



**Governmental
Advisory
Committee
(GAC)**

ICANN is made up of three parts:

Multistakeholder
community



The ICANN community is a volunteer-based group of diverse stakeholders from across the world. They work together to give advice and develop policy within ICANN's mission.



ICANN
Community

The ICANN Board is a group of representatives from the ICANN community that oversees the ICANN organization.



ICANN Board



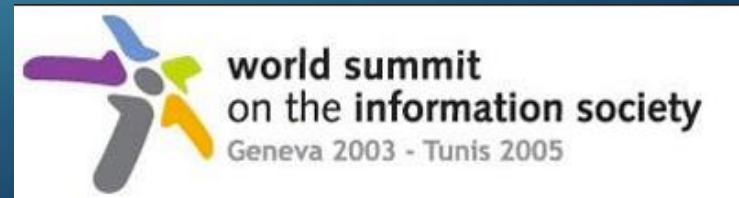
ICANN
Organization

The ICANN organization provides staff and resources to support the ICANN community and Board, and implements policies developed by the community.

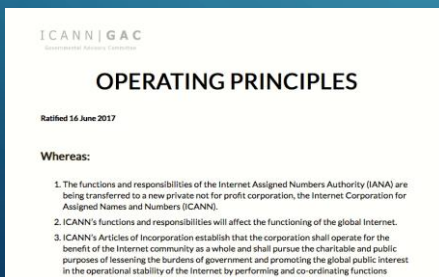
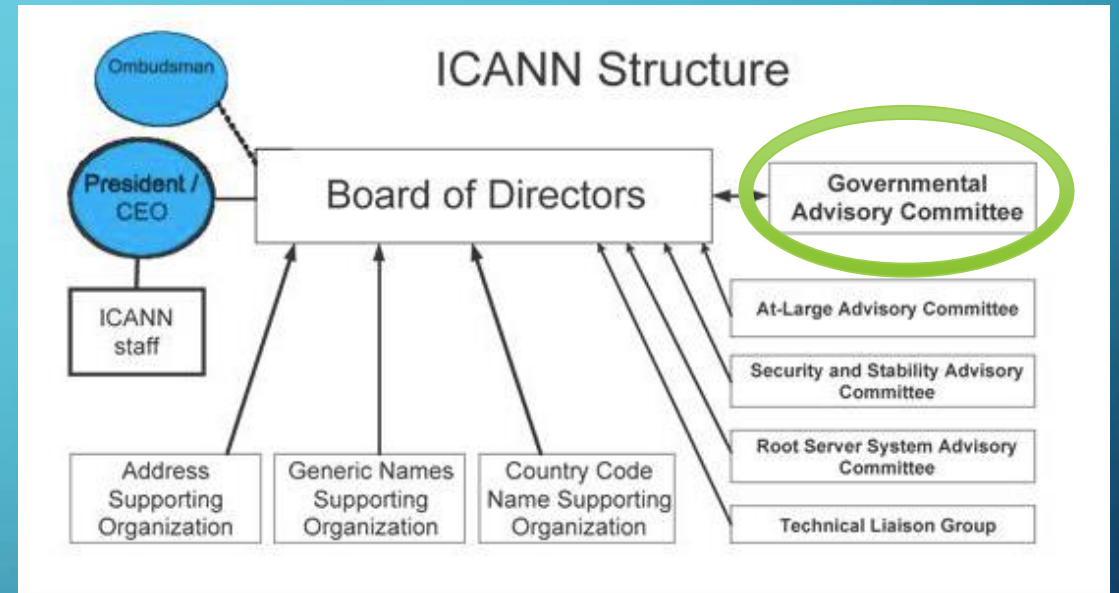
GAC is part of ICANN's
multistakeholder community

Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

Art. 34, Tunis Agenda, 2005



The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) is an advisory committee to ICANN, created under the [ICANN Bylaws](#). It provides advice to ICANN on public policy aspects of ICANN's responsibilities with regards to the Internet Domain Name System.



<https://gac.icann.org/operating-principles/operating-principles-june-2017#>




Membership in the GAC is open to all national governments, as well as to Distinct Economies as recognized in international fora, and multinational governmental organizations and treaty organizations, on the invitation of the GAC through its Chair.



