

ICANN85 GAC Agenda Setting Call (2/2)

19 February 2026
13:00 UTC (60 mins)

Call Objectives (reminder):

This second Agenda Setting call is an opportunity for:

- **GAC Topic leads** to review/confirm the topics expected to be discussed by the GAC in each session
- **GAC Members** to suggest or request discussion of specific items in relation these topics.

Agenda:

1. **GAC Capacity Development Sessions**
2. **Sessions on Key Policy Topics** (New gTLD Program Next Round, WHOIS/Registration Data Issues, DNS Abuse)
3. **Emerging Topics Session** (URDP Review, DNS for Digital Identity)
4. **ICANN85 GAC Operational Topics**
5. **Agenda of GAC Bilaterals Meetings** (if proposal for consideration)
6. **ICANN85 GAC Communiqué Development** (time permitting)

ICANN85 Agenda Setting Call #2

Time	Saturday 7 March 2026 (Day 1)	Sunday 8 March 2026 (Day 2)	Monday 9 March 2026 (Day 3)	Tuesday 10 March 2026 (Day 4)	Wed. 11 March 2026 (Day 5)	Thursday 12 March 2026 (Day 6)	Time	
9:00							9:00	
9:15							9:15	
9:30	1. GAC Opening Plenary (60 mins)	7. GAC Meeting with the RSSAC (60 mins)	Welcome Ceremony and Community Excellence Award (75 mins)		13. GAC Meeting with the ALAC (60 mins)	17. GAC Meeting with the IETF (60 mins)	Community Session: Reviews of Reviews (60 mins)	GNSO Discussion on Next Step for SSAD Rec.
9:45							9:45	
10:00							10:00	
10:15	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	10:15	
10:30							10:30	
10:45	2. GAC Operational Updates incl. Communiqué Review (45 mins)	8. GAC Discussion on New gTLDs Next Round (90 mins)	Break (30 mins)		14. GAC Discussion on WHOIS Registration Data Issues (90 mins)	18. Emerging Topics for GAC Discussion and/or Communiqué Drafting (90 mins) - UDRP Review (30-45 mins) - DNS as Foundation for Digital Identity (45 mins)	ICANN Public Forum (90 mins)	
11:00								
11:15			Community Session: From Stability to Survivability: ICANN's role in the Future of Internet Resilience (75 mins)				11:15	
11:30	3. Meeting with the ASO (45 mins)						11:30	
11:45							11:45	
12:00							12:00	
12:15							12:15	
12:30	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)		Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	12:30	
12:45							12:45	
13:00							13:00	
13:15							13:15	
13:30							13:30	
13:45	4. Universal Acceptance Discussion (75 mins)	9. GAC Meeting with GNSO (75 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (75 mins)	Community Session: WSIS+20 Lessons Learned and Next Steps (75 mins)	15 (a). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	15 (c). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	15 (f). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	
14:00							14:00	
14:15							14:15	
14:30							14:30	
14:45	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	14:45	
15:00							15:00	
15:15	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	5. Capacity Development on NxR (60 mins)	10. GAC Operations (HLGM Agenda and NomCom Prep) (60 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	16. GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board (60 mins)	15 (d). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	19. GAC Wrap-Up (60 mins)	
15:30				Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team (60 mins)			15:30	
15:45							15:45	
16:00							16:00	
16:15	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	16:15	
16:30							16:30	
16:45	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	6. Capacity Development on NxR [practical session] (60 mins)	11. GAC Discussion with CCG RoR (60 mins)	12. GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse Mitigation (60 mins)	15 (b). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	15 (e). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	ICANN Board Meeting (60 mins)	
17:00							17:00	
17:15							17:15	
17:30							17:30	
17:45							17:45	
18:00			ICANN85 Gala (18:30)				18:00	
18:15							18:15	
18:30							18:30	

Saturday, 7 March 2026

Session 1: From awareness to readiness: the GAC's role (15:00-16:00 local time, UTC+05.30)

- This session will build directly on the 17 February 2026 webinar and focus on what GAC members need in order to engage meaningfully.
- High-level introduction to the three forms of GAC input (comments, GAC Early Warnings, GAC Advice)
- Introduction to **application types** and what governments should be attentive to, using visual excerpts from actual 2012-round applications, showing how a geographic name, reserved name, community application, or .brand application appears in practice.

Session 2: Practical exercise – application review case studies (16:30-17:30 local time, UTC+05.30)

This session will be fully exercise-based and led by GAC Topic Leads.

