

# ICANN78 Policy Outcomes Report



78

ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING

HAMBURG



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# A Successful ICANN78



Thank you for participating in the ICANN78 Annual General Meeting (AGM)!

We hope the AGM facilitated dynamic discussions and advanced priority work items. The ICANN organization (org) appreciates the proactive engagement of the ICANN community.

Written by the teams of the Policy Development Support function, the “ICANN78 Policy Outcomes Report” captures decisions and outcomes from the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. This report also reviews additional activities, looks ahead, and provides resources to enable sustained engagement on important issues.

The ICANN community develops and refines policies that ensure the security, stability, and resilience of the global Internet. The ICANN org is proud to support consensus-driven policy and advice development by enabling efficient and effective participation in the multistakeholder model.

We look forward to seeing you in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the ICANN79 Community Forum.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**David Olive**

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# Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

## Activities

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) did not convene, but the ASO did hold a joint session with the ICANN Board during ICANN78.

### Joint Session with the ICANN Board

*This summary does not constitute minutes, a transcript, or consideration of policy recommendations, advice, Public Comment submissions, or correspondence.*

The ICANN Board welcomed members of the Number Resource Organization Executive Council and the ASO Address Council, collectively the ASO.

The ASO asked the ICANN Board about the status of the search process for the next ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The ICANN Board explained that the position has been published following the selection of the executive search firm. The Search Committee will review the applications anonymously and then develop a short list to begin interviewing in mid-January. The ICANN Board encouraged ongoing input directly to the Search Committee. The ICANN Board also emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality in the search process.

The ICANN Board asked the ASO about the status of the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC). The ASO explained that AFRINIC has been operating without a board of directors and without a president and CEO. In September 2023, the Supreme Court of Mauritius appointed an Official Receiver to carry out an election process to reconstitute the AFRINIC Board of Directors and to appoint a new president and CEO. Subsequently, an ongoing appeal has paused the work of the Official Receiver. Meanwhile, the Regional Internet Registries and ICANN have been supporting AFRINIC.

The ASO, through its Address Council, will develop procedures to consider revisions to Internet Coordination Policy 2. The ASO noted the concerns of the AFRINIC community and thanked ICANN for its ongoing support. The ICANN Board reassured the ASO that it can count on ICANN support.

To conclude the joint session, the ASO invited the ICANN Board to upcoming Regional Internet Registry meetings.

## Next Steps

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 (RIPE NCC), Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), and Internet Addresses Registry for Latin America and Caribbean (LACNIC) regions, respectively.

# Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

## 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:

- [RIPE 87](#) | 27 November–1 December 2023 | Rome, Italy
- [APNIC 57](#) | 21 February–1 March 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand
- [ARIN 53](#) | 14–17 April 2024 | Bridgetown, Barbados
- [LACNIC 41](#) | 6–10 May 2024 | Panama City, Panama

Please refer to the [ICANN78 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.



# Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

## Decisions and Outcomes

During its 199th ccNSO Council session, the ccNSO Council approved the membership application by the Israel (xn--4dbrk0ce / ישראל) country code top-level domain (ccTLD) manager to the ccNSO. The ccNSO now has 177 members. The ccNSO Council also appointed the leadership team of the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) and appointed additional members to the DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC), the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC), and the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC). ccNSO Councilors received updates from among others the introduction of a ccNSO Statement of Interest procedure, the ICANN Board Seat 12 nomination process, and the ccNSO Council election. Moreover, the ccNSO Council evaluated the input from the ICANN78 session on activities by the ICANN Registrant Program and how it relates to ccTLDs, with the option to further explore mutually beneficial activities. The ccNSO Council also mandated a small team of ccNSO councilors and ccTLD community members to prepare sessions during the ICANN79 Community Forum on the consolidation of policies, the identification of gaps in current policies and practices, and how to address future undefined issues in the ccTLD post-delegation process. The ccNSO Council furthermore reviewed the distribution of the ccNSO Council roles and responsibilities for the year ahead as part of its succession planning process.

Additional topics for discussion included input by the ccNSO on Recommendation 2.3 of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, the ICANN org-proposed procedure to retire ICANN Board-adopted recommendations from reviews, the creation of a cross-community coordination group to develop a continuous improvement framework, and ccNSO input regarding proposed Governance Principles for the Root Server System. Finally, the ccNSO Council agreed on next steps regarding the nomination of two candidates to the 2024 ICANN Leadership Program. To learn more, visit the [ccNSO Council workspace](#).

## Additional Activities

During ICANN78, the ccNSO held various sessions, which included working sessions by ccNSO working groups and committees, Tech Day, three days of ccNSO Members Meeting sessions, and the 199th ccNSO Council session. The various working groups and committees prepare regular [updates](#) throughout the year. The updates include information about the status, next steps, and background. Please refer to the [ccNSO ICANN78 session highlights](#) for a detailed agenda regarding the ccNSO Members Meeting sessions.

### [ccNSO Working Groups and Committees Highlights](#)

- The ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) tested a new session format to explore participants' perspectives and views on what continuous improvement means for the ccNSO. This was a closed workshop with in-person participation only. A virtual meeting will be scheduled as follow-up prior to ICANN79.
- The ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) invited the ccNSO Council, ccNSO working group and committee chairs, and others to a joint meeting. The SOPC sought their input to ensure that it can fulfill its mandate regarding ICANN initiatives and activities relevant from a ccNSO perspective. Furthermore, the SOPC held a workshop to define its activities after ICANN78, taking into account the results of previous work.
- The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) is the centerpiece of the ccTLD community-driven DNS abuse process at the global level in the ICANN community. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important issue of DNS abuse and to share information, lessons learned, and practices. The DASC held an internal working session to discuss its work plan for the coming year, including a follow-up session during ICANN79 on tools and measurements.

# Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

- The ccNSO established the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in Internet governance discussions and processes. The IGLC held a working session where ccTLD community members and the ICANN Government and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement (GE) team explored top issues in Internet governance from a regional basis.
- The ccNSO Tech Working Group organizes Tech Day, a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. The group held an internal working session.
- The Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS) Standing Committee is the oversight body of the [TLD-OPS mailing list](#). The purpose of the standing committee is to govern the daily operation of the TLD-OPS email list and, when necessary, to develop and implement progress plans for future improvements and developments of the TLD-OPS email list, including its ecosystem. TLD-OPS is the incident response community for and by ccTLDs and brings together those who are responsible for the overall security and stability of their ccTLD. The goal of the TLD-OPS community is to enable ccTLD operators worldwide to collaboratively strengthen their incident response capabilities. During ICANN78, the committee held a working session to explore future activities.

