
ICANN86 Seville | PF – GAC Leadership and Operations Update
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JULIA CHARVOLEN

Welcome to the ICANN86 GAC Leadership and Operations Update on Wednesday 10 June at 10:00 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.

Please remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation and please make sure to mute all other devices when you are speaking. And with that, I will leave the floor over to GAC Chair, Nico Caballero. Nico, please.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Julia. Welcome back, everyone. Look at that picture, look at the picture of La Giralda, certainly a beautiful picture, and I really hope you had the chance to visit different places in the city and enjoy the local food. Coffee is very good as well, which is really reassuring for me being a very big coffee fan. So, yeah, can we move to the next slide, please?

So this is the agenda for today. As you can see, we have five main topics. The first one, the review of our annual plan. That's going to

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be very, I would say, straightforward. Then we'll discuss the potential GAC participation in the Nominating Committee.

As I said before, as I said at the beginning of this general meeting on Monday, there are some countries that have a strong opinion in one way and some other countries have a different opinion and yet in the middle there's again room for different opinions and we'll see how it goes today. If we keep the status quo, so to say, or if we have a more meaningful engagement and so on and so forth. I don't want to get ahead of myself, but that's more or less the topic number two.

Right after that, we'll be discussing a proposed approach to the CIP, that is the Continuous Improvement Framework. Topic number four being the review of a proposal for a CD working group, a capacity development working group. And finally, we'll talk about the GAC elections, specifically the need or maybe not need, I mean, depending on what we decide, for a vice chair special election. So that's pretty much the agenda for this session. Next slide, please.

So at this point, we'll talk about a very short, I would say, review progress on our annual plan. And next slide, please. As everybody knows, based on our four-year strategic plan, which in turn produced an annual plan, we divided the main topics into nine, I would say, mini clusters, each one with a caretaker. And you can see, I don't need to name all the caretakers, but you do have the main issues there, right? Number one being the role of governments in ICANN, number two, effectiveness of the GAC,

future rounds, and so on and so forth. And you have the names to your right, it would be my left, yeah, your right.

In case you have anything substantive to add, so there are many ways to deal with that. You can get in touch directly with a caretaker, right? For example, if there's anything you would like to say about new technologies, in my case, I'm the caretaker for strategic objective number seven. So for example, the big thing nowadays is artificial intelligence and machine learning and that kind of stuff. I have my own opinion about artificial intelligence, right?

But anyways, I really think it's rather machine learning and that kind of stuff. I don't really think that artificial intelligence really exists, but we can have an interesting conversation in that regard. And so if that were the case, you would come to talk to me and we would arrange, I don't know, if your idea is to arrange for a full session for ICANN87 in Bali, we could have a conversation.

So the same idea would apply to any of the other strategic objectives. For example, if you have any kind of suggestion, any kind of idea as regarding the role of governments in ICANN, so in that case, your number one person to talk to at this point would be Mr. Jorge Cancio from Switzerland and so on and so forth. That way, we try to organize the workload in a more efficient and let's say a structured way. Nothing precludes any distinguished GAC member from actually contacting the -- on the one hand, GAC staff,

right? And on the other hand, the email list to which everybody has access. So that's more or less the setting.

So without further ado, next, thank you. There you have, it sounds a little bit cryptic, I would say, but this is the main tracker we have for the progress on the annual plan. We'll get to each one, maybe not each one, but the ones in, as you can see, there are green, red, and yellow. Well, looks more like orange, yellow, and greenish, but you get the idea, right? Kind of a red light. If there's something really wrong, it would be red. If something is in progress, you would see it in yellow. And if something is okay, achieved or in progress, but no issues, you would see green. Okay. Next slide, please.

So let's get started. And for that, for strategic objective number one, the role of governments in ICANN, I will kindly hand the floor to my colleague from Switzerland. Over to you, Jorge.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland for the record. I'm a caretaker for this strategic objective number one. So we won't read everything in detail. It's just as a reminder. So you see here, what we decided as GAC strategic goal number one for the period 2024 to 2028. And then it has different activities from 1.1 to 1.6.

If we go to the next slide. Here we have like the headlines of each and every one of these measures. So starting from stakeholder understanding of the role of governments until 1.6, the GAC

contributions to the ICANN NomCom, which we will discuss later. So this is just for your recalling, for your memory.

So if we go to the next slide. The notable developments in the last months have been that we were planning for a high-level governmental meeting, but now due to the situation in the region where Oman is, this has been rescheduled to Bali. And so the high-level meeting is not proceeding for ICANN87, and we will resume the planning for a high-level governmental meeting later.

We have communiqué text in this sense that will be proposed by the GAC leadership. We are in discussions with the Board to promote, to create an informal exchange mechanism between the GAC leadership and the Board or a subset of the Board on how ICANN can continuously improve its multi-stakeholder approach that is under 1.4.3.

And very important, and Fabien is not here, but he would remind you all, please fill in the survey that has been distributed to you about the GAC influence or avenues of influence on ICANN policy outcomes. So as far as I remember, only about 20 countries or observers had filled it out. It's very important that we reach around 50 inputs, otherwise it's not really representative.