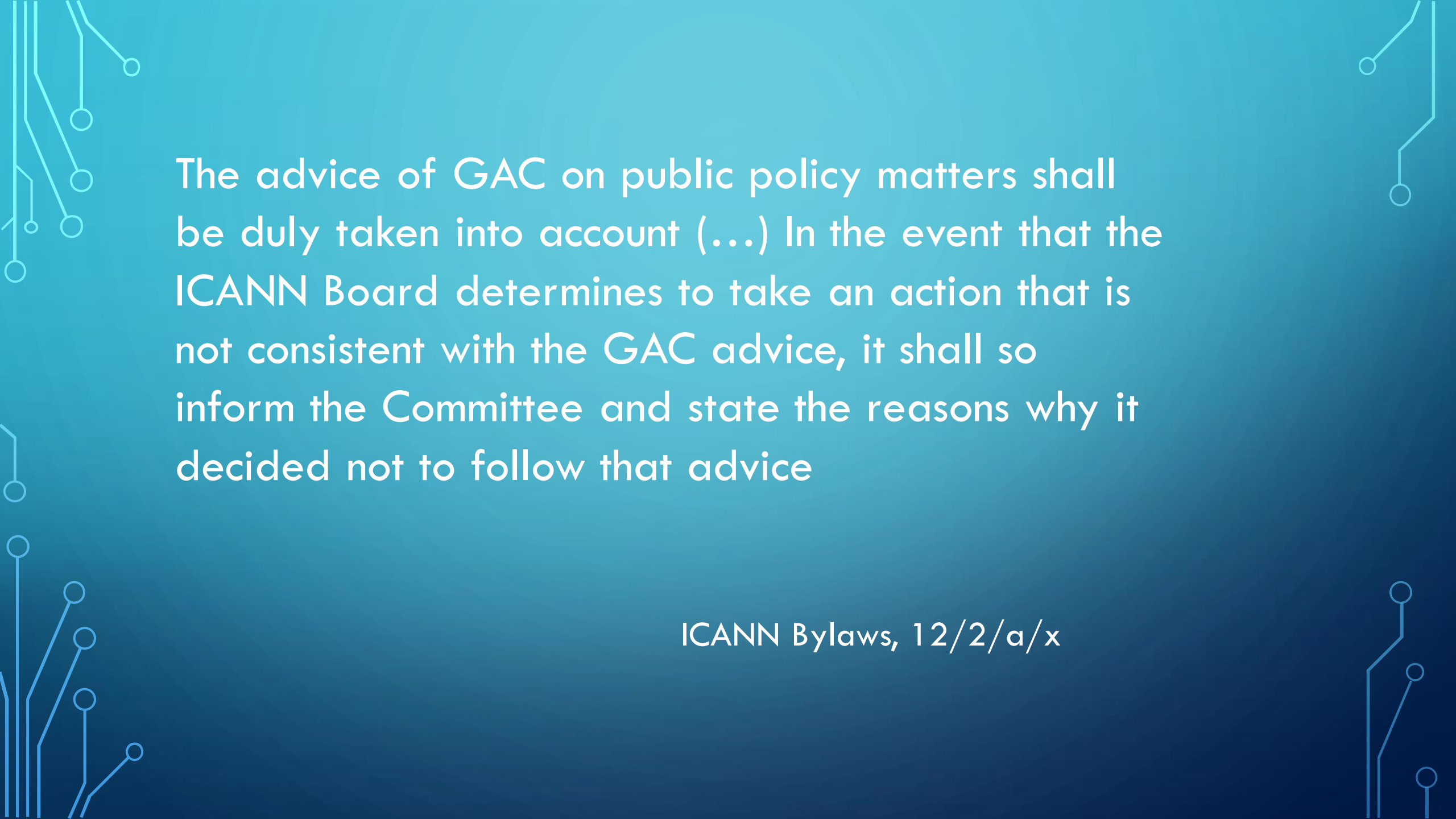
The number of members and observers has constantly increased. There are now 178 members and 37 observers.



The GAC appoints a non-voting Liaison – in practice, its Chair – to the Board.

The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line-art elements resembling circuit traces or fiber optic paths, with small circles at the end of the lines.

ICANN receives input from governments through the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). The GAC's key role is to provide advice to ICANN on issues of public policy, and especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements.


