Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) Call

7 April 2025 - 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 - GAC Vice Chair Marco Hogewoning and ICANN Board Member Becky Burr
- Discussion of the ICANN82 GAC Communiqué Issues of Importance

    1. Domain Name Registration Data:
        a. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data
        b. Registration Data Request Service
        c. Accuracy of Registration Data
        d. Other Public Policy Concerns Regarding Registration Data
    2. Next Round of New gTLDs:
        a. Applicant Support Program
        b. Application Fees and Refunds
        c. Global Outreach and Promotion of “ICANN In Your Language”
    3. ICANN Community Participant Code of Contact Concerning Statements of Interest
    4. DNS Abuse
    5. WSIS+20
- AOB
- Closing Remarks

Reference

- ICANN82 GAC Seattle Communiqué (17 March 2025)
- ICANN Board Comments on Issues of Importance in the ICANN82 GAC Seattle Communiqué (4 April 2025)

I. Opening Remarks

Tripti Sinha (ICANN Board Chair) expressed appreciation for GAC participants joining this discussion of the Issues of Importance to the GAC from the ICANN82 Communiqué. Tripti Sinha took a moment to remember Nigel Hickson, GAC representative from the United Kingdom, GAC Vice Chair and longstanding member of the ICANN community, who passed away recently. She noted that Nigel Hickson was not only a well-known member of the ICANN community but a dedicated and kind individual whose contributions to the Internet ecosystem made a lasting impact.

Attendees joined the Board Chair to observe a moment of silence in Nigel Hickson's memory.

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of the open and collaborative nature of the BGIG discussions. Marco Hogewoning had stepped in on the GAC Chair's behalf due to scheduling conflicts, and he thanked the Board Chair for the thoughtful sentiments regarding Nigel Hickson, noting that the GAC is planning to honor his memory at ICANN83.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) welcomed all attendees and noted the value of these GAC-Board calls to review Issues of Importance flagged by the GAC.

II. Discussion of the ICANN82 GAC Seattle Communiqué Issues of Importance

1. **Domain Name Registration Data:**

    a. **Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted the Board's acknowledgement of the status of the GAC's advice from ICANN79 to "act expeditiously to establish a clear process and a timeline for the delivery of a policy on Urgent Requests for domain name registration data, to respond to the vital public safety interests related to such requests. Such a process must ensure appropriate participation of the community, including the GAC." Becky Burr expressed the Board's appreciation of the productive trilateral calls between the GAC, Board and GNSO Council and its discussions on this topic with the GAC at ICANN82.

Becky Burr flagged the Board's understanding that the ICANN organization is ready to facilitate further conversations in EPDP Temp Spec Phase 1 Implementation Review Team (IRT) on a timeline for Urgent Requests. The GNSO Council had provided a communication to ICANN org

on 27 March, confirming its agreement with the GAC's suggestion that the discussion regarding the response time for Urgent Requests could continue within the IRT. Accordingly, ICANN org is now preparing the materials and expects to schedule IRT meetings beginning in mid-April. The current path forward, both with timeline discussions in the IRT and a Public Safety Working Group effort on authentication, appears to be in line with the GAC's suggestion from October 2024 to proceed in two parallel tracks.

Martina Barbero (European Commission) thanked the Board for the update and noted that restarting the conversation on Urgent Requests in the IRT in mid-April aligns with GAC input.

b. Domain Name Registration Data: Registration Data Request Service

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) expressed the Board's appreciation of the GAC's interest in maintaining and enhancing the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS). Throughout the RDRS pilot ICANN org has taken steps to improve the tool based on enhancement recommendations from the GNSO's RDRS Standing Committee, as outlined in Section 4.1 of the RDRS Annual Report. ICANN org also continues to collect RDRS user feedback through surveys and user experience interviews during the pilot's second year.

Becky Burr noted that the GNSO Standing Committee has also indicated that they do not plan to request any further enhancements to RDRS for the remainder of the pilot, as their focus shifts to drafting their findings report for the GNSO Council.

