ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN
71
14–17 June 2021
VIRTUAL
POLICY FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING
ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum, 14-17 June 2021

1.   **MEETING ATTENDANCE & MEMBERSHIP**

72 GAC Members and 6 Observers attended the meeting remotely.

GAC membership currently stands at 179 Member States and Territories, and 38 Observer Organizations. A list of ICANN71 GAC meeting Member and Observer attendees is provided in Attachment 1.

The ICANN71 GAC Communiqué is published on the GAC website at: https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann71-gac-communique

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/icann71-virtual-meeting-agenda.

Full transcripts for each session are to be made available from the ICANN71 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 ICANN71 meeting. She explained the logistics for the meeting week and allowed GAC Support staff to explain technical information about meeting resources on the GAC website and use of the Zoom Room interpretation capabilities.

The GAC Chair reviewed specific aspects of the meeting week agenda. She noted the plan to offer daily 30-minute "catch-up" updates for GAC Members who may not be able to fully participate in the virtual meeting due to time zone challenges or other reasons.

The GAC Chair reviewed the GAC work efforts conducted intersessionally since ICANN70. She reviewed ongoing and upcoming GNSO policy development processes in which GAC Members have interests - including new gTLD Subsequent procedures PDP (wrapping-up), review of all rights protection mechanisms in all gTLDs (phase 1 wrapping-up), EPDP on gTLD registration data Phase 2a (ongoing), the IGO curative rights work track (ongoing), a transfer policy PDP (upcoming) and internationalized domain names – Track 2 (upcoming).

The GAC Chair confirmed the ongoing list of five GAC priority topics including:
- Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs (2 sessions planned for ICANN71)
- RDS/WHOIS and Data Protection (EPDP)
- DNS Abuse Mitigation (2 sessions planned for ICANN70) and
- IGO - Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs)

Topic leads for each of these matters shared brief summaries of the status of each priority topic.

The GAC Chair also identified several operational priorities for the committee, including:
- Operational Design Phases (ODP) launched or to be launched by ICANN org to assess operational impacts of GNSO Policy Recommendations
- Development of GAC Advice (per recent Board-GAC Interaction Group improvements)
- GAC Action/Decision Radar; and
- ICANN Meetings Planning (CEO Roundtables' discussions)

The GAC Chair reviewed the GAC work efforts conducted intersessionally since ICANN70. She summarized the GAC's public comment participation and notable correspondence since the last GAC public meeting[1]. She reported that since ICANN70, the GAC has been an active contributor to a number of ICANN community public forums and cross community efforts including comments regarding the Final Report of the Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2) Review Team. GAC public comments are recorded and tracked on a special web page of the GAC web site and can be located here - https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities.

Since ICANN70, the GAC also sent and received written correspondence regarding various matters of importance to GAC members including the GNSO Policy Development Process on the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Phase 1, a GAC Response to the ICANN Board Regarding EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations 19-22, and New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Outputs. Correspondence documents related to those matters and others since ICANN70 are posted and tracked on a special web page of the GAC web site which can be accessed here - https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/.

The GAC Chair reminded session attendees of the updated Communiqué drafting process that members had agreed to employ and successfully implemented for ICANN70. She noted that GAC Members had been offered the opportunity to share any advice proposals for Communiqué language before the meeting and that the document review period after the meeting was now set at 72 hours so that all GAC Members would have the opportunity to thoroughly review the Communiqué in their own time zone before publication.

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[1] See https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-public-comment-opportunities and https://gac.icann.org/advice/correspondence/

2.   PUBLIC POLICY AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

2.1.   Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs

The GAC discussed Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs, focusing on key topics and messages raised by GAC members in the collective [GAC comment](#) to the [(SubPro PDP) Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration](#) public comment proceeding. Göran Marby, ICANN CEO, provided an introduction on the next round of New gTLDs, noting that enhancing competition and enhancing opportunities for all Internet users to have their own identifiers is part of ICANN's mission and duty.

The Operational Design Phase (ODP) expected to be launched on the SubPro PDP Recommendations was presented by ICANN Org, including a discussion of the expected scope of this ODP, which is in the process of being finalized for ICANN Board review .

GAC members discussed potential next steps for the GAC to consider, including:
- Call for volunteers to serve on an internal GAC group to follow the Operational Design Phase once launched and help provide GAC input during the community consultation process; and
- Potential GAC Consensus Advice to the ICANN Board before it votes on the SubPro PDP Final Report. Timing is yet to be determined.

Action Point:
- **GAC Topic Leads** to follow-up with GAC members to seek potential volunteers to serve on an internal GAC group to provide input during the ODP community consultation. GAC Members to consider potential aspects where GAC Consensus Advice may be merited.

