**Multistakeholder Policy Development**

The ICANN Policy Development Support Team facilitates bottom-up, consensus-driven processes for global gTLD, ccTLD and IP address policies.

**Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)**

GNSO Council is composed of 21 members — divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) — who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

**GNSO Policy Development Process**

1. Identify the Issue
   - GNSO Council, ICANN Board or an AC identifies issue.
   - GNSO Council considers if issue will result in consensus policy.

2. Scope the Issue
   - If yes, GNSO Council requests Preliminary Issue Report.
   - Staff publishes Preliminary Issue Report for Public Comment Period.
   - Following Public Comment review, Final Issue Report is submitted for GNSO Council consideration.

3. Initiate the PDP
   - GNSO Council considers Final Issue Report and decides whether to initiate PDP.
   - If yes, GNSO Council develops/adopts charter for PDP WG.

4. Form a Working Group
   - WG consults with Community and develops Initial Report for Public Comment Period.
   - After review, WG submits Final Report to GNSO Council.

5. Deliberate the Final Report
   - GNSO Council reviews Final Report and considers adoption.
   - ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.

Learn more about the GNSO [gnso.icann.org](http://gnso.icann.org)

**Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)**

The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).

**ccNSO Policy Development Process**

1. Identify the Issue
   - ccNSO Council, ICANN Board or at least 10 members of ccNSO may request Issue Report.

2. Scope the Issue
   - ccNSO Council appoints issue manager.

3. Initiate the PDP
   - Issue manager determines if issue is within the scope of ccNSO.
   - ICANN Bylaws define and limit the scope of issues.

4. Develop Policy
   - ccNSO Council appoints WG to develop the policy.
   - WG issues Initial Report.
   - WG opens Public Comment Period.
   - WG produces Final Report.

5. Vote by ccNSO (Two Stages)
   - Stage 1. ccNSO Council deliberates Final Report and if adopted, makes recommendation to its members.
   - Stage 2. If members approve, ccNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.

6. Vote by ICANN Board
   - ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations, but national laws remain paramount.

Learn more about the ccNSO [ccnso.icann.org](http://ccnso.icann.org)

**Address Supporting Organization (ASO)**

ASO Address Council (AC) is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)* — who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.

**ASO Global Policy Development Process**

1. Identify the Issue
   - Any individual may submit global policy proposal to ASO AC or RIR.
   - RIR PDP generates global policy proposal.
   - ICANN Board may also request global policy proposal.

2. Determine Requirements
   - ASO AC appoints Policy Proposal Facilitator Team (PPFT).
   - ASO AC or PPFT determine if global policy proposal requires specific IANA functions actions or outcomes.

3. Review by RIRs and ASO AC
   - Five RIRs review global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs must approve identical global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs submit approved global policy proposal to ASO AC for review.

4. Review by ICANN Board
   - ASO AC submits ratified global policy proposal to ICANN Board.
   - ICANN Board may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.

Learn more about the ASO [aso.icann.org](http://aso.icann.org)

*Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)

AFRINIC Africa
APNIC Asia and Pacific region
ARIN Canada, parts of the Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the U.S.
LACNIC Latin America and parts of the Caribbean
RIPE NCC Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia

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