
ICANN86 Seville | PF – GAC Capacity Development Session (2 of 2)
Monday, June 08, 2026 – 14:45 to 16:00 CEST

GULTEN TEPE

Welcome to the ICANN86 second GAC capacity development session on GAC Readiness for Next Round on Monday, 8th of June at 14:50 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.

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NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Gulten. Welcome back, everyone. Actually before we start with the second capacity building session, I would like to give the floor to my distinguished representative of Spain in order to explain what this QR code is. Over to you, Javier.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

JAVIER RODRIGUEZ

Thank you, Nico. Well, as I mentioned before, we prepared some useful information for your stay in Seville with many monuments and some classic bars and other local tips. So if you want to scan the QR code, you'll find the guide. Enjoy your stay.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Spain. Greatly appreciate it. You have a good tapas guide there, and I'm sure some other delicacies from Seville and from Spain in general. So there you go. You can scan it, and we can talk about it later during the next coffee break. But in the meantime, and just making sure everybody has time to actually scan it, let me just talk about the capacity development session number two, and I'll give you some time to scan the code, of course.

All right? So everything all right with that. So Gulten, if we can go back to the slides, please. I will kindly ask you to get to slide number two with the agenda. So this is the agenda for this session. We'll have a session introduction given by my distinguished colleague from the UPU, Mr. Hackshaw, and then we'll have three rounds. But I don't want to get ahead of myself, and in this regard. Do you have a microphone there, Tracy? All right. So over to you.

TRACY HACKSHAW

All right. Thank you, Nico. So welcome to the second capacity development session. I'm on this side if you're looking for me. As you see on the screen there, we're going to do a practical exercise.

So you'll have to move from your desks. So you'll have to get up and move. So important to know that. And we're going to do three rounds of workshopping. Round one begins with GAC early warnings. Round two, GAC advice. Round three, national approaches. And each are 15 minutes long.

After that, we will do a plenary type session. So each group will have a sort of a rapporteur speaker that will come back and report on what they learned and what they discussed. And that will be part of the wrap-up, where we can also ask questions. So keeping it simple for time. The next step will be for all GAC members, observers, to join us at the flip charts. Each one is doing early warnings. So don't pick advice versus early warning. We are all doing early warnings for the 15 minutes. So pick one of the flip charts, you're seeing them in the back of the room. Don't all go to one. Try and spread them out.

Each flip chart will be manned or personed or womaned, I guess, by someone. I'm doing this one here. I see my colleague Nigel Cassimire is doing one of them. I believe we have Ken-Ying doing one. So Ken-Ying, can you join us at a flip chart? And I can't recall who's the other one. Julia, can you help me? Is it Thiago? Jorge? Yes? Switzerland. Is there one more? All right. Thank you. Notwithstanding, please join us at the flip charts. You know who you are, who are the facilitators, so please join us to facilitate. So without further ado, as Nico likes to say, let's get going.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Just one thing, Tracy, for everybody to know, we do have a timekeeper, and that's Julia. So Julia, whenever the five-minute round ends, you let us know, I don't know, some bell or something, the old-fashioned style.

TRACY HACKSHAW Voice of God.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Exactly. Or just let us know. Wave your hands, whatever, we can dance, or, you know.

TRACY HACKSHAW So you need to motivate, let's come, you need to lift yourself off the seat and join us here.

NICOLAS CABALLERO All right. So let's start. So the clock is ticking now. Thank you so much.

TRACY HACKSHAW Please come and join us. There's going to be a remote version, so Karel, I believe, and I believe Thiago are helping with the remote participant, so keep that in mind, there's going to be a remote version as well. All right. So we have people joining me at this one. We're all doing early warnings, so it's not separate, just pick one. Pick anyone. All right. I need to put the mic down, so I'm just going

to say one more time, those who are seated, you need to come by us and help with this project, please, members, observers, all are invited. All right. I'm going to put the mic down now, so please join. Let's go.

JULIA CHARVOLEN

Okay, everyone, thank you so much. We have 15 minutes left before the end of this session. So the objective now is to everyone to get back to your seats for the wrap up part of the session. And we will have the speakers report back to participants on the breakout room discussions. So if you can please take your seats now so we can start the wrap up. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Julia. Everyone, please come back. We're going to do the wrap up at this point. And we have actually 15 minutes for the wrap up instead of 20. But should be enough in any case. So at this point, let me kindly ask the speakers to join me at the head table. You know, Ken-Ying, Tracy, Nigel, Thiago, Marco, of course, Ian, Karel, please join me at the head table so that we can have the wrap up and the outcomes from each of the breakout groups. So I'll give you some time to take your seats.

