
GULTEN TEPE:

Hello, everyone. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. This is Gulden Tepe speaking from the GAC Support Team. Welcome to the ICANN Org Arranging Group Consultation with GAC members regarding the use of two-character country codes as [second] level domain, session two, taking place on Thursday, 18th of May, 2017 at 05:00 UTC.

This call is meant to be interactive, so if you have questions or comments at any point, you're welcome to raise your hand in the AC room, and if you're not in Adobe Connect room, please let us know on the phone. Also, we will need you to state your name for transcript purposes. With that, I would like to leave the floor to Robert Hoggarth, who will be the moderator of this call. Rob?

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Gulden, and thanks for doing a good job of keeping track of all the call participants in the Adobe Connect room. I know you're watching to see if Thomas Schneider joins us, so please alert me if he does. I know he wanted to share a couple of remarks if he could.

Welcome members of the GAC and ICANN colleagues. As Gulden said, my name is Rob Hoggarth. I'm honored to be your moderator today. For the next 60 minutes, you'll have the opportunity to share information and perspectives on the topic of the use of two-character country codes as second level domains, as Gulden mentioned.

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.

This is the second call on the subject today, and we had – I think some of you participated in the first call and would agree that we had a good turnout, and about 13 hours ago had a very productive conversation. So, I'm hopeful that we'll be able to achieve that with this call as well.

Let me give you a quick outline of the agenda. We'll start with some brief opening remarks from Göran on this role as CEO of the ICANN organization, and Akram Atallah, the leader of our GDD team will share a short presentation to set some context and background so that we start from a common understanding of things.

Then when Akram is finished, we'll open up the floor for questions and dialog among all of you, and I hope it will [inaudible] with the first session today, we're planning on recording the conversation so that that'll help staff take notes and capture some of the follow-up items, the action items, and any important takeaway information. So, please keep that in mind, and if there's anyone on the call who has any objection to that, please voice them before we start because I want to make sure that everybody is comfortable with that arrangement.

I'll pause for a second to see if anyone has any objection with that in mind. And if there's anyone on the call who has any objection to that –

I'd also like to note briefly that we've got the chat pod open as well, so if some of you aren't comfortable making verbal statements or if you otherwise want to clarify or qualify any of the remarks that you've made and you'd like to do that in the chat, the staff will also be referencing those as well as we try to prepare notes and follow-ups with respect to the conversation.

Now, during the discussion portion of the call, as Gulden mentioned, we'll be looking for hands raised in the Adobe Connect room. But if you're not in the room, if we've had to do a dial-out to you, I'll be pausing from time to time during the call to see if there's any other intersessions that folks would like to make. So, I'll take breaks in the queue from time to time just to double check on that.

I'll also do a couple of time checks to keep us on track in terms of general timing. During the first call that we had about 13 hours ago, we seemed to have a natural division of conversation between process issues and substantive issues, but I'm not going to be enforcing any time limits on those. I'll leave that up to the flow of the conversation and what you all want to talk about, and the only thing I'll really pay attention to is the one hour total for this call.

So, now having taken care of the operational and logistical matters, I'll turn over the floor to Göran for his opening remarks. Göran, you have the floor.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you very much, Rob. First of all, I'd like to thank you for taking time to meet us. And it's been a good day. My first call this morning was with members of the GAC, and I am this evening with members of the GAC. I think that's a good [inaudible]

The purpose of the call is as you know to provide you with information really to make us understand a little bit more about your concerns. We'll talk about the ICANN processes, and then see where we need to work together with you. The morning's call was very interesting,

because I think – at least I got to realize that we have to think about how we can better facilitate a fact-based discussion with the GAC, and I took upon myself to look upon that, how we can work better together.

And it's really about listening to you and understanding your concerns and issues. This is [core.]

GULTEN TEPE: Göran, we lost you. Okay, we will dial him out again.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thanks, Gulden. In the meantime, why don't we turn to you, Akram, to begin the presentation? Then when we hop back on, Göran can sort of continue his remarks after you're done.

