GAC Meeting with ICANN Board

Session 14

Session Objectives

The GAC meeting with the ICANN Board provides an opportunity for direct engagement on matters of public-policy importance within ICANN's remit.

At ICANN87, the discussion will address questions submitted by both the Board and the GAC, including RIR governance, preparations for the 2026 New gTLD Round, DNS Abuse, and registration data issues.

The session is intended to facilitate an open and constructive exchange, allowing participants to clarify perspectives, discuss outstanding concerns and explore possible next steps.

Recent Developments

The GAC and Board have continued their engagement since ICANN86 in Seville, including through the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) and subsequent correspondence on DNS Abuse [link] and registration data issues [link].

For ICANN87, the Board has invited the GAC to address two topics: the Recommended Draft RIR Governance Document and preparations for the 2026 New gTLD Round. The GAC has submitted questions concerning DNS Abuse mitigation, registration data accuracy, urgent disclosure requests and privacy/proxy services.

The bilateral will take place as the 2026 Round moves into application review, following Reveal Day on 7 October, and as the community continues work on DNS Abuse PDP1 and PDP2, the SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team and related implementation activities.

Session Agenda

Session #14 - Tuesday, 20 October - GAC Meeting with ICANN Board

1. Introductions
2. Questions from the ICANN Board to the GAC
3. Questions from the GAC to the ICANN Board
4. AOB and closing

Questions from the ICANN Board to the GAC

1. RIR Governance

Board Question: The Recommended Draft Regional Internet Registry (RIR) Governance Document outlines ongoing commitments each RIR must meet. Do these operational requirements reflect the GAC's observations in the Issues of Importance from the ICANN85 communiqué? Does the GAC have other areas for consideration, such as potential public policy concerns, to share with the Board or the ASO about the current draft?

GAC Response - **Draft under discussion**[1]

The GAC reviewed the Recommended Draft RIR Governance Document against our observations from the ICANN84 Dublin and ICANN85 Mumbai Communiqués, and our overall assessment is positive. The GAC emphasized public-interest stewardship of Internet number resources, monitoring and auditing against objective and measurable operational criteria, and consistency with ICANN's multistakeholder approach. The Draft addresses much of this through ongoing operational requirements, audits and compliance reviews, and it recognises governments as part of the Numbering Community.

The GAC also reiterates the importance of an appropriate and constructive role for the ICANN community in recognition and derecognition processes, as highlighted in Dublin, and would welcome further clarity on how this could be reflected in the subsequent implementation arrangements. Overall, the GAC welcomes the progress made and encourages timely consideration of the governance framework.

[1] Once the answer is finalised, this briefing will be updated and this footnote removed.

2. 2026 New gTLD Round

Board Questions: How is the GAC coming along with its own preparations to keep up with the 2026 round of new gTLDs?

Can you share examples or generalizations of work GAC reps did in their countries to help governments or applicants be prepared?

GAC Response: The GAC has been doing significant preparatory work to ensure that Members and Observers are ready to engage effectively once applications are published. Building on discussions at ICANN86, GAC Leadership, Topic Leads and GAC Support have developed an Operational Readiness Framework, together with supporting materials for GAC Member Early Warnings and for the consideration of possible GAC Advice. The Early Warning Guide and template have already been reviewed and approved by the GAC, while the broader operational framework and Advice approach are being finalized.

With Reveal Day now confirmed for 7 October, the focus is shifting from preparation to application review. Members will be able to begin reviewing applications and any replacement strings ahead of ICANN87, where the GAC expects to exchange preliminary observations and identify potential public policy issues. Following String Confirmation Day on 17 November, the GAC will move into the formal review period, including the 104-day GAC Member Early Warning window. Capacity-development sessions at ICANN87 are also intended to ensure that Members understand the available mechanisms, timelines and practical processes for engaging in the Round.

At the national level, preparations will naturally vary among GAC members, but may include coordination across relevant government agencies, raising awareness of the Round among domestic stakeholders, and engagement with potential applicants. The GAC's capacity-development efforts have also sought to support members in understanding the processes and tools available to them at the national level.

Questions from the GAC to the ICANN Board

1. DNS Abuse

What specific measures is the Board considering, within its remit and in coordination with ICANN org, the GNSO and contracted parties, to advance work on DNS Abuse gaps that do not require a full PDP, alongside PDP1 and PDP2? Provided the Board has identified any such measures, what steps does it plan to take to operationalize them?

2. Registration Data Accuracy / 15-day Verification Timeline

In light of the Board's 25 August 2026 letter identifying contractual negotiations and policy development as the two available mechanisms for modifying the 15-day verification timeline, and the Board's openness to considering other approaches (Board/GAC call, 16 July 2026), what steps could the Board envisage to accelerate progress, through these mechanisms or other avenues, while respecting the multistakeholder process?

3. SSAD / Urgent Requests

1. What outstanding issues must be resolved before the SSAD SRT's supplemental policy recommendations are ready for Board consideration?
2. Could the Board provide an update on the LEA Authentication Input Group, including progress on expediting authentication independently of the broader SSAD work and possible technical approaches to enabling the 24-hour urgent request response timeline?
3. When does the Board expect the Urgent Request obligations under the Registration Data Policy to take effect?

4. Privacy / Proxy Services

1. What does the Board feel registrars should be required to do when they receive disclosure requests through the RDRS or SSAD for privacy or proxy domains? Should it depend on whether the privacy or proxy service is affiliated with an accredited registrar?
2. In addition, the GAC would welcome any views on the ongoing work of the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Implementation Review Team, if the Board is following this process.

Further Information

- ICANN86 Sevilla Communiqué
- ICANN Action Request Registry of GAC Advice
- ICANN84 Dublin GAC Communiqué RIR governance and community involvement in recognition and derecognition.
- ICANN85 Mumbai GAC Communiqué: GAC observations on RIR governance.
- Recommended Draft RIR Governance Document (Version 3) — published 1 September 2026.
- Board letter on the 15-day verification timeline, 25 August 2026

Document Administration

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