

GAC Welcome Webinar - *Operational Basics*

Monday, 17 February 2024

13:00 UTC



Today's Goals

- Familiarize you with overall GAC Operations
- Touch on history and demographics of the committee
- Provide an overview of committee working methodology
(e.g., Operating Principles, etc.)
- Introduce you to GAC informational “tools”
(e.g., web site, work trackers and other resources)

About the GAC - History and Committee Role

- The voice of Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) in ICANN's multi-stakeholder structure
- First Meeting - March 1999 (25th anniversary at ICANN79)
- Key Roles of the Committee:
 - Provide advice to the ICANN Board per ICANN Board request or on its own initiative
 - Provide input and advice on issues of public policy, especially where there may be interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements
- Input from government perspective on ICANN operational matters

GAC Membership



184 Governments
as **Members**



39 Intergovernmental
Organizations as Observers

Members and observers
participate equally in all
discussions

[List of Delegations](#)

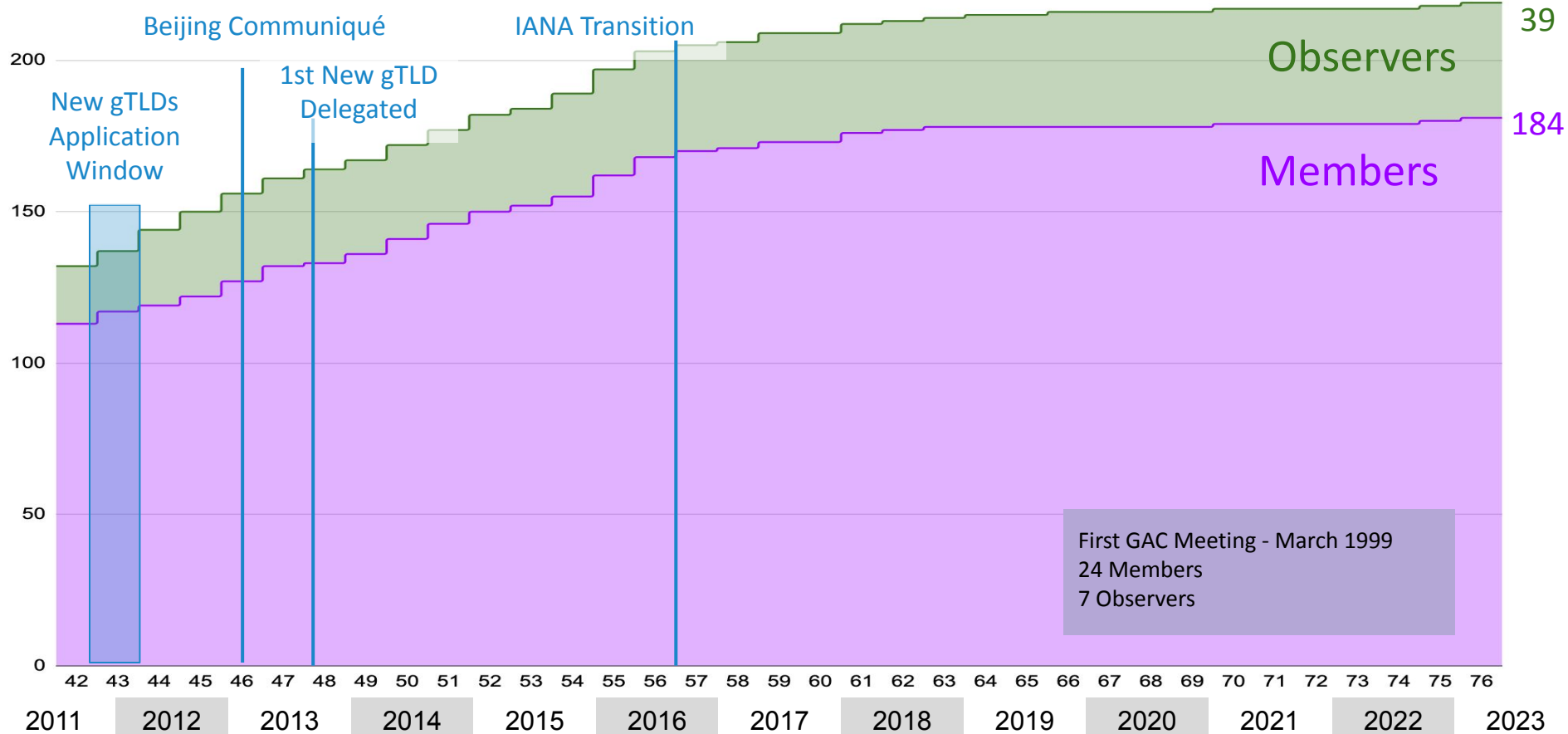


Only Members are
eligible to vote
(during elections)



One third of the Current Membership
with voting rights constitutes a quorum
at any meeting

GAC Membership: Structure and Evolution



GAC Participation Statistics - “Virtual Time” Statistics

Term	Delegations	New Participants	Participant Departures
ICANN 74-75	21	17	18
ICANN 75-76	42	28	41
ICANN 76-77	25	32	25
ICANN 77-78	22	28	20
ICANN 78-79	24	27	36
ICANN 79-80	15	11	15
ICANN 80-81	15	25	40
ICANN 81-82	69	58	96
Totals	237*/+100%	168**/37%	

* Total GAC delegations - Members plus Observers = 222:

**Total GAC participants; ~450

GAC Working Methods



- *Internal GAC*
- *GAC with the ICANN Board*
- *GAC and Other Communities*

GAC Working Methods - Operating Principles

- GAC manages its own set of Operating Principles (51)
<https://gac.icann.org/operating-principles/operating-principles-june-2017>
