

I C A N N
ANNUAL GENERAL

66

MONTRÉAL

2-7 November 2019



GAC Underserved Regions Working Group Meeting

2 November 2019

13:30 - 14:30

Pua Hunter (Co-Chair)

Luisa Paez (Canada)

ICANN66 GAC USR WG Meeting

Agenda Item 3.0

ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee



- 1. FY20 GAC Capacity Building Workshops**
- 2. Work plan actions stocktaking**
- 3. New gTLDs Subsequent Rounds**
 - * GAC Focal Group**
 - * Mandate**
 - * GAC USR WG perspective**

- Bahrain Workshop (September 2019)
 - The Government Engagement (GE) Team Update (themes discussed, feedback and next steps)
- ICANN67 (March 2020)
- Pacific workshop (April 2020 during the Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association)
- ICANN68 (June 2020)

2. WG workplan stocktaking

2	Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) specific Capacity Building programme for the next gTLD and future rounds	Proposed programme to help support the increased participation from Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) from USR member countries in the ICANN process and in particular preparation to participate in the next gTLD round.	Continuous initiative (2019/2020)	USRWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lance Hinds, Guyana • Nigel Cassimire, CTU 	This would be a programme under the application support initiative under the USR. Activity I: Development of the Concept Note to describe the activity and scope of work. Activity II: To include in the workshop specific training and nurturing programmes
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Comment from Lance Hinds, Guyana

I had included item 2 because based on my experience in the Caribbean and other part of the hemisphere, SMEs are falling through the cracks in term of participation in the next gTLD and future rounds. I appreciate the issue about the mandate but because of their size and scope they are too small to fit in other parts of the ICANN ecosystem. That being said, I note the position of the co-chairs and therefore look forward to discussions about the possibility of an independent initiative outside of the working group.

Response [Pua Hunter, WG Co-Chair]: Potential support under ALAC’s outreach program.

Comment from Nigel Cassimire, CTU

In the context of the GAC however, I think the sentiment behind this proposal is “might there be any Government policy initiatives or other actions that could be recommended to increase the participation of USRs in ICANN and in future gTLD rounds?”. We could probably formulate a relevant work topic along these lines for the consideration of the working group, possibly something related to research and evidence-based action.

2. WG workplan stocktaking

Work Topic 4

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 – KNOWLEDGE: INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE BASE & CAPACITY OF GAC USRWG MEMBERS AND NEW GAC MEMBERS

4	ICANN Onboarding & GAC Pilot Mentorship	Develop a GAC Newcomer Engagement Kit. - (Preparatory work) Create a survey to understand the information needed by GAC USRWG/ GAC Members when they join the GAC Develop an annual GAC Pilot peer-to-peer mentorship program commencing with USRWG members and then scaling to include other GAC members.	Survey: By ICANN66 or 67 Continuous initiative (2019/2020)	<u>USRWG:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pua Hunter, Co-chair• Hisham Aboulyazed, Egypt <u>Stakeholders:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GAC	
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2. WG workplan stocktaking

Work Topics 5 and 7 / Webinars on DNS Issues and Policy Processes

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 – KNOWLEDGE: INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE BASE & CAPACITY OF GAC USRWG MEMBERS AND NEW GAC MEMBERS

5	Webinars on Regional DNS Issues	Address potential issues GAC underserved regions may encounter vis-à-vis DNS services within their regions through interactive online webinars and seminars.		<u>USRWG:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Member Leads <u>Stakeholders:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICANN Org • GE • <u>GAC Support</u> 	
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STRATEGIC GOAL 2 – POLICY ENGAGEMENT: ENABLE THE USRWG TO MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ICANN POLICY PROCESSES (PDPs, CCWGs)

7	Webinars on ICANN Policy Processes	Develop interactive webinars that provide the necessary background and informs the USRWG Members about the ICANN PDPs, CCWGs and other groups, their relevance, and how they can participate.	Depend on the need of the GAC USR WG Members	<u>USRWG:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Member <u>Leads</u> <u>Stakeholders:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) • Government Engagement (GE) 	
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What topics do GAC USR WG Members want to know more about?

- **GAC Focal Group on New gTLDs Subsequent Rounds**
 - **Formation & Operation**
 - In Kobe, the GAC agreed to establish a Focal Group to coordinate GAC engagement in the work of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG and parallel processes.
 - In Marrakech, the Focal Group met for the first time in person and has been working intersessionally through bi-weekly calls and issue briefs to build capacity.
 - In Montreal, the Focal Group will meet informally November 2nd at 5:45 pm and on November 4th in a GAC plenary session at 9:00 am.

- **GAC Focal Group on New gTLDs Subsequent Rounds**
 - **Mandate**
 - Build capacity and expertise given the breadth and complexity of topics
 - Assist GAC members navigate the GNSO New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP WG and other parallel tracks
 - Flag issues of priorities to the GAC and ensure timely input to final deliberations of the PDP Sub Pro WG
 - Develop documents to assist GAC Focal Group members
 - To date, this Focal Group does not include Work Track 5 Geonames

- **GAC Focal Group on new gTLDs Subsequent Rounds**
 - **Documentation to Assist GAC Focal Group Members**
 - **GAC Preliminary Scorecard: (*work in progress*)**
 - Identifies key policy areas to the GAC to prioritize work and cross-check previous GAC input vis-à-vis the current discussions in the PDP Sub Pro WG

Key to color-coding:

General Alignment / Low Priority

Less Alignment / Medium Priority

Possibility of No Alignment / High Priority

Color-coding of General Status/Alignment for Each Policy Area of previous GAC input vis-à-vis the PDP Working Group Deliberations to Prioritize GAC Work:

<p>Status Still To be determined Lack of information on status of PDP WG deliberations prevent accurate evaluation at this stage.</p>	<p>General Alignment / Low Priority GAC positions are generally aligned or are adequate enough to be incorporated by the PDP at this stage. Proactive participation and input may still be appropriate to ensure ultimate alignment of GNSO policy recommendations with GAC objectives</p>	<p>Less Alignment / Medium Priority GAC members may need to monitor deliberations and plan to provide further input to PDP WG as there is a possibility that the group may not address some GAC concerns or may diverge on some policy objectives</p>	<p>Possibility of No Alignment / High Priority GAC action is needed on this item. There is a possibility that the group may not address some GAC input. Action to either engage with the Sub Pro PDP WG (to clarify GAC positions, collaborate, review implementation, etc.) or revise GAC positions (to reflect the latest developments and proposals being considered in the PDP)</p>
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- **GAC Focal Group on New gTLDs Subsequent Rounds**
 - **Documentation to Assist GAC Focal Group Members**
 - GAC Focal Group Work Plan & Issue Briefs on Key Topics
 - Closed Generic TLDs
 - Public Interest Commitments (PICs)
 - GAC Early Warnings and GAC Advice
 - Applicant Support and Participation of Underserved Regions
 - Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice (CCT) Review Implementation - Recommendations 30/31

GAC Public Comment on Recommendation 30

Accepted Recommendations – Plan for Implementation and Next Steps

As indicated in the [GAC's comments](#) on the CCT Review Final Report of Recommendations, the GAC supports expanding and improving outreach to these regions noting that such outreach [in the Global South] does require a more comprehensive approach and better targeting, building on the challenges identified with past initiatives.

The GAC believes that new / appropriate definitions of the terms Global South, as used in the CCTRT Final Report, underserved or underrepresented regions should be considered in order to reflect a wide range of aspects by including not only the broad geographical perspective but also to consider, with more focus on the various stakeholders of the DNS ecosystem, the perspective of existing expertise and deficiencies in the different capacities related to the DNS industry (such as technical, legal, business, etc.).

According to the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group, focus is put on underserved regions by the DNS industry, and on least developed economies and small island developing states.

As per the ICANN org Plan for Implementation on CCTRT Recommendation 30, ICANN org should identify which regions are considered as “underserved” and “underrepresented” and in what context they are defined as such.

Once identified, ICANN org should provide regional targeted capacity building efforts to all ICANN community stakeholders, on the Applicant Support Program for new gTLDs applications in preparation for subsequent rounds, in a timely manner to allow stakeholders to be prepared for the subsequent round, and better promote competition, consumer choice and consumer trust.

- **GAC USR WG Policy Areas of Importance (ICANN66 GAC USRWG brief)**
 - Potential policy topics of GAC USRWG Members interest
 - Summary of each issue
 - Glossary

- **ICANN66 Sessions of GAC Focal Group on Subsequent Procedures**
 - Saturday 2 November (informal meeting) 17:45 - 19:00 / 512G (ICANN Meeting)
 - Tuesday 4 November GAC Plenary Session

- **Next Steps for USRG WG GAC Members**
 - Join GAC Focal Group
 - Organize calls between USR WG and Focal Group on targeted issues (intersessionally)

THANK YOU

[GAC Underserved Regions Working Group](#)

To join the Working Group, please email gac-staff@icann.org