
GAC Opening Plenary Session

Session # 1 - Opening Plenary

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Session Objectives

The Opening Plenary Session is the first opportunity for GAC participants to gather, introduce themselves and prepare for the meeting week. During this session, the GAC Chair typically offers information and updates to the GAC about developments since the last in-person meeting and preparation for the meeting week ahead.

Background

The GAC opening plenary session gives the GAC Chair an opportunity to provide an overview report on what delegates can expect during the coming week of meetings. That overview will be even more important for this ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum as it will be only the GAC’s second experience with this type of meeting format.

During this opening session, the GAC Chair plans to report on the committee efforts made regarding action items and next steps identified during the previous GAC meeting during the ICANN67 Virtual Community Forum. GAC participants will be invited to share comments on their meeting goals and expectations.

During traditional GAC face-to-face meetings, the Opening Plenary session gives delegates from all the attending GAC Members and Observer organizations the opportunity to introduce themselves. The revised “virtual” format of this ICANN68 meeting will not enable this capability. Instead, GAC Support staff will track remote attendance for purposes of meeting records by observing those

present in sessions throughout the week in the Zoom rooms set up for that purpose. GAC participants will be asked to indicate the country, territory or organization affiliation in conjunction with their virtual Zoom room name designations.

Recent Developments

Based on its experience during the ICANN67 Virtual Community Forum, for ICANN68 the GAC leadership team consulted with various committee stakeholders to determine if certain virtual meeting interactions would need to be conducted during the meeting week. Several interactions were re-scheduled to take place at various times before and after the ICANN68 public meeting period. The GAC Chair will likely report on pre-meeting interactions with the ALAC, ccNSO, GNSO and Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG). The Chair may also share lessons-learned regarding pre-meeting webinars conducted by both the GAC and ICANN org staff on various topics.

Since ICANN67, the GAC has been an active contributor to a number of ICANN community public forums and cross community efforts in the last few months including the [Initial Report of the EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registrations Data Team - PHASE 2](#) and the [SSR2 Review Team Draft Report](#). Those documents are recorded and tracked on a special web page of the GAC web site and can be located here -

<https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities>.

In late March, GAC Members participated in a virtual strategic trends session in which committee members contributed their views about topics, matters and trends that ICANN should consider as the organization proceeds with implementation of the new ICANN Five-Year Strategic Plan (FY21 - FY25).

Since ICANN67, the GAC has also sent and received correspondence regarding matters of importance to GAC members including such topics as the proposed acquisition of PIR/.ORG and concerns regarding changes to Subsequent Procedures for New gTLDs PDP working Group timeline. Those documents and several others are posted and tracked on a special web page of the GAC web site and can be located here - <https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/>.

During the ICANN67 Virtual Community Forum, the GAC Support Staff noted a number of follow-up matters and action items agreed to among GAC attendees. Those items are tracked via a google collaboration document that can be accessed here -

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q2jygHjk1MQHoUYj2k1hjPDaw5TAebMRWqG98Go6eEY/edit#gid=1067667374>.

Key Reference Documents

- GAC ICANN67 Action Points (Google Doc) - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q2jygHjk1MQHoUYj2k1hjPDaw5TAebMRWqG98Go6eEY/edit#gid=1067667374>
- GAC Public Comment Opportunities Web Page - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities>
- GAC Correspondence Web Page - <https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/>

Further Information

- ICANN Strategic Plan (2021 - 2025) - <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/strategic-plan-2021-2025-24jun19-en.pdf>

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