Board - GAC Joint Meeting
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 – 11:45 UTC (75 mins)

Board - GAC Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 10 June at 11:45 UTC (75 mins)
(13:45 local Prague time)

1. Introductions
2. Review of GAC Topics/Questions (shared with Board in advance of meeting)
3. AOB
4. Closing

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Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics - Overview

1. ICANN Policy Development

2. Registration Data - Accuracy

3. Privacy and Proxy Accreditation

4. Community Statements of Interest

5. Deferral of ATRT4 Review

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Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 1. ICANN Policy Development

Background:

The ICANN new 5-year strategic plan (2026-2030) goes into effect at the beginning of next month (July 2025) with the recognition that ICANN should "enhance the agility and effectiveness of Policy Advice and Development" (see ICANN Strategic Goal 1.2). This appears to include "incorporat[ing] flexibility and agile methodologies into the policy and advice development and implementation life cycle" (see ICANN Strategy 1.2.4).

These are appropriate goals at a time when many ICANN community members (including governments) are expressing concern that ICANN policy development processes (PDPs) - even "expedited ones" - take too long. Recent community discussions (including within the GAC) have begun to stress the need for better-scoped, more-focused, timely and targeted policy efforts – with the intention to shorten the time that it takes to deliver results on policy development matters.

GAC members support the view that ICANN should improve the current approach to policy development and move expeditiously toward a framework of more focused and narrowly scoped PDPs designed to facilitate more effective decision making and practical outcomes on a faster timeline. With the impending expansion of the DNS following the next round of new gTLDs and a continuing community obligation to reinforce efforts to combat DNS Abuse at all levels, this "step-change" would ideally be initiated as soon as possible.

Question:

Consistent with the new ICANN Strategic Plan, how can the Board and ICANN CEO prompt this type of "step-change" in the organization's approach to make policy development more efficient and effective - without contemplating a wholesale change in the ICANN policy development process itself? How can the GAC assist in this effort?

Topic 2. Registration Data - Accuracy

Background:

In the ICANN 82 (Seattle) Communiqué, the GAC in reference to the discussions around accuracy noted that "In that respect, the GAC considers that it would be helpful to receive more information about the current levels of compliance with existing requirements related to accuracy in ICANN's Registrar Accreditation Agreement." In the response via the Scorecard, the Board noted in turn that "The Board welcomes more information from the GAC on what additional information it would find helpful in light of data processing limitations that exist under applicable data protection laws/regulations and the existing contractual requirements, as detailed in ICANN's Assessment of Registration Data Accuracy Scenarios report that was provided to the GNSO Council".

Discussion in the BGIG call on 7 April concluded that this topic warranted further discussion between Board and GAC to find clarity on what information the GAC appreciates and which can be delivered by ICANN within the limitations of applicable data protection laws/regulations.

Question:

Can the ICANN Board provide suggestions regarding which additional data can be made available within the current limitations, or which (contractual) obstacles can potentially be removed in order to provide the GAC with a greater understanding of the current levels of compliance?

Topic 3. Privacy and Proxy Accreditation

Question:

Among other possible enhancements, the Board and the GAC have both expressed interest in the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) better facilitating requests for registration data in cases involving privacy or proxy services. Procedurally, what would be the most efficient way to pursue this possibility, since the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Implementation IRT is proceeding in parallel but is not aimed at addressing questions about the RDRS?

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Topic 4. Community Statements of Interest

Background:

GAC Members have acknowledged the latest Public Comment Opportunity shared by ICANN org seeking comment on an updated version of the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest. Some GAC members have noted additional language added to the document which addresses government representatives.

Question:

The GAC appreciates the continuing progress on this matter by the Board and staff and looks forward to it being concluded by the end of this calendar year at the latest.

GAC Members reviewing the new SOI red-lined language have interpreted the new language not to put any additional obligations on GAC representatives beyond the present expectation outlined in the current SOI process. Do Board members and senior ICANN staff have the same interpretation?

Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 5. Deferral of ATRT4 Review

Background:

The GAC notes the intended deferral of the ATR4 review process, as well as the decisions adopted by the Board recently on other accountability mechanisms as explained in the 27 May letter from the Board Chair to the GAC Chair.

In this regard, the GAC recalls the essential character of the ATRT reviews as mandated by the Bylaws and their central role for the well-functioning of ICANN's multistakeholder accountability, transparency, and governance.

Question:

Accordingly, the GAC expresses concern about this further deferral and calls on the Board to expedite the preparations for undertaking the Bylaws-mandated review process in consultation with the multistakeholder community, and to present a corresponding timeline as soon as possible.

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Thank you!

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