

Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) Call

16 July 2026 - 1400 UTC

Summary Notes

In the spirit of issue spotting and candid information exchange, these high-level staff summary notes are intended to reflect the general nature of the discussion during the BGIG meeting. Certain specific aspects of the meeting discussions are provided to enable understanding of the flow and context of the discussions.

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome Remarks - ICANN Board Chair, Tripti Sinha
- Opening Remarks - Nicolas Caballero and Greg DiBiase
- Discussion of the ICANN86 GAC Issues of Importance
 1. Review of Reviews
 2. DNS Abuse Mitigation
 3. Domain Registration Data:
 - a. Urgent Requests and Requester Authentication
 - b. Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) and System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD)
 - c. Privacy and Proxy Services
 - d. Accuracy of Domain Name Registration Data
 4. Applicant Support Program (ASP) in 2026 Round of New gTLDs
 5. Preserving Universal Connectivity and Addressing Ad-Hoc DNS Blocking
- AOB
- Closing Remarks

Reference

- [ICANN86 Seville Communiqué](#) (15 June 2026)
- [ICANN Board Comments on Issues of Importance in the ICANN86 Sevilla Communiqué](#) (10 July 2026)

I. Opening Remarks

Tripti Sinha (ICANN Board Chair) welcomed participants and noted the importance of the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) discussions in advancing dialogue on the GAC's Issues of Importance identified in the ICANN86 Seville Communiqué. She highlighted the broad range of topics for discussion, including the Review of Reviews, DNS Abuse mitigation, Domain Name Registration Data, the Applicant Support Program, and issues relating to DNS blocking and Internet fragmentation. She expressed her hope for an open and constructive discussion ahead of ICANN87.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) welcomed participants and thanked both the Board and support teams for preparing the discussion materials. He noted that the objective of the call was to facilitate a constructive, forward-looking exchange on the GAC's Issues of Importance and to better understand areas of alignment and remaining questions ahead of the ICANN87 Annual General Meeting. Nicolas Caballero also noted that this would be his final BGIG meeting as GAC Chair before concluding his term following ICANN87.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) thanked participants and introduced the first agenda item.

II. Discussion of the ICANN86 GAC Sevilla Communiqué Issues of Importance

1. Review of Reviews

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) thanked the GAC for its continued engagement in the Review of Reviews Cross Community Group (CCG) and noted that the Board appreciated the GAC's active participation throughout the process. He observed that the Board broadly shared the GAC's objectives of improving accountability while avoiding duplication and making effective use of community resources.

Greg DiBiase explained that the Board continues to await the CCG's final recommendations and recognised the complexity of determining which reviews should remain explicitly referenced in the ICANN Bylaws and which review topics could instead be accommodated through broader, more flexible review mechanisms. He noted that, while the Security, Stability and Resiliency (SSR) Review is of particular importance to the GAC, other existing Specific Reviews are similarly important to other parts of the community. From the Board's perspective, any proposal to retain a recurring review as a bylaw obligation should be supported by a clear explanation of its purpose and why it requires explicit inclusion rather than a more flexible scoping approach. Greg DiBiase agreed with the GAC that an integrated timeline of scheduled and on-demand

reviews would assist in understanding overall workload and resource implications.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) observed that there appeared to be partial alignment between the Board's comments and the GAC's position. He reiterated three principal areas of importance for the GAC: maintaining explicit recognition of the SSR Review within any revised review framework, avoiding duplication across reviews, and developing an integrated timeline to assess the cumulative workload associated with the proposed review model.

Manal Ismail (Egypt), speaking in her capacity as co-chair of the Reviews CCG, thanked Board members participating in the group and noted that the current draft proposal already provides multiple mechanisms through which SSR and other review topics could be considered, including through the proposed Accountability and Transparency Review, periodic planning processes, and on-demand reviews. She acknowledged that integrating review timelines remained challenging given the additional flexibility introduced through justified deferrals and on-demand reviews, and indicated that the CCG continued to consider community feedback received through the public comment process.

Susan Chalmers (United States) acknowledged the Board's explanation regarding the need to justify recurring bylaw reviews and suggested that one of the key issues for the GAC was ensuring clarity regarding where and how Security, Stability and Resiliency issues would continue to be reviewed under the proposed framework. She suggested that clearer communication regarding the treatment of SSR within the revised model would assist in addressing many of the GAC's concerns.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) agreed that additional clarity regarding how SSR issues would continue to be addressed under the revised review framework would be helpful and indicated that this feedback would be taken back for further consideration.

