
ICANN79 | CF – GAC Wrap-Up Session
Thursday, March 7, 2024 – 3:00 to 4:00 SJU

GULTEN TEPE: Welcome to the GAC wrap-up session on Thursday, 7th of March, at 19:00 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the, I can expect, standards of behavior. During the session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud, if put in the proper form. Please remember to state your name and the language you will speak, in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly 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 this session in the Zoom toolbar. With that, I will leave the floor over to GAC chair, Nicolas Caballero, for one last time here in San Juan. Over to you, Nico.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much, Gulten. Thank you, everyone, for your energy, your patience, and your stamina to make it up to this point. So this is our last session during our meetings here in beautiful San Juan. You can tell by the picture. Look at that picture. Never had the chance to go to the beach or anything like that. But I would have loved to be there and being able to drink some mojitos or something. Can we move on to the next slide, please?

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So this is an overview of the session. This is, as I said before, the last session. So I'll give the floor to Rob for some follow-up work regarding the ICANN 79 outcomes. We're going to be talking about some upcoming volunteer opportunities, very important indeed. Among them, all the discussions we had regarding possible NomCom participation and many other things. Rob is going to walk us through the details. Some key post-meeting dates and some lessons learned.

At this point, I don't know if that's part of our menu today, Rob, but at this point, I would like to acknowledge the end of the terms of the two vice chairs, the one from Europe, Mr. Ola Bergstrom from Sweden, and Mr. Francis Olivier Chubahiro, I think that's the right pronunciation, from Burundi. And in that regard, I would love to welcome Thiago Dal-Toe from Colombia. If you could please come to the stage. And the same thing for Christine Arida from Egypt. Please take your seats. From now on, you're officially, well, you were already elected. I don't need to repeat that, but symbolically, you would be taking your seats starting today. It would be good if Zeina could join us as well, so that the full team is on stage. We're not going to be performing, no worries. No guitar, no music at this point. I don't know if China is online. Wang Lang, is he in the chat room? Let me check. I don't see him online. But in any case, so a big thank you to Ola and to Francis, and a warm welcome again to Thiago and to Christine. And with that, let me give the floor back to Mr. Rob Hoggarth for some important details ahead.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much, Nico. And a formal welcome to the new vice chairs, and formal thanks to the outgoing vice chairs. I think some of

you intuit, but not necessarily see on a regular basis the amount of time and effort that's required to provide the management and coordination services that our chair and vice chairs do for the committee, not just during the meetings, but certainly intersessionally as well. And it's great from a staff perspective to be able to work with them. And I think you all should acknowledge and appreciate the tremendous amount of work that not only the outgoing chairs have provided, but the new incoming vice chairs are committing to. And I would also notice, he has graciously not mentioned himself, but Nico will be starting his second year of his two-year term as part of this leadership transition. So let's welcome him on.

And quickly noting that the work never stops, what we try to do at the end of an ICANN public meeting is to identify for you some upcoming, pretty much urgent or hot topic items. The committee now works basically year-round, not just at the meetings. And so the purpose here is just to flag on a couple of slides a number of upcoming activities that you will be alerted to via email or otherwise asked to pay attention to. I'll start with the HLGGM preparations for Kigali in June. Obviously, as individual GAC representatives or delegates, you'll be briefing your senior officials.

As has been noted on a number of occasions, the HLGGM is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the work that you do at ICANN. And so even if you do not individually within your delegation end up succeeding in delivering one of your senior officials, the real key and benefit that many GAC representatives in the past have noted is just the awareness and the extra focus on ICANN. Even if the senior official chooses not to be able to come, it's an opportunity to advise, provide

information, and promote the work that you're doing here at ICANN. So it's a very valuable opportunity.

From a staff perspective, we will continue to help and support the Rwandan government in the work that they're doing to gather your RSVPs, to provide updates with respect to invitations, identifying new people who come into the senior positions, or otherwise correct any oversights that have been made. This has been a great meeting and a super opportunity for many folks to reach out and confirm various questions about their individual delegations. And we certainly encourage you to do that over the next several weeks, maybe the next month or so.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: In that regard, there's a question from Colombia about the, sorry, go ahead, go ahead.

THIAGO DAL-TOE: Thanks, Nico, Thiago, Colombia for the record. I actually wanted to have a clear image of the timeline. When is the latest time that we could potentially update our senior officials for the HLG? Thank you.