AKRAM ATALLAH: Sure, Rob. Can you hear me?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Yes, you sound great.

AKRAM ATALLAH: Excellent. Thank you very much, everyone, for taking the time to attend the call and to also hopefully let us know about how we can improve. As Göran was mentioning earlier, the early call went very well, and we learned a lot of the issues that you are having with the way we're doing things, and hopefully we can get some improved processes out of this

call so that we can not only talk to each other but also hear each other and understand each other better.

So, I will try to be very brief so that we can leave more time for your questions and concern. With that, can we go to the next slide, please? So, I will be covering a little bit of the background, then I'll talk a little bit about the timeline for this process, and also I'll cover some of the GAC advice and the principles that we were guided by as we did this process, and then I'll talk about the measures that [you] put in place to avoid confusion.

Next slide, please. So, very important – previous slide, please. Thank you. Very important is that in May 2007, the GNSO Reserved Names Working Group issued a recommendation that basically introduced us to where we are today, and an important recommendation is the Recommendation #4.

The GAC had noted the WIPO II report statement. If ISO 3166 as a two country code element are to be registered as domain names in the gTLDs, it is recommended that this be done in a manner that minimizes the potential for confusion with the ccTLDs. So, this is important for us because this is part of how we develop the policy, and then which translated into the contract language. Next slide, please.

In the contract, we have actually two paths for allowing or for releasing the two characters for delegation. The first path is the one through government and ccTLD approval, but the second path is that the registry operator may also propose the release of these reservations based on its implementation of measures to avoid confusion. So, with the

corresponding country code. So, basically, that is the language that's in the contract. Next slide, please.

So, if you look at the timeline, it's very important to understand that this process took over three years to actually put in place. So, it wasn't rushed, it was well thought out. We worked with everyone involved. We thought that we've actually worked very well with the GAC and gave you all the information that's needed. Obviously, that's not the case since you don't agree with that, and a good communication is only when we both agree that we communicated.

So, but I wanted to bring you attention that we did this in phases. The first phase was to release all of the non-label label, non-character character two character labels, and then after that, we actually started phase two by offering an opportunity for the GAC members to object. Then after that, we worked on the database for you to enter whether you agree with the release of the two characters or not and whether you agree with the brands or not. And then after that, it wasn't until 8th of November, 2016, that the Board approved the revised measures which actually released them with also the mitigation measures in place. Next slide, please.

So, the principles that guided us in our implementation were basically the Registry Agreement, which comes from the policy, as I mentioned earlier, the fulfilling ICANN's mission, and it's important to note that technical evaluation related to the release of two-character labels was addressed in the 2006 [RSSAC] report finding the release of these labels not to have material security or stability impact on the Internet, which is our mission. And then we also followed the GAC advice. Basically, we

implemented all the Board resolutions that address the GAC advice, and on top of that, we provided the appropriate measures to avoid confusion. And this is very important, because I want to make sure that you all are aware of the measures that we've put in place to help mitigate confusion in this case. And also, an important thing is that we were saying one of the things is that there is precedent to this issue, which means basically that we had all of the other TLDs had already released the two-character codes as well, and so we went and looked at this and we did the analysis, and this data is now available for you if you want it. And any two-character label, any one whether it's a country code or not is at least released in 12% of the earlier of the legacy TLDs, and at least in 26% of all of the ccTLDs. Some are released in 60% of the ccTLDs.

So, it's important to also know that that was one of the considerations that I think got us to where we are today. Now, if we go to the next slide, please.

So, these measures were put in place to really make sure that there is no abuse and no one is actually portraying to be the country code or even have claimed false affiliation with a government or any agency within the government.