Becky Burr flagged the Board's support for mandatory participation of gTLD registrars in line with the EPDP policy recommendations, and the possible need for policy development work to require the participation of registrar-affiliated privacy/proxy service providers in RDRS. She noted that the Board and the GAC appear to be aligned on this topic.

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) thanked the Board for their feedback on this topic, and expressed interest for the Board's consideration of including ccTLDs in the RDRS, to enhance its value.

c. Domain Name Registration Data: Accuracy of gTLD Registration Data

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) outlined the Board's understanding of the GAC's position on moving forward on matters pertaining to accuracy of gTLD registration data. She noted the Board's appreciation of the GAC's participation in the GNSO's continuing work on registration data accuracy, and highlighted the GNSO Council's discussion during ICANN82 of next steps, including reviewing the various inputs to the Council's questions on accuracy and determining where there is overlap in community concerns, in an effort to determine how best to address

the issue, such as via policy work. The Board is looking forward to the outcomes from the GNSO Council's discussions on how to move forward.

With regard to data on current levels of compliance with existing requirements related to accuracy in ICANN's Registrar Accreditation Agreement ("RAA"), Becky Burr flagged the Board's understanding that ICANN Contractual Compliance ("Compliance") has published additional data related to audits of current accuracy-related requirements tested in past rounds of the Registrar Audit Program of the RAA. The Board understands that Compliance will continue to include accuracy-related testing in ongoing audits, including the 2025 Registrar audit and will make this data available as part of their regular reporting. The Board welcomes more information from the GAC on what additional information it would find helpful in light of data processing limitations that exist under applicable data protection laws/regulations and the existing contractual requirements, as detailed in ICANN's Assessment of Registration Data Accuracy Scenarios report that was provided to the GNSO Council.

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) commented that a conversation between the Board and the GAC should continue in future meetings and noted the Board's request for additional information from the GAC.

d. Domain Name Registration Data: Other Public Policy Concerns Regarding Registration Data

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) took note of GAC concerns related to tracking developments on the collection and publication of registration information and indicated that the EPDP Phase 2A recommendations are in the queue for implementation. She noted that these are subject to the completion of EPDP Phase 1 implementation work now underway. Becky Burr emphasized that the Phase 2A recommendations relating to data of legal persons are implementation guidance that is not binding on contracted parties, as reflected in the Board's resolution on the recommendations. In other words, the EPDP Phase 2A recommendations on the creation of fields that differentiate between legal and natural person registration data, and whether that registration data contains personal or non-personal data, are optional for contracted parties that choose to implement these. The EPDP team had developed this guidance to assist those contracted parties that decide to differentiate.

Becky Burr further indicated that Compliance enforces the requirements established in the Registry Agreement, RAA, and ICANN Consensus Policies, as recognized in the ICANN Bylaws, but that guidance and best practices exist outside of these agreements and do not create contractual requirements. Therefore, Compliance does not have the authority to take enforcement action against a contracted party for failing to implement such best practices or guidance, even if these were developed through a community process.

Regarding reseller data, the Board recalls that the EPDP Phase 1 team recommended that the collection, transfer, and publication of the reseller field remain optional. The Registration Data Policy reflects this recommendation.

Finally, Becky Burr indicated that there was an important European court decision the previous week regarding the issue of personal data that is included in data about a legal person. She noted that this case underscores the importance of focusing on the matter of inclusion of personal data about natural persons.

2. **Next Round of New gTLDs:**

    a. **Applicant Support Program**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) expressed the Board's appreciation of the GAC's willingness to help with local, national, and regional outreach and engagement activities. The Board understands that ICANN org is providing monthly updates on the Applicant Support Program (ASP), including application statistics and geographical distribution, communications, and engagement activities, via the IRT and through the regional staff teams in each ICANN region. This information is also available here.

Becky Burr noted the Board's understanding that ICANN org's Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) of Global Stakeholder Engagement will work with GAC members (and other community members, as appropriate) that express interest in helping with outreach and engagement in their respective countries. The RVPs will be equipped to provide guidance about which countries may need more attention for awareness-raising and engagement activities.

To ensure the privacy of applicant data, the Board will not be asking ICANN org to publish reports on application numbers for specific countries.

Becky Burr further expressed the Board's continued appreciation for the community's ongoing role in raising global awareness and interest in the ASP and the Next Round, and requested that GAC members continue working with their RVPs going forward.

Tracy Hackshaw (Universal Postal Union), asked for clarification about the expected interaction between the RVPs and GAC members, since specific country names are not published in reports on application numbers.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) responded that the ICANN org RVPs intend to liaise with GAC members and other ICANN community members from these regions to identify potential applicants and move forward with the application process and help with outreach and engagement in their respective countries. Becky Burr noted that ICANN org RVPs have the information about which countries may need more attention pertaining to outreach and

engagement, and they will engage with GAC members and other community members from these regions to identify the best ways of collectively spreading the word and identifying potential applicants.

Tracy Hackshaw (Universal Postal Union) responded that a proactive interaction or meeting with ICANN org RVPs for engagement and GAC members in these regions would be helpful. This would particularly help to share information and further identify what countries require additional outreach.

Kurtis Lindqvist (ICANN President and CEO) responded that a meeting with RVPs and GAC members could be arranged, and added that this topic is also part of the scope of the Ambassador Program, which can help promote the ASP in these countries.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) recognized the concerns expressed by some GAC members about the number of ASP applications that are still in the early stages of the application process. The Board has been informed that ICANN org has proactively reached out directly to these applicants to provide ASP application readiness materials, including a Quick Start Guide, an ASP Applicant Checklist, and an ASP Application System User Guide. Additionally, the ICANN Board has asked ICANN org to identify any obstacles that may be hindering progress and to address them to remedy them.

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) thanked the Board for this response, while noting that GAC members remain interested in learning what GAC members can do to remove any national or regional obstacles that may be hindering the ASP application process.

b. Next Round of New gTLDs: Application Fees and Refunds

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted the Board's understanding pertaining to the GAC's continued uncertainty about the level of support or fee reduction for the gTLD evaluation fee. She recalled the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) for the ASP which was tasked with recommending a methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants. Following full consensus within the GGP Team – of which the GAC was an active participant – on all nine guidance recommendations and the subsequent GNSO Council Supermajority approval, the Board adopted all nine guidance recommendations. The Board understands that ICANN org worked with the ASP-IRT to determine a "minimum level of support" inline with the GGP recommendations, to support as many applicants as possible on an equal basis and to provide a meaningful level of support. Based upon input from the ASP-IRT, the Board understands that the draft ASP Handbook that was issued for Public Comment proposed a range of 50-85%. Public comments received indicated that 50% was too low to be meaningful and the ASP-IRT advised a 75-85% range, which was published in the ASP Handbook

and adopted by the Board.

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) expressed the sentiment that more clarity on information pertaining to refunds that may be applicable would be welcome, since a difference in percentage may significantly impact potential applicants.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board is sympathetic to the fact that adopting a range of support does not provide certainty to ASP applicants, while recognizing that the multiple steps of ICANN's multistakeholder process – in which the GAC participated – informed this approach and decision. Ultimately, the level of support provided above 75% will be determined by the number of qualified applicants. Changing the minimum range of support would run counter to the aforementioned multistakeholder processes and the information published in the Board-adopted ASP Handbook, and could reduce the number of applicants that could be supported as a result.