ROB HOGGARTH: I can only speak to the Barcelona meeting that we had. We were literally fielding updates the week before. That's not a blanket opportunity to wait that long. But that's the reality of the lives that you lead in the departments and ministries in which you work. And we recognize that. I don't see Charles in the room, but we'll be working with his team. And

we'll confirm timing and deadlines, things like that. Laurent Ferrali from the government engagement team is here in the room. I don't know, Laurent, if you want to offer an update in terms of progress with respect to the agenda. I know that we've had a lot of inquiries from a number of you to identify when that will be crystallized, not necessarily the specific speakers, recognizing that we continue to confirm people. But a number of you have indicated that in order to qualify or brief some of your senior officials, you really want to see a crystallized version of that. So I don't know, Laurent, if you want to share what your expected time period or timetable is for that. Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI:

Thank you very much, Laurent Ferrali from GE ICANN. We're getting the confirmation for the participation to the HLG. I mean, of course, we can understand last minute changes and this kind of thing. But we are planning to send you back a new agenda. We will discuss this new agenda during this month, March. The idea is then build a list of panelists, moderator, between mid-March and mid-April. So if we have, I mean, last minute changes, we will not be able to give speaking slots. I mean, if you confirm in May, there is a chance that your minister will not be able to be very visible on the panel. So you cannot expect a lot of visibility if you decide to confirm at the last minute. And we already received confirmation from high-level officers, high-level representatives, I mean ministers and vice ministers. We already receive, yeah, we have already more confirmation than speakers slots. So yeah, I mean, please, if we can confirm as soon as possible, so we will be able to offer to your high-level rep a speaking wall in the, I mean, a lot of visibility. It will have a speaking role because we are planning to

have a question from the room. But if you are expecting to have your minister on the panel, please confirm as soon as possible. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Laurent. It's certainly good to have more speakers than available slots. That's good, for sure. Any question, any comment in that regard for Mr. Ferrali? Indonesia and UK, please go ahead.

INDONESIA: Yeah, I just want to know if it was mentioned that if you want your speaker in the panel. In the panel means, does the minister have to, what do you call it, to deliver a speech or something like that? Or it's just in the discussion? After the expert mentions something, then the panel will make a response, or the minister actually delivers a speech? Thank you.

LAURENT FERRALI: Thank you very much, Indonesia, for the question. The idea is that the moderator will ask questions to the panelists. And of course, I mean, his question will be based on the subtopic you have already identified for each session. So the moderator will ask the different panelists to answer to questions. I mean, that's the format we have for the moment. Of course, if we have a lot of requests from ministers, maybe we will have to adjust the setting of the sessions. But for the moment, yes, the idea is to have a moderator asking questions to the panel composed by ministers or vice ministers or head of regulators. But yeah, it's questions from the moderator. Thank you. We are not expecting to have

statements. We are expecting to have a candid discussion between high-level rep about different issues, such as cooperation, digital inclusion, this kind of thing. We are not expecting ITU-style statement during the meeting. The same thing for the room, the high-level rep will have some speaking slots. So they will be able to take the floor from the room. We are not expecting to have statement as well. We will work on the floor of the session to make sure that there is a real dialogue between high-level reps, including with people from the room. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Laurent. Thank you, Indonesia, for the question. I have the UK.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you, Chair. Roz KennyBirch, UK. Just to really thank ICANN staff for how much work is going into the preparations for this meeting. It's greatly appreciated. And really, just to flag ICANN 80, this HLG in Rwanda, as an excellent opportunity to really highlight the Applicant Support Program. Obviously, this week, the GAC has worked to develop significant text in this area. And a key focus of the program is global geographic diversification of the new gTLD program. So having this meeting in Rwanda, especially with government ministers present and whatnot, seems like a really excellent opportunity to highlight the benefits of this program, how it might deliver economic benefits for organizations within various countries across the globe. So I think that should be kept in mind in the development of this agenda as well. And then just the second point, just a practical question is, and apologies if

I've missed this, but if there will be particular spaces available set aside to organize high-level bilateral meetings on the ground as well on the margins of this HLG. So thank you so much.

