GAC Underserved Regions Working Group (USR WG)

Block 4: GAC Outreach - GAC Governance & Accountability Processes
Session: 4.1 GAC Underserved Regions Working Group (USR WG) Meeting

Purpose and Background

In June 2015, 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 on under-served economies/countries from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions.

An underserved region is defined as one that:
- Does not have a well-developed DNS and/or associated industry or economy; and/or
- Has low awareness within its government of ICANN, its role and functions as well as policy processes and the way that these policies affect it.

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 assistance (Luisa Paez and Rita Houkayem).

Agenda

The ICANN64 Kobe Meeting Agenda for the Underserved Regions Working Group is as follows:

- Long-term strategy of the GAC capacity development efforts
- Review of the updated Work Plan for 2019
- Preparation of the ICANN65 Marrakech Capacity Building Workshop (June 2019)

- Next steps and Roadmap for 2019

Recent Developments

Following the ICANN63 Barcelona Meeting, the USR WG Co-Chairs and Canada have been pursuing the following:

(1) Review of the Evaluation Report for the Pilot phase of the 8 Capacity Building Workshops .

(2) Submission of the [FY20 Additional Budget Request](#) seeking resources to ensure the continuity of capacity development workshops to facilitate a total of five (5) workshops in fiscal year 2020 (FY20) – three (3) to be held during ICANN 66, 67 and 68 and two (2) during a multistakeholder regional meeting in partnership with a host country or organization. These workshops will create opportunities for GAC members and other participants to develop important linkages with the technical community and gain a more localized understanding of their region's challenges and solutions. ICANN Learn was identified as a cost-effective long-term tool that the USR WG will better utilize as a critical and complementary capacity development tool for GAC members. (footnote the link of the ABR FY20 or link)

(3) Collaboration with ICANN's Government Engagement and GAC Support teams to examine the next steps of the WG and   develop the Work Plan for 2019, by identifying the different areas that need to be updated from the previous Work Plan.

(4) T Creation of a Roadmap to guide the work of USR WG for 2019, identify WG leads, and tasks, to ensure the effective delivery of the Work Plan for 2019 and meaningful intersessional work between the face-to-face GAC/ICANN meetings.

Further Information

[USR WG Website Page](#)

[USR WG Terms of Reference (ToRs)](#)

[USR WG Workplan](#) (subject to modifications until Kobe, GAC Members should be logged in the website to view the document)

Document Administration

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