ICANN87 Oman HLGM
High Level Government Meeting

Speakers:

Jorge Cancio (GAC Vice-Chair, Switzerland)

Einas Nezar Mohammed Al-Shaikh (Telecom. Regulatory Authority of Oman)

Baher Esmat (ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement)

Janis Karklins (ICANN Government Engagement)

Fabien Betremieux (GAC Support)

ICANN85

8 March 2026

I C A N N | G A C
Governmental Advisory Committee

Agenda

1. **Objectives of a HLGM**

2. **Presentation of the ICANN87 HLGM Meeting**

3. **GAC Discussion of HLGM Agenda Topics**

4. **Overview of the HLGM Planning Process**

5. **Next Steps: Call to Action by GAC Members**

Objectives of a HLGM

The GAC Strategic Plan includes the following priorities for 2025/2026 under Strategic Objective 1 (see GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026):

1.1. Stakeholder's Understanding of the Role of Governments: Enable all stakeholders to gain a clearer understanding of the role of governments in ICANN processes, including the GAC, leveraging the attendance and participation of senior levels of governments during <mark>the next High Level Government Meeting (HLGM)</mark>, and particularly its discussion of ICANN, the ICANN Multistakeholder model and their role in the wider Internet Governance ecosystem.

1.2. Discussion of Current Issues at Senior Levels - <mark>Next GAC HLGM</mark>: Identify the timing and location of the next GAC High level Government Meeting (HLGM).

1.3. Non-Represented Governments: To promote broader participation in the GAC, <mark>seek to establish contacts with governments who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC</mark> with the collaboration of ICANN's Stakeholder and Government Engagement teams. Collaborate among current committee Members to encourage and support delegations who need to fill any delegate or representative vacancies."

Objectives of a HLGM

GAC Guidelines for High Level Government Meetings (2016)

- **Reaffirm the critical role** that governments play in providing advice to the ICANN Board on public-policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the Domain Name System.

- **Enable all parties to gain a clearer understanding** of the role of governments in ICANN processes, including the GAC and **Expose very senior administrative and elected officials** (Ministers, members of legislative bodies) **to ICANN** [...]

- **Discuss current public policy issues and challenges at very senior level**. [...]

- **Reach out to administrations and governments** who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC or in other ICANN forums

Presentation by the Host of the HLGM

Einas Nezar Mohammed Al-Shaikh

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Oman

Expectations for HLGM Agenda Topics

- HLGM Agenda Topics should be:
    - Sufficiently "high level"