LAURENT FERRALI:

Thank you very much, UK. Thank you very much for the suggestion. The Applicant Support Program, I think it's a very good thing to mention and to discuss during the HLG. The GAC already identified new gTLD next round as a potential sub-topic for the session three, gTLD inclusion. And I think that talking about the, I mean, I think that this Applicant Support Program is a very good way, I mean, to talk about the next round in the context of gTLD inclusion. So thank you very much for the suggestion, and we will take into account this suggestion. Thank you again.

Regarding your question, we have limited spaces for bilateral meeting, so if you need any room for high-level bilateral meetings, please let us know a bit in advance, like in April or May, so we can try to figure out how we can help you with that. Because the last time we talked to the meetings team, it was not very obvious that we have a lot of rooms in addition to the main conference room. But we can try to help you to find some space. But please let us know in advance so we can have a discussion with the meetings team and see what we can do. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you, UK, for the question. Thank you, Mr. Ferrali, for the answer. Back to you, Rob.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much. We touched on a couple of the other bullets already here for Kigali HLGGM preparations. Thank you, Laurent, for the feedback on the agenda. Please watch your emails. I'll make sure that I flag it not just for GAC information, but something a little bit more urgent so when the agenda's ready that you all see that pop out. Always please look for that Kigali code word, though, as we move forward over the next couple of months.

The other critical aspect that was part of what Laurent shared in part of the RSVP management is just encouraging you as soon as possible to be able to provide responses so that we can do the appropriate logistical planning. It's a relatively generous space in the Kigali Convention Center where you have a floor and then observer seats in an upper tier, and so we want to make sure that we've got the appropriate counts for tables and accommodations for delegations. So your abilities to provide that information to the Rwandan government at your earliest convenience will be most appreciated.

The meeting registration activities with respect to the HLGGM and ICANN 80 will be kicking off later this month. The targeted date you should pop into your calendars is the 22nd of March. That's the target in terms of the registration pages being open. We will have direct communications to all of the delegates who have provided their RSVPs by that time. And again, just confirming that the government of Rwanda is taking those in, and then our team is taking that information to be able to work in an effective way with the ICANN meetings team. I think that's all the major focus there, Nico, in that area of workflow. Throughout the course of the next couple of weeks, months, please reach out to us, as many of you have done in terms of communications questions. We do have a page

on the GAC website that's devoted to the meeting that we're beginning to add content to. Also, through the registration system, once that's set up, we are advised that we'll be able to leverage that through some sort of moduling, Nico. I'm not quite sure how that works, but it allows us to actually communicate more effectively, somewhere along the lines of an IPMS, perhaps. I'm not sure. So that's the overview. Happy to take any further questions or clarification after this session.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Sorry to interrupt you, Rob, but we don't have that much time. It's already 3:20. In my case, at least at 4:00, I've got to be there in the main ballroom for the board meeting.

ROB HOGGARTH: Don't worry. I've got it all mapped out.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Okay. Awesome. So please go on.

ROB HOGGARTH: You'll be out of here by four minutes of, easily. The rest of the items are not quite as detailed or as dense, but please, if you have any questions, field them. These are other areas we've identified from your discussions, or just things that we see coming up. Obviously, there's preparations for ICANN 80, the policy forum piece, not the HLG. And later in the deck, I've got some notable dates for that planning that we'll pick up. Committee strategic planning follow-up. You all had extensive conversations, not just within the session, but during your

communique drafting. So please watch for the leadership team to be doing some follow-up there. A couple of notable areas in terms of working group activities, the GOAP working group, that's the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group, is gearing up for an active period. Those of you who are members of the working group, please watch your emails for further discussions about that. There are broader activities taking place within the ICANN multi-stakeholder community with respect to concepts like continuous improvement programs that Tracy Hackshaw from the UPU is involved in, and other accountability and transparency mechanisms that will have some impact on the work of the GOAP and the operations of the committee. So although you're all super focused on the policy work, how you conduct your efforts, how you communicate with the rest of the community is also something that's going to be an area of focus here over the next several months.

Also, the Human Rights and International Law working group has been moving forward on some of the initiatives they've been focused on, most noticeably a sign language assessment effort that they're doing to help improve accessibility, not only for GAC sessions but potentially more for ICANN as a whole. And so they've got a work plan that includes that, and they'll be having further conversations here in the next period to discuss those things in more detail. There's a good bit of collaboration that's intended or expected to get from the ICANN staff in that regard, and so we're hopeful that we'll see some progress there, [inaudible].

