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## GAC Meeting with the IETF

### Session 17

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#### Session Objective

During this session, attendees will be introduced to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), how it works and how it fits into and interacts with the broader Internet ecosystem.

#### Meeting Agenda

The GAC Leadership considered it valuable to inform the Committee about the IETF, particularly in light of GAC Strategic Objective 7 regarding the impact of new technologies on Internet unique identifier systems. The agenda for the session will cover the following items:

1. **Overview of the IETF's Activities**
2. **The IETF within the Broader Internet Governance Ecosystem**, including its interaction with ICANN and other relevant organizations
3. **The IETF's Multistakeholder Model**, including how it differs from ICANN's approach and the practical implications of those differences
4. **Emerging and Ongoing Work within the IETF/IRTF** that may be of interest to the ICANN community
5. **Engaging with the IETF: ISOC's Role and the Policy Makers Program at the IETF Meeting in Vienna**

#### Background

The IETF is an open, global community of engineers, researchers, and network designers that develops and maintains the technical standards that make the Internet work. The IETF:

- **Designs Internet standards and protocols** (for example, those that enable email, web browsing, and data transmission)
- **Operates through open working groups**, where anyone can participate.
- **Publishes its standards as "RFCs" (Requests for Comments).**
- Focuses on ensuring the Internet remains **secure, stable, and interoperable.**

It does not regulate the Internet or set policy; rather, it develops the **technical specifications** that allow networks and systems worldwide to communicate effectively.

The IETF embraces technical concepts such as decentralized control, edge-user empowerment and sharing of resources, because those concepts resonate with the core values of the IETF community. These concepts have little to do with the technology that's possible, and much to do with the technology that the IETF chooses to create.

The work of the IETF is to produce technical documents (RFCs) that define how Internet technology works in detail, and can be operated and managed at scale.

New work in the IETF begins with one or more participants producing a discussion document called an Internet-Draft (I-D) and then working to get that I-D adopted for further work. Anyone can write an Internet-Draft on any topic they believe is relevant to the IETF. There are different routes that an I-D can follow to be adopted, worked on and eventually become an RFC.

The IETF has [policies](#) about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) that are designed to ensure that IETF participants have as much information as possible about any IPR constraints on a technical proposal as early as possible in the development process.

## Key Reference Documents

- [IETF website](#)
- [Requests for Comments \(RFCs\)](#)
- [GAC Strategic Planning](#) (incl. Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and Annual Plan 2025-2026)

## Document Administration

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