



---

6 April 2022

To: Mr. Rod Rasmussen, SSAC Chair

Dear Mr. Rasmussen,

On behalf of the ICANN organization Review Support and Accountability team, I am reaching out to leadership of the ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) to plan for the timing and conduct of the next Organizational Review cycle. The "Background Information" section annexed to this letter provides further information, including planned start dates for each upcoming Organizational Review. We request your input by Friday, 22 April 2022, regarding the potential deferral of upcoming Organizational Reviews. This planning is in light of the [ICANN Board action](#) to defer the Third Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO3) Review, the implementation of the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team ([ATRT3 recommendations pertaining to Reviews](#)), including the Holistic Review Pilot, and also in consideration of community workload.

The ICANN Board has directed ICANN org to develop a plan for the next cycle of Organizational Reviews, including the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Address Supporting Organization (ASO), Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), Nominating Committee (NomCom), Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), and Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC), in addition to the now-deferred GNSO review. The potential deferral of Organizational Reviews would allow the ICANN community and ICANN org sufficient time to plan for, and implement pertinent ATRT3 recommendations once prioritized for implementation. Steps are already underway, including the [ICANN Prioritization Pilot](#) and [preparatory work on the Terms of Reference \(TOR\) for the Holistic Review Pilot](#). With community agreement and the Board oversight over the implementation work via the Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC), progress will be tracked closely. Considering the connections between the next cycle of Organizational Reviews and the implementation of the ATRT3 recommendations, specifically the Holistic Review Pilot and the Continuous Improvement Pilot, it might be appropriate to convene to discuss the potential Organizational Reviews scope in the future.

In light of these developments, we request your input by Friday, 22 April 2022 to confirm your support for the deferral of your group's next Organizational Review, until such time as the Board, community and ICANN org better understand the impact of the ATRT3 Recommendations on the next Organizational Review cycle, as well as in consideration of the current community workload. Your confirmation and input will help us to develop the comprehensive plan for the next cycle of Organizational Reviews to be considered by the ICANN Board.

Thank you in advance for your input. We look forward to working with you to evolve Organizational Reviews.

Theresa Swinehart

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Theresa Swinehart".

Senior Vice President, Global Domains & Strategy  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)



---

## Background Information

The current [ICANN Bylaws Article/Section 4.4](#) mandate the triggers that cause Organizational Reviews to commence:

*Organizational Reviews: These periodic reviews shall be conducted no less frequently than every five years, based on feasibility as determined by the Board. Each five-year cycle will be computed from the moment of the reception by the Board of the final report of the relevant review Working Group.*

In its [Final Report](#), the ATRT3 recommends that the Board and ICANN org:

- Continue with ATRT Reviews with a modified schedule and scope.
- Evolve the content of the Organizational Reviews into continuous improvement programs in each SO/AC and Nominating Committee (NC).
- Add a Holistic Review, as a special Specific Review, which will look at all SO/AC/NC and their relations.
- Implement a new system for the timing and cadence of the reviews.

The current planned start dates for the next Organizational Reviews, pending deferral, are as follows:

- Address Supporting Organization (ASO): July 2022
- At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC): June 2023
- Nominating Committee (NomCom): June 2023
- Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC): July 2023
- Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC): February 2024
- Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO): November 2026