Thank you so much. And again, for the sake of time, given the fact that we only have 15 minutes, you will have five minutes, each one for your insights, outcomes, and whatever you want to share with a full GAC. So let's start with Ken-Ying, Tracy, and is it Nigel? Who

else was in your --? And okay. Nigel Cassimire, would you please join us at the head table? Oh, there you go. Okay. So you go first. Would you like to go first, Ken-Ying, or is it Nigel? Ladies first. So we'll go with the lady to my right. Ken-Ying, please go ahead.

KEN-YING TSENG

Thank you, Chair. In our breakout group, we discussed whether government officials should raise or issue early warnings for a domain name that helps. This domain name was actually applied for issuance in the previous round. It has been issued to a private organization. So the question posed to we, GAC members, is whether something like health, something in relation to consumer protection, public interest, this kind of domain name should be operated by a private organization, and whether GAC members in 2026 would like to raise any early warning.

And the discussion among the members, at first it was a little bit different and diverse. Some of them think it is not our job because we are DNS regulator. But at the end, most of the GAC members believe that because of this unique nature of the world, health, and it could involve in DNS abuse or fraud or other bad things like damage to our health, something like that.

So most of the members eventually agreed that this domain name shouldn't be issued to a private organization and should be reserved for public interest. And if a private organization wants to have this domain name, it must make commitment. And ICANN should have transparent mechanism to supervise the fulfillment of

the commitment and should continue to control and implement all the required conditions. So it was our conclusion.

So I think it's a set example for all of you to think about when you encounter a domain name, whether you want to raise any early warning. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Ken-Ying. Nigel Casimire.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE

Thank you, Nico. I won't take five minutes. I think we had a pretty good discussion around the purpose and procedure for early warnings. And a couple things came out. One I think was a very good question that we would like to put to the ICANN staff, I think, or ICANN org. We've set up this procedure for early warnings and so on, but do we have any information or are we tracking the success of early warnings? So is it 50% success or how useful, how effective has the process been? So maybe setting up a procedure for tracking the success of early warnings is one of the things.

And a second part of our discussion related to the example of use of geonames. And what it showed was that, well, maybe we need to standardize what we identify as geographic names. It made me remember that some years ago, the GAC had a working group on geonames, but I did not recall what the conclusion of that was. So it might be that the GAC has already concluded in terms of what it would consider geonames, but that was one of the other issues that

raised its head in terms of our discussion, that we probably need to be clear on that particular aspect of early warnings possibility. So I think those were the two main things that came out of the discussion in my group. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much, Nigel. That was really quick. Let me handle the floor now to Marco Hogewoning.

MARCO HOGEWONING Sorry, I did not do round one. I did not touch on the early warnings. So I'm confused now.

NICOLAS CABALLERO No, sorry, sorry. Tracy, I'm sorry. Tracy, you were supposed to join us here at the table. Don't be shy.

TRACY HACKSHAW I have voluntold Germany. Germany is doing it first.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Oh, okay, okay. Germany, please go ahead.

RUDY NOLDE Okay. Am I only supposed to talk about the GAC early warning? No. About everything we've talked about. Okay. Yeah, so our group, I think we, first, we tested a little bit that we have a common

understanding of the tools that we have as the GAC when it comes to the new round. When do we issue early warnings? What are early warnings? That it's a way to express concern for us as governments about a string before it comes to full application or before it's being delegated.

And also, when we issue early warnings, that it's 104 days starting from string confirmation day. And we did also discuss a specific case, like .Africa, and how we would go about with the GAC early warning when it comes to that. And also, the possibility that if there are several countries that have the same concerns, that we could also issue a GAC early warning on behalf of different countries that are signing on to it. Obviously, there would have to be a lead country doing it, but that would be a stronger case. Yeah. Thank you.

With GAC advice, it was similar. I think I had the feeling we have a good common understanding of how we issue a GAC consensus advice, that it has to be consensus. Also, what does consensus mean? That it means that it is absent any objection, and that in principle, GAC advice can be issued at any time, but that for practical reasons, obviously, when the string is already delegated, it's too late. So we should keep that in mind, and that's why it's encouraged to issue GAC advice as early as possible.

We also discussed in terms of GAC advice, if there might be that something that we came up with, if there might be something like a template that we could fill out. It comes from, we were discussing

how do we start GAC consensus advice. Obviously, any member can bring that forward, but what is the best way to do it, especially if we don't have a physical GAC meeting where we can put it in the communique. So that is also something I think that is also worth discussing, how might we do it in an online environment. My understanding is I wasn't there in the last round, but in the last round, it was all done in physical meetings.

And in the last one, we discussed some national approaches, what our governments are doing, how do we inform stakeholders. So we as Germany, we have done already in the last year, we've reached out to our states, we are a federal country, so we have states, we have hundreds of municipalities. So we actually reached out to them, we informed them about the process, give them enough time if they want to apply, for example, for a string that is a geographic name. If they want to apply, to give them enough time before the round opens, but also inform them about all the remedies that we have discussed, GAC early warning, GAC consensus advice and so on.

