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ICANN79 | CF – GAC Communiqué Drafting Work Session (2 of 7)  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – 4:15 to 5:30 SJU

DANIEL GLUCK: Hello, and welcome to the GAC Communiqué Drafting Session on Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 at 20:15 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During the session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation, and please make sure to mute all other devices when you're speaking. You may access all available features for the session in the Zoom toolbar. With that, I'll hand the floor over to GAC chair, Nico Caballero.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so very much. Please take your seats. Thank you, Daniel. Please take your seats. This is our last session of the day. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please take your seats. Thank you.

As I said before, this is our last session of the day. This session will be running for 75 minutes. That is until 5:30 pm local time. So if we can go straight to the slides, please. Sorry, sorry. The communiqué, the communiqué. Sorry. At this time, my Puerto Rican coffee is much needed. Much needed at this time.

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Thank you. We stopped right in topic number five, if I recall correctly. Was that where we stopped, Benedetta? I don't remember, as a matter of fact.

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Thank you, Nico. Yes. I believe, yes, that's the last part that we reviewed. It was the fifth issue of importance. In the meantime, we have had a few changes in the communiqué. We've had some items added or changed. If you'd like, I can go through them since you haven't had the opportunity to review. I apologize ahead of time for some of the formatting. I didn't have time to include everything and reformat. So don't worry, it'll look cleaner as we move forward.

I don't know who's—I think it's Dan and Gulten. Can you go all the way up, please? Just we can go through from the top, from the introduction, please. There we go. If you scroll a little bit down, you'll see there's a placeholder. I'm going to highlight it for you. If you scroll down a little bit more, we've added a placeholder. We're still missing the text, but a recognition of Manal Ismail's selection as the ICANN's Community Excellence recipient, which will be added. It is tentatively under Introduction. That's to be determined yet based on precedence. This seems like—

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

No, no, I fully agree. I think we all agree on that. Unless I see any opposition, which I highly doubt, but just in case, let me ask. So the applause is obviously very eloquent. So no need to further questions

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in that regard. So yeah. Thank you again, Manal. You deserve it big time. So let's move on.

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Thank you. Then the next item is under the Working Group section. So if you can scroll down, Gulden, please. We've received the text from the Underserved Regions Working Group submitted by Karel Douglas. So the text is already in. We will be able to review it shortly.

Then we have some text that's been received under issues of importance. If we scroll down a bit more, please, it's item number six, the AFRINIC situation. This was submitted by Egypt. However, I understand that from the Netherlands, there will be additional text that will be provided based on discussions with the ASO. I see that Egypt is nodding, but go ahead.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Yes. Thank you, Benedetta. Netherlands generously are consulting with the ASO just to make sure that we are reflecting things accurately and we're not infringing on something that's currently being looked into by the court. But yeah. This might not be resolved until tomorrow morning.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Egypt. Thank you so much. Let me give you that preliminary read, just in case, in order to see if everyone's okay for starters, so to say. So AFRINIC Situation. That would be the title, AFRINIC Situation. The GAC was briefed by the ASO on the current

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AFRINIC situation to the best of the information available at hand. Some GAC members expressed concerns on the risks. This may pose to the allocation of IP addresses in the African continent and asked to be kept informed on any updates in that respect and to be kept informed on the ongoing work criteria for establishment of new RIRs and to be involved in any potential consultation regarding the matter. Relevant GAC members offered to explore how—I have a problem with relevant GAC members because all GAC members are relevant. So I would erase that word. But in any case, GAC members offered to explore how governments can help in resolving the situation and how to avoid such a problem from repeating in the future. The GAC agreed to continue the discussion internally and to maintain an open channel with the ASO for two-way updates on matters of mutual interest, not least urgent or pressing matters that may warrant government’s attention.

Are you okay with deleting the word “relevant”? Because I don’t think Antarctica is more relevant than Paraguay. Yeah, Egypt. Go ahead.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Sorry. Martina was before me in the queue. If you’d like—

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

I’m sorry. I’m sorry. Yeah, I have then the European Commission, then I have Egypt, and then Papua New Guinea. Please go ahead, Martina.

MARTINA BARBERO:

Thank you very much. Thank you, Manal, for submitting the text. I think there it will be tweaked quite substantially with the text that we

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might receive from ASO. And there's also maybe some part of this text that we go in the discussion that we had with the ASO. So I'm not sure we can, in terms of being efficient and not spending time on text that will be tweaked anyway. Up to you, Chair, but maybe we can postpone the discussion to this tomorrow. Up to you, of course.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Awesome idea, European Commission. I totally agree. Efficiency is always a good thing. I have Egypt and then Papua New Guinea.

