ICANN78 Policy Outlook Report

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Welcome to ICANN78

Welcome to the ICANN78 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Hamburg, Germany. In preparation for this ICANN Public Meeting, I am pleased to present the ICANN78 Policy Outlook Report written by the Policy Development Support team. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN78.

Educational opportunities available during the AGM include Tech Day and the DNS Security Extensions and Security Workshop. The Governmental Advisory Committees will dedicate capacity development time for its members, and ICANN community groups will hold joint sessions with the ICANN Board. The AGM will also host membership sessions for the constituencies and stakeholder groups of the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

The Welcome Ceremony will include the presentation of the annual Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building. There will also be a session to mark the 25th anniversary of ICANN. We hope you will join us for these special moments.

A global community of stakeholders and participants 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 to all of you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to attend this meeting. No matter if you are an ICANN regular, an occasional participant, or a newcomer, I encourage you to actively engage in this Annual General Meeting.

Best regards,

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Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

Although members of the Internet number community will participate in sessions, the ASO will not be convening during ICANN78. The ASO conducts policy development work during Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on **mailing lists**.

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 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**.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

What to Expect

During the ccNSO sessions, the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community and others interested in ccTLD-related issues 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 promoting information sharing.

The ccNSO program will begin on Saturday, 21 October. The Guidelines Review Committee will hold a continuous improvement workshop, while the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC), the Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Standing Committee, and the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) will hold working sessions. The ccNSO schedule continues on Sunday, 23 October, when both the SOPC and the ccNSO Council will hold a workshop. There will also be a joint meeting of the ccNSO and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Councils. Finally, the Technical Working Group will hold a working session.

Tech Day will be held on Monday, October 23. Tech Day is a workshop open to all members of the ICANN community with an interest in technical, operational, and security issues.

The ccNSO program on Tuesday, 24 October, will begin with a welcome session, including a welcome from the local ccTLD manager and updates from ICANN's Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) on the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions and issues relevant to ccTLDs, followed by a joint meeting of the ccNSO and the ICANN Board. During the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) session, ccTLD representatives from ICANN's geographic regions will highlight how they integrate social and environmental concerns into their operations and interactions with their stakeholders. Next, during the WSIS+20 session, the ccNSO IGLC will brief the ccTLDs present on the 2025 Review of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) and explore why it is important for ccTLDs in all regions. During the final session on Tuesday, the ccNSO will continue to celebrate its 20th anniversary with a "World Café" to explore what will keep the ccNSO relevant to the community for the next five to 10 years.

On Wednesday, 25 October, the ccNSO kicks off with the ccTLD News Session: ccTLD managers from different regions will share the latest developments relevant to their ccTLDs. During the DNS Abuse Standing Committee session, the committee will explore different perspectives on DNS abuse tools and measurements. It will also remind the ccTLD community of its repository as a useful resource for ccTLD managers to understand and combat DNS abuse. During a session on registrant capacity building, members of the ICANN Registrant Program team and ccTLDs in attendance will explore if and how further collaboration can benefit both ccTLDs and the Registrant Program.

To prepare the ccNSO membership for the upcoming elections (for ICANN Board Seat 12 and the ccNSO Council), ccNSO members and others will have the opportunity to ask questions of all candidates during a question and answer session on Thursday, 26 October. Finally, the ccNSO Council will meet. The detailed ccNSO schedule, including highlights of topics to be covered and details on remote participation for ICANN78, is available on the **ccNSO ICANN78 workspace**.

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. 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 during ICANN Public Meetings and at monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the **ccNSO website**.

Participate in the ccNSO Course on **ICANN Learn** to find out more about its work and how it is organized. **Subscribe** to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed.

Session Details

*Session times are in UTC+2. Please refer to the **ICANN78 schedule** for the most current information.*

Please refer to the **ccNSO ICANN78 session highlights** for detailed agendas and more information.

Working Group and Committee Sessions

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC)
Saturday, 21 October | 13:15–14:30

The ccNSO SOPC has invited the ccNSO Council, ccNSO working group and committee chairs, and others to a joint meeting. The SOPC will seek their input and comments to ensure that it can fulfill its mandate regarding ICANN initiatives and activities relevant from a ccNSO perspective.

DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC)
Saturday, 21 October | 15:00–16:00

The ccNSO DASC is the centerpiece of the ccTLD community-driven DNS abuse process at the global level and under the ICANN umbrella. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important issue of DNS abuse and to share information, lessons learned, and best practices. The DASC will hold an internal working session to discuss its work plan for the coming year.

Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC)
Saturday, 21 October | 15:00–16:00

The ccNSO established the IGLC to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in Internet governance discussions and processes. The IGLC will hold a working session to explore crucial issues in Internet governance from a regional perspective.

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Workshop (SOPC)
Sunday, 22 October | 09:00–10:00

The purpose of the SOPC is to provide input into ICANN and PTI strategic and operational planning and related budget processes that are relevant from a ccTLD or ccNSO perspective. It also coordinates, facilitates, and encourages the participation of ccTLD managers in these processes. During this workshop, it will define its activities after ICANN78, taking into account the results of previous work.

Tech Working Group
Sunday, 22 October | 15:00–16:00

ccNSO Tech Working Group organizes Tech Day, a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. The group will hold an internal working session.

TLD-OPS
Wednesday, 25 October | 15:45–17:15

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. TLD-OPS is the incident response community for and by ccTLDs and brings together those 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 ICANN78, the committee will hold a working session.

Joint Sessions

ccNSO and GNSO Councils
Sunday, 22 October | 13:15–14:30

The Councils of the ccNSO and the GNSO will hold a joint meeting to discuss issues of common interest, including ICANN and the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS+20, the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society. The review will be informed by other multilateral processes that will take place in the period leading up to 2025. These include multilateral negotiations on the GDC in 2023–2024. In addition, the ccNSO and GNSO Councils will consider how to improve the process for amending the ICANN Bylaws.

ccNSO & ICANN Board
Sunday, 22 October | 13:15–14:30

The ccNSO and the ICANN Board will hold a joint meeting to discuss issues of common interest, including how to improve the process for amending the ICANN Bylaws, as well as ICANN and the GDC and WSIS+20. Please refer to the **ccNSO ICANN78 session highlights** for detailed agendas and more information.

Tech Day

Monday, 23 October | 10:30–17:30

Since 2006, Tech Day has been a 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 ICANN77, Tech Day will focus on DNS Security Extensions, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, and other topics.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 1

ccNSO Welcome Session
Tuesday, 24 October | 08:30–09:30

The ccNSO Council chair, Membership Program Committee chair, and the local ccTLD manager (.de), will welcome participants to the ccNSO Members Meeting. In addition, PTI will provide an update on IANA functions relevant to ccTLDs, including the need to establish a caretaker role.

Corporate Social Responsibility Session
Tuesday, 24 October | 11:30–12:30

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a management approach that integrates social and environmental concerns into a company's operations and interactions with its stakeholders. Get inspired and learn how ccTLDs from different regions are integrating CSR into their daily operations.

WSIS+20 and Why It Is Important for ccTLDs
Tuesday, 24 October | 13:30–14:30 and 15:00–15:30

A moment of change is coming to Internet governance, with a 2025 event attracting growing attention as an opportunity to consider its future. During ICANN78, the ccNSO IGLC organizes a session which explores the United Nations-led review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) being held in 2025 on the twentieth anniversary of the original WSIS, and explains why it matters to ccTLDs around the world.

ccNSO Anniversary Session
Tuesday, 14 March | 15:00–16:00

In 2023, the ccNSO celebrates its 20th anniversary. In previous sessions, representatives from the ccTLD community have reflected on the evolution and key milestones in the history of the ccNSO. During ICANN78, the ccNSO 20th Anniversary Committee is organizing a "world cafe" to explore with ccTLD representatives what makes the ccNSO relevant to the community for the next 5–10 years.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 2

ccTLD News Session
Wednesday, 25 October | 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 ICANN78 session highlights** for a detailed agenda.

DNS Abuse: Tools and Measurements
Wednesday, 25 October | 13:15–15:15

The ccNSO DASC is the centerpiece of the ccTLD community-driven DNS abuse process at the global level and under the ICANN umbrella. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important issue of DNS abuse and to share information, lessons learned, and best practices. The DASC is organizing a session during ICANN78 to inform interested community members about different perspectives on tools and measurements of DNS abuse, including DAAR and others. In a panel discussion with the RySG leadership team, DASC will explore the similarities and differences between ccTLDs and gTLDs. In addition, DASC reminds the ccTLD community of its **repository** and invites ccTLDs worldwide to contribute. Finally, as a useful resource for ccTLDs, DASC is proud to launch a dedicated mailing list during ICANN78.