## Joint Session with the GNSO Council

- The Councils of the ccNSO and the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) held a joint meeting to discuss issues of common interest, including ICANN and the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20). The review will be informed by other processes that will take place in the period leading up to 2025, including multilateral negotiations on the GDC in 2023–2024. In addition, the ccNSO and GNSO Councils considered how to improve the process for amending the ICANN Bylaws.

## Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the ccNSO.

The ICANN Board asked the ccNSO about its efforts to implement a continuous improvement program. The ccNSO described its use of Open Space methodology for a recent session, which yielded extensive output and increased participant engagement. The ccNSO encouraged more training in different methodologies for facilitation and different logistical arrangements.

The ccNSO asked about ICANN’s position on the Global Digital Compact and the WSIS+20 review. Specifically, it inquired what would be considered a good outcome and whether there is a role for ccTLD managers? The ICANN Board noted the optimal outcome would be to maintain the status quo. The ICANN Board assigned a goal for the ICANN org to prioritize coordination with the technical community and develop a framework for engaging on this topic. The ICANN Board noted that ccTLDs can be partners at the national level. The ccNSO encouraged prompt action, from informing to advocating, in the coming months. Moreover, it stated that ccTLDs add another level of legitimacy.

The ccNSO asked the ICANN Board to clarify the procedure for requesting changes to the ICANN Bylaws. The ICANN Board stated that it is important to know who proposes the changes and specify them as much as possible. The ICANN Board also considers if proposed changes can be presented as a package. Moreover, the ICANN Board cannot unilaterally change the ICANN Bylaws. As an example, changes to the ICANN Bylaws about the frequency of IANA Functions Reviews (IFRs) are now included in the briefing package from the second IFR. It was suggested to develop a high-level checklist description to assist the ICANN community when suggesting ICANN Bylaw changes.

# Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

The ICANN Board asked the ccNSO how it can improve its communication and interaction with the ICANN community. The ccNSO explained that sessions often do not provide enough nuance about discussions in the ICANN community. The ccNSO suggested that the ICANN Board could consider appointing liaisons to Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. Fostering more personal relationships is at the core of communication and interaction. The ICANN Board and ccNSO explored how the role of these liaisons would be different and add value compared to the interaction of the current ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members. Two examples include the ICANN Board liaisons to cross-community working groups during the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) stewardship transition and ICANN Board liaisons to policy development process working groups.

The ccNSO thanked the ICANN Board and ended the session.

## **Tech Day**

- Since 2006, [Tech Day](#) has been part of ICANN Public Meetings. It provides a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. During ICANN78, Tech Day focused on DNS Security Extensions, Artificial Intelligence, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, and other topics.

## **Highlights from the ccNSO Members Meeting**

- During ICANN78, the ccNSO Meetings Program Committee organized a session on ccTLD Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approaches. CSR is a management approach that integrates social and environmental concerns into a company's operations and interactions with its stakeholders. ccTLDs from different regions explored highlights and approaches for their respective ccTLDs and reflected on what the future looks like in terms of CSR approaches.
- The ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) organized a session which explored the United Nations-led review of the WSIS being held in 2025 on the 20th anniversary of the first WSIS. The ccNSO IGLC explained why it matters to ccTLDs around the world. The .de and .jp ccTLD managers shared their respective approaches and perspectives.
- In 2023, the ccNSO celebrates its 20th anniversary. In previous sessions, representatives from the ccTLD community reflected on the evolution and milestones in ccNSO history. During ICANN78, the ccNSO 20th Anniversary Committee organized a “world cafe” to explore with ccTLD representatives what makes the ccNSO relevant to the ICANN community for the next five to 10 years. This was a closed session with in-person participation only. A virtual meeting will be scheduled as a follow-up before ICANN79.
- The ccTLD News Sessions have been part of the ccNSO Members Meetings for several years. Previous editions of ccTLD News Sessions included a collection of case studies, statistics, new developments, trends, and more. They provided a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share perspectives, and discuss ccTLD-related aspects. During ICANN78, the ccTLD News Session featured contributions regarding ccTLD evolution in Africa, how the .au ccTLD manager helps shape Internet governance and provides inspiration to others, the launch of the European Top-Level Domain Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the resilience of the .au ccTLD manager, .ec loyalty strategies, and the .dk name change.



# Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

- The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) is the centerpiece of the ccTLD community-driven DNS abuse process at the global level in the ICANN community. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important issue of DNS abuse and to share information, lessons learned, and practices. The DASC organized a session during ICANN78 to inform interested ICANN community members about different perspectives on tools and measurements of DNS abuse, including Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) and others. In a panel discussion with the Registries Stakeholder Group leadership team, the DASC explored the similarities and differences between ccTLDs and gTLDs. In addition, the DASC reminded the ccTLD community of its [repository](#) and invited ccTLDs worldwide to contribute. Finally, DASC announced the launch of a dedicated email list as an additional useful resource for ccTLDs.
- During a registrant capacity building session, attending members of the ICANN Registrant Program team and ccTLDs explored if and how further collaboration can benefit both ccTLDs and the ICANN Registrant Program.
- To prepare the ccNSO Membership for the upcoming elections (for ICANN Board Seat 12 and the ccNSO Council), the ccNSO membership and others were able to question all candidates during a question and answer session.

## Next Steps

### **ccPDP3 Retirement (ccPDP3-RET)**

In September 2022, the ICANN Board [adopted](#) the policy for the retirement of the delegated top-level domains associated with the country codes assigned to countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard. This is the first part of the third country code policy development process (ccPDP3). The policy is currently under implementation.

### **ccPDP3 Review Mechanism (ccPDP3-RM)**

The proposed policy for a review mechanism pertaining to decisions on the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs is the second part of ccPDP3. If adopted by the ICANN Board, it awaits implementation by the ICANN org and IANA.

### **ccPDP4 IDN ccTLD (de)selection (ccPDP4-IDN)**

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. This ccPDP also addresses the request from the ICANN Board to deal with issues pertaining to variants of IDN ccTLD strings in coordination with the GNSO and the ICANN Board question whether IDN tables should be reviewed when submitted. Once adopted by the ICANN Board and implemented by the ICANN org, the proposed policy for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process.

