

GAC Welcome Webinar - *Operational Basics*

18 February 2026

12:00 UTC



Today's Goals

- Welcome to the GAC
- Familiarize you with general 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
- 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
- Additional input from government perspective on ICANN operational matters

GAC Membership



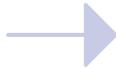
184 Governments
as **Members**



Only Members are
eligible to vote
(during elections)



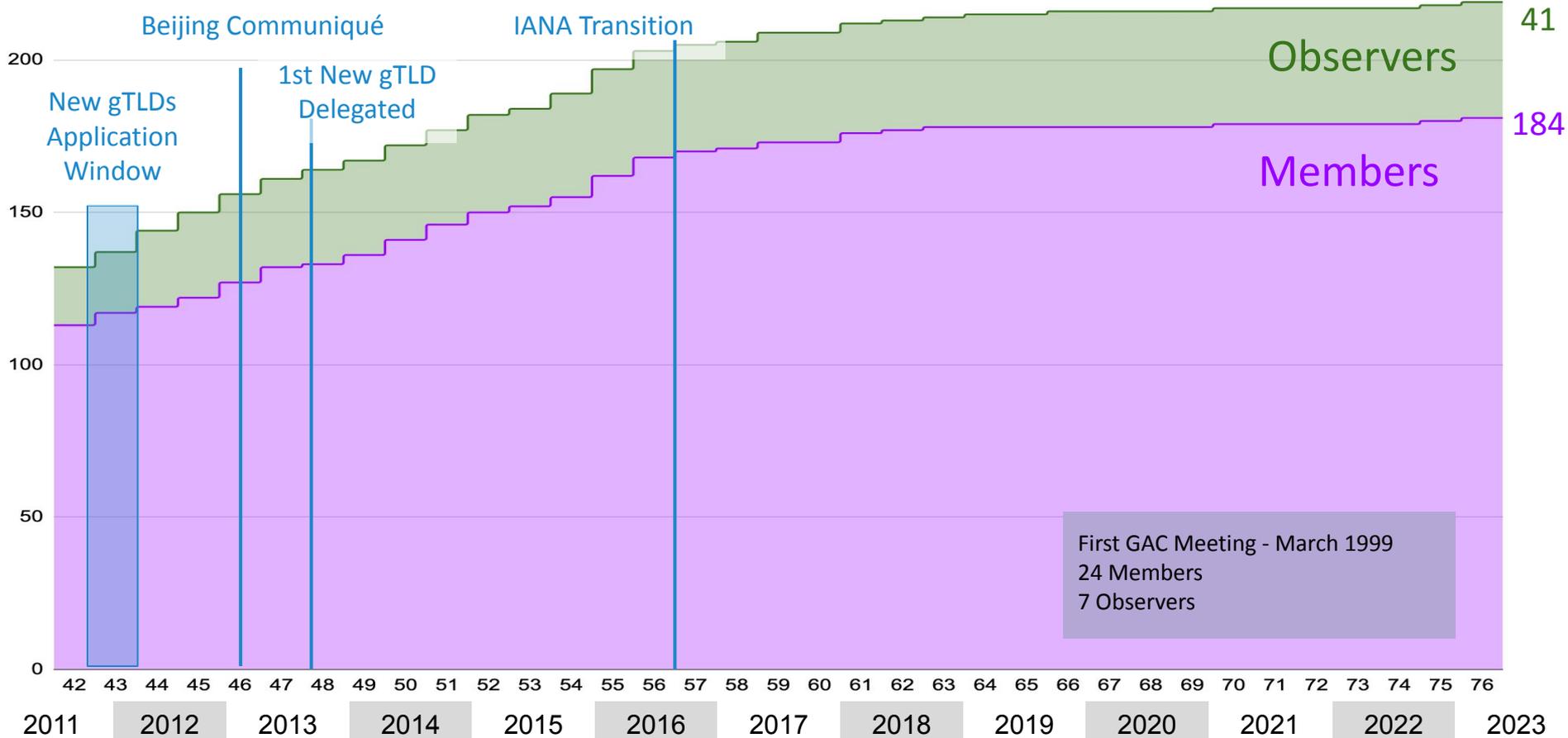
Members and observers
participate equally in all
discussions
[List of Delegations](#)