Registrant Capacity Building
Wednesday, 25 October | 15:45–17:15

Members of the ICANN Registrant Program team and ccTLDs in attendance will explore if and how further collaboration can benefit both ccTLDs and the Registrant Program.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 3

Question and Answer Session with Election Candidates
Thursday, 26 October | 09:00–10:00

To prepare the ccNSO Membership for the upcoming elections (for ICANN Board Seat 12 and the ccNSO Council), the ccNSO membership and others will be able to ask questions to all candidates during a Q&A session.

ccNSO Council

Thursday, 26 October | 13:15–14:30

Topics for discussion include outcomes from the ccNSO Council workshop on the review of potential policy gaps in the ccTLD post-delegation processes. Additional topics for the ccNSO Council meeting will be made available on its **workspace**.

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 key policy development initiatives during ICANN78:

- The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group will seek broader community input on draft recommendations regarding the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP) and ICANN-approved bulk transfers.

- The Expedited Policy Development Process for Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP-IDNs) Working Group will hold three sessions to finalize its Phase 1 Final Report and advance its Phase 2 deliberations, covering issues pertaining to second-level variant management.

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

- Since the ICANN Board has given the green light to move forward with the implementation of the Registration Data Request Service (formerly known as the Whois Disclosure System), the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data (EPDP-TempSpec) Phase 2 Small Team has been working with the ICANN organization on the implementation of the service. Current efforts focus specifically on issues such as defining the success criteria of the system, how to best promote and secure comprehensive use of the system both by potential requestors and ICANN accredited registrars, as well as several other topics identified in the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 small team's **addendum** to its Preliminary Report as benefiting from further consideration. The small team is expected to continue this engagement during a dedicated ICANN78 session on this topic.

- On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board adopted a majority of the outputs from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP and flagged 38 outputs as "pending." A GNSO Council small team was tasked to understand the reasons preventing the ICANN Board from accepting the pending recommendations and to suggest the best mechanism(s) to address them. The small team completed several actions, including working with the ICANN Board to identify which pending recommendations can be resolved during implementation or through a GNSO Council clarifying statement. The small team, in conjunction with the GNSO Council, also **delivered** a work plan and timeline for potential policy work. During ICANN78, the small team will meet on Saturday, 21 October to make progress on the remaining pending recommendations and on potential modifications to recommendations that the ICANN Board did not **adopt**.

During ICANN78, the GNSO Council will hold two working sessions on Sunday, 22 October, its public meeting on Wednesday, 25 October, and a wrap-up session on Thursday, 26 October. The GNSO Council will also hold bilateral meetings with the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) on Saturday, 21 October, the ccNSO Council on Sunday, 22 October, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) on Monday, 23 October, and the ICANN Board on Wednesday, 25 October. Furthermore, the GNSO Council will hold a special session to celebrate the GNSO's 25th anniversary on Saturday, 21 October. All are welcome to attend.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Background

Transfer Policy Review PDP

Following receipt and review of the ICANN organization **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, 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 meeting 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 (FOA), AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers. The working group has reviewed Public Comment submissions 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.

During deliberations, the working group identified the need to make progress on charter questions related to the Transfer Emergency Action Contact (TEAC), reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP) before finalizing work on other charter topics. Therefore, these topics have been the working group's focus area. Currently, it is developing preliminary agreements and recommendations on bulk transfers and it plans to discuss the Change of Registrant as the next step.

The working group is expected to deliver a second Initial Report covering all charter topics, including revisions to the recommendations contained in the first Initial Report. During ICANN78, the working group will hold one working session on Saturday, 21 October to seek broader community input on the draft recommendations regarding the TDRP and bulk transfers.

EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

The October 2020 **Final Report** of an IDN Scoping Team recommended an EPDP as the desired approach to address work related to IDN policy. In November 2020, the GNSO Council established a team to prepare a draft charter and 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:

- Determine the approach for a consistent definition of all gTLDs; and

- Develop policy recommendations that will eventually allow for the introduction of variant gTLDs at the top-level.

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 **project change request** from the working group, which 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.

