



86

POLICY
FORUM



GAC Leadership & Operations Update

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

Agenda

1. Review progress on the GAC Annual Plan
2. GAC Discussion on GAC participation in the Nominating Committee (NomCom)
3. GAC Discussion on a proposed approach to the Continuous Improvement Framework (CIP)
4. GAC Review of a proposal for a GAC Capacity Development Working Group
5. GAC Elections - GAC Vice-Chair Special Election

Review Progress on GAC Annual Plan

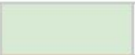

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

GAC Annual Plan “Caretakers” (Updated)

- 1. Role for Governments in ICANN** Jorge Cancio (CH)
- 2. Effectiveness of the GAC** Zeina Bouharb (LB), Ian Sheldon (AU)
- 3. Future Round of New gTLDs** Marco Hogewoning (NL), Gloria Atwine (UG)
- 4. DNS Abuse** Gloria Atwine (UG), Thiago Dal-Toe (Colombia)
- 5. Domain Registration Data** Ian Sheldon (AU), Thiago Dal-Toe (Colombia)
- 6. Universal Acceptance** Zeina Bouharb (LB), Christine Arida (EG)
- 7. New Technology** Nico Caballero (GAC Chair)
- 8. Internet Governance Awareness** Jorge Cancio (CH), Christine Arida (EG)
- 9. Internet Number Resources** Marco Hogewoning (NL)

GAC Annual Plan Progress Status

Role of Gov. in ICANN	Effectiveness of the GAC		Future Rounds of New gTLDs	DNS Abuse	Domain Registr. Data	Universal Accept.	New Technology	IG Aware.	Number Resources
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.1	2.1	2.5.2	3.1	4.1	5.1.1	6.1	7.1	8.1.1	9.1
1.2	2.2	2.5.3	3.1.1	4.2	5.1.2	6.2	7.2	8.1.2	9.2
1.3	2.2.1	2.5.4	3.1.2	4.3	5.1.3	6.2.1	7.3	8.2	9.3
1.4.1	2.3.1	2.5.5	3.2.1	4.4	5.2	6.2.2	7.4	8.3	9.3
1.4.2	2.3.2	2.5.6	3.2.2	4.5	5.3	6.3	7.5		
1.4.3	2.4.1	2.6.1	3.3	4.6	5.4	6.4.1	7.6		
1.4.4	2.4.2	2.6.2	3.4	4.7		6.4.2			
1.5	2.5.1	2.6.3							
1.6									

Legend		On Track		Closed or Complete
		Not Started		At Risk / Challenged

S.O. 1 - Role for Governments in ICANN

Role of Gov. in ICANN
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GAC Strategic Goal #1 (2024-2028)

In support of reaffirming the critical role of governments within the ICANN multistakeholder model, the GAC will seek to ensure that governments can effectively pursue their public policy interests, through both existing and future ICANN processes and procedures.

In particular, the GAC will work to assess whether current ICANN structures live up to the highest standards of openness, inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability in the spirit of the multistakeholder approach, and provide sufficient and meaningful opportunity for the GAC, to develop, influence, and modify policy processes and outcomes.

S.O. 1 - Role for Governments in ICANN

Role of Gov. in ICANN
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Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

- 1.1. Stakeholder's Understanding of the Role of Governments
- 1.2. Discussion of Current Issues at Senior Levels - Next GAC HLGGM
- 1.3. Non-Represented Governments
- 1.4. Promote the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder approach
 - 1.4.1 Transparency of ICANN processes
 - 1.4.2 ICANN Review of Reviews
 - 1.4.3 Establish an informal exchange between GAC Leadership and Board
 - 1.4.4 Work with ICANN Government Engagement team
- 1.5. Governmental Advisory Committee Influence on Policy Outcomes
- 1.6. GAC Contributions to ICANN Nominating Committee

S.O. 1 - Role for Governments in ICANN

Role of Gov. in ICANN
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Notable Developments and Progress

- Planning for an HLGGM to resume at a later time (1.1, 1.2)
- Creation of Informal exchange with Board to promote improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder approach being discussed with ICANN (1.4.3)
- Ongoing GAC Survey on GAC Influence on Policy Outcomes (1.5)
Please fill it in during ICANN86 if you have not had a chance to do so:
<https://go.icann.org/survey-gac-influence-icann-policy>
- Discussion during ICANN86 Sevilla on NOMCOM (1.6)

