
ICANN86 Seville | PF - GAC Opening Plenary
Monday, June 08, 2026 – 10:00 to 11:15 CEST

GULTEN TEPE

Welcome to the ICANN86 GAC Opening Plenary Session on Monday, 8th of June at 1000 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 chat pod. Interpretation for this session will include all six UN languages and Portuguese. If you 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. With that, I will now leave the floor over to GAC Chair, Nicolas Caballero. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Gulden. Distinguished GAC representatives, ladies and gentlemen, and honored guests, it is a profound honor and privilege for me as a GAC Chair to welcome you to the opening

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ceremony of the ICANN86 Policy Forum here in the magnificent and historic city of Seville.

As we gather here, we're welcomed, you know, by a city that bridges cultures and reminds us of the rich history that has shaped this land. Seville is a truly place where ancient traditions intertwine with modern digital dynamism. Seville's historic legacy is a beautiful, positive narrative of global intersections spanning millennia. We look back with admiration at the mythical dawn of the ancient Tartessos civilization that once flourished along this very river valley, the Guadalquivir. At the time, I think it was called the Betis Valley, but I stand to be corrected.

We honor the deep footprints left by the early Iberian and Celtic peoples, and we recall the sea-faring Phoenicians and Greeks whose trading routes first connected these shores to the wider world. We stand in awe of the monumental Roman era, paying special tribute to the grand legacies of Trajan and Hadrian, the two legendary Spanish-born Roman emperors, even though Spain didn't exist at the time, and it was called Hispania Baetica, if I'm not mistaken, but we'll talk about that later. You know, whose sweeping visions of governance and infrastructure began right here in what was called the City of Italica, not that far away from here. It's about 15 minutes away by car, 20 maybe. I strongly recommend you visit that place. In the then Roman province of Hispania Baetica, as I said before.

So, we reflect upon the resilience of the Visigothic period and embrace the magnificent artistic, mathematical and philosophical advancements of the Arabic era which transform Al-Andalus into a global beacon of knowledge. We trace the footsteps of the Catholic era, which gifted the world architectural marvels, you know, like the Giralda and the Cathedral, seamlessly transitioning into a breathtaking renaissance, an age when Seville stood, you know, as the golden gateway to the new world, anchoring global exploration and trade.

Today, in our modern period, Seville beautifully mirrors its past by thriving as a vibrant digital and technological hub, welcoming our global ICANN community. The stories of navigation, structural governance, and innovation mirror our own journey in the multi-stakeholder model, bridging diverse cultures to build a secure and unified global infrastructure.

Standing on this stage carries an incredibly profound and personal meaning for me. My family originally comes from Santander, Cantabria, in the green north of Spain. So, to be hosting this crucial ICANN meeting here in my ancestral motherland fills me with unique emotion and pride. Just as these historical roots tie me closely to this beautiful country, Seville's legacy as a global crossroads reminds us of our shared duty to protect a globally connected network.

So, this week our agenda basically reflects the critical and evolving priorities of our global community. The GAC will engage in rigorous

dialogue on several essential frontiers like DNS abuse mitigation, advancing policy development frameworks to strengthen our digital defenses and protecting the Internet's core infrastructure against malicious activities. Access domain name registration data by navigating ongoing policy reforms to preserve, on the one hand, technical transparency, while at the same time carefully balancing the fundamental public right to privacy and data protection.

We'll also be touching upon Universal Acceptance and IDNs, by driving progress towards a truly multilingual Internet where every global user can navigate seamlessly in their own script and navigate a native identity. Also, the governance systems and internet coordination, also known as ICP-2, Internet Coordination Policy, and by reviewing some key technical coordination updates and so on and so forth.

And finally, some GAC operations and continuous improvement by deliberating on our internal operations and our participation in the ICANN nominating committee, if needed at all. And again, at the end of the day it's for us to decide, and refining our governance frameworks to meet evolving global challenges.

So, these discussions are not merely technical, they are entirely foundational to a trusted, open and stable internet that remains accessible to all, as we always like to say. So, let's draw inspiration from the collaborative and inclusive spirit of Seville, a city historically defined by its openness to the world. So, in closing, I look forward to a week of shared success and meaningful progress.

It is now my distinct honor and privilege to give the floor to Mrs. Vanesa Sánchez within the government of Spain for her introductory remarks. Thank you very much. Vanesa, the floor is yours.

VANESA SANCHEZ ROJO

Good morning. I am Vanesa Sánchez, representative of Spain in the GAC. I would like to welcome all GAC colleagues, whether you are attending in person or online. It's a great pleasure and an honor for us to be able to hold the ICANN86 Policy Forum here in Seville.

The basis for the work and the discussions that we will engage in in the coming days is the multi-stakeholder model. This continues to be the linchpin of a resilient internet worldwide, as well as ensuring its stable, secure, and interoperable growth.

Now we're at the beginning of the next round of applications for the new gTLDs and we hope that that will be a great success. We also have an opportunity to delve deeper into topics which are already on our radars from previous meetings and on which we work during the different virtual meetings that we hold throughout the year.

