ICANN76 Policy Outcomes Report

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A Successful **ICANN76**

Thank you for participating in the ICANN76 Community Forum!

On behalf of my ICANN organization colleagues, we hope this ICANN Public Meeting allowed for dynamic discussions and the continuation of substantive work. We appreciate the proactive engagement and robust attendance of 2,019 participants (1,204 in person and 815 remotely) from 164 countries and territories.

The ICANN76 Policy Outcomes report captures decisions and outcomes from the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. This report also reviews additional activities and provides resources to enable sustained engagement on important issues. For the first time, this report provides summaries of the joint sessions held between the ICANN Board and ICANN community groups.

The ICANN community develops consensus-driven policy and advice that ensure the security, stability, and resiliency of the global Internet. The ICANN organization is proud to facilitate this work by enabling efficient and effective bottom-up participation in the multistakeholder model.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C. for the ICANN77 Policy Forum.

Best regards,

David Olive
Senior Vice President,
Policy Development Support

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ICANN Board and the Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

This summary of a joint session between the ICANN Board and an ICANN community group held during ICANN76 does not replace proper consideration of policy recommendations, advice, Public Comment submissions, or correspondence.

15 March 2023 | Joint session materials

ICANN Board members Alan Barrett and Christian Kaufmann opened the joint session with introductions. Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Chair John Curran introduced the chief executive officers of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) and the ASO Address Council.

The ICANN Board asked the ASO whether it is satisfied with the exposure that numbering issues receive during ICANN Public Meetings. Curran noted that the robust numbers community meets during RIR meetings. The numbers community does not need the same level of exposure during ICANN Public Meetings. If ICANN community members would like to get involved in numbers policy, then the RIR communities are the best venue. ASO Secretary Paul Wilson noted that the ASO will respond to requests from the ICANN community as necessary.

ASO member Hans Petter Holen suggested returning to the tradition of organizing social interactions between ICANN Board members and RIR Board members during RIR meetings. ASO Address Council Chair Hervé Clément thanked ICANN for its support. Curran noted that the ASO is always invited to participate in the opening ceremony of ICANN Public Meetings. ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha encouraged collaboration because it benefits the entire global Internet community. ICANN Board members Maarten Botterman and Edmon Chung echoed the support for interactions between ICANN and the RIRs.

The ICANN Board asked the ASO about the risks of independence and what kind of support the ASO would like from ICANN. Curran noted that the RIRs have communities and elected governance leadership. RIRs also coordinate operationally to ensure stability. Curran noted that ICANN has an important role in the stability of the identifier space. The RIRs periodically assess their governance, driven by the RIR communities. The RIR communities must analyze their own comfort with the existing, limited self-governance system. Wilson explained that each RIR conducts two conferences a year, including an annual general meeting to hold governance elections. ASO member Oscar Robles noted that ICANN could engage in outreach activities within RIR communities. Sinha affirmed that ICANN will take that into consideration.

Curran stated that most RIR community members may not appreciate multistakeholder governance of the Internet identifiers. Clément described the ongoing work of the ASO Address Council to revise its operational procedures and how it carefully considers requests of ICANN. Botterman expressed a desire to align messaging more closely and lauded the resilience of the RIR communities. Curran highlighted the need to broadly communicate that everyone can participate in how the Internet is governed. Interim ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sally Costerton described the regional engagement work of ICANN and existing collaboration between ICANN and the RIRs. Robles shared that other organizations have connections to RIR communities, and RIR staff continue to maintain operations, especially in Africa.

Curran noted that the RIRs support ICANN and thanked ICANN for providing an organizational home for the numbers community. ICANN Board member Patricio Poblete asked about operational limits for the African Networking Information Centre, and Curran explained that the RIRs will serve as a backstop. Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) Chair Kenny Huang encouraged ICANN to develop a stability fund much like the RIRs. Curran explained that ICANN is already well-established to support extraordinary situations. APNIC member Brajesh Jain asked how operational differences are resolved. Curran noted that each RIR is accountable to its community. There are joint projects across the RIRs, and the RIRs are increasingly similar in their practices.

Sinha explained that ICANN will bolster its regional meetings and called on all partners to strengthen their governance. Barrett concluded the joint session.

ccTLD-related ICANN Board Members and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

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15 March 2023 | [Joint session materials](#)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council Chair Alejandra Reynoso opened the joint session and noted agenda adjustments.

ccNSO Councilor Tatiana Tropina asked the country code top-level domain (ccTLD)-related ICANN Board members about progress and next steps on the Holistic Review. ICANN Board member Katrina Sataki recalled the Holistic Review recommendation from the third Accountability and Transparency Review (ATRT3), noting that the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) oversees all reviews. OEC and ATRT3 members developed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed Holistic Review and then published them for Public Comment. The TOR team reviewed the input and continues to develop revised TOR. Tropina noted ccNSO concerns with the vague and undefined scope.

Reynoso asked about ICANN Board priorities and their relation to ccNSO affairs. ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha listed the ICANN Board priorities:

1. Implementing approved New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) recommendations, the Registration Data Request System, and ICANN Grant Program
2. Improving relationships with the ICANN community
3. Identifying efficiencies in the operations of the ICANN Board
4. Hiring the next ICANN President and CEO
5. Mitigating Domain Name System (DNS) abuse

ICANN Board Vice Chair Danko Jevtović also addressed the ICANN planning process and prioritization efforts, including a revised framework. ccNSO Council Vice Chair Jordan Carter asked whether there will be additional improvements for prioritizing ICANN work and noted that the ccNSO Council is reviewing how its Triage Committee prioritizes ccNSO work. ICANN Board member Becky Burr asked the ccNSO to share its lessons learned.

ccNSO Councilor Sean Copeland noted that the ccNSO has updated its rules twice and implemented a statement of interest. Copeland also commended the ICANN Academy Leadership Program and encouraged more, similar programming. Copeland shared that the ccNSO will adopt simple, consistent terminology across its work. Sataki asked the ccNSO whether it has considered organizational surveys. ICANN Chief Financial Officer Xavier Calvez commented on the success of the prioritization pilot. Moving forward, the intent is to integrate prioritization across ICANN, which will lead to more efficiency.

Copeland asked the ccTLD-related ICANN Board members about the roles and responsibilities of the ccNSO, ICANN Board, and ICANN organization regarding implementation of ccNSO-developed policies. ICANN Board member Patricio Poblete commented that the ICANN Board appreciates the consideration and proactive approach of the ccNSO Council. Poblete noted that the implementation of the retirement policy is well underway. Poblete added that the ICANN Board ad-hoc group on the retirement policy had completed its final tasks to develop an outline to guide future ICANN Board work with respect to ccNSO-developed policies. Copeland asked Poblete if the ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members

are the appropriate liaisons. Sataki noted that, though it would be preferable to have ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members, subject matter experts with direct experience on the topic may be more appropriate.

Carter asked the ccTLD-related ICANN Board members if there are ongoing discussions in the ICANN Board about the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) review process. Jevtović explained that the ICANN Board plans to better understand, align, and coordinate with other partner Internet governance organizations. ccNSO Councilor Javier Rua commented on the consequential statement from Sinha about the value of diversity in the multistakeholder model of Internet governance during the opening ceremony. Sataki asked the ccNSO about the unscripted format of the joint session.

ccNSO member Byron Holland asked if the ICANN Board has any concerns about not having a permanent ICANN President and CEO for up to a year. Burr noted the ICANN Board wants to conduct a thorough search process and wants to find the right person for the role. The ICANN Board does not have any concerns with the interim ICANN President and CEO. ccNSO member Roelof Meijer asked about the mixed messaging of not rushing the process while trusting the current appointee. Poblette commented that this was not a contradiction. Holland emphasized that a caretaker/interim CEO is not the same as a permanent CEO.

Reynoso closed the joint session.
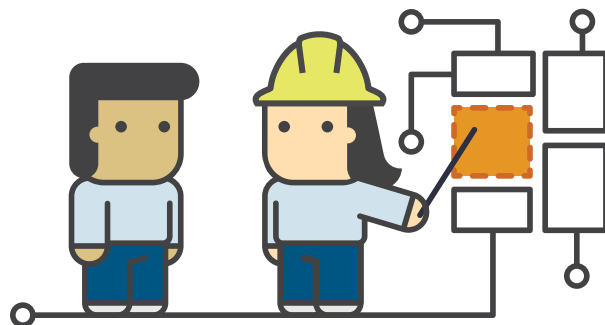
ICANN Board and the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council

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ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha opened the joint session and thanked the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council for its recommendations from the New gTLD SubPro Policy Development Process (PDP).

Before addressing the questions that the ICANN Board and GNSO Council shared with each other, ICANN Board member Becky Burr identified four items that must be addressed before a launch date is set for the next round of new gTLDs:

1. The consideration of the 38 pending SubPro recommendations.

2. An expedited approach for the Implementation Review Team (IRT) process on the approved SubPro recommendations.

3. The policy work, or alternate path, following the completion of the Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue.

4. All charter questions of the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names that will impact the next Applicant Guidebook.

