
GAC Underserved Regions Working Group

Block 3 - Working Group Meetings

Session 3.2 - GAC USR WG

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Session Objectives

The Working Group will meet in plenary to discuss internal matters (work plan for endorsement, GAC travel support review), and next steps for capacity building initiatives.

Background

The GAC Underserved Regions Working Group (USR WG) was created to focus on regions which are under-served by the Domain Name System (DNS) industry, least developed economies and small island developing states. A particular focus is made on under-served economies from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions.

The overall objective of the Working Group is to empower and enable GAC members in :

- 1) Developing relationships and building a meaningful network with other GAC members, the ICANN community as well as with their regional technical communities, industries and civil societies;
- 2) Building knowledge of ICANN processes to participate more effectively and meaningfully within the GAC and in ICANN policy development processes, including issues of concern and of national interest;
- 3) Enhancing the understanding, growth and development of the domain name industry (DNS), especially in underserved regions; and
- 4) Raising the profile and exposure of the GAC and ICANN both nationally and regionally as a key organization that keeps the Internet secure, stable and interoperable.

The work of the USR WG has been carried out by its Co-Chairs, Pua Hunter (Cook Islands) and Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds (Trinidad and Tobago) along with Canada's support (Luisa Paez and Rita Houkayem).

Agenda and Outcomes

The agenda for the Working Group meeting on Monday 24 June from 14:15 to 15:00, is as follows:

1. Work Plan for WG Endorsement

The Working Group will have until ICANN65 to finalize its [Work Plan](#) for endorsement by the GAC after the meeting.

2. Capacity Building Updates

The Working Group Leadership and Members will discuss next steps as far as the Capacity Building initiative is concerned.

- a. De-brief of Pre-ICANN65 Workshop (Sunday 23 June)
- b. Joint Capacity Building initiative with ALAC
- c. FY20 Capacity Building Planning and Next Steps

3. Updates on Reviews and On-Going Work of the WG

The Working Group will discuss their input/comments on the review and enhancements of the GAC Travel Support Rules and prepare for the presentation to be delivered to the GAC on Thursday morning in Marrakech.

Relevant Developments

GAC Travel Support Rules

Pursuant to the USR WG [Work Plan](#) (see Strategic Goal 2, Item 10) and discussions among the GAC membership at the recent ICANN64 Kobe meeting (see [ICANN64 USR WG session transcript](#)), the USRWG has been asked to collaborate with GAC Support to review and update the GAC travel support rules.

The last time the GAC travel support rules were modified was in January 2017. Due to recent changes in the overall [ICANN Travel Support Guidelines](#), there is now an opportunity for the GAC to review its own rules to assure consistency with the overall ICANN rules and procedures.

In addition to assuring consistency between the two sets of rules, the GAC Leadership agreed that an effort to update the current rules would provide better clarity, predictability, and accountability on the overall GAC process for requesting, receiving and implementing travel support. With GAC USR WG Members being the primary beneficiaries of GAC travel support for ICANN Meetings, it was considered that the USRWG would be in the best position to consider and recommend some of those updates.

The GAC Travel Support Rules for USR WG review can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xBj4la48lVhslgoSPG0NdLXQCc0yQVJ0Jr984ywPsqM/edit?usp=sharing>.

GAC Underserved Regions Working Group Capacity Building Workshops

The GAC USR WG and ICANN Government Engagement have been leading multiple GAC capacity building workshops throughout 2017 and 2018. A Final Evaluation Report [of the Capacity Building Pilot Project](#) was published in May 2019.

The project was initiated in January 2017 to strengthen diversity and lower barriers to governments' participation in ICANN. Its primary objective was to increase active participation of GAC members from underserved regions (USR).

The project design envisioned an 18-month period for implementing the desired activities. Regional workshops constituted the first phase of the project which concluded in June 2018; these were held in Africa, Australasia/Pacific, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Latin America.

The FY20 additional budget request (ABR) submitted by the Working Group in January 2019 can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yyhwmh88>. During the May 3, 2019 ICANN Board Meeting, the Board adopted the FY20 ICANN Operating Plan and Budget (ICANN Board Resolution 2019.05.03.24) and the FY20 ICANN Five Year Operating Plan Update (ICANN Board Resolution 2019.05.03.25). See <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2019-05-03-en#2.c>

As of May 29, 2019, the Empowered Community did not reject the FY20 ABR. Moving forward, the GAC needs to ensure financial sustainability of these GAC capacity building workshops, as this will ensure predictability, better use of resources and more efficient planning to be more impactful.

Current Positions

- [GAC Comment](#) (8 February 2019) on ICANN Draft FY20 Operating Plan and Budget and Five-Year Operating Plan Update (see Resources to Support Successful Capacity Building Workshops - pp.2-3)

Key Reference Documents

- FY20 Operational Plan and Budget:
<https://www.icann.org/en/ec/fy20-operating-plan-and-budget>
- Bylaws section of the Empowered Community Composition and Powers (Section 6.1 and 6.2): <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article6>
- Bylaws section on ICANN Budgets (Section 22.4 (a)):
<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article22>

Further Information

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