PANAMA – GAC: Discussion on Advice Register
Monday, June 25, 2018 – 13:30 to 14:00 EST
ICANN62 | Panama City, Panama

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Usually circulated before the meetings. So we will be discussing the GAC Advice Register. As you may know ICANN has been working on Action Request Register which logs all GAC advice but also requests for action from other ISO and AC as well. Rob has helpfully prepared the slide deck. So Rob, can you please take us through the slides and then we can open the floor for discussion. Thank you.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I would be delighted to do so. By way of background, it was two ICANN meetings ago, in Abu Dhabi when the ICANN presentation staff -- it's what he referred to earlier today this concept of being able to track what happens to GAC advice once it goes to the board. Over time that information has been put into a new system, new being a relative term now, but a new system that they call the Action Request Register. The concept or idea is to create a mechanism to track advice that the board receives from the ICANN community. Particularly the advisory communities from the ALAC, SLAC and GAC. And based on conversations with

GAC leadership at the time the decision was made to incorporate GAC advice.

Create an opportunity for all of you to be able to relatively, efficiently say what happened. What is the status of that advice? Is it resolved? Still pending? What is the situation? Back in Abu Dhabi laying out what has been put together. Documentation that showed 162-pieces of GAC advice going back to ICANN 46. The reason why there was 162 pieces of advice in the past the communique had different layouts and advice was provided in paragraphs and not in separate sections. I think there were some challenges that the ICANN team had in putting it all together. I think it's important to note that the team that helped put this together came in many respects from very project oriented work experience and so many of these were former GDD staff who really had a good understanding of spreadsheets and pulling all the information together and spent a lot of time putting it together.

So this information presented to GAC in Abu Dhabi and the open question that ended up being the next step from that meeting was understanding that the GAC was not willing at the time to simply accept the conclusions of the ICANN staff. To say, oh that GAC advice is closed, okay everybody we are happy with that and let's move on.

So I think the staff understood that the next step would be the GAC confirming that advice. That in fact it had actually taken place. So that's where it was left in Abu Dhabi and the purpose of this session today is one to do what I just did basically give you that background and set a little bit of context about what the current situation is.

Secondly, it's really a matter of being able to prepare for the session tomorrow with the GDRI. Where board members will say how is that?

ALICE MUNYUA: Work going -- have you gone through the 162? And are you comfortable with the conclusions? And can we now post it on the ICANN website or GAC website? The next step is really that operational element the question before you today is what do you want to tell the BGRI meeting tomorrow. You have been presented with 162 pieces of GAC advice. How do you want to evaluate that? And in what timeframe do you want to complete it?

We can go to the next slide, and what I want to do is essentially outline some of the options. I was talking while they were getting posted. Let me stop here for a moment to summarize.

162 pieces of advice. 136 of those on a spreadsheet workbook of about 44 pages, indicates that the GAC advice has been closed, some resolutions and some board action on. And ICANN org and board perspective that advice has been resolved and great to maintain for historic purposes but it's finished. This takes up from the Abu Dhabi reflects advice from Johannesburg meeting -- piece of advice that are pending or open. Universe of 162, 136 that are closed.

Basically allows you to look through and examine what that layout is. But as we go to the next slide we will see sort of what your options are. And these are -- next one please -- thank you. So the next step is really to determine how you would as a group like to take the next step. Presumably you want to check this advice in some way, shape and form. At least three options and anything else that anybody can come up with. First is complete review of 162 pieces. So someone or some entity goes straight through the list. What I recall from looking through the transcript from the Abu Dhabi meeting a number of you said that's not our job, that's your job ICANN.

So the question became is the GAC willing to look at each one individually recognizing that would take a period of time. The second is to -- second option to simply confirm 136 pieces that have been declared as closed. Or to take a third option which is

more limited review of just which ones are open. In other words, accepting what the ICANN org has said in terms of closed items. And fourth is some other approach. I am your staff support, I don't make these decisions. I am just brainstorming and leadership for this session some you would have idea or suggestions about how to approach it.

Manal that's essentially the overview and setting the stage for the remainder of session. Matter of conversation between you as a group in terms of how you would like to approach it. The way that I structured the slides taking you through each option. There are a couple of additional questions at the end that makes some representation of timing or format that you want it to use. Whether you want it to be working group, or dividing up the list. That we can reach at the end if we save 3 or 4 minutes at the end of the session. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Rob. And before starting the discussion let me -- was just alerted that I should remind you of stating your name and affiliation when you take the floor for transcript purposes. So please whenever you take the floor state your name and affiliation for the transcription.

So, thank you again Rob and I think if we go back to the slide six where we have the four options listed so that we can brainstorm on the different options. But before this I think also, first of all -- the register had that advice (indiscernible) so we have two things. We have GAC advice before Beijing -- and we have GAC advice standing GAC advice in terms of GAC principles on gTLD and ccTLD and those are documents that are I am not sure how they are reflected in the system. So maybe those are two questions that we may need to discuss with ICANN team when we have this discussion during the BGRI session.

I think we also need to have two mechanisms, one just to complete this backlog thing. And agree on what has been already entered in the register. And the other mechanism is for future, how do you want to have a system for ongoing GAC advice. Every time we have GAC advice it will go into the register. So we need to have this in our loop so that we can have them reviewed, one by one and agree whether they are closed or not.

So having said that let's take the task we have at hand now and we have been presented by the 162 pieces of GAC advice that are currently in the register and we need to agree on mechanism to review, confirm whatever is flagged as closed is closed. Whatever is flagged as open is open and so on.

Again Rob very helpfully listed a few options. So we can have everyone review every piece of GAC advice and then give us a greenlight. Or we can have people looking only to closed GAC advice or only at open GAC advice. Or maybe we could form a small team that can take this task and report back to the GAC if we wish.

So I mean, or any other mechanism of course. So I will stop here and maybe wait for comments, reactions. How the GAC would feel about reviewing the GAC advice that is already entered into the register?

KAVOUS ARASTEH: Thanks Rob for your kind information provided as usually, very helpful. And thanks for the question raised. I think perhaps may further categorize the 24 advice remain open. Some of them they are open because they are pending some other actions for instance GDPR we have advice. Ten parts. This is category that we could be careful -- that we should not rush too much because we need -- some other they are blocked since longer time. And we don't know why whether we should abandon that or renew that, whether we should reword that. And the third category between the two is some advice that board waiting some explanation and some clarification by GAC. It always happen that advice is so clear and so on and so forth.

At least these three categories. First one, wait patience. Second one, further clarification from GAC provided or not provided. If provided why still board has not reacted. And third category is those that are open for longer time and perhaps there is some sort of blockage some basic problems, basic difficulties and so on and so forth. And perhaps as we do in some other part of governmental activities outside ICANN we should have a live table. We should follow up on every meeting and to review that to transfer one category from one column to the other columns if the issue has been resolved. And that the end what is remaining that those that are blocked or a long time. For instance from ICANN or GAC (indiscernible) specific. How far we have to wait and so on and so forth. Sometimes general blocking. These are just very preliminary suggestions. And encourage other colleagues to come in and further propose some suggestions. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you for triggering the discussion. And you are always one step ahead so now we are discussing how we can deal with the open GAC advice but let's agree first whether we can confirm the advice that is flagged as closed are seen as closed also by GAC colleagues.

And frankly speaking this is the big part of it, so we have 136 GAC advice that is marked as closed. So we want to confirm that those are closed as well from the GAC perspective. And then we have 26 GAC advice marked as open and Kavous helped categorize open advice which would be probably be treated differently. So it maybe also helpful if we go to one of your part slides -- I mean the one immediately after the presentation ends.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: It would be I think the last slide. I think you are referring to slide that people will see tomorrow for BGRI.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Okay let's agree how we are going it confirm advice as it's marked as closed. Do you want -- does every GAC representative want to do this exercise on his or her own.

KAVOUS ARASTEH: Certainly Manal I thought GAC advice closed means confirmed by us. Now I understand that it's closed by (indiscernible) or closed by -- you have to confirm that they are really closed. So maybe there is another column that we go through them that we see close-close, or close-doubtful. And then the question is who will take these actions? How we proceed with that? I don't think that during the session we could not go through that analysis.