MANAL ISMAIL: Just to clarify why we use relevant, but again, as European Commission mentioned, happy to wait until the Netherlands come back with the more accurate text. But by relevant, we meant not to put words on the mouths of everyone. We meant those who are served by AFRINIC. So African affected countries, but definitely everyone is relevant, and happy to delete it, of course, but let's wait for the final text. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: I absolutely agree with you. One way or the other, if the DNS system is affected, in the end, we're all affected. ICANN will be affected, the GAC will be affected. I mean, that's my reasoning. But yeah, I agree with you. I have Papua New Guinea. Go ahead, please.

RUSSELL WORUBA: Thank you, Chair. Russell Woruba, Papua New Guinea for the record. I could have overlooked, but I think the term IP address from the RIRs

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mainly, even though that's the specific with the IP addresses, the more generic would be IP resources because it covers autonomous systems and the others as well. So that could be a suggestion. But if it's specific only for IPv4 addresses, which has been the discussion, then we can leave it as IP addresses. But just a suggestion. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Papua New Guinea. As correctly pointed out by the European Commission and by Egypt, we'll leave that for later on whenever we receive not the final but more elaborated text from the Netherlands, we will be able to discuss further. Thank you for that. Benedetta, back to you.

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Thank you, Nico. We are still waiting. I know that there's active collaboration going on on the cost-benefit analysis on the new gTLD program, especially in light of the discussion with the Board, so I haven't added the text yet, but I think that is forthcoming. So that may be coming tomorrow.

If we scroll down, if that's okay with you, Nico, going to the Advice section, we've received text on the Applicant Support Program draft advice, and this was proposed by the GAC Applicant Support Small Team, and then specific languages, including the UPU and the CTU. There we go. We have it on the screen.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Benedetta. I can read it or I can have any of the five vice chairs to help me read it. Any volunteer? And I have Colombia. Thank you, Colombia, for volunteering. Would you please read the first three paragraphs? Thank you so much for volunteering.

THIAGO DAL-TOE: Application Support (ASP). The GAC advises the Board. To ensure the ASP focus on facilitating global diversification of the new gTLD application program, bearing in mind historical community calls for a remedial round recalling ICANN77 GAC advice.

To publish a comprehensive ASP communications and outreach strategy and associated implementation plans for review and comment by the community with itemized costs, detailed scope, and clear metrics of success identified, to complement the overview of the broader communication plan for the next round of gTLDs included in the Implementation Plan. This ASP communications and outreach strategy must include details on building awareness of Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names and should leverage community connections to ensure underserved regions are reached.

To specify how the reported funds for the Applicant Support Program (ASP) will specifically be used to support applicants—whether through offsetting reduced application fees for applicants, funding additional means of support, or a mix of both—and undertake an assessment of the appropriate budget to support the program and the associated communications and outreach strategy.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Could you please scroll, Gulten? Thank you very much. So I'll repeat the third paragraph.

To specify how the reported funds for the Applicant Support Program (ASP) will specifically be used to support applicants—whether through offsetting reduced application fees for applicants, funding additional means of support, or a mix of both—and undertake an assessment of the appropriate budget to support the program and the associated communications and outreach strategy in the context of global inflation trends since the launch of the last ASP, which was funded with 2 million USD during the 2012 new gTLDs application round.

Let me ask the translators, how are we doing in terms of speed? Are we okay? Please show me thumbs up or more or less. Oops, I'll try to be. Apologies.

So maybe I should turn it back to Colombia in order to see if we can do better.

THIAGO DAL-TOE: Was I doing better? To develop a holistic approach to the ASP by strongly considering implementation of the ALAC's ASP incubator proposal, recalling the GAC's ICANN78 text.

To consider substantially reducing or eliminating ongoing ICANN registry fees for successful applicants for at least five years and consider further flexibility thereafter according to applicant needs, recalling ICANN77 GAC advice.



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To explore the potential of leveraging, including contracting and financing the services off a platform to which new gTLDs supported through the ASP could move to eventually operate their own backend services, recalling ICANN77 GAC advice.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for this, Colombia. Thank you for volunteering. As a matter of fact, greatly appreciated. Let me pause here in order to see if we have feedback in the room or online. Any comments?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you, Nico. We have Iran in the queue.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. Iran, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you very much, Chair. For all acronyms, when it appears first, you should have full description. The first part of your talking ASP is not full description, whereas the second part, you have full description. So we should convert that to the first paragraph. The first time ASP appears, you have to put describing the full content.

