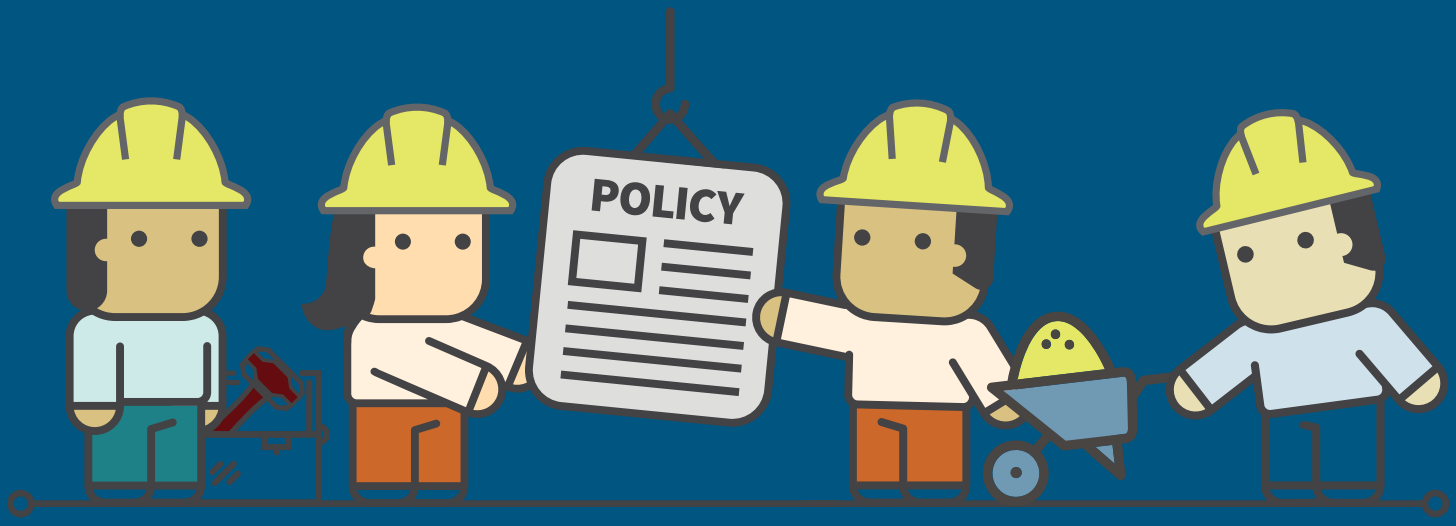
ICANN76 Policy Outlook Report



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Welcome to **ICANN76**

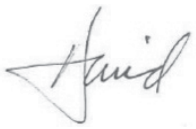
I am pleased to present the ICANN76 Policy Outlook Report written by team members of the Policy Development Support function. This report provides an overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN76.

ICANN76 will feature a plenary session selected by the ICANN community, a Public Forum, and a public meeting of the ICANN Board. Throughout the week, the ICANN community will meet to advance policy and advice work in priority areas. There will also be joint meetings between various ICANN community groups and the ICANN Board.

A global community of stakeholders with different backgrounds and points of view help coordinate and support the unique identifiers of the Internet. The Internet functions for everyone because everyone is invited to help make it work. Consensus policies developed through the multistakeholder model are highly effective and have the greatest legitimacy.

Thank you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to engage in ICANN76. No matter if you are an ICANN Public Meeting regular, an occasional participant, or a beginner, I encourage you to contribute to the ICANN multistakeholder model.

Best regards,



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Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

The ASO and ASO Address Council (AC) will convene during ICANN76 for several work sessions, a joint session with the ICANN Board, and an information session about number resources. The ASO AC will conduct five work sessions to advance its work and discuss various internal matters, including the review of ASO AC operational procedures.

Background

The ASO is defined in a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), affirming the relationship between the names and numbers communities. The purpose of the ASO is to review recommendations on global Internet Protocol address policy and to advise the ICANN Board. Global policies are defined in the ASO MoU as "Internet number resource policies that have the agreement of all RIRs, according to their policy development processes, and ICANN and require specific actions or outcomes on the part of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority or any other external ICANN-related body in order to be implemented." The ASO ensures that the policy development process has been correctly followed in each RIR community:

- African Network Information Centre
- Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
- American Registry for Internet Numbers
- Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry
- Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre

The ASO conducts policy development work during Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on mailing lists.

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) coordinates the global policy development work of the Internet number community and appoints members to the ICANN Board, the ICANN Nominating Committee, and other ICANN groups. The ASO AC consists of 15 members, three from each RIR.

ASO AC monthly teleconferences are open to observers. For more information, including the teleconference schedule, observer privileges, and remote participation details, visit the ASO AC website.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC-5. Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule for the most current information.

ASO Work Sessions

Monday, 13 March | 13:15–14:30, 15:00–16:00, 16:30–17:30
Tuesday, 14 March | 09:00–10:00, 10:30–12:00

Joint Session: ICANN Board and ASO

Wednesday, 15 March | 09:00–10:00

ASO and IANA Information Session: Let's Talk About Numbers

Wednesday, 15 March | 16:30–17:30

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

What to Expect

During the ccNSO sessions, the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community and others with an interest in ccTLD-related matters will discuss and receive updates on topics relevant to ccTLD managers. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for a select number of ccNSO sessions. The enhanced language support will benefit the ccTLD community by deepening operational exchanges and advancing information-sharing. It is part of a pilot project that covers simultaneous interpretation in English, French, and Spanish for three ICANN Public Meetings, ending at ICANN77.

The ccNSO program starts on Saturday, 11 March. The Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Standing Committee (DASC), the Guidelines Review Committee (GRC), and the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) will hold working sessions.

The ccNSO schedule will continue Sunday, 12 March, with other committee and working group sessions: the Technical Working Group, the TLD Operations Standing Committee (TLD-OPS), and the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC). In addition, the Country Code Policy Development Process (ccPDP) Working Group on the (de)selection of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) will hold its working session. On Tuesday, 14 March, during the ccNSO Policy Update Session, the working group will present its latest draft proposals to the ccNSO membership.

