

GAC Meeting Minutes
Durban, South Africa
13-18 July 2013

GAC Capacity Building Session

The GAC held its second capacity building session on Saturday 13 July 2013 in advance of the plenary sessions. The agenda covered topics regarding ICANN, the multistakeholder model and government participation as well as GAC representative preparations in advance of an ICANN meeting.

The GAC also received a briefing from Pierre Dandjinou, ICANN's Vice President Stakeholder Engagement – Africa, regarding the current outreach strategy for Africa.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Opening Plenary

The Chair welcomed the GAC to the 47th GAC meeting and the GAC agenda was reviewed.

The GAC welcomed five new members to the GAC, notably Madagascar, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Swaziland and Zambia.

[Transcript](#)

Staff Update on New gTLDs and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement

The GAC received a briefing from Cyrus Namazi, Vice President, DNS Industry Engagement, regarding the recently approved Registrar Accreditation Agreement. It was noted that the twelve (12) Law Enforcement Recommendations, endorsed by the GAC, had been included in the approved version.

It was also noted that some sections of the RAA are in violation of the European data protection framework as laid out by the Article 29 Working Group. ICANN responded that they are closely monitoring this situation, and the new RAA does protect registrars from being in breach of their local laws in their jurisdictions.

The GAC also received a briefing from Christine Willett, Vice President, New gTLD Program, regarding the current status of the program – and changes since Beijing. The program has been primarily in an initial evaluation stage and this has progressed significantly. The new gTLD team has published initial evaluation results of 1,100 applications; 13 applications have been identified as eligible for extended evaluation; of the first 1,200 applications prioritized 49 applications have been withdrawn; 3 applications have not been approved, based in part on GAC advice. Initial evaluation will continue through the end of August 2013. Starting on 3 July ICANN is initiating the contracting process with applicants through priority number 50 who were eligible to proceed.

Action items:

ICANN staff has agreed to look into providing the numbers relating to which applications withdrew as a result of GAC advice.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Advice on New gTLDs

The GAC agreed to module 3.1 GAC consensus objections on the applications for .amazon (application number 1-1315-58086) and related IDNs in Japanese (application number 1-1318-83995) and Chinese (application number 1-1318-5591 and the application for .thai (application number 1-2112-4478).

The GAC also agreed further discussion between applicants and relevant governments was needed on the applications for .spa (application number 1-1309-12524 and 1-1619-92115); the application for .yun (application number 1-1318-12524; the application for .guangzhou (IDN in Chinese - application number 1-1121-22691) and the application for .shenzhen (IDN in Chinese - application number 1-1121-82863).

The GAC finalized its consideration of .date after discussions between the applicant and the relevant government occurred and the GAC does not object to this application proceeding.

The GAC finalized its consideration of .persiangulf after hearing opposing views, the GAC determined that it was clear that there would not be consensus on an objection regarding this string and therefore the GAC does not provide advice against this string proceeding. The GAC noted the opinion of GAC members from UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar that this application should not proceed due to lack of community support and controversy of the name.

The GAC agreed to extend the discussion regarding consensus safeguards on the strings .wine and .vin for 30 working days from 18 July 2013 with a view to concluding on the matter at that time.

The GAC noted the concerns expressed by the Government of India regarding .indians and .ram.

The GAC furthered its earlier advice regarding protection of names and acronyms of IGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent.

The GAC stated its intention to continue the dialogue with the NGPC on Safeguard Advice.

The GAC agreed to advise the Board to collaborate with the GAC on aspects regarding geographic names and community views for future rounds.

The GAC advised the Board to urgently consider the SSAC recommendations in SAC053 and SAC057.

The GAC further noted that provisions in the RA and RAA may conflict with applicable law in certain countries.

[Transcripts](#)

Briefing from the GeoTLD Group

The GAC received a briefing from the GeoTLD group, a group comprised of 50 new gTLD applicants who have applied for a geographic name top level domain. The group expressed their concerns to the GAC regarding the Registry Agreement and conflicts with national legislation. Other concerns expressed relate to the registration phase, and the trademark clearinghouse phase and the order of implementation of these phases.

The GeoTLD group will apply to become a GNSO constituency within the Registry Stakeholder Group.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with New gTLD Program Committee

The GAC met with the New gTLD Program Committee and exchanged views on how to advance the work relating to category 1 safeguards and protection of IGO acronyms on the second level in view of a very recent letter from the NGPC, identifying certain problems with the advice received from the GAC on these topics. The discussion concluded on the need for further dialogue on these matters and for GAC to internally address the modalities for such dialogue and revert to the NGPC with suggestions.

