

Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) Call

7 October 2025 - 1300 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 Chair Nicolas Caballero and ICANN Board Member Becky Burr
- Discussion of the ICANN83 GAC Communiqué Issues of Importance
 1. Domain Name Registration Data:
 - a. Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)
 - b. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data
 - c. Accuracy of Registration Data
 2. DNS Abuse
 3. Next Round of New gTLDs:
 - a. Implementation Review Team (IRT)
 - b. Applicant Support Program
 - c. GAC Readiness
 4. Governance of the Regional Internet Registries
 5. Communique Statements of Interest (SOI)
 6. Deferral of the Fourth ICANN Accountability and Transparency Review (ATR4)
- AOB
- Closing Remarks

Reference

- [ICANN83 GAC Prague Communiqué](#) (16 June 2025)
- [ICANN Board Comments on Issues of Importance in the ICANN83 GAC Prague Communiqué](#) (1 October 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 ICANN83 Communiqué, which will help shape discussions at ICANN84 in Dublin. Tripti Sinha also thanked the GAC for its ICANN83 advice on DNS Abuse which the Board acted upon on 14 September 2025.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of the open and collaborative nature of the BGIG discussions. He acknowledged Becky Burr's contributions to the GAC and Board interactions in the last nine years, as co-chair of the BGIG.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) welcomed all attendees, noting the value of these GAC-Board calls to review Issues of Importance flagged by the GAC and reflecting on the improvements in Board and GAC interactions over the last nine years.

II. Discussion of the ICANN83 GAC Prague Communiqué Issues of Importance

1. Domain Name Registration Data:

a. Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board, like the GAC, looks forward to discussing the draft final report of the RDRS Standing Committee issued in August 2025 with the GNSO Council later in the year. The Board shares the GAC's concerns regarding reduced use of the tool in light of several registrars' withdrawal from the pilot and notes that over 47% of domains under management are still represented by registrars remaining in the pilot. The Board welcomes the recommendation of the RDRS Standing Committee in the draft final report to continue operating RDRS beyond the pilot's end in November 2025 – until a long-term solution is in place. As such, the Board will be considering what it needs to do to formally ensure that that happens. The Board reiterates its support for implementation of the following previously identified enhancements as necessary for RDRS:

- Mandatory participation of gTLD registrars in line with policy recommendations from the EPDP.
- Development of an authentication/accreditation mechanism in parallel with the Board-GAC-GNSO Council discussion on a timeline for processing urgent requests
- Development of requirements for an API for both requestors and registrars.
- Consistent policies governing access to nonpublic registration data for domains registered under privacy/proxy providers and policy development to require

registrar-affiliated privacy/proxy service providers to participate in RDRS.

- Development of options to support voluntary ccTLD participation in RDRS by ccTLDs using RDAP.

Becky Burr flagged that as noted during ICANN83, the Board has requested that ICANN org provide a comprehensive analysis of which envisioned enhancements to RDRS require new policy development and which enhancements could be completed based on existing recommendations or policies. This review, when complete, (i.e. shortly) will be useful in outlining possible next steps for RDRS, as the GNSO Council considers the outstanding SSAD policy recommendations. The Board supports the GAC's request to ensure RDRS incorporates future authentication solutions for law enforcement requestors, as part of the authentication work track for Urgent Requests, and acknowledges that requiring contracted parties to include links to RDRS or a successor system from the Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS) would require additional policy work.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) asked the Board when the GNSO Standing Committee's final report will be delivered.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) flagged that the public comment is closed, comments are being reviewed by the standing committee and are being included in the final draft of the report. This should be ready after Dublin, i.e. by the end of the calendar year.

b. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board, like the GAC, appreciated the willingness and continued community interest in developing an urgent request timeline. She noted that the Registration Data Policy Implementation Review Team (IRT) is at work with the aim to establish an agreed timeline as quickly as possible. Saw great collaboration in the community.

The Board has been very clear on its views that the response to an urgent request from authenticated law enforcement needs to be fit for purpose. As such the Board is pleased that there is movement forward on this timeline.