Now, I would like to go to the first paragraph. To ensure that ASP, we should put the Applicant Support. Okay. Thank you very much.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Then ASP—there we go.

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KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Okay. Thank you. “Focuses on the facilitating global diversification of the new gTLD application program, bearing in mind historical community calls for remedial round.” What do you mean by remedial round? I know there has been something before but we know into the inverted comma that something has already... What do we want, what do we expect at the remedial round? We want to have ASP, then we want to have remedial round. What do you mean that? Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. As a matter of fact, I assume that remedial round refers to those historical community calls. But I couldn't give you an answer at this point. This text was sent by the topic leads, I understand. Benedetta, please go ahead

BENEDETTA ROSSI: By the GAC Applicant Support Small Team.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. By the small team. Unfortunately, Iran, I won't be able to give you an answer in that regard, but I do have the UK. I have Ros who is actually a member of that team. Ros, please go ahead.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you, Chair. And thank you to our colleague from Iran for this important comment. I actually think this would be a great opportunity to delve into that. I know some of my excellent colleagues, we've

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worked together on the GAC Applicant Support Program Small Team, including from Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, etc. So I'd really welcome the Universal Postal Union. So I'd really welcome any of those colleagues, especially those who are there at the time of the calls, to come in and potentially explain some of the historical background to that.

My understanding was that these calls were to essentially encourage greater geographic diversification in the new gTLD application program, in short. But I'd love if some of my ASP GAC Small Team colleagues would be able to come in on this as well. Thanks. And great question. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so much, UK. I have the UPU. Please go ahead.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you, Chair. This is the UPU here, Tracy Hackshaw. Ros is absolutely correct. There is a historical context to this, following the 2012 round and the low take up of the Applicant Support Program. There were several calls within the community before a new round was to happen that the ICANN Org considered doing a remedial round to address the deficiencies that were identified in the 2012 round. As a matter of fact, we have provided footnotes in the text to those calls. This actually reaches high level at the IGF where there were sessions discussing this and there were documented statements at these events that spoke to the remedial round and so on. So we have

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referred to that in historical context and there is documented evidence of this actual phrase remedial round being used there. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, UPU. Nigeria or Papua New Guinea, is there anything you would like to add in that regard, or we're okay as we are right now? No problem? We can move on. Thank you so much. So can you scroll down a little bit? There we go.

Three, four, five, and six. Any other comment? Any other edit? Anything else you would like to modify? We're going to have time for sure. We'll have five more sessions on this. We don't need to be very specific as of today. But just in case, if you happen to have spotted something there, we can address whatever issue right now. So I don't see any hand, which means we can move on. Benedetta, back to you.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you, Nico. We have the Rationale to read as well for this draft advice. Please disregard the formatting.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Hold on just one second. Before we read the rationale, I see Iran's hand up. Go ahead, please.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you very much. If we go back to before Rationale, global inflation. Could you go up, please? I see the text talking of global inflation. Okay. Yeah. Global inflation trend. In the context of global

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inflation trends since the launch of... What do you expect that the ICANN will do with the global inflation trend? It's very, very difficult task that you're asking them, to match the applicant support to the global inflation trends. There is no value for the global inflation trends. Every country or every region or sub region has its own inflation. In Country A, in American region, inflation is different from Country B, in Europe, and from Countries C. In, let's say, [inaudible] Russian, Soviet Union's proposal and Africa. So I don't understand this global inflation trends. It is something that is difficult. So we'll have to look for something which is more reasonable. Otherwise, we will have a reply from the Board coming and asking some explanation what we expect to take into account. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Iran. I have to recognize that you have a very good point there. Very good point. So, again, I would defer this to whoever sent the text. I see the UK again. Yes. Ros, please go ahead.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH:

Thank you, Chair. Another excellent comment from our colleague from Iran. I think that's a really great point. I wonder... This text was intended to refer to, that we developed within the team, the fact that cost and prices have risen generally around the globe over the past decade, not the least of which because of some of the price rises that many have experienced since the pandemic, which has been fairly global in nature in terms of that, but the point is very well taken. So perhaps in the context of inflation trends so that we're not making it quite as sweeping and can be a bit more tailored. But it was intended

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to refer to the fact that generally the majority of countries around the globe have experienced significant inflation, especially in the past few years since the pandemic. But thank you very much again. It's valuable feedback.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, UK. Thank you, Iran. Point taken. So maybe we should erase the word “global” and just refer to inflation trends in general without being too specific. Would that be good? Would that be okay for everyone in the room and online? Any opposition? I don't see any hand up. So that means that we're okay. So with that, let me get back to you, Benedetta. Is that a hand up?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No longer.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: So let's get to the Rationale in order to move forward. So can you scroll down, please, Gulten, and get to the Rationale? Thank you very much. So I'll read the Rationale and then I'll pause and see if there are any issues, any wordsmithing necessary.