Maybe go through that before and then bring the idea that those that require action by the GAC at (indiscernible) so I think you have to assign something to go through one by one to see closed and put confirmed with a tick. And those that declared to be closed but are not close as far as we are concerned you have to give what part is totally open or partly open or is it something. Still that we need analysis. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Exactly. Definitely we are not proposing to do here in session as you rightly mentioned. We are just brainstorming on the approach so we can do this of course, intersectional and then we can confirm to ICANN whether we agree to what has been entered or whether we have any comments. Again if there are no specifics proposals.

THIAGO: I took a moment to make sure my name is written properly on the screen. So my comment is to second what Manal and representative of Iran have just said. The question is how do we organize our work to confirm the classification of our advice that has been done by ICANN organization? ICANN considers the certain advices have been adopted and therefore classify them as closed. We as GAC must make sure that this classification corresponds to our understanding.

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And as Manal says this is probably not something that we would be during a plenary session. We must make sure we organize ourselves properly to deal with this intersessionally. An idea that occurs to me is to organize every now and then conference calls in which we go through different sets of advice and then during those conference calls we examine and decide whether ICANN's classification corresponds to our understanding. And once it's been done and we bring this for approval for GAC membership. Eventually at the subsequent plenary meeting that we will have. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. So when you say conference calls, are those GAC wide conference calls or you mean leadership group conference calls? Let's keep brainstorming. I have the US.

ASHLEY, US: I don't have strong views on this, but it sounds like a lot of work. I was wondering perhaps we should flip the order of priority to looking at those that have not been dealt with yet or still pending. Start there just in the outside chance we don't finish our tasks so at least we have those covered so then we can confirm to ones deemed closed already.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you US. And this goes along the line that I initially propose that we make sure that this set of open advice are open, and not missing anything that we foresee as open and flagged otherwise so that we can progress, maybe faster. But let's see if there are any other suggestions and Rob please go.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I am taking copious notes and the US just made returns to one of the critical elements. Precisely what Ashley just said. Oh my goodness this is a lot of work. Part of the challenge is to approach this in a way you can do it in manageable chunks. Thiago has a very good suggestion and I want to tease it out a little bit. You suggested a string of conference calls that could take place with maybe an agenda that goes out ahead of time identifying what is going to be discussed. And you could do it in a couple of different ways, you could say we are going to discuss advice numbers 1 through 20. And I know some of you looked very closely at the spreadsheet that I shared you can tease out at the top of teach column and just have it report to you the topics.

So for example Manal in preparation for this call today said to me why don't you look at two character issue. It's an important issue and something that is on mind of GAC right now. All I do is select two characters and see over the last five years there has

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been ten pieces of official GAC advice on that topic. I look here and see that four are still in phase four which is referred to implement mode. I see the other six are in closed mode. Considered that they have been resolved. And I know the advice from ICANN 51 is closed but four pieces from ICANN 58 are still being treated as implementation. In three weeks we are going to have a call on reviewing GAC advice on two characters.

Anyone interested in that issue join the call and we will go through the ten. Kavous had a good suggestion. Step 1 is what do you want to do before ICANN posts this information on the website? So again from the transcript in Abu Dhabi the concern was we don't want you guys posting this yet until we confirm that we agree.

And perhaps take an intermediate step and go ahead and post it and if we see problems with it we will create a mechanism to review that. Some of you who have given me feedback on this, it can be effective research tool. When your boss asks for information or whatever you can go to this list and see inventory of advice on specific categories of work. I think there is some values. Right now basically the spreadsheet is in limbo until the GAC comes back and says I can post it.

But I think that is an element of the conversation. That is what I picked up in my notes here. I will continue to take notes as you comment. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much Rob and actually this was meant to be a brainstorming session before we have the actual discussion with BGRI with ICANN org. And since we are right at the hour I would like to conclude this session on brainstorming on the Advice Register. I also noticed that we already have Jeff and Cheryl here so if you can join us at the panel. Thank you everyone. Please remain seated. We will proceed on the next session. Thank you.

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