

# GAC Discussion on WSIS+20 With the GAC IG Group

## GAC Topic Leads:

Christine Arida (GAC Vice Chair, Egypt)

Ana Neves (Portugal)

Nigel Hickson (GAC Vice Chair, United Kingdom)

## Guest Speakers:

Veni Markovski, ICANN org

Elena Plexida, ICANN org

Becky McGilley, ICANN org

11 March 2025

**I C A N N | G A C**

Governmental Advisory Committee

# Agenda

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- 1. Introduction on the work of the GAC IG Group**
- 2. Report on the GAC Webinar on WSIS+20 and the Future of IG**
- 3. Update on Internet Governance Activities**
- 4. Update on ICANN Discussions**
  - SO/AC Discussion Group
  - ICANN org Work and Plans
- 5. Planning of GAC IG Group Discussion ahead of ICANN83**

# Introduction to the GAC IG Group

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## Background

- [GAC Strategic Plan](#) (2024-2028) Strategic Objective 8 - Internet Governance

*The GAC will work to ensure that governments, the ICANN Board, ICANN org and ICANN community participants are kept regularly apprised of developments and challenges in the Internet Governance (IG) ecosystem that impact the Internet's unique identifier systems. The GAC may coordinate efforts among Members to make contributions to global IG processes, within the framework of the multi-stakeholder model.*

- Expected Outcomes in the [GAC Annual Plan](#) (2024/2025)
  - Regularly apprise all GAC participants of Internet Governance developments taking place in 2024 and 2025 and relevant to the GAC and ICANN
  - Inform GAC Members of ICANN org efforts to develop and implement communications and engagement strategies designed to address the WSIS+20 Review, GDC and other relevant processes, and communicate opportunities to contribute as individual governments or collectively as a committee
  - Consideration of a GAC small group dedicated to Internet Governance issue

# Introduction to the GAC IG Group

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## Participation (as of 11 March)

- **48 GAC participants**
- From:
  - **30 GAC Member States and Territories**
  - **3 GAC Observer organizations**
- Reach out to [gac-staff@icann.org](mailto:gac-staff@icann.org) to join

# Introduction to the GAC IG Group

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## Objective

- Exchange information among interested GAC members on IG related news and updates
- Identify IG topics of priority that impact the Internet's unique identifier systems and agree on a series of activities to raise awareness among members
- Facilitate cross-community exchanges on IG related topics with other interested SO/ACs, as well as the engagement of GAC member in community wide IG related discussions

# GAC Webinar: WSIS+20 and the Future of IG (17 Feb.)

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## Shaping the Digital Future: WSIS+20 Review and the Future of Internet Governance

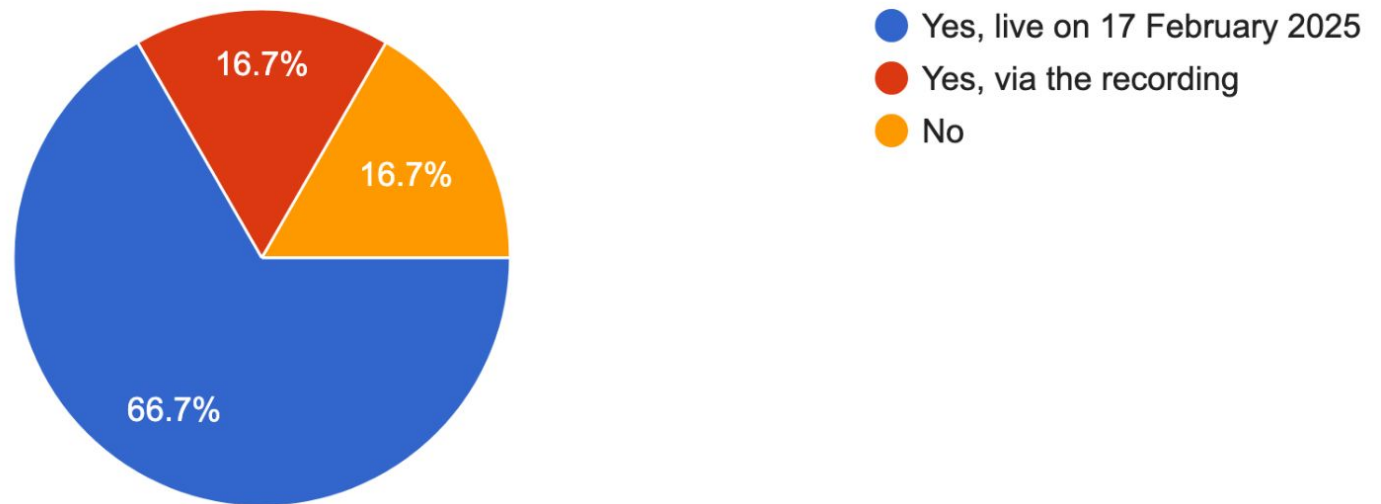
- GAC Webinar held on 17 February 2025
- Speakers included representatives from: UN DESA, UN ODET, UN CSTD, ITU, UNESCO, IGF MAG, Norway (as 2025 Host of IGF) and ICANN org.
- Discussed plans and expectations of relevant international organizations regarding the WSIS+20 Review process for the coming year
  - WSIS review milestones including key events, consultations and updates on the process modalities - GDC implementation next steps - IGF 2025 expectations - the interplay between the different IG processes
- [Recording and materials](#) available on the GAC website, also shared on ICANN WSIS+20 Outreach Network and with other SO/ACs