- GAC Operating Principles address operational topics such membership, meeting practices, working methods, elections, etc.
- GAC Operating Principles tend to be general in nature (flexibility)
- GAC Operating Principles are evolving, dynamic, and responsive:
 - Amended in Buenos Aires in 2015 to allow for 5 Vice Chairs
 - Amended in Johannesburg on June, 2017 to allow for electronic voting
 - Current principles are under review by a standing committee working group (GOPE WG)

GAC Working Methods - Committee Work Products

The GAC provides advice and information to the ICANN Board and community through “communiqués”, numerous community public comments and many pieces of direct correspondence.

- 81 Communiqués to the ICANN Board
- Public Comments in response to Requests for Comment (RFCs)
- Letters to Board and other ICANN communities
- Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) exchanges
- Policy Develop Process (PDP) documents and support (GNSO, ccNSO)

GAC Working Methods - Participation

- Virtual and in-person meetings
- Discussions on email lists
- Working group activities
- Drafting and editing collaborative documents
- Points of Contact to other organizations
- Serving in the GAC leadership if provided the opportunity

GAC Working Methods - Working Groups (WGs)

GAC Under-Served Regions WG (USRWG) - Focuses on regions under-served by the DNS industry, and least developed economies and small island developing states.

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-working-group-on-underserved-regions-usrwg>

GAC Public Safety WG (PSWG) - Focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures that implicate the safety of the public.

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-public-safety-working-group-pswg>

GAC WG on Human Rights and International Law (HRILWG) - Focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures which relate to human rights and relevant international law.