### **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. 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 resulted in the creation of a dedicated ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC). The UAC is finalizing its work plan for the year ahead.

# Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

## ccNSO and DNS Abuse

In 2022, the ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) launched a survey to understand the ccTLD landscape with respect to handling the various aspects of DNS abuse. After analysis of the results, the DASC shared the survey findings with the ccTLD community and expects to launch the second edition of the survey in the final quarter of 2024. The DASC also continues work on its repository and email list. The repository aims to be an online information source about DNS abuse for the benefit of ccTLDs. Read more [here](#).

In terms of new work items, the DASC will focus on the following four questions:

1. Do data validation and registration policies for ccTLDs relate to DNS abuse, if so how?
2. How can ccTLDs effectively work with registrars to mitigate DNS abuse?
3. What are the tools and measurements ccTLDs can use to mitigate DNS abuse?
4. Do ccTLD governance models and regulatory frameworks impact DNS abuse?

The DASC is the core of the ccTLD community-driven process around DNS abuse. The DASC is a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important topic of DNS abuse and share information, insights, and practices. In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the DASC is not to formulate any policy or standards. Instead, its overarching goal is to increase understanding and awareness of the issues pertaining to DNS abuse, promote open and constructive dialogue, and ultimately assist ccTLD managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS abuse.

## ccNSO and Internet Governance

The ccNSO established the IGLC to coordinate, facilitate, and increase participation of ccTLD managers in Internet governance discussions and processes. During ICANN78, the IGLC held a working session where ccTLD community members and the ICANN orgGovernment and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement (GE) team explored top issues in Internet governance from a regional perspective. The IGLC will now process the session outcomes and monitor the progress over time compared to previous editions of the same exercise. The IGLC will explore future activities and potential sessions regarding cybersecurity, capacity building on Internet governance-related matters, and Internet fragmentation.

## 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, such as the retirement of ccTLDs, to the ICANN Board. The ccNSO provides a global 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 councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members, three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee). The ccNSO councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO. Councilors manage the policy development process, lead and participate in [various ccNSO working groups](#), engage with the ICANN community on topical issues, and develop positions based on ICANN community feedback. The ccNSO Council meets regularly at ICANN Public Meetings and at monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the [ccNSO website](#).

Participate in the ccNSO Course on [ICANN Learn](#) to find out more about its work and how it is organized. [Subscribe](#) to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed. Please refer to the [ICANN78 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

# Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

## Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN78, the GNSO organized sessions, including GNSO policy development process 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 ICANN78, the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP-IDNs) Team held three working sessions on the deliberation on Phase 2 charter questions with regard to second-level variant management. The team clarified the definition of key concepts, including the “source domain name” and “variant domain set.” The team also reached an agreement on not prescribing any specific mechanism of identifying the same registrant but leaving details to implementation by the contracted parties. In addition, the team discussed whether the registrant should be charged the mandatory annual fee by ICANN for each activated variant domain name after considering different models of variant activation based on registry policies. The team completed the initial deliberation on 12 out of the 19 Phase 2 charter questions, making swift progress in accordance with its project plan and timeline.

In addition, the EPD-IDNs Team’s 69 Phase 1 recommendations have received full consensus support. This is a significant milestone. The team delivered its Phase 1 Final Report to the GNSO Council for consideration shortly after ICANN78. Subsequently, the team will continue its Phase 2 work and hold an in-person workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 6–8 December 2023 to expedite its deliberations.

### **Transfer Policy Review PDP**

During ICANN78, the Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group held one session, during which working group members revisited two issues related to the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP). The working group continued to assert its position that under its current construction, the TDRP is not the appropriate mechanism for registrants to challenge improper transfers or stolen domain names. The working group did, however, reiterate its position that further work should be done in this area. It should, however, occur outside of this working group. Following discussion of the TDRP, the working group reviewed its preliminary recommendations on all Group 2 topics, including the Transfer Emergency Action Contact, the TDRP, and bulk transfers. Following the completion of Group 2 topics, the working group will return to the Change of Registrant topic.

### **GGP on Applicant Support**

The GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on Applicant Support Working Group did not hold a working session during ICANN78 because it is currently reviewing and analyzing Public Comment submissions on its Guidance Recommendation Initial Report. The report provides guidance recommendations relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success, as well as those relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds.

### **GNSO Council Small Team: EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2**

During this session, the EPDP on the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) on gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 Small Team continued its engagement with the ICANN org on the implementation of the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS). The discussion focused on the team’s assignment to consider how to best promote and secure comprehensive use of the system by both potential requestors and ICANN-accredited registrars. RDRS is expected to launch in November 2023.

# Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

## **GNSO Council Meeting**

During its meeting on 25 October 2023, the GNSO Council agreed to further:

- Explore the appropriate next step for work on the issue of diacritics in Latin script in top-level domains
- Review the ICANN organization's requests for feedback on the topics of the pilot Holistic Review Revised Terms of Reference and the proposed process for the retirement of ICANN community-developed and ICANN Board-approved non-policy recommendations

The GNSO Council also held a town hall, during which members of the ICANN community engaged directly with the GNSO Council.

## **Joint Session with the ICANN Board**

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The ICANN Board opened the session and welcomed the GNSO Council.

The GNSO Council asked the ICANN Board about the non-adopted recommendations from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process, specifically topics 9, 17, and 24.

For topic 9, the GNSO Council asked whether, to the extent the ICANN Board is opposed to a blanket waiver for all single-registrants applicants, the ICANN Board would be more amenable to a waiver that is less broad and more targeted. The ICANN Board acknowledged that malicious registrations in a single-registrant registry are unlikely, but domains may be compromised. Therefore, the ICANN Board prefers to have requirements for preventive and proactive checks to ensure there is no misuse. The GNSO Council asked if the DNS abuse-related amendments to the Registry Agreement (RA) and Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) give the ICANN Board more comfort. The ICANN Board responded that, assuming the amendments are approved, further analysis would be needed to draw any conclusions.

The GNSO Council raised the issue of applicant support, confirming that it, the ICANN Board, and the broader ICANN community strongly support applicant support, and noting that it is aware of why the recommendation was not adopted. The GNSO Council also asked the ICANN Board what work is underway. The ICANN Board explained that the ICANN org is developing proposals as input to the Implementation Review Team and for consideration by the ICANN Board.

