

GAC Operational Session

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

Agenda

1. GAC Roles and Participation
2. GAC Operating Principles - Administrative Amendments
3. Continuous Improvement Program: Starting the GAC's First Cycle
4. Annual Plan Stocktake and Lessons for the Next Cycle

GAC Roles and Responsibilities

Marco Hogewoning (GAC Vice Chair)

GAC Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Main purpose
GAC Leadership	Chair and Vice-Chairs provide overall leadership, coordinate the GAC's work and priorities, and represent the GAC in relevant ICANN engagements.
Working Groups	Coordinate ongoing GAC work in established areas such as Public Safety, Human Rights and International Law, Under-Served Regions, GOPE and UA/IDNs.
Topic Leads / Small Groups	Help coordinate GAC work on specific policy issues and support the development of GAC positions and input.
Points of Contact	Maintain the working relationship between the GAC and other ICANN community groups, and facilitate information exchange and coordination.
GAC Appointments	Participate on behalf of the GAC in specific ICANN or cross-community processes where the GAC has a designated seat or appointment.

GAC Roles and Responsibilities

Current GAC Points of Contact:

- **ALAC:** Kristina Hakobyan (Armenia)
- **ccNSO:** Ian Sheldon (Australia)
- **GNSO:** Manal Ismail (Egypt) and Rida Tahir (Canada)
- **UASG:** Abdalmonem Galila (Egypt)

Current cross-community vacancies

- **Independent Review Process – Implementation Oversight Team (IRP-IOT)**
- **Independent Review Panel – Community Representative Group**
- **ICANN Planning Prioritization Group**

Members are also encouraged to consider:

- Contributing to existing Working Groups and Small Groups;
- Volunteering as Topic Leads where additional capacity would be useful; and
- Supporting GAC work in areas where expertise, regional diversity or additional capacity is needed.

GAC Operating Principles: Administrative Amendments

Ian Sheldon (GOPE WG Co-Chair)
Guo Feng (GOPE WG Co-Chair)

Background & ICANN87 Objective

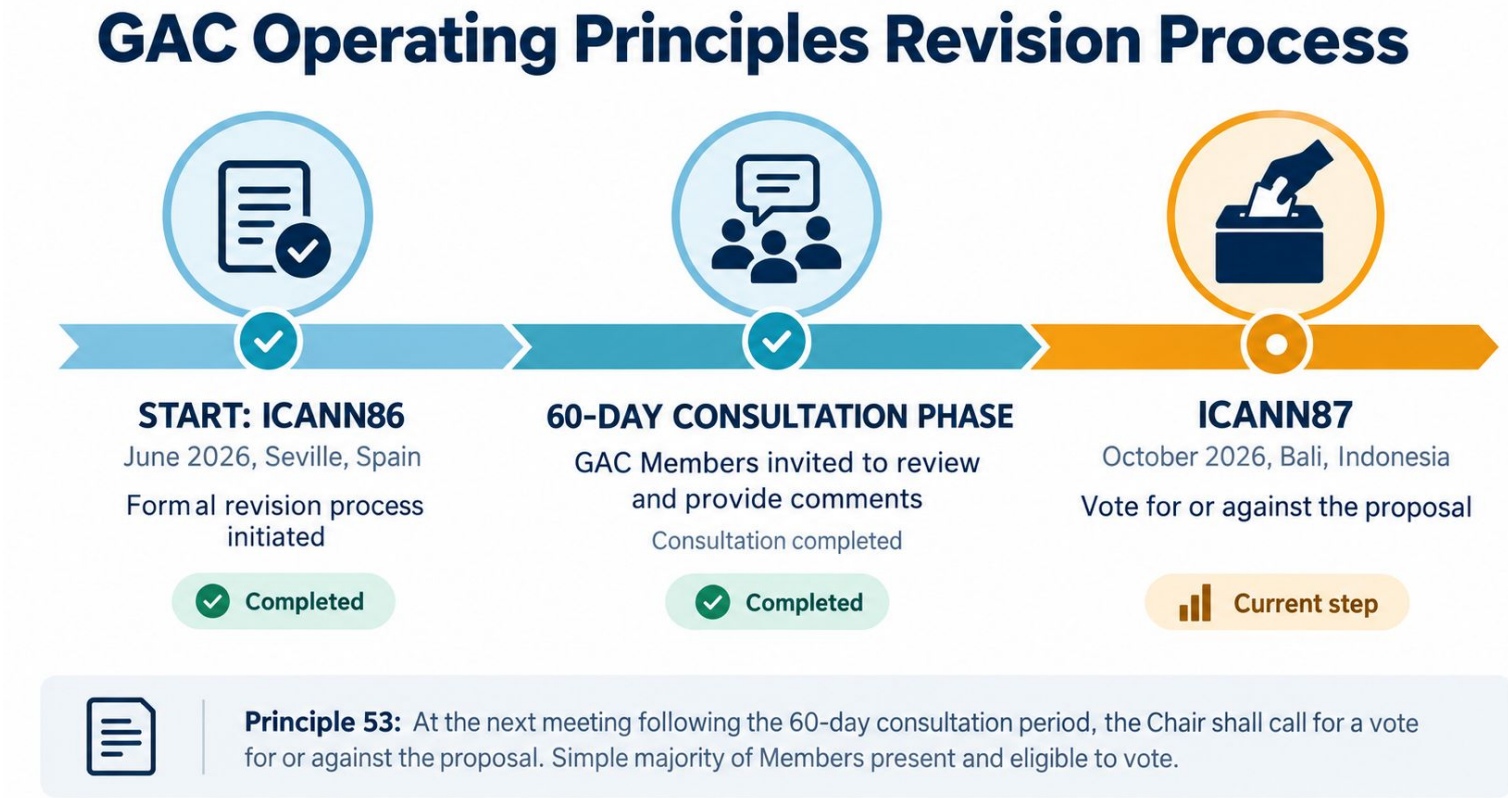
Background:

- At ICANN86, the GAC agreed to initiate the formal revision process for the proposed administrative amendments to the GAC Operating Principles.
- The proposed amendments are intended to improve clarity, consistency and alignment with current GAC practices and references.
- The proposal subsequently completed the required 60-day consultation period.
- No further comments were received beyond feedback submitted in June.
- Broader substantive issues raised in that feedback will be retained for the GOPE WG's subsequent phase of work.

ICANN87 Objective:

- Consider and vote on the proposed administrative amendments in accordance with Principle 53.

Operating Principles Revision Process



ICANN87 Decision

For Discussion

- Are there any final questions regarding the proposed administrative amendments or the revision process?

Proposed Action

- Vote for or against the proposed administrative amendments to the GAC Operating Principles, in accordance with Principle 53.
- The proposal before Members is unchanged from the version that completed the 60-day consultation period.

Vote on Proposed Amendments

GAC Members are invited to vote for or against the proposed administrative amendments to the GAC Operating Principles.

- Decision taken in accordance with Principle 53
- Simple majority of Members present and eligible to vote
- Proposal is unchanged from the version that completed the 60-day consultation period

Continuous Improvement Program

Ian Sheldon (GAC Vice Chair)

Continuous Improvement Program (CIP)

The Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) is a community-developed framework for ICANN's Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees and the Nominating Committee to **regularly consider themselves how effectively they are working** and where they can improve.

For the GAC this means:

- **GAC-led:** this is a self-assessment, not an external review.
- **Tailored:** the GAC can adapt the approach to its role and way of working.
- **Lightweight:** the first cycle builds primarily on work and information the GAC already has.
- **Focused:** the aim is to identify a manageable number of practical improvements.

The first step post ICANN87: Assessment and Prioritisation

Starting First CIP Cycle

The GAC already has a proposed set of criteria and indicators, prepared using the CIP Framework and tailored to the GAC. The first task is to **review and refine this proposed assessment approach**, involving four simple steps in the intersessional period until ICANN88:

1. Review the assessment approach: Confirm that the proposed criteria and indicators are appropriate and proportionate.

2. Review what we already know: Use existing GAC plans, reporting and other available information.

3. Identify possible improvements: Review existing initiatives and identify areas where the GAC could further improve its effectiveness.