So, the first one is the pre-registration period. The TLDs optionally can provide a period where the government can register their two-character codes, but this is optional. The second measure is that we make sure that in the registration policies, registrants agree that they may not represent affiliation with the government or ccTLD operators. So, basically we wanted to make sure that they cannot misrepresent

themselves as a ccTLD or any government agency associated with that ccTLD if they are not the appropriate government agency or the ccTLD itself.

And then third – and very importantly – is that post-registration, there is a complaint investigation requirement, which means that registries must investigate and respond to complaints from governments and ccTLD operators about confusion. So, if there is anybody that's abusing the system, misrepresenting who they are, then the registry will have to do the investigation and then report back to the appropriate government.

And like anything in our contract, these things are also obligations that we will enforce through our compliance department as well. So, as a registry, if a government or a ccTLD finds that somebody has registered their two-character domain and they're misrepresenting it, then they can file with the registry and the registry has to investigate and get back to them. And if the registry does not do that, then they can file a complaint ticket Compliance and then we can go look into the registration and figure out whether they are in breach of their contract or not.

So, these were put in place before the release of the two characters, and I want to make sure that we're all starting on the same page. I know a lot of you know all of that, but I wanted to make sure that we start just in case on the same level just in case some people are not aware of all of these details. With that, I want to turn it to the discussion time, and I send it back to you, Rob. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thanks very much, Akram. We had a small technical glitch there for a moment, so I wanted to give you quickly Göran an opportunity to do any follow-up since we lost you there for a few moments. Then we'll turn to the queue. And for queue purposes, right now I have the representative from Iran as first, and nobody else at the moment. Göran, the floor is yours. Thanks.

GÖRAN MARBY: [inaudible] Can you hear me?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I can hear you somewhat faintly.

GÖRAN MARBY: Not good. Not very good. Very weak. I'm sorry. Very weak.

GULTEN TEPE: We can barely hear you, so please speak –

GÖRAN MARBY: If I speak up more, I think someone will come and get me, because I'm actually shouting.

GULTEN TEPE: Okay. Sorry. [inaudible]

GÖRAN MARBY: I will try to adjust my microphone. One of the things that I took back from the discussion we had this morning was that I have to come back together with Thomas and the leadership team to discuss how we better can engage, to facilitate discussion within the GAC based on facts.

I recognize your comments about that, and that's something that I'm going to look into. But of course, you can't hear me very well. I would now hand it over to Rob again. Very sorry for the technical issues.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Göran. Gulten, and maybe behind the scenes we can try a follow-up dial out to Göran. That might be successful. I will now turn to the queue. I have one hand raised, a representative from Iran. Sir, you have the floor.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Good morning, good evening. Rob, thank you very much. Thanks to Akram for this presentation. There is one missing point from the very beginning, and that missing point is that everything is almost based on a tacit agreement. That means you announce something, you provide the date or period of X days, and after that, it's not [inaudible] it is considered as agreed.

This principle is not favored by us, and maybe by many other countries. About two years ago at GAC, we explicitly mentioned that we don't

want this implicit agreement. We want any release to be subject to explicit agreement of the countries concerned.

Some countries don't care. No problem, but some countries care. So, we are among those countries. We wish that our explicit agreement be opt-in. It doesn't mean that we don't agree with [this release.] We may agree with many of them, but some of them which have critical character [and] nature from our culture point of view, from our conviction point of view and from many other points, we may need to further consider them and have something in the agreement when we release or we allow to release [inaudible]

This has not been taken into account. So, we would like – Iran would like that any two-character letter relation to IR, .ir or any three character should be stopped with respect to us from the time being, and we have to look into the agreement given by ICANN to the release to see whether we favor that. If we don't favor that for one or other reason, that should be renegotiated.

To this end, we would like that ICANN provide us a list of any two-character or two-character-related .ir or .irn or anything relating to those countries already given, because we need to have full knowledge of that, and that will be quite clear for us in an official manner. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much for those comments. For those of you who are not in the chat room or in the Adobe Connect room, I just note Olga Cavalli

said Argentina supports what the rep from Iran is expressing. Thank you, Olga.