In terms of organizational reviews, there have been a number of, again, sort of operational areas that are of substantial interest to the ICANN

multi-stakeholder community. I mentioned the continuous improvement program work that Tracy is involved in. There's also a letter that Nico received not too long ago looking for the GAC's feedback with respect to a potential delay of the start of the accountability and transparency review team number four, so that's something that you'll be asked for some thoughts on or some reaction to, so please watch for that. And then just in the previous session that many of you attended, there's this development of an outreach network mailing list in connection with the WSIS+20 review, and I know a number of you have expressed interest in potentially participating in that. That's more of an individual effort on your all parts to sign up and make sure that you follow through with those forms.

So that's just one of two, Nico. We'll go to the second briefly, not quite as long. What always seems to happen for many of you who are new and haven't observed this is right around an ICANN public meeting time, all of a sudden people become focused and the GAC starts getting requests for input and perspective and the rest. There have been a number of those types of communications coming in. One of the roles that the GAC plays in advising the board is that now we have seen more often the board chair is reaching out directly to the GAC chair, asking specifically if the GAC has any advice on particular topics. These are typically public comment proceedings, but there is this extra bite at the apple, if you will, in the public comments that the GAC has an opportunity to take care of. But there's also direct communications from the board in no better way soliciting some sort of feedback from the committee.

We've got two of those. In addition to the other comments, we've got this proposed update to recommendation seven of the new gTLD

auction proceeds cross-community working group. This was an area that a number of GAC members were interested in some time ago, what would happen with the proceeds of the auction and a number of very specific points. Some of you are much more versed on recommendation seven than I am, but Nico and a couple of the vice chairs were recently notified of some updates there that the GAC is going to be asked its opinion of.

There's also the phase one final report of the EPDP on international dyes domain names. Nigel is working as the pen holder on the public comments, and then we have this additional communication, Nigel, that's asking if the GAC has any specific advice on the topic. Those are happening relatively quickly. The feedback with respect to the phase one final report is just on the 12th of March, and I recall that Nigel shared an email with all of you just within the last week or so. I don't know, Nigel, if there's any follow-up you want to do here face-to-face in terms of expectations or timing for that, but I'll give you the opportunity for that now.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Yeah, thank you, Rob. I mean, what I did just before this ICANN meeting is forward to you the public consultation on the phase one report. We saw the phase one report in draft earlier last year around July-August time, so this is just the formal adoption of the phase one report, but if anyone did have any comments that they want to go back to the board on, then let us know.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you, Nigel, and thank you, T. Santhosh from India, for your great work and topic leadership on that. Thank you both. Another area in which public comments have been invited is 19 March deadline for the proposed language for draft sections of the next round applicant guidebook. I think there has been a strategic decision made that the GAC will not be submitting formal comments because this is just the first bite at the apple, of which you will have three or four more. Correct me if I'm wrong in the chat, Benedetta, on that. But it's a really good opportunity for those of you who are just coming up to speed on these issues or wanting to reinforce past understandings of where ICANN was on this, that you can consult this public comment proceeding for a very good overview of where things stand. And if you do intend to provide any individualized government comments, the deadline coming up pretty quickly is the 19th of March.

There's also, at the end of this month, the community consultation on PICs and RVCs. That's something that you all discussed quite extensively on this call, if I recall, during this meeting, and if I recall correctly, the US and the UK are leading the drafting efforts in this regard, or at least collecting comments and deciding what the committee is going to do, so a little bit longer time frame on that. And then near and dear to Roz, Tracy, and others' hearts are the applicant support program initiatives that are set forth in the draft handbook, and comments in that area are closing on the 2nd of April. So quite a bit of drafting opportunities and activities for you as a committee over the course of the next month or so. As usual, we will be supporting your efforts and doing what we can to help you get things in on time and appreciate your constant direction and guidance, Chair and Vice Chairs,

on that. I don't know if there are other items of follow-up work that any of you want to make sure that we flag.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Denmark, please go ahead.