Gemma Carolillo (European Commission) supported the intervention from the United States and emphasised the importance of maintaining a predictable review cadence and a review format that allows comparison of findings over successive review cycles, enabling the community to identify persistent or emerging Security, Stability and Resiliency issues over time.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) framed a question to the Board regarding how it envisaged assessing whether a review should remain a recurring bylaw obligation rather than becoming a scoped or on-demand review.

T. Santhosh (India) welcomed the Board's continued consideration of the issue but sought clarification as to whether the Board supported retaining the SSR Review as a recurring review under the revised framework. He further asked what alternative safeguards the Board

envisaged to ensure that Security, Stability and Resiliency issues would continue to be reviewed on a regular and predictable basis should the explicit SSR Review no longer be retained.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) responded that the Board had not yet reached a position on whether the SSR Review should remain explicitly referenced in the Bylaws and continued to look to the CCG's work in this regard. He acknowledged that further consideration would be required regarding how assurance could be provided that SSR issues would continue to receive appropriate attention under any revised review framework.

Jim Galvin (ICANN Board) further explained that the Board had raised similar questions within the CCG and described the current proposal in greater detail. He noted that, under the proposed framework, review topics—including Security, Stability and Resiliency—would continue to be addressed through a combination of the Accountability and Transparency Review, review scoping teams responsible for determining review scope, and a new on-demand review mechanism capable of addressing emerging or urgent issues. Jim Galvin observed that the Board itself continued to assess whether the proposed framework would provide sufficient assurance that critical review topics would continue to receive appropriate attention and welcomed further GAC input on this question.

Manal Ismail (Egypt) informed participants that two recent community webinars had been held to explain the current CCG proposal in greater detail and encouraged interested GAC members to review the recordings.

Nicolas Caballero concluded the discussion by observing that the exchange had helped clarify areas of convergence and remaining differences between the Board's and GAC's respective positions before moving to the next agenda item.

2. DNS Abuse Mitigation

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) welcomed the GAC's continued engagement on DNS Abuse mitigation and noted broad alignment between the Board's comments and the GAC's Issues of Importance. He welcomed the progress of the Associated Domain Checks PDP and the Board's expectation that further work on additional DNS Abuse topics could follow. Greg DiBiase also noted that the Board supports continued consideration of issues identified during the PDP that fall outside the current Issue Report, both through future policy work and other community initiatives.

Greg DiBiase highlighted ICANN Contractual Compliance's ongoing work to develop a proactive DNS Abuse mitigation enforcement framework using data-driven indicators to identify contracted parties with elevated DNS Abuse indicators. He explained that the framework is intended to complement existing complaint-driven and audit-based approaches by enabling more proactive compliance activities.

Greg DiBiase further noted that while the Board recognizes the importance of the additional topics identified by the GAC, it also considers it important that future policy work remain appropriately scoped and supported by sufficient community and staff resources. He observed that the GNSO Council's work prioritization exercise would assist in determining the sequencing of future policy work.

Regarding the GAC's proposal for a centralized DNS Abuse reporting mechanism, Greg DiBiase noted that the Board considers the concept worthy of further discussion and highlighted existing community initiatives, such as NetBeacon, that already provide centralized reporting services. He explained that the Board continues to consider whether a broader ICANN-led mechanism would be appropriate and indicated that further discussion, including consideration of work being undertaken by other organizations, would be beneficial before determining next steps. He also reiterated the Board's commitment to ensuring ICANN org continues to provide the necessary support to the ongoing DNS Abuse policy development work.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) observed that the discussion reflected partial alignment between the Board and the GAC. He reiterated that the GAC's priorities remain the timely completion of the Associated Domain Checks (ADC) Policy Development Process (PDP), maintaining consideration of mandatory DNS Abuse reporting requirements, advancing proactive mitigation measures, and ensuring the broader DNS Abuse mitigation work is completed before the delegation of new gTLDs in the 2026 Round.

T. Santhosh (India) welcomed the Board's recognition of the importance of DNS Abuse mitigation and sought clarification regarding the possible development of a centralized DNS Abuse reporting mechanism. He asked whether the Board envisaged establishing a community process to consider such a mechanism, when discussions on this topic might begin, and whether the Board could provide an indicative roadmap or timeline for its consideration.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) responded that the Board had not yet considered establishing a dedicated community process on a centralized reporting mechanism and sought to confirm that the GAC was proposing that ICANN itself serve as the centralized reporting gateway. Following confirmation from India, Greg DiBiase indicated that the Board had not reached a position on this question and would take the proposal back for further consideration.

