**Synopsis of key input documents - GAC Communiqués regarding WHOIS (2007-2015), especially GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services (2007)**

The March 2007 GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services were published with the aim to inform and guide the work of the ICANN Board. The GAC recognised that with the evolution of the internet the WHOIS is used for public policy related activities beyond its original function (para 2.1) and stated that these should be reflected in the WHOIS definition, purpose and operation (para 3.1): providing contact points for e.g. network operators to support the security and stability of the internet (para 2.1.1), allowing users to determine the availability of domain names (para 2.1.2), assisting law enforcement authorities (which may include private parties) in investigations (para 2.1.3), assisting in combating against abusive use of ICTs including e.g. child abuse material (para 2.1.4),facilitating clearance of trademarks and countering intellectual property infringements (para 2.1.5), helping users to identify persons or entities responsible for content or services online (para 2.1.6) and assisting in combating fraud and general compliance with relevant laws (para 2.1.7).

The validity of the March 2007 GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services has been reconfirmed by the GAC on several occasions, including with the April 2013 GAC 46 Beijing Communique in relation to the WHOIS Expert Working Group (EWG) and in the March 2016 GAC 55 Marrakech Communique in relation to the Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues PDP Working Group.

The March 2007 GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services also recognised concerns about e.g. conflicts of WHOIS with national laws, including on privacy and data protection (para 2.2.2) and underlined the need for compliance with applicable national laws (para 3.2).

The March 2007 GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services also summarised that the WHOIS service should provide sufficient and accurate data about domain name registrations and registrants subject to national safeguards for individuals' privacy in a manner that 1) supports the stability, reliability, security and global interoperability of the Internet, from both a technical and public trust perspective and 2) facilitates continuous, timely and world-wide access (para 3.3).