On 24 April 2023, the working group published its Phase 1 Initial Report for **Public Comment**, which closed on 19 June 2023. The Initial Report includes 68 preliminary recommendations covering issues pertaining to gTLD variant definition and management at the top-level. By the Public Comment closure, the EPDP-IDNs Team received input from 12 submissions, which did not raise any significant concerns or many new issues that the EPDP-IDNs Team had not previously considered. (The EPDP-IDNs Team sought guidance from the GNSO Council with regard to four submissions related to the ".québec" string. The GNSO Council **agreed** with the EPDP-IDNs Team's assessment that those submissions were outside the scope of the EPDP-IDNs to address.) The working group is on track to submit its Phase 1 Final Report to the GNSO Council by November 2023.

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board requested the working group to deliver an updated project plan by the last day of ICANN77 that identifies all charter questions that would impact the next Applicant Guidebook (AGB), as well as a timeline for the delivery of relevant recommendations to the GNSO Council. During ICANN77, the GNSO Council submitted this **deliverable** to the ICANN Board, noting the working group's unchanged project plan and timeline estimation as nearly all of its charter questions may have an impact on the next AGB. On 25 July 2023, the GNSO Council submitted a **revised timeline** after the working group considered several factors, including the progress made on Phase 2 deliberations ahead of schedule as well as the approval of its request to hold a dedicated face-to-face workshop in December 2023. The working group shortened the Phase 2 timeline by 13 months, with the estimated delivery date of the Phase 2 Final Report in October 2024.

During ICANN78, the working group will conduct three working sessions total to finalize its Phase 1 Final Report, as well as advance its Phase 2 charter question deliberations.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures 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.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

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 the ICANN organization to initiate an **Operational Design Phase (ODP)** for the Final Report outputs. The ODP began on 3 January 2022. On 12 December 2022, the ICANN organization delivered an **Operational Design Assessment (ODA)** on the outputs produced by the SubPro PDP, which served as an important input for the ICANN Board's consideration of the SubPro outputs.

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board **adopted** the majority of the SubPro PDP outputs and officially kicked off the implementation efforts to prepare for launching the next round of the New gTLD Program. The ICANN organization has established the **Implementation Review Team (IRT)** to support the implementation of policy recommendations for future rounds of new gTLD applications.

In the March 2023 resolution, the ICANN Board also designated 38 SubPro PDP outputs as "pending". As a result, the GNSO Council convened a small team tasked with performing a triage exercise to suggest the best mechanism(s) to address the pending outputs. The small team completed several actions, including working with the ICANN Board to identify which pending recommendations can be resolved during implementation or through a GNSO Council clarifying statement. The small team is now focused on determining what modifications are needed, if any, for the recommendations that the ICANN Board **did not adopt**. It plans to hold one working session during ICANN78 on Saturday, 21 October.

Furthermore, there are two additional topics under SubPro that the GNSO Council has been focusing on: Applicant Support and Closed Generics.

GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on Applicant Support

During its meeting on 25 August 2022, the GNSO Council **approved** the GNSO Guidance Process (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.

The working group has completed all of its tasks and produced its Guidance Recommendation Initial Report for **Public Comment**, which opened on 31 July and closed on 11 September. The Initial Report documents recommendations relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, indicators of success, as well as financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds. During ICANN78, the working group will not hold a working session as it is in the process of reviewing and analyzing the Public Comments received.

Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

Closed Generics was one of the topics within the SubPro PDP charter, but the working group was unable to come to agreement on recommendations for this topic. 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, informal meeting during ICANN75, the dialogue participants met regularly through Zoom to conduct preliminary tasks, including reaching agreement on good faith participation commitments to govern the group's deliberations, identifying concrete "use cases", and highlighting specific interests and groups that will be served or otherwise impacted by closed generic gTLDs.

The group participated in a substantive two-day face-to-face meeting in Washington, D.C. on 26–27 January 2023 and continued its discussions virtually, as well as in person during ICANN76 and ICANN77. The group produced a draft framework just prior to ICANN77 and sought feedback from the ALAC, GAC, and GNSO, as well as participants during sessions held during ICANN77.

