

GAC Capacity Development Sessions

Sessions 3, 4 & 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 ICANN84, two sessions will focus on the New gTLD Program Next Round, and a third one will be dedicated to discussions of high interest to the committee on Emerging Technologies, followed by a presentation on the Generic Names Supporting Organisation (GNSO) Policy Development Process (PDP).

Background

GAC capacity development sessions (CDS) are built to provide an opportunity for GAC members 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.

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

Current Status and Recent Developments

For 2025 and 2026, capacity development activities of the GAC will mainly focus on topics related to the New gTLD Program Next Round. The objective is to raise the GAC's awareness on the different issues and processes, to help GAC delegates prepare for the next round. Additional capacity development sessions on issues that the committee wishes to discuss in plenary, can be added to the ICANN Meeting GAC schedule, upon consideration by the GAC Leadership.

In Dublin, the agendas for the capacity development sessions (Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October 2025) will cover the following topics:

ICANN84 Agendas for CDS #1 & 2 - New gTLD Program Next Round

Saturday, 25 October 2025:

- **13:15 – 14:30 (75-minute session)**
 - CD Session 1: Overview of the Next Round of New gTLDs (basics and timeline) and Q&A from GAC members.
 - Overview of ICANN org plans for GAC readiness in preparation for the next round of new gTLDs (20 mins)
 - Applicant Journey and timeline (ICANN org Next Round Team) (25 mins)
 - Incl. Q&A
 - Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs) (25 mins)
 - Incl. Q&A
- **15:00-16:00 (60-minute session):**
 - CD Session 2: Role of the GAC in New gTLDs, with a focus on the GAC Early Warnings process, followed by a discussion during which GAC members will have the opportunity to share their experiences and perspective on the 2012 round.
 - GAC Early Warnings (30 mins)
 - Introduction by GAC Topic Leads on New gTLDs
 - Overview of Early Warnings (ICANN org Next Round Team)
 - GAC experiences and perspectives on the 2012 round and potential improvements to GAC process of reviewing the applied for strings (30 mins)

ICANN84 Agenda for CDS #3 - Emerging Technologies and PDP Basics

Sunday, 26 October 2025:

13:15 – 14:30 (75-minute session)

- **13:15-13:50 (35 mins): Emerging Technologies**

Speaker: Hailan Wang, Engineer, United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) & Neural Networks applied to the Domain Name System (DNS)
 - DNS Threat detection, traffic optimization, and efficient models
 - Alignment with Universal Acceptance (multilingual DNS)
- **13:55-14:30 (35 mins): Policy Development Process Basics**

Speaker: Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) staff support

 - Overview of GNSO Council and Policy Development Process (PDP)
 - Opportunities During the PDP for GAC Contributions / Case Study

- Opportunities to Enhance Efficiency & Effectiveness of PDPs

Key Reference Documents

- [ICANN84 GAC briefing on New gTLD Program Next Round](#)
- [New gTLD Program Next Round website](#)
- [ICANN Policy Development Accelerator workspace](#)
- [GAC Under-Served Regions Working Group](#)

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