

GAC High-Level Government Meeting

ICANN 80, Kigali (Rwanda)

Laurent Ferrali

NARALO Post iCANN80 Readout, Monday 22nd July 2024



The High-Level Government Meeting

- The HLGM is a key ICANN's meeting taking place every two years
- The aim of the HLGM is to raise high level political awareness about ICANN's role and activities in the broader Internet Governance space
- The HLGM is not a formal GAC meeting

HLGM Background

The High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) provides the opportunity to:

- Reaffirm the critical role that governments play in providing advice to the ICANN Board on public-policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the DNS.
- Enable all parties to gain a clearer understanding of the role of governments in ICANN processes, including the GAC.
- Discuss current public policy issues and challenges at very senior level. These discussions can occur between government and government, as well as between governments and the ICANN leadership group.
- Expose very senior administrative officials and senior elected officials (Ministers, members of legislative bodies) to ICANN, allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the organisation and the issues it deals with. In turn, this may lead to better support for and resourcing of GAC representatives within their home administrations.
- Reach out to administrations and governments who are not yet, or not currently, represented on the GAC or in other ICANN forums.

HLGM Background

- The GAC has looked to host an HLGM High Level Governmental Meeting (HLGM) in conjunction with an ICANN meeting and in addition to the usual GAC meeting approximately once every two years
- The concept grew out of recommendations made by previous Accountability and Transparency Review Teams (ATRT1 and ATRT2)
- ATRT1 Recommendation 14:

“The Board should endeavor to increase the level of support and commitment of governments to the GAC process. First, the Board should encourage member countries and organizations to participate in GAC deliberations and should place a particular focus on engaging nations in the developing world, paying particular attention to the need to provide multilingual access to ICANN records. Second, the Board, working with the GAC, should establish a process to determine when and how ICANN engages senior government officials on public policy issues on a regular and collective basis to complement the existing GAC process.”

HLGM Background

- ATRT2 Recommendation 6.7:

“Recommends that the Board work jointly with the GAC, through the Board-GAC Recommendation Implementation (BGRI) working group, to regularize senior officials’ meetings by asking the GAC to convene a High Level meeting on a regular basis, preferably at least once every two years. Countries and territories that do not currently have GAC representatives should also be invited and a stock-taking after each High Level meeting should occur.”

Why this HLGGM was important for ICANN?

- New HLGGM organized after a 5-years gap
- WSIS+20 and Global Digital Compact context
- First HLGGM organized in the Sub-Saharan region

Agenda of the HLG M

Session 1: ICANN and the Multistakeholder Model

Session 2: Cooperation and Governance

Session 3: Toward a Better Digital Inclusion

Session 4: Support the Development of Meaningful Connectivity in Africa

HLGM Attendance

- The HLGM was attended in person by 56 government delegations, and 14 Intergovernmental organizations (including 22 high-level officials)
- 22 Members of Parliament from 15 African countries
- 17 GAC Member governments observed the HLGM remotely

HLGM Main Takeaways

- Good attendance (taking into account several challenges)
- Strong involvement of High-Level Officials in the different panel sessions
- Global Support of the Internet Governance Multistakeholder Approach
- Need to think about potential improvements

Thank You!



One World, One Internet

Visit us at icann.org



[@icann](https://twitter.com/icann)



facebook.com/icannorg



youtube.com/icannnews



flickr.com/icann



linkedin/company/icann



soundcloud/icann



instagram.com/icannorg