Participants continued to meet after ICANN77 to try and finalize the framework for Closed Generics. However, the chairs of the GNSO, GAC, and ALAC, in collaboration with the participants of the facilitated dialogue, agreed to conclude work on the framework. In doing so, there was agreement that resolving Closed Generics should not serve as a dependency for the next round, though an interim approach is needed for the next and future rounds, or until policy is developed.

EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification 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 SSAD and additional topics held over 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).

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 the ICANN organization to initiate an **ODP for SSAD-related** recommendations. On 25 January 2022, the ICANN organization delivered the **Operational Design Assessment (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 the ICANN organization to design such a "proof of concept," which is now known as the "WHOIS Disclosure System." The ICANN organization published the **Whois Disclosure System Design Paper** in September 2022 and presented it to the GNSO Council and the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Small Team during ICANN75. The small team subsequently reviewed the design paper and continued its consultations with the ICANN organization, 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.

In February 2023, the ICANN Board **directed** the ICANN organization to develop and launch the WHOIS Disclosure System (System), now called the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS), within 11 months and continue engagement with the GNSO Council on the implementation. The ICANN Board also requested the GNSO Council to consider a Policy Development Process (PDP) or other means to require registrars to use the System and to establish success criteria for the RDRS. In response, the GNSO Council updated the **assignment** of the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 small team to reflect these new work items. The small team met with the ICANN organization team during ICANN76 and ICANN77 and met regularly to work on its assignment. In accordance with the recommendation from the small team, the GNSO Council **communicated** the proposed success criteria to the ICANN Board on 1 June 2023.

Further engagement and consultation are expected to continue between the ICANN Board, ICANN organization, and GNSO Council. The GNSO Council small team is expected to address open issues and collaborate on the successful implementation of the System. The GNSO Council recommends that the RDRS run for a period of up to two years; sufficient information should be available to make a determination on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations. Furthermore, the small team put forward a proposed charter to the GNSO Council for a RDRS Standing Committee to help inform the next steps on the SSAD policy recommendations. This Standing Committee is expected to supersede the small team following the launch of RDRS to review the data that will be produced monthly by the ICANN organization and advise the GNSO Council accordingly.

During ICANN78, the EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Small Team is expected to engage with the ICANN organization on the status of RDRS implementation. A session has been scheduled on Saturday, 21 October.

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.

As a consequence, the scoping team's work that requires access to generic top-level domain (gTLD) registration data is paused. The GNSO Council **encouraged** the ICANN organization 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 the ICANN organization 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.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The ICANN organization provided an initial update to the GNSO Council in March 2023, which the GNSO Council considered during its April meeting. The GNSO Council resolved during its July 2023 meeting to extend consideration of the Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team recommendations until certain dependencies are met or six months elapse.

Following further feedback from the ICANN organization, or after six months (by January 2024), whichever is shorter, the GNSO Council will consider the next steps. This will include a review of the scoping team's formation and instructions, based on the feedback gathered from scoping team members by GNSO Council leadership.

More Information
Read the GNSO Policy Briefing to prepare for ICANN78. Those interested in GNSO policy activities are welcome to attend the GNSO Policy Update webinar on Tuesday, 10 October 2023 at 13:00 UTC.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC+2. Please refer to the ICANN78 schedule for the most current information.

Policy Sessions

EPDP-IDNs
Saturday, 21 October | 09:00–10:00
Saturday, 21 October | 10:30–12:00
Monday, 23 October | 16:30–17:30

Transfer Policy Review PDP
Saturday, 21 October | 10:30–12:00

GNSO Council Small Team on Subsequent Procedures Pending Recommendations
Saturday, 21 October | 15:00–16:00

EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2 Implementation
Saturday, 21 October | 09:00–10:00

GNSO Council

GNSO Celebration Session
Saturday, 21 October | 16:30–17:30

GNSO Working Sessions
Sunday, 22 October | 09:00–10:00
Sunday, 22 October | 10:30–12:00

GNSO Council Meeting
Wednesday, 25 October | 13:00–15:00
Wednesday, 25 October | 15:15–15:45

GNSO Council Wrap Up
Thursday, 26 October | 13:15–14:30

Joint Sessions

GNSO and ALAC
Saturday, 21 October | 13:15–14:30

GNSO and ccNSO
Sunday, 22 October | 13:15–14:30

GNSO and GAC
Monday, 23 October | 15:00–16:00

GNSO and ICANN Board
Wednesday, 25 October | 09:00–10:00

What to Expect

During ICANN78, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members will hold 18 sessions in the three At-Large work tracks of policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. The sessions will include two plenary sessions, individual sessions focused on policy, outreach and engagement, and operations, four joint sessions, four RALO sessions, a session marking the 20th anniversary of the ALAC, two sessions for incoming and continuing leaders, an At-Large welcome session, and a wrap-up session.