So please take the time. It's very important for us to understand how we use the channels of influence, both through the GAC and within the ICANN community through, for instance, PDPs. So please do that. And I don't know if I can ask our very able staff to

recirculate. And I see Julia will do that. And we are having later on in this session the discussion on NomCom, which is 1.6.

So if we go to the next slide, we see some of the challenges. We have talked about the review of reviews. So the challenge is more the level of engagement by the GAC as a committee in this discussion. We had a good discussion this week. So I hope it might get a little bit greener. And we will have some communiqué text as well. And what is pending is that the GAC leadership talks to GE, Government Engagement, a division in ICANN, about how we can best work together to showcase ICANN as a successful implementation of the multistakeholder approach. I would say approach always. I don't like model. But yeah, that's where we are under SO1. And that's all from my side. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Switzerland. Great job, as usual. Let me pause here in order to see if there are questions or comments or anything our distinguished GAC members would like to add at this point as regarding SO1, that is Strategic Objective No. 1. Okay. I see no hands in the room. And I see no hands online, which basically means that we are okay to move on. And for Strategic Objective No. 2, I will kindly pass the floor now to Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon and our future chair, Mr. Ian Sheldon from Australia. Over to you.

IAN SHELTON

Thank you, Nico. I might kick us off and feel free to jump in at any stage Zeina.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Ian, could you please speak closer to the microphone?

IAN SHELTON

Thank you. Ian Sheldon, GAC Australia, for the record. So Strategic Goal No. 2 looks at the GAC 's effectiveness. So we had a broad ambition here to increase active and meaningful participation of GAC members in its deliberations and operations. So we also looked at ways to increase effectiveness as a core part of the multi-stakeholder process of ICANN, which includes ensuring that the voices of GAC are heard and well understood and represented. As well as looking at those relationships we have with other parts of the ICANN community as well.

Next slide, please. So we do have a range of expected outcomes, including things like the operating principles, how do we improve GAC advice, as well as the implementation of transparency and accountability recommendations.

Next slide, please. We also looked at how we can broadly increase participation from across the GAC. So this included things like regional engagement, making sure we had a system of topic leads, liaisons and appointees, working through more procedural things like the agenda for our meetings, looking at ways to encourage more direct participation, as well as a range of other measures for,

I guess, improving the experience for all of you here today, as well as those joining online. And finally, a core part of this strategic objective is looking at the onboarding and broader capacity building as well. Next slide, please.

So a couple of key developments on this front over the last little while. As you saw yesterday, we're looking to advance some aspects of the operating principles through some of the targeted amendments for more of the procedural and administrative parts of the operating principles. So hopefully you'll all get a good chance to consider those amendments in due course.

We'll also be looking at a proposal for the implementation of the Continuous Improvement Program, CIP. So we'll get to that issue a little later today. And similarly, there's a proposal for improvements to the capacity development work that we undertake. And again, we'll be getting to that shortly later.

So a couple of key challenges for this piece. Pre-meeting input on communiqué drafting remains rare. So the more we can get ahead of communiqué language, the more we can populate that document before the session, our work here becomes easier and we get a better sense of what our colleagues are all thinking as well. So the opportunity still exists to jump into the communiqué document early and share your thoughts. Unfortunately, at this stage, not many of us have made use of that opportunity.

So Workstream2 activities also need to be strengthened and prioritized in the GAC and across relevant contributors. So this is

on the Accountability Across Community Working Group recommendations. So there is some work to be done to streamline and clarify the GAC's role in that process. Leadership have also given a lot of thought to improving the actual sessions that we run at meetings as well. So the next round session we ran earlier was a good start in that regard. But there's still a lot more to be done to, I guess, improve the way that these sessions are run and hopefully, again, increase participation and engagement.

And finally, we've been talking for quite a number of years about taking a more considerate approach to regional GAC coordination as well. So there's a real interest in doing some more regionally-specific activities, and it's always been a challenge to find the right leadership coverage and GAC points of contact to do some of that work, including starting some of those initiatives, driving them through, and really taking charge of that more regionally-focused work. And I think that's about it for SO2. I might pause to see if Zeina had any comments for this one as well.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Thank you, Ian. But maybe just to mention that during this time and with the approach of the next round, regional coordination must be enhanced in all possible ways. So this is the right time.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Zeina. Indeed, I was going to refer to that. And as a matter of fact, that was part of the conversations we had

with the Board in order to see if, when, and how we could be implementing the pilot program as regarding, you remember our concept of the BERN approach or the Vienna approach or, whatever the name we give it. But the idea is to start with the regional coordination, starting in Southeast Europe, right? And that's why.

The idea actually came from the UPU, and they were kindly offering their facilities in BERN, and that's why we called it the BERN approach. We could call it anything. We can call it the Antarctica approach if we decide to go to Antarctica. But for the sake of simplicity and logistical, let's say, better coordination, we thought that Vienna or BERN itself would be a good place to start. And well, that's more or less the idea there.

Just one more thing before I give the floor to the Netherlands for strategic objective number three. As regarding the pre-meeting input on communiqué drafting, it would be really good to, like, between Seville and Bali, that's going to be a very, let's say, in terms of workload given the fact that the next round of new gTLDs is going to be running at full speed there's going to be lots of action there.