When I look at the queue, I don't know Kavouss if you have re-raised your hand to get back in the queue. I still see your hand up. In the meantime – thank you. In the meantime, I've seen Göran raise his hand, so Göran, I'll turn the floor over to you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Can you hear me better now?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Much better.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you very much. Kavouss, thank you very much. May I ask a question? Just for my – I know you've been around much longer than I have. Internet is an interconnected network, and I'm just asking this for my understanding. How do you actually see – one of the things that I often spoke about is this kind of intersection between the local and the global. And right now, your proposal, how do you connect this global thing with the local thing in the way you propose? Maybe I misunderstand, but I'd really like to understand that, because there are many countries and different cultures, and how would it work in practice, do you think? And I'm really asking just to understand.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

If we ask the question, I don't think that you could go to this philosophical or psychological discussion that connecting local with global. This is something that is confusing and not needed. The issue is quite clear: the issue is that taking .ir, if you put .ir and before that or after that something which has some negative impact in our culture, in our beliefs and in our disciplines and principles, it is sensitive for us. It has nothing to do with the global and local. We don't want that the global arrangement be subordinated by locals. We want that the local interests be conserved and safeguarded and we have [inaudible] that. We have point on that. I don't think that this discussion could give rise that we be faced with the [inaudible] complete. Because if international or global wants something, we have to give up our rights. We cannot give up our rights. We want to preserve our rights and want to collaborate with the maximum [inaudible] principle possible. But take into account our [inaudible]. So, you have something.

Maybe some people are not familiar with some of these very sensitive issues for us or for some other country. So, we have to be heard and we have to be listened, and we have to be considered by others. We don't want unilateral decisions be taken for us. As I told you, in many cases, we collaborate to the extent possible. [inaudible] earlier we have some concerns, and these concerns must be met. And that's all. So, please kindly do not reach to the international, local, global and then Internet network of network. This has nothing to do with this issue. This is quite different. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you, gentlemen. Let me channel Olga Cavalli again, if I may. She does not presently have a microphone. Olga indicated in the chat, “Göran, there was an established process in 2014 which worked well, and there was a previous consultation that could be checked at the local level with the ccTLD. Unfortunately, this was changed without consultation with the GAC.”

And Maura Gambassi of Italy indicates Italy agrees with Argentina on that comment.

Let me use this as my alerted time that I do a quick pause in the queue just to see if there's anyone who is not able to raise their hand in the Adobe Connect room to see if anyone else would like to indicate their interest in making a comment. I'll pause for five seconds.

Thank you. Not hearing anything, I think – I'm sorry. Rajiv Bansal from India, you have raised your hand and are first in the queue, so please go ahead.

RAJIV BANSAL:

Thank you. So, we have from India always the objective to allotment of two-thirds [inaudible] at the second level. We have communicated our view to the ICANN Board earlier also during [2015] and we are of the view that release of two-character country codes at the second level gives rise to significant confusion from the consumer, and we also feel that for example if I may illustrate, if people come up with domains like governmentofindia.in.xxx or governmentofindia.in.sucks, so this [is going for a] significant embarrassment and confusion for us.

We are not satisfied with the mitigation measures, because it no longer makes it mandatory for the registries to notify the governments of their plans to use the two-letter codes. And nor are the registries required to seek agreement of governments when releasing two-letter country codes at the second level.

This in effect actually results in eliminating the government out of the equation, and at the same time will allow the registries to charge the government substantial fees to protect their respective interests. So, we are not in favor of this and we have voiced our concern earlier also. And we feel that the decision of the ICANN Board to go ahead and release two-character country codes to the second level is in fact not in keeping with the GAC advice and is not really reflective of the multi-stakeholder model that we have expressed support for all along. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much for those comments. I believe – and please mute as you are not talking.