The slide features a dark teal background with decorative white circuit-like lines in the corners. The main text is centered and reads:

The advice of GAC on public policy matters shall be duly taken into account (...) In the event that the ICANN Board determines to take an action that is not consistent with the GAC advice, it shall so inform the Committee and state the reasons why it decided not to follow that advice

ICANN Bylaws, 12/2/a/x

Any GAC advice approved by a **full GAC consensus**, understood to mean the practice of adopting decisions by general agreement in the absence of any formal objection ("GAC Consensus Advice"), may only be rejected by a vote of no less than 60% of the Board, and the Governmental Advisory Committee and the Board will then try, in good faith and in a timely and efficient manner, to find a mutually acceptable solution.

ICANN Bylaws, 12/2/a/x



GAC Consensus Advice - Advice adopted by general agreement in the absence of any formal objection

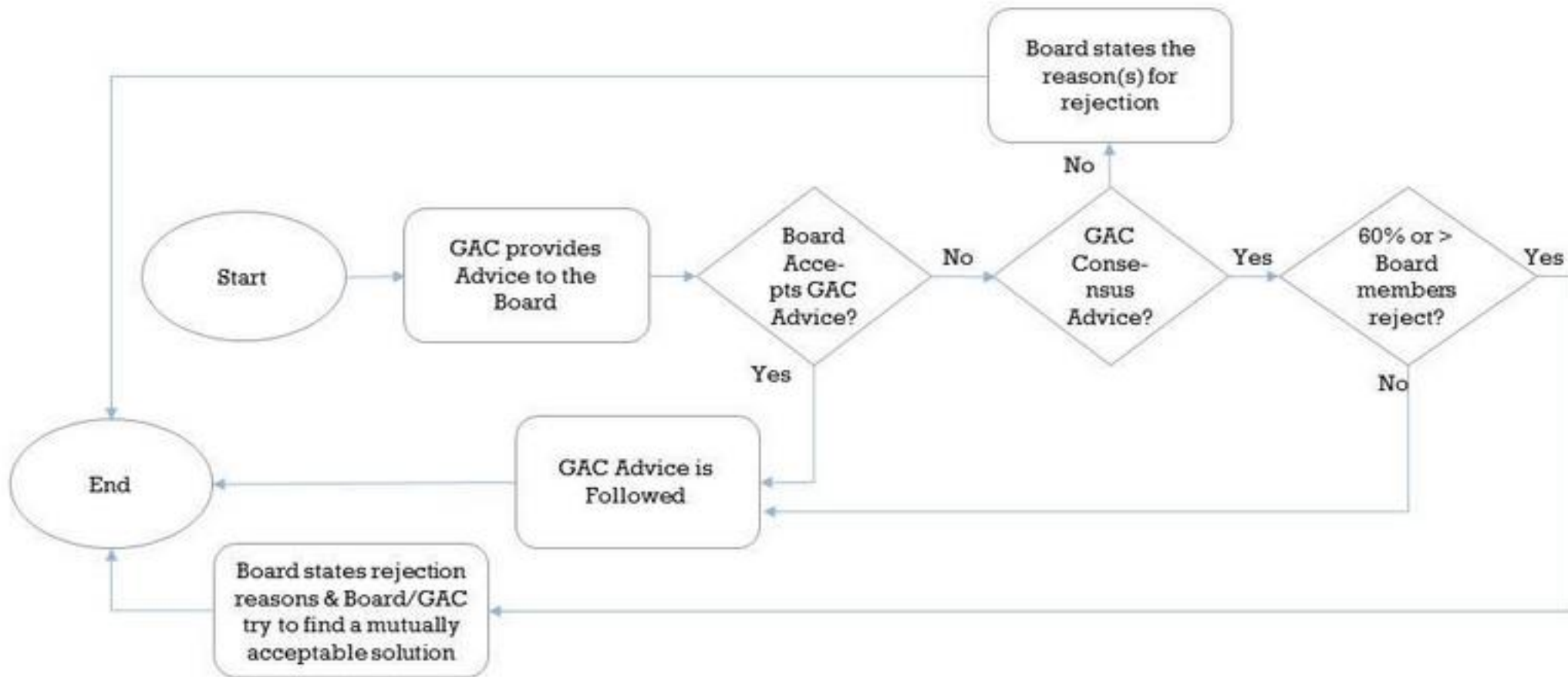
GAC Advice - Advice that enjoys broad agreement but receives one or more formal objections (threshold under discussion) conveying a range of reviews

