ICANN77 Policy Outlook Report

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Welcome to **ICANN77**

Welcome to the ICANN77 Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. This is the first ICANN Public Meeting held in the capital of the United States. In preparation for this ICANN Public Meeting, I am pleased to present the ICANN77 Policy Outlook Report written by the Policy Development Support team. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) during ICANN77.

ICANN77 is the eighth Policy Forum, and the first Policy Forum in North America. The SOs and ACs have taken the lead in organizing the four-day program. The ICANN community will continue its work preparing for the next round of the New generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program. There will also be technical sessions about Domain Name System (DNS) abuse mitigation and DNS Security Extensions. Additionally, the ICANN Board will conduct another listening session as part of the search process for the next ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer. We will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the ICANN Community Excellence Award.

A global community of stakeholders and participants with different backgrounds and points of view help coordinate and support the unique identifiers of the Internet. The Internet functions for everyone because everyone is invited to help make it work. Consensus policies developed through the multistakeholder model are highly effective and have the greatest legitimacy.

Thank you to all of you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to attend this ICANN Public Meeting. No matter if you are an ICANN regular, an occasional participant, or a newcomer, I encourage you to actively engage in this Policy Forum.

Best regards,

David Olive
Senior Vice President,
Policy Development Support

Managing Director,
Washington, D.C., Engagement Office

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

Although members of the Internet number community will participate in sessions, the ASO will not convene during ICANN77. The ASO conducts policy development work during Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on mailing lists.

Background

The ASO is defined in a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), affirming the relationship between the names and numbers communities. The purpose of the ASO is to review recommendations on global Internet Protocol address policy and to advise the ICANN Board. Global policies are defined in the ASO MoU as "Internet number resource policies that have the agreement of all RIRs, according to their policy development processes, and ICANN and require specific actions or outcomes on the part of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority or any other external ICANN-related body in order to be implemented." The ASO ensures that the policy development process has been correctly followed in each RIR community:

- African Network Information Centre
- Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
- American Registry for Internet Numbers
- Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry
- Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) coordinates the global policy development work of the Internet number community and appoints members to the ICANN Board, the ICANN Nominating Committee, and other ICANN groups. The ASO AC consists of 15 members, three from each RIR.

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 website.
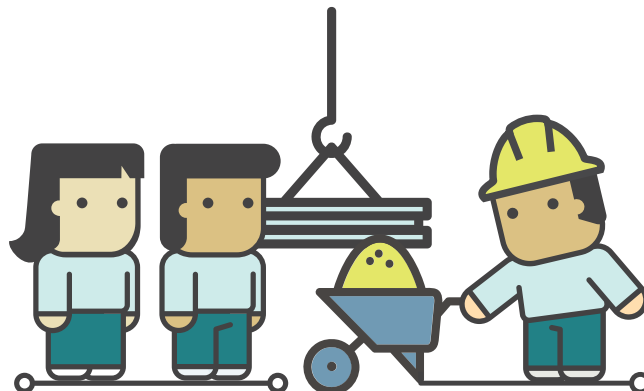
Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

What to Expect

During the ccNSO sessions, the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community and others with an interest in ccTLD-related matters will discuss and receive updates on topics relevant to ccTLD managers. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for a select number of ccNSO sessions. The enhanced language support will benefit the ccTLD community by deepening operational exchanges and advancing information-sharing.

Tech Day–a workshop open to all ICANN community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics–will take place on Monday, 12 June.

The ccNSO schedule on Tuesday, 13 June will start with a welcome session, including short updates from ccNSO committees and working groups. During the ccTLD registration trends session, ccTLD representatives from all ICANN geographical regions will explore registration trends, including drivers and expectations, for the 2019-2023 timeframe and beyond. Next, during the joint session, the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) and the ccNSO Council Triage Committee will present their latest activities, and will consult the ccNSO membership on these activities. During the final session on Tuesday, the ccNSO will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

On Wednesday, 14 June, the ccNSO starts with a session by the Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Standing Committee (DASC). The DASC will present part two of its findings from the ccTLD survey on DNS abuse and will launch a repository with useful DNS abuse-related information to the ccTLD community. During the ccTLD News Session, ccTLD managers from different regions will share the latest developments relevant to their respective ccTLDs.

On Thursday, 15 June, during the ccNSO Policy Update Session, the Country Code Policy Development Process (ccPDP) Working Group on the (de)selection of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) will present its latest draft proposals to the ccNSO membership. The working group will use this opportunity to alert the ccNSO membership about the upcoming Public Comment proceeding. During a session on legislative initiatives affecting ccTLDs, ccTLD representatives from all ICANN geographical regions will explore how cybersecurity legislation affects them.

Finally, on Thursday, 16 March the ccNSO Council will meet. The detailed ccNSO schedule, including highlights of the topics covered and remote participation details for ICANN77, is available on the **ccNSO ICANN77 workspace**.

Background

The ccNSO is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 by and for 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 during ICANN Public Meetings and at monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the **ccNSO website**.

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 of the newsletter are available in the **newsletter archive**.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Session Details

Session times are in UTC-4. Please refer to the [ICANN77 schedule](#) for the most current information.

Tech Day
Monday, 12 June | 09:00–12:15

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 ICANN77, Tech Day will focus on DNS Security Extensions, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, and other topics.

ccNSO Welcome and ccNSO Working Group Update Session
Tuesday, 13 June | 09:00–10:15

Following welcome remarks by the ccNSO Council chair and the MPC chair, several ccNSO working groups, including the Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS) Standing Committee, will provide an update on their progress and seek input on the next steps. The 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 mailing list, including its ecosystem. TLD-OPS is the incident response community by and for ccTLDs. It 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.

ccTLD Registration Trends
Tuesday, 13 June | 10:45–12:15

During ICANN77, the ccNSO Meetings Program Committee (MPC) will organize a session on ccTLD registration trends. Following a general introduction of global registration trends for ccTLDs for the 2019–2023 timeframe, ccTLDs from different regions will explore highlights of registration trends for their respective ccTLDs and will share what they believe are the main drivers of these trends. The ccTLDs will also preview what the future looks like in terms of domain name registration trends.

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) and ccNSO Council Triage Committee
Tuesday, 13 June | 13:45–15:00

The objective of the SOPC is to provide input on the strategic and operational planning processes and related budgetary processes of ICANN and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) that are relevant from a ccTLD or ccNSO perspective. It also coordinates, facilitates, and encourages the involvement of ccTLD managers in these processes. During ICANN77, the SOPC will inform the ccTLD community about progress made to date and will consult on the next steps. The committee charter, work plan, and other relevant documents are available on its [website](#) and [workspace](#).

The ccNSO Council Triage Committee is dedicated to quickly reviewing incoming requests for input and making suggestions to the ccNSO Council about how to react to said requests. To better balance the workload against the available resources, the mandate of the ccNSO Council Triage Committee also includes prioritization of the ccNSO Council work plan. During ICANN77, the SOPC will inform the ccTLD community about progress made to date and will consult on next steps. The committee charter, work plan, and other relevant documents are available on its [website](#) and [workspace](#).

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

ccNSO Anniversary Session
Tuesday, 14 March | 15:00–16:00

In 2023, the ccNSO celebrates its 20th anniversary. During this session, ccTLD community representatives will reflect on the history of the ccNSO, including its evolution and major milestones.

DNS Abuse Standing Committee
Wednesday, 14 June | 13:45–15:00

The DASC is the core of the ccTLD community-driven process on DNS abuse at a global level and within ICANN. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important topic of DNS abuse and to 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. Rather, 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.

During ICANN77, the DASC will present part two of its findings from the ccTLD survey to understand the ccTLD landscape with respect to handling the various aspects of DNS abuse. It will also launch a repository with useful DNS abuse-related information to the ccTLD community. Relevant documents are available on the DASC **website** and **workspace**.

ccTLD News Session
Tuesday, 14 June | 15:30–17:00

Previous editions of the ccTLD News Sessions included a collection of case studies, statistics, developments, trends, and more. The ccTLD News Sessions have been part of the ccNSO Members Meetings for several years. They have provided a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share experiences, and discuss ccTLD-related aspects. Please refer to the **ccNSO ICANN77 workspace** for a detailed agenda.

Policy Update: ccPDP4 IDN ccTLD String Selection
Thursday, 15 June | 09:00–10:15

The ccPDP4 Working Group defines the criteria, process, and procedures for (de)selecting 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 of this ccPDP4 will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process. The working group intends to complete its Initial Report by ICANN77. This will include the general policy proposals for the IDN ccTLD string selection process. In addition, it will include proposals regarding variant management, confusing similarity, de-selection, and review mechanisms. The working group will present its latest draft proposals during the ccNSO Policy Update Session. The working group charter, work plan, and other relevant documents are available on its **website** and **workspace**.

### Legislative Initiatives Affecting ccTLDs

Thursday, 15 June | 10:45–12:15

During ICANN77, the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) will organize a session on legislative initiatives relating to cybersecurity and how they affect ccTLDs. The ccNSO established the IGLC to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet governance. ccTLDs from different ICANN geographical regions will explore how various national or regional legislative initiatives relating to cybersecurity impact them. During the session, presenters will also explore the challenges these initiatives pose for the Internet and ICANN's multistakeholder model, as well as potential points of interaction between the various legal frameworks.

ccNSO Council

Thursday, 15 June | 13:45–15:00

Topics for discussion will be made available on the ccNSO Council **workspace**.