T. Santhosh (India) welcomed the Board's willingness to consider the proposal further and suggested that discussions could continue during future interactions between the Board and the GAC.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) noted that no further interventions were requested and concluded that the discussion had helped clarify areas of convergence while confirming that some issues remained under consideration. He then invited Greg DiBiase to introduce the next agenda item on Domain Name Registration Data.

3. Domain Name Registration Data

a. Urgent Requests and Requestor Authentication

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) noted the Board's continued alignment with the GAC regarding the importance of implementing an effective authentication mechanism for law enforcement authorities in support of the recently adopted 24-hour response timeline for authenticated urgent requests. He explained that work undertaken jointly with the GAC Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) had now reached the stage where it would transition to a broader community Input Group, allowing the work developed with the PSWG to be reviewed by a wider range of stakeholders while continuing in parallel with the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) Supplemental Recommendations process.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) observed broad alignment between the Board and GAC positions, noting the GAC's priorities of finalizing the law enforcement authentication mechanism, ensuring its integration into the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) or any successor system, and maintaining a pragmatic implementation approach. He asked what implementation milestones the Board envisaged for the authentication mechanism and its integration into RDRS.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) responded that there was no separate milestone for the Law Enforcement Authentication Mechanism Input Group itself. Rather, the authentication mechanism formed part of the broader SSAD Supplemental Recommendations work, with initial recommendations expected early 2027, and followed by a public comment proceeding. He explained that these recommendations would ultimately provide the policy basis necessary to operationalize and make the authentication requirements binding on contracted parties.

T. Santhosh (India) welcomed the Board's recognition of the importance of the authentication mechanism but expressed concern that implementation remained dependent upon the broader SSAD work. He asked how authenticated law enforcement authorities would be able to benefit

from the recently adopted 24-hour urgent request response timeline until the authentication mechanism became operational.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) explained that the RDRS remains operational and can continue to receive requests. However, he noted that the contractual obligation for registrars to respond within 24 hours depends upon adoption of the updated SSAD recommendations. While acknowledging the GAC's interest in accelerating implementation of the authentication mechanism independently of the broader SSAD work, Greg DiBiase observed that the policy dependency remained. He nevertheless undertook to convey the GAC's concerns regarding possible approaches to expedite implementation.

b. Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) and System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD)

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) welcomed the GAC's continued engagement on the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) and the SSAD Supplemental Recommendations process. He explained that lessons learned from the RDRS pilot had informed the ongoing review of the original SSAD recommendations, with the objective of producing a more effective and practical framework capable of delivering a permanent centralized request mechanism. He reiterated that the updated recommendations would also incorporate the finalized authentication mechanism and the recently adopted urgent request response timelines.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) asked which elements the Board considered essential for inclusion in the forthcoming SSAD Supplemental Recommendations and what issues remained open from the Board's perspective.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) responded that the Board considered the priorities identified by the GAC—including mandatory participation, support for privacy and proxy registrations, authentication mechanisms, and service level expectations—to be broadly aligned with both the findings of the RDRS Standing Committee and the ongoing work of the SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team. While noting that these priorities would not necessarily translate directly into individual policy recommendations, he indicated that they were informing the team's holistic review of the recommendations. Greg DiBiase further noted that preliminary recommendations were expected later in 2026, with final recommendations anticipated to be delivered to the GNSO Council in early 2027.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) noted that no further interventions were requested and concluded the discussion on RDRS and SSAD before moving to the remaining Registration Data topics.

c. Privacy and Proxy Services

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) noted the Board's continued support for the work of the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Implementation Review Team and its objective of establishing an effective accreditation framework. He confirmed the Board's understanding of the GAC's interest in ensuring that privacy and proxy service use is clearly reflected in registration data and that disclosure mechanisms for underlying registration data remain available through RDRS or any successor system. The Board also acknowledged the importance the GAC attached to preventing misuse of unaccredited privacy and proxy services.

d. Accuracy of Domain Name Registration Data

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) acknowledged the importance attached by the GAC to improving the accuracy of domain name registration data, including concerns regarding the existing 15-day timeline for verification of registrant contact information, particularly in light of its relationship with ongoing DNS Abuse mitigation efforts. He noted that the Board continues to look to the multistakeholder policy development process, including the GNSO Council's work prioritization exercise, as the primary mechanism for progressing this issue, while remaining open to considering other approaches that could facilitate timely progress.

