
GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board

Session # 4 - Preparation for Meeting With ICANN Board

Session # 7 - Meeting With ICANN Board

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Purpose and Background

One of the key operational features of an ICANN Public Meeting is that it creates the opportunity for the GAC to meet and interact with other ICANN groups, organizations and structures - to coordinate and resolve specific policy work and operational matters and to build channels of communication to facilitate future exchanges.

Within the ICANN multistakeholder community, the GAC has a fundamental relationship with the ICANN Board of Directors that is detailed in the ICANN Bylaws (see ICANN Bylaws Section 12.2(a)) and the Board-GAC meeting is a regular feature of every ICANN Public Meeting.

In addition to its separate relationship with certain Board members through the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG), the GAC sets aside two plenary sessions at every ICANN meeting that are devoted to both preparing for and then conducting the meeting with the full ICANN Board. The GAC also hosts a meeting of the BGIG which is covered by a separate briefing document - although that meeting will not take place at the ICANN67 virtual meeting.¹

Relevant Developments and Previous Meetings

Recent GAC-Board Meetings have covered a range of subjects and topics and mostly center around formal questions the GAC submits to the Board about two to three weeks before the start of the ICANN Public Meeting.

At ICANN67, in addition to the GAC questions, the Board Chair has asked the GAC to share its feedback on the following two topics:

¹ For reference, a copy of the original briefing document for the ICANN67 BGIG session can be found here - <https://gac.icann.org/briefing-materials/icann67-gac-briefing-24-board-gac-interaction-group-bgig-meeting-v1-18feb20.pdf>.

- “Key priorities for action of ICANN constituencies in 2020 (e.g. prioritization of recommendations, streamlining of reviews, improve effectiveness of ICANN’s multistakeholder model, ...); and
- Specific developments coming up that ICANN constituencies feel need to be addressed when updating the ICANN Strategic Plan.”

GAC members were asked to suggest potential topics or questions to present to the Board in Cancun. For ICANN67, a preliminary list of those topics and questions were shared with the Board Support Team on 25 February to alert the Board to GAC areas of interest.

Agenda

Session 4 - GAC Preparation for Meeting with the ICANN Board

During this session the GAC will review the proposed topics and questions that have previously been shared with the ICANN Board (25 February for this ICANN67 public meeting) and identify any new issues that may have risen shortly before or during the public meeting that merit identification to or discussion with the Board.

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As noted above, this session agenda will likely center around the two major questions proposed by the Board Chair:

- “Key priorities for action of ICANN constituencies in 2020 (e.g. prioritization of recommendations, streamlining of reviews, improve effectiveness of ICANN’s multistakeholder model, ...); and
- Specific developments coming up that ICANN constituencies feel need to be addressed when updating the ICANN Strategic Plan.”

Preliminary Meeting Agenda as of 4 March:

- Opening Remarks
- Follow-up on GAC Advice from the Montreal Communiqué
- Dialogue on GAC topics/questions posed to Board
- GAC Feedback on subject areas proposed by the Board Chair
- AOB

GAC Positions

As of 4 March, based on input from GAC members, the GAC Leadership had developed the following feedback for the Board:

A. Key priorities for action of ICANN constituencies in 2020 (e.g. prioritization of recommendations, streamlining of reviews, improve effectiveness of ICANN’s multistakeholder model, ...)

The GAC has four major policy priority issues in 2020. They include:

- Subsequent Rounds of new gTLDs
- WHOIS and Data Protection Policy
- DNS Abuse Mitigation
- IGO Names Protections

Other issues of importance to the GAC in 2020 include:

- ATRT3 Review – implications for the GAC
- Universal Acceptance and IDN Readiness
- Empowered Community Processes and Administration
- Implementation of Workstream 2 Recommendations
- Monitoring Global Public Interest considerations (e.g., PIR/.org)
- Improving Onboarding and Capacity building capabilities and resources for governmental participants in ICANN

B. Specific developments coming up that ICANN constituencies feel need to be addressed when updating the ICANN Strategic Plan.

In implementing the new five-year strategic plan, ICANN must address the ability of its SO and AC communities to fully develop and execute outreach and engagement plans. The success of the new five-year strategic plan depends on consistent organizational commitments to outreach, engagement and capacity building capability. These capabilities need to be fully supported and consistently resourced by the organization.

The GAC will continue to pay close attention to the effectiveness of its interactions with the ICANN Board. That collaborative relationship has been noted as critical by the ATRT3 and is fundamental to other aspects of the ultimate success of the strategic plan.

Additionally, as the strategic plan is implemented over the next several years, the Board and community need to be attentive to, highlight and strengthen the inclusiveness and meaningful participation of all stakeholder groups. This will be a continuous challenge, especially for colleagues and stakeholder from less well-resourced constituencies.

Finally, the existing strategic plan barely references the wider Internet Governance or Digital Cooperation ecosystem. This should also be an area of further focus and attention as, in this age of interconnectedness and growing interdependence, ICANN should have a clear vision of its role as an important and collaborative player in that larger ecosystem.

II. GAC Areas/Topics of Interest to Discuss with ICANN Board During ICANN67

A. PIR Transaction

The ICANN organization's ability to demonstrate that considerations of the global public interest are carefully assessed and protected in the context of the proposed PIR transaction is important to the organization. In evaluating the PIR transaction, ICANN must demonstrate its commitment to multistakeholder input, from all parts of the community.

B. Other Topics

RDS-WHOIS2 Review

Follow-up on expected Board consideration of the RDS-WHOIS2 Review recommendations in light of the GAC's Comment on the Final Recommendations (The PSWG is evaluating the need to raise this issue).

Workstream 2 Implementation

The GAC is beginning its SO-AC Workstream 2 implementation work. The GAC is interested in understanding what progress ICANN org is making on this matter and what the Board is doing to encourage those efforts.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures

Given the priority of this work to governments and GAC involvement in cross-community meetings during ICANN67, GAC members anticipate that committee members may wish to follow-up with the Board on development in this area. (Draft language for specific questions in this area are being considered by Focal Group Leadership)

Further Information

- Article 12 of the ICANN Bylaws - <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article12>
- ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 - <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/strategic-plan-2018-12-20-en>;
- ICANN First Consultation on a 2-Year Planning Process - <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-year-planning-2018-12-21-en>
- ICANN Public Comment Forum - Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) Draft Report - <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/atrt3-draft-report-2019-12-16-en>

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