
GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG)

Plenary Meeting

Session 12.1

Contents

Background	1
Recent Developments	2
Agenda	2
Key Reference Documents	3

Session Objective

The Working Group will brief the GAC membership on its progress toward the development of guidelines for working group operations.

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.

At the ICANN63 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.

Recent Developments

At the ICANN64 meeting in Kobe Japan, the GAC affirmed the Terms of Reference and the initial work plan of the GOPE WG and discussions were initiated about new working guidelines - the first initiative on the working group’s work plan. Since the ICANN64 meeting, GOPE WG members have expanded on these discussions and are working to complete a set of draft working group guideline recommendations that can be adopted by the GAC and further fashioned, as appropriate, into more general concepts that can be aligned with updated GAC Operating Principles applicable to future GAC working group efforts.

To further its work, while in Marrakech the working group also plans to conduct a brief non-plenary session to review progress and prepare for the GAC plenary session later in the week.

Agenda

During a working group meeting to be held in plenary GAC session on Thursday morning, 27 June, the working group will share its latest draft efforts and seek further input and comments from GAC members in attendance.

Key Reference Documents

[GOPE WG Terms of Reference](#) as affirmed by the GAC (14 March 2019)

[Initial Work Plan of the GOPE WG for Year 2019](#), as affirmed by GAC (March 2019)-
[Framework of GAC Working Group Guidelines](#) (Working Document)

Further Information

GOPE WG Web Page -

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-operating-principles-evolution-working-group-gope-wg>

Document Administration

Meeting	ICANN65 Marrakech, 24-27 June 2019
Title	GOPE WG Plenary Meeting
Distribution	GAC Members and Public (after meeting)
Distribution Date	Version 2: 17 June 2019