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.
   - If adopted, GNSO 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.

Learn more about the GNSO gnso.icann.org

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**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, Regional ccTLD organizations, SO/AC 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 approves Issue Report, PDP begins.
   - ccNSO Council gives Public Notice and opens Public Comment Period.
   - 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)**
   - ccNSO Council requests GAC input.
   - 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**
   - Stage 1. ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations, but national laws remain paramount.
   - Stage 2. ICANN Board reviews Final Report and may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.

Learn more about the ccNSO ccnso.icann.org

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**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.

2. **DETERMINE REQUIREMENTS**
   - ASO AC appoints Policy Proposal Facilitator Team (PPFT).
   - ASO AC or PPFT determine if global policy proposal requires specific actions or outcomes by IANA.

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

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*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