GAC Opening Plenary Session

Session #3 - GAC Opening Plenary

Session Objective

The GAC Opening Plenary Session is the first formal opportunity for GAC participants to gather, introduce themselves and prepare for the ICANN Public Meeting week. During this session the GAC Chair also 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.

Session Agenda

During this ICANN82 opening session, the GAC Chair will welcome in-person and remote attendees, highlight particular aspects of the meeting week agenda and share logistical information to help all attendees participate effectively during the meeting week. It is traditional for a representative of the government of the country hosting the ICANN public meeting to offer brief welcoming remarks during the opening plenary session.

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.

In this hybrid meeting format the committee will also engage in the traditional "tour de table" ceremony during which all GAC delegates will be invited to introduce themselves. First, in-person delegates will identify themselves, followed by remote participants who raise their hands remotely to indicate their desire to speak. Delegates will be invited to share comments on their meeting goals and expectations.

Time permitting, GAC members will review the Communiqué drafting schedule and process for ICANN82. The process has progressively evolved in the past several years and attendees will be familiarized with how some of those recent innovations will be encompassed for this public meeting.

Recent Developments

GAC Chair Reporting

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

Since ICANN81, the GAC has provided written public comments to the ICANN community regarding (1) the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct on SOIs and General Ethics Policy; (2) the ICANN Continuous Improvement Program Framework; (3) the Third Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Applicant Guidebook for the New gTLD Next Round; and (4) the ICANN FY26–30 Operating & Financial Plan,and the ICANN FY26 Op Plans & Budget. Copies of those filed comments are archived on the GAC Public Comments activity page at this link - https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities.

Since ICANN81, the GAC has also sent and received an extensive list of written correspondence regarding various matters of importance to GAC members including: (1) the GAC ICANN81 Communique (ICANN Board and GNSO); (2) Phase 2 Final Report of the GNSO EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (ICANN Board); (3) input regarding GNSO Council questions on Domain Registration Data Accuracy (GNSO); (4) the Board-GAC Bylaws Consultation on ICANN80 GAC Advice regarding the next round Applicant Support program (ASP)(ICANN Board); (5) new gTLD next round outreach and engagement reporting (ICANN Board); (6) the Proposed Update to Recommendation 7 from the New gTLD Auction Proceeds Cross-Community Working Group (ICANN Board); (7) the ICANN Board's Proposed Path Forward on Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets in New gTLDs (ICANN Board); (8) ccNSO Recommendations for the de-selection of IDN ccTLDs and related variants (ICANN Board); (9) GAC Support for ICANN Fundamental Bylaws Amendments to introduce exclusions into the Reconsideration and Independent Review Processes relating to the ICANN Grant Program (Empowered Community Association); and (10) GNSO Council Clarifying Question and Additional Considerations regarding urgent requests for disclosure of registration data (GNSO).

Incoming and outgoing correspondence documents related to those matters and others since ICANN81 are posted and tracked on a special web page of the GAC website which can be accessed here - https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/.

Key Reference Documents

- 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/

Document Administration

Title	ICANN82 - Session #3 - GAC Opening Plenary Session
Distribution	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
Distribution Date	Version 1: 26 February 2025