ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN 72
VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL

GAC Opening Plenary Session
Session # 1 - Opening Plenary

Session Objective

The GAC Opening Plenary Session is the first opportunity for GAC participants to gather, introduce themselves and prepare for the ICANN Public Meeting week. During this session the GAC Chair typically (1) provides a "state of the committee" review, (2) summarizes the GAC meeting agenda for the week and (3) identifies topic highlights and priority matters that merit GAC Member focus and attention.

Agenda

State of the Committee

During this opening session, the GAC Chair plans to report on the committee efforts made regarding action items and next steps identified during the ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum. The Chair will also highlight a number of substantive and operational matters that the committee is currently addressing and identify a number of work efforts that will attract committee attention in the coming months. During the session, GAC working group leaders may also offer updates on their work progress on various matters. GAC participants will be invited to share comments on their meeting goals and expectations.

Bilateral Meeting Preparations

This scheduled 90-minute session will also feature GAC preparations for three important bilateral meetings scheduled for the meeting week. During ICANN72, the GAC is scheduled to conduct bilateral meetings with the ICANN Board (Session #10 on Wednesday 27 October), the ICANN At Large community (Session #5 on Tuesday 26 October), and ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (Session #4 on Monday 25 October).

The format of these bilateral meetings has evolved in recent years to feature exchanges of views on targeted topics between the various parties. The preparation time during this session will enable GAC members to finalize the approach that is planned for each of those bilateral meetings. Briefing

materials for each of those individual meetings have been prepared as part of the GAC ICANN72 briefing package and can be found in the Session #4, #5 and #10 briefing documents.

Recent Developments

The GAC Chair will likely report on recent discussions among ICANN Community leaders from other ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees and recent discussions among the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG).

Since ICANN71, the GAC has sent and received written correspondence regarding various matters of importance to GAC members including the GAC ICANN71 Communique (ICANN Board and GNSO), New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Outputs (Board), SSAD Operational Design Phase Survey (ICANN org), and the GAC Advice Action Request Register (Board). Correspondence documents related to those matters and others since ICANN71 are posted and tracked on a special web page of the GAC web site which can be accessed here - https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/.

During the ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum, the GAC Support Staff noted a number of follow-up matters and action items agreed to among GAC attendees. Those items are tracked via a google collaboration document that can be accessed here - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q2jygHjk1MQHoUYj2k1hjPDAw5TAebMRWqG98Go6eEY/edit#gid=1067667374.

Key Reference Documents

- GAC ICANN71 Action Points (Google Doc) - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q2jygHjk1MQHoUYj2k1hjPDAw5TAebMRWqG98Go6eEY/edit#gid=1067667374
- GAC Public Comment Opportunities Web Page - https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities
- GAC Correspondence Web Page - https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/

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IGO Protections Matters

Session # 2

Contents

Session Objective

GAC to (a) review recent developments from the EPDP Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs, including the publication of the Initial Report and GAC input to the EPDP and (b) engage in discussions on the GAC-ICANN Board consultation on IGO protections.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

1. GAC to review current status and engage in discussions on the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs Initial Report and subsequent GAC public comment input.

2. Discussion on relevant developments on the GAC consultation with the ICANN Board on IGO Protections

3. GAC to discuss potential process to manage changes to the GAC-IGO List of full IGO names to be reserved in new gTLDs.

Recent Developments / Status / For GAC Members Consideration

In August 2021, the GNSO Council made the procedural decision that the IGO Curative Rights Protection Work Track would continue its work via an Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP). *The scope of the work of the EPDP remains unchanged.*

On 14 September 2021, the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs **published its Initial Report** for **Public Comment**.

This Initial Report largely focuses on Recommendation #5 of the IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights PDP which the GNSO Council elected not to approve, and referred to the RPM PDP Phase 2 work (now the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs).

Recommendation #5 from the IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights PDP attempted to address a situation where an IGO has prevailed in a Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) or Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) proceeding, following which the losing registrant files suit in a court and the IGO asserts immunity from the jurisdiction of that court. Recommendation #5 provided that, in such event, the original UDRP or URS panel decision would be "set aside" such that the effect will be to put the parties to the dispute in their original situations, as if the UDRP or URS proceeding in which the IGO had prevailed had never been commenced.

During the GNSO Council's deliberations over the Final Report from the IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights PDP, concerns were expressed as to whether Recommendation #5 was fit for purpose, noting also that it would require a substantive modification to the UDRP and URS as well as result in a potential reduction of the existing level of curative protections currently available to IGOs.

Preliminary Recommendations:

The EPDP team reached several conclusions and preliminary recommendations to address the issue of IGO access to curative rights protection within the scope of its work, in accordance with the GNSO Council's instructions as documented in its Charter.

The EPDP team reached initial agreement on the following points:

1. adding a definition of "IGO Complainant" to the current Rules applicable to the UDRP and URS, to facilitate an IGO's demonstration of rights to proceed against a registrant (in the absence of a registered trademark);

2. clarifying that an IGO Complainant would be exempt from the current requirement to state that it will "submit, with respect to any challenges to a decision in the administrative proceeding canceling or transferring the domain name, to the jurisdiction of the courts in at least one specified Mutual Jurisdiction";

3. including an option for voluntary arbitration following the initial UDRP or URS panel decision, to resolve the issue of how to recognize an IGO's jurisdictional immunity while preserving a registrant's ability to choose to go to court.

However, the EPDP team has <u>not</u> agreed on:

- whether the option to arbitrate will remain available to a registrant following the outcome of a court proceeding initiated by the registrant where the court declines to hear the merits of the case; and
- what should be the applicable choice of law for any arbitration that the parties may agree to.

In parallel to engaging in the EPDP work, the GAC is focusing on the following issues relative to IGO Protections:

1. Seeking to resolve the long-standing issues created by the divergence of policy recommendations provided to the ICANN Board by the GNSO and GAC Advice regarding the protections afforded to IGOs.

2. Specifically, addressing the concerns that IGOs immunities (under international and national laws), have not been appropriately taken into account in the Final Report of the GNSO PDP WG on IGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms, adopted in part by the GNSO Council (18 April 2019) which the GAC advised the ICANN Board to "*abstain from taking a decision on these recommendations inter alia to allow the parties sufficient time to explore possible ways forward*" in a letter to the ICANN Board on 20 August 2019.

   As a response, the ICANN Board informed the GAC (15 October 2019) it would form a Board Caucus Group for the GNSO's PDP WG Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4. Subsequently, a Board-GAC Consultation process on IGO Protections was initiated, and is still underway.

3. Reviewing the process to ensure that the GAC's IGO List of 22 March 2013 is updated,[1] is as complete as possible, and is maintained in the future, consistent with Advice in the GAC San Juan Communiqué, in response to which the Board directed a feasibility study.

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[1] According to a set of criteria, as included in the letter to the ICANN Board dated 22 March 2013 which introduced the IGO List.

