GAC Welcome Webinar -
Operational Basics

22 May 2025

13:00 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 (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

Members and observers participate equally in all discussions

List of Delegations

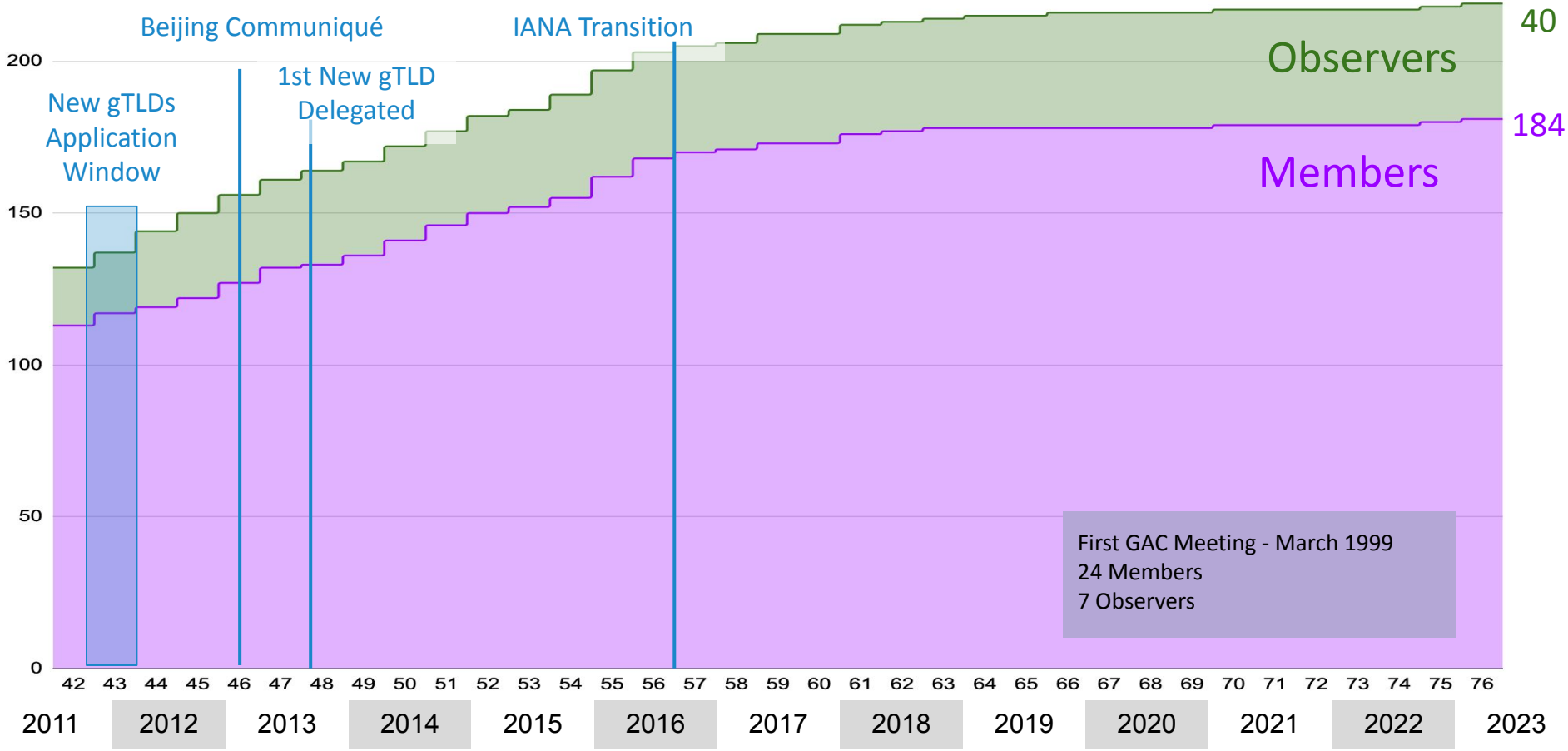
40 Intergovernmental Organizations as Observers

Only Members are eligible to vote *(during elections)*

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

RH 4

GAC Membership: Structure and Evolution



ICANN | GAC

Source: Attendance data as reported in GAC Communiqués

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

* 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)
  - Discussions at ICANN82 and 83 for latest potential updates

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.

