

NCSG / GAC JOINT SESSION
9 March 2025, 09:30 PDT

The GAC Chair introduced the session and welcomed the NCSG to the stage

The NCSG Chair thanked the GAC Chair and introduced other members of the NCSG.

Farzaneh Badiei, NCSG, discussed Human Rights and DNS Abuse Mitigation

The GAC Chair responded that there is no magical solution for avoiding DNS Abuse but recommended DNSSEC and RPKI implementation as potential mechanisms. Would also suggest a good onboarding process for contracted parties.

Switzerland asked “How far your work on this topic is related to the core value we have in the bylaws on Human Rights and how far it is related also to the framework of interpretation we discussed many years”

European Commission: “I think it would be interesting to loop us in the discussion if we're trying to extend the impact assessment to DNS Abuse, it's a very complex topic and Human Rights are definitely extremely important and something we really care about. It's also true there is always a balancing act”

Pedro de Perdigão Lana, NCSG, raised some issues on the gTLD Applicant support, including Diversification of Outreach and Financial Support (Fee Reduction / Bid Credit). Also raised was the issue of non-financial business, technical or legal support.

Slovakia: “I just wanted to echo the importance of this topic to also introduce the Human Rights considerations to our discussions on provision of registrant data”

Farzaneh Badiei, NCSG, discussed the role of civil society in the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance.

Colombia asked about the NCSG's role in using the Champions Toolkit and if they have any suggestions for improvement on outreach.

Pedro de Perdigão Lana, NCSG, responded “We're still trying to reach directly to potential applicants for the program but the problem is finding out who will be the organizations that have specific interest in getting a new gTLD, considering the scenario that we are right now and the priorities that those organizations have.”

Switzerland supported Farzaneh's statement on the role of civil society and then asked “what are your plans or what are your activities right now in the processes we are having, for instance the WSIS+20 or the implementation of the GDC, related to the former, because we are seeing

that the technical community is getting very organized, very active, and I was wondering where you stand with your engagement in those processes?”

Farazaneh Badiei, NCSG, responded with details on how the GNSO Council has an informal discussion group on the matter.

The United Kingdom asked the NCSG for views on Internet Governance and the current discussions surrounding different matters.

Farazaneh Badiei, NCSG, shared that she is an active participant in the WSIS+20 mailing list and has recently posted to that list on new developments.

DRAFT

ROUGH TRANSCRIPT:

Okay. Welcome, Rafik and -- am I pronouncing your names sweem, this is the NCSG, non-commercial stakeholder group, more than welcome to share this session with the GAC. The floor is yours

SPEAKER: Thank you, Nico and to the GAC for this opportunity maybe just to introduce quickly the NCSG for those who might not know. So we are part of the GNSO, one of the stakeholder groups, we are the non-commercial stakeholder group, and we represent the space for the civil society and non-commercial users and ICANN in GNSO where we participate in the policy making for gTLD, and we have different positions and views on several of the topics and wanted to highlight two that we wanted to share with the GAC is to maybe to get more input and to see your thoughts on those. Just don't want to spend too much time here on introduction and maybe moving to the main topics, starting with the Human Rights impact assessment on DNS abuse, something that was mentioned earlier but we want to give here kind of a different viewpoint of how we think about DNS abuse but mostly from a Human Rights perspective, and I would leave that to farza.

>> SPEAKER: Hello, as Rafik mentions, NCSG tries to enhance Human Rights and access to global, and Internet for DNS abuse mitigation during the contractual amendments there were discussions about what is the success factor of these contractual amendments for DNS abuse? And we heard many quantitative indicators of how many are taken down and staskts, however, we think we should introduce qualitative measures as well and one of the ways to come up with these qualitative success measures and indicators is through doing a Human Rights impact assessment on

how the mitigation of DNS abuse can impact Human Rights of the domain name registry but also the end users.

