

# Interactions with the GAC

**The need to continue bridging relationships**

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GNSO Liaison to the GAC



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# Current Status of GNSO / GAC Relationship

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Over the past several years, communication between the GAC and the GNSO have greatly improved.

- Starting with SubPro, the GAC has not only been invited to participate in PDPs but have taken GNSO up on most of the offers.
- Certain PDP WG Chairs have been invited to present to GAC (SubPro / IGO-WT)
-  • Monthly meetings between GNSO Liaison to GAC and GAC Point of Contact (Began early '21)
  - Discuss outcomes of the GNSO Council Meetings
  - Discuss outcomes of GAC Intercessional Meetings and GAC Leadership Meetings
  - Discuss opportunities for GAC engagement
  - Set Agenda for Bilateral Meetings
- The GAC Leadership team and GNSO Leadership Team meet a few weeks before the ICANN Meeting to solidify many agenda topics and discuss current state of activities.
-  • GNSO Council Liaison works with GAC Point of contact to get GAC discussion points / questions prior to ICANN Bilateral (Started ICANN 70)

# Role of GNSO Council Liaison

Responsibilities	2021 Status	Comments
Attend and participate as required in GAC meetings during ICANN meetings and possible intercessional meetings	 / 	I have participated actively in GAC meetings at ICANN, but not invited to intercessional mtgs.
Represent/communicate policy work of GNSO in neutral/objective manner		
Liaise w/ICANN policy staff who may assist, in preparation of briefing materials		This is not something that has happened despite several requests.
Liaise with relevant working groups, utilizing GNSO Council liaisons where required, to be current and knowledgeable on work	N/A	Have followed all groups closely so have not needed information from Liaisons, but am open if need arises.
Provide regular updates to the GNSO Council		
Keep GAC updated in opportunities for early engagement/how input was considered/Assist with facilitation of conflict resolution	 / 	Monthly mtgs with GAC Point of contact to keep GAC up to date on GNSO activities. Need to do better job in letting them know how input was considered

# Practical Working

Practical Working	2021 Status	Comments
Attend all GAC open meetings and be allowed to request the floor		I have participated actively in GAC Open meetings at ICANN, and allowed to request the floor.
Attend GAC closed meetings discussing GNSO related topics and be allowed to request the floor		We have not been invited to attend any closed meetings or intercessional meetings.
Attend GAC conference calls by invitation and accordingly be allowed to request the floor		We have not been invited to attend any closed meetings or intercessional meetings.
Join GAC working groups by invitation and accordingly be allowed to request the floor		Have followed all groups closely so have not needed information from Liaisons, but am open if need arises.
Will not be on the GAC mailing list but may send to it through the mailing list admin and receives replies by being cc'd.		If, and when, messages need to be sent to GAC, it is done in this way.

# Recommendations To Further Improve Relationship



GAC Briefing Materials from ICANN staff prior to ICANN meetings should be reviewed by GNSO for accuracy and to avoid misunderstandings



Bring back Council Prep Sessions for GAC Bilateral and provide early feedback to GAC prior to Bilateral



Appoint Council Topic Leads to discuss Council Positions (likely PDP Liaisons) during Bilateral



Make Response to Communique much more substantive as opposed to only factual. Should be honest and direct where conflicts exist and any mechanisms (if any) to resolve conflict.



Post-ICANN Bilateral amongst leadership teams to discuss Communique and Response to GAC Communique



Request invite for GNSO Council Liaison to attend GAC Intercessional meetings on GNSO topics