
MINUTES OF MEETING

ICANN67 Virtual Community Forum, 9-12 March 2020

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1. MEETING ATTENDANCE & MEMBERSHIP

Sixty one (61) GAC Members and six (6) Observers attended the meeting remotely.

GAC membership currently stands at 178 Members, and 38 Observers. A list of ICANN67 GAC meeting Member and Observer attendees is provided in [Attachment 1](#).

The ICANN67 GAC Communiqué is published on the GAC website at:
<https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann67-gac-communication>.

Presentations used by speakers during the meeting and supporting briefing prepared for the GAC can be accessed from the GAC website: <https://gac.icann.org/agendas/icann67-virtual-meeting-agenda>

Full transcripts for each session are to be made available from the ICANN67 Public Meeting website, via the relevant agenda items on the GAC's website agenda page listed above.

1.1. Opening Plenary Session

The GAC Chair formally opened the GAC ICANN67 meeting. She explained the logistics for the meeting and allowed GAC staff to explain logistical information about meeting resources on the GAC web site and use of the Zoom Room.

The GAC Chair reviewed the meeting week agenda particularly noting the opportunities to participate in the Public Fora, and various GNSO PDP WG sessions and the plan to offer daily 30-minute catch-up updates to be offered to GAC members who may not be able to fully participate in the virtual meeting due to time zone concerns or other reasons.

During the opening plenary session, reference was also made to an indicative list of authorities that European Union Member States consider as potential legitimate users of WHOIS registration data. It was recalled that the preparation of such lists had been identified as an action point at previous GAC meetings, including at the ICANN65 Marrakech and the ICANN66 Montreal meeting with the intention to inform the Expedited Development Policy Process (EPDP) on gTLD registration data (non-public WHOIS data). It was noted that the list was still a work-in-progress, but that the effort had reached a point where information could now be shared with the GAC.

The GAC Chair reminded session attendees of the Communiqué remote drafting process for this meeting previously suggested by email to the GAC membership. Noting that a decision to produce a reporting communiqué or a more substantive document would likely develop organically over the course of the week, the Chair asked that members share any proposals for Communiqué language as early as possible with the GAC list to allow for more efficient remote discussion of the Communiqué. It was noted that regardless of the ultimately agreed Communiqué format and substance, that additional time would be made available at the end of the meeting so that all GAC members would have the opportunity to review the Communiqué in their own time zone before publication.

2. PUBLIC POLICY AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

2.1. Acquisition of PIR (.ORG)

GAC members discussed the information exchanged during the Public Forum on the proposed Public Interest registry (.org) acquisition and further expressed views on this topic. Several governments supported the notion that there are two main building blocks for addressing the reactions in the community witnessed so far to the .org transfer: (1) including clear and enforceable safeguards to protect the public interest, including on prices, privacy, and freedom of expression; and (2) engaging with the community in a meaningful manner, that renders the measures to protect the public interest legitimate. Several governments noted that the .org TLD is a very specific TLD and that it should be managed with a view toward serving the public interest.

It was agreed that potential communique language in conjunction with the discussion would be prepared by a small group for broader review and that a [follow-up communication](#) with the ICANN Board on this topic should be considered. Noting the importance of this issue to certain GAC members, it was noted that the matter should continue to be followed and that GAC members would receive further updates as events warrant.

2.2. Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs

The GAC prioritized the topic of Subsequent Procedures for new gTLDs during ICANN67, notably by (1) conducting a GAC capacity building focused on this issue, (2) devoting several GAC sessions to this topic, (3) by not scheduling concurrent sessions with meetings of the GNSO New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group, and (4) by actively participating in such PDP WG meetings. This section of the meeting minutes reflects the combination of several GAC sessions of the topic during the meeting week.

GAC Leadership in cooperation with USRWG conducted Intersessional work in order to prepare discussions on key topics of high interest to the GAC:

- Closed Generics;
- Public Interest Commitments (PICs)
- Role of GAC Early Warnings/GAC Advice
- Applicant Support Program
- Community Applications

The main aims for GAC preparations, discussions and engagement in this regard were to:

- Increase GAC capacity and knowledge of policy development in the New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP WG
- Enable GAC members' participation in ICANN67 PDP Sub Pro WG sessions
- Review and aim to update previous GAC positions
- Identify positions/concerns for potential input to the PDP WG and upcoming public comment period of the final report with final recommendations expected July 2020

The GAC expects, as anticipated by the PDP WG Co-chairs, that all recommendations being considered by the WG, in consideration of past, current and future discussion, will all be submitted for public comments and any such comment considered fully.