So in case any of any GAC member identifies anything, any issue, anything they would like to include as early warning or comment or any of the tools, let's say, we reviewed during the capacity building sessions that would be a very good time frame to flag whatever issues there might be there. The sooner, the better, not only for the country, but for the GAC in general, and of course, for everyone, I would say.

Okay, and I see a hand from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Please go ahead.

BLAISE AZITEMINA FUNDJI

Yeah, thank you, Chair. I'd like to come back to SO1 and SO2 before we move to the third one. I think you've already raised the issue in regard to the capacity building. I was very delighted on Monday to notice that you counted close to 20 new GAC members who have joined the GAC community. But I think that when it comes to capacity building, capacity development of GAC members, I remember that on previous editions, we used to start all our meetings with a capacity building. So when you're talking about capacity building, what it involves exactly, most of us here, GAC members, we're getting old in the GAC, and we need to refresh, to renew the community.

But let me tell you that most of new members who are supposed to replace us as government representative, they're a bit afraid of joining GAC because they find it a little bit complex, with complex matters, with complex principles to understand, and involvement of the government. So I'd really like to attract your attention to this issue of building capacity, that it shouldn't just be sessions where we talk about our usual topics, but to try to get new members familiar with the community, familiar with the issues that we discuss in the GAC, and broadly the ICANN itself. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Congo. I couldn't agree more with you, and that is precisely the idea of the capacity building sessions, right? So if you have something new, or a different approach, or something more interesting, more important, or more meaningful, that you really think that should be considered, taken into account, we will gladly include it, you know.

So more than welcome, your ideas are going to be more than welcome, and as a matter of fact, needed, I would say. Because one thing is what we think would be good in terms of capacity building for the GAC, and a very different thing would be what comes directly from you, and we need that feedback. Because again, unfortunately, we don't have crystal balls telling us what to include in that.

That's one thing, that's one thing. And another thing is, and I had an interesting conversation with the underserved regions working group chair yesterday, in terms of the differences between general, let's say general capacity building sessions for the full GAC, which might indeed be different to the needs that underserved regions might have, not even at a regional level, but speaking in general, in terms of technology, and connection, access, and many different things. I don't know if that answers your question, more or less. Okay, thank you so much, Congo. I have the European Commission next.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Thank you very much, Chair. Gemma Carolillo for the European Commission. I have a couple of comments on this objective number two, on the effectiveness. So, first of all, I think that even for those of us who are a topic lead or work, I would say, a lot intersessionally on specific issues, it is really difficult to provide a pre-meeting input on the communiqué. We have tried, believe me, Nico, and it doesn't work.

One of the reasons why it doesn't work is that we have, very often, additional information at the meeting itself, which turns completely the communiqué in one direction or the other, and, of course, this is based on the discussion.

So, while, in theory, identifying the issues that would be tackled in the communiqué, it's relatively easy, then the appreciation of the issue can take a very different shape or form based on the information we receive at the meeting and the contribution from the room. So, this, I mean, I would not be kind of harsh on the committee if we don't manage to progress a lot on this, because I think it's difficult.

In relation to the point number three on the innovative methods, I think this leadership is doing well. And one of the things, for example, related to the selection of the speakers that come from other communities and talk to the GAC on specific topics during the session, I think this works well. We can definitely make more progress as to how we prepare those interventions to make sure that then we reach a point during the session where we have real

answers and real discussion. I think we can make even better use of the liaison to the different groups to increase that.

And I would insist that some intersessional meetings with relevant groups, in particular, this is the case usually for the GNSO, but it could be with other groups, would work. I know we have tried for some of the issues before this meeting. I think we should try again before Mumbai, because if we manage to get to some, at least identify the key elements we want to tackle with our counterparts in different groups, this would help a lot in terms of being more effective. Do not use only the three times a year we meet as a moment where we progress, but we progress earlier. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, European Commission. And again, I couldn't agree more with you. I'm very glad that we got an A plus on our management of the breakout groups and the different approach to the sessions. And again, the idea is to make it more interactive, to have more participation, more engaged participation from the GAC. I have a hand from Bangladesh.

SHAFIUL AZAM PARVEZ

Thank you, Nico. Regarding the effectiveness of GAC, in addition to the ICANN's regular procedure in the meeting, if we have, because all we are GAC and doing all the activities of ICANN related activities, the world is changing in relation to AI and more additional things on together to digital convergence.

So if there are some collaborations or if there are some activities that some countries are doing good progress in some of those stages, in regards to the policy guideline and effectiveness of ICANN and in associated activities, then sharing that information could also help the other countries to understand how we can also adopt such thing to implement more effectiveness in those countries. There could be some piece of format or some piece of collaboration or sharing of the information so that we can exchange of information and we can get to learn from the other countries. That's my understanding. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Bangladesh. I don't want to sound like a broken record or something, but again, I couldn't agree more with you. And that is precisely the idea of the regional coordination. But coordination is a bad word because what we're trying to do at a regional level or what we want to implement and see how it goes after a pilot program is precisely what you just described.

You know, let's say like Paraguay just happens to be right next to Brazil. And let's say Brazil has recently developed a fantastic new tool AI tool or whatever tool or blockchain or IoT or anything that applies directly to the DNS industry, just to give an example, right?