Please refer to the ccNSO **ICANN77 session highlights** for detailed agendas and more information.
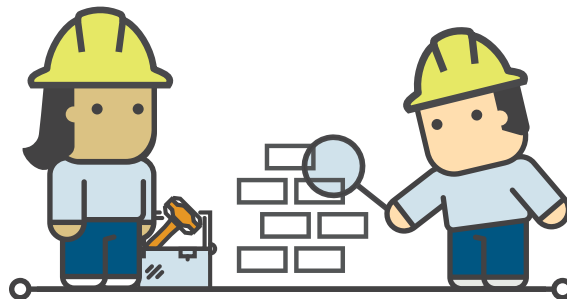
Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

What to Expect

The GNSO is the policy development body responsible for generic top-level domains (gTLDs). Its members include representatives from gTLD registries, ICANN-accredited registrars, intellectual property interests, Internet service and connectivity providers, business, and noncommercial interests. The GNSO brings these different stakeholders and other parts of the ICANN community together to develop gTLD policy recommendations through a multistakeholder process driven by working groups and teams.

The GNSO Council will make progress on several policy development initiatives during ICANN77:

- The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group will seek broader community input on draft recommendations regarding reversal of inter-registrar transfers.

- The Expedited Policy Development Process for Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP-IDNs) Working Group will hold four sessions to advance its Phase 2 deliberations, which cover issues pertaining to second-level IDN variant management.

- The GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on Applicant Support will continue drafting its Recommendations Guidance Report.

- The Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics will hold two sessions that are open to observers. By ICANN77, the dialogue aims to have provided a draft framework document for community input.

There are several recent developments regarding ICANN Board consideration of outputs from GNSO policy development efforts:

- Now that the ICANN Board has approved the implementation of the Registration Data Request Service, the EPDP on the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 Small Team has been working with the ICANN organization (ICANN org) on the implementation of the service. Current areas of focus include, defining the success criteria of the service, how to best promote and secure comprehensive use of the service both by potential requesters and ICANN accredited registrars, and a number of other topics identified by the small team as benefiting from further consideration. The small team is expected to continue this engagement during a session on this topic.

- On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board adopted a majority of the outputs from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP and placed 38 outputs into pending status. A GNSO Council small team was tasked to understand the ICANN Board concerns regarding the pending recommendations and to suggest the best mechanism(s) to address these concerns. The small team has provided its guidance to the GNSO Council, which served as the basis for discussions with the ICANN Board in late May 2023. The GNSO Council will hold an extraordinary session on Sunday, 11 June, to finalize the work plan and timeline to address the pending recommendations and three other work items related to the next application round that the ICANN Board **requested** by the end of ICANN77.

During ICANN77, the GNSO Council will hold its public meeting on Wednesday, 14 June. The GNSO Council will also hold a bilateral meeting with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) on Tuesday, 13 June. A bilateral teleconference with the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) will be held either before or after ICANN77.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Background

Transfer Policy Review PDP

Following receipt and review of the **Transfer Policy Status Report**, the GNSO Council established a Transfer Policy Review Scoping Team that provided an **Initial Scoping Paper** in April 2020. A **Preliminary Issue Report** for a PDP was published for **Public Comment** on 12 October 2020, with an updated **Final Issue Report** submitted to the GNSO Council on 12 January 2021.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council **initiated** the two-phase Transfer Policy Review PDP. The PDP will determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers. As recommended in the Final Issue Report, the PDP will address the following topics:

- The Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization (FOA), AuthInfo Codes, NACKing transfers;

- Change of registrant requirements; and

- The transfer emergency action contact and reversing inter-registrar transfers, the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy, and ICANN-approved transfers.

The GNSO Council **adopted** the PDP working group **charter** on 24 March 2021, and the working group began meeting in May 2021. The charter initially anticipated that the PDP would be conducted in phases, but the approach has since been changed due to dependencies identified between charter topics. The work is now structured as a single phase.

On 21 June 2022, the working group published an **Initial Report** for Public Comment covering the Gaining and Losing FOA, AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers. It has reviewed Public Comment submissions and incorporated changes into the preliminary recommendations where appropriate. It has also conducted preliminary deliberations on change of registrant requirements contained in the Transfer Policy.

The working group is developing preliminary agreements and recommendations on the Transfer Emergency Action Contact, reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy. During ICANN77, the working group will hold one working session on Thursday, 15 June to seek broader community input on the draft recommendations.

EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

The October 2020 **Final Report** of an IDN Scoping Team recommended an EPDP as the desired approach to address work related to IDN policy. In November 2020, the GNSO Council launched an initiation request for the EPDP-IDNs. In developing the EPDP-IDNs charter, the drafting team built on the existing body of work related to IDNs, such as IDN-related **recommendations** from the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, **IDN variant TLD implementation**, and **recommendations for the Technical Utilization of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR)**.