Highlights from discussions in GNSO PDP Subsequent Procedures WG and GAC Plenary Sessions on Subsequent Procedures:

Closed Generics

In the [Beijing Communiqué](#) the GAC advised that closed generics could be allowed if serving a public interest goal. The criteria for determining that a closed generic TLD serves such a public interest goal are still subject to discussion in the PDP WG. On the basis of the Beijing Communiqué, GAC Members agreed that further intersessional work should be conducted with a view to identifying criteria, examples and use-cases that may serve for assessing the public interest within the context of closed generics.

Public Interest Commitments (PICs)

Discussions on Public Interest Commitments (PICs), both mandatory and voluntary go in the direction of confirming the existing practice as policy for the future. One important area of focus for GAC Members was DNS Abuse, as the PICs were used to implement GAC advice on DNS abuse, specifically the referral from the relevant CCT-RT recommendations, which were passed by the Board to the GNSO and from its Council to the PDP WG on SubPro. The PDP WG Co-Chairs indicated that the current recommendation text would refer DNS abuse to a separate policy development process or other effort, which would address the issue holistically (i.e. not only for the next round). GAC members expressed concern on this approach, highlighting the importance of the CCT-RT Recommendations and the need to implement them in light of the [GAC Montreal Advice](#) on this matter.

GAC Early Warnings/GAC Advice

The GAC notes that the current recommendations of the Sub Pro PDP WG contrast to some extent from GAC input on its Initial Report, since, inter alia, it is considering removing in future editions of the Applicant Guidebook that GAC Consensus Advice on an application *“will create a strong presumption for the ICANN Board that the application should not be approved”*. Additionally, GAC Members expressed the need for further discussion of draft PDP WG recommendations regarding: the scope of the rationale of GAC Advice; and proposing that *“GAC Advice issued after the application period has begun must apply to individual strings only, based on the merits and details of the applications for that string, not on groups or classes of applications.”*

Sub Pro PDP WG discussions on this topic noted that, with the intent to take into account the concerns expressed by GAC participants, alternative language will be drafted possibly referring recommendations back to the new ICANN Bylaws. The GAC noted the need for further discussion within the GAC and with the PDP WG.

Applicant Support

The GAC has expressed in prior input to the PDP WG its support to expanding and improving outreach to underserved regions, noting that such outreach in the Global South requires a more comprehensive approach and better targeting. Current PDP WG deliberations seem to align with GAC advice. It is envisaged that the GAC USRWG will submit further input to the PDP WG on current draft final recommendations on this matter. The GAC previously noted that ICANN Org should identify which regions are considered as ‘underserved’ and ‘underrepresented’ and in what context they are defined as such. GAC also previously recommended that once identified, ICANN Org should provide regional targeted capacity building efforts to all ICANN community stakeholders, on the Applicant Support Program for new gTLD Applications in preparation for subsequent rounds.

Community Applications

This topic was discussed in GAC sessions but was not addressed due to time constraints in the Sub Pro PDP WG sessions at ICANN67. The GAC supported the proposals in the Sub Pro PDP WG Initial Report for procedures to deal with community-based applications, as consistent with previous GAC advice. Additionally, the GAC notes that current text in the Sub Pro PDP WG draft final recommendations support the GAC's opinion that evaluators should also have necessary expertise in the field of communities and additional resources at their disposal to gather information about a Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) application and any opposition to that application. It was further noted that draft final recommendations include measures for improved transparency and predictability, aligned with concerns expressed by the GAC regarding the need for greater consistency in the CPE process, and the establishment of an appeals mechanism for the New gTLD Program. The GAC notes that consideration be given to providing support for non-profit community-based applications.

