

## ***Governmental Advisory Committee***

Mar del Plata, Argentina, 5 April 2005

### **GAC Communiqué – Mar del Plata, Argentina 2 – 5 April 2005**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee met in Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2-5 April 2005. GAC participants comprised 32 members and 2 observers. Since the Cape Town meeting, new GAC members are: Georgia, Jordan, Iran and Sudan. GAC now has 100 members and 9 observers.

Three GAC Working Group meetings took place on 2 April: ccTLDs, GNSO and IDN. The Regional Forum took place on 3 April.

The GAC Plenary met 4-5 April 2005.

#### **II. MATTERS DISCUSSED**

##### **1. Consultation with ICANN**

The GAC consulted with the ICANN Board and staff in Open Session about a variety of pending issues, including the Strategic Plan.

GAC welcomed the announcement by ICANN that the AfriNIC Regional Internet Registry would be established at the Mar del Plata meeting.

ICANN briefed GAC as to the status and progress of the re-delegation of ccTLD Registries. The GAC asked ICANN to provide a description of the IANA policies and procedures regarding delegation and re-delegation, complementing the existing RFC-1591 and ICP-1 documents and the GAC ccTLD Principles. ICANN undertook to present such a description.

The GAC was briefed about the current work and priorities of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. GAC welcomed the presentation by the SSAC Chair on DNSSEC and noted the prospect of a significant role for government in the development of DNSSEC.

The GAC GNSO working group met with the GNSO Council. During the Mar del Plata meeting the GAC also continued its dialogue with the ccNSO and the ccTLD community.

The GAC endorsed the Chair's reply to the ICANN CEO's letter of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004 that will be published on the GAC Website.

## **2. GNSO Issues**

The GAC is encouraged by the progress within the GNSO community in developing a range of proposals related to Whois data. The GAC recognises both the complexity and broad range of public policy issues associated with access to Whois data and its accuracy.

The GAC is pleased to have reached agreement with the GNSO Council to convene a joint working session during the Luxembourg ICANN GAC meeting with a specific focus on the importance of Whois data for law-enforcement purposes. The GAC and the GNSO Council agreed to work together to examine other significant public policy issues, such as data protection, at future ICANN meetings.

The GAC agreed to draft a paper outlining the broad public policy concepts it considers relevant to the maintenance and use of the Whois database, for first consideration at the Luxembourg meeting.

## **3. Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs)**

### **3.1 The GAC finalised and adopted the**

**“Principles and Guidelines for the Delegation and Administration of Country Code Top Level Domains”.**

This replaces the “ccTLD Principles” that were issued in 2000. The new document is published on the GAC Website.

The GAC acknowledges with thanks the comments received from stakeholders.

### **3.2 Future Work**

The GAC identified accountability frameworks between ICANN and ccTLDs as a key issue for the future.

## **4. Internationalised Domain Names (IDN)**

The GAC recognises that the development and introduction of IDN requires the collaborative and coordinated efforts by various parties, and input from all stakeholders, public policy makers, linguistic and technical experts, and other relevant parties.

In the light of the growing need to allow populations using non-ASCII script alphabets in the world to access the Internet in their native scripts, the GAC encourages the ICANN Board to implement the decision<sup>1</sup> taken in Kuala Lumpur to establish a President’s Advisory Committee on IDN.

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<sup>1</sup> . Resolution 04.71

The GAC encourages ICANN to continue to play a pro-active role towards the enablement of IDN around the world, keeping in mind the linguistic, cultural, technical and social dimensions of IDN implementation.

## **5. World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)**

The GAC welcomed the opportunity for members to join the ICANN WSIS workshop in Mar del Plata and for the Chair and other GAC members to contribute to the panel discussion.

The GAC recalled that the Chair presented a report<sup>2</sup> to the WGIG in February 2005 that has been published by WGIG and is on the GAC Website.

## **III. The Regional Forum and Outreach**

The Regional Forum took place on Sunday 3 April. Five sessions were chaired by members of the ICANN Board and members of GAC. The chairs and speakers came from a wide range of countries from Latin America, Europe and Asia, including Argentina, Chile, Italy, Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Uruguay, Japan and Malaysia.

The proceedings of the Regional Forum are summarised in the Annexe to this Communiqué and will be published on the GAC Website. GAC thanked all those from the Internet community who had contributed to the preparation and realisation of the Regional Forum.

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The Governmental Advisory Committee expressed warm thanks to the Government of the Republic of Argentina and the organisers for hosting the meeting in Mar del Plata.

The GAC also thanks all those among the ICANN community who have contributed to the dialogue with GAC in Mar del Plata.

The next GAC meetings will be during the period of the ICANN Luxembourg meeting, 9-12 July 2005.

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Mar del Plata, 5 April, 2005

Annexe: Proceedings of the Regional Forum

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<sup>2</sup> . GAC Chairman's report for the Information of the United Nations' Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), Kuala Lumpur, February 2005

## Proceedings of the Mar del Plata Regional Forum

The Regional Forum on 3 April heard presentations about:

- **At Large and Civil Society** in Latin America,
- organisation of **ccTLDs** and their relations with their governments and local internet communities
- a briefing from **LACNIC**<sup>3</sup>, and
- **IPv6**<sup>4</sup>, including the work of the GAC IPv6 Working Group and the deployment of IPv6 in Latin America.

Chairs and presenters came from: Argentina, Chile, Italy, Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Uruguay, Japan and Malaysia.

The session on **At Large and Civil Society** stressed the importance of governments developing a dialogue with existing domestic entities, the differences in culture and organisation among countries and the requirement for resources to support the Internet user community, particularly for multilingualism.

The session on **country code Registries** considered alternative models for the relationships between the Registry, the Government and the local Internet community in the context of the LACTLD organisation and recent experiences in Brazil, Peru and Venezuela. In particular, the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee provided information on the implementation of its new model of Internet Governance in the country that included a process of electronic based election of the representatives from Civil Society, the Private Sector and the Academic Community.

The following session heard a detailed briefing about the creation, development, current operation and plans for **LACNIC** and the development of the regional academic network, **CLARA**<sup>5</sup>.

The workshop on IPv6 heard a report on the work of the **GAC IPv6 Working Group** since 2003 and the **deployment of IPv6 in Malaysia**. The representative of the **CLARA** and **RETINA**<sup>6</sup> networks reviewed plans for IPv6 deployment in the Latin American academic networks. **LACNIC** has started to allocate IPv6 address blocks and is preparing to support widespread deployment as and when domestic demand requires.

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<sup>3</sup> . [LACNIC - Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry](#)

<sup>4</sup> . Internet Protocol version 6, (IPv6)

<sup>5</sup> . [CLARA - Cooperación Latinoamericana de Redes Avanzadas](#)

<sup>6</sup> . [RETINA](#) - Red TeleInformática Académica, Argentina.