Key Reference Documents

- [Initial Report & Preliminary Recommendations from the Expedited Policy Development Process on Specific Curative Rights Protections for International Governmental Organizations (IGOs)](#)

- [GAC Response to ICANN Board Clarifying Questions on ICANN71 Communique - IGO Protections](#) (7 October 2021)

Further Information

- GAC Policy Background Document on IGO Protections:
  https://gac.icann.org/briefing-materials/public/gac-policy-background-igo-protections.pdf

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DNS Abuse Mitigation

Session 3

Contents

Session Objectives

This session aims to continue GAC consideration of ICANN org and ICANN community initiatives to prevent and mitigate DNS Abuse. This includes implementation of the recommendations stemming from the CCT and SSR2 Reviews, discussions following the conclusion of the GNSO's Subsequent New gTLD Procedures PDP WG, and recent proposals by the SSAC for the establishment of a Common Abuse Response Facilitator. This session will also be an opportunity to continue discussing possible concrete proposals by the GAC.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

1. **Consider the ICANN Board's** Resolution and Scorecard (22 July 2021) **on the Recommendations of the Security Stability and Resiliency Review (SSR2)** in their Final Report (25 January 2021) on which the GAC had submitted Comments (8 April 2021)[1].

2. **Consider the results of ICANN's Audit on Registrars' compliance with DNS Abuse obligations** as reported in a announcement and report (24 August 2021).

3. **Consider the SSAC proposal for an** Interoperable Approach to Addressing Abuse Handling in the DNS (19 March 2021) including the proposed creation of a "Common Abuse Response Facilitator" as an independent non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that would act as a facilitator for the entire DNS ecosystem to streamline abuse reporting and minimize abuse victimization.

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[1] See also an the ICANN org blog Board Action and Next Steps on the SSR2 Review (26 July 2021) which summarizes the Board's action.

Current Status and Recent Developments

Community Discussions and Concrete Steps Taken to Date

- During recent ICANN meetings, **leaders of the GAC Public Safety Working Group have briefed** the GAC on the issue of DNS Abuse[2] consistent with the PSWG Work Plan 2020-2021 and its Strategic Goal #1 to Develop DNS Abuse and Cybercrime Mitigation Capabilities.

    - The GAC reviewed **measures available to registries and registrars to prevent DNS Abuse**, in particular the role of registration policies (including identity verification) and pricing strategies as key determinants of levels of abuse in any given TLD.

    - The GAC also examined ongoing or possible initiatives to address DNS Abuse more effectively at the ICANN Board and ICANN org level[3], including revisions of ICANN Contracts with registries and registrars, enforcement of existing requirements, implementation of relevant CCT and SSR2 Review recommendations and Privacy/Proxy Service Provider policy recommendations, improvement of accuracy of registration data, and publication of more detailed domain abuse activity data.

- **Leaders of the GAC and GNSO Council have discussed specific GAC questions** provided to the GNSO in advance of each ICANN meeting since ICANN70[4]

    - **The GAC has sought updates from the GNSO about Community work it envisions to conduct**, in light of the conclusions of the New gTLD Subsequent Rounds PDP (which refrained from making recommendation on DNS Abuse Mitigation for future New gTLDs only), the SSR2 Review recommendations and SSAC recommendations in SAC115.

    - As recorded in the GAC Minutes for ICANN70 (p.16) and ICANN71 (p.13), **GNSO Council leaders recognized the importance of the subject for the ICANN Community** and the long running discussion of this matter, but noted that **further work requires appropriate scoping** as well as developing **a common understanding**, in particular as it relates to the definition of DNS Abuse, its compatibility with ICANN's mission,.

    - In terms of steps expected to be taken by the GNSO, GNSO Council leaders have indicated that **consultations with Contracted Parties** would be conducted and **could lead to developing options for further work**. Per the GNSO Council's Action/Decision Radar (as of 23 September 2021) "*next steps, if any on DNS Abuse*" remain to be determined.

- **Measures and initiatives to mitigate DNS Abuse by Registries and Registrars**

    - On 27 March 2020, ICANN org executed the proposed amendment of the .COM Registry Agreement which **extends contractual provisions to facilitate the detection and reporting of DNS Abuse to two-third of the gTLD namespace[5]**. Additionally, a binding Letter of Intent between ICANN org and Verisign lays out a cooperation framework to

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[2] See material of the related GAC plenary session during ICANN66, ICANN68, ICANN69, ICANN70 and ICANN71
[3] See ICANN66 Minutes, ICANN68 GAC Communiqué and Minutes, ICANN69 Communiqué and Minutes, and ICANN70 Communiqué and Minutes, ICANN71 Communiqué and Minutes.
[4] See Messages and Questions to the GNSO Council prior to ICANN70
[5] Such provisions include Specification 11 3b which had only been applicable to New gTLDs so far.

develop best practices and potential new contractual obligations, as well as measures to help measure and mitigate DNS security threats.

○ **In the context of the COVID-19 crisis Contracted Parties and Public Safety stakeholders** reported[6] on their collaboration to facilitate reports, their review and their referral to relevant jurisdiction through the adoption of a standardized form and the establishment of single point of contacts for relevant authorities. These efforts built on working relations established between law enforcement and registrars and well as the publication by the **Registrar Stakeholder Group** of a [Guide to Registrar Abuse Reporting](#) during ICANN67.

○ **Public Interest Registry (PIR)**, Registry Operator of .ORG and several New gTLDs [launched](#) (17 February 2021) the **DNS Abuse Institute**. This initiative was [presented to the GAC PSWG](#) (3 March 2021). In the [ICANN70 Communiqué](#), the GAC welcomed the launch of the DNS Abuse Institute and "*encouraged[d] community efforts to cooperatively tackle DNS Abuse in a holistic manner*". The DNS Abuse Institute has since [released](#) a [Roadmap](#) (14 June 2021) and published an [article](#) (24 August 2021) discussing mitigation of harm at various layers of the Internet infrastructure.

● **ICANN Org's Multifaceted Response[7] and Contractual Enforcement**

○ **ICANN's Office of the CTO (OCTO) and its Security Stability and Resiliency Team** (SSR) conduct research and maintains ICANN's expertise in DNS security for the benefit of the Community. It is engaged in cyber threats intelligence and incident response fora, and develops systems and tools to assist in identification, analysis and reporting DNS Abuse[8].

– In response to the COVID-19 crisis, OCTO developed the **Domain Name Security Threat Information Collection and Reporting (DNSTICR)** tool to help identify domain names used for COVID-19-related abuse and share data with appropriate parties. The GAC was [briefed](#) on this matter prior to ICANN68 (12 June 2020) and members have been invited to contribute to the linguistic diversity of the tool.

– Through its **Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) platform**, ICANN has [reported monthly](#) since January 2018 on domain name registration and security threats behavior observed in the DNS[9].

– OCTO supports the **DNS Security Facilitation Initiative Technical Study Group**, [launched](#) in May 2020 as part of the implementation of the [FY21-25 Strategic Plan](#), to "*explore ideas around what ICANN can and should be doing to increase the level of collaboration and engagement with DNS ecosystem stakeholders to improve the security profile for the DNS*". A progress report was provided at the [4th DNS Symposium](#) (24 May 2021) and is expected [prior to ICANN72](#).

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6 See Contracted Parties presentations [prior](#) and [during the ICANN68 meeting](#) and [PSWG briefing to the GAC](#) during ICANN68.
7 The ICANN CEO published a blog on 20 April 2020 detailing ICANN Org's [Multifaceted Response to DNS Abuse](#)
8 During a [GAC call on DNS Abuse Matters](#) (24 February 2021), ICANN org provided updates on OCTO's DNS Abuse-related Activities, which included a discussion the definition of DNS Security Threats and DNS Abuse, Contracted Parties obligations, Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR), Domain Name Security Threat Information, Collection, & Reporting (DNSTICR), the status of the Domain Security Facilitation Initiative (DSFI), the new Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for Domain Name Security (KINDNS) initiative, and a review of OCTO's efforts in the area of training and capacity building throughout the world
9 Several stakeholders and ICANN initiatives have commented on the limitations of DAAR, in particular a [letter](#) from the M3AAWG to ICANN org (5 April 2019) and the [Draft Report](#) of the SSR2 Review Team (24 January 2020). The Registry Stakeholder Group who had also expressed concerns made recommendations in a [correspondence](#) to ICANN's CTO (9 September 2020).

