

# GAC Standards and Work Processes Overview

9 March 2018

Governmental Advisory Committee

I C A N N | G A C
Governmental Advisory Committee



ICANN64 GAC Plenary Meeting - Agenda Item 3.2

## **Session Goals**

- Provide Overview of Staff research and efforts regarding public comment process improvements for GAC
- Identify other areas of operational improvements work
- Spark Further GAC Member Ideas and Feedback





# **Session Topics**

#### 1. Production of GAC Public Comments

- a) Issue Statement
- b) Information Flow
- c) Process Standardization

## 2. Enabling Effective GAC Participation

- a) Opportunities
- b) Enablers
- c) Concepts
  - i. Communication Improvements
  - ii. ICANN Meeting preparation Improvements
  - iii. Consider Groups of Interest

## 3. Other Operational Improvement Areas





## **Production of GAC Public Comments**

#### **Issue Statement**

Increasing workload and tight time frames can create operational challenges when formulating GAC Input or Public Comment:

- Complexity or scope of some issues require extensive time for consideration.
- Timing of drafting can be an issue for some GAC members
- Some GAC Members may need more time for considering and contributing to draft comments

#### **Potential Avenues To Address Issue**

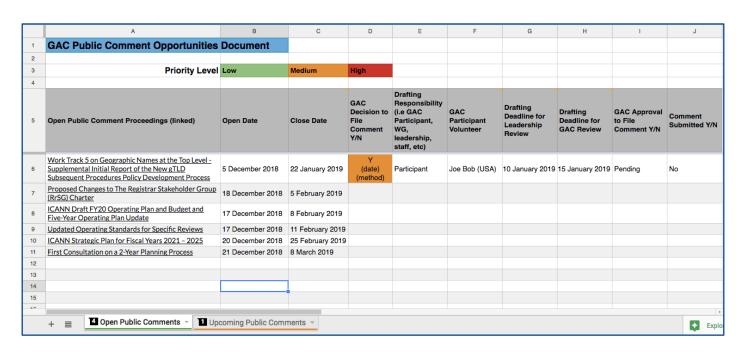
- Improve information flow to inform earlier decisions
- Standardize a process that enables more input





## **Production of GAC Public Comments – Information Flow**

- Draft Staff Template under development
- Staff also developing updated working group member inventory

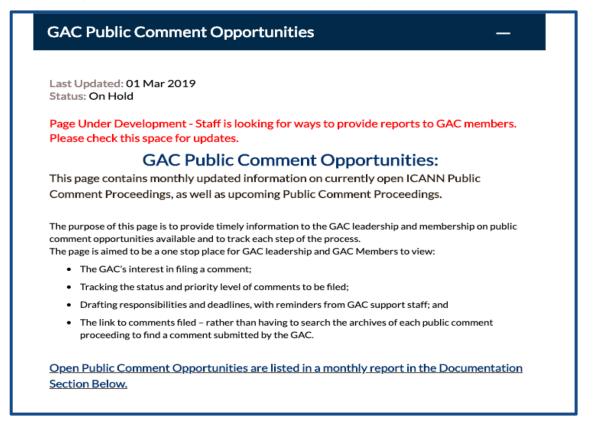






## Production of GAC Public Comments – Information Flow

Web Page for GAC member tracking - under development







## **Production of GAC Public Comments – Brainstorming (1)**

#### What does standardization look like?

- <u>Drafting</u> of GAC Positions/Comments
  - O Who should hold the pen when no volunteer is identified or emerging?
  - O What is the general timeframe to be expected for the drafting of a comment?
  - Should there be two phases to drafting (initial and subsequent, after review by GAC)?
- <u>Timeframe for review</u> by the GAC Membership
  - How long should the GAC Membership be provided for reviewing a Draft Comment?
  - How long should a revised Draft (after GAC review) be circulated before publication?
  - Should there be an absolute minimum timeline even when production of a GAC Comment needs to be expedited?
- Format of contributions from GAC Membership
  - Should it be formally clarified that input on drafts is expected in track changes?





