ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby recently outlined how the ICANN Board and organization are working together with the community to assess the effectiveness of our Public Meetings and determine how the org can improve support for the community’s work both now and in the future when we return to in-person meetings.

Read this blog from David Olive, the Senior Vice President of Policy Development Support, and Sally Costerton, the Senior Vice President of Global Stakeholder Engagement, for an update on timelines and milestones.

Learn the many steps you can take to protect your domain name from common scams in this new publication aimed to help educate domain name registrants. Click here to view the infographic.

Important Tips to Help Keep Your Domain Name Secure

New Resources Available for Domain Name Holders (Registrants)

Read the latest blog from the Registrant Program team highlighting the fourth edition of its
“Issues and Challenges Impacting Domain Name Registrants” reporting series, an ICANN69 webinar updating the community about recent work, and a reminder to take the registrant-focused ICANN Learn course where domain name holders can learn how to leverage best practices for their domain name.

Click [here](#) to read the full blog.

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## Call for SO/ACs to Nominate Fellowship Program Mentors and Selection Committee Members

ICANN org invites Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs) to nominate volunteers to serve as mentors in its Fellowship Program and to serve on the Fellowship Program Selection Committee.

Read this [announcement](#) for more details on the roles and how to apply.

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### POLICY UPDATE

## GNSO: Review of All RPMs Phase 1 Final Report

On 25 November, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group submitted its Phase 1 Final Report to the GNSO Council. If approved, the GNSO Council will forward the report to the ICANN Board for consideration and potential action in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws. The primary objective of this Final Report is to document the work of the PDP working group in several areas, including:

- Recommendations for new policies or procedures.
- Recommendations to maintain the status quo.
- Recommendations to modify existing operational practice.
- Implementation guidance.
- Associated consensus levels of all final recommendations.

This Final Report also documents the deliberations of the working group, input received on its Phase 1 Initial Report and its subsequent analysis, and other pertinent information that provides background, context, and rationale for its total of 35 final recommendations.

[Learn more](#)

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## GNSO Council Holds Virtual Strategic Planning Session

In November, the GNSO held its fourth
Strategic Planning Session (SPS) over the course of a four-week period. For the last few years, the annual SPS has allowed the GNSO Council to onboard new councilors and to develop a strategic work plan for the upcoming year.

This year, the SPS focused on two topics: empowering the GNSO to deliver on its priorities and commitments and aligning program management with resources. These two topics were introduced in an initial plenary session and further discussed among councilors during breakout sessions. In addition, the SPS also included an opportunities and threats brainstorming session, which involved leaders of GNSO stakeholder groups, constituencies, and former councilors. Stay tuned for the SPS Final Report to review the details and outcome.

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ccNSO Nominates Katrina Sataki to ICANN Board Seat 12

The members of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) recently nominated Katrina Sataki for ICANN Board Seat 12. Sataki will begin a three-year term at the conclusion of ICANN72. Although the ccNSO Council is responsible for the nomination, ccNSO members select nominees to serve on the ICANN Board. Sataki is the current chair of the ccNSO Council and chief executive of NIC.LV, the registry of the country code top-level domain of Latvia.

[Learn more](#) about the election process, including the public call for nominations, the election results, and information on the candidates.

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ccNSO Council Welcomes New Members

The ccNSO Council is preparing to welcome newly selected members. Once the ccNSO Council has formally appointed Jiankang Yao (Asia-Pacific), Hadji Mmadi Ali (Africa), Irina Danelia (Europe), Jenifer López (Latin America–Caribbean), and Sean Copeland (North America), their three-year terms will begin at the conclusion of ICANN70.

[Learn more](#) about the ccNSO Council election process.
Working Towards an #Internet4All

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), through its various working groups, Local Initiatives, and UA Ambassadors, is working to develop a more digitally inclusive and multilingual Internet. By ensuring that all domain names and email addresses – in any language, script, or character length (e.g., .рф, .PHOTOGRAPHY) – are accepted equally by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems, users can experience a true #Internet4All.

As 2020 comes to a close, the UASG has published three blogs highlighting recent UA activities and progress made towards an #Internet4All:

- **ICANN69 Highlights Universal Acceptance Initiatives and Global Momentum**
- **Support for Email Addresses in Local Languages Grows with Major Tech Companies**
- **Making Global Progress Towards an #Internet4All | Universal Acceptance Local Initiatives**

The UASG looks forward to expanding its efforts and reach in 2021. If you would like to get involved, please visit [https://uasg.tech/](https://uasg.tech/). And continue to stay informed on everything UA by following the UASG on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

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Access to Registration Data via RDAP

Domain name registration data lookup leveraging the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) has been available from ICANN since last year. RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a potential replacement for the WHOIS protocol. You can now access ICANN’s Domain Name Registration Data Lookup tool [here](https://uasg.tech/).

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ICANN Connects with New European Universities

Universities are important entities within ICANN’s multistakeholder model, and ICANN has always maintained good relationships with them. Not only do they bring valuable academic skill sets to the table, but they also are an excellent
ICANN continuously looks to forge ties with universities to raise awareness and educate students on DNS-related issues. We are pleased to report that two new universities recently opened their doors to ICANN.

