



85 | COMMUNITY
FORUM



GAC Meeting with ALAC

Session 13

10 March 2026

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (GAC and ALAC Chairs) (5 mins)
2. **Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics** (10 mins)
Satish Babu, ALAC / David Bedard, GAC
 - a. Supporting linguistic and cultural inclusion
 - b. Managing timing constraints without delaying the Next Round
3. **DNS Abuse: Government Expectations and End-User Harm** (15 mins)
Jonathan Zuck, ALAC / Wolfgang Holzapfel, GAC
 - a. Data, reporting, and enforcement expectations
 - b. End-user impact and trust considerations
 - c. Coordinated advisory signals to ICANN org and relevant PDPs
4. **Applicant Support Program (ASP) (10 mins)**
Jonathan Zuck, ALAC/ Tracy Hackshaw, GAC
5. **WSIS+20 and Global Digital Governance Processes** (15 mins)
Amrita Choudhury, ALAC / Jorge Cancio, Christine Arida , GAC
6. **Next Steps** (5 mins)

Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics

Speaker(s):

Satish Babu, ALAC

David Bedard, GAC

Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics

Satish Babu, ALAC

- The Latin Diacritics PDP originated from a request by French Canadian At-Large stakeholders to ALAC, seeking parity between the popularly-used **.québec** and the already-delegated **.quebec**.
- Since the pair {e, é} was not classified as variants by the Latin Script Generation Panel, this could not be addressed under the EPDP on IDNs consensus policy.
- ALAC raised this and the broader issue with the GNSO, leading to an Issue Report (Sep 2024) recommending a narrow-scoped PDP to address similar cases across scripts.
- The Latin Script Diacritics PDP was initiated by the GNSO Council (Nov 2024) and kicked off at ICANN82 (8 March 2025). Early on, the name was shortened to Latin Diacritics PDP (LD PDP)
- The Draft Report of the PDP, containing 54 Recommendations / Implementation Guidance items, was open for public comment until Feb 2026. Preliminary analysis of comments was conducted during two working sessions at ICANN85 last week.

Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics

- All 54 Prs/IGs received comments from the sixteen commenters, of which 29 were “substantive”
- An initial analysis of the comments reveals significant inputs—including several from ICANN Org—based on the dependencies of the LD PDP on the EPDP on IDNs, and the need for clarifying nuances of language (noting that the EPDP on IDNs is already incorporated in the AGB, whereas the LD PDP is not)
- Taking into consideration these language changes as well as other inputs, the PDP team estimates a completion time of Oct 2026 when GNSO Council could consider the final report of the LD PDP
- Considering the time taken for GNSO and Board processes, it is unlikely that the consensus policy from the PDP would be ready for implementation before mid-2027
- ALAC, together with other stakeholders, would have liked to see the recommendations incorporated in the AGB for the 2026 round. However, this appears difficult (even though the PDP finished its draft report ahead of schedule)
- ALAC shares the concern of other stakeholders on when these recommendations are available to applicants

Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics

David Bedard, GAC

- The PDP directly aligns with GAC priorities as they relate to Universal Acceptance and linguistic diversity in the DNS
- The Latin script **supports hundreds of languages worldwide**, many of which rely on diacritics to convey correct meaning, pronunciation, and cultural identity.
- Consistent handling of diacritic-based labels **supports cultural integrity and national identity**, particularly for communities where diacritics distinguish distinct words or names.
- Improved treatment of Latin script diacritics management **promotes global inclusivity**, helping ensure that online identifiers reflect the diversity of language communities using the DNS.

Linguistic Inclusion: Latin Script Diacritics

- There was a timing mis-match with the publication of the Applicant Guidebook (AGB) late last year, before the PDP completed its initial set of recommendations
- While the GAC would have preferred to see the recommendations of this PDP be part of the conditions governing the Next Round, the GAC also recognizes the importance of moving the next round forward without delay.
- The GAC and ALAC should stay engaged. The work of the PDP will strengthen the policy framework for subsequent rounds and better support linguistic diversity online.

DNS Abuse: Government Expectations and End-User Harm

Speaker(s):

Jonathan Zuck, ALAC

Matina Barbero, GAC

DNS Abuse: Expectations

- Clear triggers for associated domain checking (no “may” language)
- Currently no clear triggers for “initial action” (block lists, complaint, etc.)
- Clear timeframes for ADC
- Preventative measures based on customer info?

DNS Abuse: Caveats and Human Rights Concerns

- Compromised Domains are excluded, but...
- Can compromised “accounts” be determined?
- Initially a soft suspension? Allows for:
 - Appeal and review
 - Domain restoration
- Something like “Page Rank” methodology to assess associated domains?
 - Some maliciously registered domains are more obvious
 - Those less so could be subjected to a page rank like process of evaluation

Section Header

Applicant Support Program (ASP)

Speakers:

Jonathan Zuck, ALAC

Tracy Hackshaw, GAC

Applicant Support Program (ASP)

The Board is pleased to see significant interest in the ASP, which received a total of 75 applications from all five ICANN regions.

Because the number of potentially qualifying applicants exceeds the original budget that accommodated 45 applicants, the Board will fulfill its commitment to consider providing additional support.

Noting the community's advocacy for the ASP paired with the fact that there was no objection to the Board's 2024 proposal on funding to provide support to applicants, the Board is considering allocating up to an additional \$4.9 million from the 2012 Round auction proceeds to provide assistance for up to 75 qualified applicants.

Applicant Support Program (ASP)

Should the community's views have changed on this topic, the Board requests your input, via SO and AC discussion at ICANN85 or correspondence to the Board, by 20 March. The Board will consider this input as it makes a decision on additional ASP funding after ICANN85. We appreciate the community's attention to this topic and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Questions:

1. Do the GAC & ALAC still support this approach?
2. Does this ALSO impact the possibility that the maximum reduction of 85% can be applied to ALL successful ASP applicants?
3. Should the GAC & ALAC provide joint input on this issue to the Board?

WSIS+20 and Global Digital Governance Processes

Speaker(s):

Amrita Choudhury, ALAC

Jorge Cancio / Christine Arida, GAC

WSIS+20 and Global Digital Governance Processes

1. **Reflection on the WSIS+20 Review Process and lessons for the future**
2. **Information exchange on preparations and timelines for implementation**
3. **Identifying areas for possible GAC–ALAC coordination**

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