Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) Call

10 February 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 - Tripti Sinha
- Opening Remarks - Nicolas Caballero and Becky Burr
- Discussion of the ICANN81 GAC Communiqué Issues of Importance

    1. Next Round of New gTLDs: Applicant Support Program: Outreach, Engagement and Communications
    2. Next Round of New gTLDs: Applicant Support Program: Application and Evaluation Fees
    3. Next Round of New gTLDs: Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets
    4. Next Round of New gTLDs: Latin Script Diacritics
    5. General Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct on Statements of Interest
    6. DNS Abuse
    7. Domain Name Registration Data: Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)
    8. Domain Name Registration Data: Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Implementation
    9. Domain Name Registration Data: Accuracy of Domain Name Registration Data
    10. Domain Name Registration Data: Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data
    11. Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2)

- AOB
- Closing Remarks

Reference

- [ICANN81 GAC Istanbul Communiqué](#) (18 November 2024)
- [ICANN Board Comments on Issues of Importance in the ICANN81 GAC Istanbul Communiqué](#) (29 January 2025)

I. Opening Remarks

Tripti Sinha (ICANN Board Chair) expressed appreciation for GAC participants joining this discussion of Issues of Importance to the GAC from the ICANN80 Communiqué. Tripti Sinha reviewed the agenda for the meeting and welcomed Kurtis Lindqvist, ICANN President and CEO to the call, noting this is the first meeting of the BGIG he is joining. Tripti Sinha called for Board members to recuse themselves as needed throughout the meeting depending on the topics under discussion, and to place themselves in the Zoom waiting room accordingly.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) welcomed all participants highlighting the importance of the open and collaborative nature of the BGIG discussions.

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 ICANN81 GAC Istanbul Communiqué Issues of Importance

Recusals: David Lawrence (ICANN Board), Wes Harding (ICANN Board), and Chris Buckridge (ICANN Board) recused themselves from the first four agenda items pertaining to the Next Round of New gTLDs.

1. **Next Round of New gTLDs: Applicant Support Program: Outreach, Engagement and Communications**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that ICANN org looks forward to continued collaboration with GAC members on country and regional level targeting for the duration of the outreach, communication, and engagement efforts currently underway. This will include continued direct communication between ICANN org - primarily the Regional VPs - and GAC members, in both formally structured settings, such as regional webinars and ICANN public meetings, as well as in less formal conversations. Given the workload and turnover that GAC members experience, ICANN org will maintain its monthly IRT Outreach updates and briefings at ICANN meetings - open to all community members. This will enable the GAC to collectively and as individual

members, suggest target organizations, methods of approach, and direct introductions to public sector and country-based organizations where they are able to do so.

Becky Burr flagged that ICANN org will continue to update the body of outreach materials available on the Next Round website, including the Champions Toolkit, which is available in the ICANN languages. ICANN org will also continue offering training and demonstration sessions of the toolkit, and remind GAC members of the offer of remote ICANN org speakers or assistance from ICANN Engagement team members in producing and delivering local events or webinars.

With regard to translations, Becky Burr noted ICANN org's awareness of the GAC's and broader ICANN community's desire to have Next Round outreach materials available in languages beyond the ICANN languages. To be responsive to this request, and while taking into account resource availability, ICANN org will be launching a program that will make use of new and available technologies that will allow the development of translations of existing materials in additional languages beyond the ICANN languages, based on demand. More information about this program will be provided during ICANN82.

Nigel Hickson (United Kingdom) expressed appreciation for the work of ICANN org since the last GAC/Board session at ICANN81, and confirmed that GAC members have been receiving detailed information from ICANN org, and within the Implementation Review Team. Nigel Hickson noted that it is still early to evaluate the results of the outreach efforts, and while the majority of applications initiated are from North America, a lot of work is still needed to engage developing countries, especially in Africa where numbers are low.

2. **Next Round of New gTLDs: Applicant Support Program: Application and Evaluation Fees**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that ICANN org understands and acknowledges the financial challenges that potential ASP applicants may face, even allowing for the maximum evaluation fee waiver and the provision of pro bono assistance. She explained that the 75-85% discount for applicable gTLD evaluation fees for supported gTLD applicants is a percentage-based discount that reflects the same level of discount provided to supported applicants in the 2012 round and that the SubPro Final Report did not indicate changes to the level of fee reduction provided. In the ASP Funding Plan that was reviewed with the IRT and updated following the public comment on the ASP Handbook, the ASP-IRT Sub-track advised that the minimum should be 75%. Based upon ASP-IRT and public comment input, the ASP Handbook indicates a 75-85% fee reduction, depending on the number of applicants that qualify for support.