- 82 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

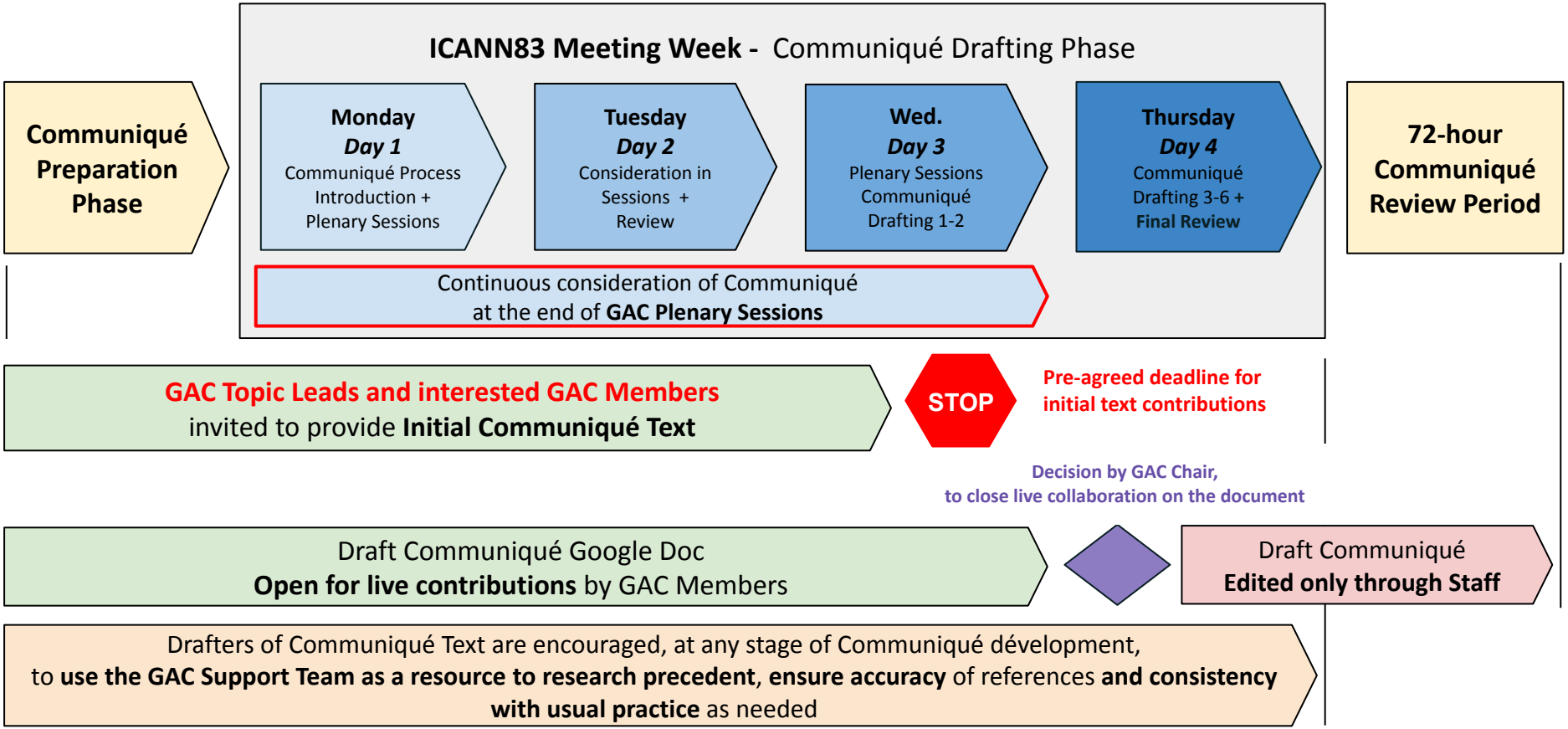
GAC Working Methods - Working Groups (WGs)

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

Communiqué Development for ICANN83

ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee



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.