Tech Day will take place on Monday, 13 March. Tech Day is a workshop open to all ICANN community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics.

The ccNSO schedule on Tuesday, 14 March, will start with a welcome session and the ccNSO Policy Update. The ccPDP Review Mechanism Working Group will present its final report on the proposed mechanism for the review of the specific decisions on the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs. The working group will use this opportunity to alert the ccNSO membership on the upcoming voting process. During the ccTLD News Session, ccTLD managers from different regions will share latest developments relevant for their ccTLDs. Next, during the ccNSO Governance Session, the GRC will present its proposals for ccNSO statement of interest and conflict of interest procedures and seek input from the ccTLD community. The GRC has also explored the role of the ccNSO with respect to the implementation of policies developed through a ccPDP. The GRC will present its initial findings and seek feedback from the ccTLD community. The final session on Tuesday starts the 20th anniversary celebrations of the ccNSO.

On Wednesday, 15 March, during a ccNSO and Universal Acceptance (UA) session, there will be an opportunity to learn more about the roadmap regarding the role for the ccNSO with respect to UA and how the ccNSO may best serve the ccTLD community. During the DNS abuse session, the DASC will present its findings from the ccTLD survey on DNS abuse and will discuss them with the ccTLD community. The group will also introduce its proposals to share relevant DNS abuse-related information among the ccTLD community. During the second ccTLD News Session, ccTLD representatives from all ICANN geographical regions will explore the impact of the digital divide on ccTLD managers. The ccNSO will also hold a question and answer session with ccTLD-related ICANN Board members.

Finally, on Thursday, 16 March, the ccNSO Council will meet. The ccNSO program will conclude with a wrap-up session by the Meetings Program Committee (MPC). All interested in helping to shape relevant sessions for ccTLDs are welcome to attend. The detailed ccNSO schedule, including highlights of the topics covered and remote participation details for ICANN76, is available on the ccNSO ICANN76 workspace.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Background

The ccNSO is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 for and by ccTLD managers, the ccNSO develops and recommends global policies, such as the retirement of ccTLDs, to the ICANN Board. The ccNSO provides a global platform to discuss topics and issues of concern, build consensus and technical cooperation, and facilitate the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers.

The ccNSO is administered by the ccNSO Council, which consists of 18 councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members, three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee). The ccNSO councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO. Councilors manage the policy development process, lead and participate in various ccNSO working groups, engage with the ICANN community on topical issues, and develop positions based on ICANN community feedback. The ccNSO Council meets regularly at ICANN Public Meetings and at monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the ccNSO website.

Consult the Quick Guide to the ccNSO to learn more about its work and how it is organized. Subscribe to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed. Previous editions are available in the archive.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC-5. Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule for the most current information.

Please refer to the ccNSO ICANN76 session highlights for detailed agendas and more information.

DNS Abuse Standing Committee

Saturday, 11 March | 15:00–16:00
Wednesday, 15 March | 15:00–16:00

The DASC is the core of the ccTLD community-driven process on DNS abuse. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important topic of DNS abuse and share information, insights, and practices. In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the DASC is not to formulate any policy or standards. Instead, its overarching goal is to increase understanding and awareness of the issues pertaining to DNS abuse, promote open and constructive dialogue, and ultimately assist ccTLD managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS abuse.

The DASC will hold a working session at ICANN76 and discuss, among other issues, next steps by the DASC. Relevant documents are available on the DASC website and workspace.

Guidelines Review Committee

Saturday, 11 March | 13:15–14:30
Tuesday, 14 March | 15:00–16:00

The purpose of the GRC is to review the current guidelines and to ascertain whether they reflect current practices and working methods, identify potential gaps, and based on this analysis propose changes to the current guidelines to the ccNSO Council.

The GRC will hold a working session during ICANN76. Moreover, during the ccNSO Governance Session, the GRC will present its proposals for ccNSO statement of interest and conflict of interest procedures and seek input from the ccTLD community. The GRC has also explored the role of the ccNSO with respect to the implementation of policies developed through a ccNSO PDP. The GRC will present its initial findings, and seek feedback from the ccTLD community. Relevant documents are available on its website and workspace.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Internet Governance Liaison Committee

Saturday, 11 March | 16:30–17:30
Wednesday, 15 March | 13:15–14:30

The ccNSO established the IGLC to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet governance. The IGLC will hold a working session during ICANN75. Relevant documents are available on its website and workspace.

ccPDP4 IDN ccTLD String Selection

Sunday, 12 March | 09:00–10:00
Tuesday, 14 March | 09:00–10:00

The ccPDP4 Working Group completed its review and discussion of the 2013 policy proposals for the IDN ccTLD string selection process. The ccPDP4 consists of three subgroups: the variant management subgroup, the confusing similarity review subgroup, and the de-selection subgroup. The ccPDP4 will hold a working session during ICANN76 and will present its latest draft proposals during the ccNSO Policy Update Session. The working group charter, work plan, and other relevant documents are available on its website and workspace.

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Sunday, 12 March | 13:15–14:30

The objective of the SOPC is to provide input on the strategic and operational planning processes and related budgetary processes of ICANN and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) that are relevant from a ccTLD or ccNSO perspective. It also coordinates, facilitates, and encourages the involvement of ccTLD managers in these processes. The SOPC will hold a working session during ICANN76. The working group charter, work plan, and other relevant documents are available on its website and workspace.

Technical Working Group

Sunday, 12 March | 15:00–16:00
Monday, 13 March | 10:30–17:30

Since 2006, the Technical Working Group has organized Tech Day, a workshop open to all ICANN community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics. The working group will hold a working session during ICANN76.

