
Agenda Item 18: GAC Independent Secretariat

Issue

Status of independent secretariat services to the GAC by ACIG.

Action required by GAC

1. Note that services will be provided by ACIG under the current contract at the level of 1.0 FTE until 31 January 2019.
2. Consider whether and how, the GAC wishes to develop workable options for a sustainable independent secretariat function for the longer term.

Current Position

ACIG services to the GAC for an independent secretariat function are provided under a contract between ICANN and ACIG. Funding is from GAC members who are donors. Payment is made through a GAC Secretariat Funding Association based in Switzerland and supported by the Swiss Government. ACIG invoices ICANN for its services and the Association transfers funds to ICANN to cover these invoices.

At its Abu Dhabi meeting "GAC members agreed to continue efforts to widen the number of countries making contributions for 2018 and into 2019. Continuation of ACIG services beyond 30 November 2017 will be further discussed with the GAC Chair."¹

ICANN and ACIG concluded a new contract on 22 September 2017 which provides for ACIG services until 31 January 2019. This does not guarantee funding, which is assessed in advance each quarter by the GAC Chair.

ACIG has been providing services at the minimum level of 1.0 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) since 1 May 2017. This is a significant reduction from the level of 2.5 FTE that was agreed following the GAC's initial establishment of the secretariat in 2013.

The GAC has previously discussed the need for longer-term, sustainable funding arrangements for the independent secretariat, but has not decided on a course of action.

Further Information

[GAC Abu Dhabi Minutes](#)

[GAC Abu Dhabi Communiqué](#)

Document Administration

Title	GAC Independent Secretariat
GAC Brief No.	18-09
Distribution	GAC Members
Distribution Date	20 February 2018

¹ GAC Abu Dhabi Minutes