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MONTREAL - GAC: Opening Plenary  
Saturday, November 2, 2019 - 10:30 to 12:00 EDT  
ICANN66 | Montréal, Canada

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: If you can please take your seats, we will start now.

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our first GAC plenary session here in Montreal, Saturday, November 2nd.

This plenary is scheduled for 45 minutes. I hope you all had smooth trips and flights here, managed to rest a bit and ready for our GAC work throughout the week.

Before we start the Tour de Table for self-introductions, I would like first, as has been the tradition since Kobe meeting, to give the floor to the GAC representative from our host country, Canada, to give some opening remarks. So, Luisa, please.

LUISA PAEZ, GAC VICE-CHAIR: Thank you, Manal. Good morning, dear GAC colleagues, I'm Luisa Paez from the department of innovation, science and economic development with the government of Canada and current GAC vice chair. [non-English word or phrase]

(audio interference)

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**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.**

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Let's continue to strengthen the GAC as an effective venue for governments to discuss important issues. And let us continue to focus on capacity building efforts for governments to strengthen ICANN's multi-stakeholder model. [non-English word or phrase] I wish you all a very fruitful meeting and hope you all enjoy Montreal. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, and indeed, let's continue to strengthen the GAC as an effective venue for governments to discuss the important issues here in ICANN.

So now we will be starting the Tour de Table. If I may just ask you to speak slowly and clearly and close to the mic so that we can help the scribes and interpreters to reflect accurately what is being said, and I would like also to ask you to start by mentioning your country, again, to take note of the attendance here and to help GAC support staff to take accurate note of the attendance.

LUISA PAEZ, GAC VICE-CHAIR: For the Canadian government, Luisa Paez.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Manal Ismail, GAC chair.

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OLGA CAVALLI, GAC VICE-CHAIR: Argentina, Olga Cavalli.

SPEAKER: Brazil.

SPEAKER: Economic Community of West African state.

SPEAKER: Colombia.

SPEAKER: Portugal.

SPEAKER: Denmark.

SPEAKER: Switzerland.

SPEAKER: Switzerland.

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SPEAKER: Federal office of Switzerland.

SPEAKER: Mali.

SPEAKER: Mali.

SPEAKER: Government of India.

SPEAKER: Lithuania.

SPEAKER: Italy.

SPEAKER: Spain.

SPEAKER: Belgium.

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SPEAKER: Republic of Uganda.

SPEAKER: Egypt.

SPEAKER: Uganda.

SPEAKER: Azerbaijan.

SPEAKER: St. Kitts and Nevis.

SPEAKER: Macedonia.

SPEAKER: Indonesia.

SPEAKER: Chad.

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SPEAKER: Nigeria.

SPEAKER: Qatar

SPEAKER: Japan.

SPEAKER: Japan.

SPEAKER: Norway.

SPEAKER: [indiscernible]

SPEAKER: France.

SPEAKER: Australia.

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SPEAKER: UK government.

SPEAKER: Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SPEAKER: Cook Islands.

SPEAKER: Croatia.

SPEAKER: Croatia.

SPEAKER: Hong Kong, China.

SPEAKER: Congo Republic.

SPEAKER: Turkey.

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SPEAKER: Vietnam.

SPEAKER: Netherlands.

SPEAKER: Canada.

SPEAKER: Canada.

SPEAKER: Canada.

SPEAKER: [indiscernible]

SPEAKER: Sri Lanka.

SPEAKER: [indiscernible]



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SPEAKER: China.

SPEAKER: United States.

SPEAKER: Bangladesh Regulatory Commission.

SPEAKER: Red Cross Committee.

SPEAKER: Ukraine.

SPEAKER: Ukraine.

SPEAKER: Morocco.

SPEAKER: International Francophone Organization.

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SPEAKER: Francophone Organization

SPEAKER: Kenya.

SPEAKER: Egypt.

SPEAKER: Austria.

SPEAKER: Germany.

SPEAKER: Singapore.

SPEAKER: Taiwan.

SPEAKER: Taiwan.

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SPEAKER: United Arab Emirates.

SPEAKER: United Arab Emirates.

SPEAKER: Somalia.

SPEAKER: New Zealand.

SPEAKER: [indiscernible]

SPEAKER: Philippines.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Any other members or observers in the room who don't have the mic? Yes, please, go ahead.

SPEAKER: Cambodia.

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SPEAKER: Laos.

SPEAKER: Cambodia.

SPEAKER: Cambodia.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, and if you can try to take seats maybe with mics so you're able to engage during the session.