The GAC stresses that facilitating global diversification is essential to the success of the ASP. At this point, we have already talked about the ASP so no need to explain the acronym. Correct me if I'm wrong, but in any case. It's essential to the success of the ASP and refers the Board to the GAC definition of underserved regions. The GAC is of the view that global communications and outreach are essential to encourage

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organizations in underserved regions to apply through the ASP. Highlighting the economic benefits of operating a gTLD is particularly pertinent to helping organizations understand the merits of applying. Adequate funding will be essential for a successful ASP. The GAC is concerned that if the same amount is allocated to the ASP as that of the 2012 round, it will not be sufficient to ensure that all successful applicants can benefit from the ASP, particularly in the context of inflation trends over the past decade. Moreover, the application fee will increase to approximately 240,600 USD, an increase of 30% from 180,000 USD. As such, funding for the ASP should be increased by a minimum of the same proportion.

Can you scroll down a little bit, please? Thank you. There we go.

Discussions within the GAC throughout ICANN79 on the ASP, including a bilateral meeting with ALAC highlighted the importance of a Holistic Program that includes nonfinancial and financial support for applicants.

Let me pause here and see if we have any issue, any comment, any editorial, modification, whatever you want, at this point in order to save time. Is everyone okay with the text as it is so far? I have Iran. Please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Thank you, Chair. I think, if I'm correct, you're referring that that amount of money in 2012 is not sufficient. So we should mirror or reflect that in the advice when we talk about the 2012 of about \$2 million. We should mention that this GAC considers or suggests or

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whatever words you put that this amount may not be sufficient to implement. So there should be a mirror of the rationale into the main body of the text. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much for the suggestion, Iran. Any other comment? I don't see any. So well noted. Let's scroll down. I'll continue reading, and if you happen to spot any issue, please feel free to stop me at any given moment.

At ICANN77, the GAC advice that eliminating ongoing ICANN registry fees would help to ensure organizations that are successful in applying for applicant support, receive support not only with their application, but are also supported during the period it takes to get a new top-level domain up and running. ICANN's Survey of Globally Recognized Procedures for Financial Assistance Programs supports this conclusion, highlighting that "supported applicants may have limited access to the financial resources necessary for long-term sustainability. To combat this issue, providers of financial support can provide direct or indirect additional financial assistance post award." The survey sites guidance suggesting that capacity development is patient work that typically requires an investment of three to five years before meaningful improvements can be achieved. This advice responds to the Board's question asking that the GAC's specify whether eliminating ongoing ICANN registry fees was envisioned for a specific period of time.

Am I running way too fast? This is for the translators. Are we doing okay more or less? I see a thumbs up. Oh, that's good. That's good.



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Thank you. So I'll read the last paragraph. By the way, any questions from the floor? I have Trinidad and Tobago. Please go ahead.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Karel Douglas, Trinidad and Tobago. There's an open quotation mark just by the word "is". It looks like it's an error, just before patient work. Yes. That's it. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that. Trinidad and Tobago. And I have Iran. Iran, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: At the end of paragraph, we say that this is whether reply to the question raised by the Board. Really, in this paragraph or in the advice, we reply to that? Because we claim that this would reply to the question of the Board in regard with the specific period. But did we really inside the advice, we talked about that this is not for a specific period? If it is, please kindly indicate that. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Iran. UK, please go ahead.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you, Chair. I'm happy to take this one as I was involved with the development of the ICANN77 GAC advice. Yes, this is essentially the Board responded to the GAC advice with just a couple of follow-up questions. So this sentence here is simply attended to signpost the

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Board, noting that hopefully this explanation will support answering their question. If it is a bit confusing as worded, happy to perhaps change this advice response to the Board’s follow-up questions following on from the ICANN77 GAC advice on the ASP, if that would help and provide further detail, but that hopefully gives a bit of background of where this has emerged from. Thank you very much.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, UK, for the background. Any other comment? Any other edit? Seeing none, let’s move on. I’ll read—

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Nico, before we move on, Iran is in the queue.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Go ahead, Iran, please.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Thank you very much, Chair, distinguished colleague from UK. That will be very helpful. But the last two lines, when we say, “This advice respond,” we could say, “This advice is considered to respond.” We don’t know whether we really respond on that. But it’s considered because consideration is different from the definitive response. So when we add “is considered to respond” and with the changes that you suggest to make is very welcome and helpful. Thank you.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: UK, is everything all right with the edit? Anything you would like to add? You're happy with it? Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you, Iran, for the suggestion as well. I'm not going to read the whole paragraph again for the sake of time. So let me just read the last paragraph.

