GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group

ICANN|GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN

13 February 2025
13.00 UTC (60 mins)

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of GAC Strategic Objective #6

3. ME Update – (Egypt)

4. Open Discussion / Topic Spotting / Info Sharing

5. Future WG Goals

GAC Strategic Objective 6 - Universal Acceptance

4-year GAC Strategic Objective (2024-2028)

The GAC will work collaboratively among governments and with all stakeholders to promote a multilingual Internet and to provide universal access by ensuring that all domain names, including new Top-Level Domains, Internationalized Domain Names, and email addresses are treated equally and can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems.

GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025 - https://gac.icann.org/work-plans/gac-annual-plan-2024-2025.pdf

6.1. Information of GAC Members: Keep GAC Member Governments informed of the ICANN goals for Universal Acceptance (UA) and efforts in the multistakeholder community to promote and support and promote universal acceptance in the global Internet ecosystem;

6.2. Government Support of Relevant Efforts: Identify opportunities for governments to support and promote those efforts locally, regionally and globally as appropriate - including relevant policy development processes and facilitate reporting by GAC Members to the group about the status of UA in national government services;

6.3. Engagement of the UASG: Ongoing dialogue and information exchange with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG);

6.4. Policy Development for Future New gTLDs: Continue GAC participation in the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and in related matters concerning procedures for the next round of top level domains;

6.5. Cross-Community Collaboration: Work, as appropriate with ccNSO and other Community Groups on UA and IDN issues.

6.6. Registrar Readiness:

6.6.1. Engagement with all the ICANN's accredited Registrars to make sign-in & sign-up pages for registration UA-ready and also the email services they use for communication with registrants and new applicants.
6.6.2. Governments and their respective ccTLD operators may also engage with local Registrars to enable sign-in & sign-up pages UA-Ready and also email services to allow sending and receiving emails in local languages.
6.6.3. To achieve the above, ICANN in collaboration with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) may also set up a technical support team for all the Registrars.

Resources

● The GAC will continue to leverage its meetings during official ICANN meetings as well as intersessional activities, to consult and receive briefings from experts in the ICANN Community and beyond, including the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG). This will enable the GAC to stay informed on relevant developments and to discuss challenges and best practices, with a view to providing public policy perspectives and possible advice to the ICANN Board as appropriate.

● At the ICANN66 Public Meeting in Montreal, the GAC formally established a Universal Acceptance and IDN Working Group (UA-IDN WG) to help the committee track, consider and address matters and topics relevant to governments in those areas. In particular, the Working Group is expected to provide information and knowledge building resources and opportunities for GAC members, to develop positions and drafting recommendations for consideration by the full GAC on policy matters, to interface with the UASG, and to provide perspectives, information and expertise on UA and IDN matters when they arise in various contexts.

● The GAC has also appointed representatives to contribute to the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).

-

- Discussion

- Discussion