Action Points:

- **GAC Leadership and its current "topic leads"** will lead intersessional work on the high-interest topics identified in the GAC Scorecard on Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs. The aim is to coordinate potential GAC consensus input to the Sub Pro PDP WG, prepare for the upcoming ICANN68 meeting, and ultimately coordinate GAC views for public comment on the PDP WG Final Report expected in July 2020. A first work item will be an internal GAC consultation on the five priority topics discussed in ICANN 67, seeking GAC Members' views on the corresponding draft recommendations currently discussed by the PDP Sub Pro and aiming at preparing a compilation of individual GAC Members' views as first step in identifying common ground, and serving as preliminary input to the SubPro WG, noting it is not GAC consensus input
- **GAC Members** are encouraged to approach GAC topic leads in order to co-lead and/or actively contribute on any of the Subsequent Procedures key issues.

2.3. Domain Name Registration Directory Service and Data Protection

GAC Representatives in the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team provided an overview of the proposed Standardized System for Access and Disclosure (SSAD) of non-public registration data, as laid out in the EPDP Phase 2 Initial Report. The proposed SSAD model submitted for public comment proposes centralization of requests into a central gateway, and decentralization of responses by relevant parties responsible for disclosure of personal data as appropriate. A number of key proposals and open issues were reviewed, in preparation for the GAC's consideration of a proposed GAC public comment to inform further deliberation of the EPDP Team.

In preparation for the future and timely deployment of a Standardized System for Access and Disclosure to gTLD Registration Data, the GAC reviewed possible areas of consideration for GAC Members regarding how the GAC Accreditation Principles would translate at the country/territory level, in connection with the need to identify all public authorities requiring access to non-public gTLD registration data. In this respect, the European Commission shared with the GAC an indicative list of authorities that EU Member States consider as legitimate users of WHOIS registration data.

Finally, inline with ICANN66 GAC Advice on this matter, GAC topic leads stressed the need to ensure the effectiveness of interim arrangements to provide reasonable access to registration data until the proposed Standardized System for Access and Disclosure is agreed and put in place.

Action Points:

- **GAC Members** to consider a draft GAC Input on the EPDP Phase 2 Initial Report circulated during the meeting and it was then submitted on March 23, 2020
- **GAC Members** to consider assembling indicative lists of their public authorities and other relevant parties requiring non-public registration data, including criminal and civil law enforcement consumer protection authorities, etc

2.4. DNS Abuse Mitigation

PSWG topic leads reported on the numerous discussions of DNS Abuse held during the ICANN67 Virtual Public Community Forum, among Contracted Parties, Commercial stakeholders and End Users, including in their engagement with the ICANN Board. This was seen as demonstrating the effectiveness of the GAC's work in this area. Severy key developments were highlighted:

- The publication by the Registrar Stakeholder Group of a Guide to Reporting Abuse
- The publication by ICANN org of a [compliance complaint form](#) and new [related information](#) regarding failure of reasonable access to non-public data
- Informative sessions held by ALAC including effective [educational material to understand the issues](#), and methodical discussion probing the [ICANN ecosystem's response to specific scenarios of DNS Abuse](#) with ICANN Contractual compliance and registrar representatives.

PSWG leaders also reviewed a series of pre-ICANN67 developments including:

- Proposed adoption in .COM of the baseline security threats analysis and reporting requirements (Specification 11 3b of the Base New gTLD Registry Agreement), as well as commitment by ICANN and Verisign ICANN and Verisign (.COM) to collaborate with the Community to develop best practices, related contractual obligations, tools and metrics to mitigate Security Threats
- Progress in the adoption of the industry-led voluntary [Framework to Address Abuse](#)
- Engagement between the ICANN Board and the Business Constituency in correspondences since prior to ICANN66 meeting, as well as recent ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board

The PSWG indicated currently working on a draft public comment to be submitted for the GAC's consideration on the Draft Report of the SSR2 Review.

Action Points:

- **PSWG** to propose a GAC comment on the SSR2 Review Draft Report

2.5. Dot Amazon applications

It was noted to GAC members that the topic of the .AMAZON applications was not on the ICANN67 virtual meeting agenda. As a consequence, it was requested that a statement on the issue be added to the official record of the meeting. A statement on this issue by a GAC member was developed and circulated to the GAC membership during the ICANN67 meeting. As agreed during ICANN67, a copy of that statement has been appended to these meeting minutes and has also been added to the list of meeting materials provided for the meeting on the GAC ICANN67 Meeting website at:

<https://gac.icann.org/publications/public/discurso-para-intervencion-67-reunion-icann-es-en.pdf>.

