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## GAC Operational Matters

### Session 17 - GAC Operational Matters

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#### Session Objectives

GAC Support will update the GAC on a number of current initiatives including:

- GAC Vice Chair Elections
- Planning for the Next GAC High Level Governmental Meeting
- GAC Empowered Community Guidelines
- GAC Advice/Board Response Assessment/Advice Tracking Process
- GAC Record Keeping - including GAC Delegation Information; Working Group/Delegation Alignment; and In-Person Meeting Attendance

#### Background

At every ICANN public meeting, time permitting, the GAC devotes session time to a discussion of committee operational matters. This briefing document identifies a number of operational initiatives, developments and improvements that are likely to impact GAC participants or that will necessitate GAC member input at some point.

#### Agenda

The agenda for this plenary session will focus on a number of operational activities as set forth below.

## GAC Elections

At ICANN66, the GAC 2019 Vice Chair election will conclude. The current Vice-Chairs have been elected for the term from March 2019 (ICANN64) to March 2020 (ICANN67).

GAC Vice-Chairs nomination began shortly after the ICANN65 Marrakech Meeting and concluded 45 days before the start of the ICANN66 Meeting (18 September).

Seven candidates were nominated for the five open seats. An election balloting period extends from 11 October until 3 November - the second day of the ICANN66 meeting. The election results will be announced during the GAC Operational Matters session scheduled for the afternoon (local Montreal time) on 4 November.

## Next GAC High Level Governmental Meeting

As a result of recommendations during the second Accountability and Transparency Review effort (ATRT2), approximately once every two years, one of the GAC Members hosts a High Level Governmental Meeting (HLGM) in conjunction with an ICANN public meeting and in addition to the usual GAC meeting.

The HLGM provides the opportunity to:

- Reaffirm the critical role that governments play in providing advice to the ICANN Board on public-policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the Domain Name System.
- Enable all parties to gain a clearer understanding of the role of governments in ICANN processes, including the GAC.
- Discuss current public policy issues and challenges at very senior level. These discussions can occur between governments, as well as between governments and the ICANN leadership group.
- Expose very senior administrative officials and senior elected officials (Ministers, members of legislative bodies) to ICANN, allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the organization and the issues it deals with. In turn, this may lead to better support for and resourcing of GAC representatives within their home administrations.
- Reach out to administrations and governments who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC or in other ICANN forums.

The last HLGM took place in conjunction with ICANN63 in Barcelona, Spain. GAC leadership has been in discussions with ICANN org staff to determine options for the next HLGM. GAC members will be consulted in Montreal about possible locations and timing for the next meeting.

## GAC Empowered Community Guidelines

As a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community, the GAC established initial procedures in 2017 to enable it to exercise its powers (see -

<https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/guidelines-for-gac-participation-in-the-empowered-commu>

[nity](#). Actual practice with the new Empowered Community Bylaws, rules and guidelines have revealed the need for the GAC to examine those procedures and to make adjustments for operational efficiency and effectiveness. GAC Support staff will provide an update on this work in Montreal.

#### GAC Advice/Board Response Assessment/Advice Tracking Process

The Board advised the GAC in September about a revised approach to reporting on the tracking of GAC advice by the ICANN org. The change, reported in a letter from BGIG Co-Chair and Board Member Maarten Botterman to the GAC Chair (see - <https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/incoming/20190910/status-of-gac-advice-in-the-acti-on-request-register-arr>), did not represent a substantive amendment to the reporting process, but merely a change in the timing of the advice tracking reporting. This process timing change renewed an interest among the GAC leadership for the GAC to consider its own specific process for assessing the responses that the ICANN Board produces (the “Scorecard”) as a result of GAC advice. GAC Support staff will report on the status of its initial work to help develop a proposal for an assessment process that the GAC might develop in this area.

#### GAC Record Keeping - Delegation Information; Working Group/Delegation Alignment ; In-Person Meeting Attendance

With the recent increased interest among GAC members to join and participate in working groups, the GAC Support staff has confirmed with the GAC leadership the need to regularize the GAC participant record-keeping - particularly to track delegation member participation in GAC working groups. This process was initiated with a thorough inventory of all GAC working group membership rosters and has continued as GAC Support has been confirming delegate rosters with various GAC members and observing organizations. The effort will continue as time and resources permit until completed.

For the past year and a half, all new GAC participants have been asked to fill out a GAC Participant Action Form when they join or are assigned to work with the GAC. With an annualized change rate among GAC participants consistently at about 25%, GAC Support has put a premium on following-up with all new GAC participants who are not able to submit their forms in a timely manner. As identification on the GAC web site and access to the GAC email list and web site are all dependent on submission of these forms being completed, support staff is making more frequent connections with new participants and formal GAC representatives to help get these documents processed.

An important measure of GAC participation is attendance at in-person GAC meetings. Since the ICANN64 - Kobe meeting, support staff have been utilizing in-person electronic attendance collection (using an Ipad) as a supplement to a “pen and paper” sign-in process. This additional method has improved accuracy and staff efficiency during the meeting and expedited preparation of the GAC Communique and GAC meeting minutes. In Montreal, the GAC leadership has given the green-light to a “scanning” attendance collection method experiment in conjunction with the

ICANN Meetings Team. It is currently planned that during the morning of Wednesday 6 November, attendees in the GAC meeting room will have the option of having their attendance taken by scanning the QR Code (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR\\_code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR_code)) on their meeting badges when they enter the room.

## Further Information

### GAC Elections:

- GAC [Operating Principles](#) No. 30 to 36.
- GAC 2019 Vice Chair Election Web Page - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-2019-vice-chairs-elections>

### Next GAC High Level Governmental Meeting

- GAC Guidelines for High Level Governmental Meetings - <https://gac.icann.org/meeting-services/guidelines-for-high-level-government-meetings>

### GAC Empowered Community Guidelines

- ICANN ByLaws Annex D - EC Mechanism - <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#annexD>
- GAC Guidelines - <https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/guidelines-for-gac-participation-in-the-empowered-community>

### GAC Advice/Board Response Assessment/Advice Tracking Process

- Announcement of Change to Timing of GAC Advice Tracking Reports - <https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/incoming/20190910/status-of-gac-advice-in-the-action-request-register-arr>
- ICANN Action Request Registry of GAC Advice - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/icann-action-request-registry-of-gac-adv>

## Document Administration

<b>Meeting</b>	ICANN66 - Montreal - November 2019
<b>Title</b>	GAC Operational Matters - Session 17
<b>Distribution</b>	GAC Members and Public (after meeting)
<b>Distribution Date</b>	Version 1: 14 October 2019