After the SubPro update, GNSO Council Vice Chair John McElwaine began addressing the ICANN Board question to the GNSO Council, asking how the ICANN Board plans to ensure the SubPro IRT does not relitigate policy development issues. GNSO Councilor Paul McGrady emphasized that any IRT should respect the policy development role of the GNSO Council and asked for an active ICANN Board liaison to every IRT. McGrady noted that a GNSO Council small team will analyze the pending SubPro issues. However, McGrady also stated that the GNSO Council is considering PDP and IRT improvements more generally, with the expectation that the overall cycle is improved and makes work easier for everyone involved. Burr advocated for a dialogue between the ICANN Board and GNSO Council at every step. ICANN Board member Avri Doria agreed that the ICANN Board must be present in the IRT process. Doria noted that the ICANN Board is also looking to improve its consideration of GNSO policy recommendations.

GNSO Councilor Thomas Rickert highlighted the guidelines for ICANN Board liaisons and ICANN organization Global Domains and Strategy liaisons to GNSO working groups. There is value in ensuring the liaisons talk to each other to provide a clearer understanding of the landscape. Interim ICANN President and CEO Sally Costerton agreed it was a logical and sensible approach and asked if there are any specific examples of previous challenges. ICANN Board member Edmon Chung stated that the ICANN Board and ICANN organization have started coordinating in the context of the Expedited PDP on Internationalized Domain Names, but this should be documented and consistent. Burr noted that there are lessons learned about the implications and legal parameters of policy recommendations, which could have been resolved in the EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2. Burr noted that there is also a need for a more conscious approach to questions in a PDP to minimize the scope of future Operational Design Phases (ODP). Doria also emphasized that ICANN must consider when and how to use the ODP.

Burr thanked the GNSO Council for its curative rights recommendations and noted that GAC Consensus Advice on the matter called for a permanent pre-registration notification system. The ICANN Board will not support that approach and proposed an alternative post-registration notification system. Burr noted that the ICANN organization is remiss in delivering that alternative system. Moreover, the ICANN Board will consult with the GAC to determine if its curative rights

Consensus Advice remains consistent. Burr also noted demand from intergovernmental organizations, registries, brands, and other potential users for reserved strings. GNSO Councilor Susan Payne appreciated the detailed update.

Burr noted the ICANN Board recently directed the ICANN organization to launch the Registration Data Request System (RDRS, formerly the WHOIS Disclosure System) within 11 months. Burr explained that there were questions about a law enforcement exception; this was merely intended to indicate that law enforcement cannot be forced to use RDRS, and there is nothing precluding them from using it. In addition, Burr emphasized that the ICANN Board would like to ensure the integrity of the data through widespread adoption by ICANN-accredited registrars. Furthermore, there is a risk that the RDRS could be deemed a failure because the submission of a request for data will not guarantee the disclosure of the data requested since the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation is still in place; RDRS is not going to solve the problem of

access to data. There will need to be a balance and success criteria. GNSO Council Vice Chair Greg DiBiase thanked the ICANN Board, and McGrady encouraged everyone to celebrate the win across ICANN.

Sinha noted that the ICANN Board is on track to pass several significant resolutions during ICANN76, and McElwaine said the GNSO Council looks forward to continuing its dialogue with the ICANN Board.

ICANN Board and the Contracted Parties House (CPH) of the GNSO Council

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The Contracted Parties House (CPH) of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) comprises the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) and the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG).

ICANN Board member Becky Burr opened the joint session. RrSG Chair Ashley Heineman and RySG Vice Chair Beth Bacon provided welcoming remarks.

The ICANN Board asked the CPH about concrete steps for improving the IRT process. Bacon stated that complexity is often a result of PDP scoping.

RySG participant Marc Anderson described how the contracted parties developed their response, noting that:

1. Narrowly tailored PDPs with a clearly defined charter are critical
2. Early involvement of ICANN Board and ICANN organization liaisons is preferable
3. Observations from the Operational Design Assessment (ODA) would have been helpful during policy development

Anderson later noted that breaking up an IRT (much like PDPs) could be an approach to consider in the future.

RrSG Secretary Eric Rokobauer explained four proposed suggestions for improving the IRT process:

1. Regular cadence and detailed agendas for IRT work sessions
2. Default language for IRT work should come from the PDP
3. IRTs should escalate issues to the GNSO Council or ICANN Board promptly

Anderson emphasized that working groups should be disciplined and clear in their recommendations. Anderson urged that the ICANN Board should push back when that is not the case and added that this is a feature, not a failure, of policy development. ICANN Board member Avri Doria noted that the ICANN Board has been reluctant to do so in the past, and ICANN Board member Matthew Shears suggested more discussion before recommendations are made. Doria commented that talking through issues is helpful. Anderson agreed that it is a productive model for the future.

The CPH asked the ICANN Board about its challenges engaging in PDPs and IRTs. Specifically, Heineman asked the ICANN Board to track the ongoing conversations about the GNSO Statement of Interest (SOI). ICANN Board member Sarah Deutsch noted that guidelines exist for ICANN Board liaisons to PDPs and IRTs. Burr stated that the ICANN Board is aware of the GNSO SOI conversations.

ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha thanked the GNSO for its recommendations from the New gTLD SubPro PDP.

ICANN Board member Becky Burr identified four items that must be addressed before a launch date is set for the next round of new gTLDs:

1. The consideration of the 38 pending SubPro recommendations
2. An expedited approach for the IRT process on the approved SubPro recommendations
3. The Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue
4. The Expedited PDP on Internationalized Domain Names

Bacon thanked Burr for the detailed update.

RySG participant Chris Disspain highlighted the ongoing DNS abuse negotiations between the Contracted Parties and the ICANN organization on updates to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement and Registry Agreements to incorporate new requirements concerning the mitigation of DNS abuse. Burr stated that it was important to acknowledge the early successes of the DNS abuse negotiations. Interim ICANN President and CEO Sally Costerton noted the positive shift and encouraged more resilient collaboration in good faith with the Contracted Parties. Heineman agreed, sharing that ICANN can do things quickly and in a targeted manner. Disspain noted that the DNS abuse negotiations are only one step, and more policy development on this issue could follow. Costerton also stated that efficiency should not come at the expense of the multistakeholder process.

Bacon encouraged the GNSO to start operationalizing improvements identified in this joint session. Burr closed the joint session and recognized RySG Chair Sam Demetriou in absentia.
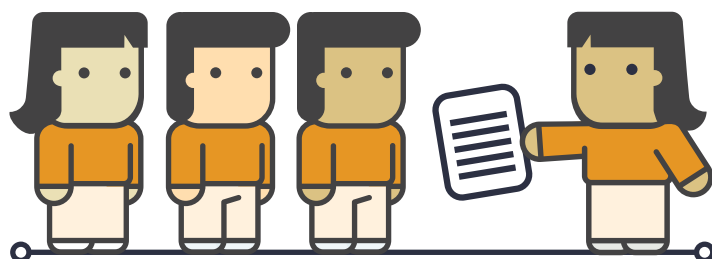
ICANN Board and the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) of the GNSO

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14 March 2023 | [Joint session materials](#)

The Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) comprises the Business Constituency (BC), Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC), and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP).

ICANN Board member Matthew Shears opened the joint session and participants introduced themselves.

The ICANN Board asked the CSG about how to balance agility in policy development with accountability and transparency. Schulman noted the ICANN Board should:

1. Allow the GNSO Guidance Process work through applicant support first and then evaluate it as a mechanism
2. Consider forming expert working groups for specific problems
3. Consider creating new Rapid Response Teams

BC Vice Chair for Policy Coordination Steve DelBianco noted that a limited scope has contributed to the success of GNSO Council small teams. GNSO Councilor from the BC Mark Datysgeld indicated that GNSO Council small teams are an important option and should consider consultations with the ICANN community as a first step. ICANN Board member Maarten Botterman agreed that the ICANN community should continue to find ways to move work forward.

ISPCP Chair Philippe Fouquart asked the ICANN Board about short-term implementation priorities and how the ICANN Board is prompting the ICANN organization. Shears noted the role of the ICANN community in helping the ICANN Board and ICANN organization prioritize work. ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha agreed that implementation work stagnated, but ICANN has made progress in the last three months.

IPC President Lori Schulman noted the name change of the WHOIS Disclosure System to the Registration Data Request System. This indicates that ICANN is listening to the ICANN community. Sinha agreed that it is time to get back to basics of implementation.

BC Chair Mason Cole asked the ICANN Board about the recent joint letter from the ALAC, BC, and IPC about expectations for consultations on the ongoing DNS abuse negotiations with the Contracted Parties based on precedent from 2009 and 2013. ICANN Board member Becky Burr responded that the Contracted Parties entered DNS abuse negotiations with a specific scope, and ICANN intends to honor that. Moreover, contract obligations give the ICANN Contractual Compliance function more enforcement tools. Burr stated that the DNS abuse negotiations are a first step in the process to enable more targeted policy development, which the ICANN Board expects. Burr said the ICANN Board will consider conducting a listening session with the ICANN community about next steps.

The CSG asked the ICANN Board about its plans to have the ICANN organization implement approved policies for thick WHOIS and privacy and proxy services in the context of the European Commission's directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the European Union (NIS2). Burr stated that ICANN is closely following NIS2. Moreover, the ICANN organization implemented the thick WHOIS policy, but enforcement was paused in light of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. Subsequently, Phase 1 policy recommendations from the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data affected the policy on thick WHOIS.

Schulman stated that the CSG interprets registrar obligations differently and asked what the ICANN organization is doing to prepare for implementation. Interim President and CEO Sally Costerton noted that several functions are involved in preparations and a written answer will be provided later. Burr explained that the implementation of the Registration Data Request System may provide an opportunity to implement Consensus Policy recommendations concerning privacy and proxy services. This is an opportunity to test an integrated approach for centralizing the request process. IPC Vice President Brian King asked about the immediate next step, and Burr explained that the ICANN organization is coordinating. IPC Secretary Jan Janssen noted that many NIS2 provisions will have a direct effect. Burr agreed and noted that ongoing work in gTLD registration data accuracy could move the issue forward. Also, ICANN cannot unilaterally say what must happen. Each registry will have to decide what is necessary to comply.

Datysgeld asked the ICANN Board about the status of prioritization work. Shears explained that the ICANN Board will soon go through its prioritization exercise. Previously, this exercise resulted in priorities that aligned with the rest of the ICANN community.

Shears thanked the CSG and concluded the joint session.
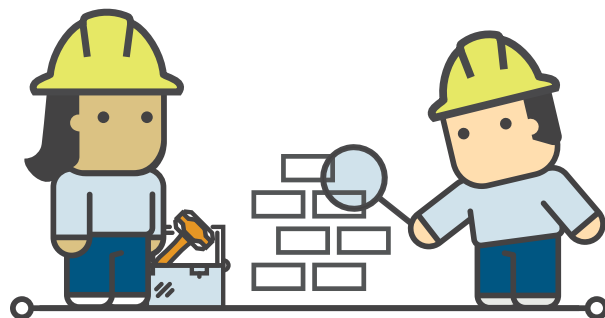
ICANN Board and the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) of the GNSO

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The Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) comprises the Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC) and the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC).

ICANN Board member Matthew Shears opened the joint session with introductions.

The ICANN Board asked the NCSG about the relationship between efficient policy development and accountability and transparency. NCSG member Tomslin Samme-Nlar affirmed the importance of accountability and transparency commitments in the ICANN Bylaws. Shears clarified that the intent of the question was not to undermine the PDP in the ICANN Bylaws. NCSG member Farzaneh Badii encouraged the ICANN Board to refrain from re-opening resolved issues. ICANN Board member Edmon Chung stated that the ICANN Board takes its responsibility to work through issues in the global public interest seriously. NCSG member Kathy Kleiman emphasized concerns about GNSO Council small teams and how the ICANN Board coordinates input through them. Badii asked the ICANN Board if it tracks how long it takes to review ICANN community recommendations. ICANN Board member Avri Doria noted the ICANN Bylaws requirement to respond to ICANN review recommendations.

The NCSG asked the ICANN Board about its thoughts regarding the GNSO statement of interest. ICANN Board member Maarten Botterman noted that the ICANN Board will not opine on a GNSO matter; however, the ICANN Bylaws stress the importance of ICANN operating "to the maximum extent feasible in an open and transparent manner." NCSG member Stephanie Perrin noted that there may not be specific concerns about conflicting interests but there may be undisclosed convergence of interests.

The NCSG then asked the ICANN Board about the impact of the pandemic on engagement and finances. ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha noted the decline in participation during the pandemic; however, there has been a shift in momentum toward getting things done. ICANN Board Vice Chair Danko Jevtović spoke about the significant savings due to limited travel. This enabled contributions to the reserve fund, for example. The ICANN Board will continue to be a good steward of these resources.

NPOC Chair Raoul Plommer asked the ICANN Board about the rationale for limited noncommercial representation on the ICANN Nominating Committee. ICANN Board member Katrina Sataki spoke about the rebalancing recommendation of organizational review of the ICANN Nominating Committee, noting that the GNSO did not accept the recommendation. The ICANN Board will ask the ICANN organization to conduct engagement sessions with the ICANN community to explore the composition issues on the ICANN Nominating Committee. NCSG member Bruna Martins Dos Santos stressed the importance of increasing diversity.

The NCSG asked the ICANN Board about its anticipated incremental decisions related to New gTLDs. ICANN Board member Avri Doria referenced ongoing ICANN community work and other dependencies that need to be addressed to inform ICANN Board consideration of New gTLD SubPro PDP outputs. ICANN Board member Becky Burr noted that there are specific steps to the ICANN Board consideration process.

NCSG member Kathy Kleiman asked the ICANN Board about plans for applicant support in the next round of new gTLDs and lauded the NCSG participants of the Policy Transition Program pilot on the same topic. Doria shared that the ICANN Board is committed to ensuring that there is enough time to develop the Applicant Support Program. Kleiman asked

Interim ICANN President and CEO Sally Costerton about how NCSG can best express its concerns about timing. Costerton responded that it is part of a larger sequencing discussion in the ICANN Board consideration of SubPro. Chung noted that the ICANN organization has already started initial planning.

The NCSG asked the ICANN Board about the search process for the next ICANN President and CEO. ICANN Board member Chris Chapman described the search committee, the listening sessions with the ICANN community, and the pressures on ICANN at this inflection point. The next ICANN President and CEO must be fit for the occasion. The ICANN Board will review the short-list with the intent of making an appointment by the end of 2023. Badii encouraged gender diversity as a targeted criterion.

The NCSG asked the ICANN Board about efforts to become carbon neutral. Botterman shared that there is now greater awareness about travel options for ICANN events. Root Server System Advisory Committee Liaison to the ICANN Board Wes Hardaker noted the improvements in virtual participation and encouraged ICANN community members to share ideas.

Shears thanked all participants and closed the joint session.
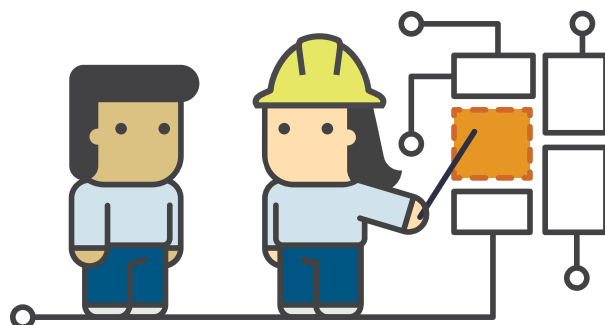
ICANN Board and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

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13 March 2023 | Joint session materials

ICANN Board member León Sánchez opened the joint session with introductions.

The ICANN Board asked the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) how it can better appreciate the work of the At-Large community. ALAC Chair Jonathan Zuck emphasized that the At-Large community is a true volunteer community. ALAC is exploring emeritus status for certain leaders to ensure support goes to newcomers. Zuck also commented on the deployment of new tools to make engagement in ICANN work more accessible and sustainable. ICANN Board member Avri Doria agreed that more collaborative tools could improve ICANN work. ICANN Board member Edmon Chung commented on the proposal to recognize contributions through travel support tied to emeritus status.

ALAC Vice Chair Joanna Kulesza noted that the At-Large community has struggled to retain newcomers. ICANN Board member Maarten Botterman suggested making better use of the ICANN Fellowship Program, and Zuck noted that many At-Large leaders are alumni of the ICANN Fellowship Program. Zuck lauded new subscription features on the ICANN website through the Information Transparency Platform. Sánchez encouraged trial efforts with new tools to facilitate ICANN work. Interim ICANN President and CEO Sally Costerton proposed focused, topic-based engagement along issue tracks as an evolution of ICANN work. Zuck and Costerton discussed the enhanced collaboration between Regional At-Large Organizations and the ICANN organization's regional Global Stakeholder Engagement teams.

The ICANN Board asked the ALAC about the most pressing issues pending implementation for end users. Zuck stated that New gTLDs SubPro is the top priority. ALAC Liaison to the GNSO Justine Chew expanded on this by focusing on ALAC concerns about the annual cycles proposed in Option 2 of Operational Design Assessment; the enforceability of registry voluntary commitments; the nature and scope of applicant support; and the resourcing and marketing for the Applicant Support Program. Chew also noted the ALAC concern about potential gaming of auctions and its standing for community objections. ICANN Board member Becky Burr noted that there is a desire to ensure provisions in contracts are enforceable.

Sánchez thanked the ALAC for its questions, and Zuck thanked the ICANN Board for the positive relationship between the ICANN Board and ALAC.

ICANN Board and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

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ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha opened the joint session. The participants recognized outgoing Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Chair Manal Ismail with a standing ovation.

The ICANN Board asked the GAC about agility, accountability, and transparency in policy development, specifically the emerging role of GNSO Council small teams. Ismail noted that GNSO Council small teams are a useful exercise in limited circumstances for initial ICANN community discussions. However, GNSO Council small teams should not be viewed as a substitute for GNSO policy development. GNSO Council small teams should have a narrow scope, brief duration, and consider ICANN community input by inviting Advisory Committees and other Supporting Organizations to participate in their work. The GAC encouraged more transparency in facilitated dialogues such as the ongoing Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board about anticipated next steps for the 38 pending recommendations from the New gTLD SubPro PDP. Specifically, the GAC asked about how several issues impact the overall implementation timeline:

- Registry Voluntary Commitments
- Applicant Support
- GAC Consensus Advice and GAC Early Warnings
- Community applications
- Auctions

ICANN Board member Avri Doria noted that the ICANN Board intends to cooperate with the relevant ICANN community groups on the remaining work, including the Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue. GAC participant Jorge Cancio (Switzerland) welcomed GAC involvement in further discussions and encouraged the ICANN Board to take the input seriously. GAC participant Kavouss Arasteh (Iran) asked if any GAC advice will be rejected. Doria clarified that there is currently nothing planned for rejection.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board about its view on the ongoing DNS abuse negotiations with the Contracted Parties in the context of recommendations 14 and 15 from the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review. Sinha noted that contract obligations give the ICANN Contractual Compliance function more enforcement tools. ICANN Board member Becky Burr stated that the DNS abuse negotiations are a first step in the process to enable more targeted policy development, which the ICANN Board expects. Arasteh asked if the ICANN Board expects the DNS abuse negotiations will end DNS abuse, which is a separate issue from reporting DNS abuse. Sinha stated that DNS abuse will never be eliminated, but it can be disrupted. Burr added that mitigating DNS abuse is a multifaceted effort and noted the establishment of the industry-led DNS Abuse Institute. GAC representative Nigel Hickson sought assurances from the ICANN Board that there are no misunderstandings about GAC advice on related recommendations.

Ismail stated that the GAC understands proposed contractual changes will be published for Public Comment. Moreover, the GAC encouraged the ICANN Board to consider conducting a listening session with the ICANN community about the DNS abuse negotiations. Burr explained that DNS abuse negotiations are going well. Arasteh asked what the ICANN Board will do with the feedback. Burr responded that the Contracted Parties entered DNS abuse negotiations with a specific scope, and ICANN intends to honor that. If there are objections that undermine the legitimacy of the DNS abuse negotiations, then the ICANN Board will consider next steps.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board to clarify its intent in the 27 February 2023 resolution approving the implementation of the Registration Data Request System (RDRS), formerly the WHOIS Disclosure System. The GAC also encouraged the GNSO Council to work with registries and ICANN-accredited registrars on comprehensive use except for law enforcement requests or requests otherwise required by applicable laws. Burr clarified that it was not the intention of the resolution to exclude law enforcement. Rather, the resolution aimed to acknowledge situations where law enforcement requests or applicable laws require registries and registrars to respond directly. GAC Public Safety Working Group Co-Chair Laureen Kapin asked the ICANN Board to provide written verification of this clarification.

The GAC then discussed specific features planned for the RDRS. Ismail noted that the GAC deems it important to properly log information about approval of requests, denial of requests (and reasons for denials), and the timing of responses. The GAC asked if the RDRS will have this level of additional logging functionality. The ICANN organization responded that it worked closely with the GNSO Council to identify features. Arasteh stated that denial of requests should be based on predetermined, non-discriminatory criteria. GAC participant Luciano Mazza de Andrade (Brazil) asked if the RDRS will be free of charge, which Burr confirmed. Burr also noted that registrars will be required to conduct a balancing test to determine whether a request is justified and based on a legitimate interest. The RDRS will not make this decision.

Next, the GAC asked about the ICANN Emergency Assistance Program (EAP). Sinha explained that the ICANN organization developed the EAP with limited scope and is looking for partners to help. Arasteh encouraged ICANN to work with the International Telecommunication Union on infrastructure matters. Mazza de Andrade also encouraged ICANN to engage with other agencies that have more experience in emergency assistance. The EAP involves several functions within the ICANN organization and is focused on unique situations. Ismail commented that the GAC looks forward to working with the ICANN organization.

Ismail raised the topic of support for curative rights protections for intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and asked if the ICANN Board is aware that a complaint must include notice. Burr thanked the GAC and recalled the GAC advice on a permanent pre-registration notification system for IGO acronyms, noting that the GAC advice has been overtaken by events such as the recommendations from the Expedited Policy Development Process on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs. Burr asked the GAC if this is still a position. The notification system has not been built yet, and the ICANN Board would like to initiate a brainstorming conversation with the GNSO. GAC participant Brian Beckham (World Intellectual Property Organization) commented on the positive signals of this current work and proposed dedicated conversations before ICANN77.

Ismail thanked the ICANN Board and GAC and closed the joint session.
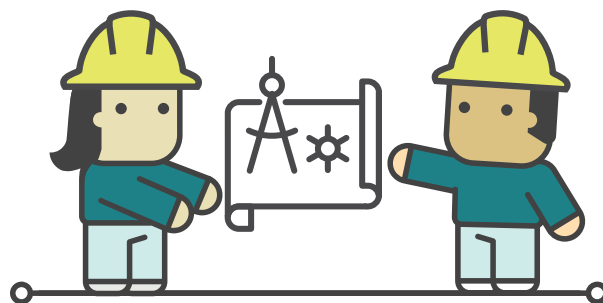
ICANN Board and the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

This summary of a joint session between the ICANN Board and an ICANN community group held during ICANN76 does not replace proper consideration of policy recommendations, advice, Public Comment submissions, or correspondence.

13 March 2023 | Joint session materials

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) Liaison to the ICANN Board Wes Hardaker opened the joint session with introductions.

The ICANN Board asked the RSSAC about the state of the Root Server System (RSS). RSSAC Chair Jeff Osborn stated that the RSS is stable, secure, and resilient because of the technical dedication and constant collaboration of the 12 root server operators (RSOs). Hardaker confirmed that the RSOs communicate regularly, and Osborn shared that there has never been a failure of the RSS. RSSAC Vice Chair Ken Renard stated that the RSOs take note of the Internet security landscape, including threats. RSSAC member Lars-Johan Liman noted that the RSOs are engaged across the Internet community.

The ICANN Board asked RSSAC about three hypothetical growth rates for the root zone (100, 1,000, or 10,000 new top-level domains) in the next round of new gTLDs. Liman explained that root service has adapted to technological changes and traffic volume over the years. RSOs need advanced notice of expected changes to the root zone to adapt. A projection of the change rate is helpful since technically it is largely an administrative function. The three hypothetical growth rates are not worrisome. Hardaker noted that RSSAC published RSSAC031 in 2018 in response to this question from the Generic Names Supporting Organization New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group.

The ICANN Board asked the RSOs about their opinion on the progress of RSS governance work. Osborn noted the progress of the last year and expressed hope for the expected outcomes.

The RSSAC asked the ICANN Board what steps it is taking to monitor threats to the independence of the RSS. ICANN Board Chair Tripti Sinha stated that regulating the RSS is a bad idea and invited ICANN Chief Technology Officer John Crain to share how the ICANN organization monitors these developments. Crain spoke about engagement with public policymakers on technical issues and on the value of multistakeholder Internet governance. ICANN Board member Edmon Chung noted that the ICANN organization provides regular updates to the ICANN Board Technical Committee. RSSAC member Robert Carolina asked how RSSAC can work more closely with the ICANN Government Engagement function. Crain explained that ICANN and the RSOs are part of the same Internet community. ICANN Senior Vice President, Government and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement Mandy Carver encouraged the RSSAC to proactively share information and educational opportunities.

The RSSAC asked the ICANN Board how it envisions supporting engagement with the Internet community to discuss the results. ICANN Board member Christian Kaufmann explained that the Root Server System Governance Working Group (GWG) is composed of other stakeholders and is making good progress. Any ICANN Bylaws and budgetary implications will be handled through ICANN processes that ensure accountability and transparency. ICANN Board member Edmon Chung noted that the GWG is building on a strong record.

Hardaker concluded the joint session.

ICANN Board and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

This summary of a joint session between the ICANN Board and an ICANN community group held during ICANN76 does not replace proper consideration of policy recommendations, advice, Public Comment submissions, or correspondence.

16 March 2023 | <u>Joint session materials</u>

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) Liaison to the ICANN Board Jim Galvin opened the joint session.

SSAC Chair Rod Rasmussen asked the ICANN Board about the importance of promoting Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) as part of ICANN strategic objectives and how SSAC can assist. Rasmussen noted that DNSSEC is an enabling technology with security implications that requires a lot of time, energy, and resources. Rasmussen also noted the challenges for adoption. SSAC member Peter Thomassen discussed developments in DNS automation; Rasmussen and Galvin called out the related policy implications. DNS operators play an important role and did not exist when ICANN was founded.

SSAC member Barry Leiba highlighted other uses for DNSSEC beyond name resolution. SSAC member Jacques Latour shared experiences in Canada with DNSSEC and building digital trust. DNSSEC can be trusted because it is a unique identifier with global scalability in a decentralized model. Latour asked ICANN to develop documentation that demonstrates that digital trust and DNSSEC work well together. Rasmussen talked about the success of the DNSSEC and Security Workshop over the years.

RSSAC Liaison to the ICANN Board Wes Hardaker discussed education and outreach and encouraged more validation. ICANN is also planning another Key Signing Key rollover. ICANN Board member Edmon Chung noted that ICANN should engage in the strategic direction of promoting DNS security. Rasmussen suggested identifying remaining gaps in the development of the next ICANN strategic plan. ICANN Board member Matthew Shears noted that the ICANN Board plans more interaction with the ICANN community in strategic planning. ICANN Board member Maarten Botterman suggested that the SSAC could analyze threats and opportunities across the evolving technology landscape.

IETF Liaison to the ICANN Board Harald Alvestrand described three areas of SSAC work and how ICANN is best positioned to help; however, there is remaining work in the industry and in the IETF. SSAC member Russ Mundy noted that there has never been an effort to analyze the overall gaps and requirements to accomplish widespread use of DNSSEC. This effort could be somewhat analogous to the Universal Acceptance effort, which ICANN has supported.

The ICANN Board asked how SSAC advice can be communicated to the ICANN community and addressed more efficiently within the multistakeholder model. Rasmussen described the existing process, which includes tracking. There are opportunities for improvement such as earlier engagement and dialogue between the ICANN Board, SSAC, and ICANN organization. SSAC recognizes that some of its advice cannot be implemented solely by the ICANN Board or ICANN organization. In these circumstances, SSAC could work with the ALAC or ICANN Global Communications function to share its advice more broadly. Rasmussen also called on other Supporting Organizations and Advisory Communities to share information and input more openly and regularly.

SSAC member Greg Aaron shared that SSAC strives to develop practical advice that stands on its merits. If SSAC advice is not accepted, the SSAC would like to receive honest feedback from the multistakeholder community, in addition to the feedback from the ICANN Board. Interim ICANN President and CEO Sally Costerton noted that the ICANN organization is ready to provide more resources. Botterman explained that SSAC advice is discussed in the ICANN Board Technical Committee and then tracked. Chung noted that GNSO policy development scoping often includes SSAC advice in its consideration and encouraged SSAC to consider early engagement in that work. Shears proposed an interactive session about security opportunities and threats to raise awareness about SSAC perspectives. Rasmussen agreed that more dialogue across the ICANN community and with the ICANN Board and ICANN organization is beneficial.

Galvin adjourned the joint session.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) convened during ICANN76 and conducted five work sessions to advance its work and review of the **ASO AC operating procedures**. The ASO AC discussed potential updates to the following sections:

- Officers
- Meetings
- Global policy development
- Voting
- ICANN Board member selection

The ASO AC coordinates the global policy development work of the Internet numbers community and appoints members to the ICANN Board of Directors, the ICANN Nominating Committee, and other ICANN community groups. The ASO AC consists of 15 members, three from each region. For 2023, Hervé Clément serves as the chair; Nicole Chan and Ricardo Patara serve as vice chairs. They represent Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre, APNIC, and Internet Addresses Registry for Latin America and Caribbean (LACNIC) regions, respectively.

Additional Activities

The ASO partnered with Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) to conduct a session called "**Let's Talk About Numbers.**" The session consisted of presentations about:

- The structure of PTI and the status of allocated resources: Internet Protocol version 4 , Internet Protocol version 6, and Autonomous System Numbers;
- Policy proposals and other important discussion topics in every region.

The ASO also held a joint session with the ICANN Board, responding to questions on the level of interaction with ICANN and independence and self-governance concepts of the Regional Internet Registries.

Resources

ASO AC monthly teleconferences are open to observers. For more information, including the teleconference schedule, observer privileges, and remote participation details, visit the **ASO AC meetings webpage**.

The ASO conducts policy development on RIR community mailing lists and during RIR meetings. For more information about current regional policy development, please refer to the latest ASO AC **updates**.

To stay informed about regional policy development, subscribe to the relevant RIR community mailing list:

- **AFRINIC Resource Policy Discussion**
- **APNIC Policy Special Interest Group**
- **ARIN Public Policy**
- **LACNIC Políticas**
- **RIPE Address Policy Working Group**

or attend an upcoming Regional Internet Registry meeting:

- **ARIN 51** | 16–19 April 2023 | Tampa, Florida, USA
- **LACNIC 39** | 8–12 May 2023 | Mérida, Mexico
- **RIPE 86** | 22–26 May 2023 | Rotterdam, Netherlands
- **APNIC 56** | 7–14 September 2023 | Kyoto, Japan

Please refer to the **ICANN76 schedule webpage** for all open session materials.
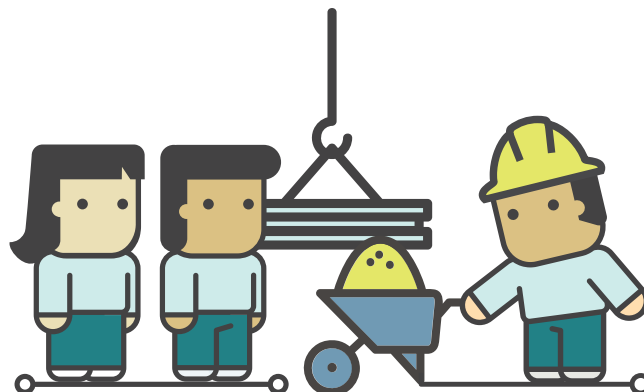
Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN76, the ccNSO held various sessions which included Tech Day, ccNSO Members Meetings, and ccNSO Council sessions. The ccNSO Council re-elected its leadership team for the upcoming year: Alejandra Reynoso (Latin America and Caribbean region) as chair and Jordan Carter (Asia Pacific region) and Adebiyi Oladipo (Africa region) as vice chairs. The ccNSO Council also voted on the recommendation to adopt the proposed policy on the mechanism for the review of the specific decisions on the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). As a next step, the ccNSO Council recommendation will be submitted to ccNSO members for a vote. The ccNSO Council also agreed on next steps regarding the proposed roadmap for the ccNSO and Universal Acceptance. To learn more, visit the **ccNSO Council workspace**.

Additional Activities

During ICANN76, the ccNSO held two ccTLD News Sessions: a general and a themed session.

- The general ccTLD News Session provided a global platform for both experienced and new ccTLD managers to meet, share experiences, and discuss ccTLD-related aspects. The agenda featured a mixture of topics, ranging from cybersecurity, digital identity, and inclusivity to management matters and other issues.

- In the themed session, presenters from different regions shared their experiences and explored the impact of the digital divide in their country, on their ccTLD, and for them as ccTLD managers. Digital divide refers to gaps between demographics and regions in terms of access to modern information and communications technology.

During the ccNSO Members Meeting, the year-long ccNSO twentieth anniversary celebrations began. Previous ccNSO leaders reflected on the evolution and major milestones in the history of the ccNSO. To help us share the ccNSO story in an unforgettable way, ccTLDs and others are now invited to **submit a ccNSO anniversary video** as a unique and memorable way to celebrate.

ccNSO policy development working groups and other committees met during ICANN76. The various working groups and committees prepare **updates** for each ccNSO Council meeting. The updates include information about the status, next steps, and background. Please refer to the **ccNSO ICANN76 session highlights** for detailed agendas and more information.

Next Steps

ccPDP3 Review Mechanism

The ccNSO Council recommendation to adopt the proposed policy from the third Country Code Policy Development Process (ccPDP3) on the mechanism for the review of the specific decisions on the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs will be submitted to ccNSO members for a vote in mid-April. Participation by ccNSO members in this vote is important. The recommended review mechanism policy will only be deemed approved and presented to the ICANN Board for consideration if a minimum of 87 ccNSO members vote and a supermajority supports it.

ccPDP4 IDN ccTLD (de)selection

The fourth ccPDP defines the criteria, process, and procedures for (de)selecting Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLDs associated with the country codes assigned to countries, territories, or other areas of geopolitical interest listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard. The results will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process. The working group is expected to finalize its policy recommendations by June 2023.

ccNSO and Universal Acceptance

Since September 2022, the ccNSO has explored its potential role in Universal Acceptance by adding value to the ccTLD and broader community and avoiding overlap with already existing work by the Internet community. During ICANN76, the ccNSO Council sought feedback from the ccTLD managers on the proposed roadmap for the ccNSO and Universal Acceptance. The roadmap is aligned with ccNSO core responsibilities and focuses on three elements that are expected to benefit ccTLD managers:

- Activate the Universal Acceptance Steering Group liaison

- Create a ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee

- Explore further actions

The terms of reference for the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee will now be drafted. Following adoption by ccNSO Council, the ccNSO Secretariat will launch a call for volunteers.

Governance of the ccNSO

ccNSO GRC

The ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) collected input from the ccTLD community on the proposed ccNSO statement of interest and conflict of interest processes. Future consultation rounds are expected. In addition, the GRC will continue to explore the ccNSO role with respect to the implementation of policies developed through a ccPDP.

ccNSO Council

The ccNSO Council will start a 360-degree feedback process. The aim is to improve the overall quality of the ccNSO Council. Peer review of ccNSO councilors whose terms end by October 2023 and March 2024 will now start. Reviews are expected to be completed by June 2023. Moreover, the ccNSO Council previously agreed that as part of its succession planning process, the roles and responsibilities of ccNSO councilors will need to be reviewed and possibly updated. ccNSO councilors present also agreed that the current assigned roles and responsibilities will be carried forward until May 2023, and the ccNSO Council will establish a small team to continue the review and potentially make suggestions to the ccNSO Council during ICANN77.

Resources

The **ccNSO** is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 for and by ccTLD managers, the ccNSO develops and recommends global policies to the ICANN Board, such as the retirement of ccTLDs. The ccNSO provides a platform to discuss topics and issues of concern, build consensus and technical cooperation, and facilitate the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers.

The ccNSO is administered by the **ccNSO Council**, which consists of 18 ccNSO councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members and three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee). The ccNSO councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO. ccNSO councilors manage the PDP, lead and participate in **various ccNSO working groups**, engage with the ICANN community on topical issues, and develop positions based on ccTLD community feedback. The ccNSO Council meets regularly during ICANN Public Meetings and through monthly teleconferences. ccNSO Council meetings are open to observers.

Consult the **Quick Guide to the ccNSO** to learn more about its work and how it is organized. **Subscribe** to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed. Previous editions are available in the **archive**.

Please refer to the **ICANN76 schedule webpage** for all open session materials.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN76, the GNSO organized 43 sessions, including GNSO PDP working group sessions, small team meetings, sessions devoted to stakeholder group and constituency work, GNSO Council meetings, and joint sessions with other ICANN community groups.

EPDP-IDNs

During ICANN76, the Expedited PDP on Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP-IDNs) held two sessions. During the first session, the EPDP-IDNs Team focused on completing its discussion of potential adjustment to the application fee and the registry-level fees by taking into account the introduction of variant gTLDs. During the second session, the EPDP-IDNs Team conducted the second reading of its draft recommendation text that was circulated prior to ICANN76. The objective of the second reading is to resolve further comments from the EPDP-IDNs Team and finalize these recommendations for inclusion in its Phase 1 Initial Report, which is expected to be published soon.

Transfer Policy Review PDP

The Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group held two sessions during ICANN76. The first session focused on identifying potential opportunities to improve the Transfer Emergency Action Contact, a point of contact that registrars are required to establish for the urgent resolution of issues related to inter-registrar domain transfers. During the second session, working group members and GNSO community participants considered whether there were any gaps in the existing tools and requirements associated with reversing unwanted inter-registrar transfers, as well as potential solutions for addressing those unmet needs.

GGP on Applicant Support

During its ICANN76 working session, the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on Applicant Support Working Group discussed the goals and related approaches to outreach, education, business case development, application evaluation assistance, and identifying metrics as indicators of success. Such indicators may include data that potential supported applicants:

- Are aware of and interested in the Applicant Support Program
- Have access to pro bono and other services, which in turn are shown to lead to successful applications
- Are prioritized from underdeveloped and developing regions
- Demonstrate success throughout the application life cycle (e.g., submission, evaluation, contracting, and delegation)

GNSO Council Small Team: EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2

Following the ICANN Board decision on 27 February 2023 directing the ICANN organization to proceed with the development and launch of the WHOIS Disclosure System as soon as possible, the GNSO Council Small Team on the EPDP on Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 met with the ICANN organization during ICANN76 to discuss next steps and future engagement on the implementation process. In addition to reviewing the timeline and upcoming milestones for implementation, the small team discussed and agreed on a new name for the system that better reflects what the system does in practice. As a result, it will now be called the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS). The ICANN organization intends to launch this new service by the end of 2023.

Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue

Members of the Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue from the GNSO, GAC, and At-Large community met during ICANN76 to continue their work in drafting a framework for closed gTLDs in the New gTLD Program. If agreed, the framework will form the substantive basis for the expected policy details to be resolved through the appropriate GNSO process.

GNSO Council Informal Session

During its informal session on 14 March 2023, the GNSO Council discussed next steps related to New gTLD SubPro, including GNSO Council coordination with the ICANN Board regarding recommendations in pending status.

GNSO Council Meeting

During its meeting on 15 March 2023, the GNSO Council considered:

- Next steps for the consideration of the Expired Domain Deletion Policy and the Expired Registration Recovery Policy

- Review of GNSO-owned projects that may impact SubPro timeline

- Continuation of discussion on next steps for GNSO Council consideration of SubPro recommendations that the ICANN Board is placing in pending status

- Next steps for the RDRS

- GNSO chair election timeline

- Policy Status Report on Policy and Implementation Working Group Final Recommendations Report

The GNSO Council also passed a resolution to adopt the Working Group Self-Assessment Recommendations Report of the GNSO Council Committee for Overseeing and Implementing Continuous Improvement.

Wrap-Up Session

The GNSO Council held a wrap-up session on 16 March 2023, which focused on:

- SubPro small team assignment (triage of pending recommendations)

- SubPro IRT composition

- GNSO Council review of the GAC Communiqué

Additional Activities

During ICANN76, the GNSO held bilateral sessions with the ICANN Board and GAC and an informal discussion with the ccNSO.

The ICANN Board and GNSO Council discussed:

- Concrete steps that the ICANN Board, organization, and community can take to improve the IRT process

- Ensuring ICANN Board and organization input to PDPs

- IGO names

- Getting to the next round of new gTLDs

- RDRS

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) (continued)

The GAC and GNSO Council discussed:

- Subsequent rounds of new gTLDs
- DNS abuse mitigation
- RDRS
- Accuracy of registration data and IGO protections
- Potential GNSO Council response to issues of importance identified in the GAC Communiqué
- The role and limitations of GNSO statements of interest

The ccNSO and GNSO Councils discussed:

- Customer Standing Committee Effectiveness Review
- Coordination between ccNSO and GNSO PDPs on IDNs
- Main findings from the ccTLD DNS abuse survey
- Implementation of ccTLD policies

GNSO Working Session

On 12 March 2023, the GNSO held a three-part working session, which focused on:

- Briefing from the ICANN Nominating Committee
- Preparation for bilateral meetings with the GAC, ICANN Board, and ccNSO
- Celebrating recent GNSO Council accomplishments
- Dialogue with the ICANN organization Global Domains and Strategy function working toward the next round of new gTLDs and the implementation of GNSO policy recommendations

The GNSO also held its first town hall as part of the working session. The town hall provided an opportunity for an open discussion with the GNSO community during which any topics or questions could be raised.

New gTLD SubPro PDP

During ICANN76, the ICANN organization SubPro team held a session with two ICANN Board members to discuss next steps in the implementation of SubPro Final Report recommendations and issues from the Final Report, as detailed in the Operational Design Assessment. During ICANN76, the ICANN Board adopted 98 recommendations contained in the SubPro PDP Final Report and acknowledged the other outputs, specifically implementation guidance and affirmations. The ICANN Board designated 38 outputs as pending, meaning that they require further discussion with the GNSO.

RPMs PDP

On 16 January 2022, the ICANN Board adopted the Phase 1 Consensus Policy recommendations from the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs PDP. The Phase 1 IRT met during ICANN76. Phase 2 of the RPMs PDP will be a review of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP). To assist the GNSO Council in developing the charter and scope of work for Phase 2, the ICANN organization drafted a Policy Status Report on the UDRP, which was published for Public Comment. The GNSO Council considered the final Policy Status Report in August 2022. At its 16 February 2023 meeting, the GNSO Council agreed to defer the next steps for Phase 2 for 18 months while the Phase 1 IRT completes its work.

EPDP-IGOs

The EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs (EPDP-IGOs) delivered its Final Report to the GNSO Council on 4 April 2022. In June 2022, the GNSO Council recommended that the ICANN Board adopt all five final EPDP-IGOs policy recommendations as documented in the Final Report. From November 2022 to January 2023, a Public Comment proceeding was held on the consensus policy recommendations in preparation for ICANN Board consideration. Next steps were on the agenda during GNSO bilateral meetings with the GAC and ICANN Board during ICANN76.

Stakeholder Group and Constituency Sessions

CPH

The Contracted Parties House (CPH) consists of the **Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG)** and the **Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG)**. The CPH held a membership meeting to prepare for their joint meeting with the ICANN Board. The CPH also held a joint session with the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) and discussed next steps on DNS abuse. The CPH hosted a DNS abuse outreach session that included an update on DNS abuse negotiations, CPH responses to GNSO correspondence on DNS abuse, and upcoming ICANN community work on DNS abuse. The RrSG and the RySG both held membership sessions and continued discussions on DNS abuse.

NCPH

The Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH) consists of the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) and the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG). The CSG has three constituencies, and the NCSG has two constituencies. The NCPH did not hold a session during ICANN76.

CSG

During the CSG Membership Session, there was an update on the ICANN Board Seat 14 selection process and on building bridges with the NCSG. Participants also discussed shared priorities for the CSG and NCSG and the impact of the European Commission's directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the European Union on ICANN policies.

The *Business Constituency* session included a presentation about Whois Extensible Markup Language Application Programming Interface research findings on DNS abuse.

The *Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC)* session included a report from the IPC president, a GNSO Council update, and a discussion on the GNSO statement of interest work.

The *Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency* session included a Universal Acceptance update from the ICANN organization, a GNSO Council update, and an update from Professor Jan Aart Scholte and Hortense Jongen on the "Legitimacy in Multistakeholder Governance at ICANN" study.

NCSG

During the NCSG Membership Session, NCSG Chair Julf Helsingius provided an update on administrative issues; a discussion about the Policy Transition Program; and updates on the GNSO statement of interest work, the Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue, and Work Stream 2 recommendations from the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability. The NCSG Policy Session included updates from noncommercial representatives participating in the various GNSO PDPs and a review of the GNSO Council agenda.

The Noncommercial Outreach and Engagement Session featured each constituency presenting their strategic outreach plan. The ICANN organization Global Stakeholder Engagement regional vice presidents also shared their priorities.

The *Noncommercial Users Constituency* held a membership session which included an update on administrative issues and an update on the Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue.

The *Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency* held a membership session which included updates on administrative issues and IDNs and a discussion of sustainability.

Next Steps

The GNSO Council and GNSO working groups will return to their regular work schedules between ICANN meetings. GNSO community leaders will begin preparations for ICANN77 shortly.

Resources

Please refer to the **ICANN76 schedule webpage** for all open session materials.

- **GNSO website**
- **GNSO workspace**
- **GNSO news**
- **GNSO calendar**
- **GNSO on Twitter**
- **ICANN Learn course about the GNSO**
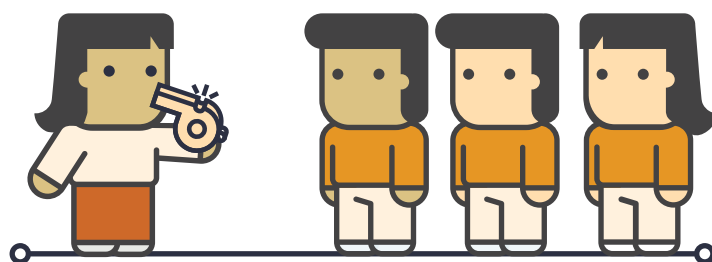
At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Decisions and Outcomes

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), leaders of the Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs), liaisons, and At-Large members held 12 sessions in the three At-Large work streams of policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. The sessions included two policy sessions, two outreach and engagement sessions, three joint sessions with the ICANN Board, Supporting Organizations and other Advisory Committees, two RALO sessions, an At-Large Welcome Session, and an At-Large Wrap-Up Session. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Organization (LACRALO) held its General Assembly over two days during ICANN76.

Additional Activities

Policy Work Stream

Two sessions in the policy work stream focused on At-Large positions related to GNSO policy development.

SubPro Session

During this session, At-Large introduced an initial framework to its members that will be used to identify New gTLDs SubPro recommendations to consider as prerequisites ahead of opening the next round of gTLDs. At-Large is currently comparing the SubPro policy recommendations to its own priorities and will use the framework to conduct discussions on individual topics. This includes looking at recommendations related to DNS abuse, data and metrics, and applicant support for underserved regions. Following ICANN76, At-Large will use its prioritization subteam, the Consolidated Policy Working Group, and the Operations, Budget, and Finance Working Group to facilitate discussions.

Unfinished Business and the Role of the ODP

This was the third ALAC-hosted session on policy-related topics that benefit from further ICANN community discussion. The focus of this session was on the role of the (ODP and the two ODPs conducted by the ICANN organization.

During this session, panelists from the ICANN organization, the ICANN Board, and the ICANN community discussed what criteria exist to determine when a policy stalemate is referred to the ICANN organization or the ICANN community. The panelists agreed that the ICANN Board has a role to play in breaking deadlocks. There is a broad understanding that while these discussions are complex, there are always ways to reflect on processes and possible improvements. The panelists also recognized that more points of entry for the ICANN community are needed during the ODP, and ICANN community shepherds should be approached to clarify positions when inconsistencies occur. Future considerations should also include when outside expertise could be helpful. There was also agreement for earlier participation from the ICANN organization and ICANN Board in working group discussions to address issues raised by the ICANN community.

Outreach and Engagement Work Stream

During ICANN76, outreach and engagement activities included a session introducing the concept of the At-Large Loop and a meeting of the ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement.

At-Large Loop

This session provided an opportunity for At-Large members to learn about the At-Large Loop, a concept being developed as a pilot method to increase communication on At-Large positions. The overall objective of the At-Large Loop is to facilitate improved communication within At-Large to increase identification and amplification of end user interests within At-Large. Through bidirectional communication between the ALAC, the RALOs and the At-Large Structures (ALSes), At-Large will be able to increase the effectiveness of its role as the voice of end users.

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement

This session focused on updates related to Universal Acceptance activities the ALSes are preparing for Universal Acceptance Day on 28 March 2023. Of the 53 activities that were approved, 22 activities are from the At-Large community. Each RALO presented on its efforts, including how to utilize the Community Regional Outreach Program to support these activities.

Participants discussed the concept of a phone tree to promote Universal Acceptance among ALSes with the objective of mobilizing the At-Large network on a topic that is mutually beneficial to all end users. The request would be for each person involved in a regional Universal Acceptance activity to share updates on social media platforms and then personally ask three more individuals to do the same.

RALO Activities

The RALOs engaged in several activities during ICANN76 which highlighted the specific interests of their regions.

RALO Coordination

Leaders of all five RALOs met to discuss their topics of interest. The RALOs are considering how they can do more capacity building for their working groups and more outreach and engagement. Further discussion is needed to see if they can come up with topics to enhance collaboration across the RALOs. RALO leaders noted that specific regional considerations need to be prioritized and taken into account. Looking ahead, the RALO leaders agreed to work on more coordinated capacity building and on improved outreach and engagement with the ICANN organization's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) function with no additional projects at this time.

AFRALO Session: Best Practices for DNS Operations in Africa

Members of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and the African ICANN community discussed best practices for DNS operations in Africa. They agreed on a **statement** that included several recommendations to ensure a DNS infrastructure and ecosystem that works for Africa and activities to support best practices. Such activities include training and capacity development, collaboration with local stakeholders to improve DNS services in Africa, and developing and promoting policies that build trust to support DNS innovation, competitiveness, and growth in Africa.

LACRALO General Assembly

LACRALO held its General Assembly on 13 and 14 March 2023. The General Assembly convened 40 representatives from ALSes in the Latin America and Caribbean Islands region. The program featured several sessions, including a panel on the Latin American impact on ICANN, a session on data protection, and a session on strengthening member knowledge of ICANN, At-Large, and LACRALO. The LACRALO members also met with the ICANN organization's GSE Latin American and Caribbean Islands regional team to discuss outreach and engagement plans. A networking event showcased Mexican culture. Participants are finalizing a statement.

Operations Work Stream

At-Large held several sessions about operational issues including Welcome and Wrap-Up Sessions that focused on the highlights of ICANN76. During the At-Large Wrap-Up Session, ALAC liaisons provided updates and At-Large members provided **session reports**.

Joint Sessions

Meeting with other ICANN community groups and the ICANN Board is important to the ALAC because it allows for open dialogue and new perspectives. During ICANN76, the ALAC held several joint sessions.

- The ALAC and the Governmental Advisory Committee presented an update on their joint advice from 2017 which focused on ways to improve accessibility to ICANN documents for the benefit of ICANN community members and newcomers. There was also an in-depth discussion on topics of mutual interest related to DNS abuse.

- The ALAC and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee discussed topics of mutual interest, including DNS abuse.

- The ALAC and the ICANN Board discussed the recent ALAC letter to the ICANN Board on the SubPro ODA and previous ALAC advice on the New gTLD SubPro ODP. The discussion included examples of work that the At-Large believes must be completed before the next round of gTLDs.

Next Steps

The ALAC and the At-Large working groups will continue their work on policy, outreach and engagement, and operational activities.

Resources

Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule webpage for all open session materials.

At-Large Web Pages

- At-Large homepage
- Membership
- Policy Summary

At-Large Workspaces

- At-Large ICANN76
- ALAC workspace
- ALAC Policy Advice Development
- At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group
- At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group
- At-Large meetings
- At-Large governance

At-Large Social Media

- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube

Decisions and Outcomes

The GAC conducted more than 25 hours of open sessions, including nine hours of discussions on substantive and operational topics and more than seven hours devoted to GAC Communiqué drafting. Those efforts culminated in the publication of the GAC ICANN76 Communiqué on 20 March 2023.

The GAC ICANN76 Communiqué included GAC Consensus Advice on three topics:

1. IGO protections
2. The WHOIS Disclosure System
3. Privacy and proxy services

The GAC ICANN76 Communiqué also included statements regarding five different issues of importance to governments:

1. Subsequent rounds of New gTLDs
2. DNS abuse
3. gTLD registration data, including the gTLD Registration Data Consensus Policy and accuracy of gTLD registration data
4. Transparency of GNSO participation
5. ICANN EAP

The GAC also concluded a special election to fill a vice chair vacancy. The GAC leadership team through March 2024 now comprises GAC Chair Nicolas Caballero (Paraguay) and GAC Vice Chairs Ola Bergström (Sweden), Francis Olivier Cubahiro (Burundi), Zeina Bou Harb (Lebanon), Nigel Hickson (United Kingdom), and Wang Lang (China).

Of the 181 member governments and 38 observer organizations, representatives from 71 member governments and six observer organizations participated in ICANN76.

Additional Activities

CDW

On 11 March 2023, the GAC conducted a Capacity Development Workshop (CDW) on topics of interest to GAC participants:

1. An introduction to ICANN, including the role of the GAC and the GNSO PDP
2. Priority topics for governments, including DNS abuse, subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, and WHOIS

The CDW was an opportunity for GAC participants to learn the basics or increase their knowledge on structural and operational aspects of the ICANN multistakeholder model. It was also an opportunity for GAC participants to learn about the background and details of priority policy topics for current government members of the ICANN community.

Considering the positive feedback from CDW participants, the GAC intends to focus its next GAC capacity development efforts before ICANN77 in June 2023 on DNS abuse.

Bilateral Sessions

The GAC conducted bilateral sessions with several ICANN community groups, including the ICANN Board, ALAC, and the GNSO Council leadership.

With the ICANN Board, the GAC discussed:

- Subsequent rounds of new gTLDs

- Further developments on DNS abuse mitigation, including Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review recommendations and negotiations

- The WHOIS Disclosure System, including law enforcement requests and features to be built

- The ICANN EAP for continued Internet access

- Curative rights protections for IGOs

The parties also explored opinions about the use of GNSO Council small teams and how they might benefit PDPs. ICANN Board comments and reactions to GAC statements and questions are available in the transcript of this session appended to the ICANN76 GAC Communiqué.

With the ALAC, the GAC explored topics of mutual interest, including:

- Their joint advice from 2017, "Enabling Inclusive, Informed and Meaningful Participation at ICANN"

- Preparations for the ICANN community plenary session during ICANN76 on the upcoming WSIS review process

- DNS abuse in the context of contemporary policy advancements

With the GNSO Council leadership, the GAC discussed matters related to:

- Subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, including the New gTLD SubPro Operational Design Assessment, the Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue, and the GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support

- DNS abuse mitigation

- The WHOIS Disclosure System

- Accuracy of gTLD registration data

- IGO protections

- The GNSO Council Response to GAC Communiqué issues of importance

- Transparency in the GNSO PDP and related statements of interest

That GAC also received an update from representatives of the ICANN Nominating Committee about their plans to recruit for several leadership roles in the ICANN community.

Other Sessions

The GAC tailored its agenda to priority topics while maintaining flexibility for GAC member representatives to participate in other activities. This planning also allowed GAC member representatives to devote appropriate time for discussions to develop the GAC ICANN76 Communiqué.

GAC member representatives also contributed to the planning of the ICANN community plenary session. The session, inspired by a GAC proposal, explored issues related to the upcoming WSIS+20 review process and how ICANN can improve multistakeholder participation in Internet governance.

GAC member representatives also had the opportunity to attend a question-and-answer session with the ICANN organization executives; a listening session with the ICANN Board regarding the upcoming search for the next ICANN President and CEO; the Public Forum; the ICANN Board meeting; and the session on geopolitical, legislative, and egulatory developments.

During ICANN76, GAC member representatives participated in a Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue session to further their work on the development of a framework for closed gTLDs.

Building on recent ICANN Public Meeting experiences, the GAC once again utilized the real-time interpretation services in the six United Nations languages and Portuguese provided by the ICANN organization during all GAC plenary sessions.

At the end of ICANN76, GAC members thanked outgoing GAC Chair Manal Ismail.

Resources

Please refer to the **ICANN76 schedule webpage** for all open session materials. More detailed information about GAC sessions during ICANN76, including the CDW, briefings, presentations, transcripts, and recordings can be found on this **webpage**.
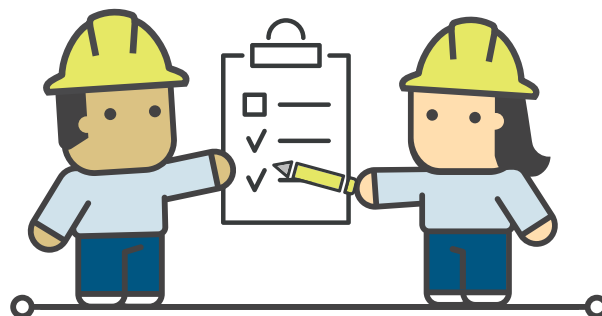
Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Activities

The RSSAC had two work sessions throughout the week to advance work items. The first work session focused on oot Server System (RSS) security incident reporting and featured a summary of RSSAC discussions on the topic and a discussion on the appropriate roles of a future RSS governance structure. The second work session focused on the development of RSSAC messaging about the RSS.

In addition, the RSSAC conducted its monthly meeting and held a closed session with the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. The RSSAC also offered an information session about the RSS.

Next Steps

The **RSSAC Caucus** consists of DNS experts who have an interest in the RSS, broadening the base of diverse, technical expertise available for RSSAC work. The primary role of the RSSAC Caucus is to perform research and produce publications on topics relevant to the mission of the RSSAC.

The RSSAC appoints RSSAC Caucus members through the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee. All RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus. There are more than 100 RSSAC Caucus members from more than 20 countries.

There are currently two active **work parties** in the RSSAC Caucus. The RSSAC Caucus convened during the Internet Engineering Task Force 116 meeting in Yokohama, Japan, on 26 March 2023.

Resources

Please refer to the **ICANN76 schedule webpage** for all open session materials. All RSSAC work sessions, the RSSAC monthly meeting, the RSS information session, and the joint session of the ICANN Board and RSSAC were open to observers. For more information, including meeting minutes and a publications library, please visit the **RSSAC webpage**.
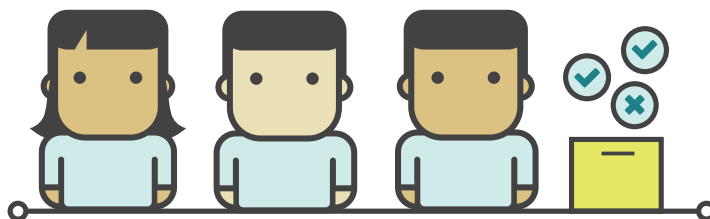
Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Activities

The SSAC held its DNSSEC and Security Workshop during ICANN76. This workshop included a discussion with presenters actively engaged in DNSSEC deployment and other Internet security issues. Registries, registrars, Internet service providers (ISP), and others who plan to deploy DNSSEC benefited from the presentation and discussion of the deployment experience. Anyone with an interest in the deployment of DNSSEC, particularly registry, registrar, and ISP employees with technical, operational, and strategic planning roles, is encouraged to review the workshop materials.

During ICANN76, the workshop was divided into three sessions. Session one contained general presentations on DNSSEC, novel usages, and proposals to solve bottlenecks in DNSSEC. Session two focused on DNSSEC provision automation by registries, registrars, and handling multiple signing parties. Session three featured presentations on the challenges of blockchain-based naming systems for malware defenders and a live demonstration of DNSSEC usage statistics.

The SSAC also held a public session to provide updates on:

- Recent SSAC correspondence:
    - SSAC2022-11: "SSAC Public Comment on Draft Terms of Reference for the Holistic Review Pilot"
    - SSAC2022-12: "SSAC Public Comment on Proposed Amendments to the Base gTLD RA and RAA to Add RDAP Contract Obligations"
    - SSAC2023-02: "SSAC Public Comment on Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use"
- Name Collision Analysis Project
- Delegation Signer record automation
- Evolution of DNS resolution
- Registrar name server management

The SSAC also held joint sessions with the GAC Public Safety Working Group, the Root Server System Advisory Committee, and the At-Large Advisory Committee.

Next Steps

The DNSSEC and Security Workshop Program Committee will plan the next DNSSEC and Security Workshop to be held during ICANN77. The SSAC will also continue to develop reports, advisories, and comments on a range of topics.

Resources

Please refer to the **ICANN76 schedule webpage** for all open session materials.

- **NCAP Discussion Group workspace**
- **SSAC Introduction**
- **SSAC Operational Procedures**
- **SSAC publications**
- **SSAC website**

Looking Toward WSIS+20: How Can We Improve Multistakeholder Participation in Internet Governance?

The ICANN community plenary session during ICANN76 started with an introduction of the main goals of the upcoming WSIS review process from Nigel Hickson. Moderator Sebastien Bachollet then explained the three sections of the program: explaining the history and landscape of WSIS, discussing the WSIS+20 review process, and sharing stakeholder views.

- Carlos Afonso discussed the original WSIS assemblies and the goals for and achievements that arose from them.

- Wolfgang Kleinwächter expanded on the relationship between stakeholders and the importance of multistakeholder governance.

- Anriette Esterhuysen discussed the value of WSIS and the WSIS+20 review process.

- Desiree Milošević was concerned that the WSIS+20 review process will take place under the framework set by the United Nations General Assembly, which may not be as open as a multistakeholder approach.

- Emily Taylor emphasized the successes of the multistakeholder model, such as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority stewardship transition.

- Raul Echeberria expressed concern that one possible result of WSIS+20 could be that the mandate for the Internet Governance Forum will not be renewed, emphasizing the importance of being innovative.

- Olga Cavalli shared that ICANN has the foundation to become a stronger voice in Internet governance.

- Jordan Carter stressed the importance of evolving the multistakeholder model to remain relevant and encouraged ICANN to lead in Internet governance discussions.

- Lynn St. Amour stated that fostering collaborative information-sharing efforts across the Internet community can help ICANN to stay innovative and impactful.

- Barbara Wanner provided a four-step plan to help ensure that government organizations hear stakeholder opinions.

- Lori Schulman suggested using the technical community to advise public policymakers.

- Marita Moll reiterated the importance of empowering end users on how to be involved in governmental efforts.

Throughout the ICANN community plenary session, Bachollet welcomed questions from an active audience. The ICANN community plenary session participants called for the participation of ICANN in WSIS+20. They also urged ICANN to consider what it can do to be a more effective advocate for multistakeholder Internet governance.