
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – GAC Opening Plenary
Saturday, March 7, 2026 – 09:00 to 10:00 IST

GULTEN TEPE

Welcome to the ICANN85 GAC Opening Plenary Session on Saturday, 7th of March at 9:00 AM local time. Please note that this 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 this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted in the proper form in the Zoom chatbot. Interpretation for this session will include all six UN languages and Portuguese.

If you would like to speak during this 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. I'll now hand the floor over to GAC Chair, Nicolas Caballero. Thank you. Over to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Gulden. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening for those online. Distinguished GAC representatives, ladies and gentlemen, it is a profound honor for me, as the GAC Chair, to welcome you to the ICANN85 Community Forum in

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Mumbai, this beautiful city of dreams and the financial heartbeat of India.

As we gather here, we're reminded of the immense historical and intellectual legacy of this great nation. India has long been a beacon of mathematical and scientific brilliance. We honor the legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan, and I really hope I'm pronouncing the name well, whose intuitive genius basically redefined the boundaries of number theory.

And we also celebrate the strategic mastery of Viswanathan Anand and more recently, Gukesh Dommaraju, and I hope I'm pronouncing the last name well again, who's the youngest ever undisputed world chess champion, crowned at 18. He's now 20, I guess. Also, the youngest winner of the candidate's tournament who placed India at the pinnacle of the global chess world.

Mumbai's own history is a tapestry of global intersections. We reflect on the arrival of Vasco da Gama and the Portuguese explorers, who, more than five centuries ago, opened new maritime routes that transformed global trade and cultural exchange. We also recall the resilience of the local Koli fishing communities and the transformative vision of figures like Jamsetji Tata, who helped shape Mumbai into a modern industrial and technological powerhouse.

Their stories of navigation and innovation somehow mirror our own journey into the multi-stakeholder model, bridging diverse

cultures to build a secure and unified global infrastructure. As the motto goes, one world, one internet.

So, this week, you know, our agenda reflects the critical and evolving priorities of the global community. The GAC will engage in rigorous dialogue on the new gTLD round, you know, ensuring the safe and equitable expansion of the domain name space. DNS abuse mitigation, strengthening our collective defenses against malicious activities, urgent requests and registration data, balancing basically the need for data access with the fundamental right to privacy, universal acceptance and IDNs, emerging topics in technology.

You know, I'm not going to get into the details, but we'll be basically addressing many different issues like the rapid rise of machine learning and Agentic AI, RAGs, retrieval augmented generation, et cetera, and their implications, both positive and negative for the DNS industry as a whole. So these discussions are not merely technical, they are foundational to an internet that remains open, stable, and accessible to all, as we always like to say. So, let us draw inspiration from the collaborative spirit of Mumbai.

And I stand to be corrected here, but, you know, it's a name that I just recently learned comes directly from the Portuguese language, meaning Bombaia originally? Bombaia? Bombaia, Bombay, Mumbai. Anyways, that's what I learned not so long ago. So basically, a city, you know, historically defined by its inclusivity and resilience.

So, in closing, I don't want to make this too long, I look forward to a week of shared success and meaningful progress. And it is now my distinct privilege to give the floor to Mr. Sushil Pal, representing the government of India, for his introductory remarks. Sushil, the floor is yours. Thank you very much.

SUSHIL PAL

Thank you. Thank you, Nico. I'm Sushil, GAC rep from India. A very good morning and namaste to all the delegates and the GAC colleagues who are joining both physically and virtually. And we sincerely miss those colleagues who were not able to travel because of various reasons, which includes either because of some visa issues, as we're told by colleagues of ours, or because of international travel disruptions in a certain part of the world.

A very warm welcome to you all, and as, again, one of my colleagues, when I entered the room, remarked that this is one of the brightest GAC rooms which they have seen. And I hope that in terms of the deliverables also, this comes out to be, this is remembered as one of the brightest GAC meetings and deliberations.

It's a privilege indeed for us to host the 85th community meeting of the ICANN here in Mumbai, which is the metropolis in the western part of the world, the western part of India, and also the financial capital of the country. For the next six days, we shall be participating in the community forum as custodians of a resource that has become so indispensable to the global society. And that is

the internet, whose stability, security, and openness support economic growth, social connections, innovations, and human empowerment around the world.

India hosts ICANN85 meeting at the moment when the global systems in general and the digital ecosystems in particular because of the rise of the emerging technologies like quantum and AI, they are actually undergoing massive transformations. And with more than one billion internet users, 22 scheduled languages, I think we represent for the largest and the most diverse digital population globally.