Gemma Carolillo (European Commission) noted that the GAC was not seeking to circumvent the multistakeholder process and acknowledged that changes could be pursued through either contractual amendments or policy development. She emphasized that registration data accuracy, including the 15-day verification timeline, had already been the subject of substantial community discussion and suggested that the issue could be considered in parallel with the ongoing DNS Abuse PDPs rather than waiting for their completion.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) clarified that the Board considers continued engagement on the issue important, while noting that further bottom-up community process should precede any concrete Board action.

Susan Chalmers (United States) supported the European Commission's intervention and noted that verifying contact information before a domain becomes active could contribute to DNS Abuse mitigation. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining the agreed prioritization of the ongoing DNS Abuse PDPs.

T. Santhosh (India) highlighted that timely verification of registration data is foundational to the effectiveness of several ongoing initiatives, including Urgent Requests, Associated Domain

Checks, and broader DNS Abuse mitigation efforts. He noted the importance of having reliable and verified registration data from the outset and asked how the Board intended to facilitate timely progress on registration data accuracy in parallel with the existing DNS Abuse policy development work.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) reiterated that the Board expected the GNSO policy development process to remain the primary avenue for addressing registration data accuracy. At the same time, he acknowledged the priority attached to the issue by the GAC and indicated that the Board would consider whether additional approaches might help accelerate progress while respecting the multistakeholder process.

4. Applicant Support Program

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) welcomed the GAC's continued engagement on the Applicant Support Program (ASP) and reaffirmed the Board's shared objective of ensuring the program is meaningful and successful. He noted that, from the Board's perspective, the principal area requiring discussion related to Registry Operator fee reductions. Greg DiBiase explained that the Board continues to rely on Supplemental Recommendation 17.2, developed through the multistakeholder process, as well as the current implementation of the Applicant Support Program. He noted that the current implementation includes a graduated reduction of Registry Operator fees for supported applicants over the first three years before transitioning to the standard fee schedule.. He emphasized that the Board considers this approach, together with the ASP funding plan, as providing certainty and predictability for qualified applicants. He also reaffirmed the Board's commitment to working with ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) teams and the GAC to ensure the continued success of the Applicant Support Program.

Tracy Hackshaw (Universal Postal Union) welcomed the Board's response but observed that it did not address one of the GAC's key recommendations relating to facilitating connections between qualified applicants and external sources of development finance. He noted that, while the Board had indicated it was not considering additional fee reductions, the GAC was also interested in understanding how the Board intended to measure the success of the Applicant Support Directory and how ICANN, together with the GSE team and willing GAC members, could assist in connecting qualified applicants with development finance opportunities beyond the existing financial support available under the ASP.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) thanked Tracy Hackshaw for the questions and summarized them as two separate issues: how success of the Applicant Support Program should be measured, and what additional measures could be taken to connect qualified applicants with alternative funding sources. He indicated that he did not have immediate answers to either question and

undertook to refer both questions to the appropriate ICANN staff for further consideration and follow-up.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) summarized the GAC's four principal priorities regarding the Applicant Support Program as: reducing barriers to participation; maximizing use of the Applicant Support Directory; facilitating connections between qualified applicants and sources of development finance wherever possible; and remaining open to revisiting support measures should demand exceed initial expectations. He further asked what circumstances, if any, would lead the Board to reconsider the current Applicant Support model or Registry Operator fee structure, emphasizing that the question was intended constructively and not as criticism of the Board's current approach.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) responded that the Board would consider revisiting the current approach should the community develop new or modified recommendations for the Board's consideration. He noted that, consistent with ICANN's bottom-up multistakeholder model, the Board looks to community-developed recommendations as the basis for such decisions. While observing that further changes during the current application round appeared unlikely, he indicated that additional community recommendations relating to Registry Operator fees or other support measures would be considered by the Board if developed through the appropriate community processes.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) thanked Tracy Hackshaw for raising the issue and noted that the questions would be captured for follow-up by ICANN staff before concluding the discussion and introducing the final agenda item.

5. Preserving Universal Connectivity and Addressing Ad-Hoc DNS Blocking

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) introduced the discussion by noting the GAC's concerns regarding the increasing use of ad-hoc DNS blocking by private service providers and the potential risks this may pose to the stability and interoperability of the Internet. He acknowledged the GAC's reference to the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) work on this topic, including *SAC127: DNS Blocking Revisited*.