On 24 November 2020, the Széchenyi István University of Győr, Hungary, invited ICANN’s Senior Director, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Patrick Jones to a one-hour webinar. Patrick gave an introduction to the DNS ecosystem, explained ICANN’s role, and spoke about how the technical community collaborates. Patrick gave the same lecture at the University of Lund, Sweden, on 10 December 2020.

ICANN would like to thank both universities for hosting these sessions, and looks forward to working with them in the future.

ICANN’S Adam Peake Selected to Join the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Established by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2006, the multistakeholder advisory group (MAG) aims to assist the Secretary-General with the annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) by preparing the program and schedule. MAG members serve in their personal capacity, but are expected to have strong connections with their respective stakeholder groups.

Adam was selected as a member of the Technical Stakeholder Group and started his appointment on 17 November 2020 at the conclusion of the 2020 MAG forum. Adam was also a member of the MAG from 2006–2008.

The 2021 IGF will be held in Katowice, Poland, during the last quarter of 2021.

The Middle East Engagement Journey

Read Baher Esmat’s, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Middle East & Africa, blog, which looks back at the Fiscal Years 2017-2020 Middle East Regional Strategy, now referred to as the regional plan.
You can view the full engagement snapshot for that period here. There were 278 regional engagements, six domain name system security (DNSSEC) signings, and five ICANN-managed root servers.

The blog covers engagement efforts during that period, which focused on building capacity around technical and policy aspects of the Domain Name System (DNS). This included raising the awareness of ICANN's role, encouraging participation in its work, and supporting efforts to further develop the domain name industry at local and regional levels.

Congratulations METUnic!

On 10 October, ODTÜ Geliştirme Vakfi Bilgi Teknolojileri Sanayi Ve Ticaret Anonim Şirketi (METUnic) became an ICANN-accredited registrar.

METUnic is the re-branded Nic.tr, which has been the manager of the .tr country code top-level domain (ccTLD) for Turkey since 1991. We are happy to see METUnic join the family of accredited registrars of generic top-level domains (gTLDs), which expands business opportunities in the Turkish domain names market.

ICANN Participates in the Bilişim Zirvesi’20 ICT Summit 2020

ICANN org sponsored and participated in Bilişim Zirvesi’20, which took place in Istanbul on 25 November 2020.

ICANN org worked with the Internet Service and Connectivity Provider Constituency (ISPCP) to organize a panel discussion, "Keeping the Digital World Safe: Ensuring the Security and Stability of the Internet Infrastructure." This joint panel was held to fulfill the regional goals of sharing national-level knowledge and experience by introducing the ISPCP to the service providers community in Turkey. Additionally, it was a great opportunity to further introduce ICANN's technical role in maintaining the Internet's stability, resiliency, and security.

ICANN’s Fifth Eastern European DNS Forum Virtual Debut!

The fifth Eastern European Domain Name System Forum (EEDNSF) took place online.
Capacity Building for Universal Acceptance Readiness

One of the expected outcomes in the Africa regional implementation plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2025 is increasing the number of systems that are Universal Acceptance (UA) ready, with Email Address Internationalization (EAI) systems configured. For this reason, the GSE-Africa team has planned and successfully organized webinars for specific groups on these topics.

The first virtual engagement targeted regional Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) members on 10 November 2020. This activity validated how governments can greatly influence both the consumer and production side of UA readiness by ensuring that their respective online platforms and content are compliant, and that they include the necessary requirements during the new procurement processes.

The second virtual engagement was held on 16 November 2020, co-organized with the Association of African Universities. It targeted regional academia.

The second engagement contributed to our close collaboration with academia in Africa and had 105 online participants. Mark Elkins, one of the Universal Acceptance ambassadors from Africa, was the main presenter, showcasing the important role that an Universal Acceptance ambassador can play in instigating awareness and participation in this effort.

Staff from Global Stakeholder Engagement-Africa and the Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) program are available to provide any additional information on Universal Acceptance readiness.

Keeping Engagement Virtual with the Multistakeholder Community In Africa

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, both members of the Global Stakeholder Engagement in Africa and community leaders continued to conduct national-level activities virtually. Domain Name System (DNS) business, entrepreneurship, and DNS security were three of the topics featured.

ICANN organized events in Botswana (28 October 2020) and in Rwanda (9 October 2020, 19 November 2020). DNS industry players in each country participated, including the national country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries. ICANN also focused engagement and awareness efforts towards national telecommunication operators, regulators, and other government stakeholders during an informational webinar event in Comoros, on 12 November 2020.

Closing the set of community engagement sessions was a joint ICANN69 readout with our Middle East colleagues. The community was taken through a run-down of the key outcomes and
discussions at the recently closed ICANN69 public meeting.

If you would like ICANN to consider supporting similar engagements in your country, please contact our team at nairobiec@icann.org and we will be happy to help.