Background

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

The 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

For ICANN78, there are two priority topic sessions selected by members of the At-Large ICANN78 Planning Committee.

WSIS+20: Toward an Engagement Strategy

The 2025 review of the WSIS implementation is regarded as a critical opportunity to reaffirm support for the multistakeholder model. During ICANN78, At-Large will hold a session to discuss the process of ensuring broad participation in the WSIS+20 because it will take place in a highly structured multilateral space.

The session strives to update the community on the current stage of the process and propose intervention strategies for stakeholders to adopt. Participants will include representatives from the ICANN community and ICANN org.

The Impact of Technological Advancements on ICANN: Ensuring the Management of Unique Identifiers Remains Efficient and Effective

This ALAC-hosted discussion will focus on how the Internet landscape is constantly evolving through emerging technologies and protocols. The session will look at how ICANN and its stakeholders are adapting to these changes to ensure that the management of unique identifiers remains efficient and effective.

This session will have three parts:

- Technological advancements and their impact on unique identifiers
- ICANN's technical initiatives
- The role of the multistakeholder community

Participants will include representatives from the ICANN community, ICANN organization, and the wider Internet governance ecosystem.

Policy Advice

The At-Large community continues its work identifying end user interests related to the next round of the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program. Between now and through ICANN78, the ALAC and At-Large community are reviewing and updating their priorities as they relate to the interests of end users.

The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group will hold an overview session on Sunday, 22 October. This session will feature highlights of the policy advice provided by ALAC over the past year as well as the policy issues it is currently following.

Outreach and Engagement

The ALAC Sub-Committee on Outreach and Engagement will hold a session on Sunday, 22 October that will focus on such key issues as the At-Large Loop and Campaign Playbook, the 2023 Internet Governance Forum highlights, the 2024 Universal Acceptance Day preparations, and an update on the ICANN Policy Development Accelerator.

Operations

On Monday, 23 October, At-Large will hold a Welcome Session that will provide an overview of At-Large sessions during ICANN78 and a review of At-Large talking points.

The At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group will hold an overview session on Sunday, 22 October. This session will feature highlights of the operations and governance-related advice that the ALAC has provided over the past year as well as the issues it is currently following.

At-Large will conclude with a Wrap-Up Session on Thursday, 26 October that will provide an opportunity to reflect on achievements during ICANN78 and identify initial topics for ICANN79.

Joint Sessions

Sessions with other Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations are important to the ALAC because they allow for open dialogue and new perspectives. During ICANN78, the ALAC will meet with the ICANN Board, the GAC, the GNSO, and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) to discuss issues of mutual importance.

ALAC 20th Anniversary Event

The At-Large community will mark ALAC's 20th anniversary during a special session on Wednesday, 25 October. This session will celebrate ALAC's achievements and provide a brainstorming opportunity to help shape the future of the ALAC and At-Large community.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

RALO Activities

As customary, RALO leaders will hold a cross-regional coordination session during ICANN77. The focus will be on issues which will benefit from a strategic and coordinated action among the RALOs. Topics to be discussed include the regional "Welcome E-tool", a unified digital onboarding platform for new At-Large Structure representatives, a review of the outcomes and the impact of the five RALO General Assemblies held between 2022 and 2023. Discussions will also focus on the development and impact of the RALOs within ICANN in recognition of the ICANN's 25th anniversary, and an overview of the RALOs' Fiscal Year 2024 strategic outreach and engagement plans.

AFRALO-AfrICANN

The African RALO-AfrICANN community will meet to discuss "Internet Resource Management and Governance in Africa." The premise for the session is that given the current digital landscape and Africa's lag in Internet connectivity, the availability of Internet resources is crucial. The session will highlight that African Internet users must advocate for their countries to prioritize access to and security of Internet resources as a strategic policy to accelerate digital transformation while enhancing the quality of Internet services for end users.

EURALO

The European RALO is hosting a plenary session on Wednesