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Board/GAC Joint Meeting

15:00 UTC

27 October 2025

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review of GAC Answers to Board Question
3. Review of GAC Topics/Questions (to be shared with Board in advance of meeting)
4. AOB
5. Closing



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Board - GAC Meeting - Board Question to GAC

“What does the GAC believe should be the Board’s and the ICANN organization’s policy priorities in 2026, taking into consideration the new Five-Year Strategic Plan, the WSIS+20 review, and the recently launched Cross Community Group on the Review of Reviews?”

- DNS Abuse Mitigation (GAC Speaker - S. Chalmers - USA)
- Domain Name Registration Data (including the areas of RDRS, urgent requests and accuracy) - (GAC Speaker - European Commission)
- Governance of Regional Internet Registries - (GAC Speaker - M. Hogewoning - Netherlands)
- Next Round of New gTLDs (applicant support and GAC readiness) - (GAC Speaker - Canada)
- ICANN Review of Reviews - (GAC Speaker - M. Ismail - Egypt)

Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics - Overview

1. ICANN Code of Conduct
2. GAC Strategic Planning
3. Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)
4. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data
5. ICANN Review of Reviews



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Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 1. ICANN Code of Conduct

Statement:

The GAC shares its appreciation with the Board for adopting last month the new [ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest](#) (Code). The timely adoption of the new Code prior to the end of 2025 strongly signals ICANN's commitment to a culture of honesty, transparency, preparedness, and accountability. GAC Members are interested to see how quickly the new code can be integrated into various community processes.



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Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 2. GAC Strategic Planning

Background:

During ICANN84, the GAC intends to confirm its 2025/2026 Annual Plan covering 9 key topic areas of interest to governments.

Statement:

Beginning last year the GAC has devoted resources to developing, implementing and updating Strategic and Annual plans to bolster the committee'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 throughout the multistakeholder community.

Among the GAC's expected outcomes for calendar year 2026, the committee is looking to 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.

DNS Abuse Mitigation will be a committee priority for 2026, with GAC members devoting substantial time and attention to the GNSO PDP regarding that matter. It is also a high priority for the GAC to ensure the continued operation of the RDRS and make participation mandatory for all gTLD registrars. For the next year, among nearly 60 expected outcomes, the GAC is also committed to readying its membership for their role in the Next Round of New gTLDs (devoting substantial resources for capacity development of all committee participants with appreciation to ICANN staff for its support in this area) and toward implementing the new ICANN Continuous Improvements Program Framework.

Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 3. Registration Data Request Service

Background:

The GAC and the ICANN Board have aligned on a number of objectives for the future of the RDRS including:

- Continuing RDRS operation past its pilot period;
- Making RDRS participation mandatory for all gTLD registrars;
- Better facilitating requests through RDRS for the data underlying registrations made with a privacy or proxy service;
- Creating APIs for both registrars and requestors; and
- Considering options to enable voluntary participation by ccTLD operators

Question:

In light of the GNSO Standing Committee's report suggesting that the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) recommendations be rejected as a package by the ICANN Board for further consideration by the GNSO Council, and the recent announcement that the ICANN Board is expected to share a policy gap analysis on this matter at the end of ICANN 84, the GAC would welcome the Board's views on the procedural path and timeline to achieve our shared objectives vis à vis the RDRS, while not jeopardizing the future of SSAD recommendations that are otherwise supported by the RDRS Standing Committee.

Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 4. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data

Background:

1. The GAC welcomes progress made toward the current Consensus Policy proposal that Registry Operators and Registrars be required to handle Urgent Requests (in circumstances that pose an imminent threat to life, of serious bodily injury, to critical infrastructure, or of child exploitation) as follows:
 - acknowledge receipt within 2 hours
 - respond to these requests within 24 hours maximum, or within 72 hours in exceptional circumstances (such as force majeure)
2. The GAC recalls that it had raised public policy concerns with much longer timelines proposed in August 2023, and had advised the ICANN Board to *“To act expeditiously to establish a clear process and a timeline for the delivery of a policy on Urgent Requests for domain name registration data, to respond to the vital public safety interests related to such requests.”* (GAC San Juan Communiqué, 11 March 2024)
3. The ICANN Board, the GAC, and the GNSO, agreed in a trilateral setting, to establish two tracks of work:
 - one on the timeline to respond to Urgent Requests and
 - another on associated Authentication Mechanism for Law Enforcement requestors, which the Board deemed necessary as part of the issues and concerns it highlighted to the GNSO Council in June 2024.

Topic 4. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data (cont.)

Background (cont.)

4. As highlighted recently in a call between the GAC and the Board, the GAC has agreed to undertake additional work through the PSWG on the authentication track in response to the concerns raised by the Board and the GNSO regarding the necessity of the authentication mechanism to ensure an adequate timeline could be met. This was always intended to constitute part of the implementation phase of the Consensus Policy. Therefore, GAC representatives in the Registration Data Policy IRT believe that such an Authentication Mechanism should not require additional separate Policy Development and subsequent Consensus Policy to be implemented.
5. The GAC is concerned that such a path, proposed by ICANN org, will delay the enforcement of the proposed response timeline, especially considering that significant progress has been made on possible Authentication Mechanisms such that these could potentially be available within months, once ICANN org approves and incorporates them in tools such as the Name Services Portal, and the RDRS.

Board - GAC Meeting - GAC Topics/Questions

Topic 4. Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Registration Data

Question:

The GAC would welcome the Board's views on how to meet the terms of the prior trilateral agreement between the Board, the GAC and the GNSO - which included two parallel tracks as part of the implementation of Consensus Policy - so that this work could be concluded expeditiously and that Urgent Requests, when their circumstances occur, can be submitted, authenticated and responded to in a timely manner, consistent with the vital public safety interests involved.



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Topic 5. ICANN Review of Reviews

Question:

How will the Board participate in and monitor the recently started Review of Reviews to ensure that the effort is staying on track?



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Thank you!



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