This scale brings both the challenges and the opportunities for us to advance inclusive access, strengthen ecosystem resilience, foster trust, and ensure digital systems work for all. I shall be covering a few points, you know, just to kind of touch upon maybe a liner or two on the issues which we intend to cover. To begin with, the multi-stakeholder models still remains the most foundational to the internet's sustained growth and resilience.

Today's meeting comes at a time when the global reaffirmations of these principles has never been more important. The Internet continues to evolve, raising complex questions about trust, governance, equity, and innovations that no single stakeholder can address alone.

ICANN85 is also significant in the context of the new gTLD program with the next application round scheduled in a few months from now. These expansions create opportunities for communities,

organizations, cultures, and languages to secure unique identifiers that reflect their identity, purpose, and heritage in the global namespace.

Another important issue is the domain name systems, which remains one of the most critical components of the internet global architecture. Its stability, security, interoperability underpin every digital interaction from browsing a website to connecting a device, application, and services worldwide.

As we navigate into the new era of internet scale and complexity, we must continue to prioritize efforts that enhance DNS security. Linked to the DNS security, we firmly believe that equally important to focus on the various registration data issues like urgent request, accuracy, 15 days window, the privacy and proxy services, et cetera.

Another important issue is universal acceptance, which remains central to the inclusiveness. A truly global internet must be accessible and relevant to the individuals in their own languages and the cultural context. This aligns with the vision of a multilingual internet, where the scripts, languages, and local content are not barriers, but enablers of the participation. We shall be making a presentation on the universal acceptance as well.

As we move deeper into the session this week, let us endeavor to ensure that the outcomes of ICANN85 translate into the tangible progress for the entire internet community. And also, let's endeavor to find innovative ways to expedite the processes and

bring more speed into the deliverables of the GAC and the ICANN as such, so that we can be proud when we go back home of having achieved something very tangible.

While you guys are here, I would strongly encourage you to take out some time and explore Mumbai, which truly represents the spirit of modern India. There is a lot to explore from historical heritage, from its culinary delights, its rich culture, and the street food in the city that never sleeps. I hope you'll all enjoy your stay here.

Once again, on behalf of Government of India, I sincerely welcome all GAC members who have joined in physical as well as virtually and observers. Thank you so much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, India, Sushil. Santosh, anything you would like to add at this point? We're okay? Perfect. So, thank you so much and welcome again, everyone. Can we move, can we go to the next slide, please, Gulden? Let me quickly review, you know, today's session agenda. We're going to be reviewing -- I'll give you some highlights in the first place. Then we'll have a short review of meeting logistics by ICANN GAC support staff. Then we'll have the traditional tour de table for the in-person participants and for the online participants.

And then we'll talk about some notable GAC transitions and activity highlights, including, let me tell you the election of the next GAC chair. You know, we need to start thinking about that, and we'll

talk about the mechanics and the procedures. And then, right afterwards, we'll review very shortly, you know, time permitting, of course, you know, the GAC Communiqué drafting process.

So, without further ado, next slide please, Gulten, this is a block schedule. We're just going to have a quick review because, as everybody knows, we already have three calls, three agenda setting calls. The first one that dealt with the allocation of the session times and so on and so forth. And then we got into details of the contents themselves during the subsequent two agenda-setting calls.

No surprises here. As you can see, for today, after this opening plenary, we'll have a short coffee break, and then we'll be discussing some GAC operational updates, as I said before, including the election of the next GAC chair and the Communiqué drafting process.

And time permitting also, you know, we'll try to review, you know, our possible, you know, eventually more meaningful participation in the whole NomCom process. Again, the floor is open for discussions. I'm not saying we will do that, only that we will be discussing, you know, that topic.

Then we'll have the meeting with the ASO, lunch, universal acceptance discussion starting at 1:15 right after lunch. Then a coffee break at 2:30, and then we'll have two capacity development sessions. The first one at 3 o'clock, PM, on the Next Round. Actually, both of them are on the Next Round and you'll learn about

the details as the sessions go. So the second capacity development session, again, on Next Round, ends at 5:30 PM, and that will be all for today.

Everybody's got a copy of this block schedule, so I don't really think we need to go over the full week. We don't need to review that, given the fact that we have already done that twice during the two agenda setting calls, unless you want me to do it, of course.