So there was a lot of interest in that, and I think that's maybe something we can recommend for governments that you establish these kinds of contacts as early as possible before the reveal day, before the confirmation day, so you can feed it into your mailing list and get their input. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Germany. Next in line, I have my distinguished colleague, Marco from the Netherlands.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Thank you, and I realize we're a bit pressed for time, but looking at the group we ran on GAC advice, I heard a lot of things that Rudy just mentioned. The group really recognized that it's often difficult to get consensus on advice, so there was a strong preference for in-situ, face-to-face meetings to develop it.

What I also picked up, and that was I think also an important feedback, was for that advice to be constructive, so really work towards a constructive stance. And an important criteria that was mentioned was really explain to your fellow GAC members why you want this advice, so come in with a clear rationale, what's there, what's the pros and cons, and then why do we issue advice, and a way to find common ground.

What we briefly explored also was what's needed, and I heard things like you need substantive momentum, and some people even mentioned quorum. So, I think that's also something to keep in mind, is that you need a certain group, you need a large body to get to consensus or start thinking about consensus advice in the first place.

And the last comment I have on this list was people also say like be conscious of timelines, be moving, keep moving on this, and be fast, so that's something giving away. Taking over to the national

approaches then, if I may, we heard several examples from people engaging with existing stakeholder platforms, but also some governments actually used press and media, press releases to draw attention, importantly drawing attention to the fact that people can request next rounds, but I found it interesting that also several people said like yeah, we're also working with stakeholders, but also internally in the government to get momentum going on the evaluation, so have people look into the various angles that might attach, be it financial, be it intellectual property, so to consider the group.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much Netherlands, last but not least I have Australia.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you, Nico. Ian Sheldon, GAC Australia for the record. So, unsurprisingly our group touched on a lot of the same issues that the previous speakers had mentioned, really picking up on themes of clear and open communication and coordination. So, speaking both with applicants, speaking with other government, other GAC members, and making sure that your governments are also organized through this process.

You know I can't stress how important it is to get your own domestic affairs and government in order. In Australia bureaucracy is a slow and cumbersome process, so we're starting as early as we can to establish a focal point, to establish points of contact in other

agencies and do as much of that groundwork now before we get to string confirmation day, so that when strings do come up and we are uncomfortable with them, we know which parts of our system to speak to.

We also spent a little bit of time talking about the pathway from early warnings to advice and similarly it was a conversation of open communication, and I think the last point I'd probably add is there was a very helpful suggestion to look back at the last round, look at all of the early warnings that were issued, look at all of the advice that the GAC had provided, and that should give you a very firm basis upon which to consider the next round, working off a lot of the homework that the GAC had done last time around. So hopefully with a range of those resources at hand we should be well placed for this next process. Thanks, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Australia. Thank you, everyone, indeed for your participation, for being active participants. That's all we have time for. Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Lucas, Lucas, Lucas, sorry, sorry, sorry, go ahead, go ahead.

LUCASS PRÊTRE

Thank you, Nico. I will speak in French if it's okay. So, of course, I presented what our office does in Switzerland in order to inform the different stakeholders about the next round of new gTLD. So I'm going to be quite quick here.

So basically, what we did is we put up a process in three phases. So first of all, we updated our database, the database that had been used for the previous round. We also updated all our documents so that we could then publish them on the websites and also distribute them. Also, we used our mailing list. We informed all the stakeholders per email. And we may have a press release later on this year. But the most important phase is the next one, the upcoming one, and it will be after the closing of the application round.

So once that period is closed, we'll have a whole team that are going to examine all the strings that are going to be published on reveal day. And then we'll see if there's anything to be done from the side of our government, whether we should indeed convey the information to interested parties. That was it. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so very much, Switzerland. My apologies, I forgot about that. Are we okay in terms of reporting? We have Jeremy. Okay, so time to wrap up. If you can move to the next slide, please, Julia.

Just one final thing. You have some resources there. You have the GAC Advice Scorecard from 2015. You have the GAG Early Warnings from 2012, that is 14 years ago. The first round, if you remember, if you were around, which I doubt. But in any case, you have it there. And then you have the projected application timeline for 2026-

2027. And finally, some early warning process and template documents to use as guides.

And finally, I'm sorry to keep you three minutes overtime, as a matter of fact. So we will have a coffee break now, a very well-deserved coffee break until 4:30, and then the last session of the day will be the community session on current incoming impact of artificial intelligence on DNS abuse. So again, thank you very much for your participation, enjoy your coffee, and this session is adjourned. Thank you.

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