
GAC Opening Plenary Session

Session #1 - 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 ICANN85 opening plenary 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 also 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 in the collaborative Zoom Room to indicate their desire to speak. Delegates are welcome to share comments on their goals and expectations for the meeting.

Recent Developments

Further 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). Time permitting, he will also highlight instances of significant committee progress on the committee’s Annual Plan 2025/2026 since ICANN84.

GAC Correspondence

Since ICANN84, the GAC has generated and received several pieces of written correspondence on several subjects including - the GAC's ICANN84 Communiqué; GAC criteria shared with the ICANN 2026 Nominating Committee and protections for names and acronyms of IGOs in gTLDs.

Correspondence documents related to those matters and others since ICANN84 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/>

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