

---

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

### Session 14

---

#### Session Agenda

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

At ICANN82, the groups will continue to exchange views on topics of similar interest by focusing on:

1. Discussion on the INFERMAL Report – Summary and key insights from the authors
2. GAC-ALAC Priorities in the WSIS+20 Context – Multistakeholder governance, digital divide, capacity building, and next steps

#### Background

The ALAC is the primary ICANN-designated organizational home for the voices 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.

#### Recent ALAC/GAC Developments

##### 1. Discussions on the INFERMAL Report

A new project to be supervised by ICANN OCTO, [Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains \(INFERMAL\)](#) was announced with the aim to **systematically analyze the preferences of cyberattackers, including the use of domain names of certain registrars over others**, and possible measures to mitigate malicious activities across top-level domains (TLDs). This project is stemming in part from evidence gathered in the [Statistical Analysis of DNS Abuse in gTLDs](#) (9 August 2017)<sup>1</sup>,

---

<sup>1</sup> This study was conducted as part of the CCT Review and a [GAC Comment](#) (19 Sept. 2017) was submitted on this report.

suggesting that malicious actors may prefer registrars that provide low registration prices, accept specific payment methods, offer free application programming interfaces (APIs) for bulk registrations or avoid registrars that require certain information in the purchasing process. In a [pre-ICANN78 update](#) (25 October 2023), it was indicated that the research team was planning “to perform an analysis of identified security measures that help mitigate DNS abuse” and intended to “summarize a study on how quickly abusive domain names are suspended after operators are notified about the abuse”. It was expected that a final report “in the form of a research paper” would be shared by September 2024 and that “best practices to effectively mitigate abuse” would be proposed. An update on this project was provided by ICANN org during ICANN81 in a [DNS Abuse Updates session](#) (on 13 November 2024). The INFERMAL project’s [Final Report](#) (8 November 2024) was presented to the ICANN Community in a [Pre-ICANN82 webinar](#) (19 February 2025). During ICANN82, the GAC is expected to discuss the findings of this report with several community groups, as well as in the GAC plenary during the GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse.

## 2. WSIS+20: Reflections and Future Directions

From a merged ALAC and GAC perspective, the focus will be on looking ahead to ensure where possible the outcome of the Review at the UNGA (late 2025) preserves the current multi-stakeholder approaches to IG with the broader goal of promoting user-centric governance at the global level.

Digital Inclusion: Both GAC and ALAC would emphasize the importance of closing the digital divide. Governments aim to ensure that information and communication technologies (ICT) policies are equitable and foster economic development, while ALAC’s interests focus on universal access, and ensuring that every individual has the right to participate in the digital world, irrespective of geographic, economic, or social constraints

Multistakeholder Engagement: Both bodies recognize the importance of an inclusive governance model that incorporates input from all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and individual users. They would advocate for policies that respect national sovereignty while ensuring that end-user rights (ALAC’s concern) remain a key consideration in any global Internet governance framework.

UN Internet Governance Forum: A key component of the WSIS+20 Review will be the renewal and the endorsement of the mandate for the UN IGF post 2025. The UN IGF along with the array of National and Regional IGFs has been instrumental for the ICANN Community to explain and discuss what we do.

Security and Privacy: While not specifically a WSIS+20 Review issue it is important that any discussions work towards crafting policies that protect both security and user privacy. Together, they would support a balanced approach where privacy protections are not sacrificed for security needs, and vice versa.

## Key Reference Documents

- INFERMAL Report: Inferential analysis of maliciously registered domains [report](#) (November 2024)
- ICANN Domain Abuse Activity Reporting Tool ([DAAR](#))
- ICANN Domain Metrica: A Measurement [Platform](#)
- GAC webinar on “[Shaping the Digital Future: WSIS+20 Review and the Future of Internet Governance](#)” (17 February 2025)
- [ALAC/GAC Regulatory Developments Briefing Series: WSIS+20 Discussion](#) (January 2025)

## Document Administration

<b>Title</b>	ICANN82 GAC Session Briefing - GAC Meeting with the ALAC
<b>Distribution</b>	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
<b>Distribution Date</b>	Version 1: 26 February 2025