ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

85 | COMMUNITY FORUM

GAC Meeting with ICANN Board
Session 16

Session Objectives

An ICANN Public Meeting creates the opportunity for the GAC to meet and interact with other ICANN groups, organizations and structures - enabling the committee to coordinate and resolve specific policy work and operational matters and to build channels of communication with other groups to address current issues of government interest and facilitate future informational exchanges.

The GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board of Directors is one of those traditional opportunities that takes place at every GAC Public Meeting. The Tuesday, 10 March GAC meeting with the ICANN Board at ICANN85 will enable the GAC to share views and ask timely questions of Board Members on topics of importance to governments in ICANN.

Recent Developments

Recent GAC-Board Meetings have covered a range of subjects and topics that have mostly centered around formal questions the GAC submits to the Board about two to three weeks before the start of the ICANN Public Meeting.

For some meetings, the Board presents a number of standard questions or session topics to community groups for them to respond to the Board. For ICANN85, the Board has shared two questions for the GAC ahead of the meeting.

In a February email to the GAC Leadership, the ICANN Board Chair shared, "during the meeting in Mumbai, we will listen carefully to your specific needs during our bilateral sessions. In keeping with our established practice, we would like to ask the following questions of your group in advance of our joint session. Please choose one of those questions if you don't feel you have the time to address both":

1. Board Question No. 1: The ICANN Five Year FY26-30 Strategic plan highlights priorities that support ICANN's vision for 2030. The annual strategy review program is launching at ICANN85. This program provides a structured way to assess whether updates to the FY26-30 Strategic Plan are needed, to reflect changes in the external environment and ICANN's internal capability. From your perspective, what is the top emerging trend that may impact ICANN that you think the Board should consider?

In response to this question the GAC has considered the following response to be shared along with the committee's own follow-up question (to encourage wider dialogue) -

"Among the broad array of important ICANN-related matters that governments have identified in the GAC's latest annual plan (2025/2026), the GAC intends to serve as a forum to provide its members with information about WSIS+20 matters and the follow-up activities from that process (see GAC Strategic Objective #8) so that GAC Members can contribute as individual governments."

"Consistent with the ICANN Strategic Plan, how does the ICANN Board/Org intend to contribute to the implementation of the WSIS+20 outcomes - considering the evolving geopolitical setting? What are specific priorities for ICANN and/or actions ICANN intends to undertake?"

2. <u>Board Question No. 2</u>: How is your group participating in the Review of Reviews Cross Community Group and what are your thoughts on how the proposals to date are evolving reviews to be more fit for purpose and sustainable? In particular, would you share your views on the respective roles of self-assessment (as in the Continuous Improvement Program) and contemplated assessment of SOs and ACs by the broader community in the context of a Reviews program?

With respect to the topics and questions from the GAC "<u>to</u>" the ICANN Board, during the ICANN85 Agenda Setting Calls on 14 January and via email, GAC members were asked to share potential topics and questions for compilation by GAC Support staff and subsequent curation from the GAC Chair and Vice Chair (C-VC) team.

An initial list of topics and questions for ICANN85 were shared with the Board on 25 February. Subsequently, GAC Members and Leadership reviewed, expanded and confirmed the list of topics (see Session Agenda below) and questions during a special committee pre-meeting preparatory call on 2 March. The finalized topics/questions, in slide deck form, will be shared with the Board in preparation for the meeting.

Session Agenda

<u>Session #16 - Tuesday, 10 March - GAC Meeting with ICANN Board</u>

A preliminary meeting agenda for the joint meeting (as of 16 February) is:
1. Introductions
2. Review of GAC Topics/Questions to the Board (shared in advance of meeting)
3. Review of Board Topics/Questions to the GAC (shared in advance of meeting)
4. AOB
5. Closing

The potential topics submitted and agreed to by GAC delegates to engage on with the Board (Agenda items 2 and 3 above) include:

1. WSIS+20 Outcomes (Board view sought)
2. Future GAC Contributions to the ICANN Nominating Committee
3. Registration Data Matters –
    a. Accuracy of Registration Data
    b. RDRS/SSAD
    c. Urgent Requests / LE Authentication
4. Mandatory DNS Abuse Reporting by Registries and Registrars
5. Root Server Governance

Further Information

Other Board-GAC Interactions -

- Within the ICANN multistakeholder community, the GAC has a fundamental relationship with the ICANN Board of Directors that is detailed in the ICANN Bylaws (see ICANN Bylaws Section 12.2(a)) and the Board-GAC meeting is a regular feature of every ICANN Public Meeting - https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article12

- From time-to-time, the GAC also hosts a meeting of the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG). For this meeting cycle, that meeting took place on 7 October 2025, during which Board members shared their reactions to the GAC Issues of Importance identified in the ICANN83 Communiqué. Information materials about that interaction can be found here - https://gac.icann.org/sessions/boardgac-interaction-group-bgig-call-7-october-2025

Topical Reference Documents -

- The Board Scorecard on ICANN84 GAC Issues of Importance (6 January 2026)
- GAC Preparation of Topics/Questions to be Discussed with ICANN Board at ICANN85 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tPv5qhTFk9ftCV84WMjfGz5s3IA7yWaYIzZCDJrgBKo/edit?tab=t.0
- ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030
- ICANN Action Request Registry of GAC Advice

Document Administration

Title	Session 16 - ICANN85 GAC Session Briefing - GAC Meeting with ICANN Board
Distribution	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
Distribution Date	Version 2: 5 March 2026