TLD-OPS Standing Committee

Sunday, 12 March | 16:30–17:30

The Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS) Standing Committee is the oversight body of the TLD-OPS mailing list. The purpose of the standing committee is to govern the daily operation of the TLD-OPS email list and, when necessary, to develop and implement progress plans for future improvements and developments of the TLD-OPS email list, including its ecosystem. TLD-OPS is the incident response community for and by ccTLDs and brings together those who are responsible for the overall security and stability of their ccTLD. The goal of the TLD-OPS community is to enable ccTLD operators worldwide to collaboratively strengthen their incident response capabilities. During ICANN76, the committee will hold a working session.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Tech Day

Monday, 13 March | 10:30–17:30

Since 2006, Tech Day has been part of ICANN Public Meetings. It provides a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. During ICANN76, Tech Day will focus on DNS Security Extensions, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, and other topics.

ccNSO Welcome and Policy Update Session

Tuesday, 14 March | 09:00–10:00

Following welcome remarks by the ccNSO Council chair and the MPC chair, two ccPDP working groups will provide an update on their progress and seek input on their proposals:

- **ccPDP3 Review Mechanism** | The goal of this ccPDP is to report on and recommend a policy for a review mechanism about decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of the delegated TLDs associated with the country codes assigned to countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1.
- **ccPDP4 IDN ccTLD (de)selection** | This ccPDP defines the criteria, process, and procedures for (de)selecting IDN ccTLDs associated with the country codes assigned to countries, territories, or other areas of geopolitical interest listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard. The results of this ccPDP4 will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.

ccTLD News Session

Tuesday, 14 March | 10:30–12:00

Previous editions of the ccTLD News Sessions included a collection of case studies, statistics, new developments, trends, and more. The ccTLD News Sessions have been part of the ccNSO Members Meetings for several years. They have provided a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share experiences, and discuss ccTLD-related aspects. Please refer to the ccNSO ICANN76 workspace for a detailed agenda. The agenda will feature a mixture of topics, ranging from cybersecurity, digital identity and inclusivity to management matters and other issues.

Governance of the ccNSO

Tuesday, 14 March | 15:00–16:00

The focus of this session is input from the ccTLD community on the proposed ccNSO statement of interest and conflict of interest processes. A subcommittee of the GRC developed the proposals based on previous consultation rounds. In addition, the committee will explore the ccNSO role with respect to the implementation of policies developed through a ccPDP.

ccNSO Anniversary Session

Tuesday, 14 March | 15:00–16:00

In 2023, the ccNSO celebrates its 20th anniversary. During this session, prior ccNSO leaders will reflect on the evolution and major milestones in the history of the ccNSO.

ccNSO and UA Session

Wednesday, 15 March | 09:00–10:00

UA is a cornerstone of a digitally inclusive and multilingual Internet. It ensures that all domain names and email addresses – in any language, script, using new or long TLDs – are accepted equally by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems. The ccNSO previously explored its potential role in UA. To that end, it organized a session during ICANN75 where

both ccTLDs and other stakeholders suggested activities the ccNSO could undertake to complement existing work by the Internet community. In December 2022 and January 2023, ccTLD representatives participated in two workshops to further explore their expectations regarding potential ccNSO action and how to organize next efforts. After the conclusion of the workshops, the ccNSO Council developed a plan which will be presented during ICANN76.

ccTLD News Session: Digital Divide

Wednesday, 15 March | 13:15–14:30

The MPC and IGLC jointly organized this ccTLD News Session which explores the impact of the digital divide on ccTLDs. ccTLD Managers from different regions will share their experiences. Digital divide is a term that refers to the gap between demographics and regions with access to modern information and communications technology and those without it.

DNS Abuse Session

Wednesday, 15 March | 15:00–16:00

The DASC recently launched a survey to understand the ccTLD landscape with respect to handling the various aspects of DNS abuse. After analyzing the results, the DASC is now ready to share the main findings with the ccTLD community. The DASC will also present its repository, an online information source about DNS abuse, for the benefit of ccTLDs.

The DASC is the core of the ccTLD community-driven process around DNS abuse. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important topic of DNS abuse and share information, insights, and practices. In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the DASC is not to formulate any policy or standards. Instead, its overarching goal is to increase understanding and awareness of the issues pertaining to DNS abuse, promote open and constructive dialogue, and ultimately assist ccTLD managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS abuse.

Question and Answer Session with ccTLD-related ICANN Board Members

Wednesday, 15 March | 16:30–17:30

The ccNSO appointed ICANN Board members have been invited to attend a question and answer session and to share their experiences as ICANN Board members. Other ICANN Board members with an association to the ccTLD community have also been invited.

ccNSO Council

Thursday, 16 March | 13:15–14:30

Topics for discussion include outcomes from the ccNSO session on UA, the roles and responsibilities of the various members of the ccNSO Council, and the election of the ccNSO leadership team consisting of one chair and two vice chairs. Additional topics for the ccNSO Council meeting will be made available on its workspace.

Meetings Program Committee Wrap-Up Session

Thursday, 16 March | 15:00–16:00

The objective of the MPC is to ensure a relevant program for ccTLD managers. What went well during ICANN76? What can the ccNSO do better? The MPC welcomes feedback from the ccTLD community. Join this wrap-up session and help the ccNSO shape future sessions.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

What to Expect

The GNSO is the policymaking body responsible for generic top-level domains (gTLDs). Its members include representatives from gTLD registries, ICANN-accredited registrars, intellectual property interests, Internet service and connectivity providers, business, and noncommercial interests. The GNSO brings these different stakeholders and other parts of the ICANN community together to develop gTLD policy recommendations through a multistakeholder process driven by working groups and teams.

The GNSO Council will make progress on several policy development initiatives during ICANN76:

- The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group will deliberate on charter questions related to reversal of transfers and resolution of transfer-related disputes.
- The Expedited Policy Development Process for Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP-IDNs) Working Group will advance its deliberations in preparation for publication of its Phase 1 Initial Report, which focuses on top-level IDN gTLD-related recommendations.
- The newly launched GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) Working Group will hold a working session to develop additional guidance to support the eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program.

