ICANN|GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

Discussion of Future GAC Meetings
Session # 7 - Future GAC Meetings

Contents

Background

Beginning at ICANN67 in early 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic necessitated that the ICANN community shift to a "virtual" public meeting format for the entire calendar year. Those virtual meetings have continued into 2021 and ICANN71 represents the fifth consecutive "virtual" meeting for ICANN and the GAC.

Throughout this virtual meeting period, the GAC and the broader ICANN community have continued regular discussions about how to improve the planning and implementation of virtual meetings while looking forward to the day when face-to-face meetings are again possible. As the ICANN org contemplated arrangements for future public meetings, in late 2020 individual ICANN communities were given the opportunity to share their views about future meeting planning collectively during a community session at ICANN69 and then in follow-up surveys and community consultations. The GAC and GAC members actively participated in those activities and efforts.

As a result of those collaborations and discussions, a "planning guidelines" document was developed by ICANN org in collaboration with the chairs of the various Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees ("SO-ACs"). The document was created to serve as a basic handbook for the community-based ICANN Meetings Community Planning Group, to assist with their planning for ICANN Public Meetings by providing a set of minimum guidelines with the aim of clarifying the role

of the community-based ICANN Meetings Community Planning Group and to facilitate consistency and accountability in decision making.

Relevant Recent Developments

As the community heads into ICANN71, and attention begins to turn to the possibility of a transition back to future in-person public meetings, or more likely hybrid meetings, the ICANN org launched (on 26 May) a community survey to investigate the possibility of conducting a hybrid meeting in Seattle, USA for ICANN72, which would include both in-person and virtual attendance. It is considered that a survey will help gauge community interest in a face-to-face meeting and learn what health and safety measures are most important to potential attendees when meeting in-person.

The survey has been sent to approximately 4,000 past meeting attendees who had "opted-in" to receive emails from ICANN org. The ICANN Meetings team plans to also market the survey on the ICANN71 event website to solicit the highest response rate possible. Results from the survey will be shared with the community during ICANN71 during The Post-Pandemic Future of ICANN Public Meetings [71.schedule.icann.org] session on Thursday, 17 June at 14:30 UTC.

GAC members had suggested the concept of a cross-community plenary session at ICANN71 to consider a number of future meeting planning matters including ways to optimize virtual meetings, a plan for how to return to in-person/hybrid meetings and identification of strategies for ensuring inclusive participation and other priorities needed for effective meetings in the future. A number of these topics will be explored during the scheduled ICANN71 cross community session.

Proposed GAC Action During Session

GAC Members will discuss ideas and concepts for planning future ICANN public meetings - including GAC meetings. This session will help clarify GAC views and prepare participants for community-wide discussions on the topic scheduled for Thursday 17 June during ICANN71.

Key Reference Documents

GAC Input Regarding ICANN Public Meeting Strategy Survey - https://gac.icann.org/activity-inputs/public/GAC%20Input%20Regarding%20ICANN%20Public%20Meeting%20Strategy%20Survey%20(30Nov2020)(Final).pdf?language_id=1

GAC Comments Regarding Community Consultation on ICANN Public Meetings: Recommended Strategic Changes for Future Meetings - https://gac.icann.org/reports/public/GAC%20Comments%20Regarding%20Community%20Consultation%20On%20ICANN%20Public%20Meetings%20(18DEC2020)(Final).pdf?language_id=1

Further Information

ICANN Planning Guidelines for ICANN Public Meetings (April 2021) -
https://meetings.icann.org/sites/default/files/planning_guidelines_for_icann_public_meetings_-_proposed_clean_final_version_-_20_april_2021.pdf

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