It is therefore essential to continue working together to develop meaningful policies, processes and tools for managing the data which is generated in the domain name ecosystem, the DNS. Striking the right balance between the different interests at play whether they be technical, operational, or legal. And we must also

bear in mind that broader interests such as those represented by the GAC must also have their place in the multi-stakeholder model.

Managing the DNS brings with it significant challenges. This includes DNS abuse, which undermines the very purpose of the DNS and is problematic for those actors who are legitimately involved in its management. Further development of effective policies and tools to eradicate it, or at the very least, minimize instances of it, is a task to be undertaken by the entire ICANN community. Therefore, the GAC, as a member of this community, must call on the ICANN community to harness those tools and actors devoted to defending the interests of all. This includes the key task of combating abuse as the impact of DNS abuse is increasingly felt outside of the DNS itself, impinging on different rights, such as intellectual property rights.

Over the next four days our task as the GAC is to continue providing the community with a perspective that provides specific and relevant input into the design of ICANN's complex and multifaceted policy making so that these policies be mindful of the interests at play, but also ensuring that they are swiftly and effectively implemented. I would therefore encourage all participants both in person and online, to join in our efforts towards this goal.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that I would like to thank all of the colleagues from the ministry, especially Iñaki and Julia. Finally, Seville is a city that offers a wealth of things to see and do during your free time, so I would encourage you to explore the city and its

rich historical, artistic, and culinary heritage. I'd like to thank you once again, welcome you to Seville, and thank you for your attention.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Vanesa. And as she said, you know, as she clearly mentioned, you know, there are fantastic places to visit, you know, not that far away from here. I already mentioned Italica, which is 15 minutes away by car. But, of course, you have La Giralda, you have the Alcázar and many other places. Just check on Google Maps or something and you will have a fantastic guide of beautiful places to visit. So, can we move on to the next slide, please?

So, that's the session agenda for today. After your kind words, Vanesa, and thank you again for hosting us and to the government of Spain, of course. We'll be reviewing some meeting logistics by, you know, ICANN GAC support staff, and then we'll have the traditional tour de table for in-person and then remote GAC participants. Basically, what you do there is you just say your name, your country, your ministry, and a very short, please keep it short and sweet, you know, statement, if that is the case. And then we'll talk about some notable GAC transitions and some activity highlights for ICANN86 Seville. And then finally, we'll have a review of the GAC communiqué development process time permitting, of course.

So, at this point, I will hand over the floor to GAC staff, who is going to walk us through a short review of some meeting logistics and some housekeeping details and so on and so forth. Over to you, Gulden.

GULTEN TEPE

Thank you, Nico. As you just mentioned, I'll provide a brief overview of the meeting logistics and details regarding some technical capabilities. So, please make sure that you have updated your version of Zoom and all of 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 Seville 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. So, please check the ICANN meetings page to access the remote connection details.

And under the introduction part on the ICANN86 agenda page on our website, you may find very valuable resources, materials, reports, including the GAC logistics document. You may want to review this reference guide if you are a new or experienced GAC participant. I will share the link in the chat for your convenience.

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 welcome to join the GAC sessions, but we would much appreciate if they could take the seats on the back or the right side of the room and leave the seats on the tables to GAC community members. Seats will be reserved in the front rows for the joint meeting with ICANN board. 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 very much, Gulden. So, there you have it. Can we move on to the next slide, please? Can we have a very short look at the block schedule? Everybody has a copy of the block schedule. We don't need to get into details there and as a matter of fact, we shared it during the previous two or three agenda setting calls so we don't need to review the whole thing again.

So, without further ado, at this point, we're going to have the tour the table, as a matter of fact, Gulden and then we'll get to the notable agenda highlights. So, there we go. Yes. According to my agenda, we'll have the tour de table and then we'll be talking about transitions and activity highlights and so on.

So, the tour de table is basically, you know, a way to get to associate faces with names and countries and whatever short, you know, statements you might have at this point. We will start on the left with the gentleman, with my good friend, Karel Douglas from

Trinidad and Tobago. I have already introduced you, but please go ahead.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Thank you, Nico. Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago, also the Executive Officer of Legal and Enforcement at the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago. I won't take long, but it's a pleasure to be here in this beautiful city of Seville. So, hoping to see more of it and, of course, see the colleagues who we are always happy to see. Thank you.

RUDY NOLDE

Hello, everyone, good morning. My name is Rudy Nolde. I'm the German GAC representative and I'm very happy to be here and thank you to the Spanish government for hosting us.

PATRICK HARTUNG

Good morning, Patrick Hartung from the German Federal Ministry of Interior and I'm also happy to be here. Thank you.

JAVIER RODRIGUEZ

Good morning, everyone. My name is Javier Rodriguez. I work at the Unit for Digital Society with Vanessa Aniñaki in the Spanish Ministry for Digital Transformation. And I'm actually from Seville, so I'm happy to welcome you to my hometown. And if you need any tips, recommendations, or local advice, please feel free to ask me wherever.

I also prepared a small QR guide that I can show you later. It includes some of Seville's main monuments, a few local favorites including traditional bars and something like this. Thank you very much and I hope you have a great stay in Seville.

