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ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



GAC Capacity Development

Session 2: Next Round of New gTLDs

25 October 2025

Agenda

1. Community Input, Objections and Appeals (30 mins)

- Introduction by GAC Topic Lead(s)
- Overview and GAC Early Warnings (ICANN org Next Round Team)
- Q&A and discussion

2. GAC experiences and perspectives on the 2012 round (30 mins)

GAC Early Warnings (Introduction)

Tracy Hackshaw, UPU

Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

Overview [4]

Starting on **String Confirmation Day**, the community will have the opportunity to provide input as follows:

- The general public will have the opportunity to submit **application comments**
- GAC members can decide to issue **GAC Member Early Warnings**
- The GAC may issue **GAC Consensus Advice**
- The general public will have the chance to submit **singular/plural notifications**
- Parties with standing will be able to file **objections**, the determinations of which can be **appealed**

ACF opens on String Confirmation Day and stays open for duration of Program
Comments submitted within **104 days after String Confirmation Day** and within **30 days of specific Application Change Requests** will be available to evaluators for consideration

Application Comments [4.1]

- Mechanism for the public to bring relevant information and issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants, and evaluators regarding specific applications
- Do not have a direct impact on applications but may be taken into account by the relevant evaluators if submitted during the specified time frames
- Public* and posted on an ICANN-managed platform—the Application Comment Forum (ACF)
- Do not have costs associated
- Applicants may respond to comments

*unless they refer to confidential portions of an application

GAC Consensus Advice [4.3]

- Issued by the GAC according to ICANN's Bylaws
- Must include a rationale
- Intended to address applications that are identified to be problematic
- Applicants may respond within a specified time frame
- If accepted by the ICANN Board, may prevent an application from proceeding, or from proceeding unless specific modifications are made

Singular/Plural Notification [4.4]

- Submitted by the general public
- Based on claim that an applied-for string is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated TLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a blocked name
- Must include evidence
- Does not have costs associated
- If a match is found, the relevant string(s) may be placed in a contention set or the application prevented from proceeding

Objections and Appeals [4.5]

- Filed by parties with standing
- On specific grounds
- Administered by external Dispute Resolution Service Providers
- Have costs associated
- An Independent Objector may file Limited Public Interest and Community Objections given certain conditions
- If the objector prevails, the relevant string(s) may be placed in a contention set, or the application prevented from proceeding or may only proceed with specific modifications
- The expert determination can be appealed

GAC Member Early Warnings [4.2]

- Issued by individual or groups of GAC members
- Provide the applicant with an indication that the application is seen as potentially sensitive or problematic
- Do not have a direct impact on the application but may signal the likelihood that the application could be the subject of GAC Consensus Advice or of an objection
- Must include a written explanation describing why the Early Warning was submitted and how the applicant may address the GAC member's concerns
- Applicants are encouraged to communicate with relevant GAC member(s)

GAC Experiences and Perspectives on the 2012 Round

Abdulrahman Al Marzouqi, United Arab Emirates

Tracy Hackshaw, UPU

Nicolas Caballero, GAC Chair

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