A backend registry is the mandatory technical platform to operate a domain name extension. The backend registry allows accredited registrars to technically sell domain names for each top-level domain. Support, therefore, could be provided to foster the establishment of technical registry platforms to assist ASP applicants interested in running their own technical operations. This advice responds to the Board's question, asking for elaboration on the GAC's ICANN77 advice for the Board to explore the potential to support the provision of backend services for successful ASP applicants.

I'll pause there to see if we have comments. Any comments in the room, online? I don't see any hand up. That means that we're okay to move on. Back to you, Benedetta.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: We have Iran in the queue.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Iran, go ahead, please.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: I think in the last line when we say "respond," we say, "could respond" or "may respond". We don't know whether we really respond or not. But we could put it with a qualifier that could respond or intended to

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respond, something, adding a word on that. Either could or may or intended or considered, any of these four words. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Yes, I'm very happy with that edit. I don't know about the rest of the GAC. Are we okay with that edit? I see nodding. Ros, UK, please go ahead.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you very much. Yes, really appreciate the suggestion, happy with intends to respond. I do wonder if, for consistency sake, we could change "is considered" to "intends to" as well, just for consistency, in the previous paragraph. But that's my only comment. I think it's a good language suggestion. So thank you very much to our colleague.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. Thank you, UK. Thank you, Iran. So let's change in the previous paragraph. This advice is intended to respond then instead of is considered to respond. So this advice intends to respond or is intended. Is intended to then, right? "This advice is intended to." And then again, in the next paragraph, this advice is intended to. Is that okay for everyone? I see nodding in the room. So that means that we're fine. Thank you very much for your suggestions. Let's move on. Benedetta, back to you.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you, Nico. In terms of text that's been added since the previous session, that's it for now. As noted, we have text that's pending. There

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are items that haven't been identified for penholders. So I don't know if you want to maybe have a look at that. Maybe if we can go back and review the pending areas.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Yes, let's do that. We still have half an hour.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Okay. So if we start from the top, we're still missing text from the PSWG in the Working Group section. Thank you, Gulden. If we keep going, I believe that there's the text for the strategic planning. It has been reviewed. I don't know if you are intending to have additional conversations on that.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Yes. Let's read the new text. I will need another volunteer for this. Any of the vice chairs in the room would be willing to read that? I see Zeina. Lebanon, please go ahead.

BENEDETTA ROSSI: If you can scroll up. It's under operational matters, please. There it is.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: There you go. Yes, that's strategic planning. Please go ahead.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Strategic Planning. The GAC discussed the development of the GAC strategic plan and agreed on an initial set of priority areas and

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corresponding GAC strategic objectives. The GAC will continue developing an initial set of expected outcomes for each of these objectives, in consultation with the GAC topic leads, GAC chair and vice chair for further consideration by ICANN80.

High Level Government Meeting Preparation. GAC attendees reaffirm the purpose and importance of high level government meetings (HLGMs) and focus their ICANN79 discussions on a review of the preliminary draft meeting agenda for the upcoming 9 June 2024 at HLGM in Kigali, Rwanda, including a session by session examination of the subject matter, potential speakers and timing for each of the HLGM sessions. GAC representatives were encouraged to reinforce the value of the meeting for their senior government officials, the GAC, and the rest of the ICANN community.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, my esteemed GAC vice chair from Lebanon. I see Iran. Please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you, sir. If you allow me, I want to go to paragraph four, a strategic planning. And in the third line, initial set of expected outcomes together with associated potential KPI. Just after outcome, together with associated KPI—potential KPI because they don't know yet—and then continue. Because I think everything should be with that one, with this potential KPI. Potential KPI, what you said distinguish here that sometimes may not be possible to have KPI, sometimes may be possible to have KPI. That is why I put potential. Or

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instead of potential, relevant KPI. Any of these two, but we need to put KPI as well. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. As a matter of fact, I'm very happy including KPIs. I'm not sure we will be able to follow up or reinforce in any way, complying or not, achieving or not, achieving the KPIs, because this is the GAC, 182 different governments. I see it a little bit challenging. However, having said that, I totally agree with the concept of having some sort of KPIs. I don't know how to implement them. Maybe that's a discussion for some other day. But yes, I agree. Anyways, I would love to hear from the floor. I have Lebanon. Please go ahead.

