

GNSO Liaison to the GAC annual report 2020

2020 has been an exceptional year due to the COVID-19 epidemic and, as a result, ICANN meetings moving to a virtual format. While spreading out the sessions over a longer period and thus having less overlap between GNSO and GAC sessions has made participation easier, the lack of ability to personally interact with key stakeholders and GAC members has been a significant handicap. A large part of the liaison work involves discussing and understanding the concerns of GAN members, and that has been very difficult with the virtual meetings.

GAC involvement in PDPs has continued, especially with the EPDP II and the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. Within the framework of the Quick Look Mechanism, the GAC was notified that the GNSO Council has requested the preparation of a Preliminary Issue report on the issues identified in the Transfer Policy Initial Scoping Paper.

As I stated in my 2019 report, it might time to again have a joint look at the mechanisms to see if any updates or changes are needed, but I think it would be fair to let the incoming liaison spend some time (and at least one full meeting) to form an informed view on what works, what doesn't and what the challenges are.

As I am stepping down from the liaison role at the end of ICANN69, I would like to thank the GAC and GNSO leaderships, support staff, GNSO council and GAC members who have all been very supportive and helpful during my years as a liaison, and wish you the all the best as you continue to develop the working relationship between the GAC and the GNSO.