4. Prioritise: Select a small number of practical areas to take forward.

The Goal for ICANN88: The GAC will have an agreed assessment framework, including criteria and indicators, and a short, focused set of potential improvement priorities to consider as part of its first CIP cycle.

Annual Plan Stocktake and Lessons for the Next Cycle

Nicolas Caballero (GAC Chair)

Reminder of the Planning Approach

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Governmental Advisory Committee

Kigali, Rwanda, 17 June 2024

GAC Communiqué – Kigali, Rwanda[1]

III. Internal Matters

4. GAC Strategic Planning

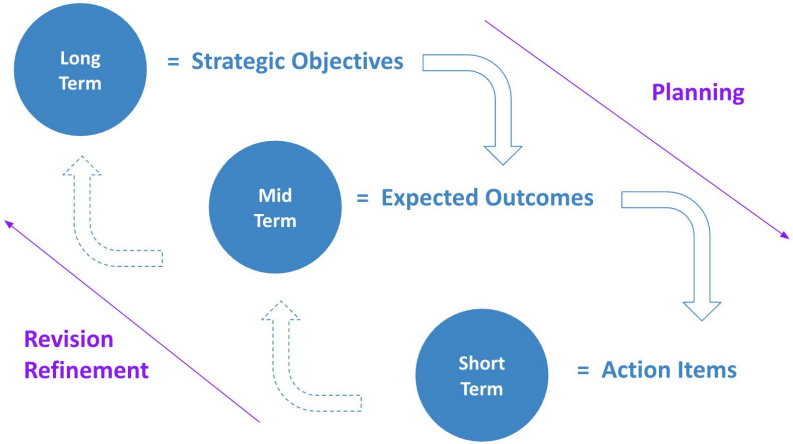
Building on a process initiated in December 2023 by the GAC Chair and Vice-Chairs, considering the GAC plenary discussion during ICANN79 in San Juan, and several consultations of the GAC Membership intersessionally, the GAC finalized and endorsed the 4-year GAC Strategic Plan (2024-2028) and the corresponding 2024/2025 GAC Annual Plan[2].

The GAC expects that these Strategic and Annual plans will serve to bolster the GAC's proactive stance in ICANN deliberations, increase the Committee's readiness to provide timely and effective advice and policy input, and to assist in communicating the GAC's priorities with higher levels of governments, new GAC Members, and ICANN stakeholders.

