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## GAC Operations - High Level Government Meeting

### Session 10

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#### Session Objective

During this session GAC delegates will discuss planning for the next GAC High Level Government Meeting at ICANN87 in Muscat, Oman.

#### Background and Recent Developments

The High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) provides the opportunity to:

- Reaffirm the critical role that governments play in providing advice to the ICANN Board on public-policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the Domain Name System.
- Enable all parties to gain a clearer understanding of the role of governments in ICANN processes, including the GAC.
- Discuss current public policy issues and challenges at a very senior level. These discussions can occur between government and government, as well as between governments and the ICANN leadership group.
- Expose very senior administrative officials and senior elected officials (Ministers, members of legislative bodies) to ICANN, allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the organization and the issues it deals with. In turn, this may lead to better support for and resourcing of GAC representatives within their home administrations.
- Reach out to administrations and governments who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC or in other ICANN forums.

The GAC has looked to host an HLGM in conjunction with an ICANN meeting and in addition to the usual GAC meeting approximately once every two years. Past HLGMs have been held at the following times in the following locations:

- Toronto, Canada (ICANN45),
- London, England, UK (ICANN50),
- Marrakesh, Morocco (ICANN55)
- Barcelona, Spain (ICANN63) and
- Kigali, Rwanda (ICANN80)

The HLGM concept grew out of recommendations made by previous ICANN Accountability and Transparency Review Teams (ATRT1 and ATRT2, respectively):

*ATRT1 Recommendation 14 -- "The Board should endeavor to increase the level of support and commitment of governments to the GAC process. First, the Board should encourage member countries and organizations to participate in GAC deliberations and should place a*

*particular focus on engaging nations in the developing world, paying particular attention to the need to provide multilingual access to ICANN records. Second, the Board, working with the GAC, should establish a process to determine when and how ICANN engages senior government officials on public policy issues on a regular and collective basis to complement the existing GAC process.”*

*ATRT2 Recommendation 6.7 -- “Recommends that the Board work jointly with the GAC, through the Board-GAC Recommendation Implementation (BGRI) working group, to regularize senior officials’ meetings by asking the GAC to convene a High Level meeting on a regular basis, preferably at least once every two years. Countries and territories that do not currently have GAC representatives should also be invited and a stock-taking after each High Level meeting should occur.”*

## Further Information and Key References

- ICANN Accountability and Transparency Review Program - <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=20611100>
- GAC Guidelines for High Level Government Meetings - <https://gac.icann.org/meeting-services/guidelines-for-high-level-government-meetings>
- GAC ICANN80 HLGGM Page - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/icann80-high-level-government-meeting>
- GAC ICANN63 HLGGM Page - <https://gac.icann.org/sessions/icann63-high-level-governmental-meeting-hlgm>

## Document Administration

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