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North America Newsletter

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IANA STEWARDSHIP NEWS

On 10 March 2016, the ICANN Board transmitted the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition Package to the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Since then, [NTIA has been reviewing the proposals](#) to ensure that they meet the criteria of their [14 March 2014 announcement](#). This review period is expected to last 90 days, and will be guided by recommendations from the U.S. Government Accountability Office. In addition, the U.S. Congress has a strong interest in the proposals; it is expected that they will closely monitor and review the proposal as a part of NTIA's evaluation. The current contract with ICANN expires on 30 September 2016, but NTIA has the authority to extend the contract if needed.

While the community was working to finalize the IANA Stewardship Transition Package, ICANN's implementation team has been diligently preparing for the "implementation phase" of the IANA Stewardship Transition. Significant preplanning for implementing [changes to the Root Zone Management System](#), elements proposed in the ICG Proposal, as well as the Post-Transition IANA and Customer Standing Committee, are underway. These activities will continue to develop over the coming weeks and months.

ICANN's legal team is coordinating with the two external law firms that have provided support to the CCWG-Accountability and CWG-Stewardship to prepare proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws to implement the changes outlined in the IANA Stewardship Transition Package. The draft Bylaws will be put out for public comment prior to Board approval, and once adopted, ICANN will notify NTIA of the adoption. NTIA has stated that the Bylaws must be adopted before NTIA can issue a report on the transition proposal.

For updates on all implementation work, visit: <https://www.icann.org/stewardship-implementation>.

Once the Bylaws work is complete, the CCWG-Accountability will turn its focus to its inventory of Work Stream 2 items (outlined in Annex 12 of the [CCWG-Accountability Work Stream 1 Report](#)):

- Considering improvements to ICANN's standards for diversity
- Focusing efforts to enhance ICANN's transparency
- Improving and clarifying expectations of ICANN staff accountability
- Enhancing the accountability of ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees
- Addressing jurisdiction-related questions, focused on applicable law for contracts and dispute settlements
- Developing a Framework of Interpretation for ICANN's Human Rights commitment and proposed draft Bylaw (more information in Annex 6 of the Work Stream 1 Report)
- Considering enhancements to the Ombudsman's role and function

The CCWG-Accountability is open to anyone who wishes to join, and the group has issued a [Call for Volunteers](#) for anyone interested in the Work Stream 2 efforts.



Draft Framework of Principles for Cross-Community Working Groups

The Cross-Community Working Group on Principles for Cross-Community Work seeks community feedback on a draft framework of uniform principles to guide the initiation and operations of future cross-community working groups. The public comment period closes 16 April 2016.

[Submit your comments today!](#)



At-Large Begins Series of Capacity-Building Webinars

To continuously improve At-Large members' knowledge of ICANN, the At-Large community launched a [series of capacity-building webinars](#). Under the leadership of Tijani Ben Jemaa, Vice Chair of the ALAC, the At-Large Working Group on Capacity Building selected topics ranging from best practices for participating in ICANN and At-Large to specific policy issues, such as the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review; country code top-level domain (ccTLD) delegation and relegation; and registrar responsibilities toward new generic top-

level domain (gTLD) development. The webinars incorporate interactive learning elements.

[Review the webinar schedule and participation details.](#)

Call for Volunteers to Review All gTLD Rights Protection Mechanisms

The GNSO Council seeks volunteers for a [new working group](#). This Policy Development Process Working Group will review all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs in two phases, as defined in the [approved charter](#). Phase One will focus on a review of all the RPMs developed for the New gTLD Program (e.g., Trademark Clearinghouse and Uniform Rapid Suspension procedure). Phase Two will focus on a review of the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy. [Join online](#) or complete the form and send to gnso-secs@icann.org.

ccNSO Prepares for Potential IANA Stewardship Transition Implementation

As part of the IANA Stewardship Transition process, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) community expects to appoint members to new committees and groups. The ccNSO Guideline Review Committee (GRC) will propose procedures and processes to implement these provisions before ICANN56. Learn more about the [ccNSO GRC](#).

[Watch an interview with new ccNSO Council Chair, Katrina Sasaki, who describes the upcoming work of the ccNSO.](#)

Successful High-Level Government Meeting Concludes

Nearly 100 government and 22 international government organization delegations attended the [High-Level Governmental Meeting](#) on 7 March 2016, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting was held during ICANN55 - ministers, senior government officials, and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and ICANN leadership offered remarks and presentations throughout the day. The GAC also welcomed six new members and one new observer during ICANN55.



[Listen to audio recordings](#) or [watch the meeting](#).

Stay Current on PDP Efforts

Get updates about [ongoing PDPs](#).

Participate in the Public Policy Process at ARIN 37

The American Registry for Internet Numbers is holding the ARIN 37 Public Policy and Members Meeting from 17-20 April in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The policy discussion forum will focus on [five policy proposals](#): Draft Policy 2015-2, Recommended Draft Policy 2015-3, Draft Policy 2015-7, Draft Policy 2015-9 and Draft Policy 2016-1. Other agenda highlights include updates on software development and data accuracy projects, and a panel discussion featuring organizational case studies of successful deployment of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6).

[Register to attend-in person or remotely!](#)



GDD UPDATE



DNSSEC Root Zone KSK Rollover Recommendations Published

A design team consisting of seven independent DNS experts along with representatives from ICANN, Verisign, and NTIA has completed a report with recommendations for changing, also known as rolling, the DNSSEC root zone Key Signing Key (KSK). Rolling the root zone KSK means generating a new cryptographic public and private key pair and distributing the new public component to parties, including Internet service providers, DNS resolver operators, DNS resolver software developers, integrators and distributors. [Read the report](#).

Open for Public Comment: Safeguards to Mitigate DNS Abuse

In March, ICANN published a report that explores how to measure the effectiveness of safeguards against DNS abuse. These protections are part of the New gTLD Program. The report defines the activities that constitute DNS abuse, and assesses indicators of the rate of abuse in new gTLDs and the DNS as a whole. The report's findings are based on analytics and user feedback.



Mitigating
DNS
Abuse

The comment period closes 25 April 2016. [Read the report and comment now](#).



DELEGATED NEW GTLDS

Twenty-nine new gTLDs delegated in March 2016

Avianca	Talk
Vuelos	Gallo
Passagen	Stream
You	Total

See the full list here <https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/delegated-strings>



SPOTLIGHT



Interested in ICANN Reviews

Do you know what ICANN reviews are and why they are important? Reviews are crucial to evaluating what happens when ICANN processes and policies from the multistakeholder model meet the real world. Reviews enable us to assess ICANN's performance toward our commitments, much like a report card. This process is a tool for continuous improvement - it helps us look at the past so we can do better in the future.

We have several new reviews planned for this year. Now is a great time to learn more about them and get involved! [Sign up here.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the ICANN Quarterly Stakeholder Call

ICANN will hold its next Quarterly Stakeholder Call on 27 April at 15:00 UTC. Learn more about ICANN's activities, progress and financials for the quarter ending 31 March 2016. The call is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. [Register here.](#)

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