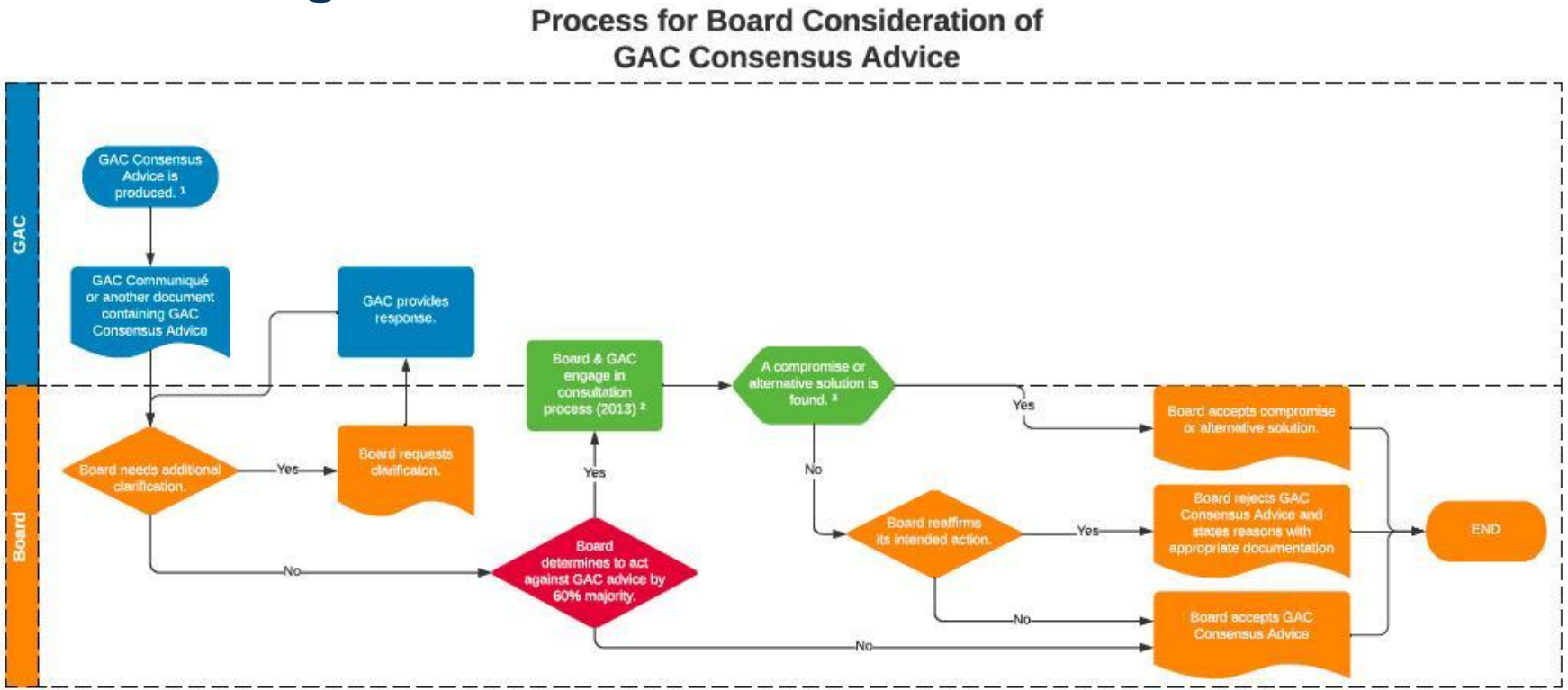
- Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) - Was formed to optimize the relationship between the Board and the GAC. It has also been used by the Board to enable the process for receipt, consideration, processing and tracking of GAC advice and Issues of Importance.
  https://gac.icann.org/working-group/boardgac-interaction-group-bgig

