Hi, just a reminder that you’re receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in ICANN. Don’t forget to add emea.communications@communications.icann.org to your address book so we’ll be sure to land in your inbox! You may unsubscribe if you no longer want to receive our emails.

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Register Now! Pre-ICANN59 Policy Update Webinar, 15 June
To prepare community members for the upcoming Policy Forum in Johannesburg, the Policy Development Support Team is hosting a Pre-ICANN59 Policy Update Webinar on 15 June. Subject matter experts will provide brief updates on cross-community topics and the policy and advice development work of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees.

We will conduct two 90-minute sessions at 10:00 and 19:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) to accommodate participants from different regions and time zones.

Read the full announcement and register now!

Get Ready for ICANN59
Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-29 June 2017

It’s not too late to register for the ICANN59 Policy Forum. Before you book your travel, please read the ICANN59 travel and visa information. If you still need to obtain a visa, check with your nearest South African mission to see if there’s still time.

Can’t travel to the meeting? Find out how you can participate remotely.

Be sure to check out these useful meeting tools:

- **ICANN59 Meeting Schedule.** You’ll find session descriptions, dates, times and locations - and how you can participate remotely.
- **ICANN59 Mobile App.** You can create your own meeting schedule, network with fellow participants, view the venue map, get information about Johannesburg and more. You can find the app in the App Store, Google play, Windows Store and BlackBerry World.
- **ICANN59 Guide.** This handy guide contains a map of the Sandton Convention Centre, health and safety information, lists of notable sessions, and more. We hope to see you in Johannesburg!
Fourth Middle East DNS Forum Draws Participants From Across the Region

On 22-23 May, ICANN organized the fourth Middle East Domain Name System (DNS) Forum in partnership with the Internet Society (ISOC). Hosted by the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt, the event took place under the theme "Strengthening Digital Presence in the Middle East."

Cherine Chalaby, Vice-Chair of the ICANN Board, and Akram Atallah, President of ICANN’s Global Domains Division (GDD), gave keynote speeches at the forum’s opening session.

The forum covered topics related to the global domain marketplace, with regional perspectives from Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and new industry trends resulting from the introduction of over 1,000 new generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The program also included sessions of local interest - Egypt’s Digital Market, The Domain Industry: Experiences in the Middle East and Africa, and Women in Technology - that drew wide interest from participants.

Agenda and slides of the event are available here.

ICANN Is Active in Events Across Europe

ICANN aims to continuously enhance its outreach efforts in Europe. This spring, ICANN’s Europe Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team continued to raise awareness of ICANN’s work and encourage diverse participation by relevant stakeholders from countries across Europe - from Berlin to London, Mainz to Bratislava.

- **Global Domains Division (GDD) Summit and DNS Symposium:** Both in Madrid, the events were attended by hundreds of stakeholders. The GDD Summit was held 9-11 May, followed by the DNS Symposium on 13 May.
- **AFNIC Forum 2017:** On 18 May, ICANN’s Jean-Jacques Sahel, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in Europe, gave a keynote speech at the conference of the Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération (AFNIC).
Defending Human Rights in a Digital Age: On 18 May, Jean-Jacques Sahel joined a panel on the involvement and importance of civil society in Internet policy and governance, held at Goldsmith College, University of London.

EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

ICANN Sponsors and Participates in Belarus Internet Governance Forum

On 16 May, the second Belarus Internet Governance Forum (IGF) took place in Minsk, Belarus. As with last year, ICANN sponsored the event and joined the discussions.

Michael Yakushev, VP of Stakeholder Engagement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, delivered the event’s opening remarks. He also participated in the sessions on the future of Internet governance and legal aspects of Internet development in the region. Alexandra Kulikova, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, took part in the cybersecurity session, discussing methods of multistakeholder interaction for combating potential cyberthreats.

