide exactly where to put it. So this is a non-controversial issue, I would say so let's park it there and move on for the sake of time. Again, thank you, UPU, Switzerland, and Egypt. Fabien, let's move on.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

So, then we can move on to internal matters, and we have a few sections that are ready here that have content, starting with GAC membership and GAC election.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

All right, so I'll go ahead with that. So, number three, internal matters. One, GAC membership. There are currently 184 GAC member states and territories, and 41 observer organizations.

Two, GAC elections. The 2026 election process for GAC chair will be initiated shortly after the ICANN85 meeting. The initial nomination

period will close on 24 April 2026. If needed, a voting process will be conducted from 18 May to 10 June 2026, ending during the ICANN86 meeting, at which time the election results will be announced. The term of the next GAC chair will start at the end of ICANN87 for a duration of two years, renewable twice.

Three, GAC leadership. Can you scroll down a little bit, please? The GAC thanks its outgoing vice-chairs, Thiago Dal-Toe, Colombia, and Christine Arida, Egypt, for their valuable support and contribution to the GAC during two one-year terms.

The end of the ICANN85 meeting marks the start of a new term for the incoming GAC vice-chairs to last until the close of ICANN90 in October 2027. Ian Sheldon, Australia, Zeina Bou Harb, Lebanon, Marco Hogewoning, the Netherlands, Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, and Gloria Katuuku, Uganda.

So, I'll stop here, but again, this is non-controversial, unless you tell me otherwise, of course, but show me thumbs up or nodding or whatever in order to see if we can move on. And I see lots of nodding in the room. Again, non-controversial whatsoever. So, let's move on. Fabien, back to you.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

So then, as part of the Working Group reports, we have the underserved regions working group report that's available. So, if we scroll down, yeah.

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IAN SHELTON

GAC Underserved Regions Working Group, USRWG. The GAC Underserved Regions Working Group, USRWG, continued its efforts to promote the effective participation of governments from underserved and developing regions within the ICANN ecosystem.

The Working Group focuses on identifying barriers that limit participation in ICANN policy development processes and exploring practical measures to strengthen engagement, capacity development, and representation of governments from underserved regions.

On day one of ICANN85, the USRWG facilitated two capacity development sessions on the next round of new gTLDs. NxR focused on NxR readiness, including application timeline, publicly available information, different gTLD application types, actions GAC members and observers can take on new gTLD applications. Resources available to support the GAC, community and applicants.

Overview of key issues and developments related to the Registry Service Provider, RSP, program and the Applicant Support Program, ASP, to prepare GAC members for the upcoming Facility Day Dialogue at ICANN86 on the relationship between these programs.

The Working Group discussed ongoing initiatives to support awareness and participation of governments from developing regions in key ICANN policy processes. The working group will continue to collaborate with other GAC working groups and the

ICANN community to advance initiatives that enhance inclusivity and meaningful participation of underserved regions in ICANN activities.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Australia. Comments? Thoughts? Anything we would need to change at this point? Okay, I don't see any hand in the room or online, which means we can move on. And again, rest assured, if we need to go back and check, we'll have five more communiqué drafting sessions, so no worries. Let's move on, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Next section is a high-level government meeting, and this is a section we've proposed to reflect the GAC discussion of the next HLGM.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, so I'll read it. Number five, high-level government meeting, HLGM. The GAC welcomes the invitation from the Sultanate of Oman to take part in the next high-level government meeting, HLGM, in Muscat on 18 October 2026.

This meeting will be held during the ICANN87 annual general meeting scheduled for 17-23 October 2026, offering potential opportunities for high-level participation throughout the ICANN meeting.

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The GAC discussed topics of interest to be considered in the agenda of the HLGM, which will be developed in collaboration between GAC and the host, with the support of ICANN's government engagement team. A GAC webinar is expected to be scheduled intersessionally to continue these discussions and ensure that a draft agenda can be shared with invitations to be sent before ICANN86 in Seville.

Now, one thing I wanted to mention at this point is that if we make a reference to ICANN86 being in Seville, maybe before we should do the same for consistency, because we have already talked about ICANN86 and ICANN87, and this is the first time we're referencing Seville. I don't know, it's just a detail, but, you know, for the sake of consistency, but, again, not anything, yeah, substantive. Just an observation.

So let me stop here in order to see if there are comments or questions because as a matter of fact, we need to wrap up right now. We're right in time for the coffee break before the meeting with the board.

So, if there are not substantive comments at this point, I suggest we wrap up here and take the coffee break and be back in the room at, let me see, yeah, at 3:00 PM. Any hand in the room or online? That not being the case, okay, so let's stop here. Please be back in the room at 3:00 PM for the meeting with the board. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**