On 10 May 2021, the drafting team submitted its deliverables to the GNSO Council for its consideration. The EPDP-IDNs is expected to:

- Determine the approach for a consistent definition of all gTLDs; and

- Develop policy recommendations that will eventually allow for the introduction of variant gTLDs at the top-level.

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the initiation request for the EPDP-IDNs and adopted its charter. The EPDP-IDNs Working Group held its first meeting on 11 August 2021.

In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the **project change request** from the working group, which plans to complete its work in two phases: Phase 1 will focus on topics related to top-level IDN gTLD definition and variant management, and Phase 2 will focus on topics related to second-level IDN variant management. The working group believes that this two-phased approach will help prioritize the current implementation planning of the SubPro PDP Outputs that are focused primarily on the top-level.

On 24 April 2023, the working group published its Phase 1 Initial Report for **Public Comment**, which is scheduled to close on 5 June 2023. The Initial Report includes 68 preliminary recommendations covering issues pertaining to gTLD variant definition and management at the top-level. The majority of the preliminary recommendations aim to operationalize SubPro PDP outputs in order to allow for future applications of gTLD variant labels through the New gTLD Program. On 17 May 2023, the working group held a **webinar** to explain its recommendations and facilitate participation in the Public Comment proceeding.

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board requested that the working group deliver an updated project plan by the last day of ICANN77. The plan should identify all charter questions that will impact the next Applicant Guidebook and a timeline for the delivery of relevant recommendations to the GNSO Council. The working group leadership team presented its analysis of the charter questions and estimated timeline during the 25 May **GNSO Council meeting**. Further discussion by the GNSO Council about the working group project plan is expected to take place on Sunday, 11 June.

During ICANN77, the working group will conduct a daily working session to advance Phase 2 charter question deliberations.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group began on 22 February 2016. Over the course of several years, it convened several subgroups and undertook extensive deliberations on the list of topics in its charter. This work included numerous opportunities for input, including Public Comment on its **Initial Report**, **Supplemental Initial Report**, **Additional Supplemental Initial Report from Work Track 5**, and **Draft Final Report**. The working group submitted its **Final Report** to the GNSO Council for its consideration on 18 January 2021, with over 300 outputs for 41 topics. Only two outputs did not receive consensus or full consensus support from the working group.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously **approved** the outputs achieving consensus or full consensus contained in the Final Report. On 24 March 2021, the GNSO-adopted outputs and the **Recommendations Report** were sent to the ICANN Board for its review. On 12 September 2021, the ICANN Board directed ICANN org to initiate an **Operational Design Phase (ODP)** for the Final Report outputs. The ODP began on 3 January 2022. On 12 December 2022, ICANN org delivered an **Operational Design Assessment (ODA)** on the outputs produced by the SubPro PDP, which served as an important input for the ICANN Board's consideration of the SubPro outputs.

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board **adopted** most SubPro PDP outputs and initiated implementation efforts to prepare for launching the New gTLD Program Next Round. The ICANN Board also designated 38 outputs as pending. The GNSO Council established a small team tasked with performing a triage exercise to suggest the best mechanism(s) to address the pending outputs.

There are two subtopics under SubPro that the GNSO Council has been focusing on:

1. Applicant support
2. Closed generics

GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on Applicant Support

During its meeting on 25 August 2022, the GNSO Council **approved** the GGP Initiation Request to provide additional guidance to support the eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program, as recommended in the SubPro Final Report.

The working group was subsequently formed and began its work in November 2022, following its **work plan and timeline**. Its tasks include reviewing historical information about Applicant Support, identifying subject matter experts, developing data, metrics, and measures of success, and creating methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.

The working group has completed the majority of its tasks and is now focused on producing its preliminary Recommendation(s) Guidance Report for Public Comment. It will provide recommendations relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success and those relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds. During ICANN77, the working group will hold a working session on Tuesday, 13 June to continue drafting its Recommendation(s) Guidance Report.

Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

Closed Generics was a topic within the SubPro PDP charter, but the working group was unable to come to agreement on recommendations for this topic. On 6 March 2022, the ICANN Board sent a **letter** and a **framing paper** to the GNSO Council proposing an ICANN Board-facilitated process for a GAC-GNSO Council dialogue on the topic of Closed Generics. The GAC and GNSO jointly invited the participation from the ALAC to the dialogue.

Following an initial meeting during ICANN75, the dialogue participants met regularly to conduct preliminary tasks, including reaching agreement on good faith participation commitments to govern the dialogue, identifying concrete "use cases," and highlighting specific interests and groups that will be served or otherwise impacted by closed generic gTLDs.

The dialogue participants held a two-day workshop in Washington, D.C. in January 2023 and continued discussions during ICANN76. Should the facilitated dialogue result in an agreed framework, the agreements will be further developed through the appropriate GNSO policy process. By ICANN77, the dialogue aims to have provided a draft framework document to the GNSO, GAC, ALAC, and other groups for their input. The dialogue participants will hold two sessions during ICANN77 to move the work forward.