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

41 Intergovernmental
Organizations as Observers

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
ICANN 82-83	23	18	28
ICANN 83-84	34	22	27
ICANN 84-85	70	17	114***

* Total GAC delegations - Members plus Observers = 225:

**Total GAC participants; ~450

*** Reflects staff “true-up effort”

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-2025>
- 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 2015 to allow for 5 Vice Chairs
 - Amended in 2017 to allow for electronic voting
 - Amended in 2025 (ICANN83) to allow for extended Chair and Vice-Chairs terms + updated leadership transitions [OP21 & 31]
 - The Chair shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, renewable twice [OP21]
 - The Vice-Chairs shall hold office for a term of two (2) years renewable once [OP21]
 - Current principles are subject to 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.

- 84 Communiqués to the ICANN Board
- [Public Comments](#) in response to [Requests for Comment](#)
- [Correspondence](#) between GAC, Board and other ICANN communities
- Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) exchanges
- Policy Development 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>

** Further review by GOPE WG Expected*

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.”



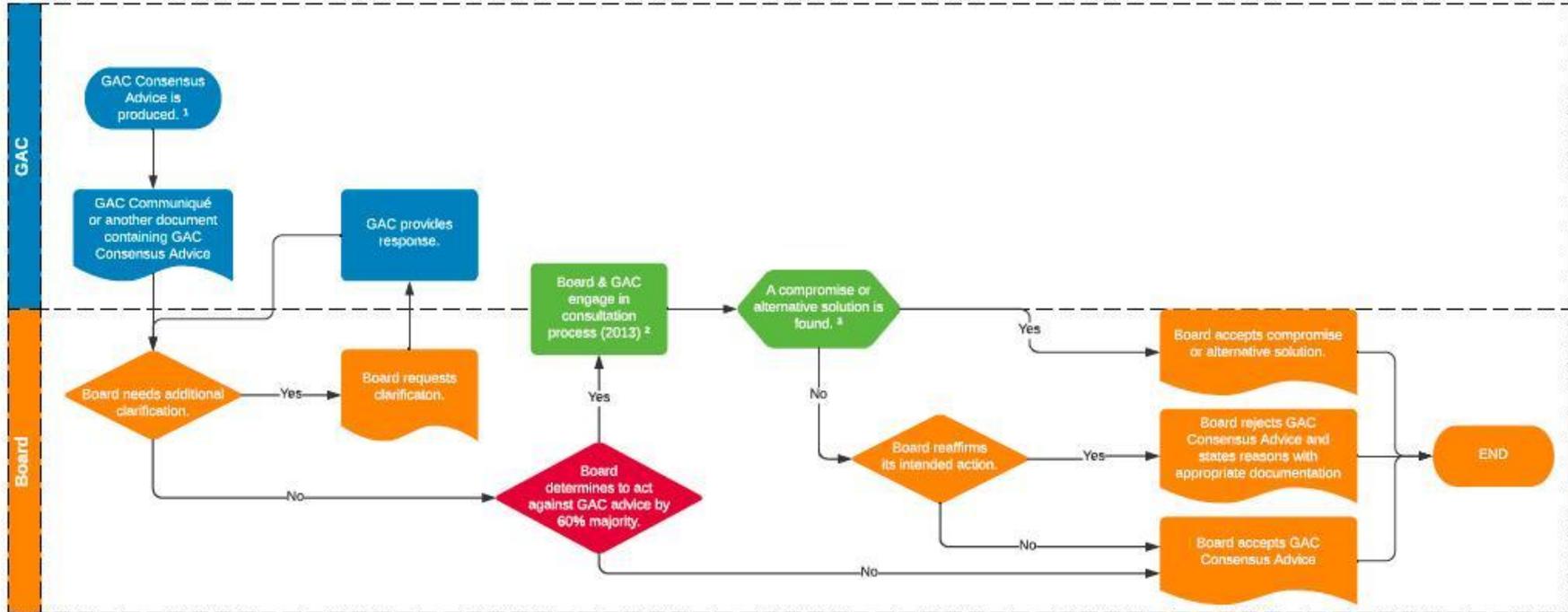
GAC Working Methods - GAC and the ICANN Board

- 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 (standard intersessional timeline for dialogue).
- 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 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, ASO, 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., Strat Plan Tracker)
- 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 with arrows pointing between them, representing data synchronization or transfer.	<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 arrow 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