2.2.   DNS Abuse Mitigation

During ICANN71, the GAC discussed several matters relevant to the mitigation of DNS Abuse, including an update on the report of the SSAC DNS Abuse Work Party (SSAC115), the collaboration between the GAC PSWG and Registry Stakeholders on addressing Botnets and Malware at scale, and the continuing impact on public safety organizations of challenges in accessing gTLD registration data. In the area of contractual compliance by Registries and Registrars, following GAC consideration of this matter during ICANN70, Japan proposed further discussion of measures to strengthen the enforcement of ICANN Contracts.

Regarding the SAC115 report, a PSWG Co-chair who participated in the work of the SSAC's DNS Abuse Work Party provided highlights of the report and presented the main SSAC recommendation, that the ICANN community considers a proposed Common Abuse Response Facilitator to streamline abuse reporting and minimize abuse victimization. Stressing the value of the SSAC's recommendation, the PSWG Co-chair encouraged the GAC to support this effort. A GAC Member expressed support for the recommendations and possible discussion with the ICANN Board to determine next steps.

Regarding the collaboration between the GAC PSWG and Registry Stakeholders on addressing Botnets and Malware at scale, Topic leads from both parties reported on the ongoing finalization of a Framework on Domain Generating Algorithms (DGAs) Associated with Malware and Botnets. This voluntary Framework is expected to facilitate operational cooperation between law enforcement, Registries and ICANN to ensure a streamlined, timely, and enduring process to take down DGA domains supporting the operations of botnets.

Regarding the public safety impact of ongoing challenges to access to gTLD registration data, the presentation of a recent study by the MAA3WG highlighted the consequences of recent changes to WHOIS services following the adoption of ICANN's Temporary Specification. Challenges for law enforcement and their cybersecurity partners include obtaining timely access to accurate data, dealing with fragmented procedures to request access to registration data across Contracted Parties, and not being able to effectively leverage ICANN compliance resources. PSWG Topic Leads also stressed specific disagreements in ongoing ICANN discussions: with Contracted Parties in EPDP Phase 1 Implementation on the timeline for response to requests for registration data; and with the ICANN Board on the Implementation of Recommendation 17 of the CCT Review (which called for the collection and publication by ICANN of the chain of parties responsible for gTLD domain registrations or so called "reseller" information).

Regarding the strengthening of ICANN contractual compliance, following emphasis in the ICANN70 GAC Communiqué of "*the importance of taking measures to ensure that Registries, Registrars and Privacy/Proxy Providers comply with the provisions in the contracts with ICANN, including audits",* Japan proposed that the GAC begins "*discussions on finding appropriate measures to strengthen enforcement*" including regarding: the collection of accurate information from registrants at the timing of domain registration; the verification of the identity of registrant; and response to abuse reports.

A GAC Member commended the work of the PSWG, highlighting the importance of DNS Abuse mitigation, and expressed support for Japan's proposals, stressing the importance of compliance enforcement in addressing such issues. Among specific topics discussed by GAC Members as important going forward were: ensuring the accuracy of registration data; access to registration data for law enforcement and their cybersecurity partners; and education of end-users about DNS Abuse. Regarding end-user education efforts, PSWG co-chair stressed ongoing discussions between the GAC PSWG and the ALAC on this matter.

2.3. RDS/WHOIS and Data Protection

Representatives of the GAC in the EPDP Team provided status of ongoing policy efforts to bring WHOIS into compliance with Data Protection law since the adoption of ICANN's Temporary Specification and the ensuing GNSO Expedited Development Process (EPDP) on gTLD Registration Data. A discussion of the overall timeline of these efforts highlighted significant uncertainties as to when completion could be expected.

Regarding ongoing implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 policy recommendations, GAC Topic Leads recalled ongoing challenges related to the timeline for completion of this work, and to its impact on the implementation of the Privacy/Proxy Service Accreditation Policy Issues (PPSAI) and Thick Whois policies.

Regarding the EPDP Phase 2 policy recommendations being considered by ICANN in a Operational Design Phase (ODP), GAC Topics leads recalled the areas of consensus and non-consensus among stakeholders, as well as concerns expressed on the proposed Standardized System for Access/Disclosure (SSAD). GAC Topics leads highlighted the adoption by the ICANN Board of its response (12 May 2021) to the ICANN70 GAC Advice "*to consider the GAC Minority Statement and available options to address the public policy concerns expressed therein, and take necessary action, as appropriate.*"
GAC Topics leads also reported on the launch of the SSAD ODP which aims to assess the operational

impact of the implementation of the GNSO recommendations and inform their formal consideration by the ICANN Board. Requests for community input to inform the ODP are expected in the coming months [Several consultations have since been launched by ICANN org: a [Request for Information](#) on identity verification methods; a community [Questionnaire](#) on the expected demand for an SSAD; and a [survey of GAC Members](#) regarding the accreditation of public authorities].