For example hasty takedown of domain names could have implications of freedom of speech but it can also have impact on access to information. For example if a Human Rights advocate is documenting violent, brutal police action during a protest, if we take down that domain, and not only Human Rights advocates impacted but also people who want access to that information are impacted

Also another factor in DNS abuse mitigation might be access to domain name registrant privacy personal data to indicate abuse should be done with care and not hastily. So we have had the first session of Human Rights impact assessment and we are also very much in touch with the GAC Human Rights Working Group and we have invited them and look forward to these community sessions as well. But the first one held in Istanbul which was about -- whether it is Human Rights impacts and we had kind of a hands-on session through scenarios to understand what could what could be at risk, what could be done about it? And

At that time and meeting we had another session and I saw some of the GAC members attended as well, and we were very grateful, that we wanted as a result of that session a few non-binding guidelines for how registrars and registries should do a Human Rights impact assessment when they do DNS abuse mitigation. Now in the process of coming up with the guidelines through collective action, it's not just NCSG or [indiscernible] we want to come up with guidelines together. We are not advising or insisting on any policy development process to be started, all we are doing at the sessions is more about talking about need non-binding guidelines.

SPEAKER: Thank you, maybe we can take questions.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: To open the floor for comments or questions in that regard? Any comment, anything you would like to ask the NCSG at this point before we move on to the next topic? One thing I would like to say is in terms of avoiding DNS abuse, no magical solution, no 100 percent secure implementation, but I would humbly recommend DNSSEC manners and good rpk implementation, you would be I would sail 98 percent safe, that would be a good start.

In terms of capacity building for your members on how to implement those implementations.

Farza, yes, that is good advice, however, when the registrar is being pressured to do something about DNS abuse, especially like in circumstances that are did he fined as urgent, the registrant is kind of they cannot do anything. They might hastily suspend their domain name or take them down. So what we are trying to do as well as understanding what the registrants can do to protect themselves, we want to see what sort of impact assessment tools we can give the registrar not to do that kind of action, not to undertake hasty actions

And also, so the governments also might want to consider Human Rights implications of their requests when they want to have access to domain name registrant private information or when they ask for accuracy in domain name registrant. It is very much -- we have to see what the registrars do and how they react and not to put them under pressure to take hasty action that has a Human Rights impact

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, I have Switzerland, European Commission and then a gentleman by the name m AC i.e. k,.

SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. I am here. Hello, good morning [chuckling]. So I just wanted to thank you for bringing this topic to our attention, and maybe I would also like to ask you how far your work on this topic is related to the core value we have in the bylaws on Human Rights and how far it is related also to the framework of interpretation we discussed many years ago. So I was just wondering whether you are basing or connecting your work to that. Thank you. .

Yes, thank you very much. Definitely. So if you remember there was a Human Rights checklist that came about as a result of that framework of interpretation and PDPs now they have to do that Human Rights checklist and that was one initiative. And we took that Human Rights checklist and we are looking at how we can incorporate it in the guidelines. And all of the work that we're doing is to help with upholding -- respecting the Human Rights core values that ICANN has in its bylaws. But point taken, we will pay more attention to how the conversation was involved there and make it a clearer connection.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, European Commission next.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Thank you very much, Martina Barbero, European Commission, speaking remotely. Thank you for the nice presentation and for the work on Human Rights impact assessment. I think this is very, very important and interesting. I don't want to speak on behalf of my topic leads, I myself am a DNS abuse topic lead together with Japan and US, and I think it would be interesting to loop us in the discussion if we're trying to extend the impact assessment to abuse bus, it's a very complex topic and Human Rights are definitely extremely important and something we really care about. It's also true there is always a balancing act. When assisting for DNS abuse for instance with very urgent requests related to child exploitation or possibly abuse of minors, of

course the rights of the minors very important to keeping the balance and I think sometimes in the GAC we see that it's not really -- we are much more often confronted with the delays in response from the contracted parties that are not meeting the urgency of the request rather than on the other hand very hastily released registration data. So but a very important topic to bring to our attention and I don't want to speak on behalf of my colleagues but if we could receive an invitation to look into the discussion. Thank you very much.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, European Commission, and for the sake of time, I will need to close the queue here, as opposed to the Open Mic session, this session is specifically designed for Q&A between the GAC and the NCSG. So apologies, we need to move on. The floor is yours again, Rafik.