Action Item: GAC to internally discuss issues regarding category 1 safeguards and protection of IGO acronyms and agree on proposed ways forward in dialogue format to suggest to the NGPC.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with the GNSO

The GAC met with the GNSO and exchanged views on key policy development work in the GNSO, including an ongoing Policy Development Process (PDP) regarding protection of IGO and INGO names and acronyms. An exchange focused on the opportunities for the GAC to engage early in GNSO Policy Development Processes.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with the ATRT 2

The GAC met with the ATRT 2 and discussed expectations and priorities. The GAC encouraged the ATRT2 to give advice on improving the accountability and transparency in ICANN's financial operations reporting. The ATRT2 was invited to advise on how to improve outreach and active participation, especially from developing countries. Broad participation of stakeholders from all regions is vital for the legitimacy of ICANN and the multi-stakeholder model. The GAC also invited the ATRT2 to give advice on how to improve the GAC and the transparency of GAC meetings, and to better explain and provide rationales for the advice of the GAC. The ATRT2 invited individual GAC members to provide further written inputs to the Review Team.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with the SSAC

The GAC met with the SSAC and received an update on recent SSAC work regarding namespace collisions, internal name certificates and dotless domains, as documented in SSAC reports SAC053 and SAC057. The GAC and the SSAC exchanged views on ensuing concerns and the SSAC expressed appreciation for support of the findings.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with the ccNSO

The GAC met with the ccNSO and received information about the recently concluded policy development regarding IDN ccTLDs, the modification of the IDN Fast Track process with creation of a second panel and the Framework of Interpretation work. The GAC and the ccNSO also discussed how to further improve the future dialogue between the GAC and the ccNSO.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board

The GAC met with the ICANN Board and the GAC Chair referenced the ongoing dialogue with the NGPC regarding Category 1 safeguards and protections for IGO acronyms. GAC members brought up topics related to the strategic planning panels, ATRT 2, global stakeholder engagement and internationalization, string confusability, dotless domains and potential conflicts between the RA and RAA in relation to national laws. The Board Chair and some members commented on these topics. The ICANN CEO explained the rationale and the foreseen working methods for the strategic planning panels, emphasizing that they were of an advisory nature, and further highlighted recent improvements in the visibility of ICANN's accounting and planning.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Meeting with ALAC

The GAC met with the ALAC and received an introduction to ALAC's organization, bottom-up processes and output, including formal ALAC objections to certain new gTLD applications. The ALAC voiced concerns regarding issues on dot-less domains and domain name collisions and expressed support for recent SSAC statements. The ALAC also expressed concerns over the high threshold in the dispute resolution procedure for Public Interest Commitments (PIC) in particular in relation to the measurable harm standard required to file a complaint and the enforcement of these.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Briefing from the Domain Name Association

The GAC received a briefing from the Domain Name Association, which is currently in its early stages of creation. The interim Board Chairman, Adrian Kinderis, introduced the DNA to the GAC as a non-profit global business that represents the interests of the domain name industry. The DNA is not funded or affiliated with ICANN. Current members include groups, businesses and individuals that are involved in the provision and support of domain names – including registries, registrars, resellers, and registry service providers.

The DNA explained their mission, which is to promote the interests of the domain name industry by advocating the use, adoption, and expansion of domain names as the primary tool for users to navigate the Internet.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Briefing from the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services

The GAC met with the EWG and exchanged views on the model proposed by the EWG for the next generation directory service as a successor to the WHOIS service. The GAC referenced its WHOIS principles from 2007 and its Beijing advice regarding the WHOIS Review Team recommendations, which both have served as input for the work of the EWG. The GAC expressed its concerns about the risks associated with centralized storage of data in one repository in one jurisdiction, and raised a series of issues relating to the proposed data repository structure and access including security, data accuracy, consistency with national law, accreditation of database users, and privacy governance. The GAC stated its interest in further discussion of these issues as the working group progresses.

[Transcript](#)

GAC Planning Session

The GAC held a session to plan its further work and resolved to establish a Working Group on working methods, led by ES, and a Working Group on new gTLD matters for future rounds, led by AU.

GAC Briefing from Architelos

The GAC received a briefing on the TLD market and its development from Architelos, a consultancy focused on the domain name industry. John Matson and Alexa Raad from Architelos brought up trends in the market and how they could impact the use of new gTLDs, noting a decrease in the importance of domain names as the usage increases of search engines, social media, search codes and smart mobile devices. This was illustrated by examples of decreasing prices for some domain name transactions. The proliferation of TLDs may underline that trend and may further lead to changed abuse patterns. The briefing was concluded with suggestions on ways to address increased abuse risks.

[Transcript](#)