



85 | COMMUNITY
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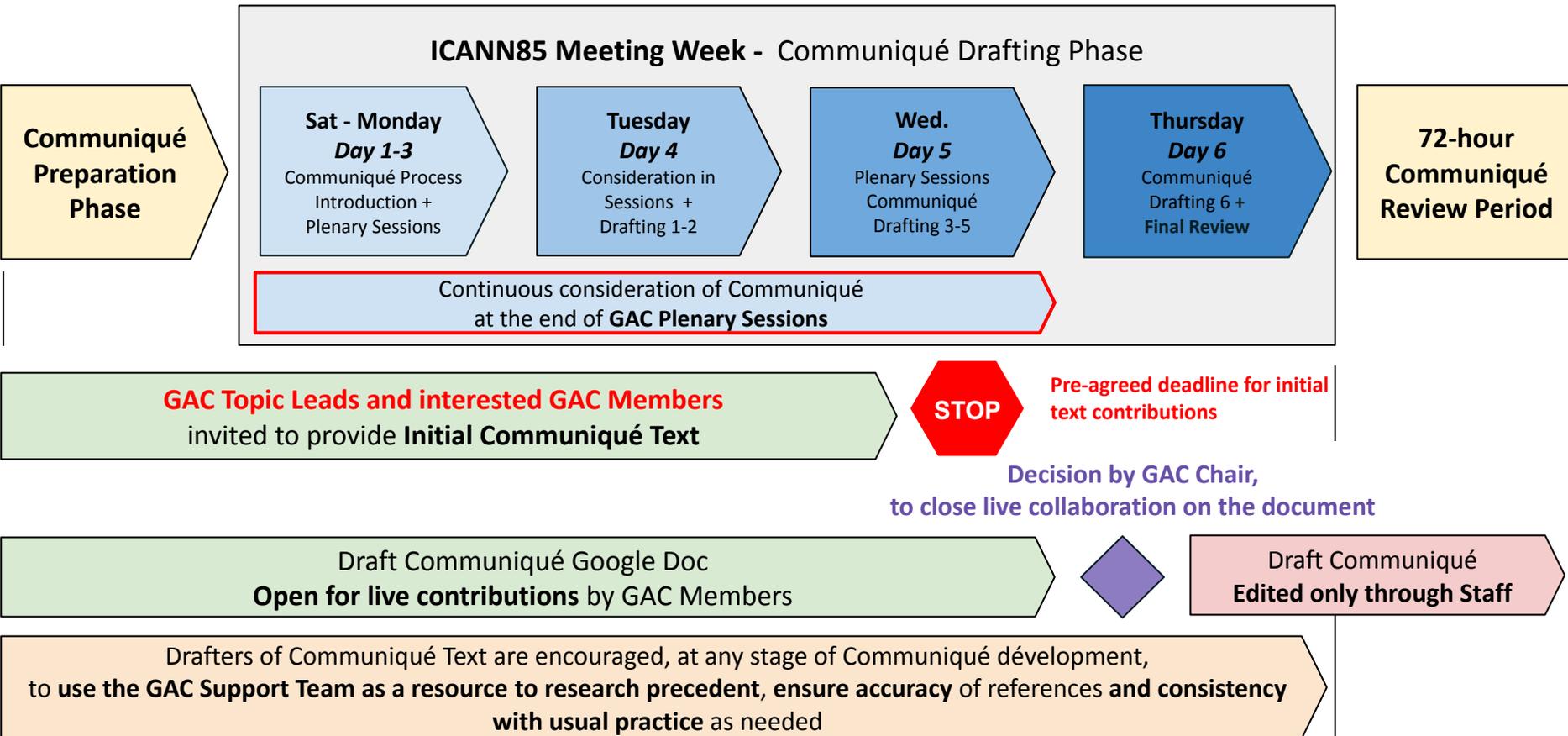
GAC Operational Updates

Saturday, 7 March - 10:30 Local Time

SESSION #2

- A. Review of GAC Communique Process (if not addressed in opening plenary) (5 mins)
- B. ICANN Continuous Improvements Program Framework (5 mins)
- C. GAC Leadership Election - 2026 – Overview (5 mins)
- D. Future GAC Contributions to the ICANN Nominating Committee (30 mins)

A. Communiqué Development for ICANN85



New Proposals by GAC Leadership - Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for GAC Members to consider topics and discuss text ahead of Communiqué Drafting, to increase efficiency of the drafting process.

Role of GAC Topic Leads

- Propose a pre-/rough draft of text prior to the ICANN meeting
- Discuss Communiqué text at the end of each plenary session
- Provide text during Communiqué Drafting by a pre-set deadline (GAC Chair)
- Be the point of contact for any GAC Members considering text on the topic(s)

Proposals by GAC Members

- Should be discussed with GAC Topic Leads (where identified) and aimed to be integrated by pre-set deadline during Communiqué Drafting

Background:

- The ICANN Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) Framework is a new community-led model developed by ICANN stakeholders for evaluating and improving the effectiveness of ICANN's various organizational structures and processes.
- The Framework was developed by the Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) and published last July.
- The framework responds to a recommendation from the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) — specifically Recommendation 3.6 — which called for transforming ICANN's traditional Organizational Reviews into a more *dynamic, ongoing improvement process*.
- The CIP Framework is currently being relied upon to demonstrate community accountability efforts while a cross-community group on the ICANN Review of Reviews (CCG-RoR) conducts its broader work. You will hear more about the CCG-RoR tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon.