3. GAC WORKING GROUPS (ON OTHER ISSUES)

3.1. GAC Public Safety Working Group (PSWG)

The PSWG co-chairs and topic leads presented highlights of the [PSWG Work Plan for the period 2020-2021](#) stressing its alignment with the PSWG's mandate (see PSWG [Terms of Reference](#)) as well as the Working Group's priorities to date (see [2018-2019 Work Plan](#) endorsed by the GAC in Feb. 2018). The strategic goals of the PSWG will continue to be:

1. Develop DNS Abuse and Cybercrime Mitigation Capabilities
2. Preserve and Improve Domain Registration Directory Services Effectiveness
3. Ensure Effective PSWG Operations and Stakeholder Relations

The new PSWG Work Plan identifies more specific work items under each goal, which will facilitate reporting to the GAC and participant's agencies on ongoing work and outcomes. Per the ICANN67 GAC Communiqué, the GAC endorsed the PSWG's 2020-2021 Work Plan.

Action Point:

- **GAC Members** to consider encouraging their relevant public safety agencies to join the work of the PSWG

3.2. GAC Underserved Regions Working Group (USRWG)

The GAC held its first GAC Capacity Building Workshop fully dedicated to a single topic - Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs with the support of GAC topic leads and GAC Vice-Chairs from Canada and Switzerland, co-chairs of GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group (Sub Pro PDP WG), ICANN Global Domains Division (GDD) and Government Engagement (GE) teams. The well-attended session offered an overview of policy development status and of GAC positions to date on topics of high interest to the GAC, for continued discussions in plenary sessions on the matter.

Action Points:

- **See section 2.2.**
USRWG: The GAC USRWG will submit further input on current draft final recommendations on Applicant Support to the PDP WG.

4. CROSS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Meeting with the ICANN Board

The GAC met in plenary session with the ICANN Board and discussed a number of issues of importance.

With respect to the pending **PIR/.org acquisition**, GAC members expressed that the ICANN organization's ability to demonstrate that considerations of the global public interest are carefully assessed and protected in the context of the proposed PIR transaction is important to the organization. In evaluating the PIR transaction, ICANN must demonstrate its commitment to multistakeholder input, from all parts of the community.

Regarding **new gTLD subsequent procedures**, Board members were advised that this was an area of substantial priority for the GAC and the committee engagement on this matter at ICANN67 combines the Capacity Building Workshop, several plenary discussions, and a pilot project to encourage GAC participation in the Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP's virtual working sessions. GAC members explained that during the meeting week, in coordination with the GNSO SubPro PDP WG Leadership, the GAC will review and discuss several priority new gTLD policy areas including: Closed Generics, Public Interest Commitments, the role of GAC Early Warnings and GAC Advice, the Applicant Support Program and Community Based Applications. GAC members said they welcome the Board's and ICANN Org's sharing of their own preparations for the future round as it may assist the GAC with its own forward-thinking and planning.

The GAC shared that it is beginning its **SO-AC Workstream 2 implementation work**. The GAC is interested in understanding what progress ICANN org is making on this matter and what the Board is doing to encourage those efforts.

Regarding **access to non-public gTLD registration data information**, the GAC reminded Board members of the GAC advice in the Montreal Communiqué that ICANN should make available a standard request form for access to non-public information. GAC Members noted that reasonable access to non-public registration remains a high priority for the GAC, especially in this interim period before a final system is developed and implemented – a period which may take several years to complete.

The GAC also noted the Board's recent actions on the **RDS-WHOIS2 Review recommendations** and expressed that the topics covered by the review remain a strong area of interest for the GAC, which it will continue to follow closely, especially with respect to WHOIS Accuracy, Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation and compliance enforcement of relevant contractual provisions in ICANN contracts. The GAC welcomes the Board's adoption of the recommendations relating to monitoring the efficacy of WHOIS access for law enforcement and associated services.

It was asked that the interactions with the Board members be captured in writing. A copy of the written transcript of the session (along with links to a sound recording of the interaction) including specific Board member responses to GAC questions on these issues was shared with the full GAC during the meeting and posted on the [GAC ICANN67 meeting website](#).