S.O. 1 - Role for Governments in ICANN

Role of Gov. in ICANN
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Challenges

- Concerns with limited GAC engagement on **Review of Reviews (1.4.2)**
 - **Discussion at ICANN86** to highlight specific topics of relevance to the GAC as the *Review of Reviews* work enters final phase
- Pending GAC Leadership/GE discussion on **showcasing ICANN as a successful implementation of the multistakeholder model (1.4.4)**

S.O. 2 - Effectiveness of the GAC

Effectiveness of the GAC	
2	
2.1	2.5.2
2.2	2.5.3
2.2.1	2.5.4
2.3.1	2.5.5
2.3.2	2.5.6
2.4.1	2.6.1
2.4.2	2.6.2
2.5.1	2.6.3

GAC Strategic Goal #2 (2024-2028)

The GAC will seek to increase active and meaningful participation of GAC Members in its deliberations and operations.

The GAC will also work to enhance its effectiveness as a participant in the multistakeholder processes of ICANN, including by ensuring that the voice of GAC members is expressed and appropriately represented, and by leveraging collaboration and alignment with other ICANN constituencies.

S.O. 2 - Effectiveness of the GAC

Effectiveness of the GAC	
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2.1	2.5.2
2.2	2.5.3
2.2.1	2.5.4
2.3.1	2.5.5
2.3.2	2.5.6
2.4.1	2.6.1
2.4.2	2.6.2
2.5.1	2.6.3

Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026 (1/2)

2.1. Survey GAC Members and Observers

2.2. Review/Update of the GAC Operating Principles

2.2.1 GAC Participation in the Empowered Community

2.3. Improvement and Development of GAC Advice-related Processes

2.3.1. ICANN Board response to and implementation of GAC Advice

2.3.2. GAC Communiqué Drafting

2.4. GAC Implementation of Transparency and Accountability Recommendations

2.4.1. ICANN Accountability CCWG (WS2) Recommendations

2.4.2. Continuous Improvement Program Framework Implementation

S.O. 2 - Effectiveness of the GAC

Effectiveness of the GAC	
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2.1	2.5.2
2.2	2.5.3
2.2.1	2.5.4
2.3.1	2.5.5
2.3.2	2.5.6
2.4.1	2.6.1
2.4.2	2.6.2
2.5.1	2.6.3

Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026 (2/2)

2.5. Increasing the level of engagement and participation in the GAC

2.5.1. Regional GAC Coordination

2.5.2 GAC Vice-Chairs, Topic Leads, Liaisons and Appointees

2.5.3. Agenda of GAC Public Meetings

2.5.4. Lower Barriers to Participation:

2.5.5. Exploring innovative methods to run GAC sessions

2.5.6. Identify incentives for GAC participants

2.6. GAC Onboarding and Capacity Development

2.6.1 GAC Onboarding Program

2.6.2 Mentorship Program for new GAC Representatives

2.6.3 GAC Capacity Development

S.O. 2 - Effectiveness of the GAC

Effectiveness of the GAC	
2	
2.1	2.5.2
2.2	2.5.3
2.2.1	2.5.4
2.3.1	2.5.5
2.3.2	2.5.6
2.4.1	2.6.1
2.4.2	2.6.2
2.5.1	2.6.3

Notable Developments and Progress

- GOPE (2.2): GOPE WG advanced its review of the GAC Operating Principles through a proposal on targeted amendments circulated to GAC members and discussed at ICANN86
- Proposed plan to for lightweight initial implementation of Continuous Improvement Program (2.4.2) (to be discussed by the GAC)
- GAC to consider Capacity Development (2.6.3) [Working Group proposal](#) (see agenda item 4)

Challenges

- Pre-meeting input on Communiqué Drafting (2.3.2) remains rare
- WS2 activities need to be strengthened and prioritized in the GAC and across relevant contributors (e.g., working groups, leadership).
- Progress on innovative methods to run GAC sessions (2.2.5) not yet reaching the magnitude by GAC Leadership
- Regional GAC Coordination (2.5.1) may need more systematic doc., follow-up and ownership

S.O. 3 - Future Rounds of New gTLDs

Future Rounds of New gTLDs
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GAC Strategic Goal #3 (2024-2028)

Leveraging the experience and lessons learned from previous rounds of New gTLDs, including on their costs, benefits and accessibility, the GAC will seek to ensure that any future rounds of New gTLDs:

- Promote competition, consumer trust and consumer choice;
- Contribute to reducing the digital divide, in particular through the support of applicants from underserved and underrepresented regions and the promotion of Internationalized Domain Names;
- Incorporate appropriate security, stability and resiliency safeguards related to the DNS and addition of new TLDs;
- Include appropriate procedures and capabilities for the GAC to address unexpected issues arising from specific or categories of applications, in particular issues affecting the global public interest such as Geographical Names.