Outline of Possible Future GAC Efforts in this Area:

- Some Key Features of the CIP Framework include:
 - Community-led Assessments: Each Supporting Organization (SO), Advisory Committee (AC), and the Nominating Committee will use the framework to evaluate their own processes.
 - Principles-Criteria-Indicators Model: The framework introduces an approach based on *principles, criteria, and indicators* to guide assessment and improvement work.
 - Iterative & Flexible: Rather than fixed, one-off reviews, the CIP is designed for *continuous cycles* of evaluation and enhancement that can be tailored to each community group's needs.
 - Accountability & Transparency: Each community structure is expected to report on CIP progress at the end of assessment cycles, typically within three years.
- With the framework finalized last year, the work now shifts to implementation — where each community group – including the GAC can begin planning and conducting its assessments under the CIP Framework model.
- The GAC Leadership has had initial conversations about the framework and expects the three-year process to progress within the committee this calendar year with specific discussion devoted to the topic intersessionally and during ICANN86.

C. 2026 GAC Chair Election (Overview)

- GAC leadership elections process begins here in Mumbai at end of ICANN85 and concludes at ICANN86 (8-11 June 2026)
- Process Follows New Annual Election Timing Cycle
- Next GAC Chair to be elected
- Nomination period from end of ICANN85 until 23:59 UTC on 24 April 2026 (GAC OP#33)
- More than one nominations for GAC Chair will activate a balloting period.

C. 2026 GAC Chair Election (Nomination Process)

- Nominations should be made by email to gac-staff@icann.org with a copy to the GAC list
- Nominations (including self-nominations) will be accepted
- Staff will send an email confirmation to the nominator that the nomination has been recorded
- If third-party nomination, staff will also verify that the nominee is willing to stand for election
- GAC website election page will track all nominations - <https://gac.icann.org/activity/2026-gac-chair-election>

Background:

- The ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee tasked with identifying and selecting individuals for ICANN leadership positions.
- For years, the GAC has had a reserved non-voting liaison position on the NomCom. However, this position has gone vacant for some years due to a lack of agreement within the committee on the proper role for this position.
- Since at least 2018, the GAC has developed criteria to be submitted annually to the NomCom as guidance it could use in selecting appointees to the ICANN Board. In that time, every year the GAC has shared essentially similar criteria, in place of the committee appointing an individual to serve on the NomCom.
- The committee has made sure to emphasize that the lack of a GAC appointment to the NomCom in any given year should not create an assumption that no future appointments will be made.
- With a new NomCom (2026) now in place and plans for that group to be more proactive in seeking community input, the GAC leadership considered that the committee resume some of its previous discussions to determine if GAC views of this topic have evolved.

Discussion:

- GAC Members recently met with 2026 NomCom participants. Key takeaways from that discussion:
- The NomCom appreciates the input received from the GAC on criteria for Board appointees. They would value direct participation from people with GAC/government experience.
- Participants in NomCom serve as individuals – not representatives.
- Each year NomCom selects appointees not just for the ICANN Board of Directors, but also for the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council, the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council, and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC).
- NomCom responsibilities overlap with part of the ICANN Public Meeting time at both the Community and Policy Forums during the year.
- [Opportunity for GAC Members share views about this matter and identify future actions/expectations, if any.](#)

Thank you!

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Appendix

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Impact on Current GAC Chair Term

- Two-year term began at conclusion of ICANN82 (March 2025)
- Alignment with next AGM will require current term to end in October 2026 rather than March 2027
- 2026 Election Nominations begin at end of ICANN85 (March 2026) and election concludes at ICANN86 (June 2026)
- Current GAC Chair term ends at conclusion of ICANN87 (October 2026) - 4 months early

Impact on Next GAC Chair Term

- Regular/Full Two-year term begins at end of ICANN87 (October 2026)
- Nomination period begins at end of ICANN85 (March 2026) and election concludes at ICANN86 (June 2026)
- Begins two-year term at end of ICANN87 (October 2026 - in alignment with AGM) and serves until end of ICANN93 (October 2028)

Impact on Current GAC Vice Chair Terms

- One-year terms began at conclusion of ICANN82 (March 2025)
- No impact - terms still conclude at end of ICANN85 (March 2026)

Impact on Vice Chairs Elected at ICANN84

- 2025 Election Nominations begin at end of ICANN83 (June 2025) and election concludes at ICANN 84 (October 2025)
- Vice Chairs elected at ICANN84 will serve shorter terms to align with new AGM confluence
- Vice Chairs elected at ICANN84 (shortened two-year term) will begin term at end of ICANN85 (March 2026) and will serve shorter term until conclusion of ICANN90 (October 2027) - 4 months early