It could be anything. So Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and many other countries at the regional level would benefit. The same would apply in Southeast Asia, for example. Let's say Vietnam came up with some new tool, new digital tool or something, and

that can be shared with there and so on and so forth. So that's more or less the idea. So let's see how it goes in terms of actually implementing it. Thank you so much.

We need to move on at this point. So let me hand the floor to the Netherlands for strategic Objective Number 3. Over to you, Marco.

MARCO HOGEWONING

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And for the record, this is Marco Hogewoning for Netherlands speaking. I'll try to speed up a bit. The future rounds of new gTLDs and people who've been around for longer will recognize this has been a long-term goal, both of ICANN and the GAC.

So what you see here is what was originally defined as the strategic objectives, promote competition, consumer trust and consumer choice, contribute to reducing the digital divide and support applicants from underserved and underrepresented regions, and of course, promoting IDNs, incorporating appropriate security, stability and resilience safeguards related to the DNS in addition of the new TLDs, and include appropriate procedures and capabilities for the GAC to address unexpected issues arising from specific or categories of applications.

If we move to the next slide, you will probably recognize that this is basically what we've been doing this meeting and the past meeting, and a lot of the goals we have formulated here, we have actively been working on this week and also in previous meetings.

So looking at the traffic lights, you see everything is pretty much, I think, going to schedule. Feedback was indeed also that you seem to feel ready, so ticking them off. Of course, the role of GAC consensus advice and GAC early warnings, as we mentioned, the early warning process is pretty much finalized. It needs publication and then I feel we're good to go.

Readiness for GAC advice pertaining to new gTLDs. We had a very fruitful discussion yesterday on some ideas on how to progress and how to streamline that process. Public interest and voluntary commitments. We haven't recently touched upon that, but I'm sure this will probably be part of the package in Bali and then subsequent meetings in resolving our early warnings. The closed generic gTLDs, you see it's marked in purple. We consider this issue closed. There are no closed generics, so that's done.

Support for the new applications from underserved regions. We again spent some discussion time yesterday on ISP. We saw the statistics. It's progressing. It might not deliver on everybody's expectations, but I think we came a long way. Documentation to enable GAC and governance readiness. Again, we're mostly in your hands, but as discussed yesterday, we feel there is a good path forward.

Jumping to the final slide and I'll try to wrap up quickly, if I can get to the next slide. As I talked already through the notable progress, the next round application window is open. I mean, as far as

strategic objective goes, it's there. The one thing I would like to highlight here is this deliberately talks of future rounds, plural.

We had the 2012 round, we're in the 2026 round. We may expect another next round, so we always keep an eye out for what comes next and hopefully lessons learned. ISP is progressing the workbook with quite good ideas. As I mentioned yesterday, I like to carry that forward intersessionally towards Bali to build that workbook. Capacity development sessions, we'll touch upon capacity development overall later. I think we're good on track.

The challenges, and Congo just alluded to it as well, there's still a lot of new people here who run in what essentially is a red hot topic. The window is open, so it will be a challenge to get those new people on Board and we would gladly also ask all of your support in helping those newcomers understand, helping those newcomers to find their footing. We talked a bit about the timing. It's only 104 days and yes, from a government, that's a short timeline and we really have to be on edge. We really have to move fast if we want to make use of the process capabilities that we have. That means probably streamlining and really look at how can we effectively work with this? How can we quickly find common ground? How can we move with this?

And maximizing the impact of support mechanism. Ensure that the ASP achieves its intended impact. There will always be something to wish for more is my read of that, but I'm sure that both us leadership and staff are happy to take on Board feedback.

Yesterday we had a discussion with the Board as well and see what we can do to really make sure that the ASP hit the mark and we reach our objective to really also progress with the underserved and underrepresented regions in terms of DNS and then gTLDs. Mr. Chairman, I'll leave it here unless anybody has any questions.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. Netherlands, let me open the floor for questions or comments as regarding the future rounds of new gTLDs. Let me check the floor for reactions. I see no hand in the room and I see no hands online. Even though this is the superstar topic nowadays, everything seems to be clear and the capacity development sessions were focusing on this as well, so everything seems to be on track.

All right, good. So let's move on. For Strategic Objective Number four on DNS abuse, our shepherds will be Gloria Katuuku from Uganda and Mr. Thiago Dal-Toe from Colombia. Thiago, would you like to join us at the head table or you want to do it from there? Because as a former vice chair, you're more than welcome to rejoin your former colleagues and current colleagues for that matter. Okay, so over to you, Gloria.

GLORIA KATUUKU

Thank you very much, Nico. Strategic Objective Number 4 highlights DNS abuse.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Gloria, could you please speak closer to the microphone? Thank you very much.

GLORIA KATUUKU

I hope you can hear me now. Strategic Objective Number 4 looks at DNS abuse. It highlights GAC's engagement in proactively working with the ICANN community and look at activities that relate to government's concerns regarding DNS abuse in order to promote security, stability, resilience of the DNS and look at support and continuous improvement of DNS abuse mitigation and prevention standards and their effective enforcement by ICANN.