So thank you very much, everyone. And I overlooked, we have slides so if we can move the slides. So we will quickly have the -- we already were done with the host country welcome remarks and the Tour de Table. We will be starting the leadership remarks and the chair remarks and overview of the week. But before we start and as has been conveyed over email, we have lost our friend and colleague, Tarek Kamel. He has passed away three weeks ago on the 10th of October after almost nine years of a battle with cancer. As ICANN senior president and senior vice president for government engagement, he has always been available for ICANN and for the GAC despite his suffering, and he worked hand in hand with us to prepare for high-level governmental meetings and

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capacity building activities and other activities as well. So if I may ask you to stand for a minute of silence in memory of Tarek before we start. Thank you.

(moment of silence)

Thank you, everyone. And by the way, there will be a tribute for Tarek on Tuesday, the 5th of November, here at the venue from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 in room 517d.

So if we can proceed with the slides, please. So as usual, we have the agenda that has already been discussed in advance of our meeting. I will not go through session by session but would maybe highlight that we had a slight change in the schedule, so we have swapped the two character code session from Sunday morning to today after the plenary in place of the IGO protections which is now going to be discussed on Sunday morning. And this was to accommodate the late arrival of some of the topic leads. So just noting this change. Again, throughout the week we have through cross community panels on topics of interest to the GAC, I would say, we have already proposed three topics to be discussed here in Montreal, two of which had more or less unanimous support, [indiscernible] and DNS abuse but the third, the evolution of ICANN multi-stakeholder models. The third we proposed for a cross community discussion was human rights, and despite support we were limited by only three slots so it

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didn't make it to a cross community panel but still we're hosting a session here hosted by the GAC on Wednesday morning, if I'm not mistaken. So this will be taking place as well.

And as you know, on the last day of the meeting here we normally start discussions on the upcoming meeting and we normally start discussions with what cross community discussions we need to see in Cancun. So just a heads up before we start our discussions, whenever you feel a need, if there is a topic we should propose on Thursday as a cross community topic for Cancun, please let's nail this down so we can work as efficiently as we did for Montreal.

One more thing on attendance -- and GAC support staff is continuing experimentation on the best way to have accurate records of GAC attendance. And this time they are testing or scanning, and this will be on Wednesday morning. So this is just a heads-up. And yeah, of course I welcome all new GAC members as well and particularly those who are attending for the first time. I hope you manage to attend the first-timers session this morning and you find it useful and please if there are any comments or suggestions, just let us know. So this is the third meeting in the year, which is the annual general meeting so this is normally a longer meeting with more attendance and more time for working groups, again relative to the policy forum which was in June, it

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was only for four days. So here we have a whole week for discussions, and we have more time for communicate drafting.

So moving on, as you can tell from the agenda, the substantive topics that we have here on our Montreal agenda includes preparing for potential next round of new gTLDs, and we have the subsequent procedures focal group meeting this afternoon. We have DNS abuse mitigation, we have both GAC sessions and the cross-community sessions and again, as I said, this has been a topic proposed by the GAC, and I hope you will all engage throughout the week in DNS abuse discussions.

We also have the long-standing agenda item IGO access to curative rights protections which is now scheduled for the Sunday morning. We have ATRT3 review, the accountability and transparency review team and within scope they have a whole section on GAC, so this is again, of special interest to the GAC. They had a survey for the whole community but also specific questions to the GAC which we have responded to inter-sessionally. We also have the two-character country codes registration monitoring tool feedback. If you recall, we have agreed to have Montreal as our checkpoint on any feedback regarding search tool.

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.Amazon application developments, we will be hearing from the Amazonian countries, and I understand there were quite a few submissions in that respect, and finally universal acceptance and potentially new GAC working group on universal acceptance, and we will talk more on this during the session.

On GAC operational matters, there's new process for GAC consideration of potential public community opportunities, this is ongoing. If -- we have been trying this for a while now, Benedetta compiles all government which topics would be of interest to submit collective GAC input. I really thank you for your participation and engagement inter-sessionally. We have been submitting quite a few inputs to several processes, we will come to this later. And please keep us posted on anything we need to do better or any suggestions for improvements.

We also are researching how we can finalize the current process on empowered community. We already have discussed this initially after the transition and we had some process in place but maybe it's not that clear to everyone, and maybe we need to finalize it. And whether -- because the empowered community as you may know, have certain powers and whenever there's a need for a decision, we need to know whether the leadership is delegated to take certain decisions, whether we should come back to the GAC list for each and every decision so that things are



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crystal clear to everyone. So again, GAC support is working on this and we will be coming back to the GAC membership.