- Break-out groups organized by application type, using real-world [case studies](#) from the 2012 round
- Each group will review multiple applications within the same category, supported by:
 - Visual application summaries
 - Use-case examples (e.g. how the string is intended to be used, by whom, and for what purpose)
- Each group will review multiple applications within the same category and discuss:
 - What stands out from a government perspective
 - Questions or concerns that arise
 - Potential public policy considerations
- Groups report back to plenary to share observations and lessons learned

Agenda Item 8: Sunday 8 March at 10:30-12:00 (local time, UTC+5.30) **for 60 minutes**

Session Objective:

GAC discussion on matters pertaining to the next round of new gTLDs. GAC members will discuss materials in preparation for the next round of new gTLDs and review priority items pertaining to the Next Round of New gTLDs focusing on opportunities for GAC input including GAC Advice, GAC Early Warnings and application reviews.

Expected to Discuss:

- GAC Timeline for Input
- GAC Process for Early Warnings
- Applicant Support Program
- GAC Readiness Materials - ICANN org (TBC by topic leads)

Agenda Item 12: Monday 9 March at 16:30-17:30 (local time, UTC+5.30) for 60 minutes

Session Objective: Consistent with the proposed expected outcomes laid out in the GAC Annual Plan in this Strategic Area for the GAC, this session will aim to:

- Advance ICANN policy work on DNS Abuse before further delegation of new gTLDs
- Build the subject matter capacity of GAC Members on DNS Abuse

Expected topics for discussion :

- **Host country presentation:** Managing DNS Abuse, Perspective from .IN Registry
- **Initial deliberations of the Policy Development Process (PDP) on Associated Domain Checks** (initial positions of the various communities including areas of convergence and divergence with the GAC position)
- **Potential topics for future work in the ICANN community**, as previously identified by the GAC and as discussed in the Preliminary Issue Report on a DNS Abuse PDP
- **DNS abuse mitigation efforts conducted outside ICANN's remit:** trusted notifiers programmes.

Agenda Item 14: **Tuesday 10 March at 10:30-12:00** (local time, UTC +05.30) for **90 min.**

Session Objective is to discuss:

- Next steps regarding the handling by registries and registrars of specific **Urgent Request for disclosure of registration data** within 24 hours, in connection with the ongoing development of law enforcement requestor authentication mechanisms;
- Operations of the **Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)** for another 2-years, pending the **modification of the GNSO policy recommendations** for a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD)
- Status of GNSO work on improving the **accuracy of registration data**.
- Expected progress of the **implementation of the Privacy/Proxy Services Accreditation (PPSAI) GNSO Policy Recommendations** in the coming year.

Agenda Item 18: Wednesday 11 March at 10:30-12:00 (local time, UTC+5.30) for 90 min

Review of the Uniform Dispute Resolution Procedure (UDRP) - 45 minutes

- Discuss the recently completed [review of the UDRP](#) (Dec. 2025) by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Internet Commerce Association (ICA)
- Discuss possible next steps the GNSO may take regarding the Phase 2 of the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs (dedicated to the UDRP).

DNS for Digital Identity - Evolving a Trusted Internet Protocol - 45 minutes

- Session proposed by the India GAC Delegation
- Relates to Strategic Objectives in the [GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026](#) including those related Artificial Intelligence (7.2) Blockchains (7.4) and Cryptography (7.5). It also relates to DNS Abuse Mitigation (GAC Strategic Objective 4 and related Expected Outcomes).
- Presentation Topics:
 - Universal Resolver: bringing decentralized namespaces into the mainstream and resolvable by traditional DNS services
 - Creating value-addition through blockchain and Non Fungible Tokens (NFT)
 - AI for DNS Abuse mitigation: random forest (classification tree) model to identify DNS Abuse threats

Agenda Item 4: Saturday 7 March at 13:15 (local time, UTC+05.30) for 75 mins

- Updates on UA:
 - UNESCO-ICANN Policy Brief on Advancing Universal Acceptance for a Multilingual Internet.
 - UA-Day 2026
 - Exploring the Government Role: UA Expert Group Perspective & Updates
 - ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee

- Advancing Universal Acceptance: The Indian Government Experience

- Panel Discussion:
 - Why should Universal Acceptance be considered a policy priority for governments, and what are the risks of delaying UA adoption at the national level?
 - How can governments integrate UA requirements into national digital strategies, e-government platforms, and procurement policies?
 - What role should GAC play in ensuring UA considerations are reflected in ICANN policy development and advice?