Failing to reach consensus or broad agreement, the full range of views are conveyed to the Board

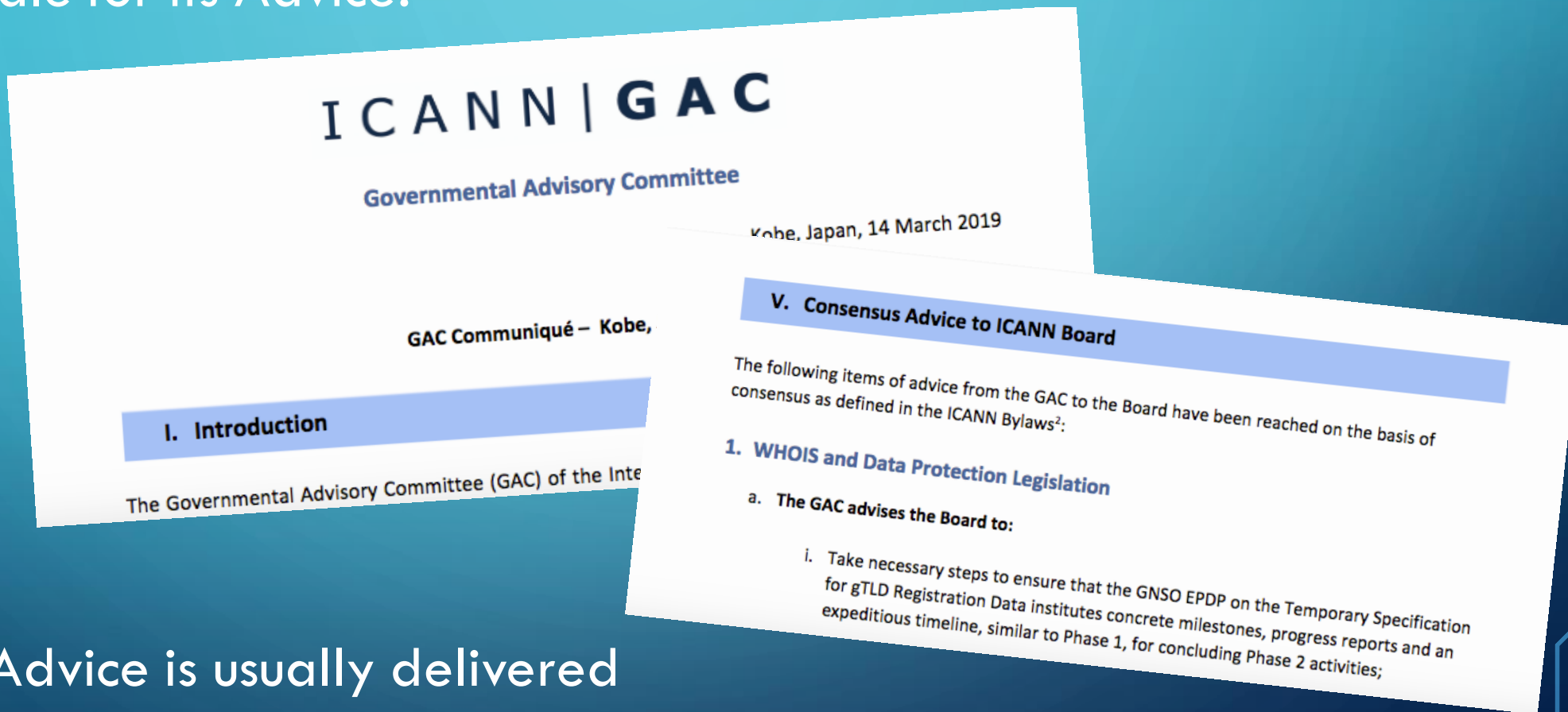


If GAC Consensus Advice is rejected by the Board pursuant to Section 12.2(a)(x) and if no such mutually acceptable solution can be found, the Board will state in its final decision the reasons why the Governmental Advisory Committee advice was not followed, and such statement will be without prejudice to the rights or obligations of Governmental Advisory Committee members with regard to public policy issues falling within their responsibilities.

Once more, for those who like flowcharts



GAC Advice is embodied in a written communication where the specific advice is clearly marked as such, has a clearly stated proposal for action(s) by the Board, and explains the underlying rationale for its Advice.



