

# **Welcome to the GAC -** ***Attending Your First GAC Meeting***

ICANN85 - Community Forum  
Mumbai, India

**23 February 2026**

**13:00 UTC**



**85** | **COMMUNITY  
FORUM**

# Today's Goals

- Welcome to the GAC
- Provide an overview of background, context and operations of GAC Public Meetings
- Info about Meeting Preparation Resources

# GAC Meeting Overview (RH)

- GAC meetings are held three times a year in a hybrid format, allowing both on-site and remote participation
- GAC meets in conjunction with ICANN public meetings
- Over 25+ years the committee has evolved to work year-round
- Traditionally, GAC used face-to-face meetings to do its work; with limited remote “observations”. Since the Covid pandemic experience, meetings are now fully “hybrid”
- Meetings have become touch-points for negotiating and network opportunities
  - Opportunities for cross-community collaboration and communication
  - GAC continues to develop a Communiqué during each meeting

# Key Aspects of GAC Public Meetings (RH)

- All GAC meeting sessions are open/public “hybrid” format - major reliance on Zoom Room capabilities
- Meeting are intended to be as accessible as possible:
  - Real-time interpretation in 6 UN languages + Portuguese
  - Real-time captioning - Remote participation
  - Recording of the meetings are kept on GAC website
- GAC Meetings are based on open dialogue and collegiality
- GAC traditionally produces a communiqué to the ICANN Board and community at the end each meeting
- The GAC Communiqué, meeting recordings and minutes, transcription and recording of all open meeting sessions are posted online after the meeting

# Preparing for the Meeting (RH)

- ICANN Goal to Schedule Meeting far in advance (goal - two years lead time)
- Travel support is available to aid in planning for valuable F2F time with other GAC members
- Meeting preparations begin during the previous meeting
- Members and Observers discuss and agree on potential meeting topics prior to meetings (blend of info-sharing and decision-making/advice development)
- At least two (2) agenda-setting calls each prep period
- Bilateral meeting prep (e.g., ALAC, Board, GNSO)
- Agenda & session/topical briefings are published online in advance of the meeting

# ICANN85 GAC Meeting Preparations (RH)

Preparation resources:

- ICANN Meetings Page - [ICANN85 - Community Forum](#) - Please Register asap
- GAC welcome webinars - for first timers - (today) and for operational overview (previously on 18 February)
- GAC written briefings and prep docs (this week)
- [ICANN85 Prep Week](#)
- Calendar invites to all GAC for each session (from GAC support)
- [GAC ICANN 85 Community Forum web page](#)

# GAC Website - ICANN Meetings (GTO)

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## Meetings & Records

Full meetings of the GAC are usually conducted three times a year in conjunction with an ICANN public meeting. They may also be conducted intersessionally. GAC meetings are usually open. This part of the website provides access to past, present and future GAC meeting materials, including other calls and interactions the GAC has internally and with other groups.

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## ICANN85 Mumbai Agenda

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## AGENDA

Jump to

[Introduction](#)

[Wednesday, 14 January 2026](#)

[Wednesday, 18 February 2026](#)

[Thursday, 19 February 2026](#)

[Monday, 23 February 2026](#)

[Saturday, 07 March 2026](#)

[Sunday, 08 March 2026](#)

[Monday, 09 March 2026](#)

# GAC Website - ICANN Meetings (GTO)

## ICANN85 Mumbai Agenda

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Jump to
<a href="#">Introduction</a>
<a href="#">Wednesday, 14 January 2026</a>
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<a href="#">Tuesday, 10 March 2026</a>
<a href="#">Wednesday, 11 March 2026</a>
<a href="#">Thursday, 12 March 2026</a>

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# AGENDA

Mumbai, India 07 March 2026 - 12 March 2026

## Introduction

Preparation Information for GAC Members

GAC Hybrid Meeting at ICANN85

Mumbai, India

(GAC Members login recommended)

The ICANN85 Community Forum will be held in Mumbai, India from Saturday 7 March through Thursday 12 March 2026. The 6-day meeting will be conducted as a hybrid event to accommodate both in-person and virtual attendance. The associated GAC meeting schedule has been developed by the committee to leverage that hybrid format.

# GAC Website - ICANN Meetings (GTO)

As developments warrant, GAC Support staff will provide updated materials to various session links on this web page right up until the start of the ICANN85 Community Forum.

### Other Resource Briefing Documents:

In addition to the resources on this web page, GAC Support staff is compiling preparation materials to help attendees fully utilize the remote connection services and resources that are being provided by ICANN org for the ICANN85 Community Forum. That documentation is developed for every GAC meeting in the form of a “one-stop” reference manual that consolidates various notices and reminders about meeting planning and logistics. A web link to the ICANN org document will be posted on this page after an email notice is made to GAC Members and Observers.