4.2. Meeting with the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

The GAC met in plenary session with members of the ALAC and discussed:

- The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on gTLD Registration Data
The two committees identified several points of common interest regarding the GNSO EPDP effort including, (1) complying with GDPR and other relevant data protection laws; (2) SSAD, (3) automation, (4) accuracy of gTLD registration data, and (5) the distinction between natural and legal persons.
- Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs
Topics of common interest were discussed, especially related to the ICANN67 Subsequent Procedures PDP WG topics, such as PICs, GAC Early Warnings and GAC Advice, Closed Generics, Applicant Support, Community Based Applications and Community Priority Evaluation.
Both advisory committees agreed on continuing sharing working materials, i.e scorecards on substantive areas of interest on Subsequent Rounds matters.

Action Points:

- ALAC and GAC agreed to continue intersessional exchanges on areas of mutual interest.

5. INTERNAL GAC MATTERS

5.1. GAC Leadership

During the ICANN67 meeting, GAC members were reminded that a new GAC leadership team officially started its term at the end of the ICANN67 Public Meeting. The elected 2020 GAC Vice-Chairs who have joined GAC Chair Manal Ismail (Egypt) are:

- Olga Cavalli (Argentina) (second consecutive term);
- Luisa Paez (Canada) (second consecutive term);
- Pua Hunter (Cook Islands) (first term);
- Guiguemde Jacques Rodrigue Ragnimpinda (Burkina Faso) (first term); and
- Jorge Cancio (Switzerland) (first term)

5.2. GAC Operational Matters

The GAC was briefed on several issues and intersessional work to be conducted after the ICANN67 Meeting, such as:

- Next steps for new gTLDs Subsequent Rounds (see item 2.2)
- Upcoming webinars and conference calls (Strategic Outlook Trends, Universal Acceptance Steering Group, GAC/ICANN Board)
- Operational matters (GAC website improvements, membership record keeping, ICANN Org budget and operational matters, Empowered Community Guidelines)

The GAC dedicated some time to discuss ICANN67 lessons learned and suggested:

- Integrating interpretation in the virtual Zoom room
- Including more languages for interpretation
- Keeping non conflicted community sessions (i.e GNSO PDPs)

Action Points:

- **GAC Support** to coordinate with the Multistakeholder Strategy and Strategic Initiatives team (MSSI) to schedule a call on Strategic Outlook Trends.
- **GAC Support** to liaise with Board Operations for Board/GAC coordination call.

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Attachment 1 - ICANN67 Virtual Community Forum - GAC ATTENDEES LIST

GAC Members (61) participating remotely		
Argentina	India	Trinidad and Tobago
Armenia	Italy	Tunisia
Australia	Iran	Turkey
Belgium	Jamaica	Uganda
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Japan	Ukraine
Botswana	Lithuania	United Arab Emirates
Bulgaria	Madagascar	United Kingdom
Burkina Faso	Malaysia	United States of America
Burundi	Mali	Uruguay
Cambodia	Morocco	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Canada	Republic of the Union of Myanmar	Zimbabwe
China	Netherlands	
Congo, Republic of	New Zealand	
Democratic Republic of, Congo	Niger	
Cook Islands	Nigeria	
Denmark	Norway	
Dominican Republic	Pakistan	
European Commission	Palestine	
Egypt	Russian Federation	
Finland	Serbia	
France	Singapore	
Georgia	Spain	
Germany	St. Kitts and Nevis	
Hong Kong, China	Switzerland	
Hungary	Chinese Taipei	

GAC Observers (6) participating remotely	
Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	Regulatel
Council of Europe (CoE)	World Broadcasting Union (WBU)
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