Becky Burr indicated that the IRT held a fourth discussion on the proposals to achieve an alignment on the concepts within them although at the present time there isn't full alignment. Additional sessions are scheduled and the Board Privacy and Data Protection Caucus has been briefed on the status of those discussions. She noted that the GAC's collaboration has been invaluable in achieving this result.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) asked whether the Board could share any insights following the

four IRT sessions on urgent requests.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) responded there is a large degree of alignment but not full alignment. Registrars in particular have not coalesced around the standard which includes a proposal for a response or acknowledgement within 24-hours but with the provision of an additional 72-hour period in appropriate circumstances. Becky Burr shared the Board's gratitude for GAC participants' flexibility in terms of that additional emergency timeline.

T Santhosh (India) reiterated that regarding the urgency of the policy finalization despite multiple GAC Communiqués, the absence of an agreed response timeline on urgent requests continues to pose a significant risk to the effective law enforcement and cybersecurity coordination. He added that the Board's response notes progress, but lacks clarity on completion targets. T Santhosh further reiterated India's support of the GAC's position that authenticated urgent requests should be responded to in 24 hours, which is a timeframe already acknowledged by ICANN org in its proposal. Pertaining to the integration of the authentication track he noted that the progress in the authentication track, led by the GAC Public Safety Working Group, is essential for the credibility of any timeline-based framework. As such, India asked ICANN org to ensure interoperability between the authentication mechanism and disclosure workflows under the earlier track which was discussed, that is on RDRS or its successor system.

Gemma Carolillo (European Commission) agreed with Becky Burr and Nicolas Caballero that the GAC has a good delegation representing them on the IRT, including the European Commission, Canada, United States. Gemma Carolillo noted that an additional point needs to be addressed and discussed by the GAC, Board and GNSO Council about how to integrate the timeline and authentication systems since there is a parallel work that the PSWG is leading. This process needs to be rubber stamped in policy. She noted that the European Commission's position on this is that a brand new policy development process on authentications shouldn't be started while a policy is being implemented via the IRT.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board would take this back for further review.

c. Accuracy of Registration Data

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) The Board is pleased that the GNSO Council in August adopted four preliminary recommendations from the Council's Small Team on accuracy on possible next steps and looks forward to hearing from the Council how it will proceed with those recommendations. In the meantime, ICANN Contractual Compliance (Compliance) enforces accuracy-related requirements via investigations resulting from external complaints, as well as audits to assess compliance with the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA). Becky Burr

noted that in July 2025, Compliance launched the Registrar Program audit, by issuing the Request for Information (RFI) to selected registrar auditees and that the 2025 RFI includes accuracy-related requirements under the RAA, specifically, requirements related to verification, validation and accuracy-related investigations, and how registrars handle them. The Board understands that the RFI was refined from prior RFIs to further test the selected auditees' compliance with these requirements. As with prior audits, Compliance has committed to providing accuracy specific reporting following the conclusion of the 2025 audit. Prior accuracy audit reports are available [here](#) and [here](#).

Jamie Hedlund (ICANN org) noted that the audit is expected to conclude by the end of the calendar year, but that this is pending the publishing of a general report for public consumption once Compliance is finished auditing all registrars.

Owen Fletcher (United States) in last communique GAC expressed interest in shortening the current 15-day timeline for Registrars to verify the syntactical and operational accuracy of registrant contact information once a domain is registered or transferred, and this appears to align with the GNSO Small Team recommendations. He asked the Board for its input on this shortening of the timeframe, and any other recommendations of the GNSO Small Team.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board hasn't discussed this formally yet, and that the Board is interested in reviewing results from the audit. Shortening the 15-day period is on the table, among other options which the Board is yet to discuss.

T Santhosh (India) noted that the 15-day validation timeline allows malicious domains to be weaponized before validation occurs, noting that India urges ICANN to initiate policy or a contractual action to reduce the verification timeline, preferably to a real-time or near-realtime validation at the point of administration. Furthermore, he noted that India recommends that the future RAA revisions incorporate automated verification standards, integrating registrar systems with other authoritative databases where it is legally permissible to.

2. DNS Abuse

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that this topic is a longstanding topic for discussion between the Board and the GAC due to the world's evolving environment. As the Board and GAC discussed on 31 July 2025, the Bylaws spell out specific steps required to initiate a PDP. These steps are necessary to ensure that PDPs are properly scoped and undertaken in compliance with ICANN's mission, commitments, and core values. She noted that the Board is pleased that the GNSO Council has recently requested an Issue Report from ICANN org on DNS Abuse, as recommended by the GNSO small team on DNS Abuse. The Issue Report will include an exploration of the three policy enhancements highlighted by the GAC as priority items, as well as additional items discussed in the Small Team's report, and a proposal for a narrowly

chartered PDP(s) that can be completed swiftly.