S.O. 3 - Future Rounds of New gTLDs

Future Rounds of New gTLDs
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Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

- 3.1. Role of GAC Consensus Advice and GAC Early Warnings
 - 3.1.1 Development of GAC Process for GAC Early Warnings
 - 3.1.2 Readiness for GAC Advice pertaining to new gTLD
- 3.2. Monitor for appropriate implementation of GAC Advice and input
 - 3.2.1 Public Interest and Voluntary Commitments
 - 3.2.2 Closed Generic gTLDs
- 3.3. Support of New gTLDs Applications from Underserved Regions
- 3.4. Documentation to enable GAC and governments' readiness

S.O. 3 - Future Rounds of New gTLDs

Future Rounds of New gTLDs
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3.1.1
3.1.2
3.2.1
3.2.2
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Notable developments and progress

- Next Round Application Window opened
- GAC Early Warning process is being finalized
- GAC Capacity Development Sessions completed and planned for future meetings
- GAC Workbook and projected timeline for Community Input Actions developed
- Applicant Support Program implementation progressing

Challenges

- Readiness for and effective participation in the evaluation process
 - Uneven readiness across GAC membership?
 - GAC Capacity to review all applications in a short time (104 days)
 - Streamlining our workflow and effective coordination between stakeholders
- Maximizing Impact of Support Mechanisms
 - Ensure the ASP achieves its intended impact?

S.O. 4 - DNS Abuse

DNS Abuse
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GAC Strategic Goal #4 (2024-2028)

The GAC will engage proactively in the work of the ICANN community and will provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to governments' concerns regarding DNS Abuse, in order to:

- Promote the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS;
- Reduce the incidence and harm of DNS Abuse in existing gTLDs and New gTLDs;
- Support the continuous improvement of DNS Abuse mitigation and prevention standards and their effective enforcement by ICANN;
- Review and identify Best Practices in preventing and mitigating DNS Abuse for wider adoption;
- Review, assess and encourage implementation of concrete measures to combat Phishing, Pharming, Botnets, Malware and Spam, in partnership with relevant institutions that deal with the issue;
- Provide GAC members capacity building resources in order to enhance the GAC's understanding of these issues.

In its work, keeping in mind the ever-evolving nature of DNS abuse, the GAC will seek to survey GAC Members and Observers to better understand how to address concerns and meet expectations of governments.

S.O. 4 - DNS Abuse

DNS Abuse
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Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

Expected Outcomes regarding the advancement of policy work

- 4.1. Support further commitments from Contracted Parties and ICANN org
- 4.2. Monitor the Contracted Parties' progress in implementing their DNS Abuse contract and consensus policy obligations
- 4.3. Encourage the development and promotion of guidelines regarding implementation of contractual obligations, best practices, and cross-industry collaboration
- 4.4. Develop a better understanding of market dynamics in the domain industry

Expected Outcomes regarding capacity building

- 4.5. Increase the availability of training and briefing material on the fundamentals
- 4.6. Tailor training and briefing material
- 4.7. Provide GAC members with examples of best practices, guidelines, or trusted notifier programs

S.O. 4 - DNS Abuse

DNS Abuse
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Notable Developments and Progress

- Formation of a GAC DNS Abuse Small Group and strong engagement in ongoing PDP deliberations on Associate Domain Check (4.1)
- Discussion expected with the GNSO on pending policy gaps (15-day verification timeline) and its future prioritization methodology for expected policy work

Challenges

- Prioritization and planning of work needed on
 - Development and promotion of guidelines (4.3)
 - Training and briefing material on fundamentals (4.5)
 - Tailor training and briefing material (4.6)

S.O. 5 - Domain Registration Data

Domain Registr. Data
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GAC Strategic Goal #5 (2024-2028)

The GAC will work to identify and recommend steps to promote and support the continued accessibility and improved accuracy of domain registration information, consistent with applicable privacy regulatory frameworks and in line with the GAC Principles Regarding WHOIS Services.

