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ICANN73 GAC Operating Principles Working Group (GOPE WG) Update

8 March 2022
1. Opening Remarks (GOPE WG Co-Chairs)
2. Background/Overview
3. Update on recent GOPE WG activity (GOPE WG Co-Chairs/GAC Support)
4. GOPE WG Work Plan for adoption (GOPE WG Co-Chairs/GAC Support)
5. Review of Framework of GAC WG Guidelines (GOPE WG Co-Chairs/GAC Support)
   a. Update
   b. Changes from 2016 Version
   c. Questions for GAC Membership
6. Next Steps (GOPE WG Co-Chairs)
7. Comments and discussion (GAC members)
8. AOB
2. **Background/Overview of GOPE WG**

- The **purpose** of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group is to **study, develop and make recommendations to the GAC for changes to the current GAC Operating Principles**.

- Those recommendations should help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity and specificity of the committee’s processes and procedures.

- The evolution of GAC operating principles seeks to enable the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to adjust and adapt to operate more effectively and efficiently as an advisory committee and as a member of the ICANN Empowered Community.

- **The working group is not a decision-making body for the GAC**, but is designed to offer recommendations to the GAC membership as a whole. The GAC recognizes that the development of those recommendations will come from active discussions between working group members.
3. Update on Recent GOPE WG Activities

- The GOPE WG continued its activities after ICANN72, identifying priority areas for the WG to focus on. Two WG meetings were held intersessionally in preparation for ICANN73.
- Following an extended vacancy, the WG appointed a new co-chair: Ian Sheldon (Australia).
- GOPE WG members agreed to tackle the finalization of the Framework of WG Guidelines prior to delving in the review of GAC Operating Principles.
- The GOPE WG Work Plan was updated to reflect the updated timeline and priorities identified by the WG.
- The Work Plan was circulated with GAC Membership for review prior to ICANN73.
- GOPE WG Members began reviewing the Framework for GAC WG Guidelines providing initial input and potential edits. Specific areas for discussion with broader GAC membership were identified.
- The WG agreed to seek input from existing WG Co-Chairs to identify potential missing areas, and receive feedback on the draft.
4. GOPE WG Work Plan: 2021-2022

- Updated following input at ICANN72 and further GOPE WG member discussions.
- Work Plan reflects ongoing discussions with GAC membership on recommendations and/or potentially contentious areas, to ensure GAC membership is kept in the loop of discussions from GOPE WG.
- Expected timeframe:
  - GOPE WG to initially focus on finalizing the updated Framework for GAC WG Guidelines;
  - Once this is completed, GOPE WG will commence review of GAC Operating Principles;
  - GOPE WG to finalize Framework for GAC WG Guidelines by ICANN74;
  - Aim for WG to begin review of GAC Operating Principles post ICANN74;
  - Work Plan concludes at the end of 2023, with estimated delivery date of final recommendations for updates to GAC OPerating Principles in October 2023 (ICANN78)
- GAC Membership to consider adoption of Work Plan
5. Framework of GAC WG Guidelines

- GOPE WG members identified areas missing, of redundancy or which needed tweaking.
- The updated Framework for GAC Working Group Guidelines document was presented to the GAC at ICANN66, and circulated to GAC membership for review.
- GAC membership had a 3-week period to provide feedback on the updated guidelines. No feedback was received, however due to shifting priorities the document was not finalized by the GOPE WG.
- Discussions on the Framework of GAC WG Guidelines resumed after ICANN72, and the WG decided to make it a priority to finalize this work prior to delving in the Operating Principles.
- After ICANN72 GAC Support updated the Framework for GAC WG Guidelines which was originally finalized by the WG in 2020.
5. Framework of GAC WG Guidelines - Changes

Overview of Changes:

● GAC Working Group Guidelines were updated to reflect current practice within the GAC (including GAC support responsibilities/support, removal of mentions of external Secretariat but aligning support in one category)

● Alignment with ICANN Bylaws (minimal but changed references which were incorrect due to update in ICANN Bylaws)

● Reformatting:
  ○ Ease of reference, the guidelines were updated into clear sections so existing text was shifted into those subsections proposed by GOPE WG members;
  ○ Some text which was included in annexes was copied into the guidelines for clarity
5. Framework of GAC WG Guidelines - Changes

Establishment of a Working Group:
- **Membership application** was added to reflect current practice in GAC Working Groups.
- **Working group leaders** added to reflect current practice in GAC Working Groups.

Roles and Responsibilities:
- **Members**: expanded section to clarify role of members and the expected contribution to the work/outputs of the WG consistent with the work plan.
- **GAC Support Staff**: role updated to reflect current practice.

Operation of a Working Group:
- **WG outputs** - expanded to outline WG membership collaboration (in line with annex)
- **Sub-teams** - section added to allow for creation of potential sub-teams
- **Final Report** - section renamed and expanded from Appendix A. Process for the development of position paper/statement is unchanged.
- **Closure of a Working Group**: section largely expanded and new text proposed by WG members to add a timeline for WG work/outputs to avoid inactive WG to remain open. GOPE WG members added the idea of a regular and periodic review of Working Groups to identify which WGs should be closed/adjourned.
GOPE WG Members identified specific questions for GAC Membership, especially related to a potential final product for GAC Working Groups.

The updated WG Guidelines include a section (5.6) outlining a “Final Report” for WGs, originally adapted from GNSO Working Groups and expanded from original 2016 Guidelines.

GOPE WG members identified that further updates should be carried out to reflect practice in the GAC.

GAC Discussion on:

- What does a successful GAC WG product look like?
- What do GAC WGs produce?
- Is it realistic to name a GAC WG product such as a:
  - Statement
  - Position paper
  - Final report
6. Next Steps

- GOPE WG to continue review of Framework for GAC WG Guidelines, incorporating any feedback received from GAC Membership;
- GAC Working Group Chairs/Co-Chairs to be contacted for input on draft guidelines;
- GOPE WG to review areas of Framework for WG Guidelines identified for further review (including the “Final Report” section and “Closure of WG” sections);
- GOPE WG will meet intersessionally prior to ICANN74 and will present developments to GAC membership in plenary session at ICANN74.
7. Discussion

- Do GAC Members have any specific items for the GOPE WG to take into account? Any questions?
- Any other comments?
8. AOB

- Any other comments?