Greg DiBiase explained that, from the Board's perspective, the Internet's distributed architecture allows network operators to make local operational decisions, and that ICANN's role does not extend to directing or controlling such decisions. At the same time, he noted that ICANN can contribute by developing and promoting guidance and educational resources on best practices, highlighting *SAC127* as an example of work that supports the stability and interoperability of the Internet. He indicated that the Board expected ICANN to continue supporting such efforts.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) observed broad alignment between the Board's comments and the GAC's position. He reiterated that the GAC's principal objectives were to encourage the continued development and dissemination of best practices relating to DNS blocking while avoiding Internet fragmentation. He further asked whether, beyond providing guidance and educational resources, the Board envisaged any additional role that ICANN could play in addressing ad-hoc DNS blocking without exceeding its remit.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) responded that he was not aware of additional actions beyond those already discussed but noted that ICANN continually considers potential threats to the security and stability of the Internet. He undertook to take the question back for further consideration to determine whether additional efforts, beyond education and guidance, might be appropriate within ICANN's mission and remit.

IV. Closing Remarks

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) thanked the Board and GAC members for their active and meaningful participation in the discussion.

Greg DiBiase (ICANN Board) thanked the GAC for its input submitted to the Board and expressed the Board's appreciation for the frank and constructive dialogue during the meeting.

Tripti Sinha (ICANN Board Chair) thanked participants and briefly summarized the principal discussion points and follow-up matters identified by the Board. She noted that the Board would continue to follow the Reviews CCG's work on the Review of Reviews; consider the GAC's proposal regarding a centralized DNS Abuse reporting mechanism; explore possibilities for expediting implementation of the authentication mechanism supporting urgent requests while continuing to support progress on registration data accuracy through the multistakeholder process; and follow up on the questions raised regarding the Pro Bono & Mentorship Service Providers List and facilitating connections between qualified applicants and development finance.

Tripti Sinha thanked Nicolas Caballero for his leadership of the GAC and acknowledged his constructive engagement with the Board throughout his term as GAC Chair. She noted that, although the community would meet again at ICANN87, this represented his final Board-GAC

Interaction Group meeting as GAC Chair. The meeting concluded with thanks to Nicolas Caballero for his service and leadership.

Attendees:

GAC

Nicolas Caballero, GAC Chair
Marina Flego Eiras, Argentina
Klaus Parrer, Austria
Suada Hadzovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
David Bedard, Canada
Rida Tahir, Canada
Guo Feng, China
Ji Yenan, China
Wang Lang, China
Thiago Dal-Toe, Colombia
Zdravko Jukić, Croatia
Mislav Hebel, Croatia
Finn Petersen, Denmark
Manal Ismail, Egypt
Christine Arida, Egypt
Gemma Carolillo, European Commission
Rudy Nolde , Germany
Frederik Wolf, Germany
Samantha Scotland, Guyana
T. Santhosh, India
Pradeep Verma, India
Aditya Vikram Dube, India
Shiva Upadhyay, India
Shivangi Patnak, India
Cathal McGuinness, Ireland
Adriano Daddario , Italy
Kazuki Imao, Japan
Tomonori Miyamoto, Japan
Zeina Bou Harb, Lebanon
Khaled Altarhuni, Libya

John Lewis, Montserrat
Marco Hogewoning, Netherlands
Zakir Syed, Pakistan
Wiktor Skwarek, Poland
Sasa Kovacevic, Serbia
Inaki Gil Osés, Spain
Wendy Palas, Republic of Suriname
Lucas Prêtre, Switzerland
Susan Chalmers , United States
Owen Fletcher, United States
William Rau, United States
Nigel Cassimire, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
Shanea Lewis, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
Djibril De
Tracy Hackshaw , Universal Postal Union

ICANN Board

Tripti Sinha
Greg DiBiase
Raúl Echeberría
James Galvin
David Lawrence
Miriam Sapiro
Leon Sanchez
Amitabh Singhal

ICANN Org

Eleeza Agopian
Lynette Caraway

Lisa Carter
Steve Chan
Jamie Hedlund
Alice Jansen
Janis Karklins
Jason Kean
Vinciane Koenigsfeld
Marika Konings
Matt Larson
Gino Marliani
Samantha Mancia
Sally Newell Cohen

Wendy Profit
Theresa Swinehart
Christian Wheeler
Isabelle Colas-Adeshina
Mukesh Chulani

ICANN GAC Support Staff

Lars Hoffmann
Fabien Betremieux
Julia Charvolen
Benedetta Rossi
Berry Cobb