MARTINA BARBERO

Good morning. Martina Barbero, European Commission, very happy to pick up on the QR code guide for Seville.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Good morning, everyone. I'm Gemma Carolillo. I'm from the European Commission, DG Connect. I'm the GAC representative. It's a pleasure to be in Seville. Thank you for hosting us.

FINN PETERSEN

Good morning, all. My name is Finn Petersen and I'm from the Danish government.

ANA NEVES

Good morning. I'm Ana Cristina, Ana Neves. I'm also called Ana Cristina from Portugal. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA

Abdalmonem Galila, Director of the Numbering Affairs at the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt, GAC representative, alternative one for Egypt. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Good morning. I'm Christine Arida, and I am with the Egyptian government, alternative GAC representative, and I'm so happy to be here in Seville. Thank you so much for hosting us.

MATTHEW PLASTER

Good morning. My name is Matthew Plaster. I'm a presidential appointee serving as a senior advisor for strategy at NTIA within the U.S. Department of Commerce. It is a pleasure to be here in Seville for my first ICANN meeting. On behalf of the United States, I thank Spain for hosting ICANN86 and for its warm hospitality. I look forward to working with GAC colleagues this week on DNS abuse, registration data, and upcoming new gTLD applications. Thank you.

JOSÉ RAÚL SOLARES CHÍU

Good morning. I switch to Spanish. It's really a pleasure to be here in Seville, a beautiful city. I'm Raúl Solares from Guatemala. I'm here on behalf of the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure, and Housing. Thank you, Spain, for hosting this meeting in this beautiful city and we're here willing to cooperate. Thank you.

ANTOINE BARBRY

Hello, Antoine Barbry of the International Organization of the Francophone world. I'm an observer here. I'm very, very happy to be in a country that has another language of the multilingual

system. So, I'm really encouraging you to speak in all the languages that can be used here at ICANN. We have interpretation.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. Before we move on, let's give the floor to the U.S. delegation over here and then we'll continue over there.

SUSAN CHALMERS

Thank you, Chair. Good morning, colleagues. Susan Chalmers. I lead the Internet Governance Team at NTIA. It's a pleasure to be here with you in Seville.

WILLIAM RAU

Hi, everybody. I'm Will Rau, analyst on the United States GAC delegation with NTIA. Pleasure to be here. Thanks.

RODRIGUE GUIGUEMDE

Yes, thank you very much, Nico. Rodrigo Guiguemde from Smart Africa. Thank you.

RENATA MIELLI

Good morning, everyone. I'm Renata Mielli. I'm from the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation in Brazil and also coordinator of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. Thank you Spain for hosting us here.

EOIN CARNEY

Good morning, everyone. This is Eion Carney from the Irish government. Thank you so much, as others have said, to Spain for hosting us in this beautiful city. Thank you.

THIAGO DAL TOE

Good morning, everyone. I am an advisor to the Ministry of Information Technology from Colombia. I obviously also like to thank Spain for hosting us, and I'd also like to congratulate Ian Sheldon for his new appointment as the next chair.

DAVIDE COLUCCINI

Good morning, all. My name is Davide Coluccini and I am the GAC representative for the Holy See, Vatican City State. And I would like to thank the Spanish government for hosting us here. Thank you.

PÄR BRUMARK

Good morning, everyone. I'm Pär Brumark. I'm the Special Envoy for the Government of Niue.

MEAS PO

Good morning, Chair Nico, see you again. Good morning, everyone. My name is Meas Po, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication of Cambodia. Happy to be here, see all of you. Thank you so much and wish the meeting fruitful discussion.

ARIF ARISOY

Good morning, everyone. I am Arif Arisoy from Turkey, GAC representative of Turkey, and I'm working for Information and Communication Technologies Authority. Thank you for hosting us in this beautiful city, Seville. Thanks.

SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI

Good morning, also from me. I'm Sasho Dimitrijoski, Macedonian GAC representative.

LUKAS FÜEG

Hello, my name is Lukas Füeg. I'm part of the delegation from Switzerland for the GAC and I'm a legal advisor in the Telecom Services and Post Department of the Office of Federal Communications for Switzerland.

LUCAS PRÊTRE

Hello, everyone, I'm going to introduce myself in French. Hello, my name is Lucas Prêtre. I'm very, very happy to be with you today and I would like to thank our host for the warm welcome. I work at the Federal Office of Communication and I'm a member of the Swiss delegation to the GAC. And I'm really impatient to really have discussions here within GAC for the next week. Thank you very much and have a nice day.

BENJAMIN HARBICH

Hello, everybody, I'm also going to introduce myself in French. Hello, my name is Benjamin Harbich, and I'm an engineer, a

telecommunications engineer, in the Federal Office of Communication of Switzerland. Thank you.

GABSA EMMANUEL

Good morning, everyone. I'm Gabsa Emmanuel, GAC representative for Cameroon. I'm head of the IT unit of the Ministry of Post-Telecommunications and ICT in Cameroon. I'm happy to be here. Thanks, everyone.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE

Thank you. Good day, everyone. I'm Nigel Cassimire from the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, representing the interests of our 21 states and territories from the Caribbean region, Abigac. Happy to be here, and thank you to Spain for hosting us.

ASHWIN

SASONGKO

SASTROSUBROTO

Good morning. My name is Ashwin Sasongko from GAC Indonesia and first of all I would like to thank our host in Spain, very beautiful city in Seville, to Cádiz and so on, it's a very beautiful area and thanks again. And I'm from the Indonesian National ICT Council and I would like to see how internet will be discussed today and of course the next days of course here. And of course, finally I would like to see all of you in Bali next October and we can swim together of course. Thank you.

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- TEGUH ARIFİYADI Good morning, my name is Teguh Arifiyadi. I'm from Ministry of Communication and Digital, Republic of Indonesia. And this is my first time joining the ICANN meeting here and nice to be with you here and we are very happy. Thank you.
- WAJDI GARALI Good morning, everyone. My name is Wajdi Garali. I'm the GAG representative of Tunisia and thank you.
- SHAFIUL AZAM PARVEZ Good morning, everyone. My name is Shafiul Azam. I'm GAC representative from Bangladesh. I'm Director General from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. And thank you, Spain, for hosting us. Nice to see you for the couple of the days.
- PHILIPPE KOUAME Good morning, everyone. My name is Philippe Kouame. I'm the GAC representative for Cote d'Ivoire, Ivory Coast.
- SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ Hello, everyone, my name is Saša Kovačević, GAC Serbia, working for office for IT and e-government, and it's a real pleasure to be here in this beautiful city. Thank you.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much. We'll continue over there, on the left.

KHALED ALTARHUNI

Good morning, everyone. My name is Khaled. I work for the ICT Libya. It's my pleasure to be here. And thanks, our GAC colleagues and Spanish government for hosting us. Thank you.

JAN VANNIEUWENHUYSE

Good morning. My name is Jan Vannieuwenhuysse. I am the GAC representative for Belgium. I work for the BIPT, which is the regulator for the digital, and I also want to take the opportunity to thank the Spanish government for hosting this meeting.

ABOUBAKRY KANE

Good morning. I will take the floor in French. Hello, Abouba. I am an advisor in the delegation of Senegal and I work in RTP. Thank you.

YURIY MATSYK

Good morning, everyone. GAC representing Ukraine. My name is Yuri Matsyk. I'm head of project office communication development by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine. Thank you.

NEEMA LUGANGIRA

Good morning, everyone. I'm Neema Lugangira from Tanzania. I'm the founder and chairperson of the African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance and a former member of parliament in Tanzania. Through APNIC, we're working to ensure that global digital policies are prioritized and translated into enabling

legislation across African parliaments, so I'm really happy and honored to be here.

Special thanks to the Spanish government for hosting us and for ICANN for ensuring that parliamentarians' voice is also represented. Thank you.

KARIM ATTOUMANI MOHAMED Hello everybody. My name is Karim. I come from Comoros. I am representative of Comoros to the GAC and it's a pleasure to see a lot of colleagues here. I was very lucky to represent Comoros in GAC from 2009 to 2015. This is an opportunity for me to support the new team that will be representing Comoros. I am here as an alternate representative for my country. Thank you.

WENDY PALAS Wendy Palas from the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism, Suriname.

WAHKEEN MURRAY Good morning. Wahkeen Murray from Jamaica. I represent the Office of the Prime Minister that has portfolio responsibility for digital transformation and ICT.

LEONARD OBONYO Good morning. My name is Leonard Obonyo from the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization, an intergovernmental organization representing Commonwealth

countries, and we are an observer at the GAC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Spanish government for hosting us and looking forward to fruitful deliberations. Thank you.

IRENE NAKAGGWA

Good morning, everyone. My name is Irene Nakaggwa. I am the member engagement lead at the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization. It's my first time attending an ICANN meeting, and I look forward to learning from all of you. Thank you.

NGUYEN GIANG

Good morning, everyone. My name is Giang from Network Information Center of Vietnam under the Ministry of Science and Technology. Thank you.

THUY NGUYEN THI THU

Good morning to everyone. I'm from GAC Vietnam, from Ministry of Science and Technologies. Thanks for Spain for hosting us in Seville. Thank you.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN

Good morning. I'm Kristina Hakobyan from Armenia, an advisor to GAC representative, also serve as a GAC contact point to ALAC. I'm representing here also ccTLD of Armenia. Thank you.

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- NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you, Armenia. And the gentleman right to your left?
- KRISTINA HAKOBYAN He's my husband.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO Oh my God. Okay, understood. Thank you so much. So, we'll continue right behind you, right behind Armenia. Please.
- WEN-FONG TSEN Good morning. I'm Wen Fong Tsen, and I'm the GAC representative of Chinese, Taipei, and I work for the Ministry of Digital Affairs. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Spanish government for hosting this beautiful committee. Thank you. Beautiful meeting, sorry.
- NICOLAS CABALLERO The committee is beautiful as well, so it's fine.
- GRACE Good morning, everyone. I'm Grace, and I work under Wen-Fong Tsen's team in the Ministry of Digital Affairs. And it's a pleasure to come to this beautiful city. Thank you.
- KEN-YING TSENG Hi, good morning, everyone. My name is Ken-Ying. I'm also with Wen-Fong Tsen, representing GAC, Chinese Taipei. I look forward

to the discussion this afternoon with all of you at the capacity building session. Thank you.

KAZUKI IMAO

Good morning, everyone. My name is Kazuki Imao and I'm from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, Japan. And I would like to thank the Spanish government for hosting us here. Thank you.

TOMONORI MIYAMOTO

Hello, everyone, I'm Tomonori Miyamoto from Japan and I also thank the Spanish government for hosting this meeting and I'd love to enjoy the discussion in this beautiful city, Seville. Thank you.

BO MARTINSSON

Good morning. My name is Bo Martinsson and I'm the GAC representative for Sweden.

XIANHONG HU

Good morning, everyone. My name is Xianhong from UNESCO. I'm representing the organization as one of the observer organizations of ICANN. A pleasure being here. Thank you.

MZIA GOGILASHVILI

Good morning, everybody. My name is Mzia Gogilashvili, and I represent the government of Georgia. Thank you.

JEYHUN HUSEYNZADE

Good morning, everyone. My name is Jeyhun. I'm a GAC rep from Azerbaijan. I work for Information Communication Technologies Agency, that's telecommunication regulator. I also want to thank the Spanish government for today's hosting. Thank you.

GEOFFROY BONO

Hello, my name is Geoffroy and I'm a representative to the GAC of Benin. I work in the Ministry for Digital Transformation of Benin. Thank you.

PRADEEP VERMA

Good morning, everyone. I'm Pradeep Verma from Ministry of Electronics and IT Government of India. I'm advisor to GAC representative from India. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON

Hi, colleagues, I'd like to introduce my colleague Bree Alexander from the Australian GAC delegation. Unfortunately, on route she has lost her voice, so this is her first GAC meeting. If you do introduce yourself please understand that she probably won't be able to respond, but is looking forward to a great meeting here today. Thanks.

CRAIG STANLEY-ADAMSON

Good morning colleagues, I'm Craig Stanley-Adamson from the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. I would also

like to extend my thanks to colleagues from Spain for the invitation to this wonderful city and also for the much-needed sun for the UK we are so deprived of, so thank you.

BLAISE AZITEMINA

Good morning, colleagues. Blaise Azitemina, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Telecommunication and GAC representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you.

SAYSOMVANG
SOUVANNAVONG

Good morning. I'm Saysomvang Souvannavong from Laos, the GAC representative, and work for the Laos National Internet Center Ministry of Technology and Communications. Thank you.

ESAU LM TUPOU

Good morning, distinguished GAC Chair, GAC Vice Chair and distinguished GAC members. I'm Esau LM Tupou from the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga. My friend here asked me, he's also lost his voice. It's a great honor to be here in the beautiful country of Spain and the lovely city of Seville. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Okay, so thank you so much, everyone. I just want to make sure that everybody in the room had the opportunity to introduce himself or herself. Anybody who didn't have the chance to speak yet in the room, we'll continue online, and then the head table, if you don't mind. So, just checking. So, everybody, okay, we're fine.

So, we'll continue online now. If you can help me with the queue.
So, we have Egypt. Please, go ahead.

MANAL ISMAIL

Thank you, Chair. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. My name is Manal Ismail, Egypt GAC representative from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt. Thanks to Spain for hosting this meeting and sorry for not being able to join in person. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Egypt. We have Timor-Leste. Please, go ahead.

JOSE LAY

Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Chair. My name is Jose Lay, Director of Timor-Leste, joining remotely from Delhi. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. We have the Arab League next.

HAZEM HEZZAH

Good morning, everyone. My name is Hazem Hezzah and I'm representing the League of Arab States. I'm sorry for not being able to attend this time. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. Uganda, please.

AMOS MPUNGU

Good morning, everyone. My name is Amos Mpungu. I'm the alternate GAC representative for Uganda and I work with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Uganda. India, please.

T. SANTHOSH

Good morning, colleagues from Seville. I'm Santosh, alternative GAC representative from India. So, all the very best for the colleagues for the upcoming four days. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

So, before we continue, is there any way you can turn up the volume a little bit? I can barely hear what they say. I can barely hear their names. Would you mind turning up the volume a little bit here? Thank you so much. So, apologies for that. China, please.

WANG LANG

Good morning, everyone. This is Wang Lang from GAC China. I'd also like to thank the Spanish government for hosting this great meeting. And in fact, I'm a little bit envious that you can attend the meeting in person in the beautiful city of Seville. I hope this meeting will achieve complete success. That's it. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, China. I have Bosnia and Herzegovina next.

SUADA HADZOVIC

Good morning. I'm GAC representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina. My name is Suada Hadzovic, and I work for Communications Regulatory Agency. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. I have Mr. Jukić. Please, go ahead.

ZDRAVKO JUKIĆ

Yes, good morning, Chair. Good morning, colleagues. I'm Zdravko Jukić from Croatia, Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries. Looking forward to next, actually, this GAC meeting. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much. Saudi Arabia, please.

WALEED ALORINY

Yeah. Good morning, everyone. This is Waleed Aloriny, GAC representative of Saudi Arabia. I'm happy to participate and looking forward for a fruitful discussion. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you. Russian Federation, please.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN

Good morning, colleagues. My name is Viacheslav Erokhin. I'm GAC alternative representative. I work for a Russian national research center. We support Russian Ministry of Digital Development and mass media with technical and policy expertise in different areas, such as satellite, mobile communication, traditional communication, ICT, and so on. I am personally responsible for internet aspects. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Russian Federation. We have Italy next. Sorry, Giacomo. Giacomo, please go ahead.

GIACOMO MAZZONE

Sorry, Italy has its own representative. Thank you for the floor and thank you for all you have done as chair representative of the GAC. And I'm representing the WBU and I'm glad to be here. And I thank the Spanish government for hosting this wonderful meeting in this wonderful town. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much and apologies, Giacomo. I automatically identify you as Italian, so my apologies.

GIACOMO MAZZONE

I'm Italian.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

So, we'll continue with Switzerland at the head table, please go ahead.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Nico. I speak first in French and then in Spanish. Good morning each and everyone. My name is Jorge Cancio, GAC representative for Switzerland. I am one of the vice chairs of the committee. I am delighted to be back in the flesh among you at this GAC meeting and I'm looking forward to a fruitful meeting throughout the week. I'll now take the floor in Spanish.

Now if I may, I'd like to add something in Spanish. I'd like to express my deepest thanks to the generous government of Spain for their hospitality and for inviting us to the wonderful city of Seville.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Good morning. My name is Zeina Bou Harb. I am the Head of International Cooperation at OGERO Telecom, the public institution, managing the ICT infrastructure in Lebanon. And I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the new members. We heard that we have many members here among us and probably others online because we have more than 20 new GAC members. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

And of course, my name is Nico Caballero. I'm the GAC chair. I guess at this point, I don't need to introduce myself, but just in case, I did. We'll continue with the Netherlands.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Thank you, Nico. Good morning, colleagues. My name is Marco Hogewoning. I work for the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands and also serving as one of your GAC first chairs. So indeed, likewise with Zeina, happy to meet you if you are new.

And I'd like to quickly bounce back to the room because I see my colleague Maaïke has now also walked in. So, thank you.

MAAIKE VEENSTRA

Hi, everyone. Sorry for being late. My name is Maaïke Veenstra and I'm the Dutch GAC representative. I just briefly want to thank our Spanish colleagues for hosting this ICANN meeting, and thank you very much.

KATUUKU GLORIA

Good morning, everyone. My name is Katuuku Gloria. I'm the GAC representative for Uganda and one of the GAC vice chairs. I take the opportunity to thank the government of Spain for hosting us. Thank you.

IAN SHELDON

My apologies. My name's Ian Sheldon, the GAC representative from Australia. I'd first like to thank our gracious Spanish hosts for

welcoming us to this fantastic city of Seville. I look forward to a productive and constructive meeting with you all here today. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Australia. I just want to make sure we gave everyone, before I give the floor to Spain as the host country, we'll give them the last word, of course, just want to make sure that everybody in the room had the chance to speak. And online, I don't see anybody. Okay, so at this point, I'll give the floor to the host country, Spain. Iñaki?

IÑAKI GIL OSÉS

Thank you, Nico. I'll talk in Spanish. I just want to reiterate what my colleague Vanesa Sanchez has said, welcome to Seville. We're here for whatever you might need. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any requests or anything we can help you with. And we hope that we will have interesting discussions and make significant progress during these days.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

So, at this point, Vanesa, is there anything you would like to add?

VANESA SANCHEZ ROJO

Welcome everyone again. Let us start with ICANN86.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. Okay, so without further ado, we're going to move on to the next agenda item, which is, yeah, D, notable GAC transitions, okay, and some highlights. So, as you can see, we have 27, as was already mentioned by my distinguished colleague from Australia, and by the way, newly elected GAC chair, Mr. Ian Sheldon.

We have 27 new GAC delegates, that is since ICANN85 in Mumbai. That would make up for a good 10 to 12%, you know, an interesting number. All in all, 184 members and 41 observers. So that means that according to the count at the United Nations, there are 195 countries at the United Nations, I stand to be corrected. If my memory serves me well, there are 195. We can check that anyways, but we still have some work to do there. We need to contact those 10, 11, or 12 countries that are not part of the GAC yet.

Some important reminders. Please join, you can see there the email address, GAC at icann.org. That's for the ticketing system for all delegation updates. In case of doubt, please talk to GAC staff, you know, the fabulous five, Gulten, Benedetta, Julia, Fabienne, you know, in case you have any kind of problem accessing the system or getting in touch with that email address.