ZEINA BOU HARB: Just a clarification, on the last paragraph, the GAC representatives were encouraged to reinforce to the GAC.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Excuse me, Lebanon, where was that again? First paragraph? Second paragraph?

ZEINA BOU HARB: Last two lines. GAC representatives were encouraged to reinforce the value of the meeting for the senior government officials. They are reinforcing the value for themselves.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Good point. Good point. Yes, maybe we should erase the GAC and just keep the rest of the ICANN community. I have Egypt and then Iran. Egypt, please go ahead.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you. Christine from Egypt for the record. I was thinking we might add, not sure, maybe as the second sentence, something along the lines that the GAC has agreed to review any additional strategic objectives presented by its members or something like that to accommodate for receiving additional objectives as we discussed.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. Is that okay, Egypt? Are you happy with it? Thank you. I have Iran. Iran, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Yes, Chair. If you agree, I want to make a small modification to the last paragraph on this issue. GAC representatives were encouraged or are encouraged, no problem, to draw the attention. Please, kindly, secretariat, kindly for the time being, type that “to draw the attention of their senior government officials and the rest of the ICANN community the value of...” So we just started changing the structure of the sentence, but we do not encourage to do anything else but to draw their attention. That is what we can do. I cannot reinforce in my administrations. I just draw that attention of my minister, I have done that already. And they will send either the minister or the deputy minister to this meeting because they have WSIS, a high level meeting. So there would be two meetings important. So one meeting minister



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goals, the other meeting deputy minister goals. But I cannot reinforce that. I can draw the attention of the high officials and so on, so forth. That is the small suggestion, editorial. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Iran. Would you like to read the whole thing? Thank you so much, by the way, for turning the air conditioning on. It's the first time in the afternoon that I don't feel like I'm melting or something. There was some issue with the air conditioning. Anyways, thank you so very much for that. Sorry, Benedetta, you wanted to say something? Yeah, I have Colombia and Lebanon. Would you like to read? Oh, go ahead. Go ahead.

THIAGO DAL-TOE: Thank you. What I wanted to comment after seeing this first paragraph, it seems that we're repeating the GAC three times in three sentences. And in addition, I wanted to bring back the discussion with our colleague from Iran, because I think bringing KPIs in here, what is the reason to bring it up? Are we going to be measuring ourselves, measuring the chair and vice chair, ongoing work with the community? I mean, the idea here is that we're all going to be working towards bringing successful work to all of these strategic objectives. So I don't think we need to be measuring against the other members of the GAC. This is a collective support. I think that's my view.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Colombia. In my understanding—I might be wrong—but it says, "Continue developing an initial set of expected

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outcomes together with associated potential key performance indicators for each of these objectives.” Not for the chair or vice chairs or for any other GAC member. But again, I stand to be corrected. That’s my understanding. And I have—excuse me?

ZEINA BOU HARB: To measure progress and implementing the objectives.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. So we can add that if we want. So go ahead, Lebanon. And I have Iran as well, please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you very much. Yes, in reply to my distinguished colleagues, I agree to greater extent to the chair in presentations. But sometimes there are activities that we could associate the term KPI, we don’t know yet. No doubt, we cannot have any KPI for an entire community, collective community, because we are not able to ask any government whether their performance were acceptable or not. But there are activities that we could associate KPI, there are some. So we don’t know yet. That is why I put potential. And I also suggest that relevant potential or relevant KPI that if they are relevant or not. Now, having said that, the last two lines of the high level government, I think some word was missing because now we say, “Draw the attention of their senior government officials and the rest of the ICANN community,” then we have to say the word, “to the value and so on.” So the sentence is incomplete. So please kindly complete that. Thank you.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, again, for that, Iran. With regards to the first paragraph where you refer to, where we refer to the KPIs, more than happy to. I agree with you in terms of potentially measuring progress in X, Y, or Z activity. As a data analyst, the more we measure, the better. The more numbers we have, the more percentages, the better for me. So I totally agree with that. Sorry. I have Serbia. Go ahead, please.

SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ: Thank you. Just one clarification regarding the strategic plan. Besides the objectives, we will have measures and activities too. And KPIs will be related to that activities and measures. So, that including acting plan too.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Sorry, can you repeat your question, please, Saša? I don't understand.

SAŠA KOVAČEVIĆ: Is that including that we are going to have an acting plan too? You have strategic document, and then you have an acting plan for measures and activities and KPIs.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Yes, but we're not going to be dealing with that at this point. We're just focused on the strategic plan, broadly speaking, and then we'll get into details hopefully before ICANN80, before Kigali, which was agreed by everyone. I see Brazil. Please go ahead.

[LUCIANO MAZZA DE ANDRADE]:

I think there was a colleague—sorry, it was a previous one. Sorry. Thank you, Nico. No, I have no strong views on this. I’m just wondering, again, on the key performance indicators, if it’s wise at that point to assume that we will have those, considering the early stages we are in those discussions. Perhaps if we feel that the way the strategic plan is shaping up is consistent to have those KPIs, I think we can add this later. It just perhaps would be prudent not to present ourselves with, let’s say, a challenge that we are not able to meet later. We don’t have a strong view on this, just a comment or reflection. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Brazil. I have Iran.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH:

Thank you very much. Sorry. In view of all of the comments relating to KPI, I would add some small amendment after the “relevant key performance indicators,” comma, “where applicable.” Where applicable. And so on, so forth. So we look at that. If it is applicable, we do that. If it is not, we don’t do that. But I’m sure that any people reading the strategic plan, knowing that all strategic plan of all governments or international organizations, they have the KPI, but sometimes they are applicable, sometimes they are not applicable. But at least it is worth to mention that. Thank you.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. I agree with you. But then in that case, we need to erase for each of these objectives. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense. First, we say, "Where applicable," and then we say, "For each of these objectives." I don't know. I'm not the Shakespearean expert in the room. But I stand to be corrected by our colleagues from the U.S. or from England. I really think we should erase the next phrase in that case. I mean, I'm okay to put "where applicable," but then—

I see Brazil. Please go ahead. I'm sorry. That was an old hand. So any comments, any suggestions? I'm not reading. Yeah. So let me read the chat room then. Russia says, "Which member of the GAC proposed any additional strategic objectives? Only clarifications of those already were submitted in document. We make simple text unnecessarily complex." Thank you, Russia, for that. Would you like to... Go ahead, please. Russia, go ahead. The floor is yours.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN: Thank you, Chair. You already read our comment.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Perfect. Thank you, Russia.

VIACHESLAV EROKHIN: I don't think that we should phrase about any additional strategic objectives because we are talking only about initial aid. We had very laconic sentence. And now we start to make this simple text more and more complex. I don't think it's good to it. Thank you.

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NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Russia. I agree with you. The simpler, the better. So yeah, we'll review that.

I have Egypt. Go ahead, please.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Chair. Just to clarify to the distinguished colleague from Russia, the suggestion was made by Egypt to accommodate the comment that was mentioned by my colleague yesterday, sorry, when we discussed with the plenary session on strategic plan, because we identified that we do not have a strategic plan that is covering IP addresses or IP resources. So we have proposed to provide text on that. But in order not to rush into premature text now, and since we're having the time intersessionally to work on that, so we're suggesting to keep that open in that area to be able to draft something that we can also discuss over the mailing list if other GAC agree. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Egypt. I have Iran and then Trinidad and Tobago. Please go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you very much. I support Russia. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Iran. I also supported Russia and you in terms of being short and sweet and straight to the point. So thank you again for that. I have Trinidad and Tobago.

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KAREL DOUGLAS: Okay. Hi. I missed something. But I was going to say before, if you have the word “relevant,” you don’t need the word “where applicable”. So having those two words in the same sentence somewhat is redundant. Because they both give options to—

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Can you—

KAREL DOUGLAS: So if you have “together with associated potential relevant KPIs where applicable,” so you’re already saying that relevant means the ones that are important, and where applicable would mean to me the ones that are important or to be selected. So it’s two qualifying words that refer to the same thing. So I would say you only need one.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Which is?

KAREL DOUGLAS: I would say the first one because the second one is really unnecessary unless you want to—I heard somebody say it. My good friend from the CTU has a suggestion.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Okay. CTU, go ahead, and then I have Iran. Go ahead, please, CTU.

