# ICANN|GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

# 79 | COMMUNITY FORUM

## GAC Meeting with the ALAC

### Session 7

### Session Objective

The GAC and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) regularly meet during ICANN Public Meetings to discuss public policy matters of interest to both government stakeholders and Internet end-users.

### Background

The ALAC is the primary ICANN-designated organizational home for the voice and concerns of individual Internet end users. Representing the At-Large Community, the 15-member ALAC consists of two members selected by each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and five members appointed by ICANN's Nominating Committee. Advocating for the interests of end-users, the ALAC advises on the activities of ICANN, including Internet policies developed by ICANN's Supporting Organizations.

The GAC and ALAC have been meeting at ICANN Public Meetings in order to coordinate and discuss ICANN policy issues of common interest. In the past they have worked to develop joint statements on certain policy and operational topics.

### Session Agenda

At ICANN79, the groups will continue to exchange views on a topic of similar interest by focusing on:

1. Applicant Support Discussion
    a. Present ALAC's perspective on Applicant Support (Greg Shatan)
    b. Offer insights from GAC on Applicant Support (Rosalind Kennybirch)
    c. Share additional insights from ALAC on Applicant Support (Justine Chew)
    d. Further elaborate on GAC's stance regarding Applicant Support (Tracy Hackshaw)
2. Q&A

### Current Status and Recent Developments

At ICANN78, the GAC did not develop consensus advice on the New gTLD Applicant Support Program but drew attention to this matter as an issue of importance to the GAC, noting that:

*"The GAC welcomes efforts to take forward a successful Applicant Support Program (ASP) in various areas of the ICANN community, including through the Implementation Review Team's (IRT) work on applicant support and the GNSO Guidance Process Working Group (GGP) on the ASP. The GAC thanks the GGP on the ASP for the opportunity to provide a public comment and looks forward to receiving the group's Final Report expected in December. The GAC also looks forward to participating in the IRT sub-track on applicant support and the 'small team plus' effort to address the Final Report on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process' Recommendation 17.2 on the ASP. The ASP is core to the success of the next New gTLD Program and the GAC recalls that the original rationale to launch a new round was to encourage further geographic diversification of applications in the New gTLD Program.*

*Applicant support was identified as a key topic of importance to the GAC, particularly for underrepresented and underserved regions, during the ICANN78 Capacity Development Workshop. GAC members noted the need for ICANN org to effectively communicate with GAC members about the Applicant Support Program so that members can support awareness raising efforts within their countries. GAC members also highlighted the importance of using local languages to raise awareness of the program. The GAC stressed that support for applicants should extend beyond applicant fee reductions, and include providing training and technical and legal assistance to potential applicants. Training efforts should be commenced at the earliest opportunity, and certainly ahead of ICANN79. In this regard, the GAC appreciated exchanges with the GNSO and the ALAC on applicant support, in particular the comment that the ASP should cover not just financial support but support in other areas of both the application and the operation of a top-level domain and the ALAC's proposal to address Recommendation 17.2 by taking a "holistic approach to providing applicant support services" and utilizing an ASP incubator.*

*The GAC welcomes the ICANN Board's commitment to the ASP and thanks the Board for its valuable input on the ICANN77 GAC advice on this matter The ICANN Board stated that it plans to provide communications and engagement plans related to engaging underrepresented and underserved regions by ICANN78 and the GAC looks forward to receiving documented plans at the earliest opportunity, including on the mini-campaigns noted at the GAC's meeting with the Board and on how ICANN intends to support the operation of supported TLDs. The GAC Small Team on the ASP is continuing discussions to provide relevant information to the Board, noting the GAC's engagement through the IRT sub-track will help address these useful points and recalling the GAC's previous work to agree on parameters on underserved regions."*

Please consult the ICANN79 written briefing for Sessions 9 and 10 for more details and recent development on these issues which will inform the GAC and ALAC conversations in San Juan.

## Key Reference Documents

- ICANN77 Communiqué (June 2023) -
  https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann77-washington-d-c-communique

- ICANN78 Communique (October 2023)
  https://gac.icann.org/contentMigrated/icann78-hamburg-communique?language_id=1

## Document Administration

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