Tracy Hackshaw (Universal Postal Union), responded that the challenge GAC members face when participating in policy processes remains the fact that individual GAC members are not able to represent GAC collective views in the process. Tracy Hackshaw asked the Board to consider this procedural challenge when developing responses to GAC input on policy matters.

c. Next Round of New gTLDs: Global Outreach and Promotion of "ICANN In Your Language"

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted the Board's appreciation of the GAC's support for language diversification via the recently announced New gTLD Program In YOUR Language. The Board understands that the New gTLD Program in YOUR Language is the mechanism by which the community can request additional translations of materials, beyond the six ICANN languages. ICANN org created this process to partner with volunteers from the ICANN community in order to provide translation for New gTLD Program materials when they are requested (in other words, on demand), and hence the program's success will also depend on close collaboration between ICANN and volunteer community reviewers.

The Board anticipates that ICANN's Communications and Engagement teams will continue to raise awareness of this new initiative among the ICANN community and prospective gTLD applicants.

3. ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated the Board's appreciation of the GAC's continued support for the development of an ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest, including the Public Comment submitted by the GAC and the GAC's

participation in the ICANN82 session on enforcement.

The Board anticipates a further draft to be posted for Public Comment by May 2025, taking the community's input into account, and looks forward to the GAC's further participation.

Becky Burr noted that this is an area where the GAC and the Board continue to be aligned on the critical importance of transparency with respect to Statements of Interest.

4. **DNS Abuse**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated the Board's appreciation of GAC members' interest and involvement in ongoing community discussions on the topic of DNS Abuse. The Board shares the GAC's perspective on the importance of wider community discourse, complemented by regular outreach and reporting by ICANN on measurements and analysis of the effectiveness of the DNS Abuse contractual amendments, to inform further work on this topic. Compliance has provided, and will continue to provide, regular updates on the enforcement of the DNS Abuse mitigation requirements, including publishing monthly reports on their enforcement. On 8 November 2024, Compliance published a six-month report including additional context and examples about the specific enforcement actions taken from 5 April 2024 through 5 October 2024. Compliance intends to publish a one-year of enforcement report and will conduct a dedicated webinar on 23 April 2025 about ICANN's Enforcement of DNS Abuse Mitigation Requirements – A Look at the First Year".

Becky Burr encouraged GAC members to share any additional information that would be helpful to Compliance in addition to the regular reporting mentioned.

The Board supports the statement by the GAC that it is essential for all contracted parties to cooperate to the utmost extent in the fulfillment of their contractual obligations. Beyond the language noted on abuse complaints filed by law enforcement authorities, ICANN accredited registrars must comply with Section 3.7.2 of the RAA on Business Dealings, Including with Registered Name Holders, noting that "registrar(s) shall abide by applicable laws and governmental regulations."

Becky Burr noted that the Contracted Parties continue to hold outreach meetings on actions taken relating to DNS Abuse. Within the near term, this topic will feature prominently in ICANN's Middle East DNS Forum (29-30 April 2025 in Manama, Bahrain), Contracted Parties Summit (5-7 May 2025 in Hanoi, Vietnam), and Asia-Pacific DNS Forum (8-9 May in Hanoi, Vietnam). Such actions will help to further determine what additional measures might be needed to continue to mitigate DNS abuse.

Additionally, ICANN's Office of CTO Security, Stability, and Resiliency (OCTO-SSR) research team

aims to continue enhancing the methodology and data to develop DNS Abuse metrics. The ICANN Domain Metrica platform released its first module for the ICANN community in January 2025, which allows community members to gather additional one-time and historical information on DNS Abuse related to domains, registrars and gTLDs.

Becky Burr noted that, more broadly OCTO-SSR is keen on researching the following two questions: "What are the main factors that drive DNS Abuse?" and "How can we predict and mitigate an abusive domain before its registration, from historical patterns"? The INFERMAL study was funded to look into the first question.

The Board and ICANN org appreciate the GAC's input, and will continue to receive suggestions from the community on where to take the INFERMAL study next. ICANN org also welcomes proposals from individual researchers and teams who are willing to conduct further research on the topic.

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) thanked Becky Burr for the thorough response on a topic of continued interest and importance, and thanked ICANN org for the work conducted to date. **Martina Barbero** (European Commission) also thanked the Board and ICANN org for the work and for the information provided by Compliance and OCTO. In terms of enhancing the data received, she asked if formatting could potentially be reviewed since the current compliance reports are not in a machine readable format nor Excel, which means that to review the data or analyze it it needs to be done manually.