Agenda Item 2: Saturday 7 March at 10:30 (local time, UTC+5.30) for 45 mins

Session Briefing

- Communique Production Process Review - 15 mins
- ICANN Continuous Improvements Program Framework - 15 mins
- GAC 2026 Leadership Election Overview - 15 mins

Agenda Item 10: Sunday 8 March at 15:00 (local time, UTC+5.30) for 60 min

Session Briefing

HLGM - 30 mins

- Meeting Background - see session briefing
- Topic Brainstorming Among Attendees

GAC Contributions to ICANN NomCom - 30 mins

- Committee Background - see session briefing
- General discussion of GAC Member views to determine if further action merited at ICANN86

Agenda Item 3: Saturday 7 March at 11:15-12:00 (local time, UTC+05.30) **for 45 minutes**

Session Objective: The GAC and the ASO will follow up on ICANN84 discussions including the list of key issues and updated timeline.

The GAC will discuss potential next steps to address the comments received by government stakeholders and further opportunity for GAC to contribute to the development of this new governance document.

Agenda Item 7: **Sunday 8 March at 09:00-10:00** (local time, UTC+05.30) **for 60 minutes**

Session objective: The GAC will be meeting with the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) in part as an ongoing effort to maintain relations with other ICANN constituencies.

This session aims to facilitate future dialogue and cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to the governance and operations of the DNS Root in relation to the public interest.

Agenda Item 9: Sunday 8 March at 13:15-14:30 (local time, UTC+05.30) **for 75 minutes**

Agenda items:

- DNS Abuse
- RDRS/SSAD
- Urgent Requests / Law Enforcement Authentication
- Human Rights Impact Assessment

Next Steps:

- GAC Topic Leads and GAC Members drafting questions and talking points for discussion and sharing with GAC members in advance with the GNSO Council
- GNSO Council talking points will also be shared with GAC members (received by topic leads 18 Feb.)

Agenda Item 13: Tuesday 10 March at 09:00-10:00 (local time, UTC+05.30) for 60 min.

Draft Agenda items:

1. Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics

- a. Supporting linguistic and cultural inclusion
- b. Managing timing constraints without delaying the Next Round

Objective:

Exchange views on how to advance linguistic inclusion while managing timing and implementation constraints linked to the Next Round.

Proposed focus questions:

- What are the main outstanding concerns regarding implementation timing?
- How can linguistic inclusion objectives be advanced without creating delays to the Next Round?
- Are there specific safeguards or sequencing approaches that could balance predictability and inclusion?
- Is there scope for coordinated GAC-ALAC messaging to ICANN org on next steps?

Draft Agenda items (contd.):

2. DNS Abuse: Government Expectations and End-User Harm

- a. Data, reporting, and enforcement expectations
- b. End-user impact and trust considerations
- c. Coordinated advisory signals to ICANN org and relevant PDPs

Objective:

Align perspectives ahead of the DNS Abuse PDP1 deliberations and ensure continuity with the subsequent At-Large Plenary.

Proposed focus questions:

- What expectations do governments and end users have regarding Associated Domain Checks under PDP1?
- How should scope and proportionality be approached to ensure effectiveness without undue operational burden?
- What constitutes meaningful “end-user harm” in this context, and how should it be addressed?
- How can GAC and ALAC provide coherent advisory signals into the PDP process?
- What emerging threats (e.g., DGA-based abuse) require particular attention?

Draft Agenda items (contd.):

3. WSIS+20 and Global Digital Governance Processes

- a. Information exchange on preparations and timelines
- b. Identifying areas for possible GAC - ALAC coordination

Objective:

Provide forward-looking information exchange and identify realistic areas for coordination in light of upcoming WSIS+20 milestones.

Proposed focus questions:

- What are the key timelines and modalities for WSIS+20 implementation?
- How do WSIS+20 outcomes intersect with ICANN's mandate and current processes?
- Where could GAC-ALAC coordination be constructive (e.g., engagement at WSIS Forum 2026)?
- How can community participation in follow-up processes be strengthened?