There are several recent developments regarding ICANN Board consideration of outputs from GNSO policy development efforts:

- Following the review of the Whois Disclosure System design that ICANN org presented during ICANN75, the GNSO Council requested that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System. During ICANN76, the GNSO Council small team is expecting an update from ICANN org on the status of implementation and plans to engage on any open questions.
- On 12 December 2022, ICANN org delivered an Operational Design Assessment (ODA) on the outputs produced by the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP. A small team of GNSO Councilors reviewed the SubPro ODA and the Council provided its input to the Board.

In addition, and following ICANN75, the GNSO Council:

- Conducted the Strategic Planning Session in Los Angeles, from 14–16 December 2022.
- Adopted the report and recommendations from the DNS Abuse Small Team.
- Briefed the ICANN Board on the Final Report and the five consensus recommendations from the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for Intergovernmental Organizations, prior to ICANN Board consideration of the recommendations.
- Partially adopted the recommendations in the write-up submitted by the Accuracy Scoping Team.
- Affirmed the implementation status of Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability Work Stream 2 recommendations that are directed to the ICANN community.
- Updated its working group self-assessment requirements.
- Made progress on a number of items in the PDP Improvements Tracker, a tool to gather improvements suggested in different venues and ultimately help ICANN deploy domain name policies developed through GNSO PDPs.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

During ICANN76, the GNSO Council will hold a three-part working session on Sunday, 12 March, a public meeting on Wednesday, 15 March, and a wrap-up session on Thursday, 16 March. The GNSO Council will also hold bilateral meetings with the ICANN Board and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and a meeting with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). A remote bilateral meeting with the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) will be held outside of the ICANN76 schedule.

Background

Transfer Policy Review PDP

Following receipt and review of the ICANN org Transfer Policy Status Report, the GNSO Council established a Transfer Policy Review Scoping Team that provided an Initial Scoping Paper in April 2020. A Preliminary Issue Report for a PDP was published for Public Comment on 12 October 2020, with an updated Final Issue Report submitted to the GNSO Council on 12 January 2021.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council initiated the two-phase Transfer Policy Review PDP. The PDP will determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers. As recommended in the Final Issue Report, the PDP will address the following topics:

- The Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization, AuthInfo Codes, and the process of reversing or denying transfers (known as NACKing transfers)
- Change of registrant requirements
- The transfer emergency action contact and reversing inter-registrar transfers, the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy, and ICANN-approved transfers.

The GNSO Council adopted the PDP working group charter on 24 March 2021, and the working group began in May 2021. The charter initially anticipated that the PDP would be conducted in phases, but the approach has since been changed due to dependencies identified between charter topics. The work is now structured as a single phase.

On 21 June 2022, the working group published an Initial Report for Public Comment covering the Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization, AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers. It has reviewed public comments and incorporated changes into the preliminary recommendations where appropriate. It has also conducted preliminary deliberations on change of registrant requirements contained in the Transfer Policy.

Now the deliberations are focused on developing preliminary agreements and potential recommendations related to the transfer emergency action contact, reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy. Progress on other subjects is dependent on deliberations on those topics. During ICANN76, the working group will hold two working sessions on Saturday, 11 March, and Sunday, 12 March, to seek broader input on those topics.

EPDP-IDNs

The October 2020 Final Report of the IDN Scoping Team recommended an EPDP as the desired approach to address work related to IDN policy. In November 2020, the GNSO Council launched an initiation request for the EPDP-IDNs. In developing the EPDP-IDNs charter, the drafting team built on the existing body of work related to IDNs, such as IDN-related recommendations from the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, IDN variant TLD implementation, and recommendations for the Technical Utilization of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR).

On 10 May 2021, the drafting team submitted its deliverables to the GNSO Council for its consideration. The EPDP-IDNs is expected to provide the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on:

- The definition of all gTLDs and the management of variant labels
- How the IDN Implementation Guidelines should be updated

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the initiation request for the EPDP-IDNs and adopted its charter. The EPDP-IDNs working group held its first meeting on 11 August 2021.

In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the working group's project change request . It plans to complete its work in two phases, with Phase 1 focusing on topics related to top-level IDN gTLD definition and variant management, and Phase 2 focusing on topics related to second-level IDN variant management. The working group believes that this two-phased approach will help prioritize the current implementation planning of the SubPro PDP outputs that are focused primarily on the top-level.

The working group has completed the substantive deliberations on all Phase 1 charter questions. It is in the process of reviewing the feedback received from ICANN org for a subset of its draft recommendations.

During ICANN76, the working group will conduct two working sessions on Saturday, 11 March. It plans to work toward finalizing its preliminary recommendations for inclusion in its Phase 1 Initial Report, which is expected to be published shortly after ICANN76.

SubPro PDP

The SubPro PDP Working Group began its work on 22 February 2016. Over the course of several years, it convened several subgroups and undertook extensive deliberations on the list of topics in its charter. This work included numerous opportunities for input, including Public Comment on its Initial Report, Supplemental Initial Report, Additional Supplemental Initial Report from Work Track 5, and Draft Final Report. The working group submitted its Final Report to the GNSO Council for its consideration on 18 January 2021, with over 300 outputs for 41 topics. Only two outputs did not receive consensus or full consensus support from the working group.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously approved the outputs achieving consensus or full consensus contained in the Final Report. On 24 March 2021, the GNSO-adopted outputs and the Recommendations Report were sent to the ICANN Board for its review. On 12 September 2021, the ICANN Board directed ICANN org to initiate an Operational Design Phase (ODP) for the Final Report outputs. The ODP began on 3 January 2022.