I believe Akram quickly beat out the representative from Singapore in trying to respond to the previous comment, so with my apologies, if I can turn the floor over to Akram, I don't know Akram if you had a response to the previous comments. I don't want to lose that thread, so if you want to say anything or if you want to wait until after the comments from Singapore, I'm happy to follow your lead on that.

AKRAM ATALLAH:

Thank you, Rob. I just wanted to reiterate that basically, we do not have a choice in what we do after the policy is made, and more importantly, after the contracts are signed. And the time to actually really affect these decisions is during the policy process, and even before the contracts are finalized. The contract and the guidebook were put up for public comment over five, six years, and I think over a multitude of time, and once the contract was approved and executed, we could say no to the TLDs and you cannot do this, these are reserved, whatever, but our hands are always tied because the contract says that they can release them as long as they provide mitigation to confusion. And if we refuse to let them do this, then they can actually call an IRP, and the IRP will find against us because the contract is very clear, and therefore then we will all lose.

So, we worked over three years on this project to actually release it in a measured and actually cautious way so that we allowed for strong mitigation measures to be in place and then allow for the governments to have a way to shut down any of these misrepresentations of the CC in any top level domain. So, I want to just channel what happened in the earlier session where we actually discussed both the process and the content. And for the content itself, it is really in the policy and before the contracts are signed, making sure that the contract has appropriate language in it before it's approved.

Now, on the process – and I think that we can maybe improve the way and work with the GAC on improving the way we implement things so that we can actually engage with you on a regular basis or maybe have a subset of the GAC that we can meet with on a weekly basis, or every two weeks or something and give you an update on where things are

and how we're moving so we can take your input, and I would look forward to actually improve the way we engage with you on the implementation so that we're both in lockstep moving forward, because that would be I believe a good way so that there are no surprises. But it's really looking forward to how we can do things better, and I hope that we can actually focus on that, on how we can improve our engagement with you so that that outcome of our processes are actually more in line with your expectations. I hope that's helpful. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Akram. I have for the queue at the moment Singapore, Iran and then Göran. Singapore, we can turn the floor over to you. Thank you.

And if you have to come off mute, we'll wait a couple moments here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I think I hear some very faint voice, but I don't think we can hear clearly. I see the microphone icon but I don't hear anything. Gulden, am I missing anything?

GULTEN TEPE: No, unfortunately we can't hear him. The audio [inaudible]

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Okay. Thank you. [inaudible] background, and I will reserve Singapore's spot in the queue but move right now to Iran. You have the floor, sir.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, Rob. I think what Akram said was the following: train is gone. Nothing should be done for the past. This is what we don't agree. He refers to the policy, the policy which we are not in favor of that. The way that the policy developed by GNSO and the group involved, and the way it is approved is something that people in GAC are missing many of those opportunities. And even if they are in the policy development, we right now to heard properly. I don't want to give examples, but I don't think that that is a good measure.

And second, he said that from now onward making necessary measures in order to comply with the requirement of some GAC countries like us in [inaudible] countries or less [inaudible] or more, not all GAC. That is good, that is positive. However, we are also [involved] about the [past.]

The third thing he said that I didn't quite understand, government will shut down. Government will shut down what? You're talking of the past, you're talking of the future, you're talking of the present? What are the issues that we could raise [inaudible] agreements which was given without our consensus, or release which was done without our consensus?

And I ask again, quickly please, Akram, kindly provide us with the list of the two-characters which have been given up to now contact has been

made, and those for which contact has not been yet made but it is under the discussion. And then we would like to [inaudible] into discussions of the past, of the present and in the future, and the measure that you have mentioned is not satisfying us. The way this [inaudible] and the way GAC advice is taken and the way that these two have conflict with each other is something that is currently under discussion in many areas. I'll give you one of those [IGOs] [inaudible] There has been PDP, there has been GAC advice, and there are conflicts. [inaudible] So, some things doesn't go well, so we have to correct that. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you for those comments. Quick note here, Singapore's microphone is not working well. If you would like to chat, as Olaf offered in the – type some words in the chat, I'm more than happy to channel you and read them to the group, and that would be helpful to you. And we'll keep working in the background to see if we might be able to cure that.

Akram, I don't know if you're going to have any responses to Iran, but the next person in the queue is Göran. Göran, I'll turn the floor to you. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you. I want to just add on to what Akram said. First of all, the accumulated knowledge about what we've done is higher among the people on this call than me. I'm celebrating my first year anniversary here. So, excuse me if I miss out anything. I'm here to learn. But I think

there's one thing that Akram really said that I don't want to be misunderstood, is that I think that we should engage with the GAC differently going forward to be able to provide you with the information you need to be able to take a fact-based decision, and how we reach the consensus.

This is not only for this. There's also as you know I've been spending a lot of time actually understanding how the processes work and how they should be doing, and in Johannesburg, we are going to – and I hope many of you will come – the project where we drafted how the processes are supposed to be working. And also bringing some questions back to you and the rest of the community where we see things that maybe either we have misunderstood or there is what we call an impasse about.

I think I can clearly say that there are occasions that my team and myself in hindsight handled the interactions differently, not because we are policy making, because ICANN org as you know are not policy making, but we really have to make sure that we can understand how you work in a better way going forward. So, I just wanted to emphasize that in this discussion.

And when it comes to the other things, Kavouss, that you mentioned, as you know, we have engaged for the [Bruce] discussion there are now discussions within the community about both the red cross and other things. So hopefully, we are facilitating that process. we are not taking part of it, but from what I understand there is some positive progressing that as well. Thank you very much.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you, Göran, for those comments. I'm going to channel Singapore here for a moment. I see that you're still [inaudible] trying to use the microphone, but unfortunately, we're still not hearing anything. So, with your permission, I'll read your latest chat comment. "Singapore agreed with India that the previous notification process is helpful. The current notification process by the RO is volunteering. There is no way for government or ccTLDs to monitor which gTLDs have released the country code at the second level."

Thanks very much for taking the time to type that in. I'm sorry that you have to do that. Again, I'm more than happy to channel anyone else who would like to type chat comments or make any other observations.

Currently, the queue is open as far as I see it in the AC room, understanding Singapore's difficulties. I see that we do have another hand raised. Thank you very much. This is from [inaudible] I'll turn the floor over to you.

[GUO FENG:]

Thank you very much, Robert. This is [Guo Feng] speaking from Beijing. First of all, I would like to thank Göran and your team coming here at this call to talk about this issue with us to have a frank conversation on this issue. Thank you very much. And from our side, from my view, I would like to echo the point made by the previous GAC representatives like Iran, like Singapore, and also Argentina.

And because I joined – because maybe earlier was bad connection about this Adobe connection, I joined Adobe room late. I missed a few slides in this Adobe room. So, I would request if ICANN staff can share the slides with us at the GAC mailing list so we can take a further look at these slides.

And obviously, I would like to recite there are different views from different GAC members towards this issue. I'll start from the beginning of these processes, and I think obviously, now the [inaudible] of measure is helpful, but I think it's not enough for some of the GAC members.

From what Akram has said that I can understand the difficult situation Akram and his team are facing, but I want to tell you the difficult situation we are facing. For China for example, from outside for China from the beginning of this quarter, the position of China has never been changed on this issue. But we cannot I think [get through] the GAC and [on us,] we cannot change this process. And the decision was made by the Board. And this is our situation. I think this is the situation faced by many other GAC members. So, will stop here, and thank you very much.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, sir, for those comments from China. I'd also like to observe in the chat that Iran posited plus one on the previous typed chats from Singapore and India, and I trust those plus ones were not a response to Olaf offering to read and allow me to rest my voice. Thank you for that.

