

ICANN | GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

16 October 2024

Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Subject: GAC Response to Board Update following Board-GAC Bylaws Consultation on ICANN80 GAC Advice

Dear Tripti,

Thank you very much for your recent [letter](#) following the Board-GAC Bylaws Consultation on the ICANN80 GAC Advice regarding the Applicant Support Program (ASP).

The GAC wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Board for the productive [Consultation Call on ICANN80 GAC Advice](#) on the ASP¹, held on 16 September 2024. As noted in your letter, during this meeting, the Board presented different approaches to address the GAC's concerns with a first-come, first-served ASP evaluation process.

The GAC understands the Board's compromise for 1.a.i as:

- The Board will direct ICANN org to share monthly reporting with the ICANN community on the geographic distribution of ASP applications received and qualified. The Board expects that monthly reporting will be available via the Program Statistics on the ASP website and via updates to the SubPro Implementation Review Team (IRT). The monthly reporting on geographic distribution can inform quarterly adjustments to the ASP Communications, Outreach & Engagement efforts. The GAC would highly encourage ICANN org to share these monthly reports proactively with the GAC.
- The GAC is pleased with the Board's agreement to conduct a review after 20 successful ASP applications. The GAC understands the Board will direct ICANN org to share results of geographic distribution with the IRT after 20 qualified ASP applicants to determine adjustments to Communications, Outreach & Engagement to target applications from developing countries and to determine if additional funding may be needed.

¹ ICANN80 Kigali Communiqué: <https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann80-kigali-communique>

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With regard to advice item 1.a.ii, the GAC understands that the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to select an independent third-party evaluator is underway and that ICANN org will select a vendor with appropriate evaluation skills and diverse experience to conduct a fair and objective assessment of globally diverse ASP applicants, taking into consideration the GAC's expressed position on ensuring that the ASP facilitates global diversification of the new gTLD program.

As such, the GAC is supportive of these remedial options, and would encourage the Board to move forward with a resolution of the ICANN80 GAC Advice prior to ICANN81, if possible, in order to avoid delaying the launch of the Applicant Support Program, which remains a top priority to the Committee.

The GAC looks forward to continued collaboration with the Board on matters pertaining to new gTLDs and in particular a meaningful Applicant Support Program.

Sincerely,



Nicolas G. Caballero
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)