Attachment 2 - ICANN67 Action Points Compilation

#	Subject Matter	Action Point
1	Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs	GAC Leadership and its current “topic leads” will lead intersessional work on the high-interest topics identified in the GAC Scorecard on Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs. The aim is to coordinate potential GAC consensus input to the Sub Pro PDP WG, prepare for the upcoming ICANN68 meeting, and ultimately coordinate GAC views for public comment on the PDP WG Final Report expected in July 2020.
2	Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs	GAC Members are encouraged to approach GAC topic leads in order to co-lead and/or actively contribute on any of the Subsequent Procedures key issues.
3	Domain Name Registration Directory Service and Data Protection	GAC Members to consider a draft GAC Input on the EPDP Phase 2 Initial Report circulated during the meeting
4	Domain Name Registration Directory Service and Data Protection	GAC Members to consider assembling indicative lists of their public authorities and other relevant parties requiring non-public registration data, including criminal and civil law enforcement consumer protection authorities, etc
5	DNS Abuse Mitigation	PSWG to propose a GAC comment on the SSR2 Review Draft Report
6	PSWG	GAC Members to consider encouraging their relevant public safety agencies to join the work of the PSWG
7	Operational Matters	GAC Support to coordinate with the Multistakeholder Strategy and Strategic Initiatives team (MSSI) to schedule a call on Strategic Outlook Trends.
8	Operational Matters	GAC Support to liaise with Board Operations for Board/GAC coordination call.

Posición de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en el marco de la 67 Reunión de la ICANN, sobre la asignación del dominio de primer nivel “.amazon” para su uso y explotación 09/03/20.

En primera instancia, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, reitera la posición asumida en la 65° Reunión de ICANN, realizada Marrakech, Marruecos, durante la sesión plenaria del Comité Asesor Gubernamental (GAC), donde manifestó el mas contundente rechazo a la decisión emanada por la Junta de ICANN, el 15/05/19, en su **Resolución (2019.05.15.13)**, de continuar el proceso de delegación del dominio de primer nivel “.amazon”, a favor de la empresa transnacional Estadounidense Amazon.Inc, para su uso y explotación, sin el consentimiento de los países que conforman la Región Amazónica.

Otro punto en el cual nuestra delegación quiere sentar una posición al respecto, es el referido a los Compromisos de Interés Público (PICs), Sección 4 de la Especificación 11 del Acuerdo de Registro para las aplicaciones “.AMAZON” (Appl. No. 1-1315-5808), documento que no tiene ningún margen de acción sobre los derechos del dominio, adicionalmente viola toda la normativa interna de esa Corporación, así como también todo instrumento jurídico y acuerdos multilaterales que en esta materia han sido refrendados. En este sentido, manifestamos nuestra oposición a este documento.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en defensa de su soberanía y de los derechos de los pueblos amazónicos que habitan dicho territorio y de su inclusión en la sociedad de la información tienen el efecto de reconocer o establecer límites

en el derecho internacional público sobre la libertad de los actores públicos y privados, incluida la ICANN, para delegar o poseer nombres con un significado geográfico y cultural como TLD, a menos que los gobiernos pertinentes lo acepten.

Al respecto, nos gustaría hacer mención a la posición asumida por países en diferentes espacios multilaterales:

- XII Reunión de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de la Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica, (2013), Párrafo 31. Manifiestar el rechazo a la pretención de apropiación a terceros de nombres geográficos .
- IV Conferencia Ministerial de la Sociedad de la Información de América Latina y el Caribe, (2013), En el punto 10, de dicha declaración, rechazan toda pretensión de apropiación, sin el debido consentimiento de los países de la región, de las denominación Amazonía.
- XIII Reunión de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de los Países Miembros de la OTCA , (2017). Párrafo 28. reiteran lo expresado en la declaración del año 2013.
- VI Conferencia Ministerial e la Sociedad de la Información de América Latina y el Caribe, (2018). Artículo 4.

Reiterar lo expresado por los Gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe en la Declaración de Montevideo de 2013, y rechazar toda pretensión de apropiación sin el debido consentimiento de los países de la región, de denominaciones geográficas, en cualquier idioma, de dominios de primer nivel, referido a nombres geográficos, de país, históricos, culturales o naturales, códigos de dos o tres letras de designación de país, denominaciones de origen, que deben ser preservados como parte de su patrimonio e identidad cultural, e instar a los Gobiernos de la región a participar activamente en las instancias multisectoriales establecidas para estos efecto”.

- Declaración del Grupo de países América Latina y el Caribe ante las Naciones Unidas (GRULAC), en el marco de la 42° Reunión del Comité de Marcas, Dibujos y Modelos Industriales e Indicaciones Geográficas” de la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual (OMPI), (noviembre 2019).

