# ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

**ICANN 73**
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

## GAC Discussion on the Global Public Interest Framework

### Session 2

## Session Objective

In 2019, the ICANN Board developed a proposed global public interest (GPI) framework in consultation with the ICANN community. The purpose of the GPI framework is to facilitate a bottom-up multistakeholder-driven understanding of the GPI issues relevant to each Board decision. The framework is intended to reinforce the community's commitment to the public interest and to demonstrate how specific recommendations, advice, and public comments are in the global public interest, but is not intended to change the process by which decisions are made. The Board has offered the framework as a template for various ICANN communities to implement their own public interest assessments on topics of interest and matters before the Board.

During this session, GAC participants will discuss whether the GAC is interested in exploring this framework as part of the committee's advisory efforts and, if so, how that effort might be managed. The session will also allow participants to prepare for the Cross Community Plenary Session on the GPI framework scheduled during the ICANN73 public meeting.

## Background

The global public interest (GPI) is central to many of ICANN's historic and current primary governance documents (Articles of Incorporation, Affirmation of Commitments, Bylaws). Broad community discussions have taken place over the past several years exploring what the global public interest is; and determining how to best serve the interests of the public, while deciding what means and mechanisms could help achieve that goal.

Framework Development

In 2019, the ICANN Board, with community consultation, developed a framework  designed to address whether specific policy recommendations or organizational actions by the Board meet the Bylaws-defined public interest considerations.

. The developed framework is designed to help the Board determine  whether and how specific advice and recommendations developed by the community serve the global public interest within ICANN's remit.

At the conclusion of the community consultation on the proposed framework, the Board agreed to "pilot" the proposed GPI framework and showcase how it can be leveraged to ascertain relevant public interest considerations on a given issue, identify gaps, if any, and share lessons learned.

SSAD ODP Pilot

The ICANN Board decided to showcase the proposed framework using two test cases, the System for Standardized Access Disclosure Operational Design Phase (SSAD ODP), which has recently concluded, and the Subsequent Procedures Recommendations ODP, which is now underway.

The pilot processes consists of (1) determining which recommendations carry public interest considerations and whether the GPI framework categories are relevant to the issue; (2) applying the questions posed in the framework to consider the GPI issues in light of the relevant ICANN Bylaws, and finally, (3) exploring how the community considers the various considerations and viewpoints (including minority statements).

In January 2022, the SSAD ODP concluded and ICANN org published its Operational Design Assessment (ODA) of the SSAD Recommendations. The global public interest analysis in the ODA solely focuses on the EPDP Phase 2 policy recommendations for the SSAD (Appendix 2) and not the design for the system.

Among the observations made throughout the pilot, the ODA noted that "although the ICANN community did not formally use the GPI framework, it considered and addressed public interest considerations in the rationales provided in the SSAD recommendations".[1]

Additionally, the ODA determined that the pilot process demonstrated that "the GPI exercise will be far more effective when the framework is initially run as part of recommendation development, as opposed to a post facto review.".

Lastly, the ODA reflected that **"**the GPI is a key consideration in ICANN's work and evaluation of the GPI under this framework, or any other tool or process, could be considered for use at any time during the lifecycle of recommendations.".  Thereby, the community is encouraged to consider the use of the framework in its future work as a way to help structure and guide its discussions on the GPI and inform the ICANN Board's subsequent discussions and actions.


## Agenda

The GAC internal session is scheduled to take place before a cross-community plenary session on the topic to offer GAC Members an opportunity to better understand the context of the GPI

---

[1] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ssad-oda-25jan22-en.pdf (Appendix 2, page 104)

framework, learn the Board's expectations for the community and to discuss whether such a framework could or should be incorporated/adopted into the GAC's advice development efforts.

The subsequent cross-community session scheduled during ICANN73 - "The Global Public Interest Framework: Is it Useful?" will include a brief review of the GPI Framework (the ICANN72 Prep Week session featured an in depth overview - see documentation below), followed by a discussion of a use case, the System for Standardized Access Disclosure (SSAD), where the GPI Framework has been used as part of ICANN Board deliberations. Lastly, the cross-community plenary session will feature a discussion of whether and how this framework can best be used by the ICANN community in its interactions with the ICANN Board. GAC Members are encouraged to actively contribute to both sessions.

## Key Reference Documents

- ICANN72 Prep Week GPI Update session:
  https://72.schedule.icann.org/meetings/y99Xbhof3BbxfCQhY

- ICANN Strategy Panel Report on the Public Responsibility Framework (May 2014):
  https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/prf-report-15may14-en.pdf
- GPI Toolkit - ICANN Wiki Page:
  https://community.icann.org/display/prjxplrpublicint/GPI+Toolkit
- Discussion Paper: Developing a Public Interest Framework (June 2020):
  https://community.icann.org/display/prjxplrpublicint/GPI+Toolkit?preview=/58724547/138970274/Proposed%20Public%20Interest%20Framework_V3_22June2020%20.pdf
- ICANN Announcement of SSAD ODA:
  https://www.icann.org/en/announcements/details/icann-delivers-operational-design-assessment-of-ssad-recommendations-25-1-2022-en
- ICANN Announcement of SubPro ODA:
  https://www.icann.org/en/announcements/details/icann-launches-new-gtld-subsequent-procedures-operational-design-phase-20-12-2021-en

## Further Information

- ICANN73 Plenary session - The Global Public Interest Framework: Is it Useful?

## Document Administration

| Title | ICANN73 GAC Session Briefing - Session 2 - GAC Discussion on GPI Framework |
|---|---|
| Distribution | GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting) |
| Distribution Date | Version 1: 18 February 2022 |