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



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

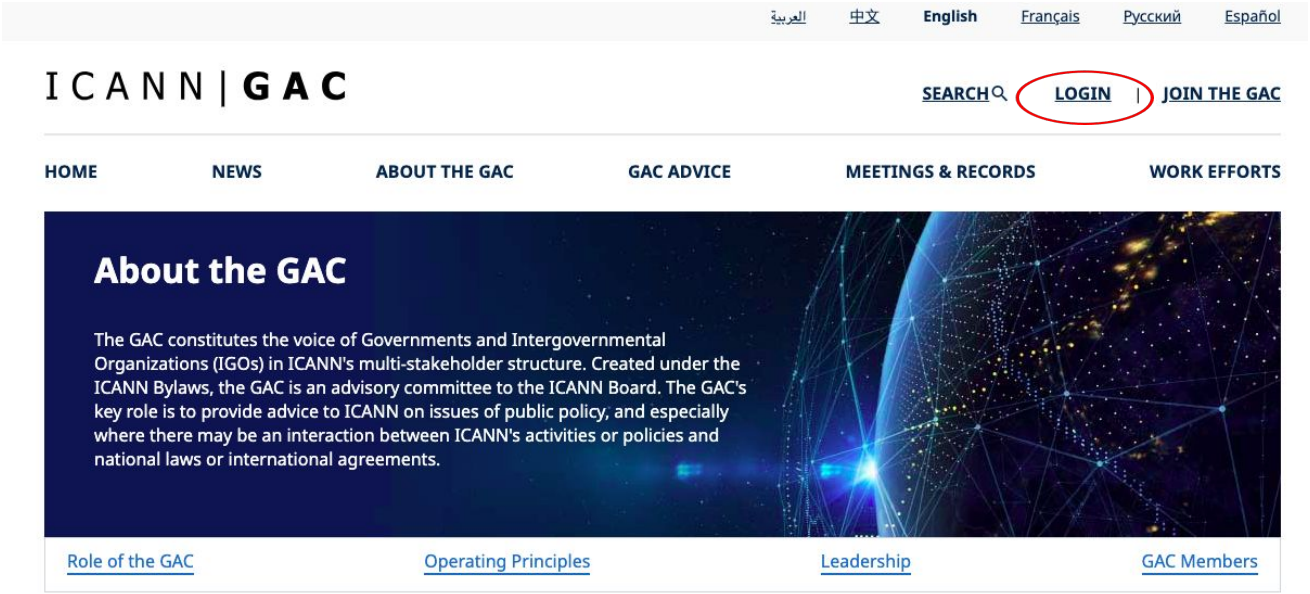
GAC Delegates

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

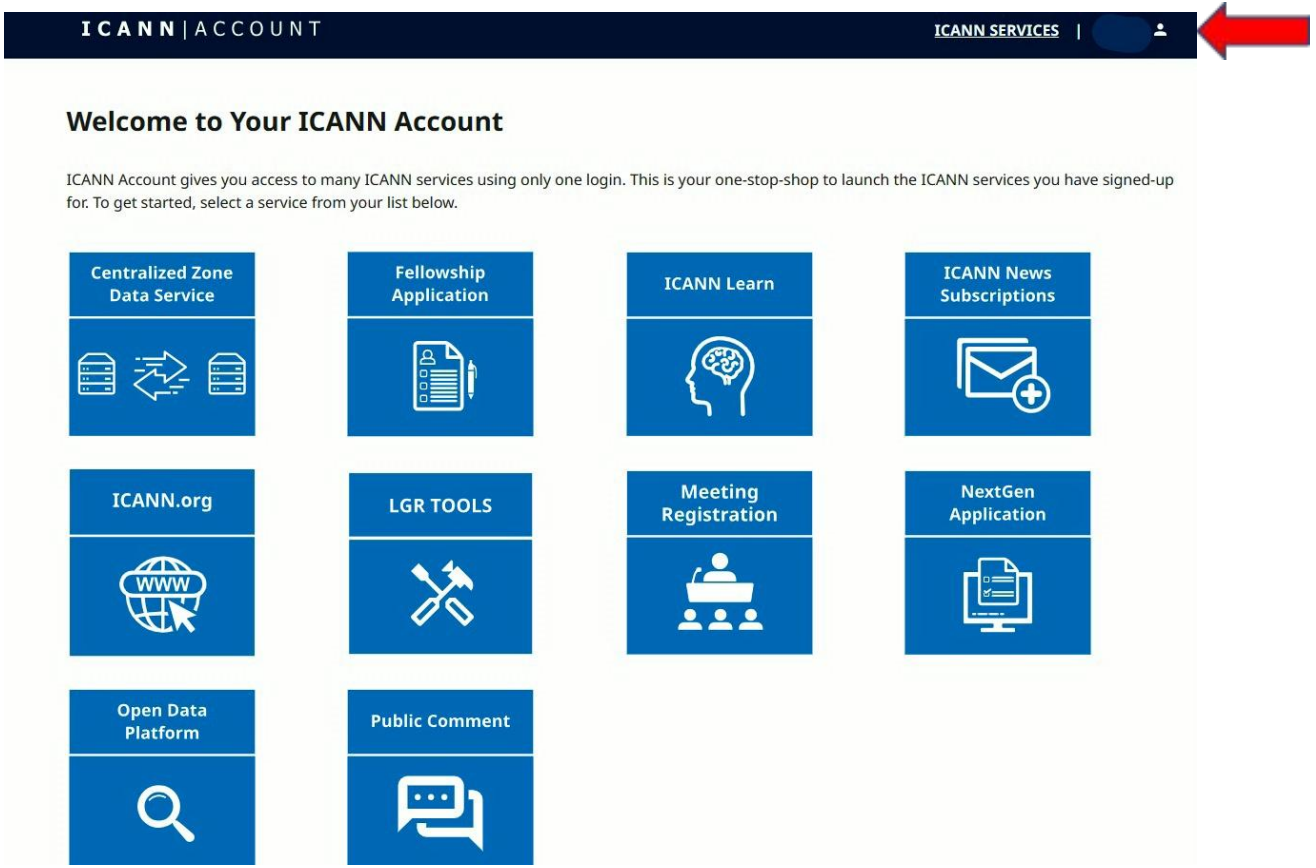
GAC Information Sharing -
Leveraging GAC Web Site and Other Resources