Belarus is developing as a strong ICANN partner. In 2016, it joined the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), became an accredited ICANN registrar and installed an L-root instance. ICANN will soon be bringing the second Eastern European DNS Forum to Minsk, Belarus, in October 2017!

ICANN's David Olive Speaks at World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

On 17 May, ICANN’s David Olive, Senior VP of Policy Development Support and Managing Director of Istanbul Regional Office, addressed the audience at the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in Istanbul.

In his remarks, Olive touched on issues related to Internet governance such as the importance of universality, inclusiveness, transparency, and gave an overview of ICANN’s multistakeholder model and the new gTLD Program. Olive stated: “The open and decentralized architecture of the Internet maximizes choice, innovation and creativity. The multistakeholder form of governance, with its decentralized control, its inclusiveness and its attention to voices of the community as much as the voices of power, is what underlies ICANN and indeed, Internet governance today.”
DNSSEC Workshops Come to the Middle East in May

In May, ICANN organized two workshops on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC), led by Dr. Richard Lamb, ICANN's Senior Manager for DNSSEC.

The workshops, held in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, attracted around 50 participants - ranging from TLD operators, registrars and resellers, Internet service providers and digital solutions providers, to connectivity providers, security firms, banks and others.

In Saudi Arabia, ICANN also held a half-day roundtable with nearly 150 local participants. The purpose of this initiative was to raise awareness among executives about the importance of DNSSEC.

DNSSEC deployment is continuing to move forward. The demand for such workshops has increased as the need for a secure cyberspace has become more important than ever.

ICANN Participates in FRATEL Seminar for Regulators in Côte d'Ivoire

On 8-9 May, ICANN joined a panel at the 14th Francophone Network of Telecommunications Regulation (FRATEL) seminar, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. At the panel, Yaovi Atohoun presented on the role of ICANN and the link between Internet Protocol (IP) resources and the DNS. Participants were introduced to the DNSSEC roadshow program, which is part of ICANN's Africa Strategy, and were invited to promote DNSSEC implementation - first for their ccTLD, then for second-level and third-level domain names.

ICANN Joins World Economic Forum Africa

From 3-5 May, ICANN's Pierre Dandjinou, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in Africa, took part in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Africa in Durban, South Africa. This year's theme was "Achieving Inclusive Growth Through Responsive and Responsible Leadership." Most debates revolved around how to best drive an inclusive agenda for Africa, building on the fact that the regional working population is expected to be the largest in the world by 2040.

View presentations from the event.

ICANN Organizes Capacity-Building Workshop for Telecommunication Regulators

The Liberian Telecommunication Authority (LTA) hosted a capacity-building workshop for telecommunication
The instructors for the event were Professors Nii Quaynor and Alex Corenthin, joined by Yaovi Atohoun, ICANN’s Stakeholder Engagement and Operations Manager for Africa. Participants contributed to two panel discussions on the growth of the domain names industry and ccTLD management in Africa. This was the first capacity-building event in the region for a specific stakeholder group (WATRA).

ICANN's Outreach Efforts Extend to the 37th SATA Annual Conference
From 26-28 April, ICANN participated at the 37th Southern Africa Telecommunications Association (SATA) Annual Conference in Matsapha, Swaziland.

Participation in this meeting was part of the ICANN Africa Global Stakeholder Engagement team’s proactive efforts to build constructive relationships and deepen engagement with regulators and regional economic communities in Africa.

ICANN Is Represented at Two Events in Rwanda
In May, ICANN engaged at two events in Kigali, Rwanda. On 8-9 May, ICANN participated in the first edition of the Africa Regional Internet and Development Dialogue (RIDD) in Kigali. The event was organized by ISOC and held back-to-back with Transform Africa Summit 2017, held from 10-12 May. Throughout the events, ICANN’s Africa GSE team had the chance to deepen engagement with the high-level participants, specifically various Ministers of Digital Economy and the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy.

The fourth Middle East DNS Forum in Cairo, Egypt drew local and regional media attention.