As they become available, this web page section will also provide links to preview and briefing documents prepared by the GNSO Support staff and the ICANN org Policy Development Support team.

- [GAC ICANN85 Community Forum Logistics Details](#)
- [ICANN85 Policy Outlook Report](#)
- GNSO Policy Briefing ICANN85

For each ICANN Public Meeting, ICANN org also publishes a general meeting guide for meeting attendees. You may find more details at the following link:

- [ICANN Meetings Participation Details](#)

Please contact GAC Support Staff at [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org) if you have questions about accessing any of these briefing documents.

Jump to

[Introduction](#)

[Wednesday, 14 January 2026](#)

[Wednesday, 18 February 2026](#)

[Thursday, 19 February 2026](#)

[Monday, 23 February 2026](#)

[Saturday, 07 March 2026](#)

[Sunday, 08 March 2026](#)

[Monday, 09 March 2026](#)

[Tuesday, 10 March 2026](#)

[Wednesday, 11 March 2026](#)

[Thursday, 12 March 2026](#)

# GAC Website - ICANN Meetings (GTO)

[Calendar](#)      [ICANN Meeting Agendas](#)      [ICANN Meeting Minutes](#)

Mar  
**07**  
2026

## ICANN85 - Session 1 - GAC Opening Plenary

03:30 - 04:30 UTC

**Session Details:**

Introduction of the meeting week by the GAC Chair, followed by a "tour de table" of GAC members and observers.

# ICANN85 Block Schedule (JC)

Time	Saturday 7 March 2026 (Day 1)	Sunday 8 March 2026 (Day 2)	Monday 9 March 2026 (Day 3)	Tuesday 10 March 2026 (Day 4)	Wed. 11 March 2026 (Day 5)	Thursday 12 March 2026 (Day 6)	Time		
9:00							9:00		
9:15							9:15		
9:30	1. GAC Opening Plenary (60 mins)	7. GAC Meeting with the RSSAC (60 mins)	Welcome Ceremony and Community Excellence Award (75 mins)	13. GAC Meeting with the ALAC (60 mins)	17. GAC Meeting with the IETF (60 mins)	Community Session: Reviews of Reviews (60 mins)	GNSO Discussion on Next Step for SSAD Rec.	9:30	
9:45								9:45	
10:00	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	10:00	
10:15							10:15		
10:30	2. GAC Operational Updates incl. Communiqué Review (45 mins)	8. GAC Discussion on New gTLDs Next Round (90 mins)	Community Session: From Stability to Survivability: ICANN's role in the Future of Internet Resilience (75 mins)	14. GAC Discussion on WHOIS Registration Data Issues (90 mins)	18. Emerging Topics for GAC Discussion and/or Communiqué Drafting (90 mins) - UDRP Review (30-45 mins) - DNS as Foundation for Digital Identity (45 mins)	ICANN Public Forum (90 mins)		10:30	
10:45								10:45	
11:00	3. Meeting with the ASO (45 mins)							11:00	
11:15								11:15	
11:30								11:30	
11:45								11:45	
12:00	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	12:00	
12:15								12:15	
12:30								12:30	
12:45								12:45	
13:00								13:00	
13:15								13:15	
13:30	4. Universal Acceptance Discussion (75 mins)	9. GAC Meeting with GNSO (75 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (75 mins)	Community Session: WSIS+20 Lessons Learned and Next Steps (75 mins)	15 (a). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	15 (c). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	15 (f). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	13:30	
13:45								13:45	
14:00								14:00	
14:15								14:15	
14:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	14:30	
14:45								14:45	
15:00								15:00	
15:15	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	5. Capacity Development on NxR (60 mins)	10. GAC Operations (HLGM Agenda and NomCom Prep) (60 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team (60 mins)	16. GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board (60 mins)	15 (d). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	19. GAC Wrap-Up (60 mins)	15:15
15:30									15:30
15:45								15:45	
16:00	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	16:00	
16:15								16:15	
16:30								16:30	
16:45	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	6. Capacity Development on NxR [practical session] (60 mins)	11. GAC Discussion with CCG RoR (60 mins)	12. GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse Mitigation (60 mins)	15 (b). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	15 (e). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	ICANN Board Meeting (60 mins)	16:45	
17:00								17:00	
17:15								17:15	
17:30								17:30	
17:45								17:45	
18:00			ICANN85 Gala (18:30)					18:00	
18:15								18:15	
18:30								18:30	

# GAC ICANN85 Schedule Preview (JC)

- 26 Total Program Hours
- 2 hours of capacity development
- 7 Bilateral community meetings (ICANN Board, GNSO, ALAC, etc.)
- 6 Topic-specific sessions
- 6 hours GAC Communiqué development
- 8 hours of ICANN programming

