In my role as the **ICANN Complaints Officer**, I spend a lot of time raising awareness about the Complaints Office and its aim to improve operational accountability and transparency efforts across the ICANN organization. In fact, since the ICANN org Complaints Office started receiving submissions in May 2017, sixty-five percent (65%) of complaints have led to the org improving processes.

This is why it is so important that you know how to engage with the Complaints Office. It is your feedback that helps ICANN org improve.

The Complaints Office is a centralized location to submit complaints related to ICANN org. When we receive a complaint, we collect facts, review, analyze and resolve issues as openly as possible, with the aim of helping ICANN org build its effectiveness and increase transparency. The office also looks at the data from complaints holistically to identify and solve any operational trends that should be improved.

You can find a lot about what the office does on the website, and by watching this video. I also encourage you to reach out to me if you have questions or want more information about what the Complaints Office does. If you don't know if you want to file a complaint, or are not sure if it is the right place to go, please reach out and I am happy to talk with you and to help answer any questions you may have.

Last month, I visited ICANN's Montevideo regional office, to meet with the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) team and share more about the work I do. I spent time explaining how the complaints processes work across the ICANN org and how I'm working to improve their efficiency. As we are entering 2019, I invite you to check the Complaints Office Semi-Annual Report to learn more about how we are improving, establishing, and revising metrics, and our activities.

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**ICANN NEWS**

**Share Your Input on the Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025**

ICANN published the FY21 - FY25 Draft Strategic Plan for Public Comment at the end of December 2018. Please **click here** to share your input to help shape the future of ICANN as it sets out long-term strategic objectives that reflect the ICANN mission and vision. The Public Comment will be open until 11 February 2019. To prepare for the development of this plan, ICANN initiated a process to identify internal and external trends that impact ICANN’s future, mission, and operations. The ICANN community, Board, and ICANN org all provided extensive input to this effort.
Participants of the All Hands meeting, Montevideo Regional Office, Casa de Internet of Latin America and the Caribbean.

After this Public Comment period, ICANN org will revise the draft. A strategic planning session is scheduled at ICANN64 in Kobe to further refine the plan.

Following ICANN64, the ICANN organization will incorporate any last revisions to the draft Strategic Plan. The Board will then finalize and adopt the new FY21 - FY25 Strategic Plan.

To learn more about the strategic planning process and to stay up-to-date on progress, please visit the ICANN Strategic Planning page.

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**LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS**

**All Hands Meeting at the Regional Office in Montevideo**

From 4 to 6 December 2018, The Montevideo regional office held its first All Hands meeting with ICANN organization staff based Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and global supporting staff to set new priorities. The group had a full agenda of activities including: a best practices and innovation workshop; updates on initiatives across different departments; and various activities aimed at breaking silos and creating synergies across the ICANN org. The regional office also inaugurated a newly renovated space at the Casa de Internet, the unique hub where our office is housed with eight partner organizations in the Internet ecosystem.

Learn more about the regional office in our Five years of the LAC Strategy report (The Regional Office at a Glance, page 5 of the report).

**Internet Infrastructure Week in Brazil**

Daniel Fink, ICANN's Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Brazil, participated in the NIC.br Internet Infrastructure Week, which combined three important events: IX Forum12 - Promoting Dialogues about Internet Exchange Points, GTER 46 and GTS 32. The week of activities was held from 10 to 14 December in São Paulo, Brazil. Edward Lewis, ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Senior Technologist, presented the results of the recent Key Signing Key (KSK) Rollover and upcoming discussions on enhancing the security of critical identifiers.

A capacity building webinar for the Internet LAC community about Universal Acceptance (UA) projects in Brazil was held on 17 December 2018. The invited speakers are both members of the Brazilian Internet community: Sávyo Vinicius de Morais (this month's LAC community profile - see below) and Mark Datysgeld (see his profile on ICANNWiki).

Read more about the UA study in the December issue of our regional newsletter: Brazilian Universal Acceptance Study story.
**EPDP Update**

On 21 December 2018, the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team on the Temporary Specification for Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Data closed the Public Comment proceeding on its Initial Report. The EPDP Team has been actively reviewing all comments received and preparing its Final Report. From 16 to 18 January, the EPDP Team will meet in Toronto, Canada with the goal of finalizing its Final Report.

