ICANN GAC and GAC Capacity building workshops

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Session with GAC reps at APTLD73
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Introductory

- What is ICANN? (Narrative)
- The Governmental Advisory Committee
What is ICANN?
Overview

Coordinating with our partners, we help make the Internet work.
ICANN Ecosystem
How Does the Community Develop Policy?

1. IDENTIFY AND SCOPE THE ISSUE
   - Identify issue
   - Issue report
   - Initiate policy development process

2. DEVELOP POLICY
   - Consult with Community and produce policy
   - Call for volunteers to develop policy

3. VOTING OR REVIEW
   - Submit final report to Board
   - Public comments by Community

4. BOARD VOTES
   - Board votes on final policy

Supporting organizations identify, initiate and create policy

Advisory Committees can participate during the process:
- At-Large Advisory Committee
- Security and Stability Advisory Committee
- Root Server System Advisory Committee
- Government Advisory Committee

Implementation
The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
The GAC

The GAC is one the ICANN Advisory Committee which advises the ICANN Board on issues relating to public policy development.

Composition of the GAC: National governments and distinct economies (172 members and 36 observers)
Multinational governmental and treaty organizations
Role of the GAC

According to ICANN Bylaws, Art. XI, Section 2, § 1: the GAC “consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to concerns of governments, particularly matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues.”
How the GAC interacts with ICANN Board

- Board notifies the GAC of proposal raising public policy issues
- GAC put issues to the ICANN Board directly by way of comment, advice, recommending action, new policy development, or revision to existing policies.
- ICANN Board determines to take an action that is not consistent with GAC advices Board informs the GAC and state its reasons.
- Seek a mutually acceptable solution.
- If no solution can be found, ICANN Board to state in its final decision the reasons why the GAC advice was not followed.
How the GAC works

- 3 meetings/year where it discusses issues with the ICANN Board and other ICANN SO/AC and other groups.
- Non-voting liaison to the ICANN Board and the ICANN Nominating Committee (liaison to other SO/ACs possible)
- Mailing lists and Conference calls• Website: https://gacweb.icann.org
- 6 UN languages + Portuguese for meetings. Travel support for up to 30 participants per meeting
- Independent GAC secretariat and ICANN Policy Staff
ICANN org current organizational support and interaction with the GAC

- Description
- The GAC Capacity Building Workshops
Description of ICANN org current organizational support and interaction with the GAC
Global Stakeholder Engagement Team Role

- Regional field engagement and outreach webinars and activities with governments and GAC members in capitals and help in the recruitment of new GAC members (in coordination with GE)
The Policy Support Team acts as a point of liaison between the GAC, ICANN org, the Board and the other Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs). This team manages the operations of the GAC support functions; the process of proposed Board response to GAC (consensus or non-consensus) advice in cooperation with other departments at ICANN org;

The Policy Support Team provides ICANN policy and process knowledge and analytical information to the GAC leadership and its 8 active working groups. The Secretariat experts maintain the GAC mailing list and membership records; manage the correspondence for the GAC Chair; administer the GAC website; arrange the translation of nominated GAC documents;

The Policy Support Team coordinates the arrangements for formal GAC meetings including room bookings, liaison with hosts and technical support; and make the arrangements for intersessional GAC meetings including call set-up and administration.
Government Engagement Team Role

- ICANN org’s overall strategy for governments and IGOs engagement, shared with GAC Leadership in 2015
- Develop and implement Strategy for capacity building in coordination with related GAC working groups like USRWG and PSWG (in coordination with OCTO and GSE/DPRD)
- Regular reporting to GAC about ICANN’s representative role in IGOs and global and regional Internet governance fora. Provides political assessment to ICANN leadership and board for some related global public policy issues and perceptions by governments as well as briefing about the potential geopolitical challenges to ICANN
The GAC Capacity Building Workshops
GAC Capacity Building Workshops at a glance

- ICANN56 Helsinki GAC Communiqué
  - GAC Working Group on Underserved Regions discussed the feasibility of regional focused capacity development workshops for GAC members from under-served regions.
  - The rationale for this regional approach is to lower barriers to participation while increasing diversity and effective participation of GAC members from under-served regions on the functioning of ICANN.

- Demand led driven initiative

- Organized by the GAC Under Served Regions working group and ICANN Government Engagement Team with strong support from other ICANN Teams (GSE Team, Office of the CTO, GAC Support,..)
GAC Capacity Building Workshops Agenda

- Previous GAC Capacity Building Workshops: Nairobi (January 2017 co-hosted by the government of Kenya), Fiji (April 2017 co-hosted by the government of Fiji), Johannesburg (June 2017), Abu Dhabi (October 2017, co-hosted by the UAE Telecommunication Regulation

- Next GAC Capacity Building Workshops: Kathmandu (February 2018 co-hosted by the government of Nepal), San Juan (March 2018), Dakar (May 2018), Panama (June 2018)
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