# GAC ICANN85 Key Topics (JC)

- New gTLDs Program Next Round
- DNS Abuse Mitigation
- WHOIS and Registration Data Issues
- Joint meetings with ICANN communities (incl. traditional bilaterals)
- GAC Capacity Development
- Discussion on Universal Acceptance

*Session details: <https://gac.icann.org/agendas/icann85-mumbai-agenda>*

# At ICANN85 - Overview of Logistics and Technical Capabilities (GTO)

## Notes for All Attendees

- **Before** the session
  - Calendar Invites in advance
  - Check Session pages on GAC website for materials
  - Make sure Zoom is up to date
- **During** the session
  - Requesting Floor Procedure (all on-site and virtual participants)
    - Raise Hand via Zoom room
    - Identified by chair/staff as governments or individuals
    - Turn on video; Turn on microphone
    - Interpretation - 6 UN Languages
      - Available through Zoom system; pick Language in Zoom
      - Identify yourself and **speak slowly and clearly** for scribes and interpreters
- **After** the session
  - Recordings and transcripts available on GAC web site

# At ICANN85 - Overview of Logistics and Technical Capabilities (GTO)

## Notes for In-person Attendees

- Traditional GAC delegation seats at table microphones, but no flags or name cards
- Non-members-or-observers welcomed in chairs on right, left and behind GAC tables
- Seats will be reserved in front rows for some bilateral sessions (for guests)
- Staff in back of room. Opportunities for info updates, attendance, connecting , etc.
- Health and Safety Protocols (masks by choice, distancing, breaks)

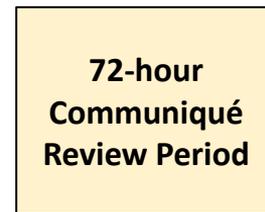
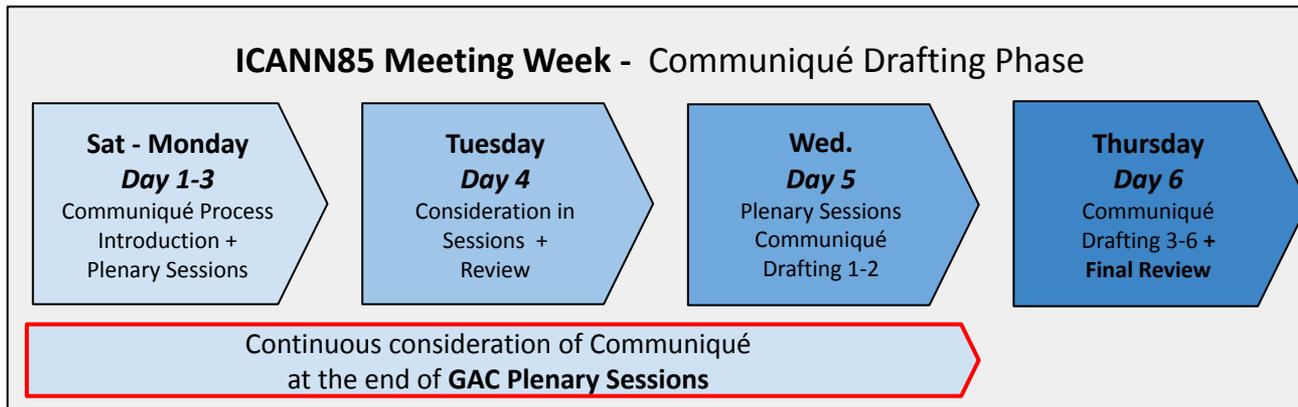
# GAC Communiqué at ICANN Meetings



# GAC Communique Background and Overview (RH)

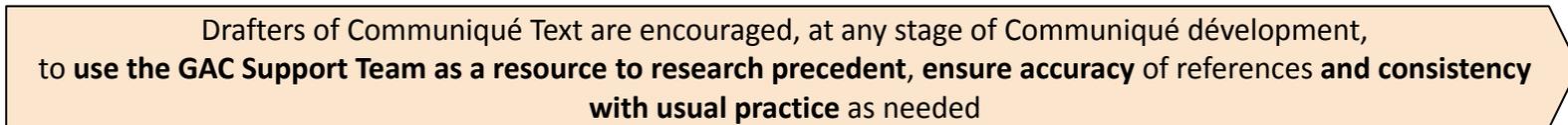
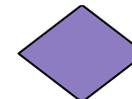
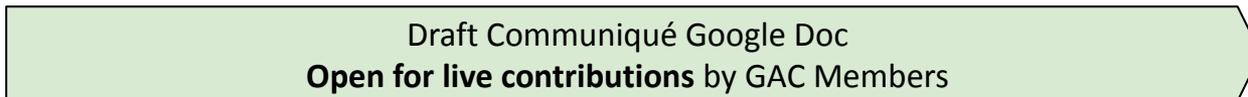
- GAC Communiqué is a traditional work product of the committee - identified as a “report” in the GAC Operating Principles and produced after every ICANN public meeting
- Has evolved to serve as the primary GAC “advice” channel to the ICANN Board
- Also used by the committee as a means to identify and share views on “issues of importance” from governments to the ICANN Board and rest of the community
- New procedural elements to Communiqué preparation and approval are frequently considered and process is regularly refined.
- Consider early topic and language submissions (watch for GAC Chair emails)