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-working-group-on-human-rights-and-international-law-hrilwg>

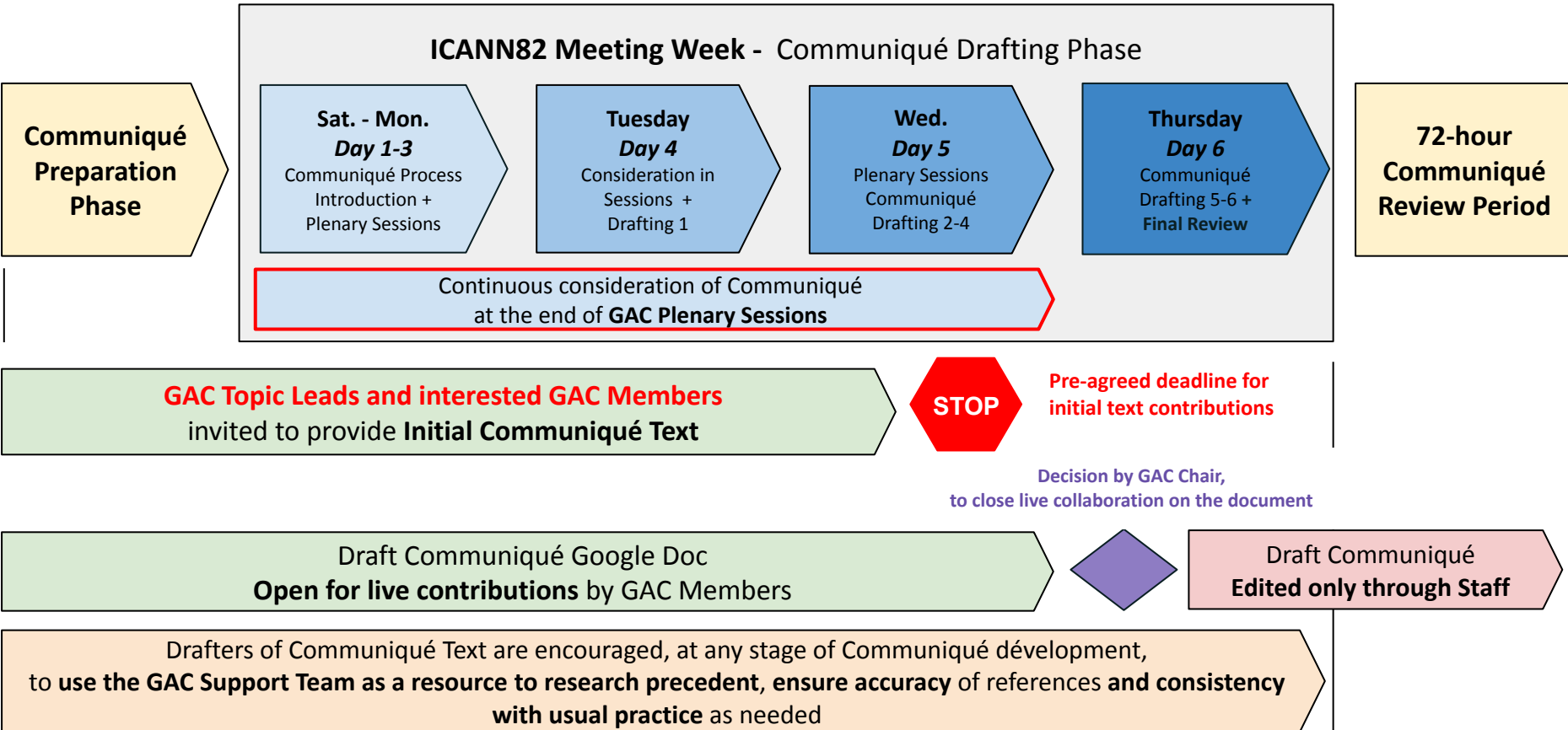
GAC Working Methods - Working Groups (WGs)

GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG) - Focuses on studying, developing and recommending changes to the GAC Operating Principles.

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-operating-principles-evolution-working-group-gopewg>

GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group (UA-IDN WG) - Focuses on Universal Acceptance (UA). the use of non-Latin based, language-specific domain names.