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

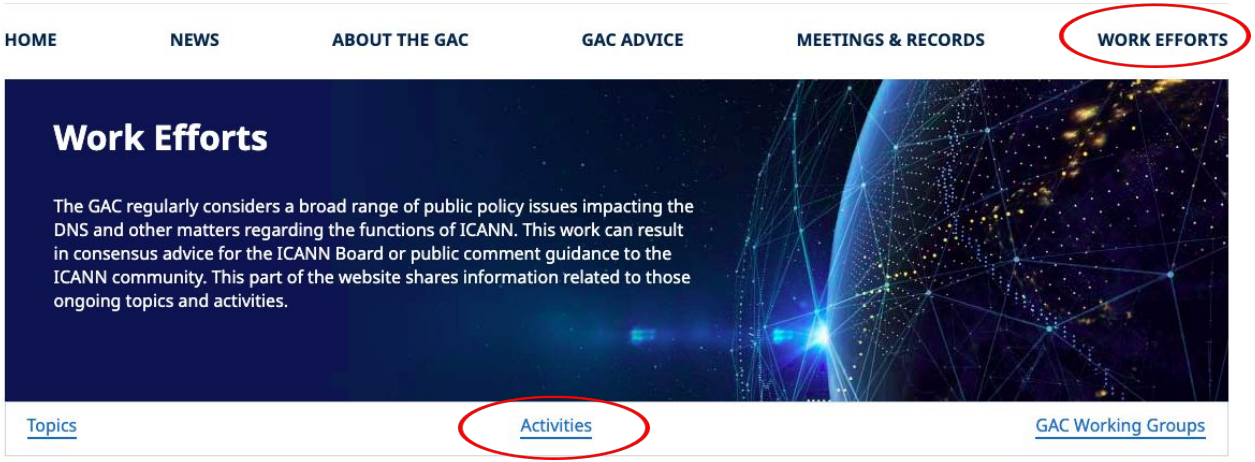
GAC Website Tour - Home Page



GAC Website Tour - Home Page



GAC Website Tour - Activity Space

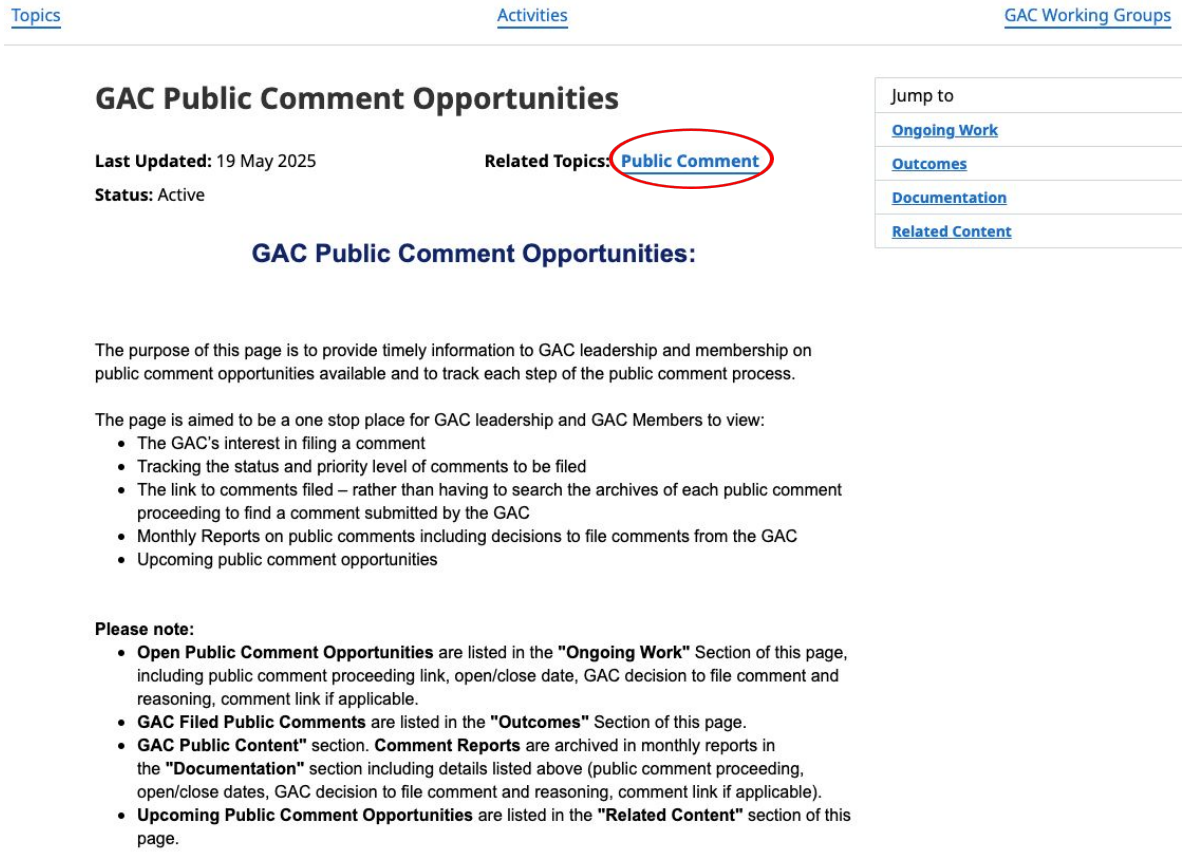


GAC Website Tour - Activity Space

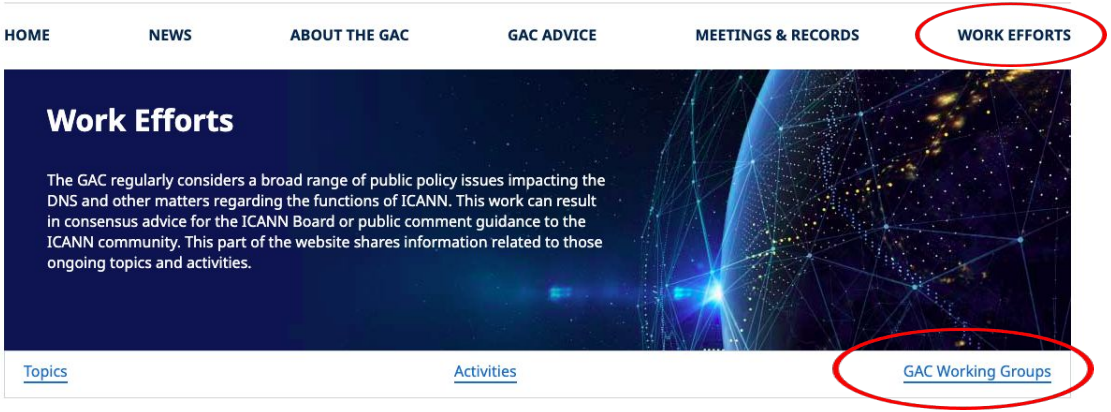
1 to 20 of 48 results

ACTIVITY NAME ▲	STATUS ▲	LAST UPDATED ▼
GAC Public Comment Opportunities	Active	19 May 2025
ICANN Action Request Registry of GAC Advice	Active	08 Apr 2025
