



78

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



Session 4 – GAC Operational Matters



GAC Operational Matters

October 2023

Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN78 GAC Meeting
Session #4

ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee



1. Working Group Reports
2. Discussion of Nominating Committee Relationship
3. Strategic Planning by the GAC

- GAC Operating Principle Evolution Working Group (GOPE WG)
- Underserved Regions Working Group (Capacity Development Workshop)

Background:

- The ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee tasked with identifying and selecting individuals for ICANN leadership positions.
- The ICANN Bylaws call for the NomCom to make a specified number of appointments each year to the ICANN Board of Directors (Board), the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council, the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council, and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC).
- The ICANN Bylaws provide that the GAC has a reserved non-voting liaison position on the NomCom.
- This position has gone vacant for some years due to a lack of consensus within the committee on the proper role for this position.

Background:

- In 2015 a GAC Working Group was formed to help facilitate GAC consideration of NomCom participation.
- There was an exchange of views on NomCom issues on the GAC e-mail list as recently as December 2017.
- At that time, several members indicated support for the GAC taking up its position on the NomCom.
- Others members noted concerns about the NomCom's requirement for confidentiality, which was raised as possibly creating problems of accountability and transparency for the GAC.
- As of the GAC's ICANN62 Panama City meeting (2018) there was no consensus in the GAC on whether the committee should take up the position available to it on the NomCom.

Background:

- As an alternative to utilizing the reserved spot, GAC Members agreed to develop public policy-focused criteria to be submitted annually to the NomCom as guidance to be considered in selecting appointees to the ICANN Board.
- Since that time, each year the GAC has shared essentially the same criteria, in place of the committee appointing an individual to serve on the NomCom.
- Over that time, the committee has reminded the community that the lack of a GAC NomCom appointment in any given year to the NomCom should not create an assumption that no future appointments will be made.

The Issue:

- With several new changes now coming to the manner in which the NomCom will operate in the future – including the transformation of the GAC and other community NomCom positions from non-voting to voting roles – the question has been raised whether circumstances have changed enough over the last several years to warrant a possible change in the perception or positions of committee members on this issue.
- When the ICANN Board Chair reached out prior to ICANN77 to ask the GAC and other community groups to share thoughts about potential NomCom rebalancing and other issues, it was suggested that the GAC discuss the matter collectively at ICANN78.

What to Discuss Today:

Exchange of GAC views regarding the committee's approach to further use of the reserved NomCom position.

Update from GAC Chair to committee on efforts to consider development of annual/strategic planning regime for governments in ICANN