- **Regarding Contractual Compliance enforcement** in its [blog](#) (20 April 2020), the ICANN CEO recalled: "*ICANN Compliance enforces the contractual obligations set forth in ICANN's policies and agreements, including the Registry Agreement (RA) and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA). ICANN Compliance also works closely with OCTO to identify DNS security threats [...] and associate those threats with the sponsoring contracted parties. ICANN Compliance uses data collected in audits [...] to assess whether registries and registrars are adhering to their DNS security threat obligations. Outside of audits, ICANN Compliance will leverage data collected by OCTO and others to proactively engage with registries and registrars responsible for a disproportionate amount of DNS security threats. Where constructive engagement fails, ICANN Compliance will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those who refuse to comply with DNS security threat-related obligations.*".
    The blog also provided a sense of volumes of complaints, resources allocated to their processing and statistics on resolution of these complaints[10].
  - Following a prior **Contractual Compliance audit** of Registry Operator focused on DNS Infrastructure abuse which concluded in june 2019[11] , ICANN [reported](#) (24 August 2021) on the results of the audit on **Registrars' Compliance with DNS Abuse Obligations**:
    – 126 registrars audited (managing over 90% of all registered domains in gTLDs)
    – 111 registrars not fully compliant with requirements related to the receiving and handling of DNS abuse reports (RAA Sections 3.18.1 – 3.18.3)
    – 92 registrars took actions to become fully compliant, 19 are implementing changes
  - ICANN org [presented](#) (22 July 2021) its [DNS Security Threat Mitigation Program](#) which aims to provide visibility and clarity over the org's various DNS security threats related initiatives and projects, and allows for the formation and execution of a centralized strategy.

Community Recommendations for Future Work

- **SSR2 Review Recommendations**
  - The SSR2 Review Team delivered a [Draft Report](#) (24 January 2020) with a significant focus on measures to prevent and mitigate DNS Abuse. The [GAC Comment](#) (3 April 2020) endorsed many of the recommendations, including for improving Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) and strengthening compliance mechanisms.
  - The [Final Report](#) (25 January 2021) was considered by the GAC during ICANN70 in preparation for the eventual submission of [GAC Comments](#) (8 April 2021) as part of the [Public Comments proceeding](#).

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[10] Regular Contractual Compliance reporting is available at: https://www.icann.org/resources/compliance-reporting-performance
[11] See ICANN blog [Contractual Compliance: Addressing Domain Name System (DNS) Infrastructure Abuse](#) (8 November 2018) and [Contractual Compliance Report on Registry Operator Audit for Addressing DNS Security Threats](#) (17 September 2019)

- ○ The ICANN Board [took action](#) (22 July 2021) on the Review Team's 63 Final Recommendations (25 Jan. 2021). An associated ICANN org [blog](#) summarized the types of actions taken as follows:
    - – 13 recommendations were approved (pending planning of their implementation),
    - – 16 recommendations were rejected (incl. 6 that could not be approved in full),
    - – 34 recommendations are pending further information and analysis.

- **The Working Party on DNS Abuse of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)** released its Report published as [SAC115](#) (19 March 2021) which proposes an Interoperable Approach to Addressing Abuse Handling in the DNS.
    - ○ In this report, the **SSAC proposes a general framework of best practices and processes** to streamline reporting of DNS abuse and abuse on the Internet in general, discussing in particular: Primary Point of Responsibility for Abuse Resolution, Evidentiary Standards, Escalation Paths, Reasonable Timeframes for Action and Availability and Quality of Contact Information.
    - ○ **The key proposal**, which the SSAC recommends should be examined and further refined by the ICANN Community in collaboration with the extended DNS infrastructure community, **is the creation of a "Common Abuse Response Facilitator"** as a wholly independent non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that would act as a facilitator for the entire DNS ecosystem, including ICANN contracted parties, hosting providers, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and Content Delivery Networks (CDNs) to streamline abuse reporting and minimize abuse victimization.

Key Reference Documents

- SSR2 Review [FInal Report](#) (25 January 2021) and [Scorecard of Board Action](#) (22 July 2021)
- ICANN [announcement](#) and [report](#) (24 August 2021) of the Audit on Registrars' Compliance with DNS Abuse obligations .
- SSAC [SAC115 Report](#) (19 March 2021), a proposal for an Interoperable Approach to Addressing Abuse Handling in the DNS

Further Information

GAC Policy Background Document on DNS Abuse Mitigation
https://gac.icann.org/briefing-materials/public/gac-policy-background-dns-abuse-mitigation.pdf

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GAC Meeting with the GNSO

Session # 4

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Session Objective

The GAC and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) meet at ICANN Meetings to discuss policy matters of interest to both parties. This session will focus on an exchange on the following topics:

- EPDP Phase 2A
- Accuracy
- DNS Abuse
- EPDP-IGO Curative protections.

Agenda

The GAC and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) meet at ICANN Meetings to discuss policy matters of interest to both parties. This session will focus on:

1. EPDP Phase 2A
   - GNSO Council to update the GAC on the status and scope of GNSO vote on EPDP Phase 2A recommendations.
2. Accuracy
   - The GNSO Council will update the GAC on the early stages of the recently formed Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team.
3. DNS Abuse
   - The GAC intends to follow-up on any potential updates on the GAC's question about a possible need for policy development, or similar approach from the GNSO Council, on DNS Abuse Mitigation.
4. EPDP-IGO Curative protections:
   - The GAC will update the GNSO Council on GAC positions relative to IGO Protection Matters, especially in relation to the GAC Response to the ICANN Board Clarifying Questions on the ICANN70 GAC Communiqué.

Key Reference Documents

For additional insights on topics that may be discussed during this session, please review the pre-meeting GAC topic briefings on:

- IGO Protections;
- RDS/WHOIS and Data Protection Policy; and
- DNS Abuse Mitigation.

Further Information

Further information about the GNSO and its policy development process is available at http://gnso.icann.org/en/about. GNSO web site – https://gnso.icann.org/en

Background

With the pace of GAC participation in ICANN policy development activities changing in recent years, it has been observed that information sharing with various parts of the ICANN community is more valuable than ever to help GAC members understand the context of various DNS issues. At recent public meetings, the GAC has interacted with various community groups from the gTLD space including business, intellectual property and non commercial interests. This meeting with the GNSO Council will continue that strategic communications approach.

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is a body within the ICANN community responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains. The GNSO is the largest Supporting Organization within the ICANN framework.

The GAC normally meets with the Chair and other members of the GNSO Council at each ICANN public meeting to discuss issues of common concern and identify methods for better cooperation. The current Chair of the GNSO Council is Philippe Fouquart. Vice Chairs are Pam Little and Tatiana Tropina. The GNSO Liaison to the GAC is Jeff Neuman. The GAC's point-of-contact to the GNSO is Jorge Cancio (Switzerland).

The GNSO is a "federation" of different stakeholder groups. It is made up of two "Houses" - one "house" for parties contracted to ICANN (Registries and Registrars) and a second "house" for other non-contracted parties – commercial and non-commercial interests.