FINN PETERSEN: Thank you, and thank you for the overview. One gets quite sweaty when we see all this follow-up work. I was only thinking after my favorite subject, cost-benefit analysis, it was clearly that the board didn't have a procedure to follow up on that. I was wondering whether it would be helpful that we also, in one way or another, track our advices, see when the board should deliver them. Hopefully, they will send it to us as we requested, but we also have people looking through the follow-up from the board to see whether they have fulfilled it and perhaps presented here. One way could be that the country or countries who have proposed the advice also look at the follow-up and perhaps report to the GAC whether they considered it follow-up, and we can have a discussion if necessary. We also have procedures in that way. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you very much for that, Denmark. Well noted, and indeed, as part of our new implementations, new ideas, that would have been a sub-module within the new, let's say, IPMS, which is actually an ERP system. If you go back one slide, please, Gulten, my idea in general would have been, just to give you an example, for the GOPE working group, for the Human Rights and International Law working group, for the PSWG

working group, and for each one of the working groups, as a matter of fact, to have a sub-module within our own main system in order to keep track not only of the documents, in this case the ones you referred to, Denmark, and thank you for that. Not only for tracking past advice and avoiding any kind of digital archaeology for whatever topic we need to find background information, but again, as I always say, as a way to improve the efficiency of our methods in order to avoid having to deal with 25 different spreadsheets and 30 different mailing lists and so on. But that would be an outcome of the strategic plan, the four-year strategic plan, which in turn would produce an annual plan, which in turn would lead us to the potential implementation of that IPMS, or not, if we all decide that it is not required and that we are happy with the Excel spreadsheets and the mailing lists and the Google Docs. Maybe that's the best way forward, but again, I just wanted to point out that what Denmark just suggested is a clear example of the need we have to be more efficient. Anyways, thank you for that, Denmark. Back to you, Rob.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thank you very much. I'm very glad that you brought that up. Under Manal's leadership for the previous six years, and then Nico has continued it, as you know, the board's relationship and collaborative communications with the committee has improved substantially. There was an effort and continues to be an effort on the part of ICANN Org to track the advice. I'm putting in the chat right now, if I can quickly hit the right buttons, the page on the GAC website that allows you to see what happens in terms of the progress of each communique. So you see in that that there's generally a tracking mechanism that we do as staff to

record the exchanges you have with the board that shows the various scorecard responses. What ICANN produces from time to time hasn't in some time, you'd need to look at the ICANN 75 reference on that page. But they provide a status report of the treatment of GAC advice from ICANN and the board's perspective. And so in that document, it indicates, has it been processed? Is it still pending? Has it been resolved? Finn, what you point out is on the GAC's side of things, there's not currently a process that allows the committee to evaluate what the board has said back to them. Under the current intersessional time period, as you know, the communique gets released for some odd days after the meeting. Within about four to five weeks, there's a clarifying call with the board members. And that ends up generating a scorecard from the board, something close to three or four weeks prior to the ICANN meeting. And then mixed in there, there's a BGIG call, the board GAC interaction group, in which issues of importance are expected. Now, the challenge is what to do with that time period and the views that you all have in terms of saying, when are the opportunities for committee members, or maybe it's topic leads assigned to it, as you've suggested, to look at those scorecards, evaluate them, and create a window of opportunity for you to all discuss it. I think presently, the way you've all approached this is to do it here at the meeting. But as you noted in Hamburg, there are challenges there in terms of all the dynamics of a public meeting. If you could do it more in advance of the meeting, that would help. So clearly, there's a need or a gap there that the committee should look to fill. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you for that, Rob. I have Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO: Thank you, Nico. Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record, just to endorse what Finn was proposing. I think in any organization, we always have the first agenda point is pending issues. And that means that we have to check whether we got what we wanted. So it would be great to establish a proposal for a procedure within the leadership, perhaps, and then share it with the wider GAC. But it's really important.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that, Switzerland. Any other comment or question? Back to you, Rob.

ROB HOGGARTH: As I was noting down those suggestions, I was also looking over at Ian from the GOAP working group perspective. But I think what you both are defining is much more of an action from the leadership team to initially be able to do some of that issue spotting. And so I've captured that. Thank you. So moving on to key post-ICANN, that should say 79 meeting dates. Sorry, missed that one at the top. The first step is publication of the communique. Nico, I believe that you will finish your review, the chair's review of the document sometime early tomorrow, after which point staff will generate the email that you all typically see now, creating the 72-hour review period, which puts us at publication of the document later in the day, on Monday, March 11. We'll change the date if there's some difficulty with the Los Angeles time zones for ICANN Org. So that's the first step. The communique will come out. We expect

the minutes to be completed, reviewed, approved for your review in the April time frame.

