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## GAC Operational Wrap-Up Session

### Session # 14 - GAC Wrap-Up Session

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#### Session Objectives

*With the shift of the ICANN67 format away from an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting, this wrap-up session agenda will likely remain flexible, as the GAC leadership anticipates that events throughout the week will warrant prioritization of specific topics.*

*Otherwise, time permitting,* in this session the GAC will be advised of progress and updates on a number of operational and process initiatives and asked for further direction and feedback. The potential topics to be covered include:

- GAC Website Improvements
- GAC Membership Record Keeping
- GAC Consideration of ICANN org Budget and Operational Matters (Role Expectations)
- GAC Empowered Community Guidelines
- Development of GAC Process for Consideration of Board Responses to GAC Communique Advice

#### Relevant Developments Regarding Specific Operational Topics

In addition to its active attention to substantive policy matters, the GAC utilizes its face to face meetings to address operational improvements, process innovations and other matters that can

improve the effectiveness and efficiency of GAC processes and procedures. This briefing provides updates on a number of those ongoing initiatives.

### GAC Website Improvements

The latest version of the GAC website has been operational since 2018 (<https://gac.icann.org/>). Recent progress on the ICANN Information Transparency Initiative (ITI) Project has prompted the ICANN Engineering and IT team to begin planning accessibility and mobility design improvements to a number of community websites - including the GAC website.

As a result of this work, in 2020 GAC members are likely to see a number of visual design improvements that are intended to offer:

- A cleaner look and feel to the website;
- Consistency with future new ICANN.org design elements; and
- Improved membership delegation layout and participant “cards”

The ICANN E&IT team is just beginning to develop new GAC homepage mock-ups and a quality assurance test bed to effect these improvements. The GAC Support staff will share further information about these changes , including design examples, as they become available.

### GAC Membership Record Keeping

The GAC Support staff continues to pursue membership record keeping improvements as the ICANN org itself moves much of its participation records to a more centralized customer relations management (CRM) infrastructure. This effort will ultimately help to ensure that participant records are consistently managed across ICANN communities, reinforce compliance with emerging privacy laws and regulations and also prepare the GAC for implementation of the Workstream 2 Accountability regime.

Most recently, the staff has completed a review of the GAC working group rosters and has identified a number of questions that will require clarification from the GAC membership to ensure the ultimate success of the effort. Staff will present a number of these questions to GAC members during this session to help clarify the next steps for this work effort.

Fundamentally, those questions will probe the vision GAC members have for future collaboration opportunities and interactions between member delegations, as well as how those delegations should best be structured and portrayed for membership record keeping purposes. Resolution of those record keeping issues may be greatly assisted by input from the GAC Operating Principles Working Group and will be introduced into that group effort as appropriate.

In addition to the membership records themselves, the GAC Support team has continued its discussions with the ICANN meetings Team to identify methods for improving the attendance taking at GAC face to face meetings. For the ICANN67 Cancun meeting, GAC participants will continue to record their attendance using either the paper sheets or the electronic tablet circulated

during the meeting sessions. Remote attendance will also be recorded by leveraging the Zoom communications platform utilized during all GAC plenary sessions.

### **GAC Consideration of ICANN org Budget and Operational Matters**

As the GAC role in ICANN has evolved, the committee continues to find its opinions sought on operational and budget matters and on the strategic direction of the organization. In the past few years, the GAC has submitted input on these matters in a targeted manner on topics of particular interest to governments participating in ICANN. Most recently, the GAC submitted comments regarding ICANN's Draft FY21-25 Operating & Financial Plan and Draft FY21 Operating Plan and Budget. In those comments the GAC asked for permanent and reliable budget resources to be set aside to assure constant support of the GAC's Capacity Building Workshop Program (see - <https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/comments-draft-opplan-budget-fy21-25-20dec19/attachments/20200226/14c283f2/GACCommentsonDraftFY21-25OperatingFinancialPlanandDraftFY21OperatingPlanBudget25Feb2020Final-0001.pdf>). Time permitting, GAC members will also be asked to share their views on the appropriate role the GAC should play in these types of ICANN strategic and budgeting matters.

### **GAC Empowered Community Guidelines**

As the GAC has now worked the past couple of years as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community Administration (ECA), the GAC leadership determined that a review of the current GAC Guidelines for participation in the Empowered Community (see - <https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/guidelines-for-gac-participation-in-the-empowered-community>) was in order. Staff and GAC leadership have identified two areas for potential operational improvements;

1. Defining the process for considering rejection petition submissions; and
2. Creating a process for selecting a GAC appointee to the Empowered Community Administration (ECA)

After the ICANN67 Cancun public meeting, the GAC will have an opportunity to review and comment on recommendations regarding improvements in these areas and will be ultimately asked to endorse updates to the GAC guidelines.

### **Key Reference Documents**

- GAC Website Home Page - <https://gac.icann.org/>
- GAC Membership Webpage - <https://gac.icann.org/about/members>
- ICANN Public Comment Forum Regarding *Draft FY21-25 Operating & Financial Plan and Draft FY21 Operating Plan & Budget* (see - <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/draft-opplan-budget-fy21-25-2019-12-20-en>)
- GAC Guidelines for participation in the Empowered Community - <https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/guidelines-for-gac-participation-in-the-empowered-community>

## Further Information

- GAC Introductory Webinar - Information Transparency Initiative - <https://gac.icann.org/sessions/gac-introductory-webinar-series-information-transparency-initiative-iti>
- GAC Public Comment Opportunities Web Page - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities>

## Document Administration

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