Acknowledging continued evolution in the uses of WHOIS data, the GAC will work with the ICANN community to ensure that registration data policy reflects and addresses the complexities of the current domain name industry. This includes ensuring that legitimate requests made to registrars for domain registration data are met with access to meaningful data. This data should clearly articulate the roles of each of the entities participating in the registration of a domain name, including the authoritative source of registration data and the end user of the domain name (e.g. beneficial user) to avoid confusion with other entities such as privacy and proxy services and/or resellers

S.O. 5 - Domain Registration Data

Domain Registr. Data
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5.4

Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

5.1. Registration Data Policy

5.1.1. Registration Data Consensus Policy

5.1.2. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data

5.1.3. Collection and publication of registration information related to legal entities

5.2. Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)

5.3. Privacy/Proxy Services

5.4. Accuracy of Domain Name Registration Data

S.O. 5 - Domain Registration Data

Domain Registr. Data
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5.1.1
5.1.2
5.1.3
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5.4

Notable Developments and Progress

- Accuracy of Registration Data (5.4): following [correspondence from the GAC Chair](#) (11 May), and [response by the GNSO Chair](#) (26 May), a trilateral dialogue is expected to take place after ICANN86, following the informational session held in Seville on Tuesday 9 June.

Challenges

- Collection and publication of legal entities registration data (5.1.3): requires serious engagement with and by ICANN Board and Org, and possibly GNSO/CPs for an IRT to be initiated, as well as for progress to be made at IEFT. The [GAC Chair requested](#) (11 May) an update from ICANN org on the status of this implementation.

S.O. 6 - Universal Acceptance

Universal Accept.
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6.4.2

GAC Strategic Goal #6 (2024-2028)

The GAC will work collaboratively among governments and with all stakeholders to promote a multilingual Internet and to provide universal access by ensuring that all domain names, including new Top-Level Domains, Internationalized Domain Names, and email addresses are treated equally and can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems.

S.O. 6 - Universal Acceptance

Universal Accept.
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6.4.2

Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

6.1. Information of GAC Members

6.2. Government Support of Relevant Efforts

6.2.1 Identify opportunities for governments to support and promote those efforts

6.2.2. Governments, in cooperation with their respective ccTLD operators, may also engage with local Registrars

6.3. Future New gTLDs

6.4. Cross-Community Collaboration

6.4.1 Work with the ccNSO and other Community Groups

6.4.2 Follow-up and engage with ICANN's Expert Working Group on UA

S.O. 6 - Universal Acceptance

Universal Accept.
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6.4.2

Notable Developments and Progress

- UA and IDNs recognized in ICANN Strategic Plan 2026–2030.
- Continued awareness raising through UA Day and regional outreach activities.
- Expanded collaboration with UNESCO, incl. participation in ICANN85 and regional events.
- Ongoing engagement of GAC members through the UA IDN Working Group, mailing lists, and cross-community sessions and with the ccNSO UA Committee
- GAC comment on the Draft Guidelines for Advancing UA Adoption submitted in April.

Challenges

- Difficulty in driving UA prioritization in English-speaking countries (perceived lack of local urgency: UA seen as secondary localization effort vs. critical technical standard for global interoperability)
- Developers in English-speaking countries often rely on legacy code making the shift to UTF-8 or longer strings feel like a high-cost/low-reward task.
- Limited prioritization of Universal Acceptance (UA) within government agendas and digital inclusion projects (UA often not explicitly recognized as a policy objective, limited consideration in planning and procurement, delaying adoption of UA-ready systems and inclusive digital services)

S.O. 7 - Impact of New Technology

New Technology
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GAC Strategic Goal #7 (2024-2028)

The GAC will increase understanding and raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities of new technologies as they relate to the Internet's unique identifier systems.