On 12 December 2022, ICANN org delivered an ODA on the outputs produced by the SubPro PDP. The ODA will be an important input as the ICANN Board prepares to make a decision on the SubPro outputs. A small team of GNSO Councilors reviewed the SubPro ODA, and the GNSO Council provided its input to the Board. Timely ICANN Board approval of the SubPro outputs and the initiation of implementation steps are key priorities for the GNSO Council. The GNSO Council is also prepared for continued engagement with the ICANN Board on this topic, if needed.

There are two SubPro topics that the GNSO Council has been focusing on:

1. Applicant support
2. Closed generics

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

GGP on Applicant Support

During its meeting on 25 August 2022, the GNSO Council approved the GGP Initiation Request to provide additional guidance to support the eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program, as recommended in the SubPro Final Report.

The working group was subsequently formed and began its work in November 2022, following its work plan and timeline. Its tasks include reviewing historical information about applicant support, identifying subject matter experts, developing data/metrics and measures of success, and creating methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.

Once the working group completes its tasks, it is expected to produce a GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report, which will be subject to Public Comment. Following the review of Public Comment submissions and, if required, additional deliberations, the working group will produce a Final Report for consideration by the GNSO Council and subsequently for consideration by the ICANN Board.

During ICANN76, the GGP Working Group will hold a working session. The goal is to finish consideration of Tasks 3–5 related to metrics and begin discussions of Task 6 related to financing the program.

Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

Closed Generics was a topic in the SubPro PDP charter on which the working group was unable to agree on recommendations. On 6 March 2022, the ICANN Board sent a letter and a framing paper to the GNSO Council proposing an ICANN Board-facilitated process for a GAC-GNSO Council dialogue on the topic of closed generics. The GAC and GNSO jointly invited the participation from the ALAC to the dialogue.

Following an initial meeting during ICANN75, the dialogue participants met regularly to conduct preliminary tasks. This included reaching agreement on good faith participation commitments to govern their deliberations, identifying concrete "use cases", and highlighting specific interests and groups that will be served or otherwise impacted by closed generics. The group participated in a two-day workshop in Washington, D.C. on 26–27 January 2023. It is expected to produce a summary of its deliberations and continue its discussions.

EPDP-TempSpec

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data to allow Contracted Parties to comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements, while also complying with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The adoption of the Temporary Specification triggered the requirement for the GNSO to complete a consensus PDP within the expedited time frame of one year.

On 19 July 2018, the GNSO Council initiated the two-phase EPDP-TempSpec:

- Phase 1 aimed to decide whether the Temporary Specification should be confirmed by 25 May 2019. Phase 1 of the EPDP-TempSpec concluded in March 2019. An Implementation Review Team is tasked with implementing the ICANN Board approved Phase 1 policy recommendations.
- Phase 2 focused on the discussion of the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) and additional topics from Phase 1. Phase 2 work concluded in September 2020, with GNSO Council adoption of its recommendations. The EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Final Report sets recommendations for the SSAD as well as for the Priority 2 topics (e.g., data retention and city field redaction).

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The GNSO Council consulted with the ICANN Board on the financial sustainability of the SSAD, and the concerns expressed within minority statements, including whether a further cost/benefit analysis should be conducted before the ICANN Board considers all SSAD-related recommendations for adoption. During ICANN70, the ICANN Board directed ICANN org to initiate an ODP for SSAD-related recommendations. On 25 January 2022, ICANN org delivered the ODA to the ICANN Board.

The GNSO Council formed the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Small Team tasked to analyze the ODA and provide the GNSO Council with feedback. The small team submitted its preliminary report to the GNSO Council on 4 April 2022, expressing the view that the ODA does not provide sufficient information to assess the cost/benefit of the SSAD. The small team also recommended the implementation of a "proof of concept" approach to gather data and test assumptions, aiming to help assess the financial sustainability of the SSAD.

Subsequently, the ICANN Board directed ICANN org to design such a proof of concept, which is now known as the Whois Disclosure System. ICANN org published the Whois Disclosure System design paper in September 2022 and presented it to the GNSO Council and the EPDP Phase 2 Small Team during ICANN75. The small team subsequently reviewed the design paper and continued its consultations with ICANN org, resulting in an addendum to its preliminary report. The GNSO Council accepted the addendum and communicated to the ICANN Board its support for the request that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System, provided that the updates identified by the small team in the addendum are made.

Furthermore, the GNSO Council confirmed to the ICANN Board that, pending the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System for a period of up to two years, the ICANN Board considerations for the SSAD recommendations should remain paused unless the data resulting from the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System would warrant a decision at an earlier stage.

During ICANN76, the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Small Team is expected to engage with ICANN org on the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System during a session on Saturday, 11 March.

DNS Abuse

During ICANN72, the GNSO Council agreed to initiate a small team on DNS abuse and subsequently, the small team received an assignment from the GNSO Council. It captured the numerous efforts already underway focusing on DNS abuse, but sought to focus team attention on the narrow question of whether there are DNS abuse issues that are inadequately mitigated and should be best addressed through policy development.

The small team began meeting in February 2022 and as its first step, requested community groups to articulate what DNS abuse problem(s) exist that specifically require policy development. The small team received inputs from the ALAC, GAC, Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), the DNS Abuse Institute, and several GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies. The small team also received input from ICANN Compliance on a number of questions, which helped provide better understanding of the contractual enforcement of DNS abuse-related provisions.

In November 2022, the GNSO Council adopted the DNS Abuse Small Team report and recommendations that encouraged targeted negotiations between Contracted Parties and ICANN org to clarify existing DNS abuse requirements. Those negotiations are now underway, and the GNSO Council is looking forward to receiving updates on their status. This will help inform potential further policy initiatives in relation to DNS abuse.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

The GNSO Council adopted the formation and instructions of the gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team during its meeting on 22 July 2021. The scoping team has been tasked to consider a number of accuracy-related topics, such as current enforcement and reporting, measurement of accuracy, and effectiveness. These considerations are expected to help inform its deliberations on whether any changes are recommended to the GNSO Council to improve accuracy levels and how these changes would be developed (i.e., a recommendation to change existing contractual requirements may necessitate a PDP or change through contractual negotiations).

The scoping team began its deliberations in October 2021, focusing its efforts on the assignments that the GNSO Council provided in its instructions. The scoping team submitted its write-up for two assignments to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November 2022 meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation #3 in the write-up but deferred consideration of recommendations #1 and #2 regarding registrar survey and registrar audit.

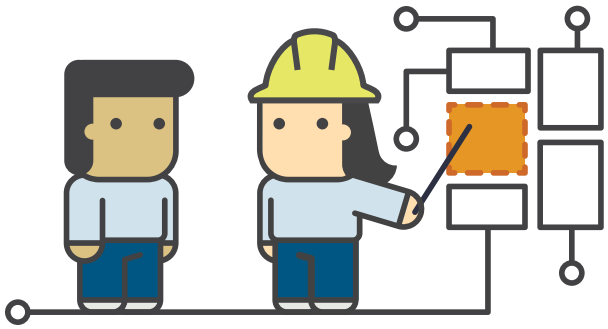
Therefore, work that requires access to gTLD registration data is paused. The GNSO Council encouraged the ICANN org to conduct outreach to the European Data Protection Board and proceed with the Data Protection Impact Assessment in connection with the scenario(s) in which the request and processing of gTLD registration data takes place as a matter of urgency.

The GNSO Council requested that ICANN org and Contracted Parties finish negotiations on the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) as soon as practicable. The absence of a completed DPA may act as a roadblock for additional policy work.

The GNSO Council decided to defer consideration of a registrar survey and registrar audit for six months, or until such time as the DPA negotiations have been completed and there is feedback from ICANN org (that is, if and how ICANN org anticipates the requesting and processing of gTLD registration data will be undertaken in the context of measuring accuracy), whichever is shorter.

More Information

Read the GNSO Policy Briefing to prepare for ICANN76. Those interested in GNSO policy activities are welcome to attend the GNSO Policy Update webinar during ICANN76 Prep Week on Tuesday, 28 February.



Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Session Details

Session times are in UTC-5. Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule for the most current information.

PDP Working Groups and Scoping Team Working Sessions

EPDP-IDNs
Saturday, 11 March | 09:00–10:00
Saturday, 11 March | 10:30–12:00

Transfer Policy Review PDP
Saturday, 11 March | 09:00–10:00
Sunday, 12 March | 10:30–12:00

EPDP Temporary Specification on gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 Implementation
Saturday, 11 March | 13:15–14:30

GNSO Guidance Process: Applicant Support
Monday, 13 March | 13:15–14:30

GNSO Council

GNSO Council Working Session
Sunday, 12 March | 13:15–14:30
Sunday, 12 March | 15:00–16:00
Sunday, 12 March | 16:30–17:30

GNSO Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15 March | 13:15–15:15

GNSO Council Wrap-Up Session
Thursday, 16 March | 13:15–14:30

Joint Sessions

GNSO and ccNSO Councils
Monday, 13 March | 16:30–17:30

GNSO and ICANN Board
Tuesday, 14 March | 09:00–10:00

GNSO and GAC
Wednesday, 15 March | 09:00–10:00

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN76, the At-Large Advisory Committee, leaders of the Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs), liaisons, and At-Large members will hold 12 sessions in the three At-Large work tracks of policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. The sessions will include two policy sessions, two outreach and engagement sessions, three joint sessions, three RALO sessions, an At-Large welcome session, and a wrap-up session. At-Large will also welcome the representatives of At-Large Structures (ALSes) from the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) who will be participating in six sessions during their General Assembly.

Background

At-Large is the community of individual Internet users who participate in the policy development of ICANN. Currently, more than 250 ALSes and over 160 individuals organized into five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) represent the views of individual Internet users.

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) consists of 15 members and serves as the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual Internet users. The role of the ALAC is to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users.

The work of the At-Large community takes place primarily in working groups divided into three tracks: policy; outreach, engagement, and capacity building; and operations. At-Large conducts its work through regular teleconferences and active participation during ICANN Public Meetings.

Learn more about the At-Large community, its activities, and how to join on the At-Large website and At-Large workspace. Also, two ICANN Learn courses provide additional information on how to start and sustain involvement in the activities of the At-Large community.

Session Details

Information about all ALAC and At-Large sessions during ICANN76 is available on the At-Large ICANN76 workspace, and information about the LACRALO General Assembly is available on the LACRALO General Assembly 2023 workspace.

Policy Advice Track

At-Large Session on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures

At-Large members will hold a session on the topic of New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) and the related ODA. Its purpose is to provide the ALAC and At-Large members a space to discuss and further develop At-Large positions. On 19 January 2023, the ALAC submitted correspondence to the ICANN Board about their high-level comments and concerns related to the SubPro ODA. The correspondence is part of a broader, coordinated effort to ensure that the concerns of end users are addressed ahead of the next round of new gTLDs. The output of this session will continue to build on the coordinated effort within At-Large.

Preparations for this session are being led by the small team of At-Large SubPro subject matter experts who participate and lead discussions on various relevant policy topics including applicant support, new gTLD auction proceeds, closed generics, and IDNs.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Unfinished Business and the Role of the ODP

The ALAC will host a discussion on the efficacy of the ODP. This session will include a panel discussion on the risks and implications related to policy, the potential for outside expertise, and the role of input in the ODP. One goal of this session is to identify how the ODP could be improved.

Outreach and Engagement Track

At-Large Outreach and Engagement Session

This session will focus on the various activities related to outreach to members in the regions and ensuring that they continue to be engaged. A focus during this session will be the various At-Large activities planned for UA Day. The regional liaisons will provide an update on their RALO activities in the areas of outreach and engagement.