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[RODNEY TAYLOR]: Thank you very much, Chair. The way I interpreted this is potential relevant key performance indicators and where applicable—because it’s all relating to expected outcomes. The “where applicable” I understood to mean where KPIs are applicable to a particular outcome. There might be some expected outcomes that don’t have KPIs. So I wasn’t necessarily to put two by having “where applicable” in there because I thought that maybe some of those outcomes might not have KPIs associated with them. If, however, you want to take one out, I would take out “the relevant” and say “associated potential KPIs where applicable.” Thanks.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, CTU. Well noted. And I have Iran. Go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Thank you very much. I don’t want to prolong discussion, but let me tell you, there is an argument that you propose here. You could have KPI which is relevant to the activity. This is different whether that KPI is applicable or not. You just say theoretically say that this is KPI for this. So this is relevant KPI. And then you have to see whether that relevant KPI is applicable or not. The applicability I mentioned because of some of the points raised by some other people, not by me. So I prefer to maintain both, but if there is anything to be done, we delete “relevant” and maintain “where applicable” to satisfy the people in some times, in some area, the KPI may not be applicable. But still the relevant is another dominant issue. But not we have a KPI which is not relevant to the activity. By just theory, we should see the



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KPI it is relevant. So I suggest that if it doesn't have any body, we maintain both words. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you, Iran. So how would it read? I got totally lost. I don't know where to go. Yeah, Egypt, please go ahead.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Chairman. Egypt for the record. So I have a sense that we are not yet in agreement on the KPIs, and I would like to revert back to the comment made by my colleague from Colombia and from Brazil. Frankly, I think KPIs belong more into the action plan, not into the strategic plan. I think we should take the time to work on expected outcomes, look at them, and then see what are we going to adopt in a shorter term action plan and put for those KPIs. So I would suggest taking out that text altogether. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you so much for that, Egypt. I agree with you. Maybe we should park this and continue tomorrow with a fresh mind and some more good Puerto Rican coffee. I see Iran again. Go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: With all due respect, I may not agree, distinguished colleague from Egypt. There is no strategic plan without KPI. Sometimes KPI is applicable, sometimes they are not applicable. So I am not in favor of deleting both. So I would like to minimum maintain "where

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applicable”. But KPI should be part of that. It is difficult, therefore, to agree with this text, totally. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Iran. As a matter of fact, I agree with you. I mean, I’m totally in favor of KPIs. The more, the better. So what I’m saying is that maybe we should park this discussion of this paragraph specifically in order to have a better view tomorrow with a fresh mind. Because we’re getting stuck, I guess, into nuances. Anyway, I have Trinidad and Tobago. Please go ahead.

KAREL DOUGLAS: I actually am in agreement with removal, but I know you said, park it so I don’t think I’ll continue. I would add the Underserved Regions Working Group did add text to the document. So we’re happy to discuss it at your convenience, of course. I don’t think it’s much. Neither, I believe, it would be contentious, but we’re happy to discuss it as well.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: Perfect. So at this point, ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you that I think we should really stop here. I don’t see that much energy in the room, my brain is full already. I don’t have the stamina to go on and analyze the rest. Unless you bring some special, very strong Indonesian coffee, I suggest we stop here and we continue tomorrow with a fresh mind. As a matter of fact, I couldn’t understand our distinguished colleague from Iran when he explained his last

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suggestion. I'm sorry. I'm not that stupid naturally, but today—yeah, Benedetta, you want to say something? Yes?

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

I'm sorry. I don't want to keep you longer. But just a question. We have under issues of importance, I think we've identified penholders for most of them. There was an item, I believe, that was identified initially. If you scroll down, please, under Issues of Importance. I think it was identified number four by the UK. But I think it was just to identify. I don't think it was to volunteer for penholder. It was just a question to see if we have a penholder identified, if there's someone who's actually working on this.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Is that the case? Do we have a penholder for—U.S., please go ahead.

SUSAN CHALMERS:

Thank you, Chair. The U.S. is developing text for consideration. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO:

Thank you so very much. So can you write it down? I'm very happy to tell you that I'll give you eight minutes of your time back. So let's stop here and continue tomorrow morning. Thank you so very much. We'll reconvene tomorrow at 9:00 am for the meeting with the GNSO. Thank you so very much. Enjoy Puerto Rico. Rest, eat well. Yeah. Go ahead, Gulten. Iran, go ahead.

KAVOUSS ARASTEH: Chair, I'm sorry, I wanted to just agree with you that you have to park the issue, but in no way I am going to take out the term "key performance indicator". I want to retain that. Thank you.

NICOLÁS CABALLERO: I'm very happy to hear that. I agree with you, Iran. Thank you so much for that. So the session is closed. Enjoy.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**