GAC FAQ on Delegation and Redelegations	Active	10 Mar 2025
GAC and ALAC activity page	Active	24 Feb 2025
GAC involvement in Work Stream 2 Recommendations Implementation	Active	04 Feb 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 Website Tour - Public Comments



GAC Website Tour - Working Groups



Working Group

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

Related To

Select

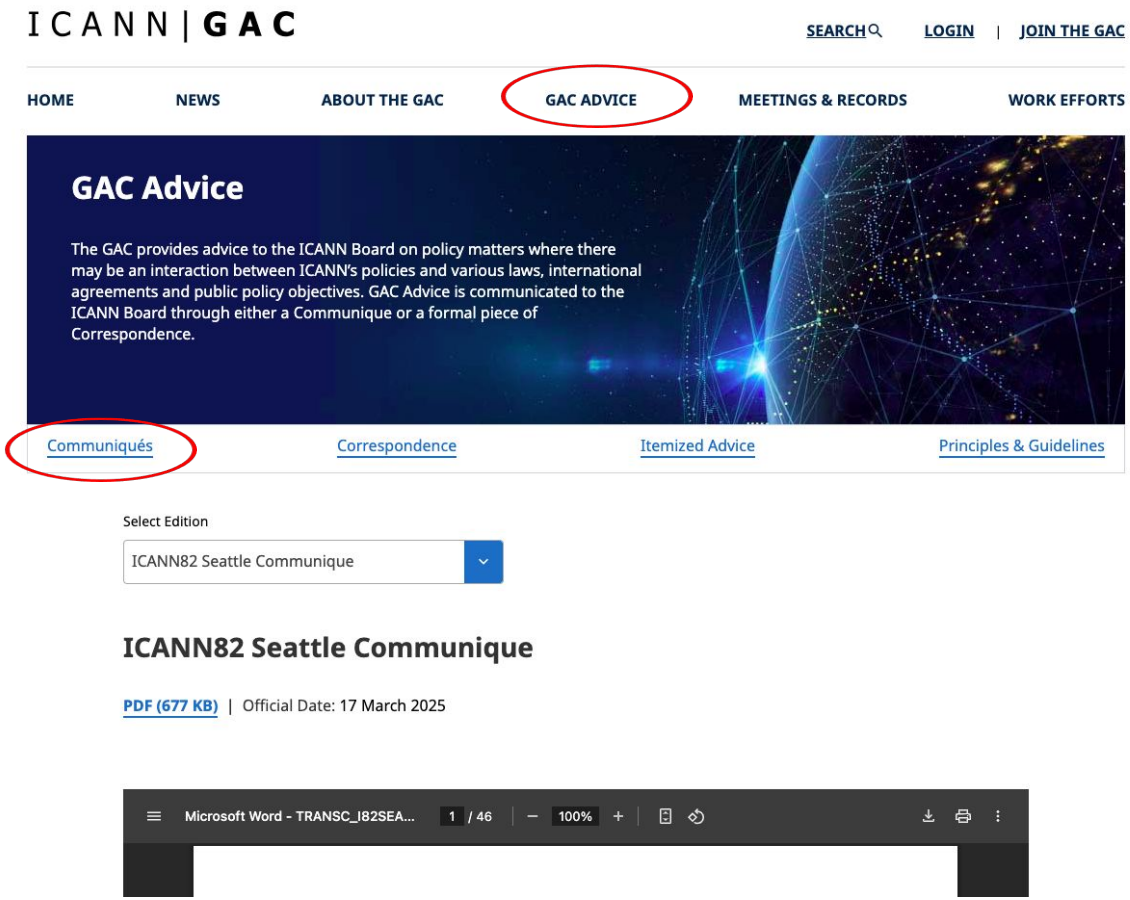
Search Working Groups:

Enter Keyword

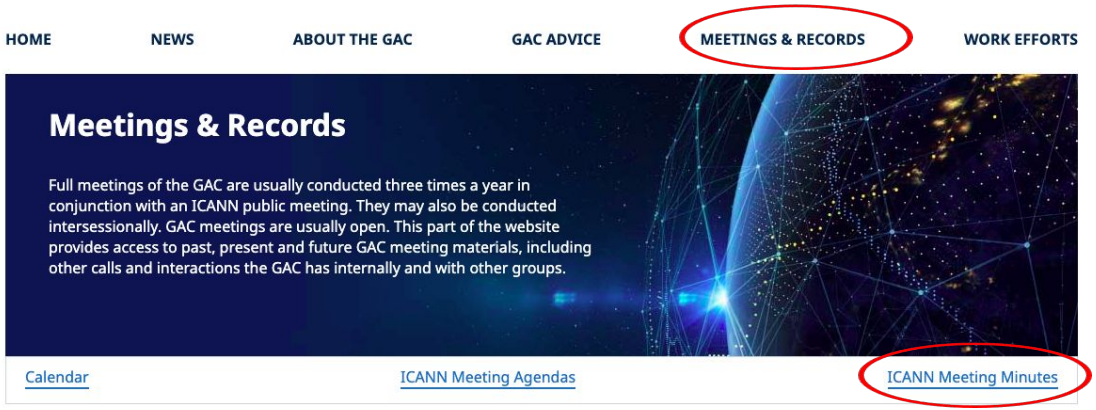
1 to 9 of 9 results

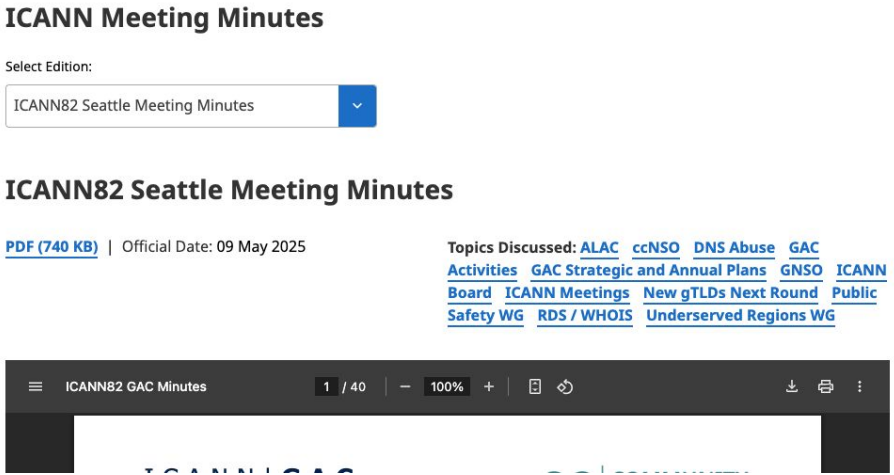
Group Name	Status	Last Updated
GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group (GOPEWG)	Active	19 Mar 2025
GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law (HRILWG)	Active	07 Feb 2025

