

ICANN79 Policy Outcomes Report



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COMMUNITY
FORUM

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A Successful ICANN79



Thank you for participating in the ICANN79 Community Forum!

We hope that ICANN79 fostered dynamic discussions and advanced priority work items. The ICANN organization appreciates the proactive engagement of the ICANN community.

Written by the Policy Development Support function, the “ICANN79 Policy Outcomes Report” captures decisions and outcomes from the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees and summaries of their joint sessions with the ICANN Board. This report also reviews additional activities, such as the first ICANN Board webinar during Prep Week; 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 organization is proud to support consensus-driven policy and advice development by enabling efficient and effective participation in the multistakeholder model.

ICANN79 was my last ICANN Public Meeting. I am grateful for 14 years of building and leading the world-class Policy Development Support function in support of the ICANN community. Thank you for the countless memories, your trust, and the warm well-wishes as I begin my retirement.

Best regards,

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

David Olive

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ICANN Board Engagement with the ICANN Community

As part of its commitment to enhance its partnership and engagement with the ICANN community, the ICANN Board hosted a webinar during ICANN79 Prep Week. The webinar featured three breakout sessions, each hosted by two ICANN Board members, with focused discussions on specific topics outlined in these summaries.

Strategic Planning

This breakout session discussed the development of the next five-year strategic plan (Fiscal Years 2026–2030). The conversation began with a review of the approach for developing the strategic plan, outlining the methodology for crafting strategies. Subsequently, the ICANN Board members presented a working draft of the vision statement. Participants collectively called the vision statement aspirational and pointed out that it aligns with ICANN’s mission and values and is clear and easy to understand. The ICANN Board members also introduced themes extracted from the environmental scan, which will serve as guiding principles during the formulation of strategies. In addition, the Board members discussed the relevance of these themes to current needs and received valuable feedback from the ICANN community.

Relevancy of Recommendations

This breakout session explored how to handle situations when ICANN community-developed recommendations adopted by the ICANN Board become either obsolete or unable to resolve the problems they were designed to address. Participants agreed that the issues and solutions for cross-community working groups (CCWGs) and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) policy development process (PDP) working groups are not the same. Moreover, participants also agreed that solutions may differ depending on the nature of the problem, e.g., unclear recommendations or recommendations that are fundamentally problematic and not implementable or feasible.

For CCWG recommendations, participants stated that chartering organizations should be consulted and involved in determining the next steps. For PDP recommendations, the first step should be to consult the GNSO Council. Furthermore, a new mechanism that is not another PDP would require amending the ICANN Bylaws. To avoid this, the ICANN Board will continue to leverage its liaisons to CCWGs and PDP working groups. As it considers recommendations, the ICANN Board will also request improved analyses by the ICANN organization.

Sustainability

This breakout session considered how to best advance ICANN sustainability efforts. Participants expressed support for early work in this area and for expanding the scope to ICANN’s operational and business processes. The benefits of travel to in-person events must be weighed against the negative environmental impact of travel. The objective is to identify efficiencies and the right balance of virtual and in-person work to fulfill the ICANN mission. Decisions must be informed by a cost-benefit analysis that identifies tradeoffs. The ICANN Board recognized the importance of providing the ICANN community with the opportunity to share ideas as part of this ongoing work.

Next Steps

The ICANN Board will review the feedback from its first Prep Week webinar and determine how to approach future engagement sessions with the ICANN community.

Consultation on Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs)

The consultation on PICs and RVCs was meant to “confirm the intended scope of the enforceability of content-related commitments within contracts for new generic top-level domains (gTLDs)”. The consultation is expected to inform the development of the Applicant Guidebook for the New gTLD Program Next Round. As part of the consultation, this plenary session reviewed a summary of [written input](#) from ICANN community groups about the proposed [framework](#) for implementing these commitments in the Next Round. The session featured a panel discussion of three hypothetical examples about the practical implications of GNSO policy recommendations for RVCs that could relate to contents and usage of gTLDs. PICs, specifically the mandatory PICs and safeguard PICs, stem from Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Advice concerning new gTLDs from the 2012 round and are uniform across the relevant Registry Agreements. RVCs may vary widely and permit applicants to respond to Public Comment, objections, GAC Early Warnings, and GAC Advice.

Highlights

- The summary of input received highlighted two opposing views in the ICANN community on the need and desirability of an ICANN Bylaws amendment to explicitly enable ICANN to enter content-related commitments:
 - a. ICANN should not enter commitments that restrict content. The ICANN Bylaws exclude content from ICANN’s mission and that should not change.
 - b. ICANN can and should enter commitments that restrict content. An ICANN Bylaws amendment is not necessary as this is not prohibited.
- A panel discussion focused on three hypothetical applied-for gTLDs, “.election”, “.cancer”, and “.designer”, all with three types of hypothetical RVCs proposed by the applicants for different reasons. Panelists each responded to the framing questions for each RVC type:
 - a. Are these commitments “regulating content”, considering the scope of ICANN’s mission as set out in the ICANN Bylaws?
 - b. Can these commitments be included in the Registry Agreement in a way that is consistent with the ICANN Bylaws?
 - c. Are these commitments enforceable by ICANN as a practicable matter?
- In discussing RVC type 1, “Registration Eligibility Restrictions”, most ICANN community panelists believed the restrictions would not be “regulating content”, could be included in the Registry Agreement, and were enforceable as a practicable matter. With respect to RVC type 2, “Acceptable Use Policy” and type 3, “Additional Usage Restrictions”, ICANN community panelists held divergent views on whether ICANN should enter into those commitments.
- Following the discussion on the hypothetical examples, the panel openly talked about RVCs. ICANN community panelists exchanged views on issues such as whether an application can proceed in the New gTLD Program if the proposed RVCs are deemed not enforceable for inclusion in the Registry Agreement. From the viewpoint of ICANN Contractual Compliance, the onus is on the applicant to demonstrate how their proposed commitments will be monitored and enforced.

Consultation on Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs)

- Two specific ICANN community suggestions arose through the panel discussion:
 1. The ICANN Board should consider resolving its interpretation of what the ICANN Bylaws permit for RVCs and comparable commitments.
 2. ICANN should issue guidance to future applicants on how to construct RVCs in their new gTLD application.

Next Steps

The consultation on PICs and RVCs concluded at the end of March 2024. The ICANN organization received submissions from GNSO stakeholder groups and constituencies, the ALAC, and the GAC. The ICANN Board provided a two-week deadline extension to ICANN community groups that did not or declined to respond, in case they wished to reconsider the request, particularly concerning the ICANN Bylaws amendment issue. The ICANN Board is expected to reach agreement on the PICs/RVCs implementation approach during its May 2024 workshop, considering ICANN community input received through the consultation and this plenary session.



Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Activities

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) convened during ICANN79. It conducted 11 work sessions and discussed the principles of an updated version of the [Internet Coordination Policy 2](#) (ICP-2), which outlines the criteria for establishing new Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). The ASO AC also reviewed a potential timeline and identified opportunities to collect feedback from the RIR communities and ICANN community.

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.

Additional Activities

The ASO AC partnered with Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) to conduct a session called “Let’s Talk About Numbers”. The session featured a presentation about the structure of PTI and the status of allocated resources: Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4), Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), and Autonomous System Numbers.

The ASO also had joint sessions with the GAC to discuss ongoing work to update ICP-2; IPv4 transfers; and IPv6 deployment. The ASO partnered with the ICANN Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to offer a “How It Works” session about the RIR system and the numbers community.

Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the ASO and encouraged candid conversation.

The ASO raised the topic of the RIR system’s status. The ASO presented current areas of cooperation across the RIRs, notably, Registry Public Key Infrastructure. Additionally, the ASO commented on the governance challenges in the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC) region though operations have not been impacted. These circumstances prompted an evaluation of how RIRs coordinate among each other and with ICANN. There are initiatives underway to improve the RIR system. The ASO also explained that the RIR communities convene for their meetings; this may not be apparent to the broader ICANN community. The ICANN Board noted the positive feedback from the GAC about ASO engagement with it during ICANN79.

The ASO explained that there are several relationships between the names and numbers communities. The RIRs have an agreement with ICANN for the provision of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) numbers function. To improve cooperation between the RIRs and ICANN, the ASO recently directed its Address Council to revise ICP-2. The ICANN Board asked the ASO about the scope of ICP-2 updates and how revisions to ICP-2 will affect existing RIRs. The ASO explained that the RIRs are leading the effort to develop implementation procedures for ICP-2, and the ASO Address Council is leading the effort to revise ICP-2. The latter requires RIR community input, and both efforts require coordination with ICANN. The ASO confirmed that the output of these two work streams will come as recommendations to the ICANN Board. The ASO Address Council also provided an update about its work plan for ICP-2 revisions. The ICANN Board commended the ASO for its dual-track work on ICP-2.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

The ICANN Board asked the ASO about how the RIRs and their communities plan to engage in the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20). The ASO emphasized that the technical community has a special role in Internet governance and in conducting operational assessments as part of policy development. The RIRs thanked ICANN for establishing the WSIS+20 Outreach Network.

The joint session concluded.

Next Steps

The ASO AC will continue to review the principles in drafting an updated version of the ICP-2 during weekly teleconference sessions. Once an updated version of the ICP-2 has been drafted, the ASO AC will consult with the RIR and ICANN communities and collect feedback.

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 RIR meeting:

- [LACNIC 41](#) | 6–10 May 2024 | Panama City, Panama
- [RIPE 88](#) | 20–24 May 2024 | Krakow, Poland
- [APNIC 58](#) | 30 August–6 September 2024 | Wellington, New Zealand

Please refer to the [ICANN79 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN79, the ccNSO held various sessions, including working sessions by ccNSO committees and working groups, Tech Day, ccNSO Member Meetings, and ccNSO Council sessions.

The ccNSO Council voted on the recommendation to adopt the proposed policy on the (de)selection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) associated with the country codes assigned to countries, territories, or other areas of geopolitical interest listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard. The ccNSO Council also adopted the advice to ccTLD managers. The fourth ccNSO Policy Development Process Working Group (ccPDP4) on IDNs recently submitted its [Final Report](#) to the ccNSO Council. It includes two parts:

1. The policy recommendations where the decision-making process is governed by Annex B of the ICANN Bylaws.
2. Voluntary advice to IDN ccTLD managers regarding the publication of IDN Tables to ensure the stability and security of the Domain Name System (DNS). The latter was out of the remit of ccNSO policy development, and therefore formulated as advice and not as part of the proposed policy. Therefore, the ccNSO Council decision on this matter is not governed by Annex B of the Bylaws, but by the ccNSO Internal Rules.

As a next step, the ccNSO Council recommendation regarding Part A will be submitted to ccNSO members for a vote.

Further topics on the ccNSO Council agenda included the reelection of its leadership team for the upcoming year. The ccNSO Council also discussed the [outcomes](#) from the ccNSO session 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 confirmed the distribution of the ccNSO Council roles and responsibilities for the year ahead as part of its succession planning process. Finally, the ccNSO Council discussed the outcomes of the recent ccNSO World Café sessions on the theme “shaping the ccNSO for 2030” and agreed to take on the proposed next steps as suggested by the organizing committee. To learn more, visit the ccNSO Council [workspace](#).

Additional Activities

[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 ICANN79, Tech Day presentation topics included eID, DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), data collection, Domain Abuse Activity Reporting, and DNS abuse prevention and mitigation.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

ccNSO Members Meeting

- During the welcome session, ccNSO Council Chair Alejandra Reynoso looked back on the [outcomes](#) of the recent ccNSO World Café sessions on the theme “shaping the ccNSO for 2030”.
- The Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) organized a session on the impact of Internet fragmentation on ccTLDs from different regions. The session explored what ccTLDs should be aware of, regulatory realities, and approaches being taken by ccTLDs.
- Between ICANN78 and ICANN79, a ccNSO Council subgroup reviewed potential policy gaps in the ccTLD post-delegation processes pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs. During ICANN79, the ccTLDs present were informed about the deliverables to date. During an interactive session, the ccTLD community discussed two hypothetical gap examples and tools to address these gaps. The subgroup will continue its work and will brief the community during ICANN80. Among others, the ccNSO Council subgroup will develop a proposed consolidated document, bridging current policy documents and guidance. The subgroup will then decide whether to continue to work on this document or on guidance to make the current policies and practices easier to find. The group will also explore ways to deal with future policy “unknowns” and identify the best working methods.
- The ccTLD News Sessions have been part of the ccNSO Members Meetings for several years. Previous ccTLD News Session editions included a collection of case studies, statistics, new developments, trends, and more. They have provided a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share experiences, and discuss ccTLD-related issues. During ICANN79, the ccTLD News Session featured the following presentations:
 - Defending the Multistakeholder Model: Tactics for ccTLD Engagement (.ca)
 - .kr’s Efforts for the Asia Pacific community, referring to the [APTLD Member’s Statement regarding Internet For All](#) (.kr)
 - Building a Model ccTLD in Africa: Kenya Case Study (.ke)
 - Globalization Strategy for .cv (.cv)
 - Update by .pg, 2021–2024 (.pg)
- Several ccNSO working groups and committees provided progress updates and sought input on next steps.
 - The TLD Ops leadership team previewed the workshop planned for ICANN81 as a follow-up to its disaster recovery and business continuity exercise during ICANN66 in November 2019.
 - The Strategic and Operational Planning Committee spoke about its recent submission on the draft Public Technical Identifiers Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Operating Plan and Budget and the draft ICANN FY25 Plans.
 - The IGLC referred to the topics addressed during the 2023 ICANN Public Meetings. They included the digital divide, cybersecurity legislation, the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20), and Internet fragmentation. The IGLC will focus next on capacity building, the WSIS+20 review process, and the Global Digital Compact. The IGLC welcomes input from the ccTLD community on relevant topics.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

- The DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) reminded the audience about useful resources for ccTLDs in their efforts to mitigate DNS abuse, including the [DASC resource library](#) and the [email and contact list](#). For ICANN80, the DASC plans a workshop on tools and measurements for ccTLDs as a follow-up to its session during ICANN78 in October 2023. Other topics of interest are the DNS abuse amendments to the gTLD Base Registry Agreement and gTLD Registrar Accreditation Agreement and the lessons for ccTLDs. Furthermore, the DASC plans to conduct another survey in September 2024 and share the results during ICANN81.
- The Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) is the newest ccNSO committee. The UAC completed its work plan, which includes efforts to provide a platform for the ccTLD community to interact and exchange information on issues related to Universal Acceptance and IDN acceptance. One example of this information exchange is the recently launched [Universal Acceptance library](#) as a useful resource for ccTLDs.
- The Guidelines Review Committee updated the audience on recent work, including the launch of a statement of interest process for participation in ccNSO working groups, and a ccNSO Council-specific conflicts of interest process. The leadership team also reflected on the outcomes of the recent Open Space sessions on continuous improvement for the ccNSO. The sessions featured three topics of importance to the ccNSO membership, namely engagement and participation, knowledge sharing and communication, and process and structural improvement.
- Finally, the registrant capacity small team shared its recent work to address the need expressed by ccTLDs and the ccNSO Council to provide ICANN registrant educational materials that are more relevant to ccTLDs.

Joint Session with ccNSO-Appointed ICANN Board Members

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The ccNSO welcomed two ICANN Board members appointed by the ccNSO. The aim of the session is to seek clarifications and answer questions.

The ccNSO asked about the status of the implementation of the third ccPDP policy recommendations on the retirement of ccTLDs. IANA recently finished the implementation of the policy and can now handle any retirement request from a ccTLD. The moratorium on retirements prompted by the implementation work has been lifted. The ccNSO asked if the new policy can apply retrospectively. The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members clarified that the IANA could use the policy as a model. Later, the ccNSO asked about the backlog related to the moratorium; the ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members noted at least one backlogged case. The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members clarified that retirements and transfers are separate processes, and that retirements are rare. Transfers can proceed as usual, and there is no backlog.

The ccNSO asked about the search for the next ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members stated that the latest information is available on the ICANN website.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Next, the ccNSO asked about ICANN plans for engaging in United Nations (U.N.) processes related to the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the WSIS+20 review process. The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members invited the ccNSO to participate in the Geopolitical, Legislative, and Regulatory Development session and noted the relevant CEO goal that is driving ICANN's engagement. The ccNSO encouraged more ICANN leadership to defend the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. Furthermore, ccTLDs are important partners for informing governments as part of these U.N. processes.

The ccNSO also asked about the status of the implementation of the ccPDP3 recommendations on a review mechanism about decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs. The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members noted that the ICANN Board published the ccPDP3 recommendations for Public Comment and sought input from the GAC, which then stated that it will not provide advice. There are now clarifying questions stemming from legal review of the ccPDP3 recommendations. The ccNSO asked if the extended timeline for ICANN Board consideration of ccPDP3 recommendations is in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws. The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members noted that the ICANN Board takes its responsibilities seriously and observes each step of the process accordingly.

The ccNSO asked if there are plans for a regional hub office instead of an engagement center in Africa. The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members noted that there is a robust engagement strategy for Africa, which includes the work of the Coalition for Digital Africa.

The ccNSO asked the ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members about their priorities in the next year. One priority is the implementation of the ccPDP recommendations on a review mechanism with respect to decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs. There is also a new ICANN Board caucus to consider the ccPDP4 recommendations to define the criteria, process, and procedures for (de)selecting IDN ccTLDs. Another priority is the pilot Holistic Review and continuous improvement programs. The third priority is enhancing ICANN Board engagement with the ICANN community. The ccNSO asked if joint sessions could be conducted outside of ICANN Public Meetings. Other priorities include contributing to the success of the New gTLD Program Next Round and contributing to ICANN Board committees.

The ccNSO asked if the ICANN Board would consider changing ICANN's external legal counsel every few years in line with good governance practice for changing auditors. One ccNSO member explained that there is value to keeping a law firm that understands ICANN and its work.

The ccNSO asked about the nature of risk management. The ICANN Board noted that there is a mature risk management framework and suggested presenting the information recently provided to the Supporting Organization and Advisory Committee chairs. The ccNSO observed that the risk of litigation seems to slow down progress toward achieving ICANN's mission. The ccNSO asked if the ICANN Board is comfortable with this balance. The ICANN Board stated that, to provide more transparency, it plans to note its agreement or disagreement with legal advice in the rationale for resolutions. A review of the risk appetite statement is underway.

The ccNSO thanked all participants and the joint session concluded.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Next Steps

[ccPDP4 IDN ccTLD \(de\)selection \(ccPDP4-IDN\)](#)

The fourth ccPDP 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. This ccPDP also addresses the the ICANN Board request 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.

The ccNSO Council recommended adopting the [policy proposals](#) during ICANN79. As a next step in the ccNSO decision-making process, the recommended policy will be subject to a vote by ccNSO Members. Voting will take place online and start after ICANN79. After the vote and assuming adoption, the recommended policy is expected to be submitted to the ICANN Board by ICANN80. If adopted by the ICANN Board and implemented by the ICANN organization, the proposed policy for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.

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 ccNSO councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members, three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee). ccNSO councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO. ccNSO Councilors also 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 monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the [ccNSO website](#).

Take 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 [ICANN79 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN79, the GNSO organized various sessions, including GNSO PDP working group sessions to discuss IDNs and the Transfer Policy review; GNSO Council small team meetings; sessions devoted to stakeholder group and constituency work; GNSO Council meetings; and joint sessions with other ICANN community groups such as the GAC and ICANN Board.

EPDP-IDNs

During ICANN79, the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on IDNs (EPDP-IDNs Team) held one working session to finalize the preliminary recommendations for the IDN Table Harmonization Mechanism topic. The agreement among EPDP-IDNs Team members was that harmonization of IDN Tables must happen. However, discussions remain on how it can happen, including whether there should be requirements for within-script and cross-script variant code points. For a question regarding gTLD registration data, the EPDP-IDNs Team decided to focus the recommendation on what the team wanted to accomplish (i.e., that the source domain name and all allocated variants should be provided) rather than the protocol. The team will continue its Phase 2 work and publish its Initial Report for Public Comment soon.

Transfer Policy Review PDP

During ICANN79, the Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group held two sessions. During its first working session, working group members presented draft preliminary recommendations for updated Change of Registrant requirements and invited the ICANN community to provide feedback. The working group continued to discuss required notices and if registrants should be able to opt out of notices related to a Change of Registrant. During the second working session, the group discussed the 30-day inter-registrar transfer restriction following a domain name registration or inter-registrar transfer. Working group members discussed if an exception to the 30-day restriction should be added to the policy. The working group will continue to discuss both topics during its regularly scheduled meetings. Following discussion of these topics, the working group will revisit the topic of bulk transfers before its Initial Report.

GNSO Council Meeting

During its meeting on 6 March 2024, the GNSO Council agreed to:

- Adopt the GNSO Small Team on Communications Final Report, which aims to enhance its communication efforts to promote its work and outcomes to a broader audience. The GNSO Small Team on Communications was formed in April 2023 to develop a strategic communications plan for the GNSO Council.
- Advance several action items from the December 2023 [Strategic Planning Session](#):
 - Conducting a comprehensive assessment of its Program Management Tool
 - Exploring optimal approaches for managing PDP Working Groups
 - Revising the guidelines for Small Teams
 - Evaluating a proposed aspirational statement intended to provide expectations and guidance for decision-making on PDPs and EPDPs

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Additional Activities

Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board opened the session and welcomed the GNSO Council. The GNSO Council thanked the ICANN Board for its recent engagement, particularly regarding the pending policy recommendations from the New gTLD SubPro PDP.

The first topic from the GNSO Council related to recommendations that are ready for ICANN Board consideration. The GNSO Council observed that recent disagreements about policy recommendations did not reflect well on the GNSO and ICANN. In addition to involving the ICANN organization and ICANN Board liaisons, the GNSO Council is considering providing points for specific input about feasibility and implementation concerns related to stable policy recommendations. The ICANN Board agreed that more informal interactions are extremely valuable. Moreover, ICANN Board liaisons are increasingly more comfortable identifying when to engage. The ICANN Board also noted the ongoing review of the Operational Design Phase (ODP) as another opportunity to identify points of engagement. The GNSO Council hopes more regular engagement would reduce the need for an ODP.

The second topic from the GNSO Council was [ICANN Board resolutions 2023.10.26.11 and 2023.10.26.12](#) about access to accountability mechanisms for ICANN Grant Program decisions. The GNSO Council noted the Public Comment proceeding for a proposed amendment to a fundamental Bylaw and asked the ICANN Board to clarify its perspective. The ICANN Board noted its cautious and deliberate approach to ensure the funds of the ICANN Grant Program are used for their intended purpose. The approach should not impede the launch of the ICANN Grant Program. The structure of the proposed fundamental Bylaw amendment preserves the authority of the Empowered Community while providing an orderly process by which the ICANN community could recommend restricting accountability mechanisms. The GNSO Council understood the logic but asked the ICANN Board if it has any indication that more, similar situations are likely to arise. The ICANN Board clarified that it has no ulterior motive or intent to shortcut anything. The GNSO Council thanked the ICANN Board for this context.

For the third topic, the GNSO Council highlighted its ongoing work on the pending policy recommendations from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. The GNSO Council asked the ICANN Board about private auctions in the New gTLD Program Next Round. The ICANN Board noted its general alignment with GAC advice to disincentivize private auctions. The ICANN Board is also exploring how to ensure good faith in joint ventures.

The fourth topic was the European Union (EU)'s Second Network and Information Security (NIS2) Directive. The ICANN Board did not identify any conflicts with the NIS2 Directive in ICANN contracts or policies. The GNSO Council encouraged its stakeholder groups to raise this topic in their joint sessions with the ICANN Board.

The ICANN Board asked the GNSO Council about its feedback on the ICANN Board webinar during ICANN79 Prep Week. The GNSO Council appreciated the direct engagement with the ICANN Board on priority topics. The ICANN Board committed to promoting future webinars earlier and more effectively. The ICANN Board also noted the upcoming development of the next five-year strategic plan; the ICANN79 Prep Week webinar provided an opportunity to share the draft vision statement for 2030. The GNSO Council asked about the planned next steps for each breakout topic from the ICANN79 Prep Week webinar.

The ICANN Board thanked the GNSO Council for the invitation to the GNSO Council Strategic Planning Session in December 2023. The joint session concluded.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

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 and Board Seat 13. The CPH also hosted a DNS abuse outreach session. CPH held joint sessions with the GAC and the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG). 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 GNSO CPH.

The CPH discussed next steps on the DNS abuse contract amendments and noted the upcoming effective date of 5 April 2024. The CPH stated that it looks forward to analyzing metrics and data to assess the impact of the contract amendments on DNS abuse. The CPH also provided an update about recent outreach meetings with GNSO constituencies and regular contact with ICANN Contractual Compliance. The ICANN Board lauded the passage of the DNS abuse contract amendments and the prospect for future collaboration. Moreover, the ICANN Board looks forward to the work of the GNSO Council Small Team on DNS Abuse. The ICANN Board encouraged the CPH to share best practices outside of requirements in the DNS abuse contract amendments. The CPH invited the ICANN Board to participate in DNS abuse discussions during the Contracted Parties Summit in Paris, France, in May 2024.

The CPH raised the topic of the NIS2 Directive. The CPH stated that NIS2 does not present any conflict with contractual requirements. The CPH believes that NIS2 allows for flexibility to comply within their jurisdictions. Additionally, the CPH thanked the ICANN community for its contributions to the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification (EPDP-TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data because the new Registration Data Policy is flexible and can adapt to emerging legislation. The ICANN Board clarified that it has not identified any conflicts between NIS2 and contractual obligations, but it is aware of assertions within the ICANN community to the contrary. The intent of this discussion is to identify those concerns. The CPH noted that EU Member States are still implementing NIS2 through national legislation. There may be additional requirements, and CPH contracts with ICANN do not prevent the registries and registrars from doing more if proven necessary.

The CPH provided an update about early experiences with the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS). Currently, registrars voluntarily participate, and about 60 percent of domains under management are covered in the RDRS. More registrars need to get involved. To do so, registrars are identifying targets, sharing their experiences, and identifying areas for improvement. It is too early to draw any conclusions. Registrars have concerns about expectations of the RDRS because of frustrations from requesters. However, compared to rejections, approvals have increased by roughly 10 percent.

The ICANN Board stated that it always expected iterative work on the RDRS platform. Furthermore, there is value in having data available to facilitate external analyses. There is also greater awareness about the extent to which registrations are privacy and proxy protected. The ICANN Board asked whether registrars might hesitate to participate in RDRS because it requires investment for a pilot effort. The Registrar Stakeholder Group committed to continue encouraging participation. The ICANN Board asked if participating registrars have already identified areas for improvement. For example, the RDRS could make it clear what information is required to submit a request. Requesters would also like more feedback about why a request was rejected. At this point, it is important to frame requester participation in the RDRS as an experiment. The CPH cautioned against conflating improving the RDRS with improving policies for disclosure of gTLD registration data.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The ICANN Board stated that the purpose of the RDRS pilot is to inform its consideration of the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure recommendations from the GNSO EPDP-TempSpec. The ICANN Board also complimented everyone involved in RDRS development. The CPH noted the additional benefit of a centralized place to make requests.

In the context of the earlier discussions about DNS abuse and NIS2, the CPH identified government legislation and regulation as something to track. The next five-year strategic plan should support ongoing education of governments about technical infrastructure and its limitations in solving public policy questions of interest to governments. The ICANN Board thanked the CPH for this observation.

The last topic from the CPH was transparency expectations in GNSO statements of interest. The CPH learned from a joint session with the GAC, that the GAC sent a letter about its concerns to the ICANN Board. The CPH asked the ICANN Board if it could share its current thinking and that it looks forward to reading the ICANN Board response to the GAC letter. The ICANN Board confirmed that full disclosure of representation is an important topic because it is the bedrock of multistakeholder governance. The ICANN Board has started a conversation about a broader ethics policy. The ICANN Board wants to foster a discussion about next steps on this issue across the ICANN community. The CPH called on the ICANN Board to provide clear guidance to the ICANN community about how to interpret the relevant provisions in the ICANN Bylaws. The CPH supports broadening this work beyond the GNSO to the rest of the ICANN community and looks forward to participating in it.

The ICANN Board asked the CPH for feedback on its webinar during ICANN79 Prep Week. The CPH encouraged the ICANN Board to continue this type of engagement, especially since it provides an opportunity for more interaction to all stakeholders. The ICANN Board committed to identifying improvements, including better scoping for discussion topics. Preparing for ICANN Public Meetings takes time, which is already limited due to ongoing work. The ICANN Board must balance this with its willingness to engage with the ICANN community.

The ICANN Board asked the CPH if it had any initial thoughts about singulars and plurals in the New gTLD Program Next Round. The GNSO Council Small Team on Pending Recommendations from the GNSO New gTLD SubPro PDP moved away from the contentious parts of the recommendation and plans to support the fundamental principle of not having singulars and plurals. There was unanimous support for prohibiting singulars and plurals in the GNSO New gTLD SubPro PDP. Ultimately, the ICANN Board must determine what is in the public interest. The CPH noted that it developed a list of milestones for applicants to meet in preparation for the opening of the next round. The ICANN Board thanked the CPH for this valuable contribution.

The CPH asked about ICANN's intentions and potential stance in upcoming Internet governance events such as the WSIS+20 review process and NetMundial+10. ICANN is facilitating coordination through a mailing list and an outreach network. ICANN is also maximizing engagement through its channels, including the High-Level Government Meeting hosted by the GAC in Kigali, Rwanda, planned for June 2024.

Both the ICANN Board and CPH reflected on the candid conversation as a testament to improved communications and interactions and a willingness to engage with each other. The joint session concluded.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

NCPH

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

CSG

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

The CSG Membership Session included a discussion on the RDRS requester experience.

The BC Membership Session included a presentation from WhoisXMLAPI and a finance and administration update.

The IPC Membership Session included a presentation on PICs/RVCs, RDRS, a GNSO Council update, and an IPC secretary and treasurer report.

The ISPCP Membership Session included several updates including the team reviewing the selection process for ICANN Board Seat 14.

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 the GNSO CSG.

The CSG provided a statement about the NIS2. While CSG does not hold a uniform position, it stated that it does not expect ICANN to enforce EU regulation. The CSG also said that this is an opportunity for ICANN Contracted Parties to advance harmonized WHOIS policy. The ICANN Board noted that it is unclear how EU Member States will implement NIS2 and asked the CSG if it is aware of any inconsistencies between NIS2 and WHOIS policy. Based on the experience of the General Data Protection Regulation and the GNSO EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, the CSG believes there is a reasonable expectation for further evolving WHOIS policy based on new laws such as NIS2. The ICANN Board appreciated the clarification that the CSG does not observe any specific provision of NIS2 to preclude registry and registrar compliance with it while also meeting ICANN contractual obligations. There is general agreement in the CSG that national and regional laws should not trigger ICANN policy development because it degrades ICANN's global mission. The CSG may consider requesting an Issue Report after implementation of NIS2 by the EU Member States and after understanding global trends. It may be premature for the ICANN community to act on this topic.

The CSG asked if there are plans to adjust the ICANN Contractual Compliance function in response to the approved DNS abuse contract amendments. ICANN Contractual Compliance is preparing for the new obligations and is confident in its resourcing. There are also plans to update the collection of compliance data to provide more granular analysis. As the DNS abuse contract amendments go into effect, this is an opportunity for more transparency and stronger partnerships between the ICANN community and ICANN organization. The CSG asked if the ICANN Board has considered the ability for ICANN to handle DNS abuse at scale. The ICANN Board stated that it would like to see more data from the DNS abuse contract amendments.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The CSG and ICANN Board then explored the topic of the RDRS. The CSG noted an uptake in use and positive feedback about a centralized platform. However, there is also considerable feedback about the need to improve the user experience. The ICANN Board noted that framing the RDRS as an experiment has resonated well with requesters. There is an iterative process within the ICANN organization to consider feedback about the RDRS so that the experiment is meaningful. The CSG articulated a concern that a product without accurate responses may not incentivize requesters. The ICANN Board encouraged the CSG to share any data about the RDRS to inform its consideration of the System for Standardized Access and Disclosure recommendations. Even negative responses are valuable, however the CSG expressed concern about a low number of responses from the RDRS. The ICANN Board noted that the registrars are open to collaboration. The CSG asked for a written answer to its question about how ICANN is promoting the RDRS.

The CSG asked the ICANN Board if it had conducted an analysis of what aspects of the ICANN mission are at risk in the context of various Internet governance activities, specifically the GDC and WSIS+20 review process in the coming year. The ICANN Board stressed that it is focused on these challenges, and the ICANN organization can provide briefings to the ICANN community. The CSG commented that the availability of materials and resources is welcome.

The joint session concluded.

NCSG

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

The NCSG Policy Committee session reviewed open Public Comment proceedings and the GNSO Council agenda. The NCSG Membership Session included a presentation about the ICANN Grant Program.

The NCUC Membership Session consisted of regional updates from executive committee members. The NCUC also held an Issue Forum featuring a panel discussion about Internet fragmentation.

The NPOC Membership Session included discussions about new gTLD applicant support, domain names for private use, and administrative matters.

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 the GNSO NCSG.

The NCSG asked the ICANN Board if it would consider a lightweight human rights impact assessment on its resolutions. The ICANN Board noted its commitment to human rights as enshrined in the ICANN Bylaws. The NCSG explained that rapid human rights impact assessments, which have been used in the technology sector, are available. The ICANN Board encouraged the NCSG to recommend an approach. As an example, the NCSG commented that it provided a human rights checklist for developing recommendations and resolutions for GNSO Council consideration of. The ICANN Board referenced the Global Public Interest Framework (GPIF) and how human rights could factor into it. There will soon be a review of the recent pilot to apply the GPIF. The ICANN Board encouraged the NCSG to embrace the GPIF and apply it to its work.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The NCSG noted its concerns with the ICANN Board webinar during ICANN79 Prep Week, which was intended to be informational rather than interactive. The ICANN Board noted its ongoing commitment to improve how it engages with the ICANN community. The ICANN Board anticipated that the webinar would provide initial insights for the joint sessions during ICANN79. The NCSG explained that the number of breakout sessions could prove challenging to cover. The ICANN Board stated that the intent of the topic approach was to break silos across the ICANN community. The NCSG thanked the ICANN Board for its innovation.

The NCSG asked for more information about the operational status and technical management of ccTLDs during times of crisis. The ICANN Board noted the safeguards in place for gTLDs, such as Emergency Back-end Registry Operators, and the 24/7 support from IANA. IANA also has clear procedures for ccTLD transfers. The ICANN Board concluded that IANA indeed followed the procedures. The ICANN Board also explained that these steps are typically conducted confidentially, and that it is up to each ccTLD operator to have a business continuity plan. The NCSG reiterated its request for more transparency. The ICANN Board stressed that this would be up to individual ccTLD operators.

The ICANN Board asked the NCSG about its views on the ICANN communications and engagement strategy for the WSIS+20 review process. The NCSG emphasized that the multistakeholder model needs defenders and offered to help. The ICANN Board described the plans for the WSIS+20 Outreach Network.

The NCSG raised the topic of the NIS2 Directive, which may impact ICANN policies. The ICANN Board stated that it is not aware of any ICANN policies or contractual obligations that make it inconsistent for registries or registrars to comply with NIS2. The ICANN Board noted that registries and registrars could share best practices on gTLD registration data accuracy.

The ICANN Board thanked the NCSG for the organic discussion, and the NCSG thanked the ICANN Board for the interactive joint session. The joint session concluded.

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 ICANN80.

Resources

- [GNSO website](#)
- [GNSO workspace](#)
- [GNSO news](#)
- [GNSO calendar](#)
- [ICANN Learn course about the GNSO](#)

Please refer to the [ICANN79 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.



At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Activities

During ICANN79, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members held 20 sessions in the three At-Large work tracks of policy, community engagement, and operations. At-Large held two plenary sessions, three joint sessions, five RALO sessions, a welcome session, and a wrap-up session.

Policy Advice Sessions

The At-Large community continued its work identifying end user interests related to the New gTLD Program Next Round, digital hygiene and cybersafety, and participation in Internet governance events. During ICANN79, the ALAC and At-Large community reviewed and updated their policy priorities as they relate to the interests of end users. The At-Large community held a policy session that reviewed the New gTLD Program draft Applicant Support Program Handbook and its corresponding Public Comment questions.

At-Large Plenary Sessions

Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals

This session consisted of a panel discussion that highlighted opportunities and challenges in Internet governance as they relate to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Participants included representatives from the ICANN community, ICANN Board, and ICANN organization.

Building Trust on the Internet through Registrant Verification

This session focused on building trust on the Internet through enhanced registrant verification. The first panel discussed the various standards in digital identification and trust services. The second panel discussion showcased best practices from registry operators, including several ccTLDs.

Joint Sessions

During ICANN79, the ALAC met with the GAC, the SSAC, and the NPOC to discuss issues of mutual importance.

With the GAC, the ALAC discussed:

- The Applicant Support Program for the New gTLD Program Next Round
- 10 primers for enabling inclusive, informed, and meaningful participation at ICANN

With the SSAC, the ALAC discussed:

- Cybersafety and methods to best share information with the ICANN community regarding security information
- SAC122 and urgent requests for disclosure of domain name registration data
- SAC123 and the evolution of the TLD namespace
- The Public Comment proceeding on the reservation of .INTERNAL for private use

With the NPOC, the ALAC discussed:

- The Applicant Support Program for the New gTLD Program Next Round
- The Public Comment proceeding on the reservation of .INTERNAL for private use

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The ICANN Board welcomed the ALAC, and the joint session began.

The ALAC sought clarification from the ICANN Board about the prohibition of Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds (CCWG-AP) members to participate in the first round of applications of the ICANN Grant Program. The ALAC noted that the Applicant Guide for the ICANN Grant Program also included a prohibition on CCWG-AP members from advising applicants and asked for its removal. The ALAC also suggested removing all prohibitions for CCWG-AP members by asking the chartering organizations and indicated there could even be a “cooling-off” period. The ICANN Board stated that it looks forward to the launch of the ICANN Grant Program and reiterated the importance of avoiding the perception of self-dealing. The first round of applications will align with the CCWG-AP recommendations. The ICANN Board stated its intent to consider adjustments for future rounds of applications. The ALAC thanked the ICANN Board of its consideration.

The ALAC asked how ICANN can support broad participation, specifically from end users, in various Internet governance events this year. The ICANN Board noted the confluence of activities, including the ongoing U.N. process on the Global Digital Compact. The ICANN Board affirmed its commitment to multistakeholder Internet governance and encouraged all ICANN community groups to articulate their positions and engage in U.N. processes through national delegations. The ICANN organization offers resources, including curated analyses of U.N. discussions, for ICANN community groups and end users. The ALAC asked how ICANN is coordinating its contributions to NetMundial+10. The ICANN organization noted that there is no specific need for coordination because the event features open participation.

The ALAC raised the topic of NIS2. The Contracted Parties concluded that there is no need for policy development to ensure compliance with NIS2, and the ALAC agreed. The ALAC observed that Contracted Parties may have to comply with NIS2 in a way that those based outside of Europe may not. The ICANN Board noted that there may be competition and antitrust considerations.

The ICANN Board asked the ALAC how it defines success with respect to the private resolution of gTLD application contention sets. The ALAC stressed its view that the next round of gTLDs should not feature similar gaming as during the 2012 round. The ALAC is concerned that proposals to prevent gaming are becoming weaker. One option could be auctions of first resort, which the ALAC will revisit as potential advice and discuss with other ICANN community groups, including the GAC. The ICANN Board clarified that success for the ALAC is a mechanism to prevent gaming.

The ICANN Board also asked the ALAC about its top three topics to address before the next round of gTLDs opens. The ALAC stated that private resolutions had already been addressed, and the other two topics are applicant support for new gTLDs and RVCs. The ALAC expressed concern with the level of funding for the Applicant Support Program, the communications plan for it, and the implementation of holistic, nonfinancial support. The ALAC thanked the ICANN Board for conducting the recent consultation on RVCs and urged the ICANN Board to proceed swiftly. The ICANN Board confirmed its intent to continue the discussion and noted that it and the GNSO Council concurred that an applicant and ICANN must agree that RVCs are enforceable.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Finally, the ICANN Board asked the ALAC what it would like to know about the selection process for the next ombuds. The ALAC recalled the recommendation for an advisory panel to suggest ombuds candidates from the CCWG on Enhancing ICANN Accountability Work Stream 2 Final Report, which the ICANN Board accepted. However, the ICANN Board established a search committee for the current ombuds selection process. The ALAC asked why this was the case. The ICANN Board explained that it acted quickly after the resignation of the previous ombuds to appoint an interim ombuds and to establish a search committee because the advisory panel does not yet exist. The priority is to appoint an ombuds that best serves the ICANN community.

The ICANN Board thanked the ALAC for its input, and the joint session concluded.

Operations

At-Large began ICANN79 with a Welcome Session that provided an overview of At-Large sessions during ICANN79 and a review of At-Large talking points.

At-Large held an Operations Session that focused on the FY26–30 Strategic Planning and the Continuous Improvement Program.

At-Large hosted a session focusing on the ICANN Grant Program that included a presentation on the details and an opportunity for At-Large members to ask specific questions.

At-Large concluded ICANN79 with a Wrap-Up Session that provided an opportunity for At-Large members to reflect on achievements during ICANN79 and identify a plan for ICANN80.

RALO Activities

The RALOs engaged in several activities during ICANN79 which highlighted the specific interests of their regions. RALO leaders held two sessions during ICANN79. The RALO leaders met with the ICANN organization Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) regional vice presidents to discuss issues of strategic relevance for all regions. All regions reviewed their FY24 outreach and engagement achievements and presented their outreach and engagement plans for FY25. The plans include initiatives planned in partnership with the ICANN organization GSE team in their respective regions. The RALOs also discussed the next steps in the third Accountability and Transparency Review recommendations, the Pilot Holistic Review, and the Continuous Improvement Program. RALOs also heard updates about the Welcome E-Tool.

AFRALO

The African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and the ICANN community met to discuss the AFRALO statement, “Artificial Intelligence: AI-Powered Tools in the Service of DNS Management in Africa: Opportunities, Challenges, and Impacts”. Participants discussed the statement in detail and provided comments and suggestions to improve the statement which will be further edited by AFRALO members. The meeting also provided an opportunity to ICANN organization executives to provide an update on ICANN activities in Africa, including progress on the Coalition for Digital Africa, the installation of ICANN-Managed Root Server clusters, and other activities planned in the region.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

NARALO

The North America Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) held three events.

NARALO Town Hall

NARALO held an interactive Town Hall which brought together NARALO, At-Large community members, NextGen@ICANN Program participants, ICANN Fellows, and others to discuss policy, operations, and engagement issues relevant to the North American region.

NARALO Roundtable on “DNS and Domain Abuse in the Digital Economy”

The NARALO Roundtable consisted of expert panelists discussing current issues relating to the DNS and domain name abuse from various perspectives, including security, business, technology, human rights, and ICANN policy. The panelists considered the effects of such abuse on the digital economy, with a particular focus on end users. They also addressed potential use and abuse cases, trends in DNS and domain name abuse, and ongoing efforts to combat DNS and domain name abuse.

NARALO Networking Event

The NARALO Networking Event brought together members of NARALO, ICANN Fellows, NextGen@ICANN Program participants, and ICANN community members. Attendees had the opportunity to meet new members and network.

Next Steps

The ALAC and the At-Large working groups will continue their work in policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. Planning for ICANN80 is underway.

Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN79 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

At-Large Webpages

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

At-Large Workspaces

- [At-Large ICANN79 workspace](#)
- [ALAC workspace](#)
- [ALAC Policy Advice Development](#)
- [At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group](#)
- [At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group](#)
- [At-Large governance](#)

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Decisions and Outcomes

The GAC conducted over 28 hours of sessions, including discussions of substantive and operational topics, joint sessions with several ICANN community groups, and substantial time devoted to GAC communiqué drafting. Those efforts culminated in the publication of the [GAC ICANN79 Communiqué](#) on 11 March 2024.

The GAC ICANN79 Communiqué included GAC Consensus Advice on the Applicant Support Program for the next round of new gTLDs and urgent requests for the disclosure of gTLD registration data.

The GAC ICANN79 Communiqué also included GAC statements regarding seven issues of importance to governments:

1. DNS abuse
2. Cost benefit analysis of the New gTLD Program
3. PICs and RVCs
4. gTLD registration data, including the RDRS, implementation of privacy and proxy services accreditation; and accuracy
5. Transparency and GNSO statements of interest
6. RIRs
7. IPv6

Of the 182 member governments and 39 observer organizations in the GAC, representatives from 71 member governments and nine observer organizations participated in ICANN79. At the conclusion of ICANN79, new GAC leaders began the 2024–2025 term.

Additional Activities

Capacity Development

The GAC conducted several productive and informative capacity development sessions featuring several topics of interest to GAC participants. The discussions and knowledge-sharing included:

- ccTLD management, presented by .pr
- ccTLD transfers, with a focus on the role of the IANA function related to the ccTLD transfer process, presented by PTI
- IP address allocations and the role of the RIRs in the allocation of those resources at the regional level, presented by RIPE NCC

Considering the positive feedback received from GAC participants and others in the ICANN community, the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group is contemplating future capacity development sessions during ICANN80 and ICANN81.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Preparations for the Upcoming HLG

GAC members also devoted discussion time during ICANN79 to fine-tune the agenda for the upcoming High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) in Kigali, Rwanda, on Sunday, 9 June 2024. GAC representatives will follow up and confirm the participation of their senior officials and share logistical information about the HLG with their colleagues.

Joint Sessions

During ICANN79, the GAC conducted joint sessions with the ALAC, ASO, GNSO Council members, representatives of the GNSO CPH, ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom), Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), and the ICANN Board.

With the ALAC, the GAC discussed the Applicant Support Program for the next round of new gTLDs and developments about enabling inclusive, informed, and meaningful participation in ICANN.

With the ASO, the GAC discussed IPv4 transfers, IPv6 deployment, and ongoing work on the criteria for the establishment of new RIRs.

With members of the GNSO Council, the GAC discussed the New gTLD Program Next Round, GNSO statements of interest and transparency, DNS abuse mitigation, and WHOIS and data protection.

With representatives of GNSO CPH, the GAC discussed DNS abuse mitigation, the RDRS, and GNSO statements of interest and transparency.

With the NomCom leadership, the GAC received a briefing about the opportunity to apply for ICANN leadership positions; the expected NomCom work for this calendar year; the roles and responsibilities NomCom members; and the opportunity for a delegate from the GAC to join the NomCom in 2025.

With the UASG, the GAC received a briefing and discussed why Universal Acceptance (UA) is important, how the UASG is addressing current UA challenges, and ongoing efforts within the ccNSO.

Joint Session with the ICANN Board

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The GAC welcomed the ICANN Board and reviewed the agenda.

The ICANN Board provided a brief preview of the Geopolitical, Regulatory, and Legislative Update session, including the WSIS+20 Outreach Network.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board what actions could be taken to ensure that all ICANN community groups require participants to disclose their interests to participate in policy development. The ICANN Board noted that accountability serves a purpose and informs transparent policy development. The ICANN Board is also considering developing a broader ethics policy. The GAC asked if the GNSO will implement full disclosure in its approach. The ICANN Board encouraged the ICANN community to move forward in good faith.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

The GAC welcomed the ICANN Board's views on expected next steps for reaching an appropriate response time to urgent requests for gTLD registration data. The ICANN Board explained that it will continue to engage with the GNSO on this issue, especially on matters related to authentication of law enforcement. The ICANN Board anticipates the GAC to participate in those conversations. The GAC asked the ICANN Board about a timeline for resolving this issue. The ICANN Board also anticipates the support of global law enforcement agencies.

The GAC and ICANN Board discussed the next round of new gTLDs. The GAC asked the ICANN Board how it plans to ensure applications for new gTLDs do not infringe on sovereignty, especially in the context of protecting terms with national, cultural, geographic, and religious significance. The ICANN Board noted that there is no consensus on changing or expanding protections from the 2012 round. Every application will be reviewed for requirements, including substantial government support for a new gTLD string that corresponds to a protected term. An application will not proceed if it does not meet this requirement. If an applicant does not address concerns of a relevant government, the ICANN Board will consider if delegating the new gTLD string is in the global public interest. There are heightened standards for the ICANN Board to reject GAC advice, and there are mechanisms in place for objections. The GAC asked the ICANN Board about tools to help governments track new gTLD applications. The ICANN Board noted that there will be total transparency about what new gTLD strings are in play and their intended use; governments are encouraged to use the early warning system. The GAC asked the ICANN Board about disputes for protected terms. The ICANN Board noted that ICANN is not a platform for resolving disputes. Moreover, removing a delegated new gTLD from the root zone because a government determines it is now a protected term is not conducive to security, stability, and resilience of the DNS. The GAC noted the success of geographic TLDs and thanked the ICANN Board for the detailed answers.

The GAC asked the ICANN Board how it will ensure the Applicant Support Program is sufficiently funded and resourced. The ICANN Board stated that applicant support is a high priority: The ICANN organization is developing a handbook and engaging in underserved regions. The GAC noted that applicant support should also entail nonfinancial matters such as technical, administrative, and procedural support. The GAC urged the ICANN Board to ensure there is a comprehensive and global communications and outreach plan to promote the Applicant Support Program and to track progress.

The GAC asked about the costs and benefits of the next round of new gTLDs. The ICANN Board explained that the published [overview](#) is high-level. The ICANN Board noted its conclusions that “there is no economic basis that would justify stopping [the Next Round], and no further economic analysis will prove to be any more informative.” The ICANN Board also questioned if the exercise of a global, independent analysis is fit-for-purpose. Moreover, the ICANN Board anticipates a positive impact from the Next Round, which is an output of ICANN community policy development. The GAC challenged the ICANN organization's approach to implement the advice from 2016 and noted the discussions that transpired during the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process.

The GAC and ICANN Board agreed to defer the remaining topics, and the joint session concluded.

Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN79 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials. More detailed information about GAC sessions during ICANN79, including briefings, presentations, transcripts, and recordings can be found on this [webpage](#).

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Activities

The RSSAC had five work sessions throughout the week to advance work items and discuss various operational matters, including the Security Incident Reporting Work Party and Root Server System (RSS) messaging. The RSSAC also discussed a statement of work for a potential new work party to study the guidelines for changing root server address. In addition, the RSSAC conducted its monthly meeting and had a joint session with the SSAC.

The RSSAC offered a “How It Works” session about the RSS and met with ICANN Fellows and NextGen@ICANN Program participants in a “Get to Know the ICANN Community” session.

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 the RSSAC, and the joint session began. The ICANN Board and RSSAC members introduced themselves.

The RSSAC asked the ICANN Board how it can assist with the upcoming WSIS+20 review process. The ICANN Board provided an overview of the emergence of multistakeholder governance of the Internet. The ICANN Board also encouraged root server operators (RSOs) to solidify their posture as leaders in the technical community, highlighting their collaboration and coordination. This is especially important since the technical community often must implement policies. Moreover, the RSS is a success story because RSOs are apolitical. The ICANN Board also noted ongoing work to evolve the governance of the RSS as an affirmation of technical leadership and RSO participation in the multistakeholder model.

The ICANN Board asked the RSSAC how political events affect RSOs and the RSS. The RSSAC noted that the RSS is extremely resilient and has never had a service outage regardless of any external event. The RSOs have redundant monitoring with immediate notifications of any disruption. Political events do not affect the RSS and the RSOs; problems with physical infrastructure are handled at the technical level.

The ICANN Board asked the RSSAC how RSOs are considering more ecological operations. The RSSAC noted that the efficiency of the RSS should be considered in the context of all components of the DNS, and RSOs constantly consider power consumption in their operations. Therefore, energy consumption by over 1700 instances is minimal. The RSSAC also highlighted that evolving technology leads to more efficiency. The ICANN Board encouraged the RSSAC to document these facts.

The ICANN Board also reminded the RSSAC about the upcoming development of the next five-year strategic plan. The RSSAC commented that the outcome of the RSS Governance Working Group will be an important contribution to multistakeholder Internet governance and to overall accountability of the RSS and RSOs.

The joint session concluded.

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 security incident reporting.

Resources

Please refer to the [ICANN79 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)

Outcomes

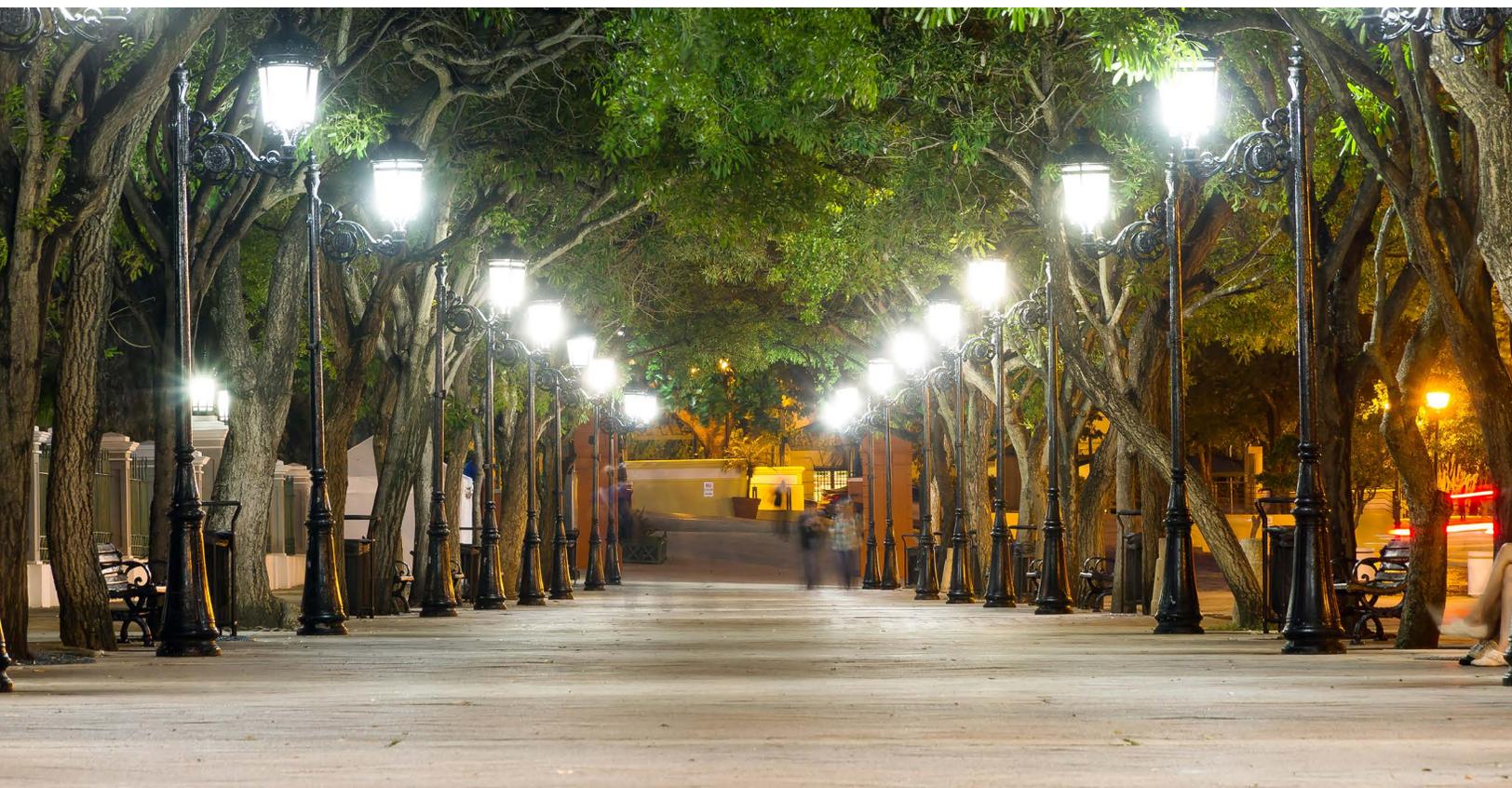
The SSAC gave several presentations about seeking new members to strengthen its impact and inclusivity. The SSAC is currently lacking representation from several regions (Latin America/Caribbean, Africa, and Asia/Pacific) and academic backgrounds. Recognizing its current male dominance, the SSAC is committed to achieving gender equality and building a more diverse and well-rounded membership.

The Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP) Discussion Group proposed a comprehensive Name Collision Risk Assessment Framework in its Study 2. This framework incorporates integrated risk assessments, a dedicated Technical Review Team, enhanced data collection, and the application of multiple assessment methods for a thorough evaluation and mitigation of collision risks.

The SSAC emphasized its view of the NCAP proposal that data collection is crucial for assessing and remediating name collisions. The timing and methods of data gathering require careful consideration to address privacy concerns.

The SSAC proposed a Safer Cyber Campaign to emphasize that cybersecurity is infrastructure. The SSAC also proposed collaborating with various ICANN community groups to curate and disseminate vital information on DNS security to a broad audience.

Finally, the SSAC presented detailed briefings on SAC123: SSAC Report on the Evolution of Internet Name Resolution. In SAC123, the SSAC found that domain names are becoming increasingly ambiguous and less visible to users. This ambiguity can lead to unexpected outcomes and erode trust in online services.



Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Activities

The SSAC held several productive work sessions during ICANN79, focusing on:

- **NCAP** | The SSAC reviewed NCAP Study 2 and discussed how to present the findings to the ICANN Board, highlighting the security risks of name collisions and supporting the proposed risk assessment framework.
- **DNS Abuse Measurement** | The Compass project team discussed progress on measuring DNS abuse, including phishing and malware domains. Collaboration with SSAC is planned for data analysis, education, and improving mitigation efforts.
- **Anti-CSAM Programs** | Public Interest Registry presented on two initiatives it is sponsoring to combat online Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) through domain suspension and collaboration with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Discussions centered on TLD hopping and plans for direct registry-IWF partnerships.
- **DNS Evolution** | SSAC members discussed a proposed DNS record type that is being considered in the Internet Engineering Task Force, the DELEG record. DELEG is designed to boost the capabilities of authoritative servers. It works alongside traditional name server records, but it goes a step further by specifying supported features and transport mechanisms for new DNS technologies.
- **DNSSEC Automation Work Party** | This SSAC work party focused on simplifying a draft document on automating DNSSEC delegation signer record management, addressing comments related to registrant education and registrar guidance.
- **Registrar Name Server Management Work Party** | This SSAC work party reviewed initial feedback from the broader SSAC and refined recommendations in a draft report.
- **Lightning Talks** | SSAC members presented short talks on various topics, including preserving ICANN data, keytrap vulnerabilities, and alternative methods for DNS resolution.

The SSAC met with various ICANN community groups during ICANN79, fostering collaboration on critical issues:

- **RSSAC** | Discussions centered on transparency, security incident reporting, and DNS education. Both groups acknowledged the importance of clear communication about the Root Server System and building trust through transparent security practices. The NCAP study on name collision risks and its outreach efforts were also addressed.
- **ALAC** | SSAC and ALAC explored ways to work together, particularly on amplifying ALAC work on DNS abuse and cybersecurity through education and outreach. Discussions also covered urgent request processes, the proposed label of .INTERNAL as a private-use TLD, and a briefing on SAC123: SSAC Report on Evolution of Internet Name Resolution.
- **GNSO NCSG** | This meeting explored potential collaboration on areas like human rights, privacy, and open access to DNS. SSAC highlighted its commitment to user rights through its work on DNS abuse and its ongoing efforts to diversify its membership.

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

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 the SSAC, and the joint session began.

The SSAC introduced the NCAP Study 2 Discussion Group. The discussion group reviewed the definition of name collision. An assessment is relevant and timely because the introduction of new gTLDs increases the probability of name collisions. However, measuring name collisions is increasingly becoming more complex because of evolving technology and network infrastructure. Study 2 included three specific assessments: a case study of collision strings, a perspective study of DNS queries for nonexistent TLDs, and a root cause analysis of new gTLD collisions. The discussion group found that name collisions continue to pose a persistent threat to DNS security and stability through risk management frameworks.

The discussion group proposed a Name Collision Risk Assessment Framework. The framework features enhanced data collection and multiple assessment methods in the review for new gTLD strings evaluated by a technical review team, which will provide a recommendation to the ICANN Board. The framework has two goals: ensuring that name collisions can be assessed and providing a process for ICANN to evaluate mitigation and remediation plans for identified name collisions. The discussion group noted that the technical review team must be highly skilled and qualified.

The discussion group explained that detection methods from 2012 cannot be reused as technology and regulatory changes have been implemented since then. There must be a variety of sources for collecting data because there is no general case for root causes. Furthermore, there is no general approach for remediation. The discussion group called for a better understanding of risks to privacy and confidentiality as its recommendations move toward implementation.

The ICANN Board asked the discussion group if it has considered the time and cost for the proposed process. The discussion group noted that there is an opportunity to run the assessment earlier in the application process for more streamlining. The ICANN Board asked the discussion group about the different roles for the technical review team in collecting and then assessing collected data. The discussion group explained that there could be separation of duties.

The SSAC formed a work party to provide specific guidance to the ICANN Board on the work of the discussion group. The work party cannot give advice based solely on quantitative measurements because measurements at this scale are difficult; qualitative measures are also necessary to inform the advice. The work party believes data collection should occur at the beginning of a TLD application; moreover, there should be visible interruption or visible interruption with notification of a name collision early on as well. This prevents a disparate evaluation mechanism because some TLD registries may be better equipped to perform such tests, and that could also amplify privacy implications. There is less risk with a centralized assessment conducted by ICANN. This is the likely direction of forthcoming SSAC advice.

The ICANN Board asked if the proposed assessment framework accounts for future technological changes to the DNS. The discussion group confirmed that it recognized this is a dynamic issue. The SSAC encouraged the ICANN Board to consider a cost benefit analysis. The ICANN Board confirmed that its risk analysis is complicated because of the nondeterministic data landscape. The ICANN Board also stated the need for a data protection impact assessment, and it will look to SSAC to understand which data elements need to be evaluated.

The joint session concluded.

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Next Steps

- The SSAC will continue its efforts to recruit new members from underrepresented regions and backgrounds.
- The NCAP Discussion Group will finalize Study 2 following its review of the feedback received during Public Comment.
- The SSAC will review the final NCAP Study 2 Report and provide its related advice in a report to the ICANN Board.
- The DNSSEC DS Automation and Registrar Nameserver Management Work Parties will resume their regular work sessions between ICANN Public Meetings.

Resources

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

Please refer to the [ICANN79 schedule webpage](#) for all open session materials.