## **Production of GAC Public Comments – Brainstorming (2)**

- Consensus requirements
  - Should consensus be expected on GAC Input or Public Comment?
     if so, what standard?
  - o If not, should there be a standard way or conveying the full range of views?
- Role of GAC Leadership
  - O In Drafting or coordinating the Drafting of a GAC Comment ?
  - O In Authorizing the initiation of a GAC Comment ?
  - In dealing with escalation of situations not meeting the expected standards?
- <u>First Opportunity to Utilize?</u> GNSO EPDP on Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Policy Recommendations for ICANN Board Consideration (Closes 17 April)





# **Enabling Effective GAC Participation**

- a) Opportunities
- b) Enablers
- c) Concepts
  - i. Communication Improvements
  - ii. ICANN Meeting preparation Improvements
  - iii. Consider Groups of Interest





# **Enabling Effective GAC Participation - Opportunities**

- GAC Participants have limited time to deal with ICANN matters
- ICANN subject matters may generally require greater than average attention because of factors such as:
  - inherent complexity of issues (GDPR, Rights of Countries to geographic names)
  - need to coordinate contributions from several departments of governments in countries before offering contributions and positions,
  - intricacies of past developments and depth of background information needed to understand issues
- GAC Mailing List: (in addition to other ICANN mailing lists): providing the right level of information needed (too little/too much), being too active (can reach 100+ messages per month
- Rotation of GAC participants may compound and multiply the effects of the above factors for officials that have limited knowledge of the ways of ICANN



# **Enabling Effective GAC Participation - Enablers**

- Leverage core group of GAC participants who tend to act as <u>de facto</u> topic leaders, who actively contribute to the formation of GAC views, positions and key outcomes.
- "Alternates"- type arrangements in PDP Working Groups have allowed continuity of GAC Participation in non-GAC activities
- Proactive GAC Briefings via webinars on specific topics have proved conducive to effective engagement (this was the case in the early phase of GDPR for example)
- Leverage Existing Collaboration Tools
  - Utilize current connections (e.g., working groups) between topic leaders and GAC Leadership is effective in dealing with complex subject matters and difficult situations
  - Features of the GAC Mailing list such as digests, or archives (improvement could possibly sought as part of ITI such as the searchability of mailing list archives)
  - New GAC Website (still in of content building and features improvement after challenged launch)



# **Enabling Effective GAC Participation - Concepts (1)**

## **Communications Improvements:**

- GAC-wide information flow:
  - Better labelling of GAC email list traffic
  - Summary Documents Bi-Weekly/Monthly Executive Summaries by Leadership (+ Support Team) for substantive developments and other announcements
  - Chair Announcements
  - Strategic considerations (such as ICANN Board Engagement)
  - GAC Internal Procedures such as Leadership Elections, call for participation in Groups of Interest, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- Leverage website Activity Spaces for "pull" information on specific topics



# **Enabling Effective GAC Participation - Concepts (2)**

### **ICANN Meetings Preparation Improvements:**

- Reinforce briefing regimes (e.g., webinars and packaging of written reports)
- In addition to overall GAC Leadership coordination/decision making, consider specific contributions from organizational and thought/topic leaders

<u>Consider Groups of Interest</u> (organizing interested GAC Members in pre-identified topics/policy areas):

- To complement, and including, GAC working groups, small group, formal/informal leadership groups, etc.
- Flexible degree of intensity/formality, mailing list (if needed) and CVC Calls discussion as needed
- Possible Examples:
  - WHOIS Policy (today's GAC EPDP Small Group)
  - New gTLD Policy (needed in light of expected future developments?)
  - Accountability Processes (e.g. CCWG Accountability/Stewardship transition)



## **Other Operational Improvements**

- Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (Thursday)
- Travel Guidelines Review and Update (Thursday)
- Capacity Building Workshops USRWG (Sunday)
- Leveraging ICANN Learn USRWG (Sunday)









