78 | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ICANN

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# GAC Capacity Development Workshop

# The GAC High Level Government Meeting - Introduction, Background and Preparations for ICANN80 HLGM - Kigali, Rwanda

**GAC Capacity Development Workshop
Session 3**

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ICANN78
21 Oct 2023 | 13:15 UTC

# Agenda

3.1 Introduction to the High Level Government Meeting (HLGM)

3.2 Past HLGMs

3.3 Future HLGM - ICANN80

# Introduction to the High Level Government Meeting (HLGM)

Agenda Item #3.1

# HLGM Background

The High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) provides the opportunity to:

- Reaffirm the critical role that governments play in providing advice to the ICANN Board on public-policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the Domain Name System.
- Enable all parties to gain a clearer understanding of the role of governments in ICANN processes, including the GAC.
- Discuss current public policy issues and challenges at very senior level. These discussions can occur between government and government, as well as between governments and the ICANN leadership group.
- Expose very senior administrative officials and senior elected officials (Ministers, members of legislative bodies) to ICANN, allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the organisation and the issues it deals with. In turn, this may lead to better support for and resourcing of GAC representatives within their home administrations.
- Reach out to administrations and governments who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC or in other ICANN forums.

# HLGM Background

- The GAC has looked to host an HLGM  High Level Governmental Meeting (HLGM) in conjunction with an ICANN meeting and in addition to the usual GAC meeting approximately once every two years
- The concept grew out of recommendations made by previous Accountability and Transparency Review Teams (ATRT1 and ATRT2)
- ATRT1 Recommendation 14:

*"The Board should endeavor to increase the level of support and commitment of governments to the GAC process. First, the Board should encourage member countries and organizations to participate in GAC deliberations and should place a particular focus on engaging nations in the developing world, paying particular attention to the need to provide multilingual access to ICANN records. Second, the Board, working with the GAC, should establish a process to determine when and how ICANN engages senior government officials on public policy issues on a regular and collective basis to complement the existing GAC process."*

# HLGM Background

- *ATRT2* Recommendation 6.7:

  *"Recommends that the Board work jointly with the GAC, through the Board-GAC Recommendation Implementation (BGRI) working group, to regularize senior officials' meetings by asking the GAC to convene a High Level meeting on a regular basis, preferably at least once every two years. Countries and territories that do not currently have GAC representatives should also be invited and a stock-taking after each High Level meeting should occur."*

# In a Nutshell

- The HLGM is a key ICANN's meeting taking place every two years
- The aim of the HLGM is to raise high level political awareness about ICANN's role and activities in the broader Internet Governance
- The HLGM is not a GAC+ meeting

# Past HLGMs

Agenda Item #3.2

# History - Past HLGMs

- Previous HLGM's have taken place in:
  - Toronto (ICANN45),
  - London (ICANN50),
  - Marrakesh (ICANN55) and
  - Barcelona (ICANN63)
- "Past hosts have contributed to a Guide" for HLGMs is published on the GAC web site - https://gac.icann.org/meeting-services/guidelines-for-high-level-government-meetings

# History - Past HLGMs

- HLGM hosts generally generate their own post-meeting report
- 2018 HLGM Chair's Report generated after the meeting - https://gac.icann.org/reports/icann63%20hlgm%20chairs%20report_final(feb19).pdf -

> *"This meeting has offered a great opportunity to governments, and international and regional organi[z]ations to discuss the technical, legal, and geopolitical challenges that ICANN faces, as it works to fulfill its mission, in an always expanding and overarching changing Internet ecosystem. It was also a good opportunity for getting appropriate update about ICANN's priorities and strategic trends in the post IANA Transition era."*
>
> Francisco Polo, Spanish Secretary of State for Digital Advancement

# Future HLGM - ICANN80 - Kigali, Rwanda

Agenda Item #3.3

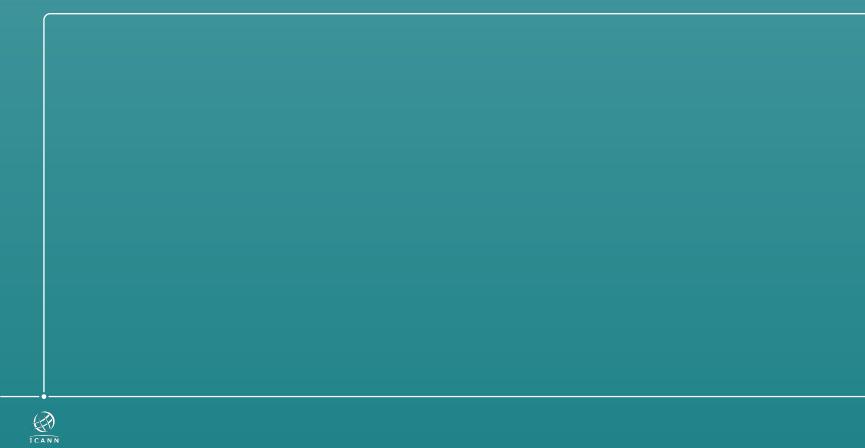# Key Planning Phases for ICANN80

- Identify Topics (during ICANN78)
- Confirm invitees
- Send invitations
- Fine Tune agenda
- Process RSVP

**Role for GAC Representatives:**

- Identify appropriate contacts in your government for invitation
- Promote/inform internal government contacts about ICANN and HLGM
- Brief/accompany senior officials as appropriate

# Discussion

# Agenda Development for ICANN80

- Topics for ICANN63 HLGM in Barcelona, Spain

  - Challenges for the privacy of registrants.
  - Stocktaking of the 2012 new gTLD round: expectations and outcomes.
  - ICANN after the IANA transition: assessment of the resulting organisation and pending issues.
  - Value-added of Governments and intergovernmental organisations´ participation in ICANN. DNS evolution in the light of cybersecurity, blockchain technologies and Internet of Things.

# Planning for ICANN80

- Potential Topics for ICANN80 HLGM in Kigali, Rwanda

    - Digital Divide (Development of Meaningful Connectivity, IDNs & Universal Acceptance, New gTLDs & ccTLDs)

    - Cybersecurity (DNS Security and Resiliency)
    - Potential Impact of Emerging Technologies on the DNS and on   ICANN's mandate
    - Coalition for Digital Africa

- Selection of three/four main topics

# Thank you