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/gac-operating-principles-evolution-working-group-gopewg>



GAC Working Methods - GAC and the ICANN Board

- The GAC has a unique relationship with the ICANN Board, created through the ICANN Bylaws. The ICANN Board takes the GAC's advice into account through a structured process.
- The GAC's Communique to the Board, provided at the end of GAC Meetings reflects one (the most common) application of this structured process.
- The GAC leadership often acts as the liaison between the GAC and the ICANN Board, the ICANN organization, other Advisory Committees (ACs) and Supporting Organizations (SOs), and other relevant stakeholders.
- Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) - Was formed to optimize the relationship between the Board and the GAC. It has also been used by the Board to enable the process for receipt, consideration, processing and tracking of GAC advice and Issues of Importance.

<https://gac.icann.org/working-group/boardgac-interaction-group-bgig>

GAC Role in ICANN - Advice to the Board

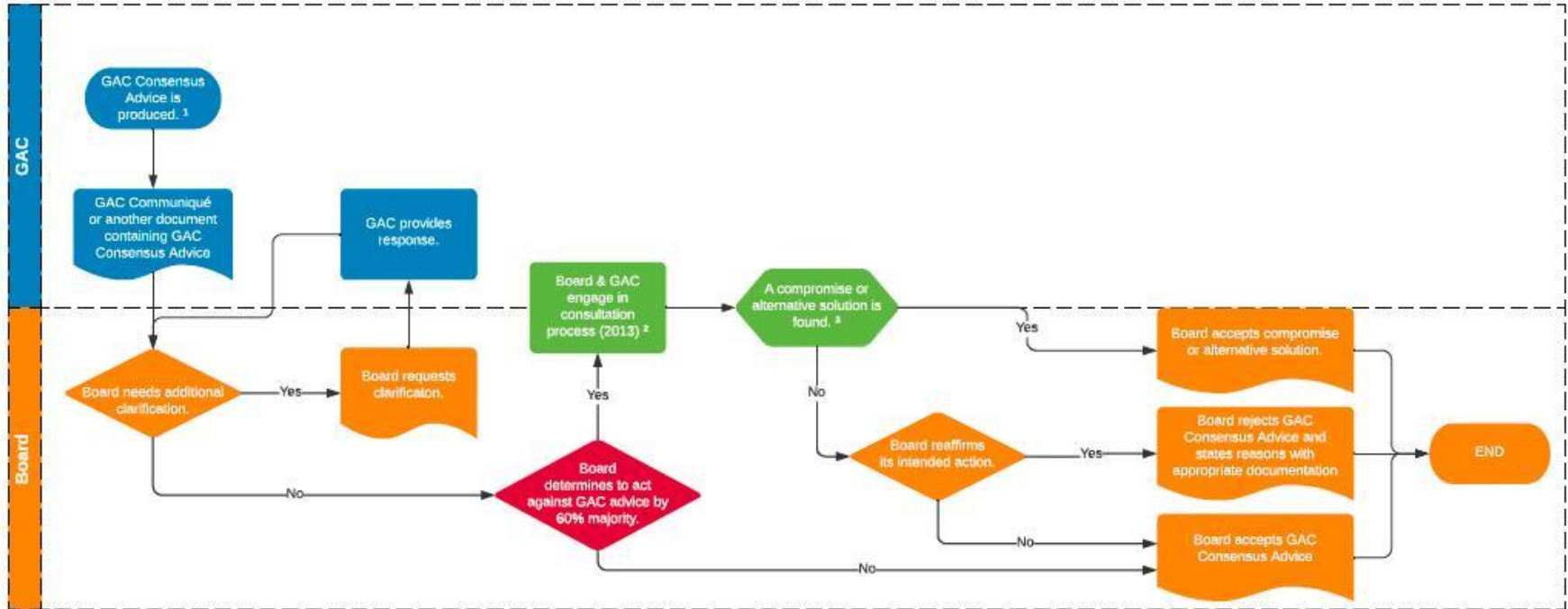
“Bylaws Section 12.2(a)(x): The advice of the Governmental Advisory Committee on public policy matters shall be duly taken into account, both in the formulation and adoption of policies. In the event that the Board determines to take an action that is not consistent with Governmental Advisory Committee advice, it shall so inform the Governmental Advisory Committee and state the reasons why it decided not to follow that advice.