The strategic goal looks at all these various as from 4.1 to 4.7 and in its work, we continue keeping in mind the ever-evolving nature of DNS abuse that GAC will seek. I think we've done this. My colleague, Thiago, will provide a little bit of background on this. Seek the GAC survey and observers to better understand how to address the concerns and meet expectations of governments within the DNS abuse. Next slide.

What are our expected outcomes? We're looking at outcomes regarding the advancement of policy work. Look at support for the commitment from contracted parties and ICANN org. Monitor the contracted parties' progress in implementing the DNS abuse contract and consensus policy obligation.

Among others, we're looking at the expected outcomes regarding capacity building. I know that this is ongoing for all the various

strategic objectives. Even on DNS abuse, we're looking at increasing the availability of training and briefing materials on fundamentals, tailored training and briefing materials, and provide GAC members with examples of best practices, guidelines, or trusted notifier programs. Next presentation, please.

What are some of the notable development progresses that so far achieved? Formation of GAC DNS abuse small group and strong engagement in ongoing PDP deliberations on associate domain names and discussions expected with the GNSO on pending policy gaps and verification timelines. And its future prioritization methodology for expected policy work.

What are some of the challenges? Of course, prioritization and planning of work needed on development and promotion of guidelines. And as I was discussing with one of our colleagues, I was advised that there's need for one of the other challenges is to make sure how do we get all GAC members involved and what some of those challenges that you're facing within your various regions that needed to be highlighted within this aspect of DNS abuse. Chair, allow me to give to Thiago, to see if there's any comment before we open it up back to you. Thiago.

THIAGO DAL-TOE

Thank you so much, Gloria. Thiago Dal-Toe, GAC Colombia, for the record. Here, one of the things that I always say, obviously, we have to recognize the work from the topic leads being a caretaker, meaning helping them out. But the topic leads are the one really

driving this process forward from the European Commission, the US government, and Japan. Obviously, more GAC members are always welcome to participate. This is a very important topic as well. And I think more training is needed.

Nico mentioned that most of our GAC capacity development is going on the new gTLDs because of the hot topic. But DNS abuse has never faded away as a hot topic as well. So I think that utilizing the intercession may be for developing capacity materials. So before we even arrive at an ICANN meeting, we can have information will be very important.

I also wanted to stress the importance for all GAC members to participate in the surveys because GAC staff and leadership take a lot of effort in preparing this survey. They really are important for us to understand where we are and how we can make better decisions for the whole community. So it's really important for all of us to dedicate some of our time, 10, 15 minutes, in order to respond to the surveys. And we can have a massive representation from GAC members and them. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Columbia. Indeed, agree with you 100%. And one final thing, for the sake of time, I'll be very quick. Congratulations to the DNS abuse small group on developing the whole idea of the narrowly scoped approach. On the one hand, on the other hand, the parallel tracks. That's something that really helps. And hopefully, and I'm crossing my fingers here, will help

speed up this never-ending and eternal, I would say, from my point of view, eternal processes for everything.

It shouldn't take more than 30 minutes to decide if we drink coffee, tea, or whiskey. And we are governments, right? Translating that to DNS language or to ICANN language, it shouldn't take six years to develop policy or to address a topic that's been mentioned by the GAC 12 years ago or 10 years ago or nine 9 ago and so on. Well, I don't want to get any deeper. But again, congratulations to the small. That's a good example of creative and innovative ideas.

Okay. So at this point, and again, for the sake of time, I'll give the floor at this point -- We're going to be discussing domain registration data as strategic objective number five. And for that, I will again hand the floor to Mr. Ian Sheldon, Australia, and Thiago Dal Toe. Over to you.

IAN SHELDON

Thank you, Nico. I think I might speed up a little here. We've got quite a number of SOs to get through, as well as four substantive topics for discussion. So let's see how we go. So Strategic Objective Number 5, domain registration data. And so hopefully this one is reasonably straightforward.

The GAC will work to identify and recommend steps to promote and support the continued accessibility and approved accuracy of domain registration information. Obviously, consistent with applicable privacy regulatory frameworks and in line with the GAC

principles regarding WHOIS services. There's a little bit of extra information here around context, which I might skip. Next slide, please.

So the expected outcomes, again, should be reasonably straightforward. Looking at registration data policy, urgent requests, as well as collection and publication of registration information related to legal entities. There's also work here on RDRS, privacy proxy services, as well as a stream here on accuracy of domain registration data. Next slide, please.

So a couple of, well, they were hopeful developments. So there was some work to try and convene a trilateral dialogue. But as we'd heard from the Board, this is looking unlikely at this stage. So we will need to, I guess, continue talking to the GNSO or perhaps look at other ways to advance this conversation. And finally, one of the other challenges here is the collection and publication of legal entities registration data, which will continue to require strong engagement with both Board and Org, as well as others from across the community.

Nico had requested an update from ICANN org on the status of this implementation. I'll pause here to see if Thiago had any comments. Nope. And maybe hand back to Nico to see if there are any questions from the floor.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you so much, Australia. Comments or questions in this regard? I see no hands in the room. European Commission.

GEMMA CAROLILLO Thank you, Nico. Just a very quick question. So you have requested an update but haven't received any, unless I'm mistaken?