Susan Chalmers (United States of America) agreed with the points made by the European Commission pertaining to open data and thanked ICANN org for the work conducted to date. The United States government looks forward to continued collaboration on this topic.

5. **WSIS+20**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the ICANN Board welcomes the GAC's continued engagement in the WSIS+20 process and for facilitating valuable exchanges between stakeholders. ICANN's WSIS+20 project team remains committed to providing regular updates on key events, discussions, and outcomes to ensure the GAC stays informed. She noted that as subject matter experts, GAC members have the capacity to work closer with their respective colleagues from the Permanent Missions to the United Nations who will be taking part in the WSIS+20 negotiations. In this context, ICANN's Government Engagement team is available for any information that GAC members or diplomats in New York and in Geneva might need.

III. Any Other Business

Tracy Hackshaw (Universal Postal Union) noted that an item that remains on the GAC's radar as one of importance is the translation of materials for the Next Round of New gTLDs. In particular, he noted the ICANN in YOUR Language effort, which the GAC supports; however, he mentioned that this would not apply to the Applicant Guidebook (which will be translated in the ICANN languages only). Tracy Hackshaw further underscored GAC concerns on this item, asking the ICANN Board to see if the Applicant Guidebook could indeed be included in the project to further promote the program, by including further translations.

Kurtis Lindqvist (ICANN President and CEO) noted that a challenging part of the Applicant Guidebook rests in the fact that its legal status is the English version, i.e. this will be the only version with any legal standing. There are also work load concerns with adding further translations of the AGB. He will pursue the question with the New gTLD team to follow up on this item.

IV. Closing Remarks

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair) thanked the Board and GAC members for their active and meaningful participation in the discussion.

Tripti Sinha thanked attendees for their engagement and a constructive discussion, which she noted covered many important topics. She emphasized that the ICANN Board takes the GAC's input very seriously, and will continue to follow up on these matters.

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Attendees:

GAC
Marco Hogewoning, Netherlands
Marina Flego Eiras, Argentina
Klaus Parrer, Austria
Maria Chiara Properzi, Belgium
Marisa Stones, Bermuda
Rida Tahir, Canada
Wang Lang, China
Mislav Hebel, Croatia
Marketa Petrunova, Czech Republic
Finn Petersen , Denmark
Christine Arida, Egypt
Manal Ismail, Egypt
Martina Barbero, European Commission
Anna Jelletoft, European Commission
Rudy Nolde , Germany
Vincent Roberts, Grenada
Eoin Carney, Ireland
Adriano Daddario , Italy
Tomonori Miyamoto, Japan
Zeina BOU HARB, Lebanon
Amina Ramallan, Nigeria
Aderonke Adeniyi Adeniyi (Sola-Ogunsola), Nigeria
Emmanuel Edet, Nigeria
Deolindo Costa, Sao Tome and Principe
Waleed Aloriny, Saudi Arabia
Jakub Kubaň , Slovakia
Meltem Ergün , Türkiye
Gloria Katuuku, Uganda
Susan Chalmers , United States
Owen Fletcher, United States
Isabel Gates, United States
Peter Mujtaba, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization
Tracy Hackshaw , Universal Postal Union
Neema Lugangira, Chair of African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance (APNIG)

ICANN Board
Tripti Sinha
Amitabh Singhal
Alan Barrett
Amitabh Singhal
Becky Burr
Chris Buckridge
David Lawrence
James Galvin
León Sánchez
Patricio Poblete
Wes Hardaker

ICANN Org
Kurtis Lindqvist
Amy Bivins
Andrew Chen
Bob Ochieng
Christian Wheeler
Maeva Devoto
Jamie Hedlund
Laurent Ferrali
John Jeffrey
Sally Newell Cohen
Vinciane Koenigsfeld
Karen Lentz
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