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## Consumer Trust, Consumer Choice and Competition Review

### Block 11 - GAC New gTLDs Policy

#### Sessions: 11.2 - CCT Review Discussion

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### Background

The Consumer Trust, Consumer Choice and Competition (CCT) Review, the first of its kind, was [initiated](#) on 23 December 2015 and conducted pursuant to the [Affirmation of Commitments](#), subsequently replaced by the new [ICANN Bylaws](#) following the [IANA Stewardship Transition](#) (1 October 2016).

Section 4.6 of ICANN Bylaws sets the mandate of the CCT Review as follows:

*The review team for the CCT Review ("CCT Review Team") will examine*  
*(A) the extent to which the expansion of gTLDs has promoted competition, consumer trust and consumer choice and*  
*(B) the effectiveness of the New gTLD Round's application and evaluation process and safeguards put in place to mitigate issues arising from the New gTLD Round.*

The GAC was represented in the 15-members [Review Team](#) by two representatives: Laureen Kapin (US FTC) and Megan Richards (European Commission).

The Review Team conducted its [work](#) over a period of nearly three years representing close to 4,000 hours of meetings.

Prior to the commencement of the Review Team's deliberations, an [Implementation Advisory Group](#) recommended a set of [66 metrics](#) which were [approved](#) by the ICANN Board (12 February 2015) for consideration by the Review Team, along with relevant [data](#) collected by the ICANN org.

The work of the Review Team was also informed by numerous [studies and research initiatives](#), including consumer and registrant surveys, and statistical analysis of DNS Abuse. In the course of its deliberations, the Review Team also sought formal Community input in relation to its [Draft Report](#) (7 March 2017) and [Additional Sections of its Report](#) (27 November 2017),

The CCT Review Team reached consensus on 35 recommendations, and published a 200 pages-long [Final Report](#) on 8 September 2018. Per ICANN Bylaws, the ICANN Board took [action](#) within 6 months, on 1 March 2019.

## Issues

The so-called "Specific Reviews" provided for in the ICANN Bylaws are accountability mechanism that are critical for the fulfilment of ICANN's Mission and ensuring it serves the public interest.

As part of commitments related to the public interest as far as gTLD expansions are concerned, the [ICANN Bylaws](#) Section 4.6(d)(iii) provide that ICANN will:

*adequately address issues of competition, consumer protection, security, stability and resiliency, malicious abuse issues, sovereignty concerns, and rights protection prior to, or concurrent with, authorizing an increase in the number of new top-level domains in the root zone of the DNS pursuant to an application process initiated on or after the date of these Bylaws ("New gTLD Round").*

In previous GAC Advice to the ICANN Board, in particular in the [GAC Los Angeles Communiqué](#) (16 October 2014) and [GAC Helsinki Communiqué](#) (30 June 2016), the GAC advised that reviews of the 2012 rounds be completed and considered in policy development before the launch of subsequent rounds.

## Leadership Proposal For GAC Action

1. **Consider the actions taken by the ICANN Board on the CCT Review Recommendations** as laid out in its [resolution](#) and attached [scorecard](#) (1 March 2019), **and determine next steps for the GAC**, in particular:
  - a. Contributing to further work and analysis directed by the ICANN Board, on both accepted and pending recommendations
  - b. Monitoring consideration of recommendations passed through to relevant Community Groups and policy development processes
  - c. Following up on further consideration by the ICANN Board of recommendations placed in pending status
2. **Discuss specific actions and next steps, as necessary, during meetings with relevant groups during the ICANN64 meeting**, in particular:
  - a. **ICANN Board** (see [GAC Briefing](#) for agenda of meeting)
  - b. **GNSO** (see GAC Briefings for agenda of meetings with the [GNSO](#), its [Registry Stakeholder Group](#) and [Registrar Stakeholder Group](#))
  - c. **ALAC** (see [GAC Briefing](#) for agenda of meeting)

## Recent Developments

- On 8 September 2018, the CCT Review Team released its [Final Report](#)
- On 8 October 2018, The Final Report and its Recommendation were submitted for [Public Comment](#), in view of their Bylaws-mandated consideration by the ICANN Board. The Public Comment period closed on 1 February 2019, with 9 [submissions](#), mostly from Advisory Committees of ICANN and GNSO Stakeholders.
- On 11 December 2019, the GAC submitted a [Comment](#) on the Final Report
- On 1 March 2019, the ICANN Board held a [special meeting](#) to consider the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review (CCT) Recommendations
- On 5 March 2019, ICANN org published the Board [resolution](#), its associated 7-pages [scorecard](#), along with a [blog](#) by the ICANN Board Chairman providing explanations of the Board's actions.

## Current Positions

- GAC [Los Angeles Communiqué](#) Advice on [Reviews of First Round of New gTLDs and Preparation for Subsequent Rounds](#) (15 October 2014)
- GAC [Helsinki Communiqué](#) Advice on [Future gTLDs Policies and Procedures](#) (30 June 2016)
- [GAC Comment](#) to CCT RT Draft Report (19 May 2017)
- [GAC Comment](#) on Statistical Analysis of DNS Abuse in gTLDs (22 September 2017)
- [GAC Comment](#) on New Sections to Draft Report of Recommendations (DNS Abuse Related recommendations) (16 January 2018)
- [GAC Comment](#) on CCT Review Team Final Report (11 December 2018)

## Further Information

Related ICANN64 Sessions and Briefings:

[Sessions: 8.2, 11.1 - New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures](#)

ICANN Organization Resources:

<https://www.icann.org/resources/reviews/specific-reviews/cct>

## Document Administration

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