

Last updated 29 November 2017
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Questionnaire

1. What guidelines does your group have for supported travelers? How do these differ from the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines?

The GAC travel support guidelines (last updated in January 2017) can be found on the GAC website here: <https://gac.icann.org/meeting-services/travel-assistance>.

Slots for 35 GAC Members and 5 Observers are allocated for travel support to each ICANN Public Meeting in FY18.

Supported travelers from eligible countries are drawn from a list based on the [World Bank economic classification of low, lower-middle and upper-middle economies](#), in addition to the United Nations' groupings of [Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#) and [Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)](#) which are based on criteria that go beyond the World Bank's economic assessment.

The GAC travel support rules do not differ much from the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines. Indeed, both focus on one of the primary purposes of ICANN's travel support, that is:

"To overcome financial hardship, especially for those in least, or lesser, developed countries, assist some community members who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend and participate;"

2. What aspect of the current ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines work well for your group?

Additional to the purpose noted above, the community appreciates the ease of travel arrangements via ICANN's constituency travel team and the flexibility accorded for travellers who prefer to build their own itinerary and choice of accommodation (from preference list).

3. What specific area of the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines affect your group the most?

A supported traveller's itinerary is normally required to be confirmed before the ICANN's meeting agenda is developed and finalised. In this instance, supported travellers participating in CCWGs, capacity development workshops or other meetings can be affected in terms of not being able to attend due to their arrival having to be confirmed prior to the confirmation of the ICANN meeting agenda.

In addition, many attendees have problems with obtaining multiple transit VISAs for onward journey to an ICANN meeting. The cost of the air ticket for such route may be cheaper but the associated costs for transit VISA may be more and the amount for reimburse is not justified. As such, itineraries with multiple stops should be avoided.

4. What area might be added to the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines to provide additional support to your group?

Visa application: It is costly and time-consuming to apply in person for a VISA. Consideration for selected applicants towards increasing the reimburse threshold or full reimbursement would alleviate financial strain for supported travellers.

Supported travellers outside of ICANN meetings: Consideration for travel support for community members required to attend or participate in outreach or capacity development workshops especially if they are leading this work e.g. co-chairs

5. How does your group allocate its community travel support slots? How are members prioritized? How are newcomers to ICANN considered?

The GAC travel support rules selection criteria are as follows:

- 1) Only those GAC participant candidates from countries and territories matching the World Bank economic classification of low, lower-middle and upper-middle economies, in addition to the United Nations' groupings of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are eligible to receive travel support for up to 3 consecutive ICANN Public Meetings. In case there are more requests than available slots, priority will be given to GAC candidates from SIDS, LDCs and lower income countries. In exceptional cases, if slots remain available after prioritized requests have been granted, candidates from other categories may be considered and accepted by the Selection Committee, provided a reasoned justification for acceptance is issued. Likewise, requests from candidates who have attended 3 consecutive meetings with travel support may exceptionally be considered by the Selection Committee if there are remaining slots after the selections for a particular meeting have been made.
- 2) The traveler must be an authorized GAC Member representative as delineated at [this link](#). For exceptions, see item "4)" below.
- 3) The program only supports one traveler from each GAC Member per meeting.
- 4) This program is ordinarily available to GAC Members, but non-GAC Member requests can be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account other existing resources of ICANN funding.
- 5) Priority consideration can be given to a candidate based on the location of the GAC meeting in order to enhance participation from a particular region.
- 6) Priority consideration can be given to candidates holding an elected GAC position or appointed to lead GAC work on a particular topic.
- 7) GAC candidates may apply for partial support (for instance, airfare only, hotel only or hotel and per diem only).
- 8) A pre-approved organization needs to file timely requests for each meeting to be eligible for travel support for that meeting. The above criteria applies as

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appropriate for such requests. However, the limit to three consecutive meetings with travel support does only apply to such requests if there are more such requests than available slots for pre-approved organizations.

If a new GAC Member apply for travel support and travel support slots are still available, new GAC Members will most likely be allocated travel support for the upcoming meeting.

6. What, if any, educational and informational activities does your group conduct to inform participants of ICANN community resources?

In the past, at ICANN Public Meetings, the GAC has invited ICANN Staff to give a presentation on the various assistance programs such as the Fellowship, Mentor/Mentee, Leaderships and onboarding programs. Another such presentation is envisioned for ICANN 61 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

7. What are actionable and measurable expectations your group or leadership has for members who receive travel support? Are there follow-up reporting requirements for members who attend ICANN Public Meetings and/or receive Community Regional Outreach Program (CROP) funding?

ICANN Constituency Travel sends the list of final travelers once an ICANN Meeting has ended. This list contains the supported travelers' names and whether they attended or not the ICANN Meetings and when possible for what reason they did not attend.

The GAC keeps that information for the GAC Selection Committee (GAC Leadership) when selecting the GAC supported travelers for the next ICANN Meeting. As many GAC participants find themselves typically engaging during ICANN meetings, at this time there are no specific reporting requirements for program participants.

8. Instead of reimbursement for travel-related expenses, would your members prefer to receive a stipend or per diem from the ICANN organization?

Yes. However, for a visa application, a reimbursement procedure on a case by case basis for those whose costs go over the reimburse threshold.

9. Are there categories of travel and events that you are not presently able to support?

Over the past year, in collaboration with the ICANN Org Government Engagement and Global Stakeholder Engagement teams, the GAC Underserved Regions Working

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Group has initiated a series of “pilot” capacity building workshops to inform, and educate GAC participants in various regions about the work of the GAC. This program encourages more active and informed involvement by GAC Member representatives around the world. Unfortunately, ICANN’s travel support program does not currently extend to these activities and limited travel support is secured from sponsors or contributions. It would be very helpful if some level of consistent ICANN Travel Support could be identified for these valuable engagement activities.

10. How does your group plan for upcoming events? What is your planning cycle for deciding on whether ICANN community or organization resources might be used?

Usually, on the last day of an ICANN Public Meeting, GAC Support Staff sends an email to the entire GAC membership with the URL link needed to complete the travel support request form for the next meeting. Interested GAC participants then have approximately ten (10) business days to submit their request via the travel support form.

Following that, GAC Support Staff gathers all the information received and creates a table for the GAC Leadership/ Selection Committee to review GAC Members travel support applications. The table already has all the information the Selection Committee needs to make its selection, taking into the account the GAC travel support rules.

You are welcome to append any general comments on the community resource consultation.

It would be good to not just note the attendance of those who received travel support but to ensure their active participation. It is not expected that active participation will take place during the 1st meeting, but perhaps after the 3rd meeting of attending with travel support, there needs to be evidence that these individuals are actively contributing and participating in the work of ICANN.

There needs to be an accountable return on investment of those individuals who receive travel support.

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