Then, without much delay, we'll be looking to all of you for suggestions about policy topics, working group updates, joint sessions for ICANN 80. Be mindful that ICANN 80 is a four-day policy forum. You won't have the luxury of six days. So there will be some tough decisions made about agenda items and what things fit. We've gotten a lot of good feedback already from the leadership team in terms of available meeting time and sessions, so it will once again be a great collaborative experience with all of you to define those priorities.

As part of that effort, we will take the topics, work as staff to try to put together a schedule that works, and in the late April, early May time frame, collaborate with all of you in terms of agenda setting calls where we finalize the agenda and focus on some session objectives. Of course, we've got the high-level government meeting on the 9th of June. That is a meeting hosted by the government of Rwanda, not by the GAC necessarily, not by ICANN, but that's certainly something that we expect many of you will be participating in. And then the policy forum, sorry for the date there, is 10th to 13th of June, so that will be the period there in Kigali, Rwanda, for that four-day meeting. So those are some key dates, at least just in terms of organizational cycle for the group.

One of the things that we like to do if we have a few moments, Mr. Chair, is create an opportunity for some feedback and reactions about the meeting, give individual GAC representatives an opportunity to just share their perspective on what worked, what didn't work, what can be improved. And so, Gulden, if you can pop over to the next slide. A couple

of topic areas that we identified for your consideration, first in terms of capacity development. We still called it a workshop for this meeting, but it was really just capacity development sessions because the innovation or evolution of the capacity development at this meeting was for those activities to take place after the opening plenary session. So it really became capacity development as a part of your meeting, not something nice to do before you came. And I think that's a reflection from the leadership and others that capacity development is not just for newcomers. You're learning about a breadth of brand new issues. Some you're being updated on, but that's something that's of value to all GAC representatives, not just new people. So hearing from you what the value of that was, whether you thought that it worked, in particular the breakout sessions that continue to be an innovation and something that seems quite popular as part of those activities, that would be great to get feedback from you all on. So your thoughts in there would be helpful.

Secondly, the open mic session, a pilot, an experiment. What seemed to be of most value to us, looking from the back of the room as staff, is that it really provided you all as an opportunity for some dialogue. Okay, if the community you considered a success, oh, we only had two commenters, but it really then provided an opportunity for all of you to share information, to talk about things. One of the ideas that was generated out of that was the creation of a collaborative document or page where you could all begin sharing information about upcoming activities within the DNS space.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Yet another module within the system.

ROB HOGGARTH: There you go. So your reactions to that would be most helpful. Again, because the ICANN 80 policy forum is only four days, there may or may not be flexibility to do this at that meeting, but certainly at the annual general meeting in Istanbul later in the year. And then, of course, any other matters that any of you have in terms of, let's do this better, this is okay, or anything that's really working, appreciate first with you at the head table, and then anybody else that would like to comment. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you for that. Rob, I have Egypt.

CHRISTINA ARIDA: Yes, thank you. So I had two points that I wanted to bring in. On the breakout sessions, I think it was very useful to have those modality again. I would suggest, though, that we could break more than once, possibly also in regional formats, since we would like to introduce the regional perspective into the work of the GAC, as the chair mentioned. So that could be an opportunity. Another thing is also to do some team building, not only capacity development, but also some team building. I've had the experience to go through the leadership program, and there was a very innovative ways of doing team building. If we can have a part of that, I think it would be very useful. We could even get someone from the team that did the leadership program to do that for us.

On the open mic session, I think it was an innovative exercise. We should give it, I think, another go, possibly, in the next meeting. I'm not sure which one. Maybe not the next one, if it's only for days, but maybe in another meeting. And I very much welcome the idea of having a place where we can share updates from the regions and from the national setups. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO:

Thank you very much for that, Egypt. Certainly not the next one in Kigali, but for the annual general meeting. And maybe we can establish that as something permanent, but for the longer meetings. Another thing I would like to say is that I don't know how, but I've just got to make sure that, not in my case, but for the future, whoever the GAC chair is should be able to participate in the capacity building sessions, and in all regular GAC sessions, as a matter of fact. We need to do something about the clashing agendas with the board. As a matter of fact, I would like to have a frank, open, and straightforward conversation with all my distinguished GAC members about the need for the GAC chair to be a board member at all. But that's a discussion for some other moment, right? We're not going to be talking about that here. I just want to make sure that for Kigali, or for Istanbul, or for the next three GAC meetings, I will be able to be there during the capacity building. I mean, for all GAC sessions. And I don't know, we're going to have to talk to the board ops team and do something, but these clashing agendas are, I mean, it doesn't work for me. It doesn't work for me, because many times, whoever the GAC chair is, he or she will not have time to eat lunch, and will have to be running from one room to the other. That's not very

logical. I'm not at all comfortable with that situation. So that's my feedback. Sorry to keep you waiting, Indonesia, and then I have the UK.