The ICANN-sponsored Belarus IGF in Minsk, Belarus, was covered widely in the local media.

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<th>ICANN: gTLD Program includes protection measures to support Internet security</th>
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| English | Belarus News | Minsk to host two major regional Internet forums in October 2017 |

| Russian | IT-technology | In Minsk, We Discussed the Development of the Internet |
Numbers Community Assists in Key Roll Outreach
ICANN has enlisted the help of our partners in communicating the upcoming change to the cryptographic keys that help protect the Domain Name System (DNS). The five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) have agreed to work with ICANN to increase awareness among Internet service providers and network operators in their respective global regions.

"The RIRs clearly realize how important it is that network operators are ready for this change on October 11," said Matt Larson, ICANN's Vice President of Research. "We're grateful to them for helping us get the word out and we stand ready to support the RIRs' outreach in whatever way they think will be most beneficial."

Internet service providers, network operators and others can determine if their systems are ready for the pending key change by going to http://go.icann.org/KSKtest.

To learn more about the key roll, go to https://www.icann.org/kskroll.

ICANN Launches Gender Diversity Survey
The ICANN organization is conducting a survey to determine current perceptions of gender diversity in the ICANN community and to identify potential barriers to participation. The purpose of this survey is to inform community discussions on diversity, following calls for additional data on this topic.

We invite all community members to take part! Responses will be anonymous and used in accordance with ICANN's Privacy Policy. The survey will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

It takes just ten minutes to support diverse and meaningful engagement. To make your voice heard, please complete the survey before 8 July. Your input matters!

Please email any questions to gendersurvey@icann.org.

ICANN Introduces New Empowered Community Resources
On 25 May 2017, ICANN launched three new resources to support the Empowered Community:

- Empowered Community
- Empowered Community Administration
- Correspondence related to the Empowered Community

These resources will enable ICANN to provide the community with clear information about any powers currently being exercised, and how those processes are progressing. Read the full announcement.

Want a Career at ICANN?
Do you know someone who is interested in making a difference...
In the future of the Internet and wants to work for a dynamic global organization? If so, ICANN could be a great fit. Take a look at our new careers webpage, now available in six languages. We have an exciting range of career opportunities to explore. View current job openings (English).

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**A Look Back: The ICANN History Project**

If Vint Cerf is considered one of the "fathers of the Internet," then Ira Magaziner could easily be considered "the father of ICANN." It was Magaziner who spearheaded the formulation of a plan for an international, multistakeholder organization, the likes of which few had ever seen. And it was this organization, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, that would manage the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS).

Magaziner related his little-known story in a video interview that is part of the new ICANN History Project, which can be found at [https://www.icann.org/history](https://www.icann.org/history). There, you will find a growing number of video interviews.

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**WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS**

**Participate in ICANN Reviews**

Reviews are critical tools that provide performance evaluations of ICANN, its Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. Help ICANN by participating in Reviews and driving continuous improvement through the findings and recommendations that they deliver.

What’s Happening?

- The members of the Registration Directory Service (RDS) Review Team have been announced. This announcement includes diversity data for the team. The Review Team welcomes observers to sign up to follow its meetings.
- The Security, Stability, and Resiliency of the DNS (SSR2) Review Team has announced its Terms of Reference. This follows their second face-to-face meeting in Madrid, a summary of which can be found here.
- The Nominating Committee (NomCom) independent reviewer has been announced. Click here to learn more.
- The Final Report on the Review of the At-Large Community has been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. For more information, click here.

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**POLICY UPDATE**
GAC Prepares for ICANN59
The GAC leadership created an agenda that aligns with the issues raised by GAC members and responds to meeting requests from the ICANN community.

In Johannesburg, the GAC will meet with the GNSO, ccNSO, ALAC and the ICANN Board. Additionally, the GAC will discuss its role in the Empowered Community, new gTLDs, and the protections in second-level domain names for international governmental and nongovernmental organizations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The GAC will also discuss internal matters, and each working group will meet.