The GNSO Council and the GNSO stakeholder groups have different roles within the GNSO. The Council undertakes the role of manager of the policy development process. The Council is populated by representative members of the various GNSO stakeholder groups and constituencies. Comparatively, the stakeholder groups themselves (including the Registry Stakeholder Group (RySG) and the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG)) are focused on operational considerations, sharing information and helping their members understand the overall GNSO activities and responsibilities. Various stakeholder groups participate directly in policy development working groups.

Prior to ICANN Public Meetings, the leadership teams of both the GNSO Council and the GAC meet via teleconference to identify the most pressing issues that merit further face to face discussions at the upcoming meeting.

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GAC Meeting with the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Session 5

Session Objective

The GAC and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) regularly meet during ICANN Public Meetings to discuss public policy matters of common interest to government stakeholders and Internet end-users.

At ICANN72, the ALAC and GAC will discuss the main issues of common interest such as Internet Governance or the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process on the Specific Curative Rights Protections for International Governmental Organisations (IGOs).

Background

The At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) is the primary ICANN-designated organizational home for the voice and concerns of individual Internet end users. Representing the At-Large Community, the 15-member ALAC consists of two members selected by each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and five members appointed by ICANN's Nominating Committee. Advocating for the interests of end-users, the ALAC advises on the activities of ICANN, including Internet policies developed by ICANN's Supporting Organizations.

The GAC and ALAC have been meeting at ICANN Public Meetings in order to coordinate and discuss ICANN policy issues of common interest. In the past they have worked to develop joint statements on certain policy and operational topics.

Main Agenda Topics

At ICANN72, the ALAC and GAC are expected to discuss the main issues of current common interest pertaining to:

1. ICANN and Governments

Stemming from the ICANN71 plenary session discussions and the ICANN72 question from the Board to the community on how ICANN and the Board could work more closely with Governments globally, the GAC and the ALAC will discuss matters of common interest related to internet governance and how they can monitor future developments that directly impact ICANN's policies.

2. Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse

Both committees will discuss particularly topics related to fraudulent websites and other DNS nuisances which are sometimes outside of the DNS Abuse categories.

3. Reflection on public interest processes

The GAC and ALAC will reflect on their role within public interest processes and particularly through the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification on gTLD Registration Data and the GNSO Policy Development Process on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures.

Key Reference Documents

- [GAC Minority Statement on the Final Report of the Phase 2 of the EPDP on gTLD Registration Data](#)
- [ALAC Minority Statement on EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2A Final Report](#)
- [GAC New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures webpage](#)
- [GAC and ALAC activity page](#)

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GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG)

Session # 6

Contents

Session Objective

The GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG) to brief GAC members on resumed activities of the Working Group and on prioritization efforts for next steps on addressing the GAC's Operating Principles. GAC members to discuss the updated Operating Principles Priorities Document.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

Review prioritization effort results and provide input on areas identified by GOPE WG.

Recent Developments

The GOPE WG resumed its activities prior to ICANN72 and endeavored in a prioritization effort aimed at reviewing each GAC Operating Principle, in preparation for the upcoming focused review of GAC Operating Principles. In preparation for ICANN72, the Working Group updated an Analysis of GAC Operating Principles document, which aims to identify which GAC Operating Principles require:

- minor changes;
- no changes; or
- substantive changes and discussion by the GOPE WG.

The Updated Analysis of GAC Operating Principles was reviewed by GOPE WG members and subsequently circulated with GAC membership for discussion at ICANN72 for GAC wide input.

Background

At the ICANN63 meeting in Barcelona, Spain, the GAC created a new working group to study, develop and make recommendations to the GAC membership for changes to the current GAC Operating Principles. It is intended that the efforts of this new GAC Operating Principles Evolution (GOPE) Working Group will help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity and specificity of the committee's processes and procedures - particularly in the new era of the ICANN Empowered Community.

Based on the working group terms of reference, the results of the GOPE effort may range from recommending:

- Modifications to or reorganization of the overall structure of the current GAC Operating Principles; or

- Changes to existing operating principles to provide more clarity and specificity; or

- The addition of new operating principles that provide more guidance and specificity to the operations of the committee; or even

- Proposals to remove principles that are no longer relevant to the committee's work.

Based on consultation with GAC leadership and GAC members, the GOPE WG focused its work on the development of GAC Working Group Guidelines.

Key Reference Documents

- Updated Analysis of GAC Operating Principles Document (12 October 2021)
- GOPE WG Draft Work Plan for 2021-2022 (1 October 2021)
- GOPE WG Terms of Reference as affirmed by the GAC (14 March 2019)

Further Information

- GOPE WG Web Page

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GAC Human Rights and International Law Working Group (HRILWG) (incl. Work Stream 2 Implementation)

Session 6

Session Objective

The GAC Human Rights and International Law Working Group (HRILWG) will brief the GAC on recent activities of the Working Group in collaboration with the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group and UNESCO pertaining to the Work Stream 2 (WS2) Recommendations Implementation.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

Review the WS2 recommendation(s) for implementation identified by the HRILWG and the GAC Leadership.

Recent Developments

The HRILWG recently collaborated with the USRWG and UNESCO to work on the implementation of the Work Stream 2 recommendations pertaining to diversity while prioritizing the implementation of recommendation 1.1 on providing a definition of diversity from a GAC perspective.

On Tuesday 28 September, UNESCO presented its report on the Internet Universality Indicators to the GAC HRILWG and USRWG, with the objective to exchange views and discuss whether the Internet Universality Indicators should be considered within the GAC WS2 implementation process.

Endorsed in 2015 by UNESCO's General Conference, the concept of Internet Universality sets out four **ROAM** principles: **Human Rights, Openness, Accessibility and Multi-stakeholder participation** as aspirations and as international standards for assessing national Internet governance and digital transformation.

The [Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators](#) framework is a set of 303 indicators that aim to assess how well national stakeholders, including governments, technical community (such as ICANN), companies, and civil society perform in adhering to the ROAM principles.

In the context of the WS2 recommendations on diversity, the ROAM-X indicators may contribute to ICANN's work on this matter to the extent that the unique package of 21 ROAM-X indicators in "multi-stakeholder participation", on one hand, broadly measures the inclusiveness of the national Internet governance in terms of involving diverse sectors, marginalized groups, women and youth, people with disabilities in the policy making process at all levels. On the other hand, it contains several "ICANN" dedicated indicators to measure to what extent ICANN process and meetings are participated by diverse countries and stakeholders.

Under the "Accessibility" category in the report, the ROAM-X framework has a number of indicators to assess the diversity of domain names registration and the diversity of access and multilingualism in terms of both domain names and local content in a certain country.

ROAM-X framework also includes 79 cross-cutting Indicators (category X) concerning gender and the needs of children and young people, sustainable development, trust and security, and legal and ethical aspects of the Internet, which all contribute to tackling multi-faceted human rights and diversity issues.

Following the recent discussions stemming from UNESCO's report, at ICANN72, the GAC HRILWG in conjunction with the USRWG, will provide a draft definition of diversity for GAC input and consideration under the WS2 recommendation implementation framework.

Key Reference Documents

[GAC HRILWG webinar on UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators (28 September 2021)](#)

[UNESCO report on Internet Universality Indicators](#)

[GAC WS2 Recommendations Implementation Tracking Tool](#)

Further Information

[GAC HRILWG website page](#)

[GAC WorkStream 2 activities web page](#)

Document Administration

Title	ICANN72 GAC Session 6 Briefing - GAC HRILWG
Distribution	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
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GAC Underserved Regions Working Group (USRWG) Update

Session 6

Session Objective

The GAC Underserved Regions Working Group to brief the GAC on the updated work plan for endorsement and assess GAC Members input on future workshop opportunities for newcomers.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

Review and endorsement of the GAC USRWG 2022/2023 work plan.