For topic 24, the GNSO Council asked the ICANN Board about string similarity and whether the ICANN Board's concerns are in regard to singular-plurals and/or intended use. The ICANN Board confirmed that it is concerned about intended use and is most comfortable with the visually confusing standard for evaluation. The ICANN Board stated that the standard should be applied in a more consistent and reliable manner. The ICANN Board noted that this discussion is not the appropriate setting for developing the policy. The GNSO Council asked about the appeals process related to confusing similarity of gTLD strings. The ICANN Board explained that it supports appeals processes that are efficient and fair rather than a blanket approach. Moreover, the ICANN Board would welcome a supplemental recommendation to clarify this issue.

The GNSO Council and ICANN Board discussed the launch date for the next round of the New gTLD Program. The GNSO contracted parties will need more than a year to prepare. Moreover, this is joint work across ICANN, and the ICANN Board noted its appreciation for the current and ongoing collaboration. The ICANN org is confident that the implementation plan is on track and will be supported by a core project team. The GNSO Council reiterated the need for a realistic launch date to motivate all of ICANN to finish the remaining work.

# Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The GNSO Council noted the need for improving engagement with actors in the regulatory landscape. The ICANN Board encouraged the GNSO Council to provide input as the ICANN org develops the next five-year strategic plan.

The ICANN Board thanked the GNSO Council and concluded the joint session.

## 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 session to discuss its joint session with the ICANN Board, the next Contracted Party Summit, and the status of the vote on the DNS abuse-related amendments to the RA and the RAA. The CPH also hosted a DNS abuse outreach session. The RrSG and the RySG both held membership sessions and continued discussions about DNS abuse.

## Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the CPH.

The CPH opened the discussion by noting that its proposed questions seem well-aligned with those of the ICANN Board. The CPH believes in the healthy and effective functioning of the multistakeholder model and noted that the topics for this discussion impact strategic planning beyond the next three to five years.

The first discussion topic was Registration Data Policy. The CPH considers implementation of this policy to be critical because it addresses data privacy issues and illustrates the success of ICANN's multistakeholder model. At the request of the GAC, the ICANN Board has reviewed a particular aspect of the policy relating to urgent requests (i.e., Section 10.6) and has concluded that it needs to consult with the GNSO Council on this. With that one exception, the ICANN Board otherwise supports moving forward with the policy. The community-based Implementation Review Team met during ICANN78 to further discuss Section 10.6.

The CPH also raised the topic of transparency in policy participation through the GNSO statement of interest requirement. The CPH believes there is a loophole in the GNSO procedures that permits participation without disclosing the clients on whose behalf someone may be participating. The CPH noted that, while there are laws around the world relating to client confidentiality, a common exception is where the client gives informed consent. This topic is on the GNSO Council agenda for ICANN78. The CPH believes that this is a matter that goes beyond the GNSO; transparency issues are relevant to all ICANN community groups. It may be useful to convene a broader ICANN community discussion on this topic.

The ICANN Board has been observing GNSO Council discussions and understands the sensitivities and viewpoints on the statement of interest requirement. The ICANN Board is aware that this topic is also of interest to other ICANN community groups, such as the GAC. While it is not appropriate for the ICANN Board to intervene, there may be ways that the ICANN Board or the ICANN org can assist the GNSO to reach an agreement. For example, the ICANN Board could commission expert legal advice on what the ICANN Bylaws require. It may also be helpful for the GNSO or another ICANN community group to request convening a cross-community discussion.

The final topic focused on a concrete date for the next round of applications for the New gTLD Program. The CPH believes that having a specific date is necessary for organizations and governments to start preparations for decisions about whether to apply, including seeking funding, setting budgets, and hiring staff. Without that clarity, barriers to entry could be created inadvertently and the New gTLD Program could be impacted negatively. This could present a reputational risk to ICANN. As information for the ICANN Board, the CPH can prepare a list of the decisions and work that need to be done by a potential applicant.

# Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The ICANN Board noted that it will be critical to complete the Applicant Guidebook and resolve the remaining policy issues before opening the next round. ICANN org has allocated significant resources to support the work, which cannot be rushed. As the work progresses, clarity about a possible and specific date is likely to emerge. The ICANN Board is interested to learn more from the CPH about what is needed to prepare a new gTLD application.

CPH members and the ICANN Board agreed on the importance of concluding the ongoing voting process on the recent DNS abuse-related contract amendments before considering any additional policy work that may be appropriate.

Additionally, the ICANN org confirmed that it will circulate a preliminary timeline for implementation work on various aspects of second-level intergovernmental organization protections.

The ICANN Board thanked the CPH for a productive discussion and closed the session.

## *NCPH*

The Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH) consists of the **Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG)** and the **Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)**. The CSG has three, the NCSG has two constituencies.

NCPH leadership hosted a “day zero” workshop before ICANN78 which included sharing information about common issues. The workshop provided an opportunity to build relationships across the stakeholder groups. The NCPH agreed to maintain consistent dialogue between the CSG and the NCSG.

## *CSG*

The CSG consists of the *Business Constituency (BC)*, the *Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC)*, and the *Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP)*.

During the CSG Membership Session, there was a conversation with the GAC Public Safety Working Group, a discussion about the outcomes of the NCPH day zero workshop, a presentation about threat vectors for domain abuse, and a legislative outlook for the European Union.

The BC session included an introduction to the new NCPH-appointed ICANN Board member, a review of a recent DNS abuse threat report, a review of a recent study on DNS abuse, and a finance and administration update.

The IPC session featured a presentation on the upcoming RDRS launch, a GNSO Council update, and an IPC secretary and treasurer participation report.

The ISPCP session included ratification of its amended charter, a GNSO Council update, outcomes from the NCPH day zero workshop, an update on Public Comment, and next steps in ongoing policy development processes. The ISPCP also hosted an outreach session.

# Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

## Joint Session with the ICANN Board

*This summary does not constitute minutes, a transcript, or consideration of policy recommendations, advice, Public Comment submissions, or correspondence.*

The CSG also had a joint session with the ICANN Board. The ICANN Board welcomed the CSG and asked the CSG about what issues should be addressed in the next five-year strategic plan. The CSG outlined three priority areas:

- 1. Maintaining vigilance with regard to DNS abuse**

The CSG thanked the ICANN Board for its commitment to targeted DNS abuse contract amendments and to launching the RDRS. The ICANN Board noted that evolving threat vectors will require new mitigation efforts within the scope of ICANN's mission and within future GNSO policy development. The CSG noted that there are broader discussions about DNS abuse across the ICANN community. The CSG encouraged the ICANN Board to protect registrants through contracts and policy and to promote Universal Acceptance. More data and statistics are necessary.