# GAC Webinar: WSIS+20 and the Future of IG (17 Feb.)

## Feedback on the Webinar (Per recent survey of the GAC IG Group)

Were you able to attend the Webinar ?

12 responses

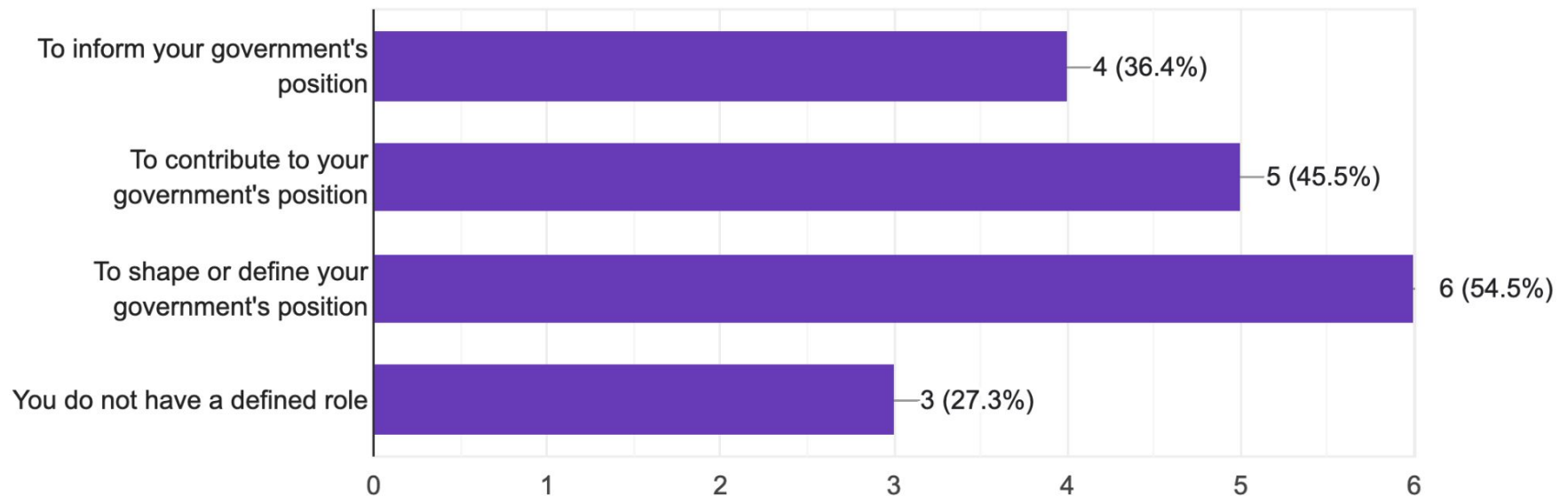


# GAC Webinar: WSIS+20 and the Future of IG (17 Feb.)

## Feedback on the Webinar (Per recent survey of the GAC IG Group)

As it relates to your government's position on the WSIS+20 Review, is your role:

11 responses



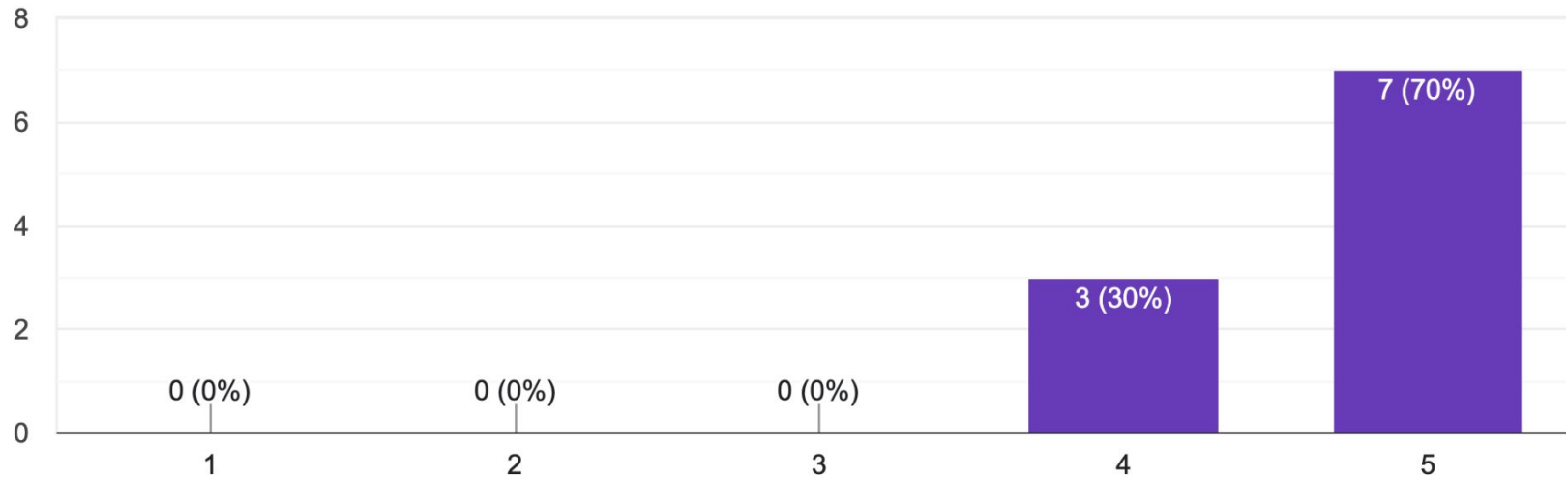


# GAC Webinar: WSIS+20 and the Future of IG (17 Feb.)

## Feedback on the Webinar (Per recent survey of the GAC IG Group)

If you were able to attend or catch up on the webinar, how useful was it ?

10 responses



# GAC Webinar: WSIS+20 and the Future of IG (17 Feb.)

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## Feedback on the Webinar (Per recent survey of the GAC IG Group)

- **Specific feedback:**

- Programme: (very) informative, well organized, comprehensive, helpful
- Speakers: excellent and highly qualified speakers from all key bodies
- Outcomes: the webinar provided
  - An (excellent) overview/foundation on all the organizations, processes involved, policy issues and perspectives involved in the WSIS+20 Review
  - Important and authoritative info. on preparatory process, upcoming milestones
  - Great contextualization of ongoing developments, opportunities and challenges
- Areas for improvements:
  - Allocate more time and spread content over several webinars
  - Give more time to speakers and for interaction/Q&A

- **Takeaways for GAC Members:**

- WSIS+20 Review is complex (involved many organizations and processes)
- Concerns on outcomes of the Review Process are real
- Important to understand how all the organizations work together
- Allowed to identify key areas of interest for various parts of governments
- Importance of multistakeholderism, the role of governments and technical community in it

# Update on IG Discussions Since the Webinar

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- **WSIS+20**
  - Approval of the WSIS+20 Negotiation Modalities
- **IGF 2025**
  - Call for Session Proposals (Deadline March 16)
  - Village Booths Application (Deadline March 16)
- **Any Regional / National Updates from GAC Members ?**

# Update on ICANN Internet Governance Discussions (1/2)

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## SO/AC Advisory Group

- **Elena Plexida**, ICANN org  
Vice President, Government and IGO Engagement
- **Nigel Hickson**, UK  
GAC Vice Chair

# Update on ICANN Internet Governance Discussions (2/2)

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## ICANN org Work to Date and Plans Going Forward

- **Veni Markovski**, ICANN org  
VP, Government Engagement - UN NY and Interim Head of Government and IGO Engagement
- **Becky McGilley**, ICANN org  
Government and IGO Engagement Director

# GAC IG Group Discussions ahead of ICANN83

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## Topic of interest per Member's Input in the Post-Webinar Survey:

- Tracking of Developments, Identifying opportunities for involvement
  - Progress of WSIS+20 and GDC Implementation
  - IGF, including hosting an IGF 101 webinar
  - Notable positions emerging
- Themes for GAC IG Group discussions
  - Governments/delegations' current thinking
  - How to improve and advance the multistakeholder model
  - What ICANN priorities should be for IGF and the WSIS+20 High Level Event
  - How ICANN fits into the IG Landscape
  - Digital Future and AI, emerging technologies and cybersecurity

# GAC IG Group Discussions ahead of ICANN83

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## Examples of how GAC Members can inform, engage on and contribute to their national positions on the WSIS+20

- Establish **direct channels and close coordination with diplomats** at the UN in Geneva and New York
- **Close communication with and coordination among government departments** that lead the WSIS+20 Review, **sharing GAC Members technical expertise** and **highlight the benefits of/advocate for the multistakeholder model** and ICANN's role
- Provide **timely and early input to key governments stakeholders**, keep contributions concise and focused on important points
- **Integrate national and regional stakeholder communities** to ensure that their voices are reflected in the WSIS+20 Review (particularly technical community experts and civil society groups who could positively contribute to the discussion). Provide support for the workshops, identification of speakers, dissemination of information.

# GAC IG Group Discussions ahead of ICANN83

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## For GAC Discussion

- Discussion of another webinar, possibly ahead of ICANN83 e.g.
  - The São Paulo Guidelines (NM+10) - how to negotiate in multilateralism through a multistakeholder approach)
  - IGF 101