Recent Developments

Following the revision of the GAC Travel Support Rules as per the 2021 USRWG work plan, the working group reassessed its work plan with the aim to prioritize the strategic goals that should be executed by 2023.

The USRWG work plan is divided into three pillars:

- knowledge-base and capacity,
- policy engagement and participation, and
- relationship-building.

Each pillar contains a subset of work topics related to a strategic goal such as the organisation of capacity building workshops, webinars on regional issues of interest to the GAC, or newcomers community outreach.

At ICANN72, the USRWG will present its revised 2022/2023 work plan for GAC input and endorsement.

Further Information

GAC USRWG webpage

Document Administration

Title	ICANN72 GAC Briefing - Session 6 - GAC USRWG Update
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Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs

Session # 7

Contents

Session Objective

GAC Members to discuss input on key topics for potential GAC Advice to the ICANN Board relative to Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs, and to review recent developments including the Operational Design Phase state of play and potential follow-up to the GAC Collective comment[1] filed in June.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

1. GAC to monitor and consider contributing to studies and deliberations of either (or both) Operational Design Phase and Implementation Review Team, consistent with GAC positions on issues of importance to the GAC.

2. Continue review of priority topics pertaining to the SubPro PDP WG Final Report, following the GAC collective comment on the final outputs, with the aim to prepare, if needed, potential GAC Consensus Advice and/or any other input for the ICANN Board.

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[1]
See:https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/comments-gnso-gtld-subsequent-procedures-final-outputs-22apr21/attachments/20210601/6e13bf77/GACCommentFINAL-SubproFinalOutputsforICANNBoardConsideration-0001.pdf

Recent Developments / Status

At the moment of this briefing, the ICANN Board approved the initiation of an Operational Design Phase (ODP) relative to the Sub Pro PDP WG Final Report, as outlined in the New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures ODP Scoping Document. It is envisaged that the ODP will initiate in late 2021, with an expected duration - once launched - of approximately 10 months, followed by 3 additional months for the ICANN Board's consideration on the Final Report Outputs.

ICANN72 provides an opportunity for the GAC to review its materials and positions on subsequent rounds of new gTLDs in preparation for submission of potential GAC Advice to the ICANN Board regarding the next round of new gTLDs (implementation not anticipated before 2023-2024).

Additionally, the GAC may wish to monitor and consider contributing to studies and deliberations of either (or both) Operational Design Phase and Implementation Review Team, consistent with GAC positions on issues of importance to the GAC.

Now that the ICANN Board has triggered an Operational Design Phase, next steps with varying timelines include:

  i.   ICANN org to conduct ODP and deliver Operational Design Assessment (ODA) to the ICANN Board for consideration
  ii.   ICANN Board consideration of the PDP recommendations as adopted by GNSO Council - opportunity for GAC Consensus Advice to the ICANN Board;
  iii. ICANN Board vote;
  iv.   ICANN org (as directed by the Board) to begin implementation of the policy recommendations (which will likely include a revised Applicant Guidebook).

Upon completion of these successive steps ICANN org would be expected to start a new round of new applications for gTLDs sometime tentatively around 2023-2024, to be confirmed.

For GAC Members Consideration

Has your government considered topics it wishes to identify for GAC Advice to the ICANN Board relative to Subsequent Rounds of gTLDs?

Key Reference Documents

- [Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG](#)
- [GAC Consensus Collective Comment](#) (1 June 2021) on GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration.
- New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures ODP [Scoping Document.](#)

Further Information

- GAC Policy Background Document on Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs: https://gac.icann.org/briefing-materials/public/gac-policy-background-new-gtlds-subsequent-rounds.pdf

Document Administration

Title	ICANN72 GAC Session Briefing- Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs
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RDS/WHOIS and Data Protection Policy

Session 9

Contents

Session Objective

This session aims to discuss and consider possible next steps for the GAC regarding implementation of GAC Advice and the consideration of new ICANN policy related to gTLD Registration Data: EPDP Phase 1 Implementation, EPDP Phase 2 Operational Design Phase, EPDP Phase 2A Policy Recommendations, and scoping of possible work on Accuracy of registration data.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

1. **Consider next steps, including potential GAC Advice** subject to GAC Discussion**, regarding public policy concerns** related to GNSO Policy Recommendations being considered for **a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure of Registration Data (SSAD)[1]** and **voluntary guidance for distinction between legal and natural persons** in gTLD registration data[2].

2. **Assess the public interest impacts** of current interim gTLD registration data policy regime[3], in light of the delayed implementation of policy recommendations of EPDP Phase 1 and Phase 2, as well the impacts of the related **suspended implementations** of the **Thick WHOIS Transition Policy[4]**, as determined by the GNSO (29 January 2021), and of the **Privacy/Proxy Accreditation Policy** Recommendations, as reported by ICANN org (12 January 2021).

3. **Consider GAC follow-up regarding** ICANN org's ongoing assessment as part of **the SSAD Operational Design Phase (ODP)[5],** including a survey of GAC Members[6], regarding options for accreditation of public authorities and their legitimate users to access a potential SSAD, as well as existing legal bases for a range of data processing, including access requests and data transfer across jurisdictions.

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[1] See EPDP Phase 2 Final Report, GAC Minority Statement, GAC Advice in the ICANN70 GAC Communiqué, ICANN Board Scorecard on the ICANN70 GAC Communiqué and expected GAC Response to the ICANN Clarifying Questions on the ICANN70 Advice in the Key Reference Documents section

[2] See EPDP Phase 2A Final Report and the related GAC Minority Statement in the Key Reference Documents section.

[3] The Interim Registration Data Policy for gTLDs requires Contracted Parties to continue to implement measures that are consistent with the Temporary Specification, while implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 recommendations is ongoing.

[4] See https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/thick-whois-transition-policy-2017-02-01-en

[5] Per ICANN org's recent SSAD ODP Update (28 September 2021)

[6] Survey to close on 15 October 2021

Current Status and Recent Developments

- **The current interim policy regime** applicable to gTLD Registration Data **is expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future, but may not guarantee access** to non-public data for public authorities and other legitimate third parties

  - Following GAC input to the ICANN Board regarding EPDP Phase 1 Policy Recommendations (24 April 2019) **the ICANN Board** took action (15 May 2019) and laid the foundation for the future policy regime regarding gTLD Registration Data. Subsequently, the Temporary Specification on gTLD Registration Data expired on 20 May 2019 and was replaced by the Interim Registration Data Policy for gTLDs, which requires **Contracted Parties to continue to implement measures that are consistent with the Temporary Specification**, while implementation of EPDP Phase 1 policy is ongoing.

  - In the Montréal Communiqué (6 November 2019), the GAC advised the ICANN Board to "*ensure that the current system that requires 'reasonable access' to non-public domain name registration is operating effectively*". In its Scorecard of GAC Advice (26 January 2020), the ICANN Board accepted this Advice and instructed ICANN org to take several actions, including "*to collaborate with the Registry and Registrar Stakeholder Groups to develop a voluntary standard request form that can be used by stakeholders to request access*". As part of implementation of the Montréal GAC Advice, ICANN Contractual Compliance has deployed new complaint forms and is now reporting data[7] for alleged violations of the Temporary Specification on gTLD Registration Data.

- **Implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 Policy Recommendations** (adopted by the ICANN Board on 15 May 2019) has revealed significant challenges, with possible public policy implications.

  - The GAC observed in the ICANN71 Communiqué (21 June 2021), "*with continued concern that the **Phase 1 Implementation Review Team (IRT) lacks a current published implementation timeline**.*" and recalled its Advice in the Montréal Communiqué (6 November 2019) and further discussion in the ICANN70 Communiqué (25 March 2021).

  - Two existing sets of pre-existing GNSO policy recommendations have been directly affected, leading their implementation to become effectively suspended:

  - Regarding EPDP Phase 1 **impact on the Thick WHOIS Policy**, the GNSO Council informed the ICANN Board (29 January 2021), after substantial debates among affected stakeholders, that "*notwithstanding the absence of a clear statement*" the intent of EPDP Phase 1 Rec. 7 "*is to modify the Thick Whois Transition Policy*", potentially affecting its expected outcomes[8].

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[7] See ICANN's monthly Contractual Compliance Dashboard Reports which now include a granular report on "*Registrar Complaints Processed [...] Related to Requirements Under the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data*"

[8] The ICANN Board adopted the Thick WHOIS Policy on 7 February 2014 given community consensus on its benefits and despite concerns including in terms of data protection. Implementation of the Thick WHOIS policy eventually ran into legal issues, as described in a correspondence by Verisign to ICANN (20 June 2017). Following the entry into force of the GDPR, the ICANN Board resolved (7 November 2019) to defer compliance enforcement until PDP Phase 1 Implementation is complete and the GNSO determines whether to take action regarding potential impact on its original recommendations

- ○ Regarding EPDP Phase 1 **impact on Privacy/Proxy Accreditation Policy**:
  - – ICANN org concluded its [analysis of impact](#) (11 January 2021) stating that the Privacy/Proxy Service Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Policy and Implementation is "*substantively impacted by the new Registration Data Policy requirements, indicating a need for significant changes in the proposed implementation of PPSAI*", and noted that *'The GNSO may also wish to undertake policy work"* in relation to these impacts.
  - – In the [ICANN71 Communiqué](#) (21 June 2021) the GAC followed up on its previous advice to the ICANN Board[9] "*regarding the need to resume implementation in light of the importance of implementing procedures that govern these services*" and highlighted "*the need to prioritize this implementation*".
  - – In [response to ICANN org's analysis](#) (7 July 2021), the GNSO Council concluded that "*there appears to be no required updates or any bar to continuing the implementation of the original policy recommendations*".
  - – In its [Scorecard](#) (12 September 2021) of Board Action on the GAC ICANN71 Communiqué, the ICANN Board acknowledged the GNSO's response as "*to be considered*".

- ● **Policy Development in Phase 2 of the EPDP concluded** with the publication of a [Final Report](#) (31 July 2020), which recommended a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) to gTLD Registration Data with a significant level of divergence among stakeholders as documented in the Consensus Designations (Annex D) and Minority Statements (Annex E), including the [GAC Minority Statement](#) (24 August 2020).

  - ○ **Consensus was achieved on** aspects of the SSAD relating to **accreditation of requestors and centralization of requests** (recommendations 1-4, 11, 13 and 15-17). Once implemented these recommendations should improve the current fragmented systems by providing a central entry point to request access to registration data, according to clearly defined standards, and providing guarantees of appropriate processing (including safeguards for data subjects and requestor).

  - ○ **Stakeholders could not agree on** the policy recommendations necessary to provide for **a System for Standardized disclosure** that meets the needs of all stakeholders involved, including public authorities (recommendations 5-10 and 12). Neither could stakeholders agree on the possibility to evolve the SSAD towards more centralization and more automation of disclosure decisions in the future. (recommendation 18)

  - ○ In the [ICANN70 GAC Communiqué](#) (25 March 2021), the GAC Advised the ICANN Board "*to consider the [GAC Minority Statement](#) and available options to address the public policy concerns expressed therein, and take necessary action, as appropriate.*" The Board [accepted](#) the advice (12 May 2021) noting that "*standing on its own, the GAC's Minority*

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[9] See in particular GAC Advice in the [Kobe Communiqué](#) (14 March 2019), and follow-up on this Advice in both the [Marrakech Communiqué](#) (27 June 2019) and [Montreal Communiqué](#) (6 November 2019).

Statement does not constitute consensus advice", and included a detailed discussion of issues raised in the GAC Minority Statement on EPDP Phase 2.

- The GAC issued a [response](#) (6 October 2021) to the Board's [clarifying questions](#) on the ICANN70 advice that were re-iterated before and discussed during the [GAC/Board ICANN71 Communiqué clarification call](#) (29 July 2021).

● **Feasibility of a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure of Registration Data (SSAD) is currently being Assessed** by ICANN org as part of an [Operational Design Phase](#) (ODP)

- The GNSO [resolution](#) on the EPDP Phase 2 Final Report (24 September 2020) **adopted the 18 recommendations that seek to establish an SSAD**, **requesting a consultation with the ICANN Board** prior to its consideration of the policy recommendations **to discuss "***questions surrounding the financial sustainability of SSAD and some of the concerns expressed within the different minority statements [...] including whether a further cost-benefit analysis should be conducted before the ICANN Board considers all SSAD-related recommendations for adoption*"[10].

- Prior to considering the GNSO's SSAD Policy Recommendations, **the ICANN Board** [launched](#) (25 March 2021) a newly proposed **Operational Design Phase (ODP),** for an initial duration of 6-months, [to perform an assessment](#) of possible implementation parameters. Several community surveys were launched to this effect, including to assess potential demand for an SSAD.

- The ICANN org [reported](#) (28 September 2021) on survey results to date, progress of its assessment and current working assumptions. Further updates are expected during ICANN72 as the assessment is reported to be taking more time than initially anticipated.

- **A specific ICANN org** [survey](#) **for GAC Members**, regarding the accreditation of governments entities and their legitimate users, as well as legal bases for various types of processing of registration data, was [circulated](#) to the GAC on 15 July 2021. Its deadline was recently [extended](#) to **15 October 2021.**

● **Policy Development in Phase 2A of the EPDP** to address the issues of **legal vs. natural persons** and the **feasibility of unique contacts** to have a uniform anonymized email address, **concluded** with the publication of a [Final Report](#) (3 September 2021)

- The EPDP Team Chair presented the report as "*a **compromise that is the maximum that could be achieved** by the group at this time under our currently allocated time and scope, and it **should not be read as delivering results that were fully satisfactory to everyone**"* and underscored *"the importance of the minority statements in understanding the full context of the Final Report recommendations"*

- In its [Minority Statement](#) (10 September 2021), the GAC acknowledged "*the usefulness of many components of the Final Recommendations"* including:

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[10] During a recent GAC/GNSO Leadership call (29 September 2020) and during the pre-ICANN69 [Joint GAC/GNSO Call](#) (1 October 2020), The GNSO leadership clarified that it intends to focus this consultation on the issue of financial sustainability and that it was not expected to change its policy recommendations to the ICANN Board.