Any Governmental Advisory Committee advice approved by a full Governmental Advisory Committee consensus, understood to mean the practice of adopting decisions by general agreement in the absence of any formal objection ("GAC Consensus Advice"), may only be rejected by a vote of no less than 60% of the Board, and the Governmental Advisory Committee and the Board will then try, in good faith and in a timely and efficient manner, to find a mutually acceptable solution. The Governmental Advisory Committee will state whether any advice it gives to the Board is GAC Consensus Advice.”



GAC Working Methods - GAC and the ICANN Board

Process for Board Consideration of GAC Consensus Advice



¹ GAC Consensus Advice is defined in Section 12.2(a)(x) of the Bylaws

² The full timeline, steps and possible outcomes of the [Board-GAC Consultation Process \(2013\)](#) are linked here.

³ This process could result in a GAC determination to revise or modify its existing advice, which would end this process flow and direct the matter back to the GAC's internal processes (which are not reflected in this flow chart).

GAC and Other Communities

- Bilateral relationships throughout the community:
 - F2F and telephonic meetings with other parts of the community (e.g., ALAC, ccNSO, GNSO, RSSAC, SSAC)
 - Point of Contact relations (ALAC, ccNSO and GNSO)
- Community-wide contributions and interactions:
 - GAC Participation in Policy Development Processes (PDPs)
 - GAC participation in cross-community efforts (public meeting sessions and CCWGs)
 - GAC Participation in general and specific organizational)
- ICANN Operational Activities (e.g., CSC, PTI, etc.)

Information Sharing

Written Documents

- Tracking documents enable “quick looks” at topics/issues/progress (e.g., A/D Radar, Strat Plan)
- Collaboration documents (Google and email)
- Individual session and issue briefings created by GAC Support SMEs
- Document links - standard sharing mechanism in committee emails
- Email channel (gac@icann.org) for information sharing and calls to action

Oral Briefings

- GAC Briefings/Webinars (e.g., topics of interest, meeting prep, etc.)
- ICANN org Briefings/Webinars to GAC

GAC Website

- Central repository for GAC documentation, recordings and meeting information

GAC Delegates

- Arrivals and departure updates reported to staff to keep info current (*system becoming more regularized*)
- Points of contact for DNS matters

GAC Information Sharing - *Leveraging GAC Web Site and Other Resources*

- *Web Site Tour*
- *Strategic Planning*
- *Other Onboarding Resources*



GAC Website Tour - Home Page

العربية 中文 English Français Русский Español

ICANN | GAC

SEARCH 🔍 **LOGIN** | JOIN THE GAC

HOME NEWS ABOUT THE GAC GAC ADVICE MEETINGS & RECORDS WORK EFFORTS

About the GAC

The GAC constitutes the voice of Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) in ICANN's multi-stakeholder structure. Created under the ICANN Bylaws, the GAC is an advisory committee to the ICANN Board. The GAC's key role is to provide advice to ICANN on issues of public policy, and especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements.

[Role of the GAC](#) [Operating Principles](#) [Leadership](#) [GAC Members](#)

GAC Membership

GAC membership criteria is established in Article IV of the GAC Operating Principles, which also specifies criteria each member's accredited representatives and advisers.

- a. Article V of the GAC Operating Principles defines GAC observers.
- b. Finally, Article VII of the GAC Operating Principles discusses the GAC officers: Chair, Vice Chairs, other officers and Committees.

GAC Website Tour - Home Page










ICANN | ACCOUNT

ICANN SERVICES |



Welcome to Your ICANN Account

ICANN Account gives you access to many ICANN services using only one login. This is your one-stop-shop to launch the ICANN services you have signed-up for. To get started, select a service from your list below.

