ICANN: The Governmental Advisory Committee and the collaboration with governments

The GAC

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

- Composition of the GAC: National governments and distinct economies (178 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 40 participants (35 for GAC Members and 5 for Observers) per meeting

- ⊙ No more Independent GAC secretariat, ICANN Policy Staff is providing full support to the GAC

Active Collaboration with governments and IGOs outside of ICANN

- Bilateral meetings organized on a regular basis during International and Regional events (IGF, WSIS)
- Technical expertise sharing with governments and IGOs in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Geneva, New-York and Geneva