GAC Capacity Development Sessions (CDS)

Sessions 3,4&5

Contents

Session Objective

As per each ICANN public meeting, the GAC will devote time on its schedule to capacity development matters related to issues of interest expressed by the committee.

Background

Since its inception, the Under-Served Regions Working Group (USRWG) organized and conducted eight workshops from January 2017 to June 2018, at ICANN Meetings or intersessionally. As a result, the WG developed process-related tools, including workshop planning and reporting templates, and pre- and post-workshop evaluation survey frameworks to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

Subsequently, as the GAC emerged from more than two years of virtual meetings due to the COVID 19 pandemic, many GAC participants expressed the need for in-person capacity building and information sharing.
The WG resumed organizing capacity development workshops in the margin of ICANN Meetings, for one or two days depending upon the meeting format (community forum/annual general meeting (6 days), policy forum (4 days)), and producing workshop reports.

The current capacity development sessions are built to provide an opportunity for GAC participants to learn the basics or increase their knowledge on aspects of the ICANN multistakeholder model, its structure, and operations. It is also an opportunity for GAC attendees to become acquainted with different ICANN community groups in order to facilitate future dialogue, and to share experiences and best practices to enhance GAC internal collaboration on various ICANN matters.

Recently, capacity development sessions have been embedded in the GAC schedule for ICANN public meetings as a regular activity of the GAC, and are no longer scheduled to take place on the margins of ICANN meetings.

Once capacity development sessions take place, a survey is circulated to the GAC for feedback, suggestions and topic proposals in order to plan for the next iteration of capacity development activities. The survey results are often appended to the post-ICANN meeting capacity development activities report, developed by the USRWG co-chairs, Karel Douglas (Trinidad and Tobago) and Tracy Hackshaw (UPU), and support staff.

Following the ICANN meeting, USRWG co-chairs submit a call for volunteers to join the CDS planning team which will assess the results from the post-capacity development activities survey and develop the agenda for the next GAC capacity development sessions. Past capacity development session reports can be found on the GAC USRWG webpage.

Current Status and Recent Developments

Capacity development activities play an important part in the work of GAC Under-Served Regions Working Group for the committee.

In light of the high engagement demonstrated by members , the USRWG should continue exploring new modalities to enhance capacity development initiatives through webinars and workshops, intersessionally and during ICANN meetings.

As a preliminary step, the USRWG should be updating its 2025/2026 work plan, for potential endorsement at ICANN81, in order to reflect such an approach and to implement and leverage some of the strategic objectives (SO2) of the GAC.

- **ICANN81 GAC Capacity Development Sessions**

In Istanbul, two capacity development sessions of the GAC will focus on regional discussions from the Middle East and African regions, regarding topics of interest such as the Next Round of New gTLDs, the Applicant Support Program (ASP), Universal Acceptance and the Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2) Version 2 Principles Review.

The third session will be dedicated to a language breakout session, where GAC participants will have the opportunity to discuss the strategic objectives of the GAC from a regional standpoint, identifying potential concerns or challenges, and how they can leverage and make progress collaboratively.

Key Reference Documents
- GAC Under-Served Regions Working Group
- ICANN81 GAC Strategic Planning Briefing

Document Administration

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