Regarding the ongoing Phase 2A of the EPDP, GAC Topic Leads reported on the recent publication of an Initial Report stressing that some of the proposed recommendations do not reflect an agreement of all stakeholders on the EPDP Team (including the GAC), and that no mandatory requirements are proposed to either distinguish between the registration data of legal versus natural persons, or publish anonymized unique contacts in domain registration data. GAC Members were expected to consider a proposed GAC Input on the EPDP Phase 2A Initial Report after the ICANN71 meeting and to also consider a national comment as appropriate. [The [GAC Input on the Phase 2A](#) Initial Report was eventually submitted on 19 July 2021 and is now being considered by the EPDP Team]

Regarding Accuracy of gTLD Registration Data, GAC Topics leads recalled that as stated in the Phase 2 GAC Minority Statement, the accuracy of registration data is fundamental to ensure a secure and resilient DNS. They also recalled that discussion of this issue at ICANN pre-dates the EPDP process, that it was initially expected to be addressed during EPDP Phase 1 (2018-2019), and it is thus imperative that the work of the GNSO Scoping Team on this matter starts as soon as possible. Given the above and the importance of scoping in GNSO policy processes, GAC Topic Leads believe that the GAC should take part in such work.

2.4. IGO Protection Matters

The GAC reviewed background on IGO Protection Matters, and discussed:
   i. the maintenance of the GAC IGO list,
   ii. discussions with the Board concerning a moratorium on certain IGO-related domain name registrations in New gTLDs, and
   iii. developments from the GNSO IGO Work Track which is currently underway.

Regarding (i), the GAC is expected to agree on a process for adding/removing IGOs to ensure completeness and accuracy of the GAC IGO List created in 2012 with the assistance of IGOs and ICANN Org. Regarding (ii) and (iii), following exchanges with the ICANN Board during the Board/GAC Consultation Process on IGOs, the GAC submitted Advice to the ICANN Board at ICANN71, to clarify that the current moratorium on the registration of IGO acronyms should remain in place pending the conclusion to the GNSO work track discussing curative rights protection mechanism for IGOs.

Action Point:
- **GAC Leadership and Topic Leads** to review the proposed IGO list maintenance process and address any open questions before sharing with the GAC membership for review and input.

3. GAC WORKING GROUPS

3.1. GAC Public Safety Working Group (PSWG)

The PSWG led a session to update the GAC on DNS Abuse (see section 2.3 above) highlighted its continued focus on this matter, discussing possible steps forward which include assessing how contract provisions may be improved to respond to DNS Abuse.

The PSWG continued its active participation to support the GAC Small Group towards the development of EPDP Phase 2A recommendations on the treatment of data from legal entities and pseudonymized email addresses in gTLD Registration Data Services. The PSWG also signaled its intent to contribute to the scoping efforts on registration data accuracy and to support the GAC in ensuing policy development efforts. Members of the PSWG continue to support the GAC in the Implementation Review Team for Phase 1 of the EPDP. In addition, the PSWG noted that collecting data and requiring the publication of the chain of parties responsible for gTLD domain name registrations, per CCT Recommendation 17, would benefit law enforcement and others that rely on domain name registration data for their investigations by more precisely identifying the entity which possesses the relevant registrant data.

During ICANN71, the PSWG held discussions with: ICANN org including representatives of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, the Security Stability Resiliency team, Strategic Initiatives Department, and Contractual Compliance; the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC); the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC); Registry and Registrar Stakeholder Groups (RySG, RrSG); and the GNSO's Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG).

4. CROSS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Meeting with the ICANN Board

The GAC Chair welcomed Board members to the traditional meeting with the GAC. The first topic she addressed involved the preparation of briefing materials for the GAC. She expressed concerns about recent changes to the briefing format - particularly the introduction of questions that appeared to be posed by the ICANN org to GAC members for consideration in their preparations for the meeting. She expressed the GAC's appreciation for the good intentions regarding meeting preparations and acknowledged the tight time frame presented by preparations for the public meeting. She noted that in the future the GAC would expect these types of questions to be first submitted to the GAC through its leadership and topic leads.

The ICANN CEO expressed his thanks to the GAC Chair for recognizing the importance of ICANN's work to continuously improve its support of the GAC. He noted his interactions with the GAC leadership prior to ICANN71, including sharing of the intention of providing the briefing questions, and noted that in the future engagement would be improved. He expressed thanks for the apparent acknowledgement that there was value in helping GAC participants to synthesize prospective meeting issues so they can effectively prepare within their own governments for the public meeting discussions. He offered to do so directly with any specific governments that felt that additional support would be helpful. The Board Chair thanked the GAC Chair and the CEO for addressing this matter and affirmed that the Board remains committed to further improving the collaboration between the GAC and both ICANN Board and ICANN org.

The GAC Chair identified the topics that had been flagged for discussion during this session noting that she would introduce each topic, allowing for interactions by the Board, and follow-up by GAC Member representatives for further discussions or clarifications.

Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs

The GAC Chair reported that the GAC continues to prioritize subsequent rounds of New gTLDs, engaging actively and following closely all relevant discussions with the help of its topic leads. She noted that the Chair/Vice Chair team had already prioritized this topic on a recent GAC Chair/Vice Chair call with Göran Marby, and had invited the ICANN CEO to offer an introductory overview of the topic during this meeting.

Goran Marby shared several overview thoughts about the next round of New gTLDs. He recalled his previous meeting remarks (during the GAC's earlier discussion of Subsequent Rounds) and noted that the next round of New gTLDs will provide access opportunities for many new languages and scripts on the internet. He noted that a subsequent round will be able to build on the existing foundations of the Universal Acceptance and IDN initiatives to make the Internet available to many more new people who communicate in languages other than English. He also noted the opportunities a new round will provide for citizens around the world to develop local content and to enable content and connectivity providers to keep data centers in their own countries rather than locating them in other places.

The GAC Chair thanked the ICANN CEO for his remarks and reinforced that the GAC supports the multistakeholder process and does not object to the introduction of New gTLDs. She indicated that the

committee does not intend nor wish to unnecessarily delay the process to prepare for a future round of New gTLDs. She noted that the GAC would continue to highlight matters that need to be considered prior to a new round, acknowledging that these points are of long-standing nature and not last-minute requests intended to delay the process. She noted that the opportunity for IDNs and Universal Acceptance to expand, diversify, and deliver an inclusive DNS market aligns with GAC views on the importance of reaching out to developing countries and emerging economies in the promotion of any next rounds. She acknowledged the recent ICANN announcement on expanding the capabilities of the ongoing ICANN DNSTICR effort to incorporate a measure of linguistic diversity in combating COVID-related abuse[2]. She noted that the GAC would like to be further alerted to this development in the future.

The GAC Chair also noted that the GAC had recently submitted GAC collective input on the Board consultation related to the GNSO Subsequent procedures recommendations and asked the Board to ensure that all the necessary steps to address recommendations of the CCT Review and SAC114 be taken before any new round of New gTLDs is conducted. She advised that the GAC is looking forward to seeing an objective and independent analysis of costs and benefits of a new round, drawing on experience with and outcomes from the 2012 round - indicating that this analysis would allow the GAC to offer further advice ahead of the launch of a new round.

Board members noted that they were impressed by the degree and intensity of participation from GAC members in the deliberations regarding the GNSO Subsequent Procedures PDP Recommendations for the next round of New gTLDs. It was noted that the Board is working with the ICANN org to develop questions that will need to be addressed within the context of an upcoming Operational Design Phase (ODP) - if ultimately approved - to fully consider the GNSO's recent outputs. It was observed that many of the questions asked by the GAC will likely be dealt with in the context of an ODP in order for the Board to be able to ultimately make decisions on these issues. It was noted that one area that will likely receive consideration is the degree to which all studies and prerequisites for a next round are satisfied.

Board members also noted that when the GAC asks that the Board to ensure completion of all necessary steps and reviews regarding the CCT and the SSR2 Review recommendations, it would be very helpful to know which portions of those recommendations are concerned and what completion means to the GAC.

GAC members noted a number of areas of specific interest and concern that would benefit from further dialogue including clarification of the role of the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team ("SPIRT"), particular aspects of closed generics, private auctions, community based applications, the applicant support program and universal acceptance as well as the expected outreach and communication with emerging economies and developing countries. GAC Members thanked Board members for their willingness to conduct various dialogues on subsequent rounds of New gTLDs with governments and urged the Board to share more reaction and questions with the GAC as such exchanges could streamline the preparations process.

GAC members asked about the expected time frame of an ODP for next round issues. ICANN Board Members advised that an ODP will likely take more than six-months, given: the size of this effort, the scope of issues at play, challenges with predicting the degree of public interest in a subsequent round, and many areas on which the Board wishes to have further clarity.

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[2] See ICANN Announcement Adding Linguistic Diversity to the Domain Name Security Threat Information Collection and Reporting Project on 14 June 2021.

DNS Abuse Mitigation

The GAC Chair reported that the GAC continues to harbor serious concerns regarding the absence of policy recommendations related to DNS abuse mitigation in the SubPro PDP Working Group Final Report. She noted that the Working Group deemed that such further efforts should be holistic and must apply to both existing and New gTLDs. The GAC urged the Board and the ICANN community to collectively and meaningfully address this issue. She explained that the GAC expects swift action from the GNSO Council in triggering a holistic effort on these issues. The GAC considers that DNS Abuse needs to be addressed prior to a new round and sees value in the SSAC Comment on SubPro policy recommendations that *"Waiting until efforts to mitigate DNS abuse can be equally applied to all existing and* New gTLDs*, effectively seeds the ground to malicious actors who can depend upon a long policy development process to hinder meaningful anti-abuse measures"*. The GAC Chair also indicated that the GAC would like to seek Board views regarding SAC115 and the proposed common abuse response facilitator, and whether the Board expects to take the lead in fostering the recommended community effort.

