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## Human Rights and International Law Working Group (HRIL WG)

### Block 4: GAC Outreach - GAC Governance & Accountability Processes Session: 4.2 - Human Rights and International Law Working Group (HRIL WG)

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#### Purpose and Background

Formed in February 2015, the GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law (HRIL WG) focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures which relate to human rights and relevant international law.

The GAC's HRIL WG [objectives](#) include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Considering any appropriate steps that ICANN could take to help ensure that its technical coordination of the domain name system (DNS) is managed in a manner which respects human rights and relevant international law pursuant to and consistent with, among other legal instruments, ICANN's Articles of Incorporation, in particular Article 4;
2. Cooperating with ICANN's advisory committees, supporting organisations, and communities, in particular the Cross-Community Working Party on ICANN's Corporate and Social Responsibility to Respect Human Rights, to encourage and facilitate multi-stakeholder support and cooperation in advancing human rights related policies, recommendations, and advice;
3. Participating in applicable ICANN work streams, policies, and studies to promote a shared understanding of human rights and relevant international law.

The Working Group Co-Chairs are Switzerland (Jorge Cancio) and Suada Hadzovic (Bosnia Herzegovina).

#### Agenda

At the time this briefing was produced, the agenda for the Human Rights and International Law WG was set as follows:

1. Discussion of Updated HRIL WG Workplan:
  - a. Confirming updated workplan; and
  - b. Asking for volunteers for different items within workplan
2. Implementation of ICANN Human Rights Core Values discussion based on the [CCWG-Accountability WS2 Human Rights Framework of Interpretation \(FOI\)](#):
  - a. Co-Chair presentation of questionnaire results from HRIL WG regarding implementation options; and
  - b. Discussion of implementation options
3. Discussion on proposal for an ICANN65 Cross Community Session or High Interest Session on Human Rights
4. ICANN Org briefing on their Human Rights Impacts Assessment (details [here](#));
5. AOB

## Recent Developments

At the High-Level Governmental Meeting at ICANN63 Barcelona, widespread concerns were expressed by various ministers and government officials regarding inequality in geographic and gender diversity. The Human Rights and International Law Working Group proposed to add diversity as a new issue to address within the scope of this working group and proposed adding it to their work plan. The Working Group hopes to collaborate with the Underserved Regions Working Group for the geographic inequality portion of this discussion.

The Human Rights and International Law Working Group sent an invitation for comments to GAC membership with the updated work plan for GAC review and a call for volunteers for areas within the work plan. No comments were received by the GAC in disfavour of adopting the updated workplan. The workplan is thereby considered adopted.

ICANN has engaged a third-party vendor to conduct an independent internal Human Rights Impact Assessment ([HRIA](#)) of ICANN's organizational operations. The Org is currently reviewing the findings and will brief the GAC during this session in Kobe.

At the IGF Meeting in Paris there was widespread multistakeholder interest in setting up a Cross Community Session or High Interest Topic on the subject of human rights at a future ICANN public meeting. This will be an opportunity to showcase the CCWP-HR's progress on designing and testing impact assessment geared toward ICANN policy development processes.

The Human Rights and International Law Working Group Co-Chairs have identified focus on potential implementation options for the Human Rights Core Values following the [WS2 Final Report](#). A questionnaire was sent out to GAC Human Rights and International Law Working Group members and the full GAC membership for input on these non exclusive broad implementation options. The results of the questionnaire will be presented by the Co-Chairs as part of the Working Group Session at ICANN64.

### **Proposed Implementation Options:**

1. **Option 1:** Standing item/question in Communique drafting? (e.g. "does the subject-matter Communique have Human Rights impact and/or relevance?")
2. **Option 2:** Standing item/question for other GAC communications where a position is conveyed (e.g. "does the issue/topic have Human Rights impact and/or relevance?")
3. **Option 3:** GAC HR rapporteur – responsible for flagging issues and to lead in Options 1 and 2
4. **Option 4:** GAC participation in Human Rights Implementation Assessment during Policy Development Processes (see work from CCWP CRS-HR)

## GAC HRIL WG Action Required:

1. HRIL WG to discuss implementation options for the Human Rights Core Values following the WS2 Final Report.
2. HRIL WG to decide whether to participate in the organization of a Cross-Community Session or High Interest Topic Session on the topic of human rights to be organized for ICANN65 in Marrakech.

## Further Information

[HRIL WG Page](#)

[Terms of References](#)

[Workplan](#) - as of Jan. 18th, 2019

[Work Stream 2 Final Report](#)

[Relevant resources](#)

## Document Administration

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