To that end, the GAC will leverage the expertise in the ICANN Community, governments and beyond, to share information and consider potential implications, for the benefit of GAC members and all stakeholders

S.O. 7 - Impact of New Technology

New Technology
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Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

- 7.1. Information Gathering and Issue Monitoring
- 7.2. Artificial intelligence (AI)
- 7.3. Internet of things (IoT)
- 7.4. Blockchains
- 7.5. Cryptography and security
- 7.6. New technologies, standards and practices

S.O. 7 - Impact of New Technology

New Technology
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7.4
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7.6

Notable Developments and Progress

- ICANN84 Capacity Development Session on [AI and Machine Learning in the DNS ecosystem](#)
- ICANN85 India presentation on [DNS for Digital Identity](#)
- ICANN OCTO briefing during GAC Leadership Retreat (April 2026) on Blockchain-based naming systems, Quantum computing and the role for AI in the DNS.
- ICANN86 Community Plenary discussion on the [Current and Coming Impact of Artificial Intelligence on DNS Abuse](#)

S.O. 8 - Internet Governance Awareness

IG Aware.
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8.1.2
8.2
8.3

GAC Strategic Goal #8 (2024-2028)

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.

S.O. 8 - Internet Governance Awareness

IG Aware.
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8.1.1
8.1.2
8.2
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Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

8.1. ICANN's Communication and Engagement

8.1.1. Inform GAC Members of ICANN org efforts

8.1.2. Inform GAC Members of ICANN GE team activities

8.2. GAC Webinars and Information Exchange

8.3. High Level Government Meeting

S.O. 8 - Internet Governance Awareness

IG Aware.
8
8.1.1
8.1.2
8.2
8.3

Notable Developments and Progress

- WSIS+20 Review Process finished in December 2025 in UNGA with consensus
- Planning for an HLGGM to resume at a later time (8.3)
- The GAC Leadership agreed with the Government Engagement Team to move to an *ex ante* (vs. *ex post*) reporting on its engagement with relevant governments and IGOs (8.1.1)

S.O. 9 - Internet Number Resources

Number Resources
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GAC Strategic Goal #9 (2024-2028)

The GAC will work to ensure that its members receive regular updates on developments pertaining to RIRs Internet's unique identifiers allocation policies, including policy changes.

The GAC may coordinate efforts among interested Members to make informed contributions to relevant processes.

S.O. 9 - Internet Number Resources

Number Resources
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Expected Outcomes in the GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026

- 9.1. Information of GAC Members
- 9.2. Government Support of Relevant Efforts
- 9.3. Cross-Community Collaboration
- 9.4. Review RIR Governance

S.O. 9 - Internet Number Resources

Number Resources
9
9.1
9.2
9.3
9.3

Notable Developments and Progress

- Bilaterals meetings with [ASO](#)
- Feedback from GAC Membership on RIR Governance Documents
- Regarding Government Support of Related Efforts (9.2) the objective is to identify opportunities for governments to effectively engage in the regional policy development for management of Internet number resources by the Regional Internet Registries

GAC Discussion on GAC Participation in the NomCom

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

GAC Participation in NomCom

Current Approach

- The ICANN Bylaws provide for a voting delegate appointed by the GAC to serve on the NomCom.
- The position has not been filled in recent years and is currently vacant.
- The GAC has instead engaged through submissions outlining desired candidate criteria, including in 2018, 2019, 2023 and 2025.

Question for Consideration

Does the current approach provide sufficient opportunity for GAC perspectives to inform the NomCom process?

GAC Participation in NomCom

A GAC-Appointed Delegate Could Contribute:

- Awareness of public policy considerations relevant to ICANN leadership positions.
- Perspectives informed by governmental experience and implementation realities.
- Consideration of public interest and accountability dimensions.
- Awareness of geographic and cultural diversity considerations.
- Experience gained through participation in the ICANN multistakeholder environment.

Important Principle:

- A delegate would participate independently within the NomCom process and would not represent individual governments, advocate governmental positions, or speak on behalf of the GAC.

GAC Participation in NomCom

Additional Considerations:

- The NomCom is currently seeking delegates for the 2027 cycle, with appointments requested by the end of July 2026 and onboarding expected in August 2026.
- If the GAC wishes to appoint a delegate for the upcoming cycle, a selection would be needed before the end of July 2026.
- NomCom delegates are subject to the NomCom Participation Agreement and associated confidentiality requirements.
- Consistent with NomCom principles, delegates act in the interests of the global Internet community and not in a representational capacity on behalf of their appointing organizations.
- The NomCom publishes regular updates and communications throughout its work to support transparency regarding its activities.