At-Large Loop Session

This will provide an opportunity for At-Large to discuss increased bi-directional communication between the ALAC and the ALS members on policy-related issues. The At-Large Loop's goal is to increase the voice of At-Large in policy development discussions. It also aims to boost communication from the ALAC to the ALSes and generate feedback on the potential impact of policies on ALS members.

RALO Coordination Sessions

RALO leaders will hold two regional leaders' coordination sessions during ICANN76. The focus will be on issues which will benefit from coordinated action among the RALOs and issues of mutual interest. Issues to be addressed include developing a unified onboarding process for new ALS and individual members, plans for the RALO General Assemblies and the next At-Large Summit, and an opportunity to review the implementation of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 strategic plans and discuss FY 2024 strategic plans. One of the two sessions will include enabling LACRALO General Assembly participants to engage in the discussions.

AFRALO Meeting

The African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) Meeting will discuss and approve the statement entitled "Best Practices for DNS Operations in Africa." The AFRALO community will present an overview of the topic and will make recommendations. The statement will address DNS operations in Africa, one of the pillars of the African Regional Plan for FY2021–2025.

LACRALO General Assembly

The LACRALO will hold its General Assembly on 13 and 14 March featuring the topic "Re-connect, Re-evolve and Re-promote." More than 40 LACRALO members will participate in ICANN76 activities.

LACRALO members will produce a statement on the theme of the General Assembly. The program will include a panel on the topic, "Latin American Impact on the ICANN Ecosystem", a session to strengthen member knowledge of ICANN, At-Large, and LACRALO. There will also be a meeting with the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) Latin American and Caribbean Islands regional team to discuss outreach and engagement plans. Finally, three networking events will be held, including one showcasing Mexican culture which is open to the ICANN community.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Operations Track

At-Large will hold a welcome session that will provide an overview of the At-Large sessions during ICANN76 and a review of the At-Large talking points.

At-Large will conclude their ICANN76 sessions with a wrap-up session that will provide an opportunity for At-Large to reflect on achievements during ICANN76.

Joint Sessions

Sessions with other Advisory Committees, Supporting Organizations, and the ICANN Board are important to the ALAC because they allow for open dialogue and new perspectives. During ICANN76, the ALAC will hold several joint sessions:

- The ALAC will meet with members of the GAC.
- The ALAC will meet with the SSAC to discuss issues of mutual importance.
- The ALAC will also hold a discussion with the ICANN Board. Among other issues of mutual interest, this session will discuss the status of ALAC advice to the ICANN Board.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN76, the GAC plans to conduct nearly 25 hours of discussions on DNS policy topics and operational matters of interest to governments, including more than six hours dedicated to development of the GAC ICANN76 Communiqué.

GAC leadership and membership will continue their work on several topics that have attracted priority attention from governments over the last years:

- Subsequent procedures for the next round of gTLDs, including
  - How to resolve discussions regarding the treatment of closed generics
  - Evolvements regarding the ODA developed by ICANN org on this topic
- Registration Directory Services (RDS)/Whois and data protection policies
- DNS abuse mitigation measures

Capacity Development

Recognizing that more than 160 new participants have joined the GAC in the last three years, the GAC plans to conduct a six-hour Capacity Development Workshop. Based on a survey collecting suggestions from GAC members in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, the workshop sessions will focus on three main themes, including GAC priority policy topics, technical-related issues for governments, and regional collaboration among LAC region GAC members.

The program on Saturday, 11 March, will feature five sessions, providing an array of topics to inform and reinforce the understanding of DNS policy topics of interest to government participants. Specific sessions will include presentations on the role of the GAC in ICANN and how the GAC develops consensus advice to the ICANN Board. Other sessions will offer background and context for the current GAC priority topics and why they are important to governments.

Agenda

GAC sessions will begin on Sunday, 12 March, with an overview and introductions by all GAC representatives in attendance. Time permitting, the GAC chair will review recent work progress and accomplishments since ICANN75, including GAC public correspondence, the ICANN Board scorecard response to the GAC ICANN75 Communiqué, and plans for the joint session between the GAC and the ICANN Board during ICANN76.

Additionally, the GAC agenda will feature strategic planning on DNS abuse mitigation matters; discussions of recent developments regarding preparations for the next round of new gTLDs; progress on RDS/Whois and data protection matters; drafting of the GAC ICANN76 Communiqué; and interactions with the ICANN Board, ALAC, ccNSO, and the GNSO.

At the end of ICANN76, a new GAC leadership team, including a new GAC chair and three new GAC vice chairs will begin their terms. The GAC also expects to conclude its 2023 special election and fill a vacant vice chair role.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Background

GAC membership consists of national governments and distinct economies recognized in international forums. Multinational governmental and treaty organizations as well as public authorities participate in the GAC in an observer capacity. There are currently 181 GAC members and 38 GAC observer organizations.

The GAC provides advice on the public policy aspects of ICANN responsibilities with regard to the DNS. GAC consensus advice has a particular status under the ICANN Bylaws. Such advice must be duly taken into account by the ICANN Board, and if the ICANN Board proposes actions that would be inconsistent with GAC consensus advice, it must provide reasons for doing so and attempt to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the committee.

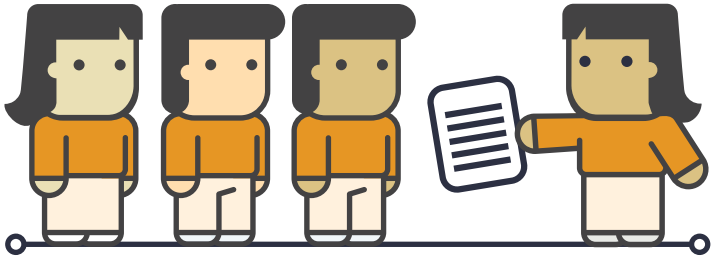
Further information about the GAC and its various work efforts, processes and operating principles can be found on the GAC website.