<p>Centralized Zone Data Service</p>  An icon showing two server racks connected by arrows, representing data synchronization or centralized storage.	<p>Fellowship Application</p>  An icon of a document with a pencil, representing an application form.	<p>ICANN Learn</p>  An icon of a human head with a brain inside, representing learning or education.	<p>ICANN News Subscriptions</p>  An icon of an envelope with a plus sign, representing email subscriptions.
<p>ICANN.org</p>  An icon of a globe with a cursor pointing to it, representing the ICANN website.	<p>LGR TOOLS</p>  An icon of crossed hammers, representing tools or construction.	<p>Meeting Registration</p>  An icon of a person at a podium with an audience, representing a meeting or conference.	<p>NextGen Application</p>  An icon of a computer monitor displaying a document with a checkmark, representing an application process.
<p>Open Data Platform</p>  An icon of a magnifying glass, representing search or data discovery.	<p>Public Comment</p>  An icon of two speech bubbles, representing public feedback or comments.		

GAC Website Tour - Activity Space

[HOME](#)[NEWS](#)[ABOUT THE GAC](#)[GAC ADVICE](#)[MEETINGS & RECORDS](#)[WORK EFFORTS](#)

Work Efforts

The GAC regularly considers a broad range of public policy issues impacting the DNS and other matters regarding the functions of ICANN. This work can result in consensus advice for the ICANN Board or public comment guidance to the ICANN community. This part of the website shares information related to those ongoing topics and activities.

[Topics](#)[Activities](#)[GAC Working Groups](#)

Activities

Select the type of Activity from the dropdown, or enter a keyword to filter results.

Related To:



 

Activity Status :

Search Activities :

GAC Website Tour - Activity Space

Privacy	ACTIVITY NAME ▲	STATUS ▲	LAST UPDATED ▼
	Second Level Country Code Registration Search	Active	22 Feb 2019
	GAC Public Comment Opportunities	Active	06 Feb 2025
	GAC involvement in Work Stream 2 Recommendations Implementation	Active	04 Feb 2025
	ICANN Action Request Registry of GAC Advice	Active	06 Jan 2025
	GAC Appointments	Active	09 Dec 2024
	New gTLD Program Next Round	Active	12 Sep 2024
	GAC Strategic Planning	Active	06 Sep 2024
	Commonwealth in the GAC	Active	30 Aug 2024
	ICANN GSE/GE - GOVERNMENTS AND IGOs - Engagement Activities	Active	21 Aug 2024
	GAC's Involvement in the Empowered Community Administration (ECA)	Active	25 Jul 2024
	GAC Capacity Development Workshops (ICANN78, 79 and 80)	Active	28 May 2024
	GAC Introductory Webinar Series	Active	08 Feb 2024
	GAC Leadership Calls - 2024	Active	13 Jan 2024

GAC Website Tour - Public Comments

Last Updated: 06 Feb 2025

Status: Active

Related Topics [Public Comment](#)

Jump to

[Ongoing Work](#)

[Outcomes](#)

[Documentation](#)

[Related Content](#)

GAC Public Comment Opportunities:

The purpose of this page is to provide timely information to GAC leadership and membership on public comment opportunities available and to track each step of the public comment process.

The page is aimed to be a one stop place for GAC leadership and GAC Members to view:

- The GAC's interest in filing a comment
- Tracking the status and priority level of comments to be filed
- The link to comments filed – rather than having to search the archives of each public comment proceeding to find a comment submitted by the GAC
- Monthly Reports on public comments including decisions to file comments from the GAC
- Upcoming public comment opportunities

Please note:

- **Open Public Comment Opportunities** are listed in the "Ongoing Work" Section of this page, including public comment proceeding link, open/close date, GAC decision to file comment and reasoning, comment link if applicable.
- **GAC Filed Public Comments** are listed in the "Outcomes" Section of this page.
- **GAC Public Content** section. **Comment Reports** are archived in monthly reports in the "Documentation" section including details listed above (public comment proceeding, open/close dates, GAC decision to file comment and reasoning, comment link if applicable).
- **Upcoming Public Comment Opportunities** are listed in the "Related Content" section of this page.