NICOLAS CABALLERO Not that I know, not that I remember, and I stand to be corrected. Julia, Gulten, Benedetta, any of the Fabulous Five. Have we received any email, any answer yet as regarding the update from ICANN org on the status of the implementation? Not that I know of, right? Give me thumbs up, thumbs down. Not that I remember.

GEMMA CAROLILLO So perhaps we could do a follow-up, I mean, to get updates. It would be really helpful. Otherwise, we keep having hanging this work item, but in reality, there is not much we can do. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Thank you very much. Well noted, European Commission. So that's something to write down, GAC staff, so that we can we can follow up. Okay, any other questions or comment?

Seeing none, let's move on to the next strategic objective, which is universal acceptance. And for that, I will hand over the floor to Mrs. Zeina Bou Harb from Lebanon and Egypt, Christine. Is Christine in

the room? Would you like to join us here, Christine, or you'll do it from your--? Okay, perfect. So over to you, Zeina.

ZEINA BOU HARB

Thank you, Chair. So maybe we can move directly to the challenges and progress, just to gain some time, because we all have the document. So on notable progress, there have been many positive developments since our last update. For expected outcome 6.1 and 6.4, both are on track. I mean, 6.1, information of GAC members, because activities related to the working group is shared by mailing list and the cross-community discussions. So we are good on that.

On 6.4, the collaboration continues with the ccNSO and UNESCO and other stakeholders. But despite this progress, there is some challenges, mainly for expected outcome 6.2, government support of relevant efforts. Here, the progress remains limited as this area is currently at risk. The UA is still often seen as a technical issue rather than an important enabler of digital inclusion, multilingualism, and interoperability. So the existing systems are designed primarily for the English language content. Updating them to support modern standard is not prioritized. So here, we need some engagement from governments to enhance the usage of new standards.

And for 6.3, the future of new gTLDs work has not started yet, because the working group is still monitoring the development related to universal acceptance and IDNs, particularly in relation to

the next round of new gTLDs. So in conclusion, awareness and collaboration efforts continue to move forward. However, the greater government engagement is needed to ensure that UAE is recognized as an important element of digital inclusion and digital transformation initiatives. So unless Christine has anything to add, this is all from my side.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Thank you, Zeina. I think just to add that the UAE Day for 2026 has witnessed some notable government involvement, and there have been, I think, maybe some colleagues here in the room can talk more about that, but I know that there has been in India, Armenia, Ghana, and South Korea, a lot of maybe other governments also, some involvement. But I think also the UNESCO collaboration with ICANN is a resource that we as government can surely rely on to use. I mean, the policy brief that was created could be very useful resource for governments. That's just from my side to add. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Egypt and Lebanon. Comments or questions in this regard? Okay, seeing none, then let's move on to the next strategic objective, which is number seven, and I'll go ahead with it.

The impact of new technology on the DNS system. There's a lot to talk about here, and I'm the caretaker. The basic background at

this point is that we will increase our understanding and raise awareness via the capacity development sessions, on the one hand, and via direct interactions among GAC members of the challenges and opportunities of new technologies as they relate to the internet's unique identifier systems. We're not going to be talking here, of course, about the use of clustering in biology or astronomy or any other thing, and that's why the emphasis is on the internet's unique identifier system. Can we move to the next slide, please?

There are some expected outcomes in terms of the impact of new technology. I'm not going to get to the details, but very broadly speaking, we have six areas. As you can see on the screen, there's AI, artificial intelligence, internet, IoT, blockchains, cryptography, and security, these being a very sensitive area. As everybody knows, as soon as post-quantum computing is developed, any existing encryption system would be compromised. I'll stop there in order not to get too technical or not to focus on details. Thank you, Gulten, for moving on to the next slide.

Some notable developments and progress made at this point during ICANN84 back in Dublin, if you remember, we had this capacity development session on AI and machine learning, and you have the link right there. You can review the details, and we can talk later about some other details if you want. During the ICANN85 Mumbai meeting, there was another presentation on DNS for digital identity.

Interesting, very interesting presentation. I highly recommend you click on the link and see it whenever you have time. ICANN OCTO also briefed back in April on blockchain-based naming systems that some people say are going to be the direct, the next generation of the DNS-like system, but there's a lot to talk about in that regard. We don't have time today. I have my doubts, but anyways, that's what the whole issue was about. And also some interesting conversations about quantum computing and the role of AI in the DNS again.

And then finally, we had, I think it was yesterday or the day before yesterday, right here in Seville, we had this discussion, this plenary discussion on the current incoming impact of artificial intelligence on DNS abuse. That was a packed session. I could barely fit in, I remember. I had to sit on the floor, but it was okay because it was a very good presentation.

So I'll stop here. There's a lot to talk about AI and machine learning, because this is the super, super hot topic of the moment. There are some people that are afraid to lose their jobs and everything because of artificial intelligence. I would recommend a different view. My point would be is that new jobs are going to be created, but again, we can have a discussion in that regard later on.

Let me pause here in order to see if have -- we still have a good 12 minutes for the remaining two strategic objectives. Any quick question about the super sexy topic of artificial intelligence at this point? I have a hand from Indonesia.

ASHWIN SASONGKO Thank you, Nico. Ashwin from Indonesia for the record. Now, relating this AI development with the previous presentation on the problem of short time for the GAC to check the gTLD applications. Now, I just wonder if these two can be related. For example, in Indonesia we have 17,000 island names. I don't know. The one registered at the UNGEGN, but you still have other sensitive names and so on and so on. I do not know. I wonder. I think there will be hundreds of applicants of gTLD or maybe thousands or whatever. Not only that, as we mentioned before, we have mass registration at the registrar that may cause DNS abuse.

So how we as the government can use the AI to monitor all of this, to monitor both the gTLD applications, because the previous mention said that the lack of GAC capabilities to monitor the gTLD applications. And secondly, how to use this AI technology to monitor the mass registration of the registrar to avoid DNS abuse. Is there any work on that? Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO No, but it could be easily developed. As a matter of fact, it would be just a matter of generating some classification algorithms or clustering algorithms. But we will need a full session, and I would love to lead that session if needed be, because there's a lot to talk about. I don't think we have time at this point to address that issue because it would imply at least a 90-minute session. But from a

technical point of view, it's a very simple thing to develop. No problem at all.

So again, we need to move on. And let me hand the floor at this point to Switzerland and Egypt on the Internet Governance Awareness issue.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. So you have the notable developments on the screen, mostly WSIS+20, and that we are planning for the high-level governmental meeting for a later time. And we are talking to government engagement on the reporting. If we go to the next slide. The next slide, please. Thank you. We are continuing to engage with -- Is this the next slide? Is this correct? Let's see slide 32, please. Okay. So we can go to SO9. I think that's most of it, unless Christine wants to add anything.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

No, thank you. I'm good.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Egypt. Thank you, Switzerland. We need to move on now. Next slide, please.

We need to talk about the NomCom. There we go. Yeah, exactly. The NomCom. And next slide, please. Thank you. The current approach is that the ICANN bylaws provide for a voting delegate.

That's a little detail to take into account. A voting delegate appointed by the GAC to serve on the NomCom. The position has not been filled in recent years and is currently vacant, and we need -- The GAC has instead engaged through submissions outlining desired candidate criteria back in 2018, 2019, 23, and 25, but we have not appointed, as a matter of fact, a NomCom voting delegate.

So the question for consideration for the GAC at this point is -- Some microphone is open. So if you could please check that your microphone is not open. Thank you. So the question is does the current approach provide sufficient opportunities for GAC perspectives to inform the NomCom process?

So let me pause here in order to see if there are opinions in this regard. I see three hands. One is from Indonesia, one is from the UPU, and one is from Colombia. Indonesia, is that an old hand?

ASHWIN SASONGKO Sorry, I have not lowered my hand.
SASTROSUBROTO

NICOLAS CABALLERO No problem, no problem. I have the UPU, Colombia, Denmark. So let's go with the UPU.

TRACY HACKSHAW Thank you, Chair. This is Tracy Hackshaw, UPU. I just wanted to provide my offer. I'm not going to spend the time here to explain

it, but I was a NomCom representative and chair-elect most recently up to 2022, I think, or 2023, I believe, I can't remember, and representing another constituency. So I can provide guidance as to the level of effort required and the sort of, without giving confidential information, what goes on in the NomCom so that GAC members can understand better how they may participate.

The one thing I would say is that if you're in the NomCom, you cannot participate in the GAC meetings. There will be no time because you'll be locked in rooms doing NomCom work. So that's important to understand. You will not be able to leave, to do things, to write communiqués, etc., or to even participate in Zoom during those meetings. That's important to understand, but I'm happy to provide guidance if anybody wishes to understand it, including leadership. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much. Before I give the floor to Colombia, can we move to the next slide, please, Julia? Yes. So there's a set of questions there. We don't need to read them because everybody, this was circulated beforehand, so these are some things to take into consideration while we discuss. So I have Colombia next.

THIAGO DAL-TOE

Thank you, Nico. Thiago Dal-Toe for the record. Particularly, I think Tracy responded what I was actually trying to raise before, and given the fact that whoever decides to participate, well, if the GAC

decides to participate in a NomCom and the person would represent us there, that person would not be able to participate in GAC meetings.

So I think that maybe for a smaller delegation like myself, for example, it wouldn't be possible. So we would have to see if there are other members from the GAC with bigger delegations that are willing to take up on that job, and I haven't seen anything like that. So initially, my idea or my preference would be to maintain the status quo that we currently have, unless we hear from others that they're willing to serve and take up the time in the NomCom. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Perfect, well noted. Thank you, Colombia. I have Denmark next.

FINN PETERSEN

Thank you. Finn Petersen from Denmark for the record. I remember we have discussed this for seven, eight years ago, many, many times for seven, eight years ago, and at that time we had the view that we shouldn't appoint a GAC representative as an observer. The NomCom situation is still the same. There's no transparency, perhaps for good reasons, I don't know, but because there's no transparency and we don't know what is going on, it will be very difficult for us as a government to appoint another government to speak on our behalf, when we don't know what is going on.