EPDP on the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data to allow contracted parties to comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements, while also complying with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The adoption of the TempSpec triggered the requirement for the GNSO to complete a consensus PDP within the expedited time frame of one year.

On 19 July 2018, the GNSO Council initiated the two-phase EPDP-TempSpec:

- Phase 1 aimed to decide whether the TempSpec should be confirmed by 25 May 2019. Phase 1 of the EPDP-TempSpec concluded in March 2019. An **Implementation Review Team** is tasked with implementing the **ICANN Board approved** Phase 1 policy recommendations.

- Phase 2 focused on the discussion of SSAD and additional topics held over from Phase 1. Phase 2 work concluded in September 2020, with GNSO Council **adoption** of its recommendations. The EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Final Report sets recommendations for the SSAD as well as for the "Priority 2" topics (e.g., data retention and city field redaction).

The GNSO Council consulted with the ICANN Board on the financial sustainability of the SSAD, and the concerns expressed within minority statements, including whether a further cost and benefit analysis should be conducted before the ICANN Board considers all SSAD-related recommendations for adoption. During ICANN70, the ICANN Board directed ICANN org to initiate an **ODP for SSAD-related** recommendations. On 25 January 2022, ICANN org delivered the **Operational Design Assessment (ODA)** to the ICANN Board.

The GNSO Council formed the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Small Team, tasked to analyze the ODA and provide the GNSO Council with feedback. The small team submitted its **preliminary report** to the GNSO Council on 4 April 2022, expressing the view that the ODA does not provide sufficient information to assess the cost and benefit of the SSAD. The small team also recommended the implementation of a proof of concept approach to gather data and test assumptions, aiming to help assess the financial sustainability of the SSAD.

Subsequently, the ICANN Board directed ICANN org to design such a proof of concept. ICANN org published the **WHOIS Disclosure System Design Paper** in September 2022 and presented it to the GNSO Council and the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Small Team during ICANN75. The small team subsequently reviewed the design paper and continued its consultations with ICANN org, resulting in an **addendum** to its preliminary report. The GNSO Council accepted the addendum and **communicated** to the ICANN Board its support for the request that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the WHOIS Disclosure System, provided that the updates identified by the small team in the addendum are made.

Furthermore, the GNSO Council confirmed to the ICANN Board that, pending the implementation of the WHOIS Disclosure System for a period of up to two years, the ICANN Board considerations for the SSAD recommendations should remain paused unless the data resulting from the implementation of the WHOIS Disclosure System would warrant a decision at an earlier stage.

In February 2023, the ICANN Board **directed** ICANN org to develop and launch the WHOIS Disclosure System, now called the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS), within 11 months and concurrently continue engagement with the GNSO Council on the implementation. The ICANN Board also requested the GNSO Council to consider a PDP or other means to require registrars to use the system, and to establish success criteria for the RDRS. In response, the GNSO Council updated the **assignment** of the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 small team to reflect these new work items. The small team met with ICANN org during ICANN76 and has been meeting regularly since to work on its new assignment.

During ICANN77, the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 small team is expected to engage with ICANN org on the implementation status of the RDRS. A session has been scheduled for Monday, 12 June.

DNS Abuse

During ICANN72, the GNSO Council agreed to initiate a small team on Domain Name System (DNS) abuse and, subsequently, the small team received an **assignment** from the GNSO Council. It captured the numerous efforts already underway focusing on DNS abuse but sought to focus team attention on the narrow question of whether there are DNS abuse issues that are inadequately mitigated and should be best addressed through policy development.

The small team began meeting in February 2022, and as its first step requested ICANN community groups to articulate what DNS abuse problem(s) exist that specifically require policy development. The small team received inputs from the ALAC, GAC, Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), the DNS Abuse Institute, and several GNSO stakeholder groups and constituencies. The small team also received input from ICANN Contractual Compliance on a number of questions, which helped provide better understanding of the contractual enforcement of DNS abuse-related provisions.

In November 2022, the GNSO Council adopted the DNS Abuse Small Team report and recommendations that encouraged targeted contractual amendment negotiations between the Contracted Parties and ICANN to clarify existing DNS abuse requirements. Those negotiations are now underway and the GNSO Council is looking forward to receiving an update on these negotiations; this update is expected to help inform potential next steps in line with the recommendations of the DNS Abuse Small Team.

Since ICANN76, the GNSO Council received responses from ICANN Contractual Compliance, the Registrar Stakeholder Group, the Registries Stakeholder Group, and the DNS Abuse Institute in response to a request from the GNSO Council on the topic of bulk registrations. The objective is to better understand whether this is an area where further policy development should be considered. The DNS Abuse Small Team is reviewing the input received and will report to the GNSO Council on its findings and possible next steps.

gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

The GNSO Council adopted the formation and instructions of the gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team during its meeting on 22 July 2021. The scoping team has been tasked to consider a number of accuracy-related topics, such as current enforcement and reporting, measurement of accuracy, and effectiveness. These considerations are expected to help inform the scoping team's deliberations on whether any changes are recommended to the GNSO Council to improve accuracy levels and how these changes would be developed (e.g., a recommendation to change existing contractual requirements may necessitate a PDP or change through contractual negotiations).