- – *the creation of data fields to flag/identify legal registrants and personal data;*
- – *specific guidance on what safeguards should be applied to protect personal information when differentiating between the domain name registrations of legal and natural persons;*
- – *encouragement for the creation of a Code of Conduct that would include the treatment of domain name registration data from legal entities;*
- – *encouragement for the GNSO to follow legislative developments that may require revisions to the current policy recommendations, and*
- – *useful context and guidance for those who wish to publish pseudonymized emails.*

- ○ **The GAC** noted however that it **"remains *concerned that almost none of the Final Recommendations create enforceable obligations"* which *"fall short of the GAC's expectations* for policies that would require the publication of domain name registration data that is not protected [...] and create an appropriate framework to encourage the publication of pseudonymized email contacts with appropriate safeguards."**

- ○ **Adoption of the EPDP Phase 2 policy recommendation by the GNSO Council** for consideration by the ICANN Board **is currently subject to** procedural considerations in light of a challenge[11] by the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) of Recommendation 1 (creation of data field in domain registration data to identify legal registrants and personal data) as being out of the scope of EPDP Phase 2A.

- ● **Regarding gTLD registration Data Accuracy**, a **GNSO Scoping Team** is due to initiate the work that has been discussed since the conclusion of EPDP Phase 2.

  - ○ The GAC has nominated two representatives (European Commission and United States) to participate in these deliberations.

  - ○ This scoping team is expected to facilitate understanding of the issue of **Accuracy of Registration Data and** issues associated with **the WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System,** before potential further policy work is considered.

  - ○ The GNSO Council adopted substantive and procedural instructions for the Scoping Team (22 July 2021), whose work will be informed by an ICANN org briefing (26 February 2021) which had been requested by the GNSO Council (4 November 2020)

  - ○ The first meeting of the Scoping Team took place on 5 October 2021.

  - ○ The GAC expects a holistic approach in scoping the issue, addressing the question 'how to ensure accuracy of registration data'.

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[11] See the RySG Minority Statement section "IV. Recommendation #1 is Out Scope and Raises Significant Implementation Questions" on p.69 of the EPDP Phase 2 Final Report, and minutes of the GNSO Council meeting on 23 September.

Key Reference Documents

- [GAC Minority Statement](#) (24 August 2020) on EPDP Phase 2 [Final Report](#) (31 July 2020)

- GAC Advice in the [GAC ICANN70 Communiqué](#) (25 March 2021) and ICANN Board [Scorecard](#) of ICANN70 Communiqué (12 May 2021)

- GAC Advice in the [GAC ICANN71 Communiqué](#) (21 June 2021) and ICANN Board [Scorecard](#) of ICANN71 Communiqué (12 September 2021)

- [GAC Minority Statement](#) (10 September 2021) on EPDP Phase 2A [Final Report](#) (3 September 2021)

- [GAC Response](#) (6 October 2021) to [ICANN Board Clarifying Questions](#) (21 April 2021) on the ICANN70 GAC Advice regarding the GAC Minority Statement on EPDP Phase 2, as reiterated during the ICANN71 Communiqué clarification discussions.

Further Information

GAC Policy Background Document on WHOIS and Data Protection
https://gac.icann.org/briefing-materials/public/gac-policy-background-whois-data-protection.pdf

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GAC Meeting with ICANN Board (and Prep Session)

Session # 1 - GAC Opening Plenary Session - Board Meeting Prep
Session # 10 - GAC Meeting with ICANN Board

Session Objectives

An ICANN Public Meeting creates the opportunity for the GAC to meet and interact with other ICANN groups, organizations and structures - enabling the committee to coordinate and resolve specific policy work and operational matters and to build channels of communication with other groups to address current issues of interest and facilitate future informational exchanges. The GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board of Directors is one of those important opportunities.

Relevant Developments

Recent GAC-Board Meetings have covered a range of subjects and topics and have mostly centered around formal questions the GAC submits to the Board about two to three weeks before the start of the ICANN Public Meeting. For some meetings, the Board presents a standard question or session topic to community groups for them to respond to the Board.

For ICANN72, the ICANN Board Chair has presented the following topic for GAC preparations and discussion:

> *"Please provide input/comments on how you think we could efficiently identify and work more closely with Governments globally, as well as educate, train and interact when it comes to geopolitical issues relating to ICANN's mission."*

GAC members were asked via email on 17 September and during the GAC ICANN72 Agenda Setting Call on 15 September to suggest additional potential topics or questions to present to the Board at ICANN72.

The final set of questions proposed by the GAC for the Board will be determined via email and will be shared with the Board Support team on 15 October 2021.

It has been noted that discussions during the BGIG meeting on 5 October 2021 could influence the consideration of these various topics at ICANN72.

Session Agendas

Session #1 - Monday 25 October - Preparation for Meeting with ICANN Board

For ICANN72, the GAC will prepare for its meeting with the ICANN Board during the GAC Opening Plenary session. The Monday 25 October preparation time will enable GAC Members to review and confirm the proposed topics and questions that have previously been shared with the ICANN Board and to identify any new issues that may have arisen shortly before the public meeting that merit identification or discussion with the Board.

Session # 10 - Wednesday, 27 October - GAC Meeting with ICANN Board

A preliminary meeting agenda for the meeting (as of 11 October) is:

A. Introductions
B. Discussion of Board Proposed Topic
C. Discussion of GAC Topic/Questions (shared in advance of meeting)
D. AOB
E. Closing

Further Information

- From time-to-time, the GAC also hosts a meeting of the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) which is covered by a separate briefing document. For this meeting cycle, that meeting will not take place as part of this ICANN72 Annual General Meeting, but will occur a couple weeks before the core meeting week. The GAC Chair will likely report to the GAC on what is discussed at that meeting. Meeting materials from that meeting can be found here - https://gac.icann.org/sessions/board-gac-interaction-group-bgig-call-5-october-2021 (GAC Member log-in required)
- 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 - https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article12

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GAC Meeting with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

Session 12

Session Objective

Identify specific areas where GAC and GAC members can help promote Universal Acceptance readiness by guiding UASG on how to effectively outreach to the public sector and also encouraging respective governments to adopt Universal Acceptance practices. This can be achieved by the following:

- GAC advises UASG on effective messaging and engagement strategies for governments.
- GAC encourages members to raise UA awareness with their respective governments.
- GAC requests that members encourage respective governments to adopt UA practices for their own e-government services.
- GAC requests that members encourage respective governments to update procurement terms to include UA as a requirement – see sample language for tender and contract documents at https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/documents/UASG009-en-digital.pdf.

Agenda

1. Universal Acceptance (UA) Strategy and Need for Collaboration – Ajay Data, Chair of UASG, 15 mins

2. GAC-UASG Collaboration Discussion – GAC and UASG members, 30 mins

UASG Questions to GAC Members

How can GAC convert the objectives being sought into a plan that can be implemented?

How can the UASG enhance collaboration with GAC to help promote and achieve UA-readiness?

Recent Developments

Current progress reported in the [UA-Readiness Report for FY21.](#)

Detailed plans of UASG provided in its [FY22 Action Plan.](#)

Key Reference Documents

Quick Guide to Tender and Contractual Documents:
https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/documents/UASG009-en-digital.pdf.

Universal Acceptance Case Studies: https://uasg.tech/case-studies/

Further Information

Please visit https://uasg.tech/

Document Administration

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ICANN | GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN 72
VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL

GAC Wrap Up Session
Session #13 - GAC Wrap-Up

Session Objectives

Based on the GAC's productive experiences during the previous five virtual meetings, a final GAC "wrap-up" session has been scheduled at ICANN72 to enable the GAC to conduct follow-up discussions regarding any timely topics or issues that arise during the ICANN72 meeting week. This additional flexible time can be used by GAC Members to discuss specific follow-up or next-step activities that may be triggered during the meeting week.

