# Agenda Item 2. GAC Capacity Building Workshop Preliminary Report

## Note: This briefing has been prepared by ICANN support staff.

## Background:

The GAC capacity building workshop initiative was introduced at ICANN56 in Helsinki. The intent of such a project was to provide support to GAC representatives in better understanding ICANN’s empowered community model, the role of the GAC within ICANN (especially the GAC’s participation in ICANN Policy Development Processes and the GAC’s procedures and membership. Additionally, it would focus on technical aspects (protocol parameters, security, stability and resiliency of the internet unique identifiers) or specific public policy topics (country codes and governments, cybersecurity, consumer protection, and more recently on general data protection regulation (GDPR)) that may not be known in detail by all.

Along with the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group Co-Chairs and Members, the Government Engagement and Global Stakeholder Engagement teams organized several regional workshops throughout the fiscal years 2017 and 2018 (FY17 & FY18).  Please find below a table of all workshops lead so far.

A total of seven (7) workshops were conducted, a last one has been scheduled for ICANN62 in Panama. The final report and recommendations will follow post ICANN62.

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| **Workshop** | **Number of Attendees** | **Dates** |
| Africa  Nairobi Kenya | 98 | January 2017 |
| Pacific  Fiji | 22 | April 2017 |
| Africa  Johannesburg, South Africa | 26 | June 2017 |
| Abu Dhabi  United Arab Emirates | 19 | October 2017 |
| Asia, Kathmandu  Nepal | 20 | February 2018 |
| San Juan  Puerto Rico | 22 | March 2018 |
| Dakar  Senegal | 20 | May 2018 |

In order to better understand the needs of the GAC Community and to proactively prepare, pre and post workshop surveys were sent to GAC participants. Results can be found here: <https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-capacity-development-workshops-2017-2018>.

## What to Expect at ICANN62

The pre-evaluation report session at ICANN62 will be an opportunity for GAC Members and Observers to receive a concise briefing by the Government Engagement on this 18 months GAC Capacity Building Initiative. The report will contain:

* A stocktaking of the program (based on the GAC Representatives’ answers to the post workshop surveys and to the final global survey)
* A number of recommendations for the evolution of the GAC Capacity Program in a near future

## Further Background Information/Details:

#### **GAC Underserved Regions Working Group** [**Terms of Reference**](https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-working-groups-on-under-served-regions)

The terms of reference of the Working Group are to “develop a range of support, advice and assistance mechanisms aimed at:

1. Increasing the number and participation of GAC members from least developed economies and small island developing states
2. Increasing the knowledge, understanding and capacity of GAC representatives from the least developed economies and small island developing states to enable them to engage with ICANN policy processes (and specifically the GAC) in order to:
   * Increase participation and engagement from under-served regions during future new gTLD rounds.
   * Encourage growth and development of the domain name industry (including registries and registrars) in regions currently under-served.

#### **GAC Communiqués (ICANN56 to 59)**

* **GAC Communiqué:** [**Helsinki, Finland - June 2016 (ICANN56)**](https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann56-gac-communique)

“The GAC held a Capacity Building session at ICANN56, co-organized by the GAC Working Group on Underserved Regions and ICANN’s GE/GSE team. As an outcome of the session, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group invited the GE/GSE team to pursue closer co-operation and work together to assist GAC Member government officials in building capacity and expertise on various DNS-related topics. In parallel, the GAC Working Group will identify priority areas and issues that the GE/GSE team could include in their engagement related to capacity building.”

* **GAC Communiqué:** [**Hyderabad, India - November 2016 (ICANN57)**](https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann57-gac-communique)

“*The GAC advises the ICANN Board to:*

*I.  Take required action to enable implementation of GAC Underserved Regions activities, including but not limited to capacity building and participation in ICANN policy processes.*

***RATIONALE***

*The multistakeholder approach that is fundamental to ICANN has contributed to impressive collective efforts, towards developing complex policy and technical processes. However, it is imperative that we acknowledge and remain mindful that while the approach is meant to enable*

*inclusiveness and diversity providing all stakeholders full voice and influence in ICANN decision making, developing regions still face a multitude of challenges that constrain their participation. The GAC has developed a work plan that aims to address some of these challenges and provide recommendations”.*

* **GAC Communiqué:** [**Copenhagen, Denmark - March 2017 (ICANN58)**](https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann58-gac-communique)

*“The GAC Under-Served Regions Working Group held two sessions to progress its work and provide updates on various activities as stipulated in its work plan. In order to progress ongoing work, the Working Group Co-Chairs met with*

*The ccNSO and the PTI to discuss and explore various approaches to the tasks mandated by the GAC*

*for the Working Group to act as the first point of contact for GAC Members experiencing ccTLD delegation and re-delegation issues.*

*•The Development and Public Responsibility Department (DPRD) of ICANN to discuss collaboration in developing and implementing a Working Group survey for GAC Members from underserved regions.*

*•The Government Engagement, Global Stakeholders Engagement and Security Stability and Resiliency teams of ICANN to plan for the next series of regional capacity development sessions for GAC Members and law enforcement agencies from under-served regions in Asia Pacific, Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean before the end of 2017. The Working Group will continue to participate in the following activities:*

* **GAC Communiqué:** [**Johannesburg, South Africa, June 2017 (ICANN59)**](https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann59-gac-communique)

*“The GAC Working Group on Under-Served Regions: The Working Group continues to collaborate with ICANN’s Government Engagement (GE) and other departments to organise the capacity development sessions; the most recent events include. The second regional workshop in Fiji on 28 and 29 April 2017, targeting Pacific island countries.*

*•The USRWG and PSWG Capacity Development Workshop for African GAC Members, Law  and Consumer Protection Agencies On 23 and 24 June 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa*

*•A round table dialogue on ICANN’s GAC capacity development initiatives during the WSIS forum in June 2017, in Geneva.*

*The Working Group is working with the GE and Development and Public Responsibility (DPRD) Teams to establish an evaluation framework to continuously evaluate GAC capacity development activities.*

*The GAC is looking forward to continued support from the ICANN org for the activities of the working group to support participation from underserved regions in GAC and ICANN policy processes. The working group has developed a tentative calendar of future capacity development initiatives for the next 2 years. The working group will continue to collaborate with the ccNSO and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) to complete the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on delegation and redelegation of ccTLDs”*

## Document Administration

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