Board members explained that the issue of DNS Abuse remains a very important topic for the Board and is being treated seriously. It was reported that a new Board caucus group is being established to focus on DNS Abuse and the Board believes there are meaningful solutions that can be found inside the multistakeholder model. Board members also indicated that they will continue their consideration of the SSR2 Final Report as many of the recommendations in that document relate to DNS Abuse.

It was noted that ICANN org continues to develop tools on improving the community's understanding of DNS Abuse issues including outreach to contracted parties to extend the DAAR program and the efforts of the ICANN Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to increase the level of linguistic diversity of the strings being monitored for malicious activity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GAC members expressed appreciation for the updates from the Board and noted it will be interesting to hear more information from the new Board caucus group once they have considered input from the SSAC (SAC115).

CCT and SSR2 Recommendations

The GAC Chair noted that the GAC very much appreciates ICANN org's efforts to compile a shared set of references to public information available on the CCT recommendations, yet expressed that the GAC is more in favor of a dynamic tracking of the implementation of the recommendations - a tracking tool which may also serve as a centralized place to track recommendations of other reviews as well.

Board members noted the continuing desire for transparency and referenced status links that had already been provided to the GAC by the ICANN org. It was noted that there is always a tension between actually making progress and tracking progress. Board members noted that some of the CCT recommendations asked the Board to take action the Board was not empowered to take per ICANN bylaws and those recommendations were forwarded to the GNSO, without any Board ability to require further action.

Board members reported that the Board has formed an internal SSR2 focus group and is utilizing that structure to consider the various SSR2 recommendations by the bylaws deadline of 25 July.

Registration Data/WHOIS/GDPR Matters

Board members reported on activities since the 29 April launch of the Operational Design Phase (ODP) for the System for Standard Access/Disclosure (SSAD). It was reported that the GNSO Council has appointed a liaison to the ODP. It was also reported that a new section on the ICANN website has been established to share informational and progress updates on the ODP. There are plans for a request for information (RFI) to be released soon seeking information to better understand what may be commercially available in the marketplace to deliver some or all of the SSAD[3]. A community webinar update regarding the ODP's progress will also be scheduled for mid-July[4].

The GAC Chair indicated that the GAC noted the absence of recommendation to change existing policy in the initial report of the EPDP Phase 2A. She reported that the GAC will follow up on these issues with a view to establishing policies that balance data protection and other public policy interests within ICANN. With respect to registration data accuracy, she said the GAC has offered to support the GNSO Council in its scoping of a PDP, and is very much looking forward to the launch of such efforts.

Board members noted that some members of the GAC were very involved in the legal questions that have been involved in the EPDP Phase 2A. It was acknowledged that legal advisors to the Phase 2A process were pressed very hard to provide more advice and clarity regarding the natural vs legal distinction and how some sort of actionable advice could be created. It was noted that, unfortunately, feedback to the requests reiterated the advice that had previously been provided.

ICANN Return to In-Person Meetings

Board members noted that there was useful community feedback to a recent ICANN org survey about the considerations for ICANN72 to be conducted as a hybrid meeting. It was recognized that the safety and security of all the people in the ecosystem and equitable participation from all communities were key factors in any discussions about a return to in-person meetings in any form. The Board Chair noted the value of having interaction with the SO/AC leaders to help Board members collect the thoughts and impressions from the multistakeholder community.

The GAC Chair reported that the GAC had conducted discussions on these matters during ICANN71 and shared that while government representatives look forward to the return to in-person ICANN public meetings, it is important that all potential participants be treated equally. It was suggested that any technical platforms that are deployed should enable this equality - both in attendance and participation capabilities. It was suggested that a combination of a face to face, hybrid and virtual meetings could be considered.

Adjournment

Recognizing that the meeting time had run long, meeting attendees shared their mutual thanks for the engagement and discussion and the meeting was adjourned.

A transcript of the entire GAC-Board exchange is appended to the GAC Communique for the ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum.

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[3] Several consultations have since been launched by ICANN org: a Request for Information on identity verification methods; a community Questionnaire on the expected demand for an SSAD; and a survey of GAC Members regarding the accreditation of public authorities.

[4] The webinar was held on 13 July and its recording is available at: https://www.icann.org/ssadodp

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

The GAC met with members of the ALAC and discussed several topics of joint interest including subsequent rounds/procedures for New gTLDs, registration data services and areas of potential future committee collaborations (including Internet Governance, DNS Abuse and ATRT3). The GAC and ALAC Chairs opened the meeting and noted that this session format was intended to promote a wider exchange of views rather than a series of panel presentations. On each topic, members of each Advisory Committee were encouraged to share information regarding the latest developments on each issue and what each Committee is doing about the issues at the moment.