GAC Participation in NomCom

If the GAC were to explore participation through a delegate:

- Should the GAC appoint a delegate to the currently vacant NomCom seat?
- Should eligibility criteria include the ability to participate in a confidential process, including entering into applicable Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) and complying with NomCom confidentiality obligations?
- What qualifications and experience should be expected of a GAC-appointed delegate?
- Would participation provide added value beyond the current practice of submitting candidate criteria?

Discussion Question:

- Should the GAC continue its current approach to NomCom engagement, or explore appointing a delegate to the NomCom?

Proposed Approach to Continuous Improvement Program (CIP)

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

Continuous Improvement Program (CIP)

Proposal: Lightweight approach to this first three-year cycle of the CIP

- Leverage existing work within the GAC, in anticipation of a likely review of the CIP after the first cycle and in consideration of current workload
- Identify current best practices in the GAC, to be key initial indicators

What is the CIP?

- Recommendation from the Third Accountability & Transparency Review
- Applicable to all SOAC structures and the Nominating Committee
- Five common Principles:
 - *The SO, AC, or NomCom is fulfilling its purpose.*
 - *The structures of SO, AC, or NomCom are effective.*
 - *The operations of SO, AC, or NomCom are efficient.*
 - *The SO, AC, or NomCom is accountable internally to its stakeholders and substructures (where applicable), and externally to the wider ICANN community.*
 - *The SO, AC, or NomCom collaborates to further the mission of ICANN and the effectiveness of the ICANN bottom-up multistakeholder model.*

- For each Principle, need to select minimum of three Criteria; and for each Criteria, need to identify minimum of three Indicators
- Example Indicators:
 - Regular issuance of GAC Communique; on-time publication of meeting notes and minutes; regular review of progress against Annual Plan and Working Groups

Discussion Question:

Does the GAC agree with the proposed approach, the proposed Criteria, and the proposed Indicators for this first three-year CIP cycle?

Proposal for a GAC Capacity Development Working Group

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice-Chair)
Zeina Bou Harb (GAC Vice-Chair)

Proposal: GAC Capacity Development WG

- **Background**

- Proposal emerged from recent GAC Leadership discussions and builds on previous capacity development planning efforts
- Increasing capacity development needs driven by:
 - Evolving ICANN policy work
 - Developments in the digital ecosystem
 - Continuous rotation of GAC representatives
- Current efforts are distributed across multiple groups and not always strategically coordinated

- **Purpose**

- Establish a dedicated **Capacity Development Working Group (CDWG)** as a central hub for GAC capacity development activities
- Coordinate and support capacity development efforts across the committee
- Complement, not replace, the work of existing Working Groups, Topic Leads, and the Underserved Regions Working Group (USRWG)
- Addresses the current role of the USRWG by proposing a pathway through which GAC working groups and topic leads, could contribute to the planning process and articulate their specific needs

- **Key Responsibilities**

- Develop and maintain a long-term capacity development curriculum
- Coordinate onboarding and training resources for new GAC representatives
- Identify and prioritize learning needs
- Coordinate planning of capacity development activities and sessions
- Maintain a centralized repository of capacity development materials and resources

GAC Elections



Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

GAC Elections

- **2026 GAC Chair Election Result**
 - Close of nomination (24 April)
 - Ian Sheldon (Australia) is the sole nominee for the position of GAC Chair
 - Operating Principle 32: Elected by acclamation
 - Two-year term starting at the close of the ICANN87 Meeting (October 2026) - ICANN93 Meeting (October 2028)
- **Special Vice-Chair Election**
 - In light of the current status of the GAC Chair election process, GAC Chair and current Vice-Chairs agreed to:
 - Inform the committee in advance of ICANN86 (done, 14 May)
 - Open a nomination period for a special Vice-Chair election following ICANN86 for the remainder of Ian Sheldon's second Vice-Chair term (ICANN88 to ICANN90).
 - **Nomination period** starts at the end of **ICANN86 (11 June)** and close at 23:59 UTC on **2 September** (45-day deadline before the meeting at which confirmation of appointment takes place – OP33),
 - **Balloting period** (if needed): 26 September 2026 to 19 October 2026 (ICANN87, 11-16 October 2026) (OP36)
 - **Tenure of replacement Vice-Chair** would begin at the **end of ICANN88** (OP31) until ICANN90.
 - Should there be an absence of nominations, the GAC leadership team will consider next steps, including the timing of the next regular election cycle, following the ICANN88 meeting (March 2027).