GAC Advice is usually delivered in a Communiqué after each ICANN meeting

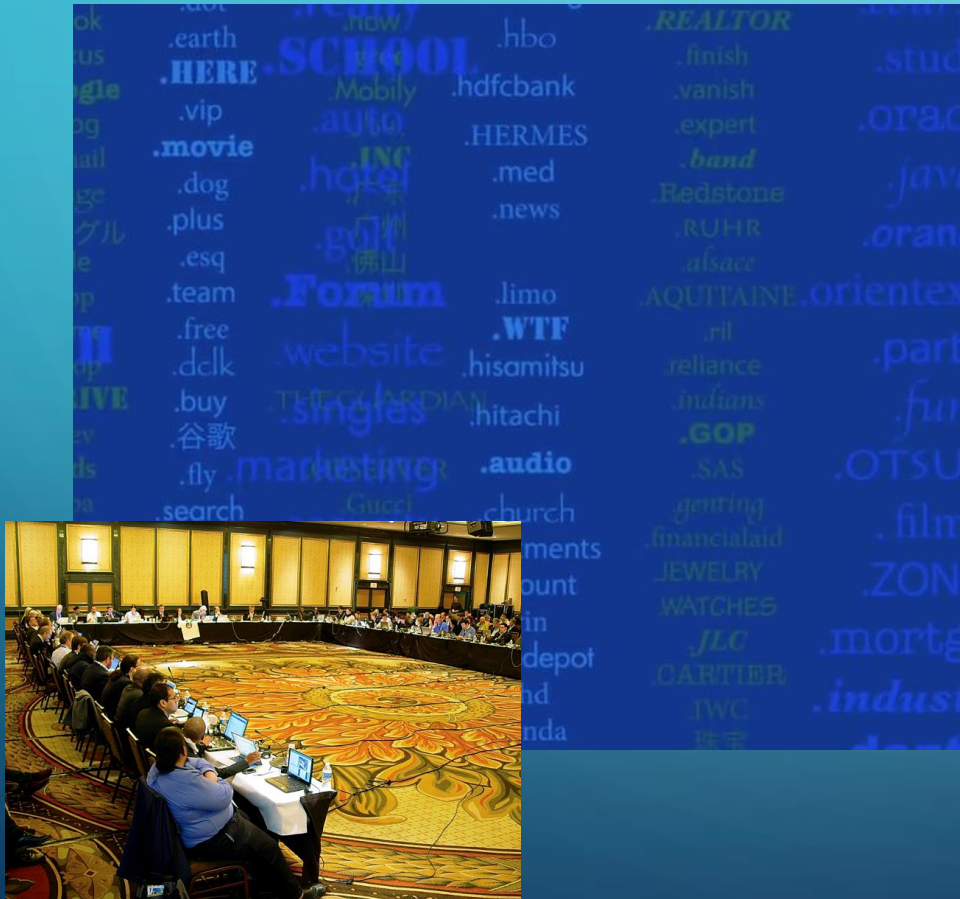
OTHER INTERACTION WITH THE BOARD

- ❑ Post-meeting calls to clarify the advice
- ❑ Correspondence
- ❑ Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG)
- ❑ Board-GAC joint sessions at ICANN meetings

THE GAC AND THE NEW GTLD PROCESS



The new gTLD process intensified GAC's interaction with the Board and the entire community. With early warnings and advice about specific applications, GAC became operationally involved