Before ICANN59, the co-chairs of the GAC Underserved Regions and Public Safety Working Groups - in cooperation with the ICANN Government Engagement team - are hosting a workshop for law enforcement agencies to raise awareness about the DNS and its impact on public safety.

See the GAC sessions in the ICANN59 Schedule.

Next Steps on the Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs
The Cross-Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names as Top-Level Domains (TLDs) - CCWG-UCTN - sought public comment on the draft conclusions and recommendations in its Interim Paper.

The comments received support the CCWG-UCTN's major recommendations: close the working group, create a new effort with a broader mandate, and embed the work in a comprehensive context. However, there was great divergence in suggestions for how to embed the next effort.

The CCWG-UCTN is further reviewing the comments. The goal is to complete the final report by ICANN59 and submit it to the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Councils for discussion and adoption.

GNSO Initiates Policy Amendment Process on Red Cross and Red Crescent Names
The GNSO Council passed a motion to initiate a policy amendment process on the protection of specific Red Cross and Red Crescent names at the top and second level of all generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The Council requested reconvening the Policy Development Process Working Group (PDP WG), which developed the original policy recommendations.

In 2013, the PDP WG developed consensus recommendations for protecting the identifiers of international governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Some of the recommendations pertaining to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent are inconsistent with advice from the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). At ICANN58, the GAC and the GNSO engaged in a facilitated dialogue to resolve their outstanding differences. The ICANN Board has not yet adopted these recommendations. Recognizing the exceptional circumstances and per the ICANN Board's request, the GNSO agreed to take this extraordinary step to reconsider its policy recommendations.

ALAC Rescinds Advice on the Proposed Guidelines for the Second String Similarity Review Process
The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) recently passed a motion to rescind its advice on the Proposed Guidelines for the Second String Similarity Review Process, which it submitted for public comment last year. The advice had supported the recommendations of the ccNSO Extended Process Similarity Review Panel (EPSRP) Working Group.

The validity of the advice was questioned after the ALAC reviewed the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) Advisory SAC084. This advisory raised concerns over potential user confusion with the proposed process in relation to Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) TLDs.

After exchanging views with the SSAC and the ccNSO at ICANN58, the ALAC realized that the issue of user confusion could be resolved if registries would commit to including it in their evaluation processes. The ALAC encourages all concerned bodies to find a solution that ensures timely deployment of IDN TLDs without compromising security and stability or processes that mitigate potential user confusion.
GNSO Council Does Not Support Reopening Decision on Two-Character Country and Territory Codes at the Second Level

In response to advice from the GAC in the ICANN58 Communiqué, the GNSO Council does not support the ICANN Board reopening its decision and subsequent implementation of two-character country and territory codes at the second level. The Council is concerned that the GAC advice essentially requires the ICANN Board to negotiate directly with individual governments on this topic. In the Council’s view, this process is inconsistent with the “Consensus Advice” mechanism stated in the ICANN Bylaws. It would potentially undermine the utility of the GAC itself and violate the post-transition accountability commitment of ICANN.

In the new procedure introduced by the ICANN Board 8 November 2016 Resolution, registries are no longer mandated to notify governments of their use of two-letter country codes or to seek agreements of governments when releasing two-letter country codes at the second level. Because of serious concerns expressed by some governments, the GAC advised the ICANN Board to engage with concerned governments and resolve these issues before ICANN59. Learn more in the GNSO Review of the GAC ICANN58 Copenhagen Communiqué, which has been submitted to the ICANN Board.

GNSO Council Supports the CCWG-Accountability Request for Extension of Mandate and Funding for FY18

As a chartering organization of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability), the GNSO supports the requested extension of the mandate and funding of its Work Stream 2 (WS2) activities for Fiscal Year 2018. The GNSO Council expects regular updates on WS2 activities and on how expenditures track against the adopted budget. The GNSO Council also reserves the right to give further input on the budget allocation for FY18 activities related to the CCWG-Accountability.

Matthew Shears Selected for ICANN Board Director Seat 14

The GNSO Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH) selected Matthew Shears to succeed Markus Kummer for Seat 14 on the ICANN Board of Directors at the end of ICANN60. As required by the ICANN Bylaws, the GNSO Council Chair communicated the selection to the Empowered Community Administration, the Decisional Participants and the ICANN organization.

ALAC Endorses Three Candidates for the Second RDS Review Team

On 16 May, the ALAC endorsed three candidates for the Second Registration Directory Services (RDS) Review Team: Dmitry Belyavsky (Russia), Alan Greenberg (Canada) and Carlton Samuels (Jamaica). The ALAC received six applications, and the ALAC Appointee Selection Committee led the evaluation process and made the full consensus recommendation to the ALAC for ratification.

ICANN Board Approves Global Amendment

The Global Amendment is a set of revisions to the base New gTLD Registry Agreement, as negotiated by ICANN and a Working Group established by the Registries Stakeholder Group. As required by the terms of the Registry Agreement, the Global Amendment was approved by eligible registry operators following a vote that concluded on 10 April 2017, and by the ICANN Board in a resolution dated 18 May 2017.

With these approvals, ICANN provided registry operators with a 60-day notice of the Global Amendment’s effective date of 31 July 2017. Please visit the Global Amendment webpage for additional information and the most recent updates.
Annual GDD Summit Brings Together Registries and Registrars

During the second week of May, ICANN held the third annual Global Domains Division (GDD) Industry Summit in Madrid, Spain. More than 450 people from 60 countries attended in person, and dozens more remotely. Several executives and Board members attended this year’s event and actively engaged with participants.

The summit provided a forum for ICANN’s contracted parties to discuss issues of mutual interest and importance, share best practices and meet one-on-one with members of the ICANN organization.

More information about the GDD Industry Summit, presentations and session audio recordings can be found at https://www.icann.org/gddsummit.

Participants Explore ICANN DNS Initiatives at Inaugural DNS Symposium

The inaugural ICANN DNS Symposium took place after the GDD Summit in Madrid, Spain, as a one-day event focused on all aspects of the Domain Name System (DNS). More than 175 attendees met with members of the ICANN organization to explore its current initiatives and projects relating to DNS research, operations, threats and countermeasures and technology evolution.

More information about the event and a link to the presentations can be found at: https://www.icann.org/ids.

Wanted: Trusted Community Representative Volunteers

ICANN is seeking volunteers to act as Trusted Community Representatives for managing the root zone key signing key (KSK), the trust anchor for the global DNS. By inviting recognized members of the DNS technical community to be part of the root zone KSK operations, the ICANN organization seeks to improve transparency and confidence in DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC).

If you’re interested in serving as one of the multilayered safeguards that protect the key material used to secure the DNS root zone, submit a statement of interest here.

Latin Generation Panel Formed - Enabling a Multilingual Internet

ICANN recently announced the formation of the Generation Panel to develop root zone Label Generation Rules (LGR) for the Latin script. Because it’s the most widely used in terms of number of languages and number of speakers, the Latin script or Roman script is a major writing system of the world today.

Thank you to the Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Cyrillic, Georgian, Greek, Ethiopic, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Latin, Neo-Brahmi and Thai script communities that are currently working to enable a multilingual Internet. Learn how you can speak up for your language by visiting the www.icann.org/idn.
Two New gTLDs Were Delegated in May

| ARAB       | xn--ngbrx (عربي, "Arab", /arab/) |

See the full list here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:

- 20 June, Central Asian IGF, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- 26-29 June, ICANN59, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 26-28 July, Africa DNS Forum, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Learn more about how ICANN will be participating in regional events near you.

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