So, at this point, any questions regarding the block schedule? Okay, I don't see any hand in the room. And just again to make sure everybody's got a copy of the block schedule. Okay, next slide please, Gulten.

And for this part of the presentation, I'll give the floor to -- I can go ahead, no problem, no problem. You know, let's say the notable agenda highlights at this point, you know, the format of this meeting, you know, for ICANN85 Mumbai is a community forum. We'll be talking about some -- as I said before, you know, I don't want to repeat everything again, but we'll be talking about registration data, you know, RDRS, accuracy, DNS abuse mitigation, Next Round.

So, this is a little bit redundant because it's also part of the block schedule that was circulated before. So, I don't really think we need to repeat unless there's any kind of question, unless there's any doubt in the room. But again, you know, I could refer you to

the block schedule where, you know, everything was circulated a while ago in detail.

Then we'll be talking about our readiness, you know, the GAC Readiness for the Next Round of New gTLDs, and again, this is going to be part of the capacity building sessions. And again, the focus here will be the Next Round of New gTLDs for obvious reasons, right? It is my understanding that the launch will be in April around the 26th, 27th, and I stand to be corrected here, I don't remember. 21st, is it? Well, anyways, it's going to be in April, and again, I stand to be corrected, I don't remember the exact date.

And another Review of Reviews, you know, attention in the GAC and among the full ICANN community and stakeholder groups. We're having bilateral as everybody knows, and again, this is in the block schedule, you know, with the ICANN board. You know, bilaterals with the ASO, ALAC, GNSO, and RSAC, Root Server Security Advisory Committee. This is for the benefit of the new GAC representatives who might not be familiar with the acronyms.

And then, you know, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we'll be developing, you know, the Communiqué Drafting. By the way, let me tell you that you can send whatever text, you know, you might want to have included in the Communiqué right now. You know, as we speak, more than welcome to contribute, you know, whatever ideas or suggestions you might have in that regard. And that's about it. Am I forgetting anything, Ian? That's pretty much what we're going to be doing.

So now, at this point, now we're going to be talking about logistics, you know, and some housekeeping details and so on and so forth. And for that, let me give the floor to GAC staff. I don't know, will you go ahead, Gulden? Okay, so thank you. Gulden, the floor is all yours.

GULTEN TEPE

Thank you, Nico. I'll provide a brief overview of meeting logistics and details regarding some technical capabilities. Please make sure that you have updated your version of Zoom and all the features are available to you. If you're experiencing an issue that might be related to an outdated version of the Zoom application, present here in Mumbai or joining us remotely, all attendees should raise hand via Zoom. That would help our chair, Nico, to manage the queue effectively.

Regarding the calendar mutations, if you recall, I shared invites for each GAC session earlier this week. You may want to check those invites as you would find links to GAC website and ICANN meetings page for each respective session. I will not be updating the calendar mutations with Zoom links as this is advised by our ENIT team. So please check ICANN meetings page to access the remote connection details.

And under the introduction part on the ICANN85, Agenda page on GAC website, you may find very valuable resources, materials, and reports, including GAC logistics documents. You may want to

review this reference guide if you're a new or experienced GAC participant. I'll share the link in the chat so you can take a peek.

And a couple of notes for in-person attendees. Seats at the tables with microphones are only for GAC delegation members. Other community members are always welcome to join the GAC sessions, but we would much appreciate if they could take the seats on the side of the room and leaving the seats on the tables to GAC community members.

Additionally, seats will be reserved in the front rows for some sessions, including the joint meetings with ALAC, ICANN Board, GNSO, and so on. And please note that circulation of written materials in GAC room is not allowed. And with that, I'll hand the floor back to you, Nico. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Gulten. So, before we start with the tour de table, is there anything, you know, any of my distinguished vice chairs would like to say at this point, either online or in the room? I don't see any hand on line. Yeah, all good.

Okay, so we'll start with the tour de table. We'll start with the -- I mean, you're more than welcome to introduce yourselves and share any short comments or statements you would like to make at this point. Please keep it short and sweet for the sake of time, obviously.

We'll start with introductions on the tour de table with our representatives here in the room and then we'll continue with the online participants. So, let's start on the right and I have the U.S. delegation, if I'm not mistaken. To my right, Gabe, would you like to go ahead first?

GABRIEL ANDREWS

Hello, Gabriel Andrews. I'm with the U.S. government and also co-chair of the Public Safety Working Group.