- 2. Coordinating ICANN input to the governmental regulatory environment**

The ICANN Board noted that its role is to ensure regulators understand the DNS and multistakeholder Internet governance; however, its role does not extend to taking a particular position on a specific policy. The ICANN Board noted the intent to engage more proactively in multilateral discussions about Internet governance, including leveraging GAC alumni. The CSG encouraged ICANN to do more than achieve recognition of its multistakeholder community and also demonstrate the value of its outputs. The ICANN Board noted the growing engagement with governments on Internet governance matters. Moreover, ICANN needs to consider optics and risks.

- 3. Considering the GNSO structure in the Holistic Review**

The ICANN Board noted the upcoming pilot to shape the methodologies of future Holistic Reviews. The CSG highlighted the related discussion about the structure of the Nominating Committee. The ICANN Board noted the need for more discussions with the ICANN community. Finally, the CSG commented on the overall structure of voting members of the ICANN Board.

The CSG asked the ICANN Board what ICANN needs to fix WHOIS. The ICANN Board is committed to addressing this, including implementing recommendations from the GNSO Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Development Process. Moreover, the RDRS launch is part of an incremental approach to fixing WHOIS in the current regulatory landscape.

## **NCSG**

The NCSG of the GNSO comprises the *Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC)* and the *Not-for-Profit Organizations Constituency (NPOC)*.

The NCSG had a Policy Committee session to discuss the GNSO Council small team on pending policy recommendations from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, applicant support, and anonymous law enforcement requests. The NCSG Policy Committee also reviewed open Public Comment proceedings and the GNSO Council agenda.

The NCUC held a membership session to discuss its website update, the election of a representative from the Latin American region, a presentation on Internet identifiers during war, and membership engagement. The NCUC also held an Issue Forum to discuss registry voluntary commitments and applicant support.

The NPOC held a membership session which included a discussion of its amended charter transition plan, participation in PDPs, and current policy development.

# Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

## Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the NCSG and asked it what issues should be addressed in the next five-year strategic plan. The NCSG encouraged collaboration on the positioning of ICANN in the emerging regulatory environment. The ICANN Board stated that the Internet is an asset, and legislation should not disrupt the underpinnings of technical infrastructure. The ICANN Board emphasized that its focus should be within the scope of ICANN's mission, especially with the emergence of alternate namespaces. The NCSG stated that ICANN has a responsibility to manage the human rights impact of developments in the domain namespace. The NCSG has already conducted a pilot and the ICANN org is ready to support future work.

The NCSG asked the ICANN Board about the Global Digital Compact and anticipated outcomes of the upcoming World Society on Information Society+20 review. The ICANN Board commented on the importance of promoting multistakeholderism and its successes. The ICANN org is planning a robust engagement strategy, and the ICANN Board encourages the NCSG and the rest of the ICANN community to continue engaging on this topic. The NCSG stated that communication about the successes of multistakeholderism is necessary. The ICANN Board noted that not all governments follow Internet governance, and the ICANN community is an important resource for informing governments.

The NCSG proposed leveraging regional hubs during ICANN Public Meetings to benefit regional engagement and sustainability goals. The ICANN org commented on the implementation of the ICANN Public Meetings strategy over the years. Time zones present practical challenges for regional hubs during ICANN Public Meetings. The ICANN Board explained that the ICANN org will facilitate the development of a sustainability mission statement. Throughout the project, information and updates will be shared with the ICANN community for input. In addition, this topic will be part of the next five-year strategic planning cycle.

## Next Steps

The GNSO Council and GNSO working groups will return to their regular work schedules between ICANN Public Meetings. GNSO community leaders will soon begin preparations for ICANN79.

## Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN78 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)

## Highlights

During ICANN78, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members held 18 sessions in the three At-Large work tracks of policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. At-Large held three plenary sessions, four joint sessions, three RALO sessions, a session marking the 20th anniversary of the ALAC, two sessions for incoming and continuing leaders, an At-Large welcome session, and a wrap-up session.

## At-Large Plenary Sessions

### [WSIS+20: Toward an Engagement Strategy](#)

The 2025 review of the WSIS implementation is a critical opportunity to reaffirm support for the multistakeholder model. During ICANN78, At-Large held a session which discussed the process of ensuring broad participation in the WSIS+20 review that will take place in the multilateral space.

This session provided an update on the current stage of the process and proposed engagement strategies stakeholders might adopt. Participants included representatives from the ICANN community and ICANN org.

### [The Impact of Technological Advancements on ICANN: Ensuring the Management of Unique Identifiers Remains Efficient and Effective](#)

This At-Large session focused on how the Internet landscape is constantly evolving with new technologies and protocols emerging. The session looked at how ICANN and its stakeholders are adapting to these changes to ensure that the management of unique identifiers remains efficient and effective.

This session included three parts:

- Technological advancements and their impact on unique identifiers
- ICANN's technical initiatives
- The role of the multistakeholder community

### [Multistakeholder Governance for New Internet Infrastructures: SpaceX, IRIS2, and Equitable Access for All](#)

This cross-community session explored the evolving landscape of new Internet infrastructure, focusing on their potential impact on individual end users, their role in multistakeholder governance, as well as the role of the technical community in ensuring equitable Internet access globally.

### [ALAC 20th Anniversary Event](#)

The At-Large Community marked the 20th anniversary of the ALAC during a special session on Wednesday, 25 October, which included a reading of the poem, "[ALAC: The Little Engine that Could](#)". This session celebrated ALAC's achievements including highlights from several former ALAC chairs and At-Large selected-ICANN Board members. This session also served as a brainstorming opportunity to help shape the future of the ALAC and At-Large community.

# At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

## Additional Activities

### Policy Sessions

The At-Large community continued its work identifying end user interests related to the New gTLD Program Next Round. During ICANN78, the ALAC and At-Large community reviewed and updated their priorities as they relate to the interests of end users.