>> Rafik: So now we have move to the next topic about dd an scant support

Pre-descroa. We raised the point with the community with the support of [indiscernible] we come from a legal background and this is relevant, our concern about understandability of the -- the first thing I would like to mention in regional manifestations about GAC and NCSG working together many years on this issue. Our first main concerns, I would first like to highlight or position diversifying of the new gTLD industry and the next round of -- we find it very important to know what ICANN is doing to reach potential applicants who are not already involved in the ICANN ecosystem, especially those from underserve and had non-commercial communities. Webinars, even regionalized. Do not get to the people -- we worry about the percentage of financial support provided, if we want to be inclusive, probably we will not have a new gTLD as one of the priorities. Higher percentages may be necessary to diversify the agreement or even for exempt

As a third concern we also want to have at which clear information as possible about non-financial support business, technical or legal support. We know organizations we want to reach do not have a lot of knowledge about ICANN procedures and may have difficulties even understanding the guiding materials provided. Even the criteria to apply for a new gTLD -- [refer to screen]. And needs to be done inasmuch detailed manner as possible. And last I would like to raise a recent issue that just came up which is the support for bid credit for ASP, they will have a did his scout of 35 percent and still trying to understand how effective this would be. To explain this better a bid credit will be applied to be -- sorry, I will go a little bit slower. Credit to be paid by the win/winning support applicant as well as deposit provided by the rules. To provide example, if the second highest bid is \$1 million, the winning supported applicant would have to pay only \$650,000, a 35 discount of the bid credit applied to those \$1 million in the auction. That's it. Thanks.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, Pedro, before I open the floor again, my apologies to Slovakia, I didn't see your hand up. If you would like to take the floor, please go ahead.

SLOVAKIA: Yes, thank you Chair. I just wanted to echo the importance of this topic to also introduce the Human Rights considerations to our discussions on provision of data on registrant. Of course important to balance all important interests into the discussions and also to acknowledge that we as GAC and as ICANN cannot create legal basis for provision of data so also important the context of national law that will govern on how it happens but we are happy that this sort of issue or advocacy for also those who might be affected in terms of Human Rights by those efforts are also presented. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, Slovakia. .

Yes, that is very important. Thank you very much. The purpose of doing the Human Rights impact assessment is kind of to raise this awareness of how our requests, policy positions, how GAC's request for example or other stakeholders' requests could have an impact on Human Rights as well. So kind of like for example if we start talking about accuracy in a way that identifies domain name registrants, it will have grave consequences for anonymity and also registration of domain name registrants around the world, a very dangerous path to take. Doing a Human Rights impact assessment to talk about these things maybe can raise more awareness and we can come up with mitigation systems together. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you. Floor is still open. I don't see any hand in the chat room. Any other comment or question? Otherwise, I will get back to you, Rafik.

Rafik: Thanks. Really hoping for questions, some clarification, but maybe we can take an opportunity if we want to expand more on some of the topics. I was saying in there is no question, we would hope to get more but we can ask Pedro and -- if they want to expand more.

SPEAKER: I have an AOB, it's kind of Human Rights related but I thought I would put this forward. The multi-stakeholder model of the Internet needs to be defended and protected. And this is how we provide access to the global Internet and provide interoperability. And I just wanted to tell GAC members how important this is for civil society, so able to have a voice, a direct voice, and that is what the multi-stakeholder model actually provides, an equal footing, we can come and tell you our concerns, we can go to a policy development processes and engage, and one request is that if you could defend this model during multilateral processes and help us with keeping it protected. Thank you.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you again. The floor is still open. Comments, questions? Thoughts? And there is lots of action in the chat room as I can see, a discussion regarding the bid credits and discounts and so on, so forth, I don't have time to read everything happening online but for the sake of time, two requests for the floor, Colombia and Switzerland.