    - Related to relevant and current political challenges

    - Connected with ICANN's mission, if not necessarily an ongoing ICANN initiative or policy discussion
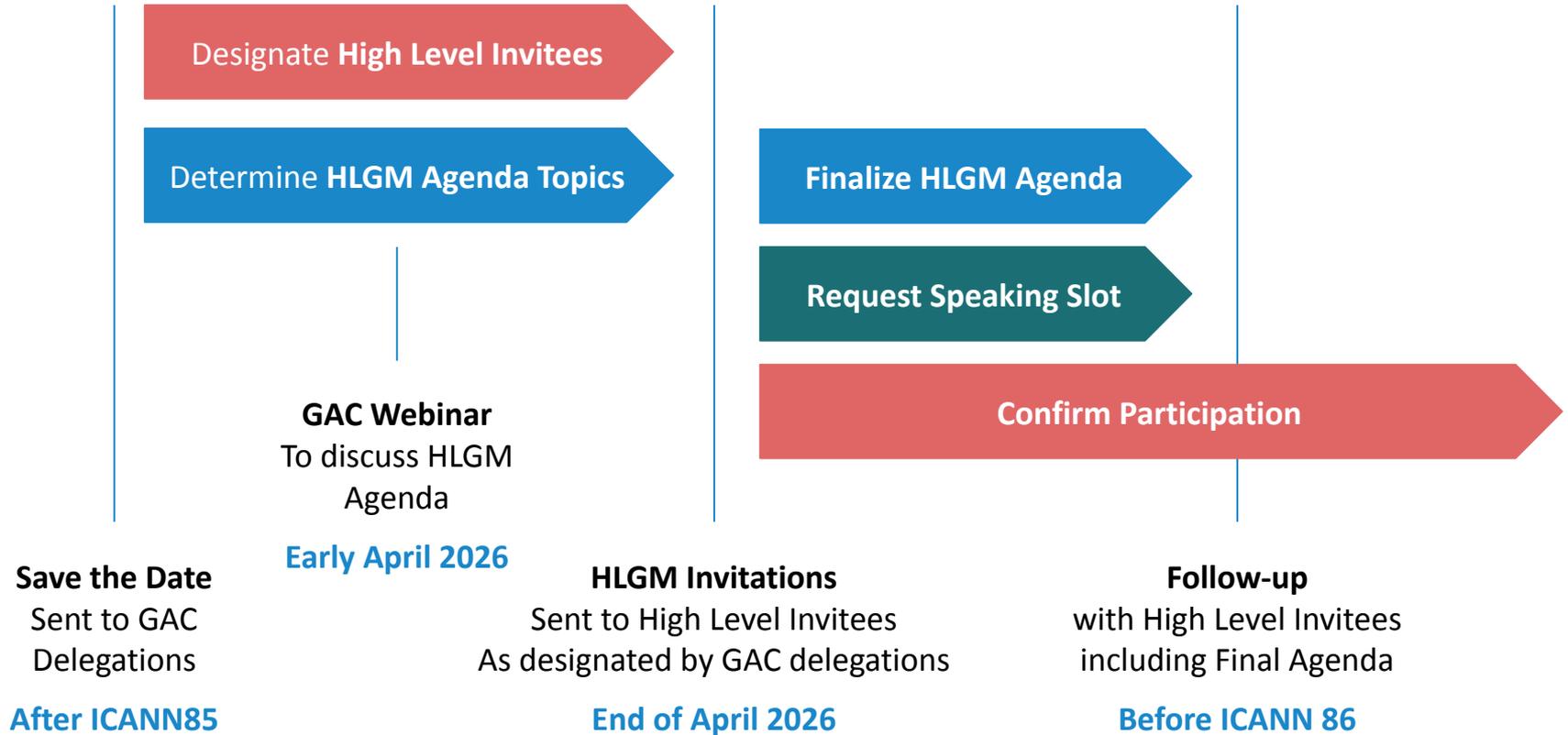
Topics proposed by Oman

Agenda of the ICANN87 HLGM - Preliminary Considerations

Additional Topics proposed for GAC Discussion

- Three decades of multistakeholder model of Internet governance

  - components of success

  - shaping the IGF as a UN permanent forum

  - participation in the GAC

- Universal acceptance - from concept to action

  - arguments in favor of action

- Expectations on ICANN's role in capacity building

- Dialogue/conversation of HLGM representatives with ICANN SO/ACs leadership, multi-stakeholder conversations in the panels, and/or statements by such stakeholders (considering the Sao Paulo Guidelines)

- Action items from the previous HLGM meeting

- Internet shutdowns

- Security and stability (including by using AI)

Overview of the HLGM Planning Process

Designate **High Level Invitees**

Determine **HLGM Agenda Topics**

Finalize HLGM Agenda

Request Speaking Slot

Confirm Participation

GAC Webinar
To discuss HLGM
Agenda

Early April 2026

Save the Date
Sent to GAC
Delegations

After ICANN85

HLGM Invitations
Sent to High Level Invitees
As designated by GAC delegations

End of April 2026

Follow-up
with High Level Invitees
including Final Agenda

Before ICANN 86

Next Steps for GAC Delegations (Members and Observers)

Designation of High Level Invitees

- GAC delegations to provide
  - High-Level Invitee contact information (at least 1, up to 4)
  - Officials contact who should cced on the invitations (up to 4)
- At: go.icann.org/hlgm-confirm-invitees by **30 March 2026**

HLGM Agenda

- GAC delegations to continue considering contributions on agenda topics via email on the GAC mailing list (gac@icann.org) after ICANN85
- A GAC webinar will be scheduled early April for further HLGM Agenda Discussion.