ICANN|GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN 73 VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG)

Session 6

Session Objective

The GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG) to brief GAC members on intersessional 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 GAC Working Group Guidelines and GOPE WG Work Plan.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

Review documentation provided by GOPE WG and provide input on areas identified by GOPE WG.

Recent Developments

The GOPE WG met intersessionally since ICANN72 to review with the aim of completing the GAC Working Group Guidelines, developed by the WG in 2021 but not finalized, prior to focusing on the GAC Operating Principles. A document was created outlining changes from the existing 2016 GAC Working Group Guidelines, to showcase work undertaken by the WG.

Following a vacancy, a new Co-Chair was appointed to the GOPE WG. The WG now has two Co-Chairs: Guo Feng (China) and Ian Sheldon (Australia).

In preparation for ICANN73, the Working Group updated its Work Plan for 2022-2023 for discussion during the plenary session, outlining Working Group priorities until the end of 2023.

The updated Framework for GAC Working Group Guidelines and GOPE WG Work Plan were reviewed by GOPE WG members and subsequently circulated with GAC membership for discussion at ICANN73 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 useful, applicable or 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

- Framework of GAC Working Group Guidelines (25 January 2022)
- GOPE WG Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023 (14 February 2022)
- GAC Working Group Guidelines - Changes from 2016 Version (3 February 2022)
- GOPE WG Terms of Reference as affirmed by the GAC (14 March 2019)

Further Information

- GOPE WG Web Page

Document Administration

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