The scoping team began its deliberations in October 2021, focusing its efforts on the assignments that the GNSO Council provided in its instructions. The scoping team submitted its write-up for two assignments to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November 2022 meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation #3 in the write-up but deferred consideration of recommendations #1 and #2 regarding registrar survey and registrar audit.

Consequently , the scoping team's work requiring access to gTLD registration data is paused. The GNSO Council encouraged ICANN to conduct outreach to the European Data Protection Board and proceed with the Data Protection Impact Assessment in connection with the scenario(s) in which the request and processing of gTLD registration data takes place as a matter of urgency.

The GNSO Council requested that ICANN and the Contracted Parties finish negotiations on the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) as soon as practicable. The absence of a completed DPA may act as a roadblock for additional policy development.

ICANN org provided an initial update to the GNSO Council in March 2023, which the GNSO Council considered during its April 2023 meeting. The GNSO Council will consider next steps following further feedback from ICANN org or after six months, whichever comes first. These next steps will include a review of the scoping team's formation and instructions based on feedback gathered from scoping team members by GNSO Council leadership.
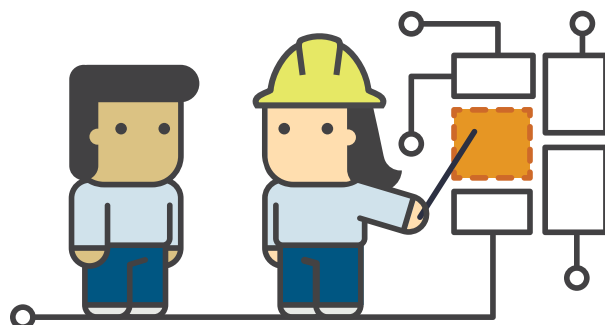
More Information

Read the GNSO Policy Briefing to prepare for ICANN77. Those interested in GNSO policy activities are welcome to attend the GNSO Policy Update webinar during ICANN77 Prep Week on Tuesday, 30 May.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-4. Please refer to the ICANN77 schedule for the most current information.

PDP Working Groups and Scoping Team Work Sessions

EPDP-IDNs

Monday, 12 June | 13:45–15:00
Tuesday, 13 June | 15:30–17:00
Wednesday, 14 June | 10:45–12:15
Thursday, 15 June | 09:00–10:15

Transfer Policy Review PDP

Thursday, 15 June | 10:45–12:15

EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Implementation

Monday, 12 June | 13:15–14:30

GNSO Guidance Process: Applicant Support

Tuesday, 13 June | 15:30–17:00

Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

Monday, 12 June | 09:00–10:15
Tuesday, 13 June | 10:45–12:15

GNSO Council

GNSO Council Working Session

Sunday, 11 June | 09:00–10:15
Sunday, 11 June | 10:45–12:15
Sunday, 11 June | 13:45–15:00
Sunday, 11 June | 15:30–17:00

GNSO Council Meeting

Wednesday, 14 June | 13:45–15:45

Joint Sessions

GNSO and GAC

Tuesday, 13 June | 09:00–10:15

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN77, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members will hold nine sessions in the three At-Large work tracks of policy advice, outreach and engagement, and operations. The sessions will include two policy sessions, two outreach and engagement sessions, one joint session, three RALO sessions, an At-Large welcome session, and a wrap-up session.

Background

At-Large is the community of individual Internet users who participate in the policy development of ICANN. Currently, more than 250 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and over 160 individuals organized into five RALOs that represent the views of individual Internet users.

The ALAC consists of 15 members and serves as the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual Internet users. The role of the ALAC is to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users.

The work of the At-Large community takes place primarily in working groups divided into three tracks: policy; outreach, engagement, and capacity building; and operations. At-Large conducts its work through regular teleconferences and active participation during ICANN Public Meetings.

Learn more about the At-Large community, its activities, and how to join on the At-Large website and At-Large workspace. Also, two ICANN Learn courses provide additional information on how to start and sustain involvement in the activities of the At-Large community.

Session Details

Please refer to the ICANN77 schedule for the most current information.

Policy Advice Track

The At-Large community continues its work identifying end user interests related to the New gTLD Program Next Round. Between now and through ICANN77, the ALAC and At-Large community are reviewing and updating their priorities as they relate to the interests of end users.