We know, at least, I'm under the mandate of my government and they can instruct me to do what they want me to say, so we cannot really control or know what the person who are our representative are speaking in the meeting. For that reason alone, we are not in favor of changing the situation. I understand for other considerations which make it very difficult for some countries to be able to be nominated if that was the reason. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Denmark. Just one thing to note is that if we end up nominating somebody, they will not be speaking on behalf of the GAC. They will be there. I'm not trying to convince you, I'm not trying to change your mind or anything, just for the sake of clarity. That person, that nominated person will not be representing the view of the full GAC. He or she will be there in his or her personal capacity, and I stand to be corrected, right? If that is not the case, but no, yeah, that is indeed the case. Sorry, we're running out of time. I have Germany next.

RUDY NOLDE

Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Tracy and Thiago, for pointing out the logistical challenges. I would agree with the point that Finn made at this point, that we feel a bit uneasy with appointing someone from the GAC to a wall in a NomCom, which I understand operates in a confidential manner that may not be transparent enough, at least for me, to actually understand the wall that this member would play when it comes to specific decisions being

taken. I understand the point that this person would not represent the GAC, but would provide like public policy perspectives in an individual manner, but I think depending on who you ask as a member, the question of what a government's public policy responsibility is might also differ a lot.

So, while I see the point that the GAC has been given this opportunity and we have not taken up this offer yet, I think there is this underlying problem of maybe a lack of transparency and accountability. So, at this point, we would not be in favor of appointing someone from the GAC. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, Germany. USA, please.

SUSAN CHALMERS

Thank you, Chair. Susan Chalmers from the United States. The United States supports the views expressed by Denmark and Germany and also the rationale provided. We support maintaining the status quo. We see no natural fit for a Government Advisory Committee delegate to the NomCom. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, USA. Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO

Thank you. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. As we are on the top of the hour, I'll be brief. I think it's basically a question of

trust. It's very similar to the position of the Board liaison of the GAC, who is normally the GAC chair and who is also bound by confidentiality rules and cannot disclose what is discussed in the Board. So, it's a similar situation. At the same time, the function is a very different one. Being in the Board is being sort of the messenger as the GAC chair of the views of the GAC. And, of course, we trust the GAC Chair as he or she has been elected by the whole committee.

So, in a way, we would need to have a deeper conversation on how to ensure that something similar could be done for the position in the NomCom. But I understand from the positions that we have heard here, and I put my caretaker hat on, on SO1, that we are not in agreement. So, I don't think we will get there. So, maybe in the absence of agreement, what we can conclude is that we remain in the situation we have until now. But I'll defer to the chair, of course.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much for that, Switzerland. I have Canada, the European Commission, and then Egypt. And then we absolutely need to close the queue. Please go ahead, Canada.

DAVID BEDARD

Thank you, Chair. I'll be brief. I know that we're at the top of the hour. But just to reflect the views of my colleagues from Germany, Denmark, and the United States, we also have issues with the transparency of this and the not quite sure that it's a natural fit for

the GAC. We would also support maintaining the status quo at this moment. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you very much, Canada. European Commission.

GEMMA CAROLILLO

Thank you, Chair. So, from the European Commission, we support the positions previously expressed by colleagues. I'm not going to repeat those. We would like further to add that perhaps it would be interesting for this group to understand whether the way of functioning of the NomCom fits with the principles of transparency and accountability that are embedded into the ICANN mission.

So, I don't think as a GAC we want to show that we do not want to participate. But I think there is an issue for governments to participate in this group and possibly for the way this group operates. Perhaps we should learn a little bit more how other groups feel about it and whether the NomCom, the way it works, is compatible with the ICANN principles. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you, European Commission. Egypt, you have the last word.

CHRISTINE ARIDA

Okay, not really the last word, but I mean, I see the overwhelming view that we should not participate, but I'd like to reiterate what Switzerland, what Jorge just said. I think the situation of the

NomCom is not so different from the situation of the Board. The Board also works under very strict non-transparency, in terms of non-disclosure, I would say, and we do have someone representing the GAC there.

So, I think we should defer the decision, in my view, and try to work more on the trust issue, maybe look at the procedures and how the NomCom is working, and I think they did in previous meetings show willingness to address whatever concerns the GAC may have. So, maybe we should work closer with them through maybe objective one, a smaller working group within that group, to identify how we can have this trust within the GAC to resolve and not lose on that opportunity of being represented in the NomCom. So, that's my take. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO

Thank you so much, Egypt. Well noted, and I see nodding in the room, so there we go. Okay, that's what the discussion is for. Perfect. Sorry for going five minutes over time. Please be back in the room at 11.45. We didn't cover the CIP issue. We might be able to do that during the first GAC Communiqué drafting session, and then go ahead with the drafting. And we also need to talk about the GAC elections, which we can also do before we actually start the drafting of the communiqué, unless, of course, anybody has a better idea. Any of my distinguished vice chairs?

Okay, can we show slide number 46? Oh, there we go. Yeah, the GAC elections, the close of nomination. Well, I don't need to read

the whole thing. This is just for you to be aware of the latest developments there. But we're absolutely out of time. This is the coffee break time, and we'll reconvene at 11.45 local time. Thank you very much. My apologies for going over time, but it's just the way it is. You know, there are some issues that need to be taken care of. Thank you. Enjoy your coffee.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]