1 to 20 of 50 results

ACTIVITY NAME ▲	STATUS ▲	LAST UPDATED ▼
ICANN Action Request Registry of GAC Advice	Active	22 Jan 2026
New gTLD Program Next Round	Active	21 Jan 2026
GAC Appointments	Active	02 Dec 2025
ICANN GSE/GE - GOVERNMENTS AND IGOs - Engagement Activities	Active	24 Nov 2025
GAC Strategic Planning	Active	30 Oct 2025
GAC Public Comment Opportunities	Active	29 Sep 2025
GAC involvement in Work Stream 2 Recommendations Implementation	Active	25 Sep 2025
GAC and ALAC activity page	Active	20 Aug 2025
GAC Introductory Webinar Series	Active	18 Jul 2025
GAC's Involvement in the Empowered Community Administration (ECA)	Active	25 Jun 2025
GAC FAQ on Delegation and Redelegations	Active	10 Mar 2025
Commonwealth in the GAC	Active	30 Aug 2024

GAC Website Tour - Public Comments

[Topics](#)

[Activities](#)

[GAC Working Groups](#)

GAC Public Comment Opportunities

Last Updated: 29 Sep 2025

Related Topics: [Public Comment](#)

Status: Active

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.

GAC Website Tour - Working Groups

[ME](#)

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[ABOUT THE GAC](#)

[GAC ADVICE](#)

[MEETINGS & RECORDS](#)

[WORK EFFORTS](#)

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

Group Name ▲	Status ▲	Last Updated ▼
GAC Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group (UA-IDN WG)	Active	14 Nov 2025

GAC Website Tour - Communique

HOME

NEWS

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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

ICANN84 Dublin Communique

ICANN84 Dublin Communique

[PDF \(309 KB\)](#) | Official Date: 03 November 2025

Topics Discussed: [Accuracy](#) [ALAC](#) [Applicant Support Program](#) [ASO](#) [Capacity Building](#) [ccNSO](#) [DNS Abuse](#) [Domain Name Registration Data](#) [Elections](#) [GAC](#) [Activities](#) [GAC Leadership](#) [GAC Strategic and Annual](#)

GAC Website Tour - Meeting Minutes

IE 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 interessionally. 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:

ICANN84 Dublin Meeting Minutes

[PDF \(710 KB\)](#) | Official Date: 17 December 2025

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

☰ ICANN84 GAC Minutes 1 / 30 100% + 📄 ↻ 🔍 ↩ ⌂ ⋮

GAC Website Tour - Correspondence

NEWS ABOUT THE GAC **GAC ADVICE** MEETINGS & RECORDS WORK EF

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.

[Communiqés](#) [Correspondence](#) [Itemized Advice](#) [Principles & Guidel](#)

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 517 results

Subject	Status	To	From	Date
GNSO Council Review of Dublin GAC Communique	Incoming	Tripti Sinha	Susan Payne	15 Dec 2025

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 517 results

Subject	Status	To	From	Date
GNSO Council Review of Dublin GAC Communique	Incoming	Tripti Sinha	Susan Payne	15 Dec 2025
Protections for Names and Acronyms of Intergovernmental Organisations in gTLDs	Outgoing	Kurtis Lindqvist, Tripti Sinha	Nicolas Caballero	12 Dec 2025
ICANN84 GAC Communique Acknowledgement	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Tripti Sinha	13 Nov 2025
GAC Criteria for Submission to the 2026 Nominating Committee	Outgoing	Nicolas Caballero	Nominating Committee	05 Nov 2025
Status of GAC Advice in the Action Request Register (ARR)	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Russ Weinstein	16 Oct 2025

Strategic & Annual Planning

- GAC created a Four-Year [Strategic Plan](#) (2024-2028)
- 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 created an [Annual 2024-25 work plan](#) to direct its resources
- Revised [plan for 2025/2026](#) (reviewed at ICANN84 and endorsed on 3 November 2025)
- Among the nine strategic priorities, 59 “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 2025/2026 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”

Progress Status Summary

Role of Gov. in ICANN	Effectiveness of the GAC		Future Rounds of New gTLDs	DNS Abuse	Domain Registr. Data	Universal Accept.	New Technology	Internet Gov.	Number Resources
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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 5 FTE 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



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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>
- Active Capacity Development by committee leadership at ICANN Meetings and intersessionally (e.g., Next round of new gTLDs)

Thank you!