Becky Burr noted that the Board encourages the GAC to review the Preliminary Issue Report during the public comment period. The Board is encouraged by the momentum that has been built within the community to seek practical and meaningful solutions to address DNS Abuse. The Board looks forward to the analysis that will be performed by ICANN staff in the development of the Issue Report. This report will help identify any gaps in contractual obligations and/or best practices appropriate for policy development or other mechanisms.

Becky Burr indicated that the Board recognizes the critical role of the Issue Report in advising the GNSO Council on whether a PDP is warranted and if so, on what issues/gaps and that the Bylaws-mandated step to develop the Issue Report is in place to ensure that a PDP is appropriately scoped within ICANN's Mission and the policy issues are well defined. While this means that a PDP will not be finally initiated by ICANN84, the Board appreciates the commitment from the community and ICANN staff to establish the foundation to initiate the PDP as expeditiously as possible, presuming the Council determines a PDP is warranted. While the GNSO Council's Small Team on DNS Abuse has recommended that the GNSO Council initiate a narrowly focused PDP, the GNSO Council will ultimately decide whether or not to launch a PDP following community input on a Preliminary Issue Report and consideration of the Final Issue Report transmitted to the Council.

Becky Burr noted that the Board also urges the Council to continue to prioritize this topic, to consider the Issue Report at its earliest availability, and to act decisively without undue delay on the matter of initiating a PDP. Additionally, she noted that ICANN org has briefed the GAC topic co-leads on the path to launching a PDP on DNS Abuse before the end of the year. To this end, the Board urges the ICANN organization to provide all necessary support to enable a timely initiation and conduct of a potential PDP, and stands ready to assist and support the successful conclusion of this important project.

Susan Chalmers (United States) indicated that GAC topic co-leads have drafted a preliminary draft submission on the Issues Report which is currently being reviewed by the full GAC. As such the GAC is paying close attention to this matter and will continue to engage.

3. Next Round of New gTLDs:

a. Implementation Review Team (IRT)

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) expressed the Board's appreciation of the work conducted to date by the IRT, ICANN org and community volunteers, which speaks to the strength of the ICANN community.

b. Applicant Support Program

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted the Board's alignment with the GAC on the importance of the Applicant Support Program (ASP). The Board understands that ICANN's regional VPs for Global Stakeholder Engagement are able to share country-level statistics with GAC members with the purpose of informing additional outreach and engagement efforts. The Board understands that, during ICANN83, ICANN staff proposed that if a GAC member would like to offer targeted outreach and support to ASP applicants from their country, they are welcome to share a government point of contact that ICANN org staff can then share with ASP applicants. This allows the ASP applicant to reach out to their government for support, if they choose, without ICANN compromising the business confidentiality of the ASP applicant. During the Board/GAC clarification call, the Board heard the GAC indicate that they would prefer ICANN staff reach out to ASP applicants to get their consent to share identifying information about them with the government indicated in the applicant's jurisdiction; the Board notes that even with consent there are data governance as well as privacy and personal data protection concerns with this approach. On data governance, ICANN maintains strict internal controls to protect the confidentiality of applicant data.

Becky Burr indicated that the Board understands the GAC is concerned about the progress of the ASP and the rate at which applications are being completed and processed. To this date there are three completed applications and a total of 42 started. The Board, in its response to the GAC/ALAC joint letter on the ASP, submitted a comprehensive report and subsequently announced that the application timeline will remain open for several additional weeks. As indicated in the Board response, the Board understands that ICANN staff proposed, and subsequently held, a discussion with the GAC and ALAC broader to share updates on efforts to date to support applicants in the ASP pipeline, as well as to gather input and ideas from the GAC and broader community on how to best support applicant progression.