Regarding subsequent rounds of new gTLDS, the ALAC topic lead reported that the issue remains a top priority and that in April, the Committee issued advice to the ICANN Board ahead of the Board's recent call for public comments. It was noted that the ALAC expects the Board to respond to its advice but the timeline for that is not clear. It was reported that the ALAC also anticipates the Board will initiate an Operational Design Phase (ODP) on Subsequent Procedures following the recent precedent regarding the System for Standard Access/Disclosure (SSAD) for gTLD registration data.
The ALAC reported that it hopes to maintain dialogue with the Board regarding the Competition, Consumer Choice and Consumer Trust Review Team recommendations, Closed Generic TLDs, name collision issues, and the permissibility of private auctions. It was noted that the GAC has been a strong partner to the ALAC, and that the ALAC hopes to strengthen that collaboration.

GAC topic leads noted that GAC positions expressed about subsequent rounds of New gTLDs have been consistent with a number of recent ALAC positions. It was noted that the GAC expects to monitor and participate actively in the related ODP. The GAC is also expected to consider whether to develop Consensus Advice on particular subsequent rounds matters in the future.

ALAC attendees identified a number of fundamental issues important to end users including: preserving security of private information and transactions, preserving local community identities in a global marketplace, and improving upon the previous New gTLD application process to make better decisions about applicant support, auction processes and measures to prevent and mitigate DNS abuse.

GAC attendees identified a number of fundamental issues important to governments and their citizens including growing and extending the DNS marketplace to better reach underserved and underrepresented regions, and increase availability of internationalized domain names.

Regarding registration data matters, ALAC representatives recognized the progress both Committees have achieved together and with other ICANN stakeholders over time, through improved information sharing and strategic discussions during the various phases of the EPDP process. It was noted that this would be a good model to follow in future policy development processes. It was stressed that there isn't a binary choice to be made between protection of personal data and the ability to identify and combat bad actors, and that end users would like both goals to be achieved.

GAC members acknowledged the challenging discussions that GAC has conducted with Contracted Parties, the ALAC and other members of the ICANN community to achieve consensus where possible in this area. It was noted that these discussions remain difficult but small progress is being made. One of

the major tasks that the community will continue to face is how to balance between data protection and enabling services to work efficiently and effectively.

Attendees shared information and impressions about the community plenary session earlier in the week regarding ICANN's Multistakeholder Model within the Internet Governance Ecosystem noting that the DNS has proven to be a big success during the global pandemic and that ICANN continues to have opportunities to be involved with wider international fora and to showcase its multistakeholder model.

Attendees noted the importance of following up on DNS Abuse mitigation issues and ATRT3 implementation as matters for future ICANN meeting cross-community discussions. The positive interactions on those issues between the GAC and ALAC were noted as good foundations for those future discussions.

4.3.   Meeting with the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The GAC met with members of the GNSO Council and followed-up on its ICANN70 discussions. **Regarding the SSAD**, the GAC noted it awaits a progress update from ICANN org on the Operational Design Phase (ODP) on the SSAD. In addition, consistent with Advice in the Kobe GAC Communiqué, the GAC continues to be interested in resuming the implementation of Privacy/Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) policy recommendations. The GNSO Chair noted that the GNSO Council followed very closely the developments of the implementation of recommendations relative to Phase 1. The GNSO Council's conclusion at this stage, as it evaluates the workload and considers restarting the work of this IRT, is that it would be useful to turn to members of the IRT Team for their availability.

On EPDP Phase 2A, the GAC chair noted that GAC representatives in the EPDP Phase 2A have raised several process observations following the recent publication of the Initial Report: timeline constraints detrimental to EPDP's work, and a tendency of too many substantive changes being introduced too late in the drafting process of the Initial Report, without sufficient time for review. The GAC recalled its request, formulated as a [statement with the ALAC in 2017,](#) for a document management system which would centralize documents and would directly improve the effectiveness of the EPDP team.

On registration data accuracy, the GNSO Council noted its consideration of the ICANN Org paper of February 2021 and its discussion at Council level, following the proposal to launch a scoping team at the end of April 2021. The GNSO Council Vice-Chair noted that during the May 2021 GNSO Council meeting a decision was made to form a second Council Work Team to draft a new set of instructions. The timeline for the start of this work is likely to coincide with the conclusion of EDPD Phase 2A, which is expected in August. A GAC member noted that registration data accuracy is an important and urgent issue, not just in terms of GDPR compliance but also as a Contracted Party obligation, and that the scoping exercise should ideally begin as soon as possible and be broad enough to capture all facets of the issue, and involve all relevant stakeholders. The GAC reiterated its interest in participating.