SUSAN CHALMERS

Good morning, colleagues. My name is Susan Chalmers, and I serve as the GAC representative for the United States. I work in the Office of Policy and International Affairs at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which is an agency that sits within the United States Department of Commerce. The United States thanks India for hosting ICANN85 and we look forward to a meaningful and productive meeting.

OWEN FLETCHER

Hi, I am Owen Fletcher, also working at NTIA. I am the U.S. GAC alternate representative. Thanks.

WILLIAM RAU

Good morning, everybody. My name is William Rau. I am new on Susan and Owen's team at NTIA. Thanks.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER Hello, good morning. I'm Ana Neves, and I'm the delegate for Portugal.

SUSHIL PAL Good morning, everyone, again. I'm Sushil Pal, GAC nominee from India. We heartily welcome you again in this Mumbai city. Thank you.

T. SANTHOSH Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, colleagues. I am T. Santosh, alternate GAC representative from India. Welcome.

DAVID BEDARD Good morning, everybody. Nice to see you. My name is David Bedard. I'm the GAC rep for the Government of Canada. And thank you, India, for hosting this meeting in such a beautiful venue. It's good to be here. Thank you.

LOURINO CHEMANE Good morning. My name is Lourino Chemane. I'm the GAC representative FOR Mozambique. I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the Government of India for organizing this event. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER	Good morning. I'm [inaudible - 00:23:54] from the Ministry of Technology and Communication, Lao PDR.
SAYSOMVANG SOUVANNAVONG	Good morning, my name is Saysomvang Souvannavong. I'm the GAC representative from Laos. I work at the Ministry of Technology and Communications of Laos. Thank you.
YURIY MATSYK	Good morning, I'm Yuri Matsyk, I represent Ukraine's government. Thank you.
INGRAM NIBLOCK	Good morning, everyone, my name is Ingram Niblock and I'm the GAC alternative representative for Australia.
KAREL DOUGLAS	Good morning, everybody. My name is Karel Douglas. I am the GAC representative for Trinidad and Tobago. I work at the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, and it's a wonderful pleasure to be here in the wonderful, beautiful city of Mumbai.
SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI	Good morning, everyone. My name is Sasho Dimitrijoski, representing Macedonian government.

ABDALMONEM GALILA Yeah, good morning. I'm Abdalmonem Galila, the Director of Numbering at the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt and also GAC Alternative Representative for Egypt. Thank you.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE Good morning, everyone. My name is Nigel Cassimire. I'm GAC Alternative Representative for the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, which is the intergovernmental organization for Caribbean territories and observer member of the GAC. Thanks to the Government of India for hosting us here in Mumbai. Thank you.

SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ Hello. Hello, everyone. My name is Saša Kovačević, coming from Serbia, GAC Serbia. I work in office for IT & eGovernment. And compliments to the host, and it's a pleasure to be here. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER Good morning. I'm [inaudible - 00:25:52], GAC representative from Liberia.

DJIKOLMBAIBET KENNEDY Djikolmbaibet Kennedy, I represent Chad. Thank you.

KAMMIRI SOUROUMPO I am Kammiri Souroumpo, and I represent Niger at the GAC.

GLORIA KATUUKU Good morning, everyone. My name is Katuuku Gloria, GAC Representative Uganda.

HAZEM HEZZAH Good morning, everyone. My name is Hazem Hezzah and I'm representing the League of Arab States. Thank you.

VINCENT ROBERTS Good morning, everyone. My name is Vincent Roberts, representing Grenada on the GAC. I'm also the chairman of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. Thank you.

PHILIPPE KOUAME Good morning, everyone. My name is Philippe. I'm the GAC representative from Cote d'Ivoire.

MARLENE STRAUB Good morning, everyone. I'm Marlene Straub from Germany. I'm the GAC alternate. This is my first ICANN meeting and thank you for the Indian host for the hospitality so far.

SHAFIUL AZAM PARVEZ Good morning, everyone. My name is Shafiul Azam. I'm GAC representative from Bangladesh and this is my third GAC meeting and welcome to the host and thanks from Bangladesh for the

hosting such a nice and wonderful present GAC community forum.
Thank you.

ABOUBAKRY KANE

Good morning, everyone, I will speak in French. Aboubakry Kane. I am the advisor for the Senegal delegation and I represent the telecommunications regulation authority for Senegal.

DEOLINDO COSTA

Good morning, everyone, I speak in Portuguese. I'm Deolindo Costa, I'm sorry, I represent São Tomé and Príncipe.

KHALED ALTARHUNI

Good morning, everyone. My name is Khaled, GAC Libya. I'd like to thank the government of India for their efforts in hosting ICANN85. Thank you.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS

Good morning, everyone, this is Marina Flego Eiras from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, and the GAC Alternate Representative from Argentina. I would like to thank our Indian colleagues for welcoming us in Mumbai, and I look forward to having fruitful conversations during this week. Thank you.

IGNACIO DANIEL VELÁZQUEZ Good morning, everyone. My name is Ignacio Velázquez and I'm a GAC representative from Paraguay. Thank you.

'ESAU LM TUPOU Good morning, everyone. I'm 'Esau Tupou from Tonga, Alternative GAC from the Ministry of MEIDECC. Lovely to be here, Government of India. Thank you.

HOUÉGNON GEOFFROY Hello, everyone. My name is Geoffroy Bonou and I represent Benin. BONOU And I'm a technical advisor at the Ministry of Digitalization.

REVAI MUKURUBA Good morning, everyone. I'm Revai Mukuruba from Zimbabwe. I'm a GAC representative. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER Hello, as-salamu alaykum and very good morning to everyone. I'm Azizi, representing Alternate GAC Representative from Malaysia, working at the Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission under the Ministry of Communication Malaysia. Thanks.

SUADA HADZOVIC Good morning to everybody. My name is Suada Hadzovic. I am GAC Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I am also a co-chair

of Human Rights Impact International Law Working Group. It is nice to be in incredible India.

GIACOMO MAZZONE

Thank you. Giacomo Mazzone, WBU. I am also co-chair of the Human Rights Working Group.

GUILHERME CANELA

Good morning, everyone. My name is Guilherme Canela. I'm a director in UNESCO, and I think our status is kind of international observers to the GAC. And here we are interacting in different fronts. One is universal acceptance. The other is the connections with the WISIS, and also discussing with the Human Rights Group, the UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators. Thanks for India for hosting us. A pleasure to be here.

TOMONORI MIYAMOTO

Good morning, everyone. I'm Tomonori Miyamoto from Japan. I'm from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan. And I'm pleased to be here and I'd like to thank the government of India for hosting. Thank you.

KAZUKI IMAO

Hello, everyone. This is Kazuki Imao, also from Japan and I'm very looking forward to a fruitful time. Thank you.

KEN-YING TSENG	Hello everyone, my name is Ken-Ying, I'm a GAC Representative from Chinese Taipei. Nice to see all the friends here.
WEN-FONG TSEN	Good morning, everyone. I'm Wen-Fong and I'm the GAC representative from Chinese Taipei and I work at the Ministry of Digital Affairs. Thank you.
UNKNOWN SPEAKER	Good morning, everyone. This is [inaudible – 31:57], and I also serve in the Ministry of Digital Affairs in Chinese Taipei. Thank you.
TZUO CHUAN CHIOU	Good morning, everyone. My name is Tzu Chuan Chiou, also from Chinese Taipei.
NICOLAS CABALLERO	And that's all we have in the room. One thing, could you please repeat which country you are from, because I didn't hear well. Your country, could you...? You're the GAC representative of which country? Sorry for pointing at you, but --
KHALED ALTARHUNI	GAC Libya.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Libya. Okay, okay. Sorry, sorry, I just didn't hear. Thank you so much for that. So, everybody had the chance to introduce himself or herself at this point, right? So, let's go ahead with the -- ah, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. You're right next to me. Please, go ahead.

IAN SHELDON

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. My name is Ian Sheldon. I'm the Australian GAC representative and one of the current GAC vice chairs. It's a pleasure to be with you all here. I'd like to thank our very generous hosts, the Indian government, for welcoming us to your colorful, vibrant, and beautiful city. I'm very much looking forward to a productive and collegiate week with you all here. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Australia, and my apologies again. I was looking at the room, you know, in order to make sure that everybody was, and I didn't see you. So once again, just want to make sure before we go with the ones online, everybody had the chance to introduce himself or herself at this point? Okay, so let's go online, and let me begin with the queue. I have Switzerland. Please go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO

Hello, hello, everyone. I hope you're hearing me okay. This is Jorge Cancio from Switzerland. I'm very, very sorry not to be joining you there in Mumbai. That was my definite plan, but I had some visa

issues, I would call them, all my fault. So, my apologies and my apologies to our very generous hosts, our friends from the Indian government, I would like to join you there. So, hope nevertheless to be able to participate in a fruitful meeting. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Switzerland. Next, I have Egypt.