There's another substantive comment that Korea supplied in the chat that I'd like to read, that starts with Singapore plus one. "Even though there is post investigation process, it is rarely possible for government and ccTLD managers to check all the new gTLDs.

Singapore has followed with a comment that Singapore has also shared at ICANN58 that the indicative pricing from Ros to reserve certain names is high. For example, \$300 US per name. Besides, defensive registrations are not long-term solutions, as yearly registration fees need to be incurred on a yearly recurring basis. There is also the question of whether such uses of public funds are justifiable.

Akram, I noticed that you are providing some responses as well in the chat. I don't know if you'd like me to express them verbally. I'm doing a quick time check noting that we have 13 minutes left in our dialog, so if someone hasn't raised a topic or a subject that you'd like to make sure that we reach during this session, please get yourself in the queue. In the meantime, Akram, anything you want to say verbally, or are you handling that all sufficiently in the chat?

AKRAM ATALLAH:

Sorry, Rob, but the chat, I'm just re-mentioning what I mentioned earlier in the previous slides, that the contract language had two sections to it, and basically, the release process had three phases. The first phase addressed everything that's not a character character, means like a number and a character or a character and a number. So, those were released in the first phase.

The second phase was corresponded to the language in the contract that said that with the approval of government, so that was the second phase of the release. And then the third phase of the release took the longest time, which was because we wanted to establish the confusability mitigation which was required in the contract. So, the three phases followed what the contract allowed to do.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you, Akram. A couple of substantive additional comments that went in, and Olga I think is also responding to you, Akram. But first, Taiwan indicates that they also second Singapore's comment, so thank you for putting that in the chat. Kavouss also asked – from Iran – some additional confirmation from Akram and Göran. "Please kindly confirm that the information that I asked will be provided to us." So, I wanted to make sure that we captured that comment.

And I think in response to what you had indicated, Akram, about the technical details, Olga from Argentina types, "Akram, thanks for the technical details of the process. What I'm referring to is a way of dialog and notification which works rather well." And Malaysia has indicated in the chat that they support Singapore's previous view. Thank you very much for including that comment.

Göran asked if Iran could please write down your request on asking, "We wanted to know how many registrations for ccTLD." I note – and this may be more helpful for all involved – we do have staff on the call taking copious notes. That's one of the reasons why we are recording the call, so I assure you all that the staff will be going back through the

recording and make sure that we're capturing all the requests. So, I just want to make sure that we've got that notice that we're capturing what's going on in the chat and on the recording. Thank you all.

Ten minutes left. I don't see anyone in the queue. Let me pause again for a moment for anyone who's not able to raise their hand or who would like to make a verbal comment. I'll be quiet for five seconds and let anyone come off mute who would like to do so.

Thank you. Not hearing anything, I note that China has raised their hand, and I will turn the floor over to you, [inaudible] Thank you.

[GUO FENG:]

Thank you very much, Robert. This is [Guo Feng] speaking from Beijing. I have a small request. Can someone from the ICANN staff maybe [inaudible] what's going on? During the first consultation call, was there any conclusion, or were there any concerns what was the [inaudible] of the first consultation call? Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much for that question. I'll turn over the floor to Akram to answer that in some detail, but first, I'd just like to note that your question was very timely because Olga had just typed in representing Argentina that in the previous call, we proposed to create a task force to follow up with this very important issue among ICANN and interested GAC members. So, Olga had flagged one of the discussion points that came up during that first session.

Akram, are you planning to generate a report of this call or the combined sessions? What do you envision in terms of being able to share some of those sort of follow-ups or next steps with the GAC membership? Is that something that you and Göran and Thomas are going to be talking about subsequently?

AKRAM ATALLAH:

Yes, we will actually try to look at what was agreed on the first session and the second session, and maybe we can summarize it in a briefing and then we can also maybe in Johannesburg we could actually meet with the interested parties and attend a few calls and make sure that we're all on the same page.

