

## GAC Strategic Planning

### Session 4

#### Contents

<a href="#">Session Objective</a>	p.1	<a href="#">Leadership Proposal for GAC Action</a>	p.1	<a href="#">Background</a>	p.1	<a href="#">Recent Developments</a>	p.2
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#### Session Objective

The GAC Leadership will report on committee progress regarding the GAC Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and the GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025 endorsed in the GAC ICANN80 Kigali Communiqué.

The Committee will also consider a timeline to develop and adopt the next GAC Annual Plan covering the 2025/2025 period.

#### Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

- 1. Consider the progress made in achieving the Expected Outcomes per the GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025** and as being reported in the [GAC Annual Plan Progress Tracker](#)
- 2. Consider contributing to the development of the next GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026** according to a timeline to be discussed during the ICANN82 plenary session and outlined in this briefing.

#### Background

The role of the GAC, as provided in the ICANN Bylaws<sup>1</sup>, has traditionally led to the GAC adopting a generally reactive posture, conducting its work and providing advice or policy input in reaction to developments in various ICANN processes.

In some instances, such a posture has led to unsatisfactory outcomes for governments, for participants in the ICANN community or for the ICANN Board. This was particularly the case during the preparation and launch of the 2012 round of New gTLDs. Based on this experience, and in connection with governments' concerns regarding priority ICANN issues such as New gTLDs, Registration Data and DNS Abuse Mitigation, GAC leaders and volunteers have adopted a more proactive stance, aiming to drive and align ICANN policy outcomes with the public policy interests of governments.

<sup>1</sup> See [ICANN Bylaws](#), section 12.2(a)

Building on this evolution, the GAC Leadership is seeking to cement a level of proactivity in GAC activities, in a more systematic fashion, with a view to increasing the Committee's readiness to provide timely and effective advice and policy input. To this end, in early 2024, the GAC Chair has invited GAC Topic Leads, GAC Working Group leaders and representatives of the GAC in various ICANN processes, to consider, in their respective areas of expertise, what should be the strategic priorities and objectives of the Committee for the foreseeable future.

The GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs proposed a set of 8 strategic priority areas, drawing from deliberations of the GAC over the recent past, as reflected in GAC Communiqués and the [GAC Action/Decision Radar](#). Based on subsequent GAC discussions, the following strategic priority areas were agreed upon:

- Role for Governments in ICANN
- Effectiveness of the GAC
- Future Round of New gTLDs
- DNS Abuse
- Domain Registration Data
- Universal Acceptance
- New Technology
- Internet Governance
- Internet Number Resources

For each of these areas, the GAC considered a set of Strategic Objectives to support a more proactive stance of the Governmental Advisory Committee in ICANN deliberations. These objectives were also expected to provide an opportunity for governments to discuss and align their interests within the GAC, and serve as a vehicle for communicating the GAC's priorities with higher levels of governments and ICANN stakeholders. They are laid out in the [GAC 4-year Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#) which was endorsed by the GAC in its [Kigali Communiqué](#) (17 June 2024).

Further to these strategic objectives, the GAC considered and developed Expected Outcomes in a corresponding [2024/2015 GAC Annual Plan](#).

## Recent Developments

As part of coordinating and tracking the implementation of the [2024/2015 GAC Annual Plan](#), in collaboration with relevant GAC Topic Leads, the GAC Leadership assigned each strategic priority areas to one of the GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs to act as “caretaker”, who are either directly involved in the delivery of the GAC's Expected Outcomes or engaged with the relevant GAC Topic Leads.

The GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs, with the assistance of relevant GAC Topic Leads and the GAC Support Team, are keeping track of progress toward achievement of the Expected Outcomes in the [GAC Annual Plan Progress Tracker](#).

This new tool aims to provide a summary view of progress across all Expected Outcomes identified in the [2024/2015 GAC Annual Plan](#), including progress status:

- On Track: Work ongoing and expected to lead to achievement of the Expected Outcomes
- Complete: Expected Outcome in the Annual Plan achieved
- Challenged: External factors are impeding progress toward Expected Outcomes
- Not Started

The GAC Annual Plan Progress Tracker also provides, for each Expected Outcomes, detailed information regarding:

- Notable developments and deliverables,
- Work ongoing or envisioned, and
- Relevant reference documentation

GAC Members are invited to use, review and, where appropriate, comment on the GAC Annual Plan progress Tracker at any time. During this ICANN81 plenary session, the GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs will provide highlights on progress achieved to date.

During ICANN82, the GAC will consider a **timeline and process to develop the next GAC Annual Plan for the period 2025/2026** as follows:

- ICANN82 Plenary Session (8 March): presentation of timeline
- 28 March 2025: Deadline for Topic Leads input
- 14-15 April 2025: Review of Draft GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026 during GAC Leadership Retreat
- Further discussion between GAC Leadership and GAC Topics Leads as needed
- 2-9 May: Circulation for GAC review and comment
- Finalization of plan with GAC Input
- ICANN83 (9-12 June): GAC Endorsement in Prague Communiqué.

## Document Administration

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