MANAL ISMAIL

Hello, everyone. My name is Manal Ismail, Egypt GAC representative, working with the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt. My thanks to India for hosting this meeting in Mumbai, which I'm very sorry to miss attending in person due to the circumstances in the region. And I look forward to participating online and wish everyone a successful year. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Egypt. Thank you, Manal. I have Colombia next.

THIAGO DAL-TOE

Hello, everyone. Good evening here from Colombia. My name is Thiago Dal-Toe. I'm an advisor at the Ministry of ICT of Colombia, also one of the outgoing vice chairs. I'm very sorry for not being there, but I do hope to see you guys very soon. Thank you so much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. I have Lebanon next.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Good morning, everyone. This is Zeina Bou Harb, GAC Alternate from Lebanon. I'm sorry because I couldn't make it to Mumbai due to the current situation in the region and the war in Lebanon. Looking forward to the discussions in the coming days. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Lebanon. I have Timor-Leste next.

JOSE LAY

Good morning, everyone. This is Jose Lay, GAC rep, Timor-Leste. I look forward to a productive meeting as usual. Thank you. Namaste.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. I have Switzerland next again.

LUCAS PRÊTRE

Hello, everyone. I hope you hear me well. I will speak in French. Hello, everyone. My name is Lucas Prêtre. I am delighted to be with you online from Switzerland. I work at the Federal Office of Communications. I am a member of the Swiss delegation within the GAC. I am an engineer in telecommunications. My main work is on first-level internet.ch for Switzerland. I am certain that we will have a very fruitful week here in Mumbai. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Switzerland. I have Indonesia next.

ASHWIN

SASONGKO

SASTROSUBROTO

Thank you. Good morning, everybody. My name is Ashwin Sasongko Sastrosubroto from the Indonesia Natural City Council. So, I will follow the program from Indonesia, from Bandung in Jakarta. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Indonesia. Netherlands, please.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Good morning, colleagues. My name is Marco Hogewoning. I work for the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands and the GAC representative for the country. I'm also one of the GAC vice chairs. From a supporter in the Netherlands, I'd like to thank India for hosting this meeting and I'm very sad we were unable to join you in person due to the circumstances. Have a good meeting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Netherlands. I have the European Commission next.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Thank you, Nico. Good morning, everyone. This is Gemma Carolillo. I am the GAC representative for the European Commission, the Director General for Content Networks and Technologies. And I wish everyone a productive meeting.

Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to join you in person, but I am sure we'll be able, as we have seen in other occasions, to fully participate online. Thank you, everyone.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Gemma. I have Egypt next.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Good morning, everyone. My name is Christine Arida. I work for the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt, and I am an alternate GAC representative for Egypt. I'm also a -- this is my last meeting as GAC vice chair. I'm so sorry to be missing the meeting with everyone due to the war in the region, but I'm happy to be participating with you online and wish you a successful meeting. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Egypt. European Commission again. Please, go ahead.

MARTINA BARBERO

Thank you very much. Good morning, everybody from Brussels. This is Martina Barbero from the European Commission. I'm a GAC alternate and also DNS abuse topic lead alongside my colleagues from the United States and Japan. I'm very excited for this meeting, thanks to the Indian host.

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- NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you, Martina. I have the Russian Federation next.
- VIACHESLAV EROKHIN Good morning, colleagues. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin and I am an alternative representative for the Russian Federation.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you, Russia. Next, I have, and I can't get to see the name of the country. Let me check. Oh, Brazil, please, go ahead.
- LAURIANNE MARIE SCHIPPERS Thank you. I'm Laurianne Marie Schippers. I'm a GAC delegate for Brazil and I'm an advisor to the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you, Brazil. I have Switzerland next. Lucas, Switzerland?
- LUKAS CHRISTOPHER FÜEG Yes, do you hear me? Hi there.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO Yes, yes, go ahead.
- LUKAS CHRISTOPHER FÜEG It's Lukas Füeg with the GAC Switzerland. Hi to everyone. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, wherever you are. I'm

here, yes, in Switzerland, looking forward for a productive meeting. And although I can't join in person and thank you to India for hosting the meeting. And I wish you a lot of fun for those who are there.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much, Switzerland. I have the Netherlands next.

MAAIKE VEENSTRA Hi, good morning, everyone. My name is Maaïke Veenstra. I'm the GAC alternate for the Netherlands and I'm looking forward to a productive meeting.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you, Netherlands and finally, I have Myanmar.

