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SAN JUAN – GAC ICANN62 Planning  
Thursday, March 15, 2018 – 11:30 to 12:00 AST  
ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, everyone, for taking your seats. We'll be starting. This is GAC session 36 on ICANN 62 Planning scheduled for 30 minutes from 11:30 to 12:00 on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

This is basically our session to just kickstart discussions to plan to our upcoming meeting. I'll hand it over to Julia to take us through the timeline between now and Panama. Julia, over to you.

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you, Manal. As you can see on this slide, I'm going to walk you through a few dates leading to the ICANN 62 Policy Forum.

The first date is wrong. I'm sorry about that. But, the GAC travel support applications for ICANN 62 close on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. You have received an e-mail from me to request for travel support to complete the form. The deadline is I think next Wednesday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March in order to give some time to the GAC leadership to select supported travelers.

Then, you can see that the first week of April the ICANN 61 minutes will be circulated to you.

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Following this, in May, the bulk of the work of the agenda and the agenda-setting calls and in between the briefing documents, preparation will take place. So, more or less, a month.

Following this on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June, documents will be sent to the GAC leadership and GAC chair and sent to you on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. So, more or less, two weeks before the start of the meeting.

I wanted to show you another document and that is what the block schedule for ICANN 62 looks like. Can you see it? This is a four-day meeting. As you can see, morning starting at either 8:30 or 9:00 until beginning of the afternoon at 3:15, this is all for the internal policy work. Following that, in the afternoon, every day you have cross-community discussions followed by community networking.

Really, by showing you this, what would you like to basically talk about doing those four days? We've been working with the leadership on creating agendas, creating the schedule. We have those agenda-setting calls, but this is more of seeking your input on topics that you would really want to talk about at ICANN 62. Comments or questions? Your feedback would be really helpful.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Go ahead, France. I put myself after you. Go ahead.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Manal. Thank you so much, Julia, for this presentation. Very, very important issues indeed. First, I would like to strongly support the idea of finishing at 6:30, not having a late session in the day, except for GAC Communique but I think it's very important that we have time for community networking. Thank you for that.

Second point, I would just like to tell the GAC members it's really, really important that you get engaged early and work with us on the structure of the schedule and really put forward your priorities, your policy priorities. For instance, for the sessions, we've had sessions that basically occur in each ICANN meeting. We discuss about issues, but we can also decide on outcomes. So, really, feel free and we encourage you to propose topics, to propose ways forward and outcomes and [inaudible] in your hands. We really need your input to help us to build a structure that fits your needs and your priorities. So, really, early input and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or input. Thanks.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, France. Okay, Switzerland first and then I'll share my comments as well. Switzerland?

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**JORGE CANCIO:** Thank you, Manal. I have to apologize because I got distracted one moment, but when we saw the timeline for the preparations, it struck my eye that the difference between when the briefings are sent to the GAC and the start of the Panama City meeting is quite tight. At least for our internal purposes and the Swiss administration, you might be interested in knowing that we used the briefings very much and that they are very important to us in those preparations. It would be very hard to have a meeting between the 15<sup>th</sup> of June and perhaps 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, which is when you have to take your flights to be in Panama on the 25<sup>th</sup>, probably with even having to be there earlier because there will be a CCWG meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. So, I would beg the secretariat to revise those deadlines if possible, to have the briefings a bit earlier. Thank you.

**MANAL ISMAIL:** Thank you, Switzerland. A very sensible point. Other comments? Trinidad and Tobago, please?

**KAREL DOUGLAS:** Thank you, Manal. Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago. Just a very quick point to follow on what France was saying. I think there might be some scientific learning that says after a

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certain hour, people tend to be tuned out. They may be physically present, but mentally they are elsewhere. So, there may be some good reason why we may not wish to go beyond a certain hour of the day. I won't say which hour, but maybe they do have 6:30 as a session they're beginning. I'm sure at that time if you had started at 8:30, members may be struggling. Just a suggestion. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you for the suggestion. Very good point. Please, we also need those comments when we start compiling the agenda and sharing it. We have two agenda-setting calls, and again this is another chance to really work on a solid agenda. I have Tom first, please.

[TOM]:

Thank you, Manal. Just response to this point about late meetings. Just to remind the GAC that this is a four-day meeting. It's in a slightly different format because it's the B meeting. I always call them the A, B, and C meetings. The format would normally have all of the afternoon taken up with cross-community sessions. So, if we follow the format that the GAC followed in Johannesburg and Helsinki for the June meetings, there will not be time to have any meeting in the afternoon, except for the early afternoon before the cross-community

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sessions. At the moment, can I suggest that's probably a good thing? Hopefully, it all comes together to meet everyone's concerns about finishing the GAC's work for the day in mid-afternoon and then moving into other parts of the ICANN meeting. It should all work, but certainly the points of members concerning late hours is well-noted. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you, Tom. I was going also to alert everyone that this is not a full week meeting, but a four-day meeting, so we really need to best utilize those four days. I hope you will engage in the early setting of the agenda by sharing the topics you would like to have on the agenda. It would be perfect if we could also share the objective of the session, whether it's an update, whether it's a discussion that we need to take, or whether we need to adopt something at the end of the session so that GAC members are well-prepared to serve the purpose of the session.

