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## **GAC Capacity Development Sessions on the New gTLD Program Next Round**

### **Sessions 1, 2 and 8**

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#### **Session Objective**

As per each ICANN public meeting, the GAC devotes time on its schedule to capacity development matters. For ICANN82, sessions will focus on the New gTLD Program Next Round.

#### **Background**

Since its inception, the Under-Served Regions Working Group (USRWG) organized and conducted eight workshops from January 2017 to June 2018, at ICANN Meetings or intersessionally. As a result, the WG developed process-related tools, including workshop planning and reporting templates, and pre- and post-workshop evaluation survey frameworks to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

Subsequently, as the GAC emerged from more than two years of virtual meetings due to the COVID 19 pandemic, many GAC participants expressed the need for in-person capacity building and information sharing.

The WG resumed organizing capacity development workshops in the margin of ICANN Meetings, for one or two days depending upon the meeting format (community forum/annual general meeting (6 days), policy forum (4 days)), and producing [workshop reports](#).

The current capacity development sessions are built to provide an opportunity for GAC participants to learn the basics or increase their knowledge on aspects of the ICANN multistakeholder model, its structure, and operations. It is also an opportunity for GAC attendees to become acquainted with different ICANN community groups in order to facilitate future dialogue, and to share experiences and best practices to enhance GAC internal collaboration on various ICANN matters.

Recently, capacity development sessions have been embedded in the GAC schedule for ICANN public meetings as a regular activity of the GAC, and are no longer scheduled to take place on the margins of ICANN meetings.

## Current Status and Recent Developments

Capacity development activities play an important part in the work of GAC Under-Served Regions Working Group for the committee.

In light of the high engagement demonstrated by members, the USRWG and the GAC Leadership continue exploring new modalities to enhance capacity development initiatives through webinars and workshops, intersessionally and during ICANN meetings.

- **ICANN82 GAC Capacity Development Sessions**

In Seattle, two capacity development sessions of the GAC will focus on the next round of new gTLDs, with the aim for GAC members to understand how government representatives can exercise their rights and responsibilities. This programming approach ensures that advice from the GAC on public policy matters (and input on other operational matters) is informed and based on commonly understood factual foundations..

The first session will be an introduction to the geoTLD group which represents the interest of geographic top-level domains identifying a city, region, language or culture, and where members include government entities, companies and associations.

The second session will be an introduction to the next round Champions Toolkit material to raise awareness of the applicant support program. A preliminary webinar was organized to provide the background and context on the next round engagement and introduce the toolkit materials. The in-person session will be the continuation of the webinar and include a breakout session format, where participants will have an opportunity to participate in breakout groups with topical experts and share experiences with each other in smaller settings.

A third session, hosted by the Registrar Stakeholder Group will be organizing a session on a registrant's journey, where participants will follow the lifecycle of a domain registration and learn about various aspects a registrant may encounter.

## Key Reference Documents

- [GAC Under-Served Regions Working Group](#)
- [ICANN82 GAC capacity development session agendas \(8 March\)](#)

## Document Administration

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