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ICANN73 GAC Operating Principles Working Group (GOPE WG) Update

8 March 2022

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks (GOPE WG Co-Chairs)
2. Background/Overview
3. Update on recent GOPE WG activity (GOPE WG Co-Chairs/GAC Support)
4. GOPE WG Work Plan for adoption (GOPE WG Co-Chairs/GAC Support)
5. Review of Framework of GAC WG Guidelines (GOPE WG Co-Chairs/GAC Support)
 - a. Update
 - b. Changes from 2016 Version
 - c. Questions for GAC Membership
6. Next Steps (GOPE WG Co-Chairs)
7. Comments and discussion (GAC members)
8. AOB

2. Background/Overview of GOPE WG

- The **purpose** of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group is to **study, develop and make recommendations to the GAC for changes to the current GAC Operating Principles.**
- Those recommendations should help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity and specificity of the committee's processes and procedures.
- The evolution of GAC operating principles seeks to enable the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to adjust and adapt to operate more effectively and efficiently as an advisory committee and as a member of the ICANN Empowered Community.
- **The working group is not a decision-making body for the GAC,** but is designed to offer recommendations to the GAC membership as a whole. The GAC recognizes that the development of those recommendations will come from active discussions between working group members.

3. Update on Recent GOPE WG Activities

- The GOPE WG continued its activities after ICANN72, identifying priority areas for the WG to focus on. Two WG meetings were held intersessionally in preparation for ICANN73.
- Following an extended vacancy, the WG appointed a new co-chair: Ian Sheldon (Australia).
- GOPE WG members agreed to tackle the finalization of the Framework of WG Guidelines prior to delving in the review of GAC Operating Principles.
- The GOPE WG Work Plan was updated to reflect the updated timeline and priorities identified by the WG.
- The Work Plan was circulated with GAC Membership for review prior to ICANN73.
- GOPE WG Members began reviewing the Framework for GAC WG Guidelines providing initial input and potential edits. Specific areas for discussion with broader GAC membership were identified.
- The WG agreed to seek input from existing WG Co-Chairs to identify potential missing areas, and receive feedback on the draft.



4. GOPE WG Work Plan: 2021-2022

- Updated following input at ICANN72 and further GOPE WG member discussions.
- Work Plan reflects ongoing discussions with GAC membership on recommendations and/or potentially contentious areas, to ensure GAC membership is kept in the loop of discussions from GOPE WG.
- Expected timeframe:
 - GOPE WG to initially focus on finalizing the updated Framework for GAC WG Guidelines;
 - Once this is completed, GOPE WG will commence review of GAC Operating Principles;
 - GOPE WG to finalize Framework for GAC WG Guidelines by ICANN74;
 - Aim for WG to begin review of GAC Operating Principles post ICANN74;
 - Work Plan concludes at the end of 2023, with estimated delivery date of final recommendations for updates to GAC Operating Principles in October 2023 (ICANN78)
- GAC Membership to consider adoption of Work Plan



5. Framework of GAC WG Guidelines

- Prepared based on the existing GAC Working Group Procedures Document (2016).
- GOPE WG members identified areas missing, of redundancy or which needed tweaking.
- The updated Framework for GAC Working Group Guidelines document was presented to the GAC at ICANN66, and circulated to GAC membership for review.
- GAC membership had a 3-week period to provide feedback on the updated guidelines. No feedback was received, however due to shifting priorities the document was not finalized by the GOPE WG.
- Discussions on the Framework of GAC WG Guidelines resumed after ICANN72, and the WG decided to make it a priority to finalize this work prior to delving in the Operating Principles.
- After ICANN72 GAC Support updated the Framework for GAC WG Guidelines which was originally finalized by the WG in 2020.

5. Framework of GAC WG Guidelines - Changes

Overview of Changes:

- GAC Working Group Guidelines were updated to reflect current practice within the GAC (including GAC support responsibilities/support, removal of mentions of external Secretariat but aligning support in one category)
- Alignment with ICANN Bylaws (minimal but changed references which were incorrect due to update in ICANN Bylaws)
- Reformatting:
 - Ease of reference, the guidelines were updated into clear sections so existing text was shifted into those subsections proposed by GOPE WG members;
 - Some text which was included in annexes was copied into the guidelines for clarity

5. Framework of GAC WG Guidelines - Changes

Establishment of a Working Group:

- Membership application was added to reflect current practice in GAC Working Groups.
- Working group leaders added to reflect current practice in GAC Working Groups.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Members: expanded section to clarify role of members and the expected contribution to the work/outputs of the WG consistent with the work plan.
- GAC Support Staff: role updated to reflect current practice.

Operation of a Working Group:

- WG outputs - expanded to outline WG membership collaboration (in line with annex)
- Sub-teams - section added to allow for creation of potential sub-teams
- Final Report - section renamed and expanded from Appendix A. Process for the development of position paper/statement is unchanged.
- Closure of a Working Group: section largely expanded and new text proposed by WG members to add a timeline for WG work/outputs to avoid inactive WG to remain open. GOPE WG members added the idea of a regular and periodic review of Working Groups to identify which WGs should be closed/adjourned.

For Discussion - GAC WG “Final Report” or Equivalent

- GOPE WG Members identified specific questions for GAC Membership, especially related to a potential final product for GAC Working Groups.
- The updated WG Guidelines include a section (5.6) outlining a “Final Report” for WGs, originally adapted from GNSO Working Groups and expanded from original 2016 Guidelines.
- GOPE WG members identified that further updates should be carried out to reflect practice in the GAC.
- GAC Discussion on:
 - What does a successful GAC WG product look like?
 - What do GAC WGs produce?
 - Is it realistic to name a GAC WG product such as a:
 - Statement
 - Position paper
 - Final report

6. Next Steps

- GOPE WG to continue review of Framework for GAC WG Guidelines, incorporating any feedback received from GAC Membership;
- GAC Working Group Chairs/Co-Chairs to be contacted for input on draft guidelines;
- GOPE WG to review areas of Framework for WG Guidelines identified for further review (including the “Final Report” section and “Closure of WG” sections)
- GOPE WG will meet intersessionally prior to ICANN74 and will present developments to GAC membership in plenary session at ICANN74.

7. Discussion

- Do GAC Members have any specific items for the GOPE WG to take into account? Any questions?
- Any other comments?

8. AOB

- Any other comments?