# Communiqué Development for ICANN85 (RH)



**Pre-agreed deadline for  
initial text contributions**

Decision by GAC Chair,  
to close live collaboration on the document



# Preparation Reminders (GTO)

- ICANN org Expectations:
  - Registration deadline for on-site attendees by 6 March
    - <https://meetings.icann.org/en/meetings/icann85/>
    - Registration confirmation email (includes QR code) and government-issued photo identification to receive an ICANN84 attendee badge.
- Technical Considerations for all:
  - Zoom Meeting app (**up-to-date**)
  - [“SCHD” Meeting Scheduling app](#) (supplement invites)
  - Bring your QR code to meeting
- Unique Virtual Considerations:
  - Multi-tasking, Video backgrounds, bandwidth
  - Reactions - Raise hand to be recognized
  - Bandwidth considerations



# ICANN85 Meetings Website



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## ICANN85 Mumbai Community Forum



[General Info](#)

[Travel and Hotels](#)

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[Schedule](#)

Welcome to ICANN85 Community Forum in Mumbai, India. The Community Forum is the first meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle, typically held in February or March. The duration of the Community Forum is six total days, running from Saturday through Thursday.

The Community Forum structure includes time for internal work of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs), cross-community interaction, and plenary sessions on topics of community-wide interest.

ICANN85 Community Forum will be held in Mumbai, India at the [Jio World Convention Centre](#) from **7 - 12 March 2026**.

This will be a hybrid meeting with both in-person and virtual participation.

All sessions will be conducted during regular working hours in Mumbai, India (India Standard Time, IST / UTC+5:30 hours).

Prep Week will be conducted on 23, 24, and 25 February 2026.

Hosted by



# ICANN85 Prep Week (GTO)



The complete list of ICANN85 Meeting “Prep Week” webinars and recordings are available at:

<https://icann85.sched.com/>

Tuesday, February 24

1:00am  
IST

Contractual Compliance Update

8:30pm  
IST

Geopolitical, Legislative, and Regulatory Developments Update

10:00pm  
IST

Policy and Advice Update

11:30pm  
IST

Preparing for ICANN’s Annual Strategy Review

*Thank you!*

# ICANN Meetings Website



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# Archives

# Key Aspects of GAC Public Meetings Generally (3)

- Hybrid/Zoom Room Logistics:
  - Identified by chair as governments or individuals
  - Identify yourself and affiliation whenever speaking
  - Hands in Zoom Room (enforced since Hybrid format)
- Unique In-person considerations
  - GAC Seating Area (e.g., table seats/not-assigned; delegation size, etc.)
- Unique Virtual Considerations:
  - Multi-tasking
  - Video background and expressions
  - Bandwidth considerations

# High Level Government Meeting (HLGM)

Following recommendations from ICANN's Accountability & Transparency Review Teams 1&2, a High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) is organized once every few (ideally, two) years, hosted by one of the GAC Members

Past meetings:

- Canada (ICANN45, Toronto, October 2012)
- United Kingdom (ICANN50, London, June 2014)
- Kingdom of Morocco (ICANN55, Marrakech, February 2016)
- Spain (ICANN63, Barcelona, October 2018)
- Rwanda (ICANN80, Kigali, June 2024)

# GAC Website Tour - Meeting Minutes

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## ICANN Meeting Minutes

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ICANN77 Washington D.C Meeting Minutes ▼

## ICANN77 Washington D.C Meeting Minutes

[PDF \(325 KB\)](#) | Official Date: 27 July 2023

Topics Discussed: [Accuracy](#) [ALAC](#) [Capacity Building](#) [DNS Abuse](#) [GAC Activities](#) [GNSO](#) [ICANN Board](#) [ICANN Meetings](#) [New gTLDs](#) [Subsequent Procedures](#) [Public Safety WG](#) [RDS / WHOIS](#) [Underserved Regions WG](#)

☰ ... - + | 1 of 19 ... 🔍 ... ▲

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77

# Today's Goals

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- Familiarize you with GAC Public Meetings
- Provide an overview of background, context and operations of GAC Public Meetings