Next Steps:

- GAC to review focus questions for discussion

Agenda Item 16: Tuesday 10 March at 15:00-16:00 (local time, UTC+05.30) for 60 min

Draft Agenda items:

- To be populated by GAC-suggested topics and questions, and any Board questions to the GAC - Two Board questions received and shared with committee.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tPv5qhTFk9ftCV84WMjfGz5s3IA7yWaYIzZC-DJrgBKo/edit?tab=t.0>

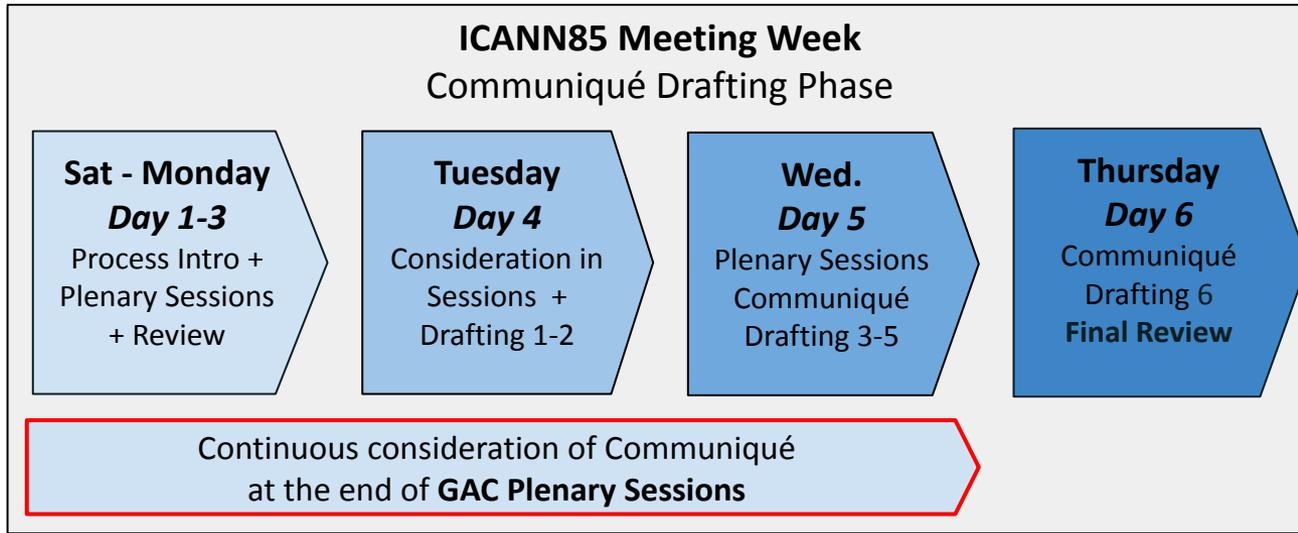
Next Steps:

- Staff will collect all GAC Member delegate inputs by EOD 23 February
- Chair/Vice Chairs will subsequently discuss, curate and transmit to the Board Support team by 25 February.
- Final GAC polishing during 2 March GAC bilateral prep call

Agenda Item 17: Wednesday 11 March at 09:00-10:00 (local time, UTC+05.30) for 60 min.

- **Session Objective:** During this session, attendees will be introduced to the IETF, how it works and how it fits into and interacts with the broader Internet ecosystem.

- **Draft Agenda Items:**
 - 1. Overview of the IETF's Activities**
 - 2. The IETF within the Broader Internet Governance Ecosystem**, including its interaction with ICANN and other relevant organizations
 - 3. The IETF's Multistakeholder Model**, including how it differs from ICANN's approach and the practical implications of those differences
 - 4. Emerging and Ongoing Work within the IETF/IRTF** that may be of interest to the ICANN community
 - 5. Engaging with the IETF: ISOC's Role and the Policy Makers Program at the IETF Meeting in Vienna**



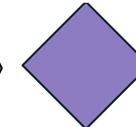
**GAC Topic Leads
and interested GAC Members**
(in coordination with Topic Leads where appropriate)
invited to provide **Initial Communiqué Text**



**Pre-agreed deadline
for initial text
contributions**

**Decision by GAC Chair,
to close live collaboration on the document**

Draft Communiqué Google Doc
Open for live contributions by GAC Members



Draft Communiqué
Edited only through Staff

Drafters of Communiqué Text are encouraged, at any stage of Communiqué développement, to **use the GAC Support Team as a resource to research precedent, ensure accuracy of references and consistency with usual practice** as needed

