
GAC Meeting with SSAC

Session 16

Session Objective

Members of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) will share information with GAC representatives on the latest developments in areas where they have common or overlapping interests with GAC member governments. Attendees will explore opportunities for future collaboration with the GAC on key topics.

The agenda for the session is scheduled to focus on an exchange on the following topics:

1. Importance of FOSS in the DNS Industry (20 mins)

- a. SSAC to introduce its recent report on the role of Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) in DNS
- b. Highlight recommendations regarding public policy to support FOSS, especially in the global DNS ecosystem
- c. Q&A

2. Impact of string collision and similarities on security and stability (20 mins)

- a. Short primer on why this is an issue:
 - i. String collisions (similarities) within the public DNS
 - ii. String collisions with alternative naming systems and namespaces
- b. Recommendations and safeguards in the next-round that mitigate collision risks

3. DNS Abuse Policy Issues Paper (15 mins)

- a. Preliminary Issue Report on a DNS Abuse PDP
- b. Possibility for GAC and SSAC to cooperate in the GNSO policy track(s) on DNS Abuse

Background

The SSAC advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet. These include operational matters such as those pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the Root Server System; administrative matters such as those pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment; and registration matters such as those pertaining to registry and registrar services like WHOIS. The SSAC also engages in ongoing threat assessment and risk analysis of the Internet naming and address allocation services to assess where the principal threats to stability and security lie, and advises the ICANN community accordingly.

[SSAC members](#) are technical security professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to improve the security and integrity of the Internet's addressing system. The SSAC produces [reports, correspondence, and comments](#) on a range of topics for the ICANN Board, the ICANN community, and the broader Internet community. The SSAC documents how the SSAC carries out its own work and the accumulated rationale in the [SSAC Operational Procedures](#).

Key Reference Documents

- [SAC132 - The Domain Name System Runs on Free and Open Source Software](#) (25 September 2025)
- [Preliminary Issue Report on a DNS Abuse PDP](#) (8 September 2025)
- General information about SSAC: <https://www.icann.org/en/ssac>
- SSAC Membership: <https://www.icann.org/en/ssac/members>
- SSAC Publications: <https://www.icann.org/en/ssac/publications>

Document Administration

Title	ICANN84 GAC Session Briefing - GAC Meeting with SSAC
Distribution	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
Distribution Date	Version 1: 10 October 2025