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**Approach of the Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains**

At ICANN63, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains received feedback that its charter is too risk averse by focusing too closely on the ICANN Board request to inform the community about risks identified in [SAC 095 | Security and Stability Advisory Committee Advisory on the Use of Emoji in Domain Names](https://www.icann.org/en/committees/security/sac-095-advisory-use-emoji-in-dnns). However, the study group and the ccNSO Council reiterated that the study group is not just focusing on SAC 095 but is also seeking the perspectives from ccTLDs. As part this balanced approach, the study group has approached individual ccTLDs who have the capacity to accept the registration of emoji domain names to solicit their views and perspectives and present those to the community. In addition, the study group reached out to the ccTLD community to seek broader input. The responses received will be discussed by the study group and included in a report that is expected by ICANN64. Learn more about the study group [here](https).

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**At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)/At-Large Update**

**At-Large Review Implementation**

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) unanimously endorsed the [At-Large Review Detailed Implementation Plan](https). The plan outlines eight activities raised during the At-Large Review and includes timeline and resource implications. The document will be reviewed by the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) shortly, and the ICANN Board will review it in January.

**At-Large Appointments**

- Justine Chew will be serving as the At-Large liaison to the New Generic Top-Level Domains Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group. Chew will also replace Maureen Hilyard on Work Track 5.
- The ALAC Appointee Selection Committee (AASC) reviewed expressions of interest for the position of At-Large mentor for the ICANN Fellowship Program. The AASC selected Amrita Choudhury as mentor and Sarah Kiden as alternate. The ALAC endorsed the AASC selections.

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**GNSO Council Update**

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council:

- Adopted the GNSO [Review](https) of the ICANN63 Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Communiqué. The GNSO has transmitted the Review to the ICANN Board and informed the GAC.

Confirmed Heather Forrest to serve a two-year term as the GNSO representative to the ICANN Fellowship Program Selection Committee and nominated Andrew Mack to serve as an ICANN Fellowship Program mentor for a period of one year.
GAC Creates New Operating Principles Working Group

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Chair has created a new committee working group. The purpose of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group is to study, develop, and recommend to the GAC membership changes to the current GAC Operating Principles. Potential recommendations will help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity, and specificity of the committee's operations, processes, and procedures, particularly in light of the ICANN Empowered Community.

We want your comments!
The ICANN org has posted its Draft FY20 Operating Plan and Budget for Public Comment. We want and need your feedback in this important process! Please share your comments by the 8 February deadline.

Get Started Now!

New Technical Study Group Begins Work

The Technical Study Group on Access to Non-Public Registration Data met to start exploring technical solutions for providing third parties access to non-public data via Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP). Read more about the invited members and their background here.

New Registrant Infographic: Renew Your Domain Name!

New registrant content has been published in multiple languages across the ICANN websites. Check out the new infographic: Renew Your Domain Name Before It Expires!

Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has several opportunities for community input and participation to announce below. Organizational Reviews are led by independent examiners to assess the extent to which ICANN's Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and the Nominating Committee (NomCom) fulfill their purpose; and examine whether any changes in structure or operations are needed.
Sávyo Vinícius de Morais (Brazil)

The Nominating Committee (NomCom2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available [here](#).

The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available [here](#).

Visit the [Review Status Update Table](#) for the latest status on Specific and Organizational Reviews and additional key resources.

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**GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY**

My first Internet connection was in 2007 on a remote and very small Brazilian city called Ipueira. Since then, I have been fascinated and decided to pursue a career in Information Technology. This led me to a bachelor's degree with the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte. Now, I am starting my masters research in Networking Security and Internet of Things (IoT) with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Because of my background, one of my ideals is to make the Internet accessible to everyone, no matter how far or difficult it is to do it. Today I have a project to support small Internet service providers (ISPs) in all the state of Rio Grande do Norte so they can deploy IPv6 and other Internet Engineering Task Force Best Current Practices.

My first experience in ICANN was in ICANN62 held in Panama City. I attended the meeting as a NextGenner and since then, I have been working in a project to support the LAC region with Universal Acceptance. The results of a first study made about the Brazil context was presented at ICANN63 and discussed during the LAC Space session.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **25 January 2019**
  - Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum (TTGF)
  - Trinidad and Tobago.

- **27-30 January 2019**
  - CANTO 35
  - Guyana

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**MONTEVIDEO**

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ICANN AROUND THE WORLD

Regional Offices:
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Brussels, Belgium
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Montevideo, Uruguay
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