GAC Website Tour - Communique

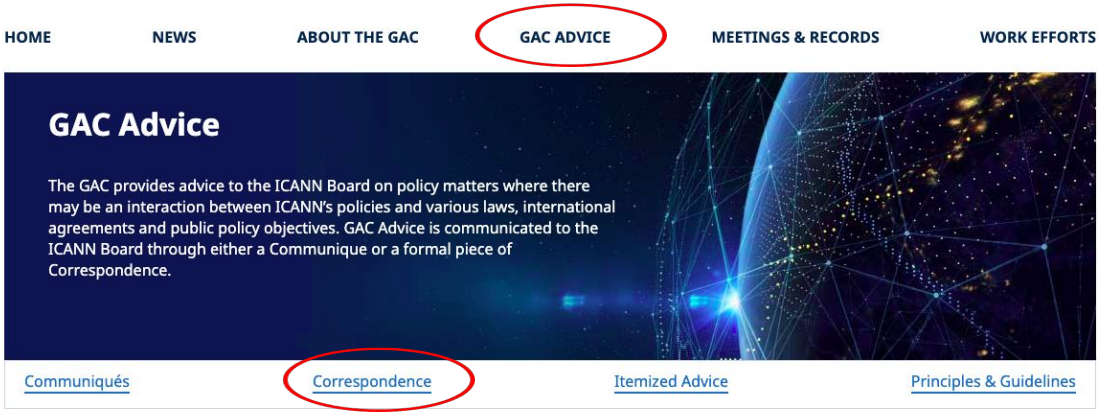


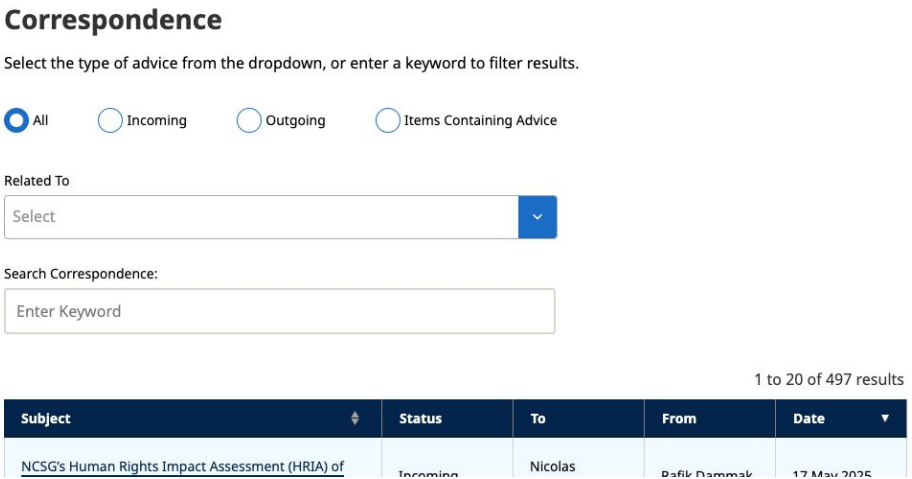
GAC Website Tour - Meeting Minutes





GAC Website Tour - Correspondence





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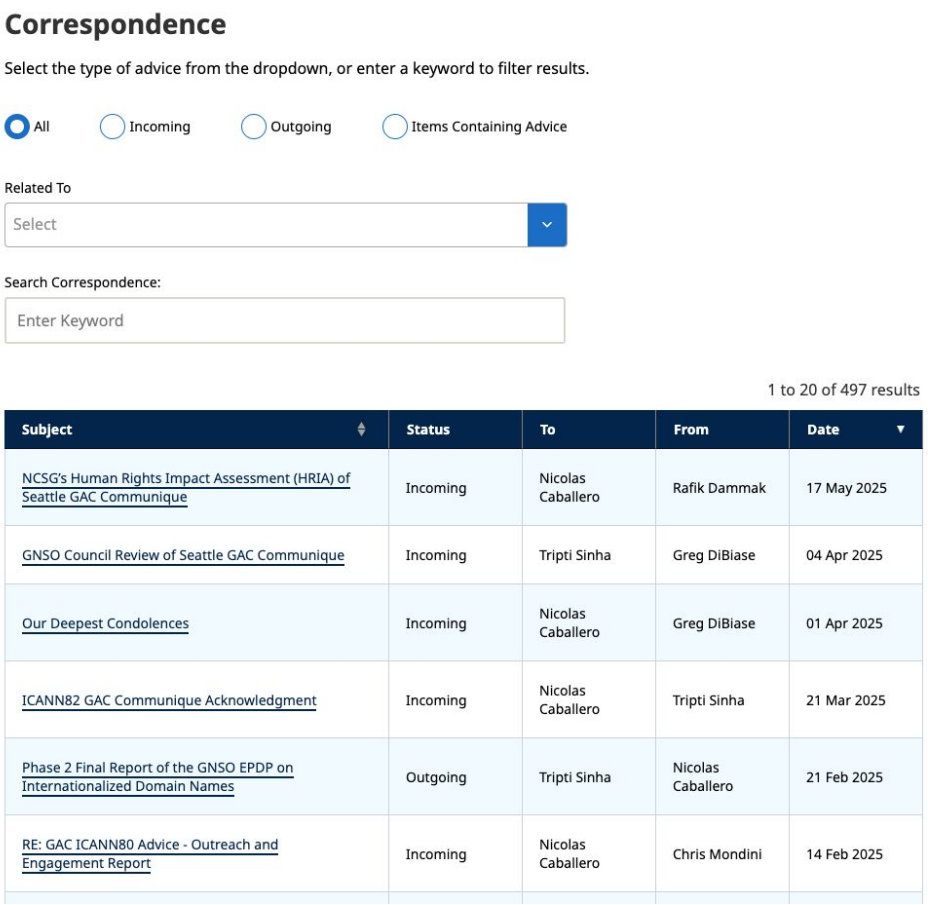

Correspondence

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 497 results

Subject	Status	To	From	Date
NCSG's Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) of Seattle GAC Communique	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Rafik Dammak	17 May 2025
GNSO Council Review of Seattle GAC Communique	Incoming	Tripti Sinha	Greg DiBiase	04 Apr 2025
Our Deepest Condolences	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Greg DiBiase	01 Apr 2025
ICANN82 GAC Communique Acknowledgment	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Tripti Sinha	21 Mar 2025
Phase 2 Final Report of the GNSO EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names	Outgoing	Tripti Sinha	Nicolas Caballero	21 Feb 2025
RE: GAC ICANN80 Advice - Outreach and Engagement Report	Incoming	Nicolas Caballero	Chris Mondini	14 Feb 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 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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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
- Active Capacity Development emphasis by committee leadership

Thank you!