# ICANN | GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

# 83 | POLICY FORUM

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## GAC Strategic Planning

### Session 8

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### Session Objective

The GAC Leadership will discuss a revised timeline for developing the next GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026 in implementation of the GAC Strategic Plan 2024-2028 endorsed in the GAC ICANN80 Kigali Communiqué.

GAC Leadership "caretakers" are planning to highlight envisioned updates in Expected Outcomes for relevant Strategic Objectives in the new Annual Plan 2025/2026.

### Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

1. **Consider contributing to the development of the next GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026** according to a revised timeline towards endorsement during the ICANN84 in Muscat, Oman in October 2025.

### Background

The role of the GAC, as provided in the ICANN Bylaws[1], has traditionally led to the GAC adopting a generally reactive posture, conducting its work and providing advice or policy input in reaction to developments in various ICANN processes.

In some instances, such a posture has led to unsatisfactory outcomes for governments, for participants in the ICANN community or for the ICANN Board. This was particularly the case during the preparation and launch of the 2012 round of New gTLDs. Based on this experience, and in connection with governments' concerns regarding priority ICANN issues such as New gTLDs, Registration Data and DNS Abuse Mitigation, GAC leaders and volunteers have adopted a more proactive stance, aiming to drive and align ICANN policy outcomes with the public policy interests of governments.

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[1] See ICANN Bylaws, section 12.2(a)

Building on this evolution, the GAC Leadership has sought to cement a level of proactivity in GAC activities, in a more systematic fashion, with a view to increasing the Committee's readiness to provide timely and effective advice and policy input. To this end, in early 2024, the GAC Chair has invited GAC Topic Leads, GAC Working Group leaders and representatives of the GAC in various ICANN processes, to consider, in their respective areas of expertise, what should be the strategic priorities and objectives of the Committee for the foreseeable future.

The GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs proposed a set of 8 strategic priority areas, drawing from deliberations of the GAC over the recent past, as reflected in GAC Communiqués and the previous GAC Action/Decision Radar. Based on subsequent GAC discussions, the following strategic priority areas were agreed upon:
1. Role for Governments in ICANN
2. Effectiveness of the GAC
3. Future Round of New gTLDs
4. DNS Abuse
5. Domain Registration Data
6. Universal Acceptance
7. New Technology
8. Internet Governance
9. Internet Number Resources

For each of these areas, the GAC considered a set of Strategic Objectives to support a more proactive stance of the Governmental Advisory Committee in ICANN deliberations. These objectives were also expected to provide an opportunity for governments to discuss and align their interests within the GAC, and serve as a vehicle for communicating the GAC's priorities with higher levels of governments and ICANN stakeholders. They are laid out in the GAC 4-year Strategic Plan 2024-2028 which was endorsed by the GAC in its Kigali Communiqué (17 June 2024).

Further to these strategic objectives, the GAC considered and developed Expected Outcomes in a corresponding 2024/2025 GAC Annual Plan. This plan is now being revised for the upcoming period 2025/2026.

## Recent Developments

As part of coordinating and tracking the implementation of the GAC Annual Plans, in collaboration with relevant GAC Topic Leads, the GAC Leadership assigned each strategic priority areas to one or several of the GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs to act as "caretaker", who are either directly involved in the delivery of the GAC's Expected Outcomes or engaged with the relevant GAC Topic Leads.
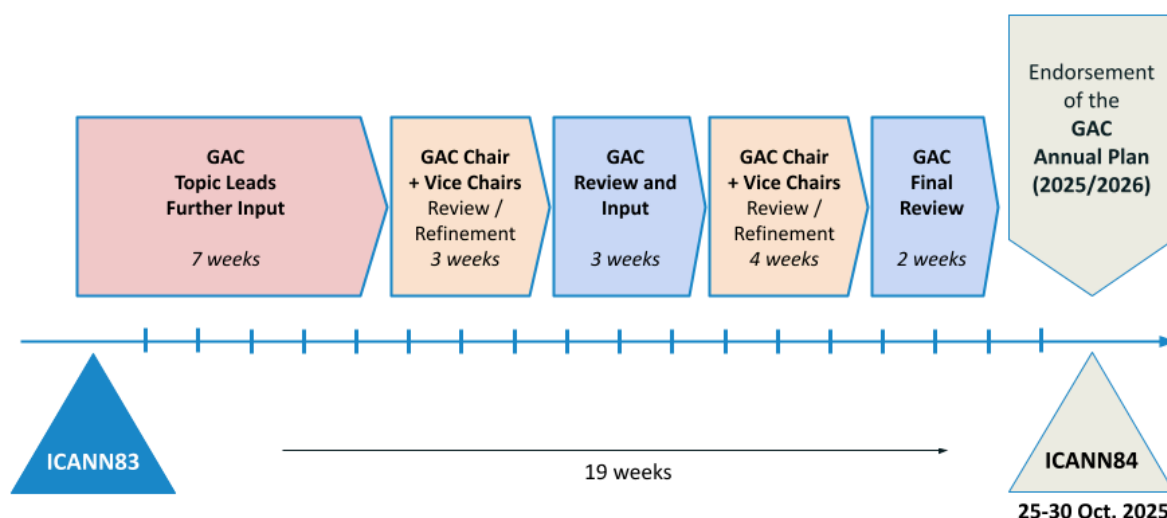
Current "caretaker" assignments, revised following the seating of the new GAC Leadership team at the end of the ICANN82 meeting is as follows:

1. Role for Governments in ICANN    **Jorge Cancio  (CH)**
2. Effectiveness of the GAC    **Ian Sheldon (AU) + Zeina Bouharb (LB)**
3. Future Round of New gTLDs    **Marco Hogewoning (NL) + Thiago Dal-Toe (CO)**
4. DNS Abuse    **Thiago Dal-Toe (CO)**
5. Domain Registration Data    **Ian Sheldon (AU) + Thiago Dal-Toe (CO)**
6. Universal Acceptance    **Christine Arida (EG)**
7. New Technology    **Nicolas Caballero (Chair) + Christine Arida (EG)**
8. Internet Governance Awareness    **Christine Arida (EG) + Jorge Cancio (CH)**
9. Internet Number Resources    **Marco Hogewoning (NL)**

Following discussion during the ICANN82 meeting, the GAC will consider a revised **timeline and process to develop the next GAC Annual Plan for the period 2025/2026,** accounting for more time needed to coordinate with GAC Topic Leads on the reconsideration of certain Expected Outcome.

The proposed revised timeline is as follows:



Annual Plan 2025/2026: Milestones To ICANN84

**Key Reference Documents**

- [GAC Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#) endorsed in the [Kigali Communiqué](#) (17 June 2024)

- [GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025](#) endorsed in the [Kigali Communiqué](#) (17 June 2024)

- [GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025 Progress Tracker](#)

**Document Administration**

| Title | ICANN83 GAC Session Briefing - GAC Strategic Planning |
|---|---|
| **Distribution** | GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting) |
| **Distribution Date** | Version 1: 28 May 2025 |