Regarding policy consideration on DNS Abuse, the GNSO Council Vice-Chair noted that significant work has already been carried out on this topic, and underscored the importance of scoping in order to move forward with a potential PDP. Items to be addressed in this respect include the forms of abuse, the parties involved in mitigating abuse, what it means to mitigate abuse and what gaps currently exist. If a PDP were to be initiated it would need to be done within the remit of the GNSO. The GNSO Council welcomes ideas from GAC members on how to reach a common understanding in the ICANN

Community, and on what can be tackled by the GNSO and by ICANN within their remits. The GNSO Chair noted that the GNSO Council is intending to hold a dedicated session on DNS Abuse intersessionally prior to the next GNSO Council meeting to identify ways to move forward concretely and seek broader community input.

On the CCT Review Recommendations and the GNSO Council's take on said recommendations, the GNSO Council members noted that their views are consistent with those of the ICANN Board: all recommendations from the CCT Review were considered from the GNSO Council perspective. Nevertheless, the GNSO Council underscored that it does not oppose additional clarity on how recommendations have been handled, agreeing that a tracking tool for CCT Recommendations would be useful for the community.

5. INTERNAL GAC MATTERS

5.1. Discussion of Future of GAC Meetings

GAC Members discussed ICANN planning for a return to in-person meetings in the future – including the option of conducting a hybrid meeting combining in-person and remote participation for ICANN72. ICANN org staff reported on the preliminary results of a recent survey of previous ICANN public meeting attendees regarding the possibilities of and the conditions under which a hybrid ICANN72 meeting could be conducted.

While there appears to be substantial interest in a return to in-person meetings, GAC Members expressed the need to assure that any transition back to in-person meetings assure a level of fairness for attendees from all around the globe and that considerations be made to assure robust remote participation capabilities. It was considered that the virtual experience has forged positive meeting innovations and that all future ICANN public meetings will essentially be hybrid gatherings and should feature robust participation capabilities for in-person and remote attendees.

5.2. GAC Operations (GAC Wrap-Up Session Discussion)

GAC Action/Decision Radar Feedback

GAC Support staff noted that, as promised, the first GAC Action/Decision Radar report was generated for GAC Members and Observer Organizations on 3 May 2021. The GAC Action/Decision Radar is a new tool that has been developed to enable all GAC members to track existing and anticipated developments requiring GAC attention and decision and allow the GAC to more effectively: determine collective GAC priorities; facilitate identifying topics of individual GAC member's interest; and possibly flag policy topics or activities of interest not already on the GAC's "radar". A dedicated Radar web page has been established on the GAC website.

GAC Web Site Plans

GAC staff reported that the newly designed GAC web site is expected to be launched by early July. The design change will not present any fundamental changes to GAC website technical infrastructure, but will feature navigation improvements and design updates for mobile phones and tablets. To effect the launch of the new site, the GAC support staff anticipates a brief publishing period will commence on or about 25 June 2021 with the new design fully published by 6 July.

2021 GAC Vice Chair Elections

GAC Support staff announced the initiation of the 2021 GAC Vice Chair Election nomination period at ICANN71. It was explained that the overall election process would conclude at ICANN72. For the 2021 election, there will be open seats for five (5) GAC Vice Chairs. The nomination period will extend from ICANN71 until 9 September 2021. It was noted and discussed that one (1) of the current Vice Chairs is eligible for re-election. Staff explained that third party nominations as well as self-nominations are possible. More than five nominations for Vice Chairs will require a balloting period. If balloting is needed for any position, GAC Members will be informed in early September and the now traditional online "Tally" election tool will be utilized. GAC Support will record all nominations on a special 2021 elections page on the GAC website.

Staff also noted that the election process creates an opportunity to update and capture any GAC membership representation changes as the first named representative on the GAC website will be considered as the voting delegate for each GAC Member. All GAC Members were reminded to check their membership information on the GAC website and to notify gac-staff@icann.org if another listed individual and/or another email address should be used.

Current and former GAC Vice Chairs shared information and impressions from their volunteering. They explained their various experiences and encouraged current GAC participants to consider nominating a GAC colleague or themselves for a Vice Chair role in the 2021 election.

GAC Post-ICANN71 Matters

The GAC Chair reviewed a number of topical matters that will prompt GAC attention after the ICANN71 meeting.

In the area of subsequent rounds of New gTLDs, it is expected an Operational Design Phase will be initiated to address the recent GNSO outputs. This will likely lead to GAC consideration of further advice to the ICANN Board.

The GAC also should expect continued work regarding all phases of the GNSO EPDP effort regarding registration data and data accuracy.

DNS Abuse discussions will also likely attract a good bit of community and GAC attention in the post-meeting period.

Launch of the new GNSO Policy Development Process for Internationalized Domain Names is also expected to require attention from the GAC.

The Chair also reminded attendees of the extensive Board scorecard response to the GAC ICANN70 Communiqué, noting the need to acknowledge receipt and identify any points that may warrant a follow-up.