Becky Burr further noted that ICANN org efforts to broaden the scope of outreach activities

commencing in 2025 will include efforts in Europe and North America that focus on targeting organizations the GAC has mentioned, including: development banks, financial and grant-making institutions, the investor community, sovereign funds, as well as economic development agencies of both national governments and IGOs. While ICANN org is known by, and has contacts in, many of these entities, GAC suggestions, advice and offers of introductions to these institutions are welcome.

Noting that ICANN org is not in a position to broker direct links between funders and applicants, Becky Burr indicated that ICANN org will encourage funding organizations to make themselves known to, and interact with, potential applicants while identifying venues and platforms that facilitate such connections. GAC members are invited to contact regional ICANN Engagement team members and to attend the monthly IRT Outreach updates.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) asked whether the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) or other banking institutions in Latin America were contacted by ICANN org.

Chris Mondini (ICANN org) responded that some of those organizations are on the list, and that additionally ICANN org has commenced outreach to the World Bank, via the Head of Technology Transformation, as well as the Asian Development Bank, and several large foundations in North America and Europe. ICANN org has started reaching out to these institutions weekly and will be reporting this on the monthly engagement calls.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) thanked ICANN org for the update and expressed interest in a regional list of the institutions ICANN is working with.

3. **Next Round of New gTLDs: Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted this topic stems from the conclusion of productive conversations between GAC and the Board including a Bylaws Mandated Consultation. She noted the Board is pleased with the community's support of the second string option which will allow every applicant to provide an alternate string, and that the Board is hopeful that this option will help reduce the instances of string contention.

Becky Burr summarized the procedures for the replacement string option noting that applicants will be encouraged to designate a Replacement String alongside their original choice of string. Designating a Replacement String may provide applicants with the option to avoid contention before the list of applied-for strings is finalized. Applicants can avoid contention in such cases by replacing their original applied-for string with their designated Replacement String. Following the publication of the list of new gTLD applications on Reveal Day, there will be a period of time

to change their original string with their Replacement String via the application system. Applications in which the original string is replaced will then proceed through the remaining stages of the gTLD application process on the basis of the Replacement String, which will from that point on be treated as the applicant's applied-for string.

4. Next Round of New gTLDs: Latin Script Diacritics

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated that the ICANN Board and ICANN org are prepared to support the community when the Latin Script Diacritics PDP has an adopted charter and begins its work. The Board encourages the GAC to engage with the PDP, either via GAC member participation in the PDP or more indirect methods, like discussing the topic during bilateral meetings with the GNSO Council.

Mary Wong (ICANN org) noted that the GNSO Council has approved the charter for the Latin Script Diacritics PDP and is expected to appoint the Working Group Chair at its upcoming meeting later this week.

5. General Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct on Statements of Interest

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) expressed the Board's appreciation to the GAC for its contribution to the public comment forum on the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct on Statements of Interest and General Ethics Policy. The GAC and many other commenters were supportive of the proposal, while other commenters raised concerns regarding the scope of disclosures required. Many commenters are also interested in seeing more about how enforcement of the Code of Conduct will be achieved. ICANN is in the process of organizing further dialogue among the community to better explore paths for enforcement, and to continue refining workable rules for disclosure. Becky Burr noted that the Board looks forward to the GAC's continued participation in this important dialogue.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) indicated that the GAC's request regarding the scope of disclosure, is intended to be simple and straightforward, i.e. for participants to identify themselves, who they work for and whose interests they are representing. He indicated that this request is intended to make all ICANN participants stand on an equal footing within the multistakeholder model, and should not be burdensome to implement.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) expressed her agreement and noted that the Board is strongly in support of transparency, and would like to implement the draft policy since this is a critical issue for the Board. She noted that the enforcement is the item which needs to be addressed but should not take a long time to achieve.

Jorge Cancio (Switzerland) thanked the Board for their attention to this important matter and

indicated Switzerland's support of the bright line rule which the Board proposed in its draft, avoiding loopholes which then render the system less transparent.

Mary Wong (ICANN org) noted that the Public Comment proceeding for the proposed ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct on SOIs and General Ethics Policy closed in December 2024, and staff is due to publish the Summary of the Public Comments received next week.

6. **DNS Abuse**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) flagged that DNS Abuse is another issue where GAC and Board are aligned especially on its importance, and noted the Board's appreciation for the GAC's engagement on this topic. She indicated that to date, ICANN org has provided regular updates on the enforcement of the DNS Abuse mitigation requirements since they became effective on 5 April 2024, through multiple presentations and publications, including:

- ICANN Compliance began publishing monthly reports detailing the number of reported instances of phishing, malware, botnets, pharming, and spam used to deliver DNS Abuse as well as how these were addressed, the related enforcement actions and outcomes. The reports start with April 2024 data and are updated every month.
- Before launching the new reports, ICANN Compliance provided an update on the enforcement of the DNS Abuse mitigation requirements during the Contracted Parties Summit in May 2024; and published a blog with a summary of enforcement actions and outcomes on 7 June 2024.
- On 8 November 2024, ICANN Compliance published a detailed report on the enforcement of the DNS Abuse mitigation requirements, complaints received, and cases processed during the first six months of enforcement.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that in terms of enforcement metrics produced by ICANN Contractual Compliance ICANN org would welcome further input from the community. Furthermore she indicated that ICANN Compliance would like to know more about the specific information the GAC would like to see included regarding the "practices stemming from the interpretation of the Advisory." Specifically, whether the GAC is referring to additional context, such as examples of scenarios where the contracted party determined the evidence was not actionable.

Gemma Carolillo (European Commission) responded that the GAC would like both context and information on scenarios, but also feedback on how the advisory is being used and interpreted, for example on the concept of actionable evidence since this is the element that triggers action. As such, the GAC would like to understand how this is being interpreted and how the advisory has helped Contracted Parties in identifying actionable evidence among the

others.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) thanked the European Commission for the clarification, and added that regarding the data and analysis produced by ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) on the topic of DNS Abuse, the Board welcomes the planned general availability release of ICANN Domain Metrica which is expected in January 2025, as well as the recent publication of the final report of the ICANN-funded project, Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains (INFERMAL). Further work is already being planned based on the feedback gained to date on both initiatives, which are summarized in this [blog](#). She noted that the Board acknowledges and shares the GAC's interest in evaluating priorities that can be considered for further policy and other types of work to address DNS Abuse. The GNSO Council has committed to consider data collected regarding the new contractual elements, to help determine whether there are additional measures needed to mitigate or disrupt DNS abuse, but she encouraged the GAC to also share their priorities.

The GNSO Council is anticipated to shortly begin receiving briefings and reviewing available data in order to determine the appropriate next steps. Becky Burr noted that the Board looks forward to following the progress of that discussion.

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair) noted he received concerns from GAC members regarding the future of quantum computing being applied to DNS Abuse, specifically regarding DNS and DNSSEC configuration as related to symmetric and asymmetric cryptography.

Tripti Sinha (ICANN Board Chair) responded that Artificial Intelligence is a technology which may be more mature and ready to use today, compared to quantum computing, and that ICANN org should begin leveraging these tools for DNS Abuse. Regarding quantum computing, Tripti Sinha noted that the technology is not ready yet and that it is based on probability, so she isn't sure it will be able to compute at the scale needed for DNS Abuse.

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) added that the ccNSO and Contracted Parties have been discussing the use of AI in identifying DNS abuse patterns, and operators themselves are looking at these tools as well.

Gemma Carolillo (European Commission) noted that the GAC has been discussing the use of emerging technologies, AI in particular, in predicting and identifying patterns for DNS Abuse. Regarding the GAC Communiqué text, she expressed congratulations to ICANN's Compliance team on behalf of the European Commission regarding the presentations and reporting provided, underlining the understanding that an increase in reporting does not necessarily equal an increase of abuse. Gemma Carolillo noted that the ICANN Compliance

Team needs to have the appropriate tools to investigate cases of non-compliance, and those should be factored in when assessing the effect of contract amendments. Finally, she noted that the GAC is particularly interested in what's next, which was already noted in the public comment for the DNS abuse contract amendments, to ensure more action can be taken. This is mostly due to the approach of the Next Round of New gTLDs, and the importance of being equipped once the Next Round commences. The GAC would therefore not only like to follow the topic, but be proactive in view of the Next Round.

Nigel Hickson (United Kingdom) followed up on the European Commission's points to also stress the importance of micro PDPs on DNS abuse policy issues. He noted that discussions with the GNSO Council have been ongoing for 18 months where the GNSO Council expressed that ideas would be shared with the GAC. The GAC is looking forward to tangible information on when targeted PDPs will kick off, hopefully in discussions at ICANN83.

7. Domain Name Registration Data: Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) noted that the Board continues to appreciate the GAC's attentive participation in the GNSO's RDRS Standing Committee and on this topic. During the Board Workshop in January the Board discussed next steps on RDRS, and like the GAC the Board believes it's a useful tool which should be preserved and enhanced and ongoing discussions are taking place with the Implementation Review Team who is currently drafting the Final Report on this item.

Becky Burr shared insights from Board discussions during the Board Workshop in Los Angeles, where the Board discussed that there should be a way to move forward avoiding a further eight months of a pilot program. She identified several changes that the Board believes are critical elements of a post-pilot RDRS. The first one being participation from all registrars, and the second item noted as critical by the Board is that the privacy and policy providers, those that are owned by registrars in particular, also need to be incorporated into the process. She flagged that the Board sees this as critical to the long term viability of the tool.

Another enhancement Becky Burr noted the Board sees as critical relating to Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). An API is needed by registrars, in order to avoid the need for duplicated processing and integrate the tool as a seamless part of their work. Becky Burr noted that the Board is discussing the process for modifying various aspects of the EPDP Phase 2 SSAD recommendations to enhance the RDRS. Becky Burr noted that the Board is not opposed to voluntary participation in the RDRS by ccTLD operators, but said that this would require further thought to ensure that local policies and processes were respected. She emphasized that any

participation from Country Code TLDs would need to be strictly voluntary.

Becky Burr flagged that the Board is thereby looking forward to identifying the roadmap to get from the current stage to an RDRS that provides as much of the functionality as is sensible and useful, and this work is currently underway.

Finally, Becky Burr noted that the Board encourages the GAC's continued participation in the RDRS Standing Committee to raise new ideas for system enhancements and that the GAC will hear additional information from the Board at ICANN82 in Seattle about what the Board thinks the next steps should be for this item.

8. **Domain Name Registration Data: Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Implementation**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated that the Board appreciates the continued support and involvement of GAC members in the current work of the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Implementation Review Team (IRT). The Board welcomes the GAC's encouragement for registrars and requestors to continue participation in the RDRS, including for registrars to consider disclosure decisions in response to RDRS requests for domain name registration data on behalf of their affiliated proxy service providers.

9. **Domain Name Registration Data: Accuracy of Domain Name Registration Data**

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) indicated that the Board and the GAC share the interest to move forward concretely on this item, noting that the GNSO Council is currently considering its next steps regarding possible policy work on registration data accuracy by asking for the community's input on a series of questions. The Board looks forward to following the progress of that discussion.

Gemma Carolillo (European Commission) expressed appreciation to the work conducted on registration data policy, and the finalization of the implementation of the data processing agreements. She noted that accuracy is a recurrent topic for the GAC in its communiqués because of the importance of this topic but also due to the fact that the latest deliverables from the GNSO on this topic are from 2022, since the work has been on hold since then. She expressed the GAC's hope that its contribution could lead to an advancement to this important topic.

10. Domain Name Registration Data: Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) shared the Board's appreciation of the GAC's participation in the November 2024 trilateral discussion among the Board, GAC, and GNSO Council regarding the GAC's proposal for parallel work on authentication and policy development in relation to Urgent Requests for Registration Data. Since that meeting, the Board understands that the GNSO Council, in its role as manager of the GNSO policy development process, has discussed a way forward on the issue, and has communicated its thinking to the GAC in a letter of 15 January 2025, to prepare for an additional trilateral discussion. As noted in the GAC/Board ICANN81 session, the Board expects that follow-up discussions with the same group will be particularly helpful to align on the path forward.

Becky Burr noted that the Board welcomes the GAC's proactive approach to exploring solutions for authentication that could be useful in this context, and welcomes suggestions on how the Board can support progress in this effort. As noted during the GAC/Board ICANN81 discussion, the Board has begun to look at possible next steps to making the Registration Data Request System (RDRS) a permanent solution. The Board understands that the GNSO Standing Committee on RDRS, in which the GAC is represented, is preparing a report and that the GNSO Council is anticipating revisiting the SSAD recommendations. The Board believes it will be important to have coordination and alignment with work that the GAC may be undertaking on requestor authentication.

Accordingly, Becky Burr noted that the Board would be interested in the GAC's vision for possible paths forward. As the GAC mentioned a potential study group, the Board would be interested in how such effort could be scoped and supported, or alternatively, how the PSWG might continue to work with contracted parties and other stakeholders to bring a report to a future trilateral discussion.

Finally, Becky Burr expressed the Board's support for additional input from the GAC on other suggested options which could be proposed, reaffirming the importance of active GAC engagement to create workable solutions.

11. Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2)

Becky Burr (ICANN Board) shared the Board's appreciation of the GAC's interest in the process of updating of ICP-2. The Board notes that ICANN recently conducted a Public Comment

proceeding on the proposed principles for the next version of ICP-2. This was done in parallel with a Number Resource Organization (NRO) consultation on the same document. She shared the Board's appreciation of the input given by African GAC members and looks forward to the ASO and all parts of the ICANN community, including the GAC, on updating this document.

Manal Ismail (Egypt), thanked the Board for the information provided while highlighting that GAC members from Africa submitted a joint comment to the public comment proceeding noting with concern the absence of African representatives on the ASO Council during this important process. She further noted that the GAC looks forward to the qualitative analysis of the responses received and to a final outcome that would support the important role of the RIRs and strengthen the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

IV. Closing Remarks

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

Kurtis Lindqvist (ICANN President and CEO) noted this is the first call he attends between the Board and the GAC, and highlighted the important role the GAC holds with the Board within ICANN. Based on this discussion, he noted that the GAC's involvement in items pertaining to the Next Round of New gTLDs has been very active and flagged he is looking forward to continued discussions and engagement in the future. Finally, Kurtis Lindqvist indicated he is looking forward to working with all GAC members and GAC leadership in the future.

Tripti Sinha thanked attendees for their engagement and an efficient discussion, which she noted covered many important topics. She noted the Board received some productive feedback and that the Board will continue to make progress in strengthening the dialogue between the Board and the GAC. Tripti flagged that the ICANN Board takes the GAC's input very seriously, and will continue to follow-up on these matters, while noting that the GAC and ICANN Board are moving in a positive direction.

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Attendees:

<u>**GAC**</u>

Marina Flego Eiras, Argentina
Kristina Hakobyan, Armenia
Dr Shamsuzzoha, Bangladesh
Suada Hadzovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Alfonso Besada, Brazil
Suzete Centeio Pereira, Cabo Verde
Rida Tahir, Canada
Nigel Cassimire , Caribbean
Telecommunications Union
Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, Chad
Cheng-Nan Chiang , Chinese Taipei
Thiago Dal-Toe , Colombia
Peter Mujtaba, Commonwealth
Telecommunications Organization
Mislav Hebel, Croatia
Marketa Petrunova, Czech Republic
Finn Petersen , Denmark
Christine Arida, Egypt
Manal Ismail, Egypt
Martina Barbero, European Commission
Gemma Carolillo, European Commission
Rudy Nolde , Germany
Samantha Scotland, Guyana
Adriano Daddario , Italy
Tomonori Miyamoto, Japan
Mina Ogihara , Japan
Zeina BOU HARB, Lebanon
Lourino Chemane, Mozambique
Maaike Veenstra, Netherlands
Aderonke Adeniyi , Nigeria
Amina Ramallan, Nigeria
Babagana Digima, Nigeria
Nico Caballero , GAC Chair, Paraguay

Ana Neves , Portugal
Jose Franco, Portugal
Viacheslav Erokhin, Russia
Sasa Kovacevic, Serbia
Jakub Kubaň , Slovakia
Ana Maldonado Cid , Spain
Jorge Cancio, Switzerland
'Esau Tupou, Tonga
Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds, Trinidad and Tobago
Meltem Ergün , Türkiye
Nigel Hickson, United Kingdom
Susan Chalmers , United States
Isabel Gates, United States
Owen Fletcher, United States
Tracy Hackshaw , Universal Postal Union
Brian Beckham, World Intellectual Property
Organization

<u>**ICANN Board**</u>

Tripti Sinha
Alan Barrett
Maarten Botterman
Chris Buckridge
Becky Burr
Wes Hardaker
David Lawrence
Patricio Poblete
Sajid Rahman
León Sánchez
Miriam Sapiro
Amitabh Singhal

<u>**ICANN Org**</u>

Kurtis Lindqvist
Eleeza Agopian

Kristy Buckley

Franco Carrasco

Leticia Castillo-Sojo

Andrew Chen

Maeva Devoto

Jared Erwin

Laurent Ferrali

Lars Hoffmann

John Jeffrey

Vinciane Koenigsfeld

Marika Konings

Karen Lentz

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