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## Agenda Item 1: Opening Plenary

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### Issues

1. Introductions
2. Overview of meetings.
3. GAC Elections

### Introductions

The usual practice is for self-introductions by:

- a) The GAC Chair and Vice Chairs, secretariat and staff.
- b) All GAC Members and Observers present via a *tour de table*.

### Overview of meetings

The Chair and ACIG GAC Secretariat will give a brief overview of ICANN 59 including:

- a) GAC sessions.
- b) Cross-community sessions.
- c) Other meetings/events relevant to the GAC.

### GAC Elections

Nominations will be called for the positions of:

- a) GAC Chair – The current Chair has indicated his intention to step down after this meeting due to other work commitments.
- b) GAC Vice Chairs – As part of the election cycle provided for in the GAC Operating Principles.

An election will only be required if there are more candidates than there are positions.

Administration of GAC elections was previously done by the ACIG GAC Secretariat. This is not currently possible due to reduced service levels arising from funding restrictions. ICANN staff will administer any election process if one is needed. An election procedures document prepared by staff is at ANNEX A.

### Document Administration

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## ANNEX A: GAC Chair and Vice Chairs Election Process 2017

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*Note: This document prepared by ICANN GAC Support Staff.*

The election process will be managed by the GAC Support Staff, acting as Secretariat for this function, in accordance with the GAC Operating Principles.

### Background - GAC Chair

The GAC Leadership Team currently comprises the GAC Chair and five Vice Chairs. The GAC Chair is elected for a two-year term and eligible to stand for re-election to one subsequent two-year term. The current GAC Chair, Thomas Schneider, was re-elected for a second two-year term at ICANN 57 in Hyderabad. During ICANN 58 in Copenhagen, he announced that he will step down as Chair at the end of 2017. Accordingly, a new GAC Chair needs to be appointed before the end of the year. To this end, a nomination period will be opened, followed by an election process if there are more than one candidate for this position.

### Background - GAC Vice Chairs

The five (5) current GAC Vice Chairs all formally complete their first one-year term of office at the end of the Puerto Rico meeting (ICANN61, February 2018). All have served a single term of one (1) year and may be re-elected.

If there are more than five candidates for the positions of Vice Chairs, an election must be held.

### Elections

For this year any election that is required will be held in the lead up to and during the Abu Dhabi Meeting (ICANN60, 28 October - 3 Nov 2017). The results of the election will be announced at the end of the vote counting process during the Abu Dhabi Meeting and will formally take effect at the end of the Puerto Rico Meeting.

The provisions for the election process can be found in the GAC Operating Principles (<https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/GAC+Operating+Principles>).

### Nominations

The nomination period will open during the Johannesburg Meeting (ICANN59, June 2017). The GAC Support Staff will seek nominations for the positions of one (1) Chair and of five (5) Vice Chairs. This will formally be announced during the GAC Opening Plenary session in Johannesburg.

The nomination period will close 45 days before the start on 28 October 2017 of the Abu Dhabi Meeting, where the elections are due to take place. For this year that means that the nomination period will close on **Wednesday 13 September, 2017**. When the nomination period closes, the following scenarios are possible:

- If there is only one candidate for Chair, this candidate will be appointed by acclamation.

- If there are more than one candidate for Chair, there will be an election to appoint the Chair.
- If there are five or less candidates for Vice Chairs nominated, these candidates will be appointed by acclamation.
- If there are more than five candidates nominated for Vice Chairs, there will be an election to appoint the Vice Chairs.

The outcomes in these regards, as well as the nominated candidates for each position, will be posted to the GAC website within 14 days after the end of the nomination period (by **Wednesday 27 September 2017**).

As the Operating Principles are silent on the subject of self-nomination, self-nominations, as well as nominations by others, will be accepted.

To the extent possible, the Vice Chairs should appropriately reflect the geographic and development diversity of the membership (Principle 21).

### **Nomination Process**

GAC Representatives making a nomination will be asked to send an email to the GAC Support Staff (specifically to [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org)). Representatives are asked to include:

1. The name of their nominee,
2. The name of the GAC Member the nominee represents, and
3. Whether the nomination is for the position of GAC Chair or GAC Vice Chair;

The GAC Support Staff will then formally check to ensure:

- That the nominee is the accredited Representative of a GAC Member (Principle 14);
- That the GAC Member in question holds current GAC Membership (Principles 15 & 17); and
- That the nominee of the GAC Member has voting rights (Principle 16).

All valid nominees will be made public via the GAC website by Wednesday 27 September 2017 as well as communicated to the GAC using the [gac@icann.org](mailto:gac@icann.org) mailing list.

Nominees will be invited by the GAC Support Staff to share their CVs and any comments about their claim to the position via the GAC email list.

### **Elections**

If required, elections for the position of Chair and the positions of the five Vice Chairs will be held in the lead up to and during the Abu Dhabi Meeting (October 2015).

Votes shall be taken by secret ballot and will be cast **electronically** between **Thursday 28 September 2017** and **Monday 30 October 2017**. Voting will officially close at 23:59 UTC on Monday 30 October. It will be a matter for each voting Representative to decide if they wish

to make his or her choice public (Principle 34). The GAC Support Staff will provide a secure, online voting facility.

*There will be no physical voting available for this election. All votes will need to be cast electronically which allows for vote casting at a date and time that suits the individual voters, between the opening and closing dates.*

After the election has closed the GAC Support Staff will scrutinize and declare the result of the election under the supervision of the outgoing Chair (Principle 34). This will include checking to ensure that all votes are cast by eligible GAC Representatives. Election results shall be determined by simple majority. For the election of Chair, the candidate that gets the most votes will be appointed as the new Chair, and for the election of Vice Chairs, the five (5) candidates who gather the most votes will be appointed as Vice Chairs.

## Tied Ballots

In the case of a tied ballot, either between two or more nominees for the Chair position, or to determine the final (fifth) Vice Chair position, a second, in-person, ballot shall be held **during** the Abu Dhabi Meeting. The second ballot shall be restricted to the candidates who are subject to the tied vote for the remaining position. If this second round of voting is required, only those GAC members present and able to vote **in-person** during the session will be eligible to vote. (Principle 32).

## Eligibility to Vote

**Only GAC Representatives are eligible to vote** (Principle 16). GAC Representatives, Alternate Representatives and Advisors are listed on the GAC website at <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/GAC+Representatives>. Votes placed by any person whose name is not listed on the GAC website will be deemed invalid. The system used for the electronic election will be charged with the electorate by pre-loading the email address of the Representative for each Member. The system then sends invites for election participation to these emails.

GAC Members have until **Friday 25 September** to ensure the details listed on the website are correct. Any revisions or corrections to the list should be sent in an email to [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org). Refer also to 'How to Change a Nominated GAC Representative' at <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Resources>.

Some Representatives may opt to defer to one of the Member's other listed names to fulfill the voting role. This must be notified by the Representative the same deadline as above to [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org). The email address listed on the website will be used, unless a notification of another email address for this purpose is received by the same deadline as above..

The current Chair and Vice Chairs are eligible to vote.

**GAC Observers are NOT eligible to vote** (Principle 16). GAC Observers are listed on the GAC website at <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/GAC+Observers>.

Any questions about the voting process should be directed to GAC Support Staff at [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org).