So, it's very important for us that we actually communicate well. I know that in the ICANN model, we cannot please everyone. But at the minimum, we should not surprise anyone. So, I think that it's very important that we get together and we go over what we discussed here and make sure that we're all on the same page and see where we go from here.

I think that at least in the first session there was a lot of positive agreement on how we can actually do things better moving forward, especially on the process, and there was concern from the GAC members on how they can keep up with all the policies so that the policies do not happen without their attention, and then later on we're all fighting the policy because we should be too late.

So, I think that's one of the issues that came up, but also the second thing was about how can we work together in the implementation

phase, which actually takes a long time as well. As you can see, this one took over three years to get implemented, but we can actually work together so that we are all in lockstep as we're developing these implementations.

So, we will take what's on this call as well, and we'll summarize that, and then maybe we can try to carve out some time I Johannesburg to look at both. And from Kavouss, I think Göran asked if you could write down what you asked for to make sure that we will get you that, and we will look at the transcript as well and try to get out from it what you need.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thanks very much, Akram. I would note that Iran has been following up in the chat with some of the questions he had previously asked, so thanks very much Iran for doing that. I also note that [inaudible] provided additional questions in the chat room. Thanks very much for that. We'll also capture those for purposes of the reporting out of the call in the sessions. Thanks for that.

I'm looking at the queue. We have five minutes left and I have Göran and Iran still in the queue. So, Göran, I think your hand was first. I'll turn over the floor to you, then Iran, and then we'll loop back, Göran, for some closing remarks from you or Akram. [inaudible] Göran, you have the floor.

GÖRAN MARBY:

[inaudible] Iran, and then I can end.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Okay. Thank you. Iran, the floor is yours, and then we'll wrap up with Göran. Thank you. And you may come off mute.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: I'm asking Akram and Göran concerning those requests for release which are in the pipeline, they should not be processed until we come to some sort of the agreement or consensus agreement with each other. So, we should not continue to have that and continue the problem. In fact, it should have been done some time ago [from Marrakech] that we made this [inaudible] objections. But it continues up to now, but I don't think that we have to continue the same. We have to at least put on a [inaudible] and suspension until the issue is resolved. So, this is something.

And the second question that I have heard, I want to raise and I heard something that some agreement was made between registries and ICANN, but without being transparently known to everybody. Can we provide some information on that? In 2014 or maybe earlier, some agreement was made without making quite a disclosure for everybody. What those terms of agreement is. Is it something that you have referred to, or is it something that we do not have any information about that? Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you very much, Iran, and you timed things perfectly. I appreciate those additional questions that you provided, both verbally and in the

chat, and we keyed up Akram and the team to do some follow-up on this. In terms of timing, I think [inaudible] Göran for you to provide us with some remarks before we adjourn. With just one last quick observation that Singapore [inaudible] to Korea's previous comment. Göran, you have the final word, sir.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you very much. Yes, I think that – I'm the CEO, so I can be stronger in my wording than Akram. Yes, we are going to come back to you and work with you how to make this process better going forward. And I'm very positive to that. I'm very open for suggestions to make sure that the GAC as a whole and also individual countries at least feel that they have had the opportunity to raise their voices.

And this is not because I want to intervene in your policy making process, that's not my job, just to provide the facts that you need to make up your mind [so you internally] in GAC can reach the consensus you need. In a consensus-driven environment as you well know here, anywhere else, there will always be countries or organizations that not [100%] get what they want, and that's natural, but it is important that we have measures or opportunities for you to be able to voice those concerns you have. And I'm looking forward to working with you. And thank you again for having this conversation with us. It has been very helpful for me. With that, I'm actually going to wish you a good night, because it's 11:00 here in L.A., and I'm going to end my day on a positive note after this discussion. Thank you very much.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you, Göran. Gulden, you want to close us out?

GULTEN TEPE: Yes, please. Thank you, Rob, and thank you to all the participants, and this meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]