The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group held an overview session that reviewed the policy advice that the ALAC has provided over the past year and the policy issues that it is currently tracking. They include the GNSO PDP on the Transfer Policy Review and Internationalized Domain Names, the facilitated dialogue on Closed Generics, the GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support, and pending recommendations from the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP.

### Joint Sessions

During ICANN78, the ALAC met with the GAC, the GNSO, and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) to discuss issues of mutual importance.

### Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the ALAC.

The ICANN Board referred to the first question from the ALAC about DAAR. The ICANN Board explained how ICANN created DAAR as a resource for the Internet community and how DAAR has evolved, including leveraging the data from reputation block lists. The ALAC asked if there are plans to have analytics about registrars. The ICANN Board noted that the intent of DAAR is to include registrars, and implementation of improvements to DAAR is an ongoing effort. The ICANN Board added that DAAR is growing, including data about IDNs.

The ICANN Board asked the ALAC about its views on the enforceability of Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs). The ALAC reviewed the ALAC statement which asserts that RVCs must be enforceable and must be enforced by ICANN Contractual Compliance.

The ICANN Board referenced the second question from the ALAC about contract amendments to mitigate DNS abuse. The ICANN Board expressed support for the focused amendments and encouraged registries and registrars to vote on the proposed amendments. The ICANN Board clarified that it supports well-scoped GNSO policy development work to address outstanding issues. The ALAC expressed support for providing ICANN Contractual Compliance with enforcement tools.

The ICANN Board asked the ALAC how human rights should factor into the selection of locations for ICANN Public Meetings. The ALAC supports human rights; however, human rights are defined differently across cultures and nation states. There should be clear criteria and guidelines. The ICANN Board reiterated this point and asked the ALAC to help define them. The ICANN Board asked if this is the right approach and if there should be a broader discussion in the ICANN community. The ICANN Board raised specific examples of human rights considerations such as free expression and physical security. The ALAC stated that access should be the primary objective.

# At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

The ICANN Board asked next about sustainability. The ALAC commented on the timeliness of this topic and encouraged ICANN to consider an enterprise-level solution, including eco-audits. The ALAC explained that ICANN's approach should be fit-for-purpose. The ICANN Board confirmed that developing a sustainability strategy is a goal for this fiscal year, and the next five-year strategic plan will also incorporate sustainability elements. The ICANN Board commented on the value of consistent measurements. The ALAC noted that the upcoming At-Large session on new Internet infrastructure will consider sustainability matters.

To end the session, the ICANN Board thanked the ALAC for its questions, and the ALAC thanked the ICANN Board for the opportunity to have meaningful discussions.

## **Outreach and Engagement Session**

The ALAC Sub-Committee on Outreach and Engagement held a session that focused on the At-Large Loop and Campaign, 2024 Universal Acceptance Day preparations, and an update about the ICANN Policy Development Accelerator.

## **Operations Sessions**

At-Large began ICANN78 with a Welcome Session that provided an overview of At-Large sessions during ICANN78 and a review of At-Large talking points.

The At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group held an overview session with highlights of the operations and governance-related advice the ALAC has provided over the past year as well as current issues of importance.

At-Large concluded ICANN78 with a Wrap-Up Session that provided an opportunity for At-Large members to reflect on achievements during ICANN78 and identify initial topics for ICANN79.

## **RALO Activities**

The RALOs engaged in several activities during ICANN78 which highlighted the specific interests of their regions.

## **RALO Coordination**

RALO leaders met to discuss issues of strategic relevance for all the regions, such as their outreach and engagement initiatives implemented in partnership with the ICANN org's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) teams in the respective regions. The RALOs also discussed the next steps into the third Accountability and Transparency Review recommendations, the Holistic Review Terms of Reference, and the Continuous Improvement Program. RALOs also heard updates on the Digital Welcome E-Tool Package and the progress of the At-Large Review Implementation, in particular with regard to At-Large Structure and individual mobilization projects.

## **AFRALO**

The African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) community met to discuss and approve the AFRALO statement, "Internet Resource Management and Governance in Africa". This was the 33rd statement since 2010. It addresses the state of Internet Protocol number governance in Africa. It includes recommendations for the African Internet community to advocate for Internet resources availability and accessibility to accelerate digital transformation in the region.

## **EURALO**

The European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO) took the opportunity to hold its annual General Assembly during ICANN78. The event was hybrid, and several of the At-Large Structures (ALSes) attended in person. The agenda covered the 2023 Annual Report, EURALO participation in the three At-Large work tracks over the past year, a look to the year ahead, and a discussion with the European GSE team on continued collaboration with the EURALO community.

# At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

## Next Steps

The ALAC and the At-Large working groups will continue their work on policy, outreach and engagement, and operational activities. Planning for ICANN79 will begin in the upcoming weeks.

## Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN78 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

### At-Large Web Pages

- [At-Large homepage](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Policy Summary](#)

### At-Large Workspaces

- [At-Large ICANN78 workspace](#)
- [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](#)



## Decisions and Outcomes

The GAC conducted over 18 hours of sessions, including ten hours of discussions on substantive and operational topics of GAC interest and another eight hours devoted to GAC Communiqué drafting. Those efforts culminated in the publication of the [ICANN78 GAC Communiqué](#) on 30 October 2023.

The GAC ICANN78 Communiqué included GAC Consensus Advice on closed generic gTLDs, advising the ICANN Board to ensure that the forthcoming Applicant Guidebook clearly states that closed generic gTLD applications will not be considered.

The GAC ICANN78 Communiqué also included follow-up on previous GAC Advice regarding:

1. Enabling inclusive, informed, and meaningful participation in ICANN, namely, seeking a written status update regarding the development of a simple and efficient document management system and the production of easily understandable executive summaries for all relevant issues, processes, and activities
2. Future gTLD policies and procedures, namely, seeking the availability of a previously requested objective and independent analysis of costs and benefits of a subsequent round of new gTLDs

The GAC ICANN78 Communiqué also included GAC statements regarding seven different Issues of Importance to governments including the topics of:

1. The next GAC High-Level Governmental Meeting planned for June 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda
2. Future rounds of new gTLDs, including auctions as a mechanisms of last resort and private resolution of contention sets; Latin script diacritics; GAC Consensus Advice and Early Warnings, and the Applicant Support Program
3. Registration Data Request Service
4. Urgent requests for disclosure of gTLD registration data
5. DNS abuse
6. Transparency and GNSO statements of interest
7. Emergency assistance program for continued Internet access.
8. During ICANN78, the GAC also concluded its 2023 GAC vice chairs election. The five elected vice chairs will join the current GAC chair and begin their terms at the conclusion of the ICANN79 Community Forum in March 2024.

Of the 182 member governments and 38 observer organizations in the GAC, representatives from 93 member governments and eight observer organizations participated in ICANN78.

# Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

## Additional Activities

### Capacity Development Workshop

The GAC conducted a two-day Capacity Development Workshop (CDW) on topics of interest to GAC participants.

Day 1 focused on ICANN and the GAC's place in Internet governance, an introduction to the New gTLD Program, highlighting financial and in-kind support for applicants; DNS abuse mitigation; and providing information on the next GAC High-Level Governmental Meeting.

Day 2 was more technically oriented and provided introductions to the DNS, blockchain, and the impact of alternative namespaces. Noting that such namespaces could be perceived as providing alternatives to the DNS, the GAC emphasized the extreme importance of protecting the security, stability, and resilience of the DNS, which is an indispensable part of the foundation for a single, global Internet. The GAC noted its intent to monitor further developments related to alternative namespaces.

In light of the positive feedback from GAC participants and others in the ICANN community, the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group is contemplating organizing capacity building sessions online before the next workshop during ICANN79.

### Joint Sessions

During ICANN78, the GAC conducted joint sessions with several ICANN community groups including the ALAC, members of the GNSO Council leadership, and the ICANN Board.

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

- Follow-up to, "Enabling Inclusive, Informed, and Meaningful Participation at ICANN: A Joint Statement by ALAC and GAC" from 2017
- Closed generics, including the recent joint GAC/ALAC letter to the ICANN Board
- Contention resolutions in new gTLDs, including a presentation on closed bid auctions

With members of the GNSO, GAC participants discussed matters related to the New gTLD Program Next Round, implementation of Intergovernmental Organization Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms, DNS abuse, WHOIS and data protection, and transparency in the GNSO.

### Joint Session with the ICANN Board

*This summary does not constitute minutes, a transcript, or consideration of policy recommendations, advice, Public Comment submissions, or correspondence.*

The GAC Chair opened the session and welcomed the participants.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board about the status of the facilitated dialogue on closed generics. The ICANN Board understands there is no consensus at this point, and the GNSO Council does not have a position about what happens next. The ICANN Board will take this input into consideration. The GAC thanked the ICANN org for its support. The GAC asked about the expected language in the Applicant Guidebook. The ICANN Board reiterated that the ICANN org will consider the input of the facilitated dialogue.

The GAC reaffirmed its concern about the exclusion of GAC Early Warning language from a recent ICANN Board resolution. The ICANN Board understands the sensitivities regarding the status of GAC advice but noted that it was concerned about including this language to ensure consistency and alignment with the ICANN Bylaws. The GAC expressed concern about the timing of the ICANN Board decision. The ICANN Board stated that this approach best preserves the role of the GAC.

# Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

The GAC reminded the ICANN Board about its previous commitment to conduct listening sessions to inform the ICANN community about the updated RA and RAA (i.e., contracts) regarding DNS abuse and to discuss the scope of future GNSO policy development. The ICANN Board expressed appreciation for the contract amendments and noted that it was important to encourage registrars and registries to ratify them. The ICANN Board also noted the commitment from the GNSO Council to consider future policy development.

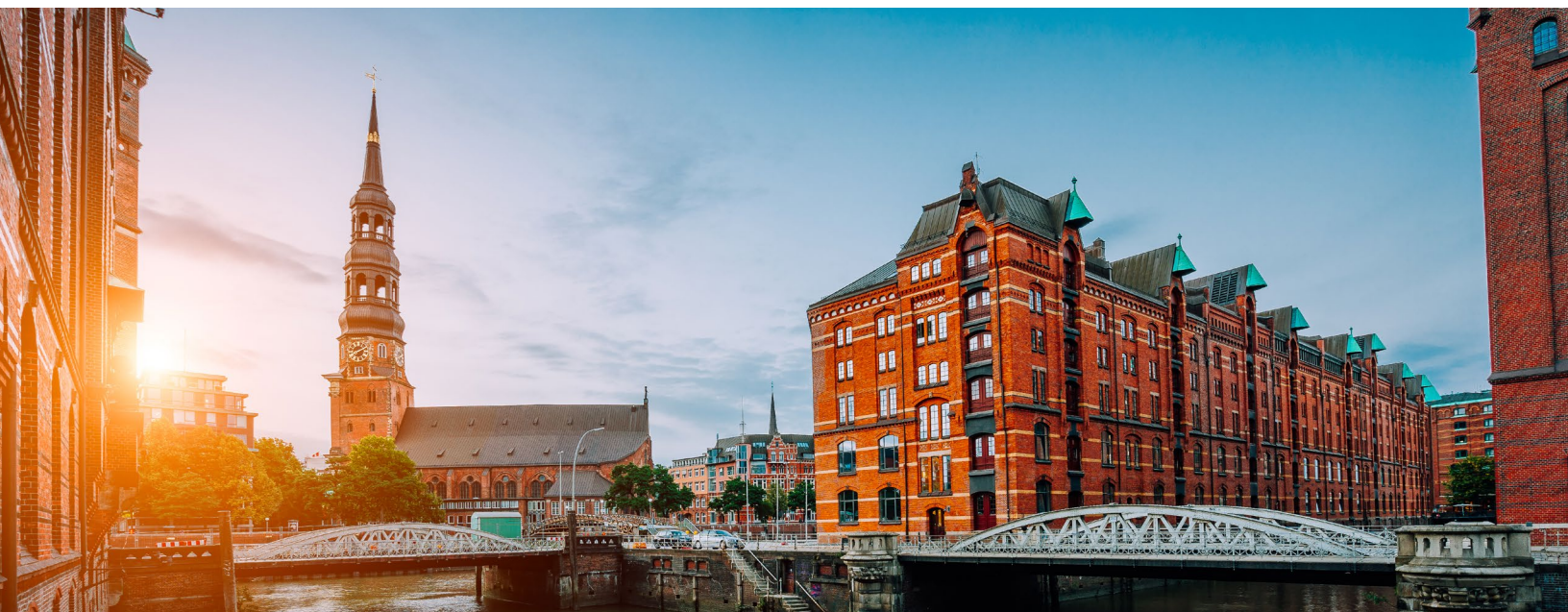
The GAC asked the ICANN Board about its view on the timeliness of urgent requests for gTLD registration data. The ICANN Board considered the GAC perspective and acknowledged its concerns about the prescribed response time periods. The ICANN Board would like to move forward with publishing the gTLD Registration Data Policy without section 10.6 about the timeline for urgent requests. The GAC expressed support for this approach.

The ICANN Board asked the GAC what issues should be addressed in the next five-year strategic plan. The GAC then commented about ICANN's plans, positions, and intentions with respect to the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the WSIS+20 review. ICANN has expressed concern about the absence of the technical community in the proposed definition of stakeholders in the GDC. The GAC agreed that ICANN has an important role to play in these discussions. The ICANN Board confirmed it is a priority to engage with multilateral forums and share the successes of multistakeholderism.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board about ongoing discussions in the GNSO about its statement of interest requirement. The ICANN Board affirmed its commitment to transparency, especially as it relates to participation in GNSO policy development. The GAC also asked the ICANN Board about plans for private auctions and applicant support in the next round of the New gTLD Program. However, time ran out, and the session concluded without addressing this question.

## Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN78 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials. More detailed information about GAC sessions during ICANN78, including the CDW, briefings, presentations, transcripts, and recordings can be found on this [webpage](#).



# Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

## Activities

The RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus had two work sessions throughout the week to advance work items and discuss various internal matters, including the Security Incident Reporting work party and Root Server System (RSS) messaging. In addition, the RSSAC conducted its monthly meeting and celebrated its 25th anniversary. The RSSAC Caucus also met.

The RSSAC offered a “How it Works” session about the RSS and received an update from the ICANN Government and Intergovernmental Organizations Engagement team on recent legislative and regulatory developments.

### Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board opened the session and reviewed the RSSAC questions to the ICANN Board.

The ICANN Board considered the RSSAC question about the next significant issue for the DNS. The ICANN Board proposed defining “issue” as “points of change” such as the expansion of the DNS namespace, including more strings in local scripts through IDNs, and the relationship between the DNS and alternate namespaces. The ICANN Board commented on the importance of Universal Acceptance and DNS Security Extensions. Noting previous RSSAC advice, the ICANN Board asked the RSSAC if it still bases its advice on the rate of growth of the root zone. The RSSAC confirmed that its previous advice still stands.

The ICANN Board referenced the RSSAC question about the most important threat to the Internet. The ICANN Board outlined the technical assumptions behind Internet fragmentation, which affects the user experience. The RSSAC explained the overlap between importance and urgency, especially in the context of geopolitics. The ICANN Board stated that promoting multistakeholder Internet governance during upcoming multilateral events is a collective responsibility.

The ICANN Board asked the RSSAC for its views concerning alternate namespaces and whether there are any technical solutions. The RSSAC explained that root server operators (RSOs) already observe queries for alternate namespaces. Moreover, the RSSAC offered that there are messaging challenges to explain the RSS and the role of RSOs. The ICANN Board commented that the Security and Stability Advisory Committee has a work party on DNS resolution.

The RSSAC emphasized that the RSOs are ready for the next round of new gTLDs. The RSSAC cautioned that the rate of change can break the proven operation of the root zone and elaborated that RSOs consider other factors beyond ICANN policy implementation in ensuring operational readiness to manage growth of the root zone. The RSSAC explained that stability and resiliency of the root zone is paramount to the RSOs, and RSSAC answers are deliberately conservative. The RSSAC stressed that capacity of the RSS is not an impediment to the next round of new gTLDs.

As the session ended, the ICANN Board stated that the discussion was reassuring, and the RSSAC agreed.



# Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

## 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 is currently one active [work party](#) in the RSSAC Caucus, studying RSS incident reporting.

## Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN78 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials. 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 Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and Security Workshop during ICANN78. This workshop focused solely on the topic of DNSSEC Delegation Signer (DS) record automation. Registries, registrars, Internet service providers, 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 ICANN78, the SSAC held several open work party meetings for the DS automation work and registrar name server management work parties. Other open work sessions made progress on the following work items:

- The utility, accessibility, and effectiveness of the ICANN data inventory
- Improving dissemination and understanding of SSAC reports
- DNSSEC current state, deployment, implementation and future

The SSAC also met with the GNSO Council, the RSSAC, the At-Large Advisory Committee, the GAC Public Safety Working Group, and the ICANN Board, to provide updates on recent publications and current topics being examined, including:

- Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)
- DS record automation
- Registrar name server management
- DNSSEC capacity building activities
- Achieving fit-for-purpose outcomes in a multistakeholder environment
- Status of Registration Data Consensus Policy and Urgent Requests

### Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the SSAC and began the session. The SSAC noted its upcoming leadership transition.

The SSAC asked the ICANN Board how to ensure ICANN community outcomes are fit-for-purpose. For example: How can security, stability, and resilience considerations be effectively integrated into the global public interest (GPI) framework? The ICANN Board has an obligation to consider the GPI in all of its deliberations. The ICANN Board oversaw a pilot applying the GPI framework to the policy recommendations about the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure from Phase 2 of the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data.

The SSAC noted that it anticipates significant problems with how the RDRS gathers data because of limited registrar participation. The RDRS may not fulfill the desired purposes of its intended end users. The ICANN Board expressed concern about prejudging the use of RDRS because it will then fail the legitimate use balancing test. Another example is the Centralized Zone Data Service. In both instances, the data depends on the contracted parties. The ICANN Board also expressed appreciation for SSAC's attention to the GPI framework and encouraged SSAC to develop its own version of the framework. Furthermore, two Operational Design Assessments highlighted the issue of addressing the feasibility of policy recommendations.

# Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

The ICANN Board explained that it asks clarifying questions when it reviews policy recommendations to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. One approach could be to consider the GPI framework at every stage of policy development, including the scoping and chartering phases. The SSAC agreed that it is important to set measurable objectives.

The SSAC thanked the ICANN Board for the discussion and ended the session.

## Next Steps

The DNSSEC and Security Workshop Program Committee will plan the next DNSSEC and Security Workshop to be held during ICANN79. The SSAC will also continue to develop reports, advisories, and comments on a range of topics.

## Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN78 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

- [NCAP Discussion Group workspace](#)
- [SSAC Introduction](#)
- [SSAC Operational Procedures](#)
- [SSAC publications](#)
- [SSAC website](#)