We also have some research on establishing a regular GAC review of board scorecard responses to the communique advice. So as you may know, we issue a communique at the end of each meeting. This communique goes to the board. We receive a board scorecard on this. We have a clarification call first and then receive the board response on this. And there seems to be a missing step to close the loop. So again, GAC support staff is working on this and again, this will be discussed in more detail maybe during the board GAC interaction group meeting, the BGIG meeting here in Montreal.

And finally, again, the recordkeeping and attendance innovations. So as I said, support staff has been trying different things, listening to the recordings and following the scribes, also passing an attendance sheet and trying the QR scanning now, so doing our best to get an accurate record of attendees each meeting.

On the working groups, there has been good evolution, I would say, in the work of working groups. Some inter-sessional work has been taking place, and it's good to see that working group membership has been increasing. There are also new working group guidelines being developed by GAC operating principles,

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evolution working group, which I hope would come to a close here in Montreal or shortly afterwards. And we have several working group sessions during this week starting today after lunch, so we have already three or maybe four even working group meetings today.

So I think this is a good opportunity for everyone, especially those who are not familiar with the working groups, to maybe attend the meetings, get a feeling for discussions and maybe join the working groups later. And of course those who are experienced are also most welcome today lend a hand to the working groups.

So if we can move on... this is on the third accountability and transparency review efforts. So as mentioned, the ATRT efforts impacts the GAC significantly, so that's why we're trying to participate actively and the GAC leadership embraced the ATRT3 process, offering cooperation and information. GAC responses have been already shared with ATRT3 inter-sessionally. As I mentioned, there were two parts to this. One is the community structure survey, and the other part were specific written questions to the GAC where we had reached out to GAC colleagues and provided written responses as well. So thanks, of course to those who are already volunteered to offer assistance and who have contributed to those responses. And we will have a plenary session on Wednesday morning for an update.

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And on the elections. So all five vice chair seats are open. We have seven excellent candidates. I wish them all the best. So the electronic election closes Sunday evening, which is tomorrow evening. So I hope if any members have not yet voted that they do so before the closure. And on the 3rd of November, we will be having -- I think it's Monday, we will be having the results of the five vice chairs whose term would start in Cancun.

So we normally at the beginning of every meeting, the ICANN CEO meets with the SO and AC chairs, and I try to report back to the GAC on what took place during this meeting. Just to note that the meeting is held according to Chatham House rules so the discussion can be shared without any attribution as to who said what but generally the meeting starts with each and every chair sharing [indiscernible] with constituency and I mentioned the data protection, new gTLD, subsequent procedures, Work Tracks 1-4 but also Work Track 5, the .Amazon, and I highlighted our bilateral cooperation with the GNSO on the IGOs but also on the PDP 3.0 which they have reached out to us recently for comments. I mentioned that are already c GNSO, and already several activities with ALAC on capacity building, lowering barriers to participation, subsequent procedures and on ICANN's multi-stakeholder model. Also the RSAC, the root server system advisory committee will brief the GAC here on the new proposed

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governance model, this session is today, this afternoon, in addition to our regular meetings with the board.

Administratively, I mentioned the evolution of ICANN multi-stakeholder model, the specific reviews in specific ATRT3 and the actions requested registered where we have the GAC advice logged and tracked to see which GAC advice has been responded to and flagged as closed and what we still have open and need to attend to. Other internal matters included the vice chair elections, the GAC operating principles review, the onboarding of new GAC members and the creation of a new working group on universal acceptance. This is what I shared on behalf of the GAC. Other topics mentioned as well during the during the session were the legislative tracker, global public interest, name [indiscernible] implementation of PDP 3.0, and the empowered community forum.

I have to say that there was a plea at the end of this session for community members to make sure that they participate actively in the auction proceeds working group to avoid any further delays at the time of issuing the report. So this PDP on auction proceeds has been going for quite some time now. They will be issuing the final report soon, and it looks like the participation is declining and we need to make sure that everyone is participating so that when the final report is out things are not delayed. And I have to

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mention here that the GAC is already chartering organization of this cross community working group, so we need to be ready as soon as we receive the report to provide a response back.

I'm just trying to check my notes. Yeah, also another -- this was the community sharing their priorities. Another agenda item was on the readiness to implement the three plans, strategic, operation, and financial plan involving ICANN's multi-stakeholder model. And I have to say that this is a topic that has been proposed by the board to discuss with the community, so during our meeting with the board this week they will be discussing this topic with the GAC. I hope you had the time or if not yet then please do, look at the slides they have shared. They have shared a few slides describing the expected role of the board of ICANN org and of the community in relation to those three plans. The roles are described in light of earlier community discussions, but again, they would like to discuss those three different roles with the community, take their blessings and then try to move things forward in regards what to do as next steps and how to ensure agreement and execution of the different roles.

