
Agenda Item 34: GAC Operating Principles

NOTE: This briefing has been prepared by ICANN GAC support staff.

Issue:

The evolution of the ICANN community to a more “empowered” role after the IANA Transition have 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 burdens grow on community participants, the absence of an overall structure is revealing process and procedural gaps in the 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.

A new structure for the GAC Operating Principle was proposed one year ago and the GAC is approaching the next phase of this work.

Upon completion, an evolved operating principle structure that “fills-in-the-gaps” that have and will be further identified will provide organizational continuity, clarity for new participants, a means to help the committee meet new organizational accountabilities and responsibilities and will help the GAC to function more effectively as a fully empowered community structure in the new ICANN environment.

GAC Action Required:

A new structure for the GAC operating Principles was proposed one year ago. Pursuant to the GAC discussion in at ICANN60 in Abu Dhabi, further GAC discussion are necessary to define a clear approach for addressing the proposed new structure and to make the time to assess and evaluate new operating processes in an ordered manner. AT ICANN 61 the committee will explore options for taking this work forward.

Current Position:

During Session 34 in San Juan the GAC will hear a summary of the latest potential recommendations for how to approach the evolution of the GAC Operating Principle in a comprehensive and ordered manner – helping the committee to focus on those issues of highest priority first and moving forward in the work from that point.

Further Background Information/Details:

- The GAC sets its own Operating Principles
- The first GAC Operating Principles were created in 2004
- The current Operating Principles date back to 2011

- Since 2011, there have been several apparent different iterations of operating principles work efforts
- Over the last three years there have been three targeted amendment efforts:
 - Buenos Aires in 2015 to allow for 5 Vice Chairs
 - Johannesburg in June 2017 to allow for electronic voting
 - New Structure Proposed – March 2017
- Preliminary assessment of a new structure and mapping conducted – July 2017
- Detailed GAC Discussion – Abu Dhabi – November 2017

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