Sr. Presidente: en relación al sistema de nombres de Dominio, el GRULAC quisiera expresar su preocupación por la situación que está ocurriendo en relación a la asignación del dominio “amazon”, el cual ha afectado al patrimoniocultural y lingüístico de cada uno de los 8 países amazónicos de nuestra región. Es en razón de ello que hacemos un llamado al respecto y la consideración de los intereses de los Estados Miembros a la hora de decidir el otorgamiento de nombres de dominio, así como en otras decisiones relacionadas con nombres de países y regiones

Como puede observarse, los países han manifestado el rechazo de estas acciones en los diferentes foros e instancias internacionales, teniendo un gran respaldo por parte de estos, por lo cual sienta un precedente importante y que podrían revertir esta decisión arbitraria tomada por la ICANN, sobre el del otorgamiento del dominio “.amazon” .

Finalmente, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela quiere recordar que el topónimo “.Amazon”, en cualquiera de sus acepciones o sus equivalentes en otros idiomas es atribuido al nombre de una región geográfica que representa un valor cultural, patrimonial y trascendental de los países que la conforman, y en particular de sus habitantes la mayoría de los cuales son pueblos originarios.

Despacho del Viceministro para Temas Multilaterales

**Statement of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at ICANN67 on
the delegation of the “.AMAZON” top level domain for its use and
commercial operation
March 9th, 2020.**

First of all, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, reiterates its position as stated in the GAC plenary session held during ICANN65 Marrakech, Morocco, expressing its strong rejection of the ICANN Board decision in its **Resolution dated May 15th, 2019 (2019.05.15.13)** to proceed with the delegation of the “.AMAZON” top level domain to Amazon Inc, an American transnational company, for its use and commercial operation without the consent of the countries in the Amazon region.

Our delegation would also like to state its position regarding the Public Interest Commitments (PICs) in Section 4 of Specification 11 of the Registry Agreement in relation to the “.AMAZON” applications Application # 1-1315-5808). This document leaves no room for actions regarding rights over the domain. In addition, it infringes every internal rule of that corporation, as well as any legal instrument and multilateral agreements endorsed in connection to this matter. In this regard, we stand against this document.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela defends its sovereignty and the rights of the Amazonian peoples that inhabit this territory, as well as their inclusion in the Information Society, and recognizes their right to set limits upon International Public Law regarding the freedom of both private and public stakeholders, including ICANN, to delegate or hold geographically and culturally significant names as TLDs, unless agreed by the relevant governments.

Along these lines, we would like to mention the position adopted by countries in different multilateral forums:

- 12th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (2013), Paragraph 31. Firm rejection of any claim of ownership by others of geographical names.

- 4th Ministerial Conference on Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (2013). Paragraph 10 of the Meeting Declaration, whereby countries reject any attempt to appropriate, without the consent of the respective countries in the region, the denomination “Amazon” [Amazonia].
- 13th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (2017). Paragraph 28: reiteration of the 2013 declaration contents.
- 6th Ministerial Conference on Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (2018). Paragraph 4.

“Reiterate the rejection expressed by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Montevideo Declaration of 2013, of any attempt to appropriate, without the consent of the respective countries of the region, geographical denominations in any language, generic top level domain (gTLD) names referring to geographical areas, country names or historical, cultural or natural features, two- or three-letter country codes, or denominations of origin, which should be preserved as part of the heritage and cultural identity of the countries of the region, and urge the governments of the region to participate actively in multisectoral forums established for these purposes.”

- Statement of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) before the United Nations during the 42nd Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), November 2019.

Mr. Chairman: Regarding the Domain Name System, the GRULAC would like to express its concern about the current situation in relation to the delegation of the “.AMAZON” domain, which has affected the cultural and linguistic heritage of each of the eight countries in our region. Therefore, we urge you to respect and take into consideration the interests of the member states when deciding to delegate domain names, as well as when making other decisions involving names of countries and regions.

Office of the Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs

As you can see, the countries have stated their rejection of these actions in different international forums and organizations, with their full support. This sets an important precedent that could lead to the reversal of ICANN's arbitrary decision on the delegation of “.AMAZON”.

Finally, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to remind you that the toponym “.Amazon”, in any of its forms or translations into other languages, is attributed to a geographic region that stands for the transcendental and cultural heritage of the countries in this region, and especially of their inhabitants, mostly from indigenous peoples.