MYO SWE Thank you, Nico. Good morning, everyone. My name Myo Swe. I am GAC representative of Myanmar. I will participate remotely. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much and that's all we have so far. Correct me if I'm wrong, Julia, Benedetta, no more? We're good? Anybody else just like -- ?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

We have Denmark on the line.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Denmark? All right. Denmark. Ah, Finn. Sorry, I didn't see your hand. Please go ahead, Denmark.

FINN PETERSEN

Hello, good morning. It is Finn Petersen from Copenhagen. I am working for the Danish government. Thank you very much and sorry not to be able to come to Mumbai.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Denmark. So again, just to make sure that we're okay with the introductions in the room and online? Okay, perfect. So, thank you so much.

Just remember, whatever you would like to say, you know, at this point, we usually do it, whatever declaration or short, you know, speech or whatever comment or anything you would like to say, this is the right time, provided it's short and sweet and straight to the point, of course.

Okay, so now it's time to talk and we still have 15 minutes so we're doing perfectly fine in terms of timing. So, let's talk about some notable GAC transitions. You know, at this point we're welcoming 19 new GAC delegates that is since ICANN84. The turnover is really, really high in the GAC and that's why I keep, you know, translating the acronyms and some things we take for granted you know.

I mean, I remember I had a hard time when I first started in the GAC like what are they talking about? Is it some kind of different language or something? So many acronyms. So again, for the benefit of the new representatives, we'll be translating those acronyms and their actual meanings in ICANN-is language, which I will translate to English.

So, we now have 184 members. We're 10 short. How many United Nations members are there? 194? We're 10 shorter than the United Nations, if I'm not mistaken, right? I stand to be corrected, but my recollection is that there are 194 or maybe 195 recognized countries, recognized, that is, by the United Nations, right, around the world. So, the GAC has 184 members and 41 observers at this point.

A housekeeping detail, you know, a reminder to join, you know, you see the email address there, join GAC at ICANN.org, you know, for the new ticketing system, for all delegation updates. That's very important.

You know, taking into account, and this is an important detail, that we're going to have, I mean, you're going to have to choose the next GAC chair, you know, right after this meeting, right after ICANN85. And the voting period will go, and I stand to be corrected, Rob, please help me out here, is going to be till the end of April, more or less.

So that's why it is very important for you to join that mailing list in order to make sure that the voting delegates are registered

properly and that you're actually going to be able to vote, which is the main point, but we'll talk about that later. So anyways, that's the whole idea and many other things for the new ticketing system.

There's also, you know, the joint capability activated for all GAC reps and we'll get to the details again later on. Like polling, you know, polls and all that kind of stuff and many other details that are going to be shared a little bit later on.

This is an important thing as well. As you heard from Christina Arida from Egypt and from Tiago from Colombia, you know, we thank you at this point, our departing GAC vice chairs. It's a pity that we cannot do that face to face and shaking hands and looking in the eye and so on and so forth, but anyways, you know, these are very special circumstances. I don't need to get to the details, but, you know, traveling and the flight cancellations and whole array of different kinds of problems.

I myself, you know, barely got here yesterday morning right in time for the meeting with the board, straight from the airport to the meeting, jet lagged, like seriously jet lagged, but we need to deal with these events, you know, as we go.

So again, thank you to Egypt and to Colombia. Thank you to the departing GAC vice chairs. So, they're online. They're listening to us, so let's give them a big round of applause. Thank you so much. And the same thing goes to the incoming GAC vice chairs. You

know, their new terms begin at the end of this week, at the end of this meeting, at the end of ICANN85 Mumbai, Bombayia.

Ian Sheldon, right next to me. We have Zeina Bou Harb online from Lebanon. Ian Sheldon from Australia, of course. Zeina from Lebanon. We have Marco from the Netherlands. Jorge Cancio from Switzerland and Gloria Katuuku or is it Katuuku Gloria? What goes first?

GLORIA KATUUKU

Gloria Katuuku.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Gloria. Oh, so Katuuku would be the last name, right? So, a big round of applause for them as well. Okay and of course, let me remind you again, these incoming GAC vice chairs are going to be working with the newly elected GAC chair starting in October this year. I'm going to be with you in Seville in June and then my last meeting as GAC chair will be in Oman in October. And then the five vice chairs and you, of course, are going to be working with whoever you elect as the new GAC chair. So, any question, any comment at this point before we move on?

We're going to talk, time permitting, about some notable recent GAC activity highlights. Again, as I said before, thank you to all GAC representatives and delegates for their active engagement since ICANN84. And let's remember we have 19, is it 19 or 20 new GAC reps? 19, right?