There's also the capability activated for all GAC representatives, the ICANN Join. ICANN Join is a system, right? Activated for all GAC representatives in that regard and there are many other things happening behind the curtains as well. But, you know, I would strongly urge you to get in touch with GAC staff in case you have any kind of problem in that regard.

Before I move on, Jorge, is there anything you would like to say?

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you. Thank you, Nico. Just a very short, brief two-finger. To all the new members, representatives, you see the vice-chairs and the chair here at the head table, we are more than happy if you come up to us at the coffee breaks, any break, and introduce yourself, pose any questions, we will try to respond. Of course, for the administrative part, it's our support staff, but to anything about how this works, how you do GAC meetings, we are more than happy to help you out. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Switzerland. And the next point, as I mentioned before, we had the election of the GAC chair by the next GAC chair by acclamation. Mr. Ian Sheldon from Australia, his two-year term will be beginning at the conclusion of the ICANN87 annual general meeting in October 2026 in the beautiful city of Bali in Indonesia. And we'll have the chance to talk about that later as well, Ashwin, our distinguished GAC representative from Indonesia.

So, on behalf of the current GAC leadership team we look forward to handing over you know, and to collaborating with you until you feel comfortable for the coming period, Ian. So, let's give Ian a big round of applause. Would you please stand up so that everybody can recognize you, in case they don't know you, right? But just in case, you know, that happened to me four years ago. That's a good

way to associate names with faces. Okay, so having done that, can we move on to the next slide, please?

So, as you can see, there are some highlights that I would like to refer to at this point. In the first place, thank you to all GAC representatives and delegates for their active engagement since Mumbai, since ICANN85 in Mumbai. Especially on engagement with ICANN board on issues of importance in the Mumbai communiqué.

As everybody knows, we got a board response and a scorecard 2026 in April, like two months ago, right after. The meeting in Mumbai was in March and then we had the scorecard in April, taking into account that no actual GAC consensus advice was given during the Mumbai meeting. So, the scorecard was basically about issues of importance to the GAC.

We made some progress on policy development as well, you know, the DNS abuse PDP on associated domain checks. You know, we have four GAC representatives and 10 observers there. There's also some progress as regarding registration data issues. We have two GAG representatives in the newly convened SSAD Supplementary Recommendations Team and also some progress on GAC readiness for next round of new gTLDs.

I want to touch upon, you know, a little bit about the GAC leadership retreat in Brussels. We call it the Brussels retreat just for the fun of it, you know, given the fact that it actually happens in Brussels, in Belgium. We basically reviewed the four-year GAC

strategic plan, you know, the planning structure and the progress as compared to the annual plan, the 2025-2026 annual plan that we approved, correct me if I'm wrong, Jorge or Ian, but back in November. Was it November or October? But in any case, it was the 2025-2026 annual plan.

We discussed some proposals for full GAC discussion during this meeting here in Seville. Basically, on GAC input into the final phase of the Review of Reviews, cross-community work, also on GAC participation in the ICANN nominating committee, the NomCom, and we know very well that there are different opinions among GAC members. Some member states, you know, favor a more engaged participation, even with voting rights, some other groups of nations, you know, have a different view, some other oppose, and so on and so forth. So, as you can imagine, there are 184 different opinions about everything, and that's a good thing.

And finally, the GAC implementation of the Continuous Improvement Program, and also, at that time, we're talking about April this year, we were talking about preparations for ICANN86 here in Seville. And in that regard, as I mentioned before, we had three agenda setting calls. The first agenda setting call basically to decide about the allocation of the different time slots. And then the two following calls, you know, more related to the substance and content. And that way, we just want to make sure that when we get to these face-to-face meetings, we can concentrate, we can

allocate our time, energy, and patience to more substantive discussions. Next slide, please, Gulden.

Okay, the next point is the communiqué development in general, not only for Seville, but this is the way we do it, you know, everywhere. This is typical, and again, this is for the benefit of the new GAC representatives who are here for the first time.

Again, as I said before, we have 27 since Mumbai, and even though this might sound boring for our distinguished GAC representatives who have been here for a little longer, but we actually need to do this so that we're on the same page and so that everybody understands perfectly what the communiqué development process is because, again, as everybody knows, the drafting, the communiqué itself is the most important document we produce at the end of all the sessions. And that's why we allocate so much time, energy, and patience to its development.

So, without further ado, let me hand the floor to my distinguished colleague, Fabien Betremieux, who is going to be walking us through the communiqué drafting and development process. Over to you, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX

Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Fabien Betremieux from the GAC support team and I'll indeed take you through very quickly to a number of reminders regarding the process. Hopefully, this is not new to most of you, but since a number of you have just joined the

GAC, we want to make sure that you indeed can catch up with the process, understand how the GAC does develop its communiqué and what the communiqué is.

So first of all, a reminder, the GAC communiqué is the key consensus output of a meeting in the GAC. The GAC communiqué reports on the engagements that the GAC has had during the ICANN meeting with various community groups. It reports on internal matters and internal activities, and it includes statements on issues of importance to the GAC, which are usually referred to policy discussions or procedural developments within the ICANN community. And this is also the document that includes the GAC consensus advice, potentially if the GAC decides to provide advice to the ICANN board. And that refers to some very specific bylaw provisions that have a particular importance in ICANN procedures.