ASHWIN SASTROSUBROTO: Sorry, Aswin from Indonesia. Sorry, Nico, just a short proposal, perhaps. I found that the information I got in this meeting for the Kigali meeting, for the ministerial meeting, is very important for me, well, at least for me. And I propose that it can be put in a more written form, how the format will be when the minister should say, can, for example, the minister cannot come, or the vice minister cannot come, and represented by a particular director general or whatever, will he or she also sit together with the other minister? You know, things like that is quite important for some countries, you see.

You see, just an example, I mentioned this. I sent notes to my colleagues in the international bureau, and the response is very simple. Ah, it's like SLLM, you know, high-level leaders meeting before the IGF. And it is also SLGM meeting before the ICANN forum. So you know, it is similar where the minister will sit and give a short speech, you know, things like that. So what the information I got is important, and also other things, like in the IGF meeting, for example, in the SLGM, you can find a minister directly, okay, can I have a bilateral meeting with my friend from Papua New Guinea, for example? Oh, we cannot say, okay, I'm sorry, minister, but there is no room, you know. We cannot say that. You know, that's kind of things that may happen during even only one day. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you, Indonesia. Well noted. I have the UK.

ROSALIND KENNYBIRCH: Thank you, Chair. Roz KennyBirch, UK. Just to really support our colleague from Egypt's suggestion on a focus on GAC team building, I think that's a really valuable consideration. So thank you for that. And also to suggest off the back of that, too, I know that recently we've had GAC socials, I think, for the past three meetings, including this one, in the same room that we're negotiating, discussing, etc. And it can be sometimes a bit difficult for colleagues to break out of work mode, staying in the same room. We have done off-site GAC socials in the past, including in Cancun, Malaysia, etc. And I think that could also support with developing a more informal opportunity for colleagues to get to know each other and do so in a setting that's separate to the room that we're pursuing discussions. So just a suggestion there as well. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Thank you so much, UK. Well noted. As a matter of fact, I was going to suggest a guacamole cooking session for GAC members in Rwanda. Maybe we can change the guacamole for some typical Rwandan food, taking advantage of the presence of our distinguished colleague from Rwanda. What would be a good Rwandan food you might suggest for team-building, Charles? Something easy, please. Something easy.

CHARLES GANGHUNGU: Not easy question when it comes to the taste of everyone. But we do have some local food, which is made in banana, but also with what we call ugali, which is maize flour kind of.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Okay, so it could be an ugali team-building exercise. I mean, we can do anything. We can go play golf. But a team-building exercise is certainly a good idea. So thank you for that. Back to you, Rob.

ROB HOGGARTH: Thank you. I'm all done. And you asked me to be done by five of. We're done by 10 of.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Any final thoughts? Any final comments, remarks? Any good ideas so far for the team-building exercise, apart from the guacamole and the ugali? So we have two options. Ugali or guacamole. What should we do? We'll go with both, maybe, and have two teams and compete in order to see which one is better tasting. So anything else to add, Rob? So thank you so very much. The session, actually, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you so much. Enjoy. Sorry. I have the UK. UK, go ahead.

NIGEL HICKSON: What? You thought you were going to go home 10 minutes early? Good God. No, I just thought we ought to thank our interpreters and thank our GAC support team.

NICOLAS CABALLERO: Of course. A big thank you to the interpreters. Sorry for running, as usual. Thank you to the technical team. Thank you so much to the Fabulous Five, as a matter of fact. Rob, Gulden, Daniel, Fabien,

Benedetta, and Julia, who's online. I hope I'm not forgetting. And Fabien, of course. I mentioned Fabien over there. We're actually thinking about having a seven-a-side rugby tournament, and that could be part of the team building exercise. So we'll give it a thought. Let's see how it goes. Thank you so much again. Enjoy.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]