Reminders

- **Communiqué “touch point” at the end of every GAC plenary session** to assist in the timely formulation of Communiqué text proposals and to facilitate identification of pen holders who would like to be involved in the initial stages of drafting
- **Distribution of Communiqué drafting session during the ICANN meeting over several days** to maximize opportunities for national consultation with capitals in other timezones, as well as review of precedents and references by GAC Support.
- **72-hour review period after adoption of the Communiqué** in recognition that the virtual/hybrid environment may impede participation for some GAC Members and Observers (including due to connectivity issues and timezone challenges)
- **Communique Pre-Meeting Consideration Phase** prior to the meeting week, to enable appropriate consultations in advance of the meeting. For ICANN84:
 - **Issue Identification Phase:** 23-27 February 2026
(identification of potential topics for GAC Advice and Issues of Importance)
 - **Communiqué Preparation Phase:** 2-6 March 2026
(for proposals of key messages and GAC Advice text)

New Proposals by GAC Leadership - Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for GAC Members to consider topics and discuss text ahead of Communiqué Drafting, to increase efficiency of the drafting process.

Role of GAC Topic Leads

- Propose a pre-/rough draft of text prior to the ICANN meeting (Issue Identification and Communiqué préparation phase)
- Discuss Communiqué text at the end of each plenary session
- Provide text during Communiqué Drafting by a pre-set deadline (GAC Chair)
- Be the point of contact for any GAC Members considering text on the topic(s)

Proposals by GAC Members (Issues and Text)

- Are encouraged to be made during the Issue Identification and Communiqué préparation phase (prior to the meeting)
- Should be discussed with GAC Topic Leads (where identified) and aimed to be integrated by pre-set deadline during Communiqué Drafting

THANK YOU!

gac-staff@icann.org

gac-leadership@icann.org

ICANN85 GAC Agenda Setting Call (1/2)

14 January 2026
13:00 UTC

ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN85 Schedule for Review and Discussion

Time	Saturday 7 March 2026 (Day 1)	Sunday 8 March 2026 (Day 2)	Monday 9 March 2026 (Day 3)	Tuesday 10 March 2026 (Day 4)	Wed. 11 March 2026 (Day 5)	Thursday 12 March 2026 (Day 6)	Time		
9:00	1. GAC Opening Plenary (60 mins)	7. [PLACEHOLDER] GAC Meeting with the RSSAC and RSSGWG Leaderships (60 mins)	Welcome Ceremony and Community Excellence Award (75 mins)		13. GAC Meeting with the ALAC (60 mins)	18. Open Slot [Potential meeting with IETF] (60 mins)	Community Session: Reviews of Reviews (75 mins)	9:00	
9:15									
9:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	9:30	
9:45									
10:00	2. GAC Operational Updates incl. Communiqué Review (45 mins)	8. GAC Discussion on New gTLDs Next Round (90 mins)	Community Session: From Stability to Survivability: ICANN's role in the Future of Internet Resilience (75 mins)		14. GAC Discussion on WHOIS Registration Data Issues (60 mins)	19. Emerging Topics for GAC Discussion and/or Communiqué Drafting (90 mins)	ICANN Public Forum (90 mins)	10:00	
10:15									
10:30	3. Meeting with the ASO [PLACEHOLDER] (45 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)		Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	Lunch Break (75 mins)	10:30	
10:45									
11:00	4. Universal Acceptance Discussion (75 mins)	9. GAC Meeting with GNSO (75 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (75 mins)	Community Session: WSIS+20 Lessons Learned and Next Steps (75 mins)	16 (a). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	16 (c). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	16 (f). GAC Communiqué (75 mins)	11:00	
11:15									
11:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	11:30	
11:45									
12:00	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	5. Capacity Development on NxR (60 mins)	10. GAC Operations (HLGM Agenda and NomCom Prep) (60 mins)	GNSO Abuse PDP Session (60 mins)	Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team (60 mins)	17. GAC Meeting with the ICANN Board (60 mins)	16 (d). GAC Communiqué (60 mins)	20. GAC Wrap-Up (60 mins)	12:00
12:15									
12:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	12:30
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13:45									
14:00	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	14:00	
14:15									
14:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	14:30	
14:45									
15:00	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	15:00	
15:15									
15:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	15:30	
15:45									
16:00	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	16:00	
16:15									
16:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	16:30	
16:45									
17:00	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	17:00	
17:15									
17:30	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)		Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	Break (30 mins)	17:30	
17:45									

- Second Agenda Setting Call (session substance): Mid-February

- Joint Meeting Agendas for discussion
 - GAC/GNSO Leaderships call
 - GAC/ALAC Leaderships call
 - GAC bilaterals prep call

- Pre-Meeting webinars (early March)
 - Welcome webinar
 - First Timers webinar

THANK YOU!