Tracy Hackshaw (Universal Postal Union) asked the Board if there would be intensification of outreach and engagement efforts in regions that appear to be struggling with submitting and completing applications for the ASP, namely the LAC region.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) responded that ICANN org's engagement team has continued its outreach and has focused specifically on the Asia Pacific, LAC and Middle Eastern regions. Becky Burr indicated that Board members from the LAC region confirmed that there has been a significant, robust and visible presence and outreach in the LAC region which is unfortunately not producing the intended results. Becky Burr further noted that the ASP is a program that will continue in future rounds and that ICANN org will continue to learn from, specifically about what the impediments are, which may not all be within ICANN's control.

c. GAC Readiness

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted the Board is aware of the importance of preparing GAC members to effectively participate in the Next Round of new gTLDs. The Board agrees with the importance of facilitating GAC readiness and strongly supports collaborative efforts—among GAC volunteers, ICANN community, staff, and Board to achieve this. The Board recognizes that there continues to be annual turnover in GAC membership and that the new gTLD Program is anticipated to span several years. Therefore, ensuring that content, materials, recordings are “evergreen” and Next Round subject matter experts are available to new incoming GAC members will be important components to support ongoing GAC readiness. In service of this aim, the Board understands that ICANN staff are working on capacity development/readiness materials as well as options for GAC leadership to consider in relation to engaging and supporting GAC members prior to the opening of the new gTLD Program and on an ongoing basis throughout the Next Round.

4. Governance of the Regional Internet Registries

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated that the Board welcomes the timely and important work of the ASO in reviewing Internet Coordination Policy 2. The Board encourages the GAC to continue its engagement with the ASO Address Council and also encourages governments to participate in RIR consultations. The Board notes that the second draft of the RIR Governance Document is currently available for Public Comment through 7 November and encourages governments to consider submitting input, particularly on areas that the GAC identified for more information. The Board also notes that ICANN has not provided substantive input on the second draft and shares the GAC’s interest in the broader community discussion.

5. Community Statements of Interest (SOI)

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated the Board considered community input on the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest and the Board adopted the Code of Conduct. ICANN org will be supporting the community in the roll out of the Code of Conduct, including in the development of forms, tools and training.

6. Deferral of the Fourth ICANN Accountability and Transparency Review (ATRT4)

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board is aligned with the GAC and agrees that reviews are fundamental to ensuring that ICANN delivers on its mission in compliance with its commitments and core values. She indicated that the Board is pleased that the cross community group launched and ensured that the Board will continue to support this effort. Finally, Becky Burr noted that there was a parallel effort to consider amendments to the ICANN Bylaws which the Board recently discussed and will be bringing some proposals to the

community for consideration shortly.

IV. Closing Remarks

Nicolas Caballero (GAC 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 thanked Becky Burr for facilitating this meeting, noting this is her last meeting as co-chair of the BGIG and thanked her for all her invaluable contributions and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees:

GAC

Nicolas Caballero, GAC Chair

Klaus Parrer, Austria

David Bedard, Canada

Rida Tahir, Canada

Thiago Dal-Toe, Colombia

Mislav Hebel, Croatia

Finn Petersen , Denmark

Christine Arida, Egypt

Manal Ismail, Egypt

Gemma Carolillo, European Commission

Martina Barbero, European Commission

Rudy Nolde , Germany

Samantha Scotland, Guyana

T. Santhosh, India

Pradeep Verma, India

Eoin Carney, Ireland

Adriano Daddario , Italy

Kazuki Imao, Japan

Tomonori Miyamoto, Japan

Zeina BOU HARB, Lebanon

Christophe Pierre, Monaco

Marco Hogewoning, Netherlands

Maike Veenstra, Netherlands

Babagana Digima, Nigeria

Aderonke (Adeniyi) Sola-Ogunsola, Nigeria

Viacheslav Erokhin, Russian Federation

Waleed Aloriny, Saudi Arabia

Sasa Kovacevic, Serbia

Jakub Kubaň , Slovakia

Lucas Pretre, Switzerland

Cheng-Nan Chiang, Chinese Taipei

Craig Stanley-Adamson, United Kingdom

Esther Jaromitski, United Kingdom

Susan Chalmers , United States

Owen Fletcher, United States

Gabriel Andrews, PSWG

Shanea Lewis, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

Tracy Hackshaw , Universal Postal Union

ICANN Board

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Amitabh Singhal
Alan Barrett
Becky Burr
Chris Buckridge
Gregory DiBiase
James Galvin
Patricio Poblete
Raul Echeberria
Sarah Deutsch

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Christian Wheeler
Eleeza Agopian
Elena Plexida
Erika Randall
Isabelle Colas-Adeshina
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