Ongoing Work

Current GAC Public Comment Opportunities:

ICANN Public Comment Proceeding	Close Date	GAC Decision to File Comment
IANA 2030 Strategy: Draft PTI Strategic Plan covering 2025 to 2030	29 Jan 2025	TBC

GAC Website Tour - Working Groups

Work Efforts

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[Topics](#) [Activities](#) [GAC Working Groups](#)

Working Group

Select the type of working group from the dropdown, or enter a keyword to filter results.

Related To

Search Working Groups:

1 to 9 of 9 results

Privacy	Group Name ▲	Status ▲	Last Updated ▼
	GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law (HRLIWG)	Active	07 Feb 2025
	GAC Working Group on Under-Served Regions (USRWG)	Active	05 Nov 2024

GAC Website Tour - Communique

GAC Advice

The GAC provides advice to the ICANN Board on policy matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws, international agreements and public policy objectives. GAC Advice is communicated to the ICANN Board through either a Communique or a formal piece of Correspondence.

[Communiqués](#)

[Correspondence](#)

[Itemized Advice](#)

[Principles & Guidelines](#)

Select Edition

ICANN81 Istanbul Communique

ICANN81 Istanbul Communique

[PDF \(467 KB\)](#) | Official Date: 18 November 2024

Topics Discussed: [ALAC](#) [Applicant Support Program](#) [Auction](#) [Capacity Building](#) [ccNSO](#) [DNS Abuse](#) [Domain Name Registration Data](#) [Elections](#) [GAC Activities](#) [GAC Strategic and Annual Plans](#) [GNSO](#) [ICANN Meetings](#) [New gTLDs Next Round](#) [Operating Principles](#) [Privacy & Proxy Services](#) [Public Safety WG](#) [RSSAC](#) [SSAC](#)

GAC Website Tour - Meeting Minutes

HOME

NEWS

ABOUT THE GAC

GAC ADVICE

MEETINGS & RECORDS

WORK EFFORTS

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.

[Calendar](#)

[ICANN Meeting Agendas](#)

[ICANN Meeting Minutes](#)

ICANN Meeting Minutes

Select Edition:

ICANN81 Istanbul Meeting Minutes

ICANN81 Istanbul Meeting Minutes

[PDF \(772 KB\)](#) | Official Date: 09 December 2024

Topics Discussed: [ALAC](#) [ASO](#) [ccNSO](#) [DNS Abuse](#) [GAC Activities](#) [GAC Strategic and Annual Plans](#) [GNSO](#) [ICANN Meetings](#) [New gTLDs Next Round](#) [Operating Principles](#) [Public Safety WG](#) [RDS / WHOIS](#) [RSSAC](#) [SSAC](#) [Underserved Regions WG](#)

☰ ICANN81 GAC Minutes

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GAC Website Tour - Correspondence

HOME NEWS ABOUT THE GAC **GAC ADVICE** MEETINGS & RECORDS WORK EFFORTS

GAC Advice

The GAC provides advice to the ICANN Board on policy matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws, international agreements and public policy objectives. GAC Advice is communicated to the ICANN Board through either a Communiqué or a formal piece of Correspondence.

[Communiqués](#) **[Correspondence](#)** [Itemized Advice](#) [Principles & Guidelines](#)

Correspondence

Select the type of advice from the dropdown, or enter a keyword to filter results.

All Incoming Outgoing Items Containing Advice

Related To

Select ▼

Search Correspondence:

Enter Keyword

1 to 20 of 600 results

Privacy	Subject	Status	To	From	Date

GAC Website Tour - Correspondence

Correspondence

Select the type of advice from the dropdown, or enter a keyword to filter results.