So, what you see on the screen is the process by which the GAC develops its communiqué. The process has three phases, a preparation phase, a drafting phase, and a review phase. The communiqué preparation phase has ended now that we've started the meeting. And the purpose of that phase is to provide an opportunity for GAC members to identify topics of interest, to enable advanced consideration of those topics, and also to provide an opportunity for interested members to engage with those who propose topics. For instance, in this case, there was no particular topics identified prior to the meeting and so we will now move to discussions in Seville that will contribute to the drafting phase.

During the drafting phase, and that's what you see every day, in each of the GAC Plenary Sessions, the GAC topic leads for each of those sessions are expected to provide some time for discussing potential issues of interest for the communiqué, as either issues of importance or potential advice. And GAC members have the opportunity during those plenary sessions to identify who those GAC topic leads are that may be coordinating the drafting of text on those issues.

So, as a GAC participant in a given plenary session, if you're interested in contributing to potential text, this is when you'll be able to identify what is being considered as issues and who are the topic leads to speak with. And if an issue that you're interested in is not discussed, you are certainly invited and encouraged to reach out to those topic leads to discuss potential text with them.

Then, once we're done with the plenary sessions and as soon as Tuesday, we'll start discussing the actual text and reviewing potential issues that have been identified and text that is proposed. The drafting of text happens in a Google document which you have received a link in your email so I've just sent this. We ask you to be careful with that link. We ask you not to share it for instance in the chat of the Zoom room because we want to avoid interference. Obviously, this link is reserved for your use.

During the drafting phase, which I mentioned will start Tuesday and then will go on to Wednesday and Thursday throughout a number of sessions, you will be invited to consult with GAC topic

leads to collaborate on text before providing initial text in the document. This is to help with ensuring that the text that is proposed has the widest consensus possible before it is presented to the GAC. In any case, the document is open for contribution by a given deadline at which the document generally becomes closed, so that then the editing, and that's usually when we're far enough in the process, we've reached a fairly stable text. And to preserve the stability of the text, the GAC chair will determine that we'll close live collaboration on the document, and any further edits will come through us as the support staff, so please make sure to come through us at that time. But that usually only happens towards the end of the process.

Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to us as support staff for any questions on precedent, any research, any references you'd like to use in your text, and we'll be happy to assist with those aspects and make sure that, you know, the text that is proposed for the communiqué is of the highest quality and precision and accuracy possible.

And then, finally, once we're done with this week, once the communiqué is approved in plenary session, so we expect that to happen on Thursday, we will move into the 72-hour review period. This was born out of the COVID-19 period when the meetings were fully remote and to ensure that every GAC member had sufficient opportunity to consider and review the text across a number of barriers, such as the time difference barriers and language barriers. It was proposed that after the communiqué is approved, there is a

72-hour review period to enable everybody to have enough time to consider the text.

The communiqué then becomes formally adopted at the end of that period, should there be no objection. To date, there's been no objection and you're invited to consider any objection very carefully. This is obviously not a matter to be taken lightly given that should a member object to any part of the communiqué, the GAC will have to reconvene after the meeting to consider the objection and finalize the communiqué again.

During the review period, should you identify any typos, any factual errors, obviously, those we can address and we would be happy to. Although we try to avoid and make sure that by the time the communiqué is proposed for the review period, it is as good as it can be. With that, that completes the presentation. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Fabien. And just so that it's clear for everyone, we do this in order to make sure that no surprises happen on the last day of the drafting process. Just to give a ridiculous example, if for whatever reason Paraguay or any other country decides to give all the root servers, this is obviously an exaggeration, right, to Nico, you know, to manage from Ayers Rock in Australia, you know, like, what? We didn't discuss that. I mean, where did that come from? So that's more or less the idea, you know, to be on the same

page and to be able to discuss and to reach agreement on every single topic we discuss.

So, as you can see, this, as regarding the communiqué development process and the communiqué drafting process, all the details have already been given by my distinguished colleague, Fabien. So, I don't know if there are any questions at this point. Very self-explanatory, I would say. You have the details right there on the screen. I don't see any hands online. Is there any question in the room or online? Is it clear?

Again, the idea is to increase opportunities for GAC members, you know, to consider topics and discuss text ahead of the communiqué drafting, right? And the idea is to increase -- As a matter of fact, we are becoming more efficient time and again because we used to have seven communiqué drafting sessions and the last two meetings we ended up with five, if I'm not mistaken, five. Hopefully soon we will reach four and hopefully three or two, but, you know, we can expect that.

Okay, so am I forgetting, is there anything I didn't mention? And I'm looking at my advice chairs. Anything we need to mention before we have our very well-deserved coffee break? All good? Okay, so in terms of, let me just give you some housekeeping details.

Please, be back in the room at 11:45. I'm very happy to give you eight extra minutes, you know, for your coffee break. So, we'll reconvene at let me see, 11:45. We'll have two capacity

development sessions. The first one starting at 11:45. So, the session is adjourned. Enjoy your coffee.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]