2021 GAC Vice Chair Elections - Election Results

The GAC 2021 Election of GAC Vice Chairs concludes during the ICANN72 meeting. GAC Members will be informed of the results of the election during this session. Those who are elected will formally start their vice chair terms at the end of the ICANN73 GAC Public Meeting.

GAC Volunteer Opportunities

As the calendar year winds down, a number of GAC volunteer positions will be identified for the next calendar year. GAC Members will be informed about these coming opportunities so that they have time to consider future participation.

Follow-Up on GAC Topics of Interest

Based on the GAC's experience during the five previous virtual Public Meetings, time during this session has also been set-aside to enable GAC follow-up discussions regarding any timely topics or issues that arise during the meeting week or to flag new topics that will require post-meeting attention from the committee.

GAC Member Feedback on ICANN72 Meeting

GAC members will be asked to assess the committee's ICANN72 meeting implementation. Past topics of discussion have included an assessment of the Communique drafting process during the meeting. As this is the first meeting where virtual Communiqué drafting breakout rooms are being provided, there will be an opportunity for meeting participants to assess the effectiveness of that capability.

GAC Members may also be asked their opinions and assessments of the GAC meeting preparation process, including the effectiveness and value of the traditional written and new oral briefings offered to attendees prior to the meeting.

Further Information

GAC Operating Principles -
https://gac.icann.org/operating-principles/operating-principles-june-2017

GAC Working Groups -
Active GAC working groups continue to make progress between ICANN public meetings in their various areas of focus and expertise. As developments warrant, these working groups update their individual working group web pages. GAC Members and Observers are invited to review those pages for additional progress updates. GAC Working Group Web Page links:

- GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-working-groups-on-human-rights-and-international-law-hril-wg
- GAC Focal Group on Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-focal-group-on-subsequent-rounds-of-new-gtlds
- GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-operating-principles-evolution-working-group-gope-wg
- GAC Working Group on Under-Served Regions - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-working-groups-on-under-served-regions-usr-wg
- GAC Public Safety Working Group - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-public-safety-working-group-pswg
- GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group - https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-universal-acceptance-and-internationalized-domain-names-working-group-ua-idn-wg

Document Administration

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ICANN72 GAC Schedule (Draft, as of October 12, 2021)

UTC-3	UTC	UTC+2	UTC+8	PDT (UTC-7)	Monday 25 October (Day 1)		Tuesday 26 October (Day 2)		Wednesday 27 October (Day 3)	Thursday 28 October (Day 4)	PDT (UTC-7)
11:30	14:30	16:30	22:30	7:30							7:30
11:45	14:45	16:45	22:45	7:45			GAC Daily Updates (30 mins) - 14:30 - 15:00 UTC/07:30 - 08:00 PDT				7:45
12:00	15:00	17:00	23:00	8:00							8:00
12:15	15:15	17:15	23:15	8:15							8:15
12:30	15:30	17:30	23:30	8:30			GAC Leadership Meetings (30 mins) - 15:15 - 15:45 UTC/ 08:15 - 08:45 PDT				8:30
12:45	15:45	17:45	23:45	8:45							8:45
13:00	16:00	18:00	0:00	9:00			5. GAC Meeting with the ALAC (60 mins)		10. GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board (60 mins)	11. GAC Communiqué (4/5) (60 mins) *(if necessary)*	9:00
13:15	16:15	18:15	0:15	9:15							9:15
13:30	16:30	18:30	0:30	9:30							9:30
13:45	16:45	18:45	0:45	9:45							9:45
14:00	17:00	19:00	1:00	10:00	Virtual Coffee / Fika		Break		Break	Break	10:00
14:15	17:15	19:15	1:15	10:15							10:15
14:30	17:30	19:30	1:30	10:30	GAC Leadership Meeting (60 mins) 17:30 - 18:30 UTC/ 10:30 - 11:30 PDT		6. GAC Working Group Updates a. GOPE WG (30 mins) b. HRILWG & WS2 (45 mins) c. USRWG Update (15 mins) (90 mins)	GNSO Transfer Policy PDP	Plenary Session Designing Hybrid ICANN Public Meetings (90 mins)	12. GAC Meeting with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (45 mins)	10:30
14:45	17:45	19:45	1:45	10:45							10:45
15:00	18:00	20:00	2:00	11:00							11:00
15:15	18:15	20:15	2:15	11:15						11. GAC Communiqué (5/5) (45 mins) *(if necessary)*	11:15
15:30	18:30	20:30	2:30	11:30							11:30
15:45	18:45	20:45	2:45	11:45							11:45
16:00	19:00	21:00	3:00	12:00	Break		Break		Virtual Coffee / Fika	Break	12:00
16:15	19:15	21:15	3:15	12:15							12:15
16:30	19:30	21:30	3:30	12:30	1. Opening Plenary (incl. prep for meeting w/ ICANN Board, ALAC & GNSO) (90 mins)	GNSO CPH DNS Abuse	7. Discussions on Subsequent Procedures (45 mins)	GNSO Accuracy Scoping Team	11. GAC Communiqué (1/5) (90 mins)	13. GAC Wrap-up (90 min)	12:30
16:45	19:45	21:45	3:45	12:45							12:45
17:00	20:00	22:00	4:00	13:00							13:00
17:15	20:15	22:15	4:15	13:15							13:15
17:30	20:30	22:30	4:30	13:30			8. GAC Communiqué Review (45 mins)				13:30
17:45	20:45	22:45	4:45	13:45							13:45
18:00	21:00	23:00	5:00	14:00	Break		Break		Break	Virtual Coffee / Fika	14:00
18:15	21:15	23:15	5:15	14:15							14:15
18:30	21:30	23:30	5:30	14:30	2. Discussions on IGO Protections (45 mins)		ICANN Executive Q&A (90 mins)		11. GAC Communiqué (2/5) (90 mins)	ICANN Public Forum (90 mins)	14:30
18:45	21:45	23:45	5:45	14:45							14:45
19:00	22:00	0:00	6:00	15:00							15:00
19:15	22:15	0:15	6:15	15:15							15:15
19:30	22:30	0:30	6:30	15:30	3. DNS Abuse Mitigation (45 mins)						15:30
19:45	22:45	0:45	6:45	15:45							15:45
20:00	23:00	1:00	7:00	16:00	Break		Virtual Coffee / Fika		Break	Break	16:00
20:15	23:15	1:15	7:15	16:15							16:15
20:30	23:30	1:30	7:30	16:30	4. GAC Meeting with the GNSO (60 mins)		9. WHOIS and Data Protection (60 mins)	GNSO IDNs EPDP	11. GAC Communiqué (3/5) (60 mins)	Board Meeting (23rd AGM) 16:30-18:00	16:30
20:45	23:45	1:45	7:45	16:45							16:45
21:00	0:00	2:00	8:00	17:00							17:00
21:15	0:15	2:15	8:15	17:15							17:15
21:30	0:30	2:30	8:30	17:30							17:30
21:45	0:45	2:45	8:45	17:45							17:45
22:00	1:00	3:00	9:00	18:00							18:00
22:15	1:15	3:15	9:15	18:15							18:15
22:30	1:30	3:30	9:30	18:30							18:30
22:45	1:45	3:45	9:45	18:45							18:45
23:00	2:00	4:00	10:00	19:00							19:00

Legend:
- GAC Plenary Sessions
- GAC Joint Sessions
- Community Sessions
- GAC Communique

Official times for ICANN72
09:00-17:30 (PDT, UTC-7)