
GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG) Proposal

Session #5

Session Objective

From time to time, the GAC holds sessions during ICANN Public Meetings to review, discuss, and make decisions on GAC operational matters, including committee processes, work planning, and updates to the GAC Operating Principles.

For ICANN86, this session will focus on proposed administrative updates to the GAC Operating Principles previously reviewed by the GOPE WG, discussion of next procedural steps, and consideration of initiating the formal revision process under Principles 52–53 of the GAC Operating Principles.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

Following review of the proposed administrative updates by the GOPE WG, the GOPE WG Co-Chairs propose progressing these amendments to the broader GAC membership for consideration.

Accordingly, GAC Members may be invited to consider initiating the formal process to revise the GAC Operating Principles under Principle 53.

Should Members support opening the Operating Principles to revision:

- A Member (or Members) would move, at a GAC meeting, for the Operating Principles to be revised;
- The motion would require a seconder and support by simple majority of Members physically present;
- The proposed revisions would then enter a sixty (60) day consultation period;
- At the next meeting following completion of the consultation period, Members would vote on whether to adopt the proposed revisions.

If the formal revision process is initiated at ICANN86 (June 2026), the consultation period would conclude approximately in mid-August 2026. Under that timeline, the next ICANN meeting following the consultation period would be ICANN87 (October 2026), at which point Members could consider adoption of the proposed revisions.

The ICANN86 session therefore provides an opportunity for Members to review the proposed administrative changes, discuss any outstanding questions, and consider whether to initiate the formal revision process.

Current Status and Recent Developments

The GOPE WG has reviewed proposed administrative updates to the GAC Operating Principles intended to improve clarity, consistency, and alignment with current GAC practices and references.

Prior to the most recent GOPE WG meeting (October 2025), GAC Support circulated:

- a redlined version of the GAC Operating Principles reflecting proposed administrative changes; and
- a clean version incorporating those changes.

The proposed amendments were discussed by the GOPE WG and subsequently recirculated for final review by Working Group members.

Following that review, the GOPE WG Co-Chairs agreed to progress the proposed administrative updates to the broader GAC membership for consideration.

During the GAC Leadership Retreat in April 2026, GAC Leadership also discussed the value of finalizing these administrative updates and progressing them through the formal process established under Principles 52–53 of the GAC Operating Principles.

Accordingly, ICANN86 discussions are expected to focus on:

- overview of the proposed administrative updates;
- procedural requirements and timing implications under Principles 52–53;
- consideration of whether to initiate the formal revision process; and
- possible subsequent steps, including consultation and eventual adoption timelines.

Indicative Timeline

- **October 2025:** GOPE WG review of proposed administrative amendments
- **May 2026:** Final GOPE WG review and progression to broader GAC membership
- **ICANN86** (June 2026): Possible initiation of formal revision process under Principle 53
- **August 2026** (~60 days following ICANN86): Conclusion of consultation period
- **ICANN87** (October 2026): Possible final consideration and adoption of revisions

Key Reference Resources

- Current [GAC Operating Principles](#)
- GOPE WG – [Proposed Administrative Updates \(Redlined Version\)](#)
- GOPE WG – [Proposed Administrative Updates \(Clean Version\)](#)

Document Administration

Title	ICANN86 - Session #5 - GAC Operating Principles Evolution WG Proposal
Distribution	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
Distribution Date	Version 1: 22 May 2026