Another thing that was mentioned was how to translate the goals to the different SOs and ACs or in other words what do these goals mean for each SO/AC so that when conducting our work we are aligned with the strategic objectives of the organization. Also

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other things raised are tools to achieve those goals, prioritization, resourcing, staff and community volunteers as every meeting we again start discussing prioritization and the importance of prioritization and the burnout of volunteers. So I hope this is going to be picked up. We have several efforts in that respect. I think already the multi-stakeholder model discussions is tackling this and also the PDP 3.0 are also tackling this. So this was also raised in relation to the three plans, strategic plan, the operation and financial plan and the evolution of ICANN's multi-stakeholder model.

So two more things from this roundtable with the CEO. One is a pilot project. So there's surplus in budget from fiscal year 20, and there was a suggestion that this budget should be maybe allocated to SO and AC chairs to have them allocated to things that are of common priority across the community but has not been budgeted within the ICANN budget. But despite the generous offer and the positive feedback, we didn't feel we had the mechanism to allocate this amount of money. So another proposal came -- and this surplus is for this specific here, not guaranteed to be there every year, so again, this is why it's a pilot thing, we don't know how it's going to develop. But one option now is to have the SO and AC chairs meet at the beginning of the year in January to set priorities again, across the organization,

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and maybe priorities for the upcoming year as well which was very well received by everyone, I would say.

Finally, the legislative tracker. And this is a tracking of any new laws or anything at a national level that would affect ICANN's work here judging by GDPR. So there is a legislative tracker, and I think they issue a report periodically, maybe quarterly, I'm not sure, and there is a proposal to have the cross community engagement group on Internet governance as an interface to the legislative tracker, meaning that governments who would like to correct something in this legislative tracker or add a new law that has been created within their borders, they can do this through the cross community engagement group on Internet governance. So again, this is a proposal, and this is just a heads-up for everyone, particularly that we are all here from governments so this would affect us directly. Again, it's not a discussion of the substance of the laws but rather more a database of what is out there.

So this is all -- I have to mention, I had Luisa attending with me, so please, if you need to chime in, let me know. And Olga.

OLGA CAVALLI, GAC VICE-CHAIR: Thank you, Manal, for the overview. At 12:15 in room 51 1-A, the Work Track 5, a part of the new gTLD process of the GNSO, we

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will present the final report after two years of work, so if you are interested in the treatment of geographic names and the new gTLD next round, join us. If you cannot do that because it's at noon, I will give an update tomorrow morning to the GAC. So -- but today is the final presentation of the report. Thank you, Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Olga. And doing a quick time check, I already exceeded the time so maybe we can move on to the following slide. So yeah, this is again a listing of our bilateral meetings with other parts of the community. And if we can move on. Okay. This is on the high-level governmental meeting planning. As you may know, the GAC normally organizes a high-level governmental meeting every other year. So the next meeting is targeting late 2020 or early 2021. So please consult the meeting schedule and express interest in hosting or sharing views about good location in time for the next high-level governmental meeting. So this is just a heads-up to GAC colleagues, particularly those who are involved with hosting upcoming meetings.

Moving on, so again, those are notable matters from the inter-sessional activities. The NomCom dialogue, and as you know, we were told that we need to provide the criteria that we provide to the NomCom on a yearly basis, so this is an ongoing task.



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Evolution of ICANN's multi-stakeholder model. We have already submitted comments and there will be a session on Thursday discussing this. ICANN board interested in getting ICANN's input on strategic efforts, and this is the three plans, and we will discuss this with the board during the board session and I invite everyone to look at the slides and be ready for this discussion.

The capacity building, we had a recent workshop and it was very well received by everyone. And finally, the opportunity to target additional activities through ICANN org fiscal year 21, additional budget request process. So if there is anything that needs an additional budget request, we shall be looking into this.

Again, one more thing. I was approached by the ICANN CFO, and he is very much willing to come to the GAC and maybe discuss the plans because they don't feel the GAC is engaged with the operating plans and budgets and we thought maybe a session, a quick session to break the ice and decide whether it would be of interest to provide comments, so planning this for Cancun, this exchange. I think this was the last slide, if I'm not mistaken. Yes? So any comments or questions before we move on to the two character codes? Okay.

[ END OF TRANSCRIPT ]