All Incoming Outgoing Items Containing Advice

Related To

Search Correspondence:

1 to 20 of 600 results

Privacy	Subject	Status	To	From	Date
	RE: GAC ICANN80 Advice - Outreach and Engagement Report	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Chris Mondini	14 Feb 2025
	RE: GAC Response to Board Update following Board-GAC Bylaws Consultation on ICANN80 GAC Advice	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Tripti Sinha	29 Jan 2025
	GAC Response to Proposed Update to Recommendation 7 from the New gTLD Auction Proceeds Cross-Community Working Group [CCWG]	Outgoing	Tripti Sinha	Nicolas Caballero	20 Jan 2025
	Member Communication Intended for ICANN [AZ]	Outgoing	Kurtis Lindqvist	Nicolas Caballero	17 Jan 2025
	Urgent Requests Follow-up - GNSO Council Clarifying Question and Additional Considerations	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Greg DiBiase	15 Jan 2025

Strategic & Annual Planning

- GAC has created a Four-Year [Strategic Plan](#)
- Nine (9) Committee Objectives:
 - *1) Role for Governments in ICANN*
 - *2) Effectiveness of the Governmental Advisory Committee*
 - *3) Future Rounds of New gTLDs*
 - *4) DNS Abuse*
 - *5) Domain Name Registration*
 - *6) Universal Acceptance*
 - *7) Impact of New Technology on Internet Unique Identifier Systems*
 - *8) Internet Governance*
 - *9) Internet Number Resources*
- The GAC has also created an [Annual 2024-25 work plan](#) to direct its resources
- Among the nine strategic priorities, 58 “Expected Outcomes” have been identified in the annual plan
- GAC Leadership Team will be reporting regularly on progress and is developing a “tracking” document for future/regular committee reference

Strategic & Annual Planning

- Progress reports on expected outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025 on the basis of progress trackers tools ([Narrative](#) and [Chart](#) format) being managed by the GAC Chair and Vice-Chair in their role as “caretakers”

GAC Strategic Objective	Role of Governments in ICANN	Effectiveness of the GAC		Future Rounds of New gTLDs	DNS Abuse	Domain Registration Data	Universal Acceptance	New Technology	Internet Governance	Number Resources
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Progress Status of Expected Outcomes in 2024/2025	1.1	2.1	2.5.1	3.1	4.1	5.1.1	6.1	7.1	8.1.1	9.1
	1.2	2.2	2.5.2	3.2	4.2	5.1.2	6.2	7.2	8.1.2	9.2
	1.3	2.2.1	2.5.3	3.3	4.3	5.1.3	6.3	7.3	8.1.3	9.3
	1.4	2.3.1	2.5.4	3.4	4.4	5.2	6.4	7.4	8.2.1	
	1.5	2.3.2	2.6.1	3.5	4.5	5.3	6.5	7.5	8.2.2	
		2.4.1	2.6.2		4.6	5.4	6.6.1		8.2.3	
		2.4.2	2.6.3				6.6.2		8.2.4	
							6.6.3			

Legend	Complete
	On Track
	Challenged
	Not Started

GAC Support Staff

- GAC Support provided by 6 ICANN support staff
- Support activities include:
 - Organizing meetings,
 - Providing substantive issue briefings,
 - Managing GAC website and email administration,
 - Liaise with ICANN Org and other ICANN structures, and
 - Coordination of operational matters, including:
 - membership management,
 - working group facilitation support, and
 - coordination of community travel support



Rob Hoggarth
Fabien Betremieux
Benedetta Rossi
Gülten Tepe Öksüzoğlu
Julia Charvolen

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Other Onboarding Resources

- ICANN Learn
 - <https://learn.icann.org>
 - [*Onboarding: Government Advisory Committee \(GAC\)*](#)
- Glossary
 - <https://archive.icann.org/en/topics/idn/idn-glossary-jun07.pdf>
- ICANN org “Glossary” and “Acronyms and Terms” pages
 - <https://www.icann.org/en/icann-acronyms-and-terms>
- Links to Previous Onboarding and Introductory Webinars
 - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-introductory-webinar-series>

Thank you!