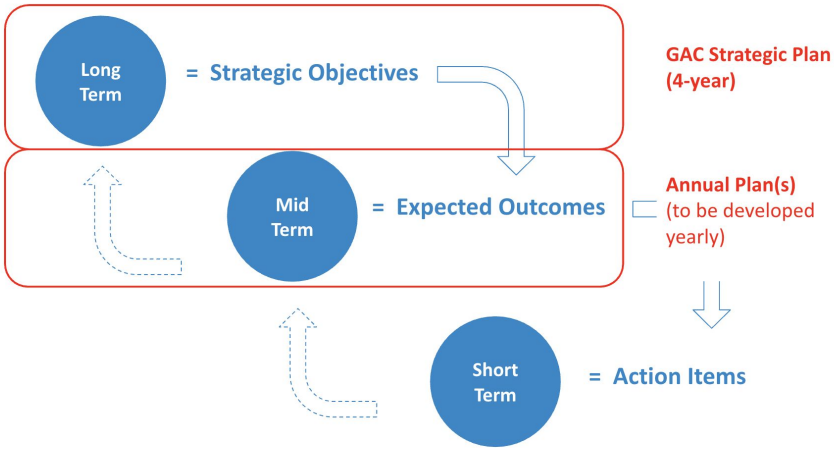
Reminder of the Planning Approach

Approach to Developing a GAC Strategic Plan

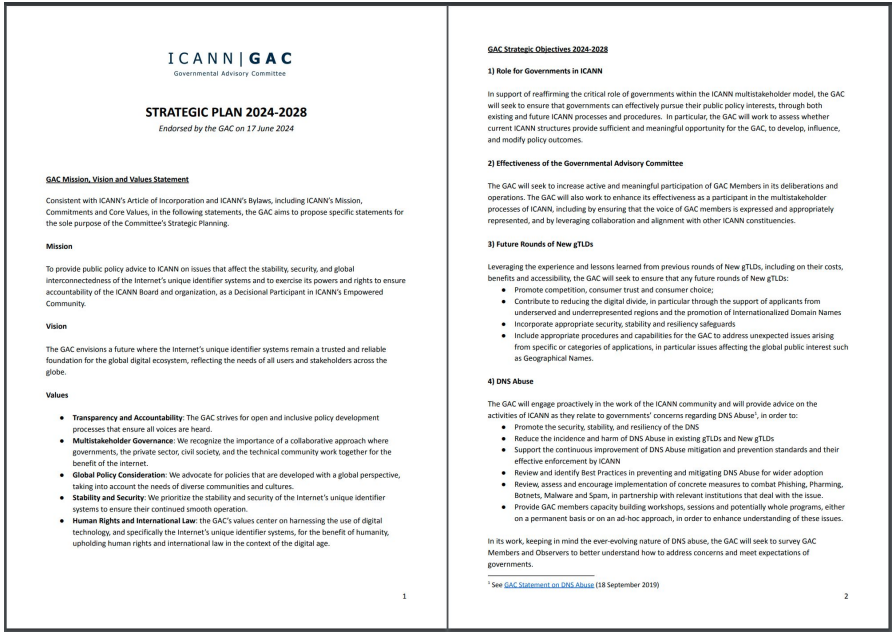
Strategic Objectives determine *Expected Outcomes*, which determine *Action Items*



Completion of Action Items inform attainability of *Expected Outcomes, which* inform achievability of *Strategic Objectives*



Reminder of the Planning Approach



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STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028

Endorsed by the GAC on 17 June 2024

GAC Mission, Vision and Values Statement

Consistent with ICANN's Article of Incorporation and ICANN's Bylaws, including ICANN's Mission, Commitments and Core Values, in the following statements, the GAC aims to propose specific statements for the sole purpose of the Committee's Strategic Planning.

Mission

To provide public policy advice to ICANN on issues that affect the stability, security, and global interconnectedness of the Internet's unique identifier systems and to exercise its powers and rights to ensure accountability of the ICANN Board and organization, as a Decisional Participant in ICANN's Empowered Community.

Vision

The GAC envisions a future where the Internet's unique identifier systems remain a trusted and reliable foundation for the global digital ecosystem, reflecting the needs of all users and stakeholders across the globe.

Values

- **Transparency and Accountability**: The GAC strives for open and inclusive policy development processes that ensure all voices are heard.
- **Multistakeholder Governance**: We recognize the importance of a collaborative approach where governments, the private sector, civil society, and the technical community work together for the benefit of the internet.
- **Global Policy Consideration**: We advocate for policies that are developed with a global perspective, taking into account the needs of diverse communities and cultures.
- **Stability and Security**: We prioritize the stability and security of the Internet's unique identifier systems to ensure their continued smooth operation.
- **Human Rights and International Law**: the GAC's values center on harnessing the use of digital technology, and specifically the Internet's unique identifier systems, for the benefit of humanity, upholding human rights and international law in the context of the digital age.

1

GAC Strategic Objectives 2024-2028

1) Role for Governments in ICANN

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 provide sufficient and meaningful opportunity for the GAC, to develop, influence, and modify policy outcomes.

2) Effectiveness of the Governmental Advisory Committee

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.

3) Future Rounds of New gTLDs

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
- 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.