COLOMBIA: Thiago Dal-Toe, for the record. I wanted to ask our colleagues from the NCSG pertaining to the here at outreach opportunities we have been talking a lot with ICANN org and collaborating with them in possible events that could happen. IP wanted to ask. What are you disog in that sense, are you using the Champions Toolkit, are you suggesting spaces where ICANN org can go on outreach and you have seen that has been successful in your case? Are a Pedro: We're still trying to reach directly potential applicants for the program but the problem is finding out who will be the organizations that have specific interest in getting a new gTLD, considering the scenario that we are right now and the priorities that those organizations have. So probably it's most important help that we would need to direct our efforts would be identifying those organizations that could have potential interests specifically on this application.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you, I have Switzerland next and then the, United Kingdom Switzerland Jorge Cancio, Switzerland, for the record. I just wanted to react to the far comment on the multi-stakeholder model, which we normally prefer to talk r talk about a multi-stakeholder approach, as we have different flavors depending on the function and the setting or the discussion we have. But aside from that, I just wanted to share with you that of course we support that approach and I just wanted to also ask you what are your plans or what are your activities right now he know disbaijing in the processes we are having, for

instance the WSIS+20 or the implementation of the gdc, related to the former, because we are seeing that the technical community is getting very organized, very active, and I was wondering where you stand with your engagement in those processes. Thank you.

SPEAKER: So we have an informal group at the GNSO Council that focuses on Internet Governance related issues. It's just for communication and discussion. We have also come up with this when I say we -- I mean discussing with NCSG, we want to document why multi-stakeholder approach or governance system, multi-stakeholder approach and how ICANN's multi-stakeholder approach has helped with addressing stakeholders' concerns when it comes to Internet Governance policy. And how our know have a innovative processes have helped keeping the Internet accessible and open.

And I give you an example, for example we talk about the issue of sanctions and in this community we came up with a few recommendations on how we can actually alleviate some of those concerns about access to the domain name. So I believe we need to be issue specific and say which ICANN policies actually have helped address these global Internet Governance concerns and what our role is

It's great to talk about multi-stakeholder model, but we have to say why. Why is it a good model? And as to the technical communities getting organized, I invite them to collaborate. I think we should all get organized and work together and in a multi-stakeholder fashion, defend the multi-stakeholder approach.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much. We have time for one more question from the UK and then we need to close the queue.

UK: Thank you, always illuminating to hear these views on a range of issues. Under this issue under any other business, clearly you know the GAC involved in a number of Working Groups and discussions on multi-stakeholder approaches to Internet Governance including froaption the WSIS+20 discussions and input to ICANN for that I just wanted to take your views but you will only have 30 seconds or something

Are you concerned about recent statements made,lily particularly we have, sdg, or other [indiscernible] in the digital space could come up at the WSIS+20 and perhaps cause problems? Thank you.

SPEAKER: I have responded to the WSIS+20 mailing list. I think we should [indiscernible] responsibility. The statement that was issued, yes, scgs, they're very aspirational, and I don't see in that statement anything that can violate the multi-stakeholder model and approach. And one of the things that actually I think, the statement starts with talking about like freedom of expression and peace and tolerance, that can help us globally and help with American security, so I think we should monitor and protect the multi-stakeholder model but at the moment, I don't see a reason to panic and come up with ideas that are too creative.

NICOLAS CABALLERO, GAC CHAIR: Thank you very much, that is all we have time for. Thank you so much, Rafik, [non-English word or phrase] thank you, and let's give a round of applause to our colleagues from the NCSG.

So distinguished GAC colleagues, we're going to pause here, we will have a coffee -- let's see how the coffee is today here. Please be back in the room at 10:30 for the pts registrants session with the registrar stakeholder group.