As a result of these various topics and activities, the GAC Chair also alerted attendees to a number of expected post-meeting volunteer opportunities including:
● GAC Vice Chairs (nominations)
● SubPro/Rounds ODP
● SubPro Issue Leaders
● GAC UA-IDN Working Group Chair; and
● Up to three (3) GAC Representatives for the GNSO IDN EPDP

Evaluation of GAC ICANN71 Meeting Implementation

GAC Members discussed the implementation of the ICANN71 meeting and raised points that may be applicable to future meetings including - feedback on the opening session, an assessment of the preparation and formats for the community bilateral meetings (with the ICANN Board, ALAC and GNSO), feedback on the Communiqué drafting process and feedback on the GAC's experimentation with the Zoom webinar format during ICANN71.

GAC members recognized that the committee has shown particular excellence and resilience in managing the virtual meeting environment. It was noted that this was the second consecutive meeting

during which the GAC had managed to develop consensus advice to the ICANN Board in a virtual setting.

Regarding topic session implementation, it was observed that more time should be made for discussion and exchange of views during GAC plenary sessions. Newer colleagues were encouraged to take the floor and ask questions as it was noted that questions are interesting and can help to feed debate. Participants were also encouraged to use the simultaneous live interpretation tools provided for all GAC sessions.

GAC attendees suggested that the Zoom webinar experiment at ICANN71 be expanded at ICANN72 to include more GAC topical sessions. It was observed that the regular Zoom format can be most effectively utilized and targeted to bilateral meeting discussions where broad community participation in the chat can promote useful information exchange. Initial reactions to the webinar format experiment during two sessions at ICANN71 indicated that GAC participants appreciated the opportunity to focus their attention on the internal discussions with their fellow GAC colleagues during those sessions. While still emphasizing that transparency regarding GAC deliberations was important and maintained in the webinar format, it was observed that the format prevented distracting comments generated by session observers on topics and matters beyond the scope of the session's agenda.

Meeting planners were encouraged to consider additional session formats that would create broader participant discussion opportunities, including formats that could utilize small, sub-group or breakout room discussions by delegates on particular topics. In turn, these discussions could be reported to other participant groups during the session.

GAC Onboarding and Engagement

Participants were reminded by GAC Vice Chair Jorge Cancio that the Committee continues to experience a significant amount of annual turnover and that the C-VC team is constantly exploring ideas to encourage broader engagement and informed participation by delegates to the GAC. Among areas identified for future improvements are a renewal of regular GAC-wide topical webinars to inform participants about high priority GAC topics. A reexamination of content on the ICANN Learn system is also being initiated as a path toward providing more useful informational content to GAC delegates about Committee operations and general DNS policy issues. GAC Support staff briefly shared some aggregated metrics showing current and historical levels of GAC engagement and perspective at ICANN public meetings and on internal Committee email threads. It was explained that these types of data collection, assessment and analysis would help better inform future engagement improvements.

Key Post ICANN71 Meeting Dates

The GAC was alerted to a number of key post-meeting dates including:
- Possible Webinars on the GNSO IDN EPDP and the GNSO Consensus Playbook
- Deadline for submitting Public Comments on GNSO EPDP Phase 2A Interim Report - 19 July 2021
- Development of Meeting Topics for ICANN72 - August 2021
- GAC Vice Chair Nomination Deadline - 9 September 2021; and
- GAC Meeting at ICANN72 - Scheduled for 25-28 October

# # #

Attachment 1 - ICANN71 Virtual Community Forum - GAC ATTENDEES LIST

GAC Members (72) participating remotely		
Argentina	Holy See - Vatican City State	Pakistan
Armenia	Hong Kong, China	Portugal
Australia	Iceland	Russian Federation
Bahrain	India	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bangladesh	Iran	São Tomé and Príncipe
Belgium	Israel	Senegal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Serbia
Botswana	Jamaica	Singapore
Brunei Darussalam	Japan	Spain
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Sudan
Burundi	Republic of Korea	Sweden
Canada	Lithuania	Switzerland
China	Luxembourg	Chinese Taipei
Congo, Republic of	Madagascar	Thailand
Cook Islands	Malaysia	Timor-Leste
Côte d'Ivoire	Malta	Trinidad and Tobago
Croatia	Mexico	Uganda
Czech Republic	Morocco	Ukraine
Denmark	Republic of the Union of Myanmar	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	Nepal	United Kingdom
European Commission	Netherlands	United States of America
Finland	Niger	Zimbabwe
France	Nigeria	
Germany	Niue	
Georgia	Norway	

GAC Observers (5) participating remotely	
Council of Europe	United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	World Broadcasting Union
League of Arab States	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Attachment 2 - ICANN71 Action Points Compilation

#	Subject Matter	Action Point
1	Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs	GAC Topic Leads to follow-up with GAC members to seek potential volunteers to serve on an internal GAC group to provide input during the ODP community consultation. GAC Members to consider potential aspects where GAC Consensus Advice may be merited.
2	IGO Protection Matters	GAC Leadership and Topic Leads to review the proposed IGO list maintenance process and address any open questions before sharing with the GAC membership for review and input.