Manal Ismael
Egypt

GAC Chair
Elected for 2 years,
renewable once

Argentina

Canada

Niue

Brazil

Senegal

Vice Chairs
Elected for
1 year,
renewable
once

Plenary



Geo
Names

USR WG

Part.
NomCom

COPE

HRIL

PSWG

BGIG

**Working
Groups**

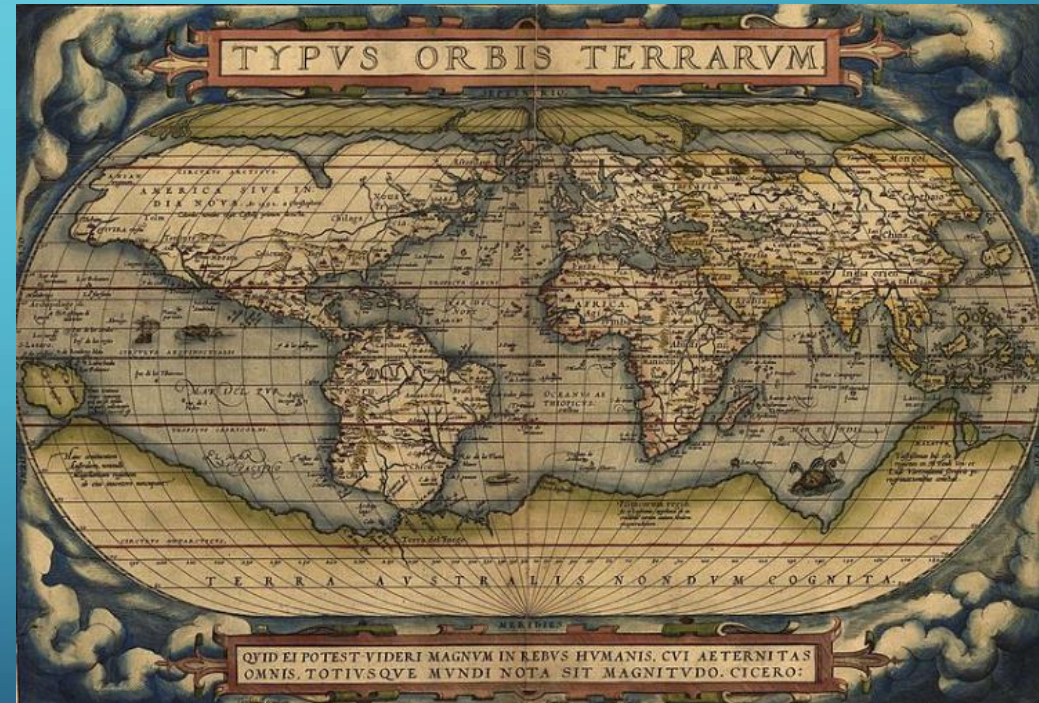
GAC WORKING GROUPS



- Geo Names WG
- Under-served Regions WG (USR WG)
- Participation in NomCom WG
- Operational Principles Evolution WG (COPE)
- Human Rights and International Law WG (HRIL)
- Public Safety WG (PSWG)
- Board-GAC Interaction WG (BGIG)

GEO NAMES WG

Examines how
geographic names can
be protected in any
future expansion of the
gTLD space



UNDER-SERVED REGIONS WG

Focuses on regions under-served by the DNS industry, least developed economies and small island developing states, especially in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions.



PARTICIPATION IN NOMCOM WG

According to ICANN Bylaws, the GAC is entitled to a seat on the Nominating Committee. The GAC NomCom Working Group examines if, and how, the GAC could participate in the NomCom process.



OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES EVALUATION WG

Makes recommendations for changes to the current GAC Operating Principles in order to enable the GAC to operate more effectively and efficiently as a member of the ICANN Empowered Community



HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW WG

Focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures which relate to human rights and relevant international law, eg. on how to ensure the management of the DNS in a manner that respects human rights and international law.



PUBLIC SAFETY WG

Focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures that implicate the safety of the public, eg. develops DNS abuse and cybercrime mitigation capabilities of ICANN and of the law enforcement community.



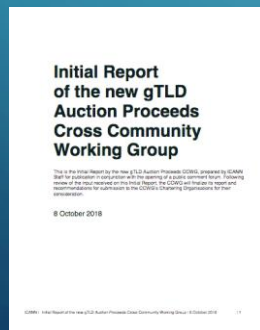
BOARD-GAC INTERACTION WG

Focuses on improving the processing and tracking of GAC advice. Issues under discussion have included definition of GAC advice and improvements to the process for considering and implementation of GAC advice



CCWG AND PDP PARTICIPATION

- CCWG on auction proceeds
- *Proceeds generated from 16 gTLD auctions were separated and reserved until the multistakeholder community develops a plan for their use.*



- PDP on new gTLD Subsequent Procedures (all work tracks)

Initial Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (Overarching Issues & Work Tracks 1-4)

Supplemental Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (Work Track 5 on Geographic Names at the Top Level)

- PDP on INGO/IGO Curative Rights

ALAC-GAC LIAISONS

- **GAC Liaisons to ALAC:**

- Ana Neves
- Charlotte Simoães

- **ALAC Liaison to the GAC:**

- Yrjö Länsipuro



Questions?