Session Details

All GAC sessions will be open to the ICANN community. Each GAC session will feature simultaneous interpretation in the six United Nations languages. The GAC aligned its agenda with other ICANN76 sessions for the convenience of all participants. GAC members have also been active participants in planning the ICANN76 plenary session.

The principle of openness will be particularly evident during the GAC Communiqué drafting sessions. The GAC continues to build on previous drafting process improvements. Based on those successful experiences, the GAC has provided opportunities for contributions before ICANN76 begins and has scheduled six hours of document discussion and drafting time during ICANN76.

Details regarding specific GAC plenary sessions can be found on the GAC ICANN76 agenda webpage where all session briefings, descriptions, materials, and presentations will be published.



Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

What to Expect

The RSSAC will conduct two RSSAC work sessions to advance its work and discuss various internal matters, including root server operator security incident reporting. The RSSAC will hold a joint session with the ICANN Board to discuss priority topics of interest. The RSSAC will also continue to engage with the ICANN community by offering a tutorial on the root server system. Finally, the RSSAC will conduct its monthly meeting and will continue to raise awareness about its recent publications.

Background

The RSSAC advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the RSS. The RSSAC consists of representatives from the root server operator organizations and liaisons from the partner organizations involved in the technical and operational management of the root zone.

The RSSAC Caucus is composed of Domain Name System experts who have an interest in the RSS, broadening the base of diverse technical expertise available for RSSAC work. The primary role of the RSSAC Caucus is to perform research and produce publications on topics relevant to the mission of the RSSAC.

The RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee appoints members of the RSSAC Caucus. In addition, all RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus. Currently, there are two active work parties in the RSSAC Caucus to update two previously published RSSAC documents: "RSSAC001: Advisory on Service Expectation of Root Servers" and "RSSAC002v4: RSSAC Advisory on Measurements of the Root Server System."

The next RSSAC Caucus meeting will be held at 06:30 UTC on Sunday, 26 March in Yokohama, Japan, in conjunction with IETF 116.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC-5. Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule for the most current information.

RSSAC Work Sessions

Saturday, 11 March | 13:15–14:30
Sunday, 12 March | 09:00–10:00

Joint Session: ICANN Board and RSSAC

Monday, 13 March | 16:30–17:30

RSSAC Meeting

Tuesday, 14 March | 09:00–10:00

RSS Information Session

Tuesday, 14 March | 10:30–12:00

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

What to Expect

The SSAC will hold a workshop on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and Security during ICANN76. DNSSEC continues to be deployed around the world at an accelerating pace. Now that DNSSEC has become an operational norm for many registries, registrars, and Internet service providers, this workshop will provide the opportunity to hear about what the SSAC is learning as it deploys and manages DNSSEC.

The SSAC will also hold a public session and provide updates on topics currently under examination by the SSAC including the changing nature of Domain Name System resolution, Delegation Signer record management automation,the Name Collision Analysis Project, and unintended consequences of registrar nameserver management practices.

Background

The SSAC advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet. This includes operational matters such as those pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the root name system; administrative matters such as those pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment; and registration matters such as those pertaining to registry and registrar services like Whois.

For information on how to participate in the SSAC, see the SSAC Operational Procedures and the SSAC Introduction.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC-5. Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule for the most current information.

SSAC Information Session

Wednesday, 15 March | 09:00–10:00

The SSAC will review its ongoing work for the ICANN community. The session will include a question and answer segment. The SSAC invites anyone interested in its work related to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet to participate.

DNSSEC and Security Workshop

Wednesday, 15 March | 13:15–14:30, 15:00–16:00, and 16:30–17:30

This session is a public presentation and discussion with those actively engaged in the deployment of DNSSEC. The DNSSEC and Security Workshop also focuses on various emerging security-related issues such as DNS over TLS/DNS over HTTPS impacts and potential abuses, impacts of Resource Public Key Infrastructure deployments, Border Gateway Protocol hijacking, and other Internet-related routing issues.

Anyone with an interest in the deployment of DNSSEC and DNS security, particularly registry, registrar, and Internet service provider employees with technical, operational, and strategic planning roles may want to attend.

Other Sessions

Session times are in UTC-5. Please refer to the ICANN76 schedule for the most current information.

Looking Toward WSIS+20: How Can We Improve Multistakeholder Participation in Internet Governance?

Wednesday, 15 March | 10:30–12:00

The 2025 review of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) implementation is a critical opportunity to reaffirm support for multistakeholder Internet governance. This plenary session will discuss:

- How to encourage multistakeholder participation in the overall WSIS+20 review process
- How such participation might reflect the importance of multistakeholder Internet governance
- How to improve multistakeholder Internet governance

RSS GWG

Saturday, 11 March | 15:00–16:00, 16:30–17:30
Sunday, 12 March | 15:00–16:00, 16:30–17:30
Tuesday, 14 March | 15:00–16:00, 16:30–17:30

The ICANN Board convened the Root Server System Governance Working Group (GWG) to develop a final model of root server system (RSS) governance and root server operator (RSO) accountability based on Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) advice.

Recently, the GWG has been primarily focused on developing principles for RSS governance. The RSS governance principles will describe the substantive values that the eventual RSS governance model is intended to preserve. Moreover, RSS governance principles are a statement of requirements for the design of governance processes that collectively form the eventual RSS governance model.

During ICANN76, the GWG will continue its review of candidate principles in the three areas of separation and balance of power, RSO designation and removal, and finances.

RZERC Charter Review Information Session

Wednesday, 15 March | 15:00–15:30

The Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC) charter requires that the charter be reviewed at least every five years. The RZERC started working with ICANN org to determine the process for reviewing its charter in 2021 and initiated its first review in April 2022. At this time, the RZERC has drafted an Initial Report of its charter review which includes some proposed changes to the charter.

This information session will provide an overview of the proposed changes to the RZERC charter and provide an opportunity for ICANN community members to ask questions regarding the charter review process and proposed changes.