An End User Perspective: The Next gTLD Application Window

As ICANN begins developing implementation plans for the New gTLD Program Next Round, the At-Large community is seeking input from an end user perspective to continue prioritizing its own positions. This session will gather input from the RALOs on the New gTLD Program and allow input from the broader At-Large and ICANN community from an end user perspective. By the end of the session, participants will have identified advantages to the New gTLD Program and possible concerns related to end users as ICANN prepares for the next application window.

Unfinished Business: The Challenges of Auctions

This ALAC-hosted discussion will focus on how auctions should be handled during the next round. The objective of this session is to discuss possible processes that minimize gaming and to understand, for example, how to allow smaller entities to participate in contention resolution. Participants will include representatives from the ICANN community and the ICANN Board.

At-Large interests lie in minimizing gaming of the auctions and maximizing participation, including applicants from underserved regions. An ideal outcome of this session is to identify one or two ideas for processes on how to minimize gaming.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Outreach and Engagement Track

RALO Coordination Session

RALO leaders will hold a coordination session during ICANN77. The focus will be on issues which will benefit from coordinated action among the RALOs, as well as issues of mutual interest. Issues to be addressed include the first discussions on developing a unified digital onboarding process for new At-Large Structure (ALS) representatives and individual members, plans for the RALO General Assemblies, and and an initial discussion of the RALO Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 strategic plans.

African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) Meeting

The AFRALO Meeting will discuss and approve its latest statement on the topic of: "Improvement of African Participation in ICANN." The AFRALO community will present an overview of the topic and will make recommendations. The statement will address one of the pillars of the African Regional Plan for FY 2021–2025.

North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) Sessions

The NARALO will hold several events during ICANN77. The NARALO Roundtable is a new activity for this region. It will focus on a topic of interest for the North American At-Large community. NARALO will also hold its monthly meeting in a town hall format to enable debate and exchange of ideas. Finally, NARALO will hold a networking event for NARALO members and NextGen@ICANN Program participants from the North American region.

Operations Track

At-Large will hold a Welcome Session that will provide an overview of At-Large sessions during ICANN77 and a review of At-Large talking points. At-Large will conclude with a Wrap-Up Session that will provide an opportunity for At-Large to reflect on achievements during ICANN77.

Joint Sessions

Sessions with other Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations are important to the ALAC because they allow for open dialogue and new perspectives. During ICANN77, the ALAC will meet with the Security and Stability Advisory Committee to discuss issues of mutual importance.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN77, the GAC plans to conduct nearly 18 hours of discussions on Domain Name System (DNS) policy topics and operational matters of interest to governments, including more than six hours dedicated to development of the GAC ICANN77 Communiqué.

GAC leadership and membership will continue their work on several topics that have attracted priority attention from governments:

- New generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program Next Round, including how to chart a course for closed generics

- Registration Directory Services (RDS), WHOIS, and data protection policies

- DNS abuse mitigation measures

In addition, GAC members will discuss how they can develop a program that will help governments learn about and assess the impacts of various emerging technologies on the DNS.

Capacity Development

Recognizing the substantial number of new GAC participants in the last two years, the GAC plans to conduct a four-hour Capacity Development Workshop (CDW). Based on priorities identified by GAC members during ICANN76 and memorialized in the GAC ICANN76 Communiqué, the CDW sessions will emphasize recent industry efforts to address and combat DNS abuse in its various forms.

The program on Sunday, 11 June will feature a half-day program of three sessions to inform and reinforce the understanding of how DNS abuse is being addressed by ICANN and the GAC. Specific sessions will include:

- A review of two informational webinars conducted in May 2023 for interested GAC delegates.

- An overview of ongoing contractual amendment negotiations between ICANN and the Contracted Parties regarding new approaches for addressing DNS abuse.

- Discussions about what approach governments may take during future Public Comment opportunities on these topics.

Agenda

GAC sessions will begin on Monday, 12 June, with an overview of the schedule and with introductions by all attending GAC representatives. Time permitting, the GAC chair will also review recent work progress and accomplishments since ICANN76, including GAC correspondence, the ICANN Board scorecard response to the GAC ICANN76 Communiqué, and plans for the joint session with the ICANN Board during ICANN77.

Throughout ICANN77, the GAC agenda will feature strategic planning sessions on DNS abuse mitigation matters, discussions of recent developments regarding preparations for the next round of new gTLDs, discussions of progress on RDS, WHOIS, and data protection matters, drafting sessions of the GAC ICANN77 Communiqué, and interactions with both the ICANN Board and the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

At the end of ICANN77, a nomination period will begin for the five GAC vice chair positions which are due to begin in March 2024 after ICANN79.

Background

GAC membership consists of national governments and distinct economies recognized in international forums. Multinational governmental and treaty organizations as well as public authorities participate in the GAC in an observer capacity. There are currently 181 GAC members and 38 GAC observer organizations.