Another point I would like to make about the working groups. I really hope that the working groups would try to work intersessionally and let us know whether they need a face-to-face meeting or they would just like to share with us some reporting.

Another point I was going to make, but now I got to know that this four-day meeting, the first day we start early in the morning

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at 9:00, but again, if possible, if people can meet half an hour earlier so that people can get to know each other before the meeting starts, I was going to suggest this. Bearing in mind that we start at 2:00 PM so that we can start half an hour earlier, but now ... I mean, it's 9:00 PM so I know I'm asking everyone to get really early. It's optional. Nothing formal. It's just an informal getting to know each other before the start of the meeting. I know the seating plan doesn't help this very much. We used to sit in a U shape where there was [inaudible]. People get to know each other better. But, now with the numbers we have on the GAC now, we are forced to have this seating plan, of course. I encourage the first day that, if possible, we can gather a little bit earlier.

I think you'll be hearing from Julia regarding the topics of interest for the following meeting. What I observed for preparations for this meeting that people were very reluctant to not choose any of the topics, so they just clicked on all topics and sometimes we got to finish session early because we didn't have really something to say about this topic. So, it's good to propose the topics, then propose the intention also of the sessions so that we can be very well prepared. So, Trinidad and Tobago, please.

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**KAREL DOUGLAS:** Thank you, Manal. Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago. I just wanted to say how happy I am that you suggested this introduction for ice breaker, what I'm calling an ice breaker. That would allow people to interact prior to the formal meeting, because it assists greatly persons who may be new, newcomers like myself, who wish to contribute, but may be somewhat intimidated and therefore they don't contribute. So, having that ice breaker prior to the meeting so that people can become familiar with each other, so you know the person who is sitting next to you. Not just a face or unknown entity as the case may be, but you actually have befriended the person. That person has welcomed you. That allows a lot for the person who is new to be able to be comfortable and secure in the sense that he is able to contribute.

So, I 100% agree and I do look forward to seeing that. Thank you.

**MANAL ISMAIL:** Thank you, Trinidad and Tobago. Please, Uruguay.

**ALEJANDRA ERRASPUME:** My name is Alejandra Erraspume from Uruguay. I would like to ask. I don't know if this is the right time because this is the last plenary session. I will wait for anyone to wear their headsets.



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I don't know if this is the right time and I apologize if this is not the right time, but there is something regarding election of the new vice chair. I don't know about the process. I don't know what will be included in the communique we drafted yesterday. I don't know if this is the right time to speak about that or to clarify what about the future election of the vice chair. Thank you very much.

MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you, Uruguay. We have, first of all, apologies for the late circulation of the communique. We're going to the GAC leadership will sign off the communique in the coming five to ten minutes after we finish this session here, so it will be circulated soon. We have already indicated that we will have GAC elections for the vice chair. I think we agreed that we will have three weeks nomination period immediately after we finish this meeting, so you will be receiving an e-mail seeking nominations and the nomination period will be for three weeks and then we will have the whole thing online so that we can have the vice chair on board as soon as possible. Does this address your question? Okay, perfect. Thank you.

So, other comments or suggestions? Canada, please.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, chair, and good morning to all. Just in regards to the planning and priority setting for the next meeting in Panama. I think it'll be important for us to be mindful that it's a short meeting. It's a four-day meeting. So, I would urge that we try to discuss priority issues like the GDPR early on in the week. I think that'll be quite important, which would allow then to continue discussions with other parts of the community.

In addition, I think also we need to be mindful of having discussions within the GAC that then allow us to feed into other PDPs. For example, the work track five, so we're a bit more prepared to better and more meaningfully participate in those PDPs. I just wanted to make those two points and I'm happy to work with all GAC members to ensure we are able to work this out. Thank you.

MANAL ISMAIL: Thank you, Canada. I think this is also a sensible suggestion and also help us start working on the communique language as early as possible, because again, it's a very tight meeting, so it's good to start also working on the communique language as early as possible.

One more thing to bring to your attention. The GAC leadership has a meeting over lunch to plan for the next ICANN meeting as well, but this is across the community with other SOs and ACs.

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This takes place every meeting and I would like to let you know that the starting point is the cross-community sessions. So, we fixed the cross-community sessions and each SO and AC finalizes their agenda.

Again, you will be hearing soon from Julia regarding the cross-community sessions, the options we have, the voting for the different sessions, what could be conflicting or non-conflicted. Again, we seek your active participation on this because, again, basically the whole community will be pending our input on this as well and we would like to have it taken into consideration. So, GAC priorities, cross-community sessions.

Any other comments or questions? If not, then thank you all very, very much for your active contribution and your active participation. This concludes the GAC meetings here in San Juan. Enjoy the rest of the day. There is still the public forum and the board meeting. Safe travels to everyone and please stay engaged intersessionally. Thank you. And thank you very much for the interpreters and technical support and for ICANN support staff, our independent secretariat and leadership colleagues as well. Thanks to everyone.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**