4) DNS Abuse

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[1], in order to:

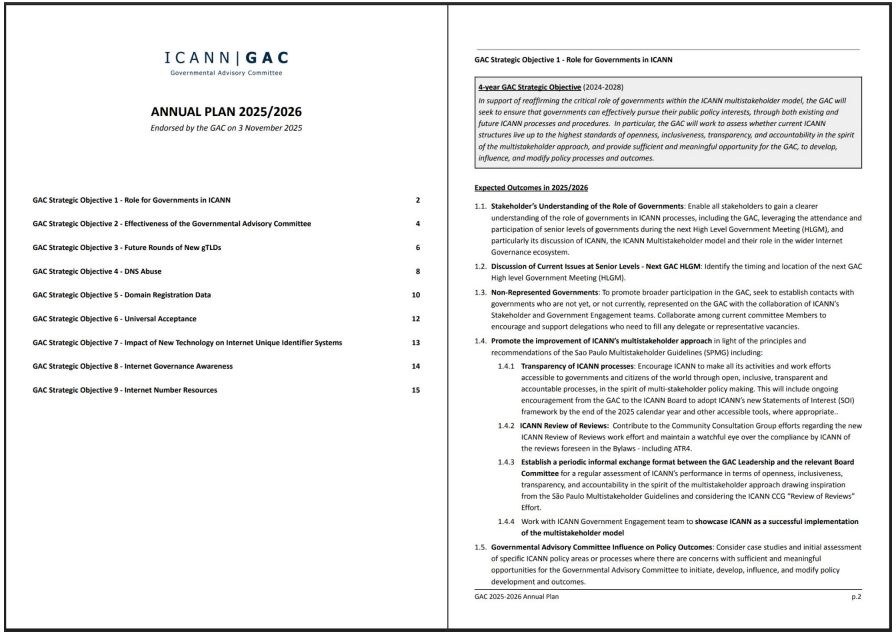
- Promote the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS
- Reduce the incidence and harm of DNS Abuse in existing gTLDs and New gTLDs
- Support the continuous improvement of DNS Abuse mitigation and prevention standards and their effective enforcement by ICANN
- Review and identify Best Practices 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 workshops, sessions and potentially whole programs, either on a permanent basis or on an ad-hoc approach, in order to enhance 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.

[1] See GAC Statement on DNS Abuse (18 September 2019)

2

https://gac.icann.org/work-plans/gac-strategic-plan-2024-2028.pdf (3 pages)



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ANNUAL PLAN 2025/2026

Endorsed by the GAC on 3 November 2025

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GAC Strategic Objective 1 - Role for Governments in ICANN

4-year GAC Strategic Objective (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.

Expected Outcomes in 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 the next High Level Government Meeting (HLGM), 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 - Next GAC HLGM**: 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, seek to establish contacts with governments who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC 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.

1.4. **Promote the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder approach** in light of the principles and recommendations of the Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines (SPMG) including:

1.4.1 **Transparency of ICANN processes**: Encourage ICANN to make all its activities and work efforts accessible to governments and citizens of the world through open, inclusive, transparent and accountable processes, in the spirit of multi-stakeholder policy making. This will include ongoing encouragement from the GAC to the ICANN Board to adopt ICANN's new Statements of Interest (SOI) framework by the end of the 2025 calendar year and other accessible tools, where appropriate..

1.4.2 **ICANN Review of Reviews**: Contribute to the Community Consultation Group efforts regarding the new ICANN Review of Reviews work effort and maintain a watchful eye over the compliance by ICANN of the reviews foreseen in the Bylaws - including ATR4.

1.4.3 **Establish a periodic informal exchange format between the GAC Leadership and the relevant Board Committee** for a regular assessment of ICANN's performance in terms of openness, inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability in the spirit of the multistakeholder approach drawing inspiration from the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines and considering the ICANN CCG "Review of Reviews" Effort.

1.4.4 Work with ICANN Government Engagement team to **showcase ICANN as a successful implementation of the multistakeholder model**

1.5. **Governmental Advisory Committee Influence on Policy Outcomes**: Consider case studies and initial assessment of specific ICANN policy areas or processes where there are concerns with sufficient and meaningful opportunities for the Governmental Advisory Committee to initiate, develop, influence, and modify policy development and outcomes.

GAC 2025-2026 Annual Plan p.2

https://gac.icann.org/work-plans/public/gac-annual-plan-2025-2026.pdf (15 pages)

GAC Annual Plan “Caretakers”

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

Annual Plan Development