And very specially engagement with, you know, the ICANN board on these 11 issues of importance, you know, that we produced, you know, in the Dublin Communiqué. I don't need to go back to the details, but we didn't give formal advice to the board during the Dublin meeting in ICANN84, but we did produce, you know, 11 issues of importance.

There are two GAC public comments submitted on registration data issues, more specifically, you know, urgent requests and SSAD policy alignment analysis, and we're going to get to the details and I'll give the floor to the topic leads. And we'll find out what those weird acronyms actually are.

In case you don't know, of course, feel free to raise your hands and ask any questions and this goes to the new GAC representatives, because, I mean, it's okay not to understand what exactly all the acronyms mean. We take, you know, for granted that everybody is on board and understands, but it's always good to ask. In case you don't know, please, feel free, you know, again, to raise your hands.

There's a new GAC small group on DNS abuse form with 17 GAC and Public Safety Working Group participants. So, it's not that small, I would say, but we just call them GAC small groups in this case on DNS abuse. And again, thank you to the PSWG and the GAC participants in that small group.

Four GAC Public Safety Working Group representatives volunteered to take part in DNS abuse PDP, again, PDP standing for Policy

Development Process, deliberations, and nine representatives are set to observe the PDP.

An important thing to take into account because our input is basically expected during the PDP. Nothing precludes us from participating or giving advice or whatever afterwards, but it's always a good idea to be engaged early on very especially during the PDPs. Again, PDP standing for Policy Development Process, sorry, I myself have problems remembering the acronyms.

There's some good progress on GAC readiness for Next Round of New gTLDs and again, as I said before, we're going to have two sessions this afternoon on capacity building for the Next Round of New gTLDs.

Again, I don't need to repeat this, but we have three agenda setting preparatory calls for this. You know, there's also good progress in terms of the GAC strategic planning structure, you know, assessing current annual plan and preparing for next. And maybe, you know, it would be a good time to take a look at the KPIs in case we need them, update the KPIs or maybe forget about the KPIs if you consider they're not needed.

Again, I'm in your hands, we're in your hands. Whatever we decide together, you know, we'll do, of course. But again, going, you know, from a planning point of view, it's always good to consider some KPIs. Whether we comply with the KPIs or not, that's a different issue to discuss. That's, again, for us to decide, but, you know, as a general guideline in order to have some sort of

guardrails or something is always good you know to bear in mind you know these KPIs that we have already produced.

Also, we'll be dealing with, as I said before you know with this Review of Reviews, there's a cross-community group and however weird it might sound again to the new GAC representatives, we're basically reviewing the way we reviewed. It's kind of like an iteration you know in terms of programming languages, but yeah, that's exactly what it is. And to see what worked, what didn't work, what needs to be changed, what doesn't need to be changed, what needs you know to improve and so on and so forth.

And then I know this is not the best time, you know, to talk about this, but, you know, given the international situation at this point, we will have, you know, very interesting conversations regarding the HLGM, you know, for ICANN87 in Oman. HLGM, again, standing for High-Level Governmental Meeting, which is, as everybody knows, a meeting of our ministers and you know the highest authorities. You know, as I said before, maybe this is not the best time to discuss, but we're going to have to do it. We're going to have to discuss. We're going to have to take a look at the pros and cons and many other things.

And, you know, the location of the next HLGM has already been decided. That's not to discuss. Maybe or maybe yes. Again, I'm in your hands. You know, I just happen to be the GAC chair. I will do whatever you tell me to do, but it's something very important, you know, to keep in mind.

On the one hand, because of the timing, hopefully everything will be fine and we won't need to change anything and there will be peace in the world. And, you know, that's my wish, you know, from the bottom of my heart. You know, but reality, you know, not always coincides with what's really happening around the world. So, again, that's something we don't need to discuss that now, of course, but we'll need to address that issue for sure.

So, just in case, is there anything I forgot to mention? Rob, Ian, please help me out. GAC staff, is there any other thing I should mention at this point? We don't need to artificially extend this meeting.

Of course, we're two minutes, I would say, ahead of time. So, with that, I'm very happy to wrap up this session and invite you at this point to enjoy the excellent Indian tea and coffee. Thank you so very much. Please be back in the room at 10:30 for the next session, which will be operational updates, so we'll talk about these issues a little bit in a deeper way. Thank you so much. Enjoy your coffee.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]