Operating Principles Evolution Working Group

Block 17 - GAC Internal Operational Matters
Session 17.1 - GAC Operating Principles Evolution WG Meeting

Purpose and Background

Purpose

At the ICANN64 meeting in Barcelona, Spain, the GAC created a new working group to study, develop and make recommendations to the GAC membership for changes to the current GAC Operating Principles. It is hoped the efforts of this new GAC Operating Principles Evolution (GOPE) Working Group will help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity and specificity of the committee's processes and procedures - particularly in the new era of the ICANN Empowered Community.

The results of the working group effort may range from recommending:
- Modifications to or reorganization of the overall structure of the current GAC Operating Principles; or
- Changes to existing operating principles to provide more clarity and specificity; or
- The addition of new operating principles that provide more guidance and specificity to the operations of the committee; or even
- Proposals to remove principles that are no longer relevant to the committee's work.

Background

The evolution of the ICANN community to a more "empowered" role after the IANA Transition has prompted individual ICANN Supporting organizations and advisory committees (including the GAC) to examine their operating principles and other processes to assess whether they are "fit for purpose" within this new empowered community structure.

The GAC has made targeted efforts to update its 54 operating principles on an as-needed basis over the last several years, but the current principles are not aligned within a comprehensive organizational structure – they reflect a general list of principles.

Recent changes to the GAC operating principles have tended to be tactical - appropriately focused on short term needs. But as community workloads increase, the pace of work at ICANN quickens and responsibilities grow on community participants, the absence of an overall structure is revealing process and procedural gaps in the GAC Operating Principles as currently structured. The current format of the GAC Operating principles makes it difficult to track certain processes or for some committee members to even reference the appropriate processes for their work.

Upon completion, an evolved operating principle structure that "fills-in-the-gaps" will provide more organizational continuity, clarity for new participants, and a means to help the GAC meet new organizational accountabilities and responsibilities. With these changes the GAC will be enabled to function even more effectively as a fully empowered community structure in the new ICANN environment.

Recent Developments

Under the initial leadership of co-chairs Guo Feng (China) and Par Brumark (Niue), the working group has devoted its initial efforts to confirming its charter documentation and establishing its plan of work. The working group will first address the organization and operation of GAC working groups and then turn attention to the roles and responsibilities of GAC liaisons and points of contact with other member groups in the ICANN multi-stakeholder community. Future topics will be addressed in priority order as established by the working group or GAC leadership.

Agenda

The ICANN64 Kobe meeting will give the working group an opportunity to report the latest developments in its work and seek GAC member guidance as necessary.

Further Information

The current GAC Operating Principles can be found here - https://gac.icann.org/operating-principles/operating-principles-june-2017

The GOPE WG has established a new web page that will enable committee members to observe developments in the efforts of the working group. The web site, including links to the working group charter template and other background documents is located here - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-operating-principles-evolution-working-group

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