The GAC provides advice on the public policy aspects of ICANN responsibilities with regard to the DNS. GAC consensus advice has a particular status under the ICANN Bylaws. Such advice must be duly taken into account by the ICANN Board, and if the ICANN Board proposes actions that would be inconsistent with GAC consensus advice, it must provide reasons for doing so and attempt to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the committee.

Further information about the GAC and its various work efforts, processes and operating principles can be found on the GAC website.

Session Details

Please refer to the ICANN77 schedule for the most current information.

All GAC sessions will be open to the ICANN community and will feature simultaneous interpretation in the six United Nations languages. This principle of openness will be particularly evident during the GAC Communiqué drafting sessions. The GAC continues to build on previous drafting process improvements. Based on those successful experiences, the GAC has provided opportunities for contributions before ICANN77 begins and has scheduled six hours of document discussion and drafting time during ICANN77. Details regarding specific GAC plenary sessions can be found on the GAC ICANN77 agenda webpage where all session briefings, descriptions, materials, and presentations will be published.
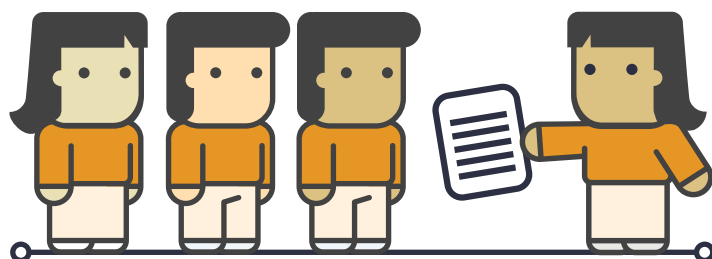
Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

What to Expect

The RSSAC will conduct a work session to advance its work and discuss various internal matters, including root server system security incident reporting. The RSSAC will also conduct its monthly meeting and will continue to raise awareness about its recent **publications**.

Background

The **RSSAC** advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the RSS. The RSSAC consists of representatives from the root server operator organizations and liaisons from the partner organizations involved in the technical and operational management of the root zone.

The **RSSAC Caucus** is composed of Domain Name System 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 Caucus Membership Committee appoints members of the RSSAC Caucus. In addition, all RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus. Currently, there are two active **work parties** in the RSSAC Caucus to update two previously published RSSAC documents: "**RSSAC001: Advisory on Service Expectation of Root Servers**" and "**RSSAC002v4: RSSAC Advisory on Measurements of the Root Server System**."

The next RSSAC Caucus meeting will be held during ICANN78 in Hamburg, Germany.
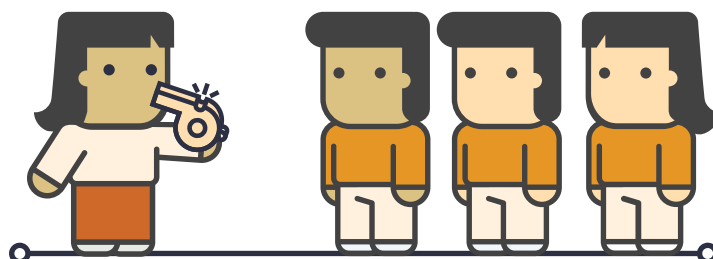
Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-4. Please refer to the ICANN77 schedule for the most current information.

RSSAC Work Session
Thursday, 15 June | 13:45–15:00

RSSAC Meeting
Thursday, 15 June | 10:45–12:15

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

What to Expect

The SSAC will hold a workshop on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and security during ICANN77. DNSSEC continues to be deployed around the world at an accelerating pace. Now that DNSSEC has become an operational norm for many registries, registrars, and Internet service providers, this workshop will provide the opportunity to hear about what DNSSEC and security experts are learning as they deploy and manage DNSSEC.

During ICANN Policy Forums, the SSAC focuses on progressing internal work products and meeting with other community groups. For this reason, the SSAC will not host a public session during ICANN77.

Background

The SSAC advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet. This includes operational matters such as those pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the root name system; administrative matters such as those pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment; and registration matters such as those pertaining to registry and registrar services like WHOIS.

How Do I Participate in the SSAC?

For information on how to participate in the SSAC, see the **SSAC Operational Procedures** and the **SSAC Introduction**.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-4. Please refer to the ICANN77 schedule for the most current information.

DNSSEC and Security Workshop

Monday, 13 June | 13:45–15:00 and 15:30–17:00

This session is a public presentation and discussion with those actively engaged in the deployment of DNSSEC. The DNSSEC and Security Workshop also focuses on various emerging security-related issues such as DNS over TLS, DNS over HTTPS, impacts and potential abuses, impacts of Resource Public Key Infrastructure deployments, Border Gateway Protocol hijacking, and other Internet-related routing issues.

Anyone with an interest in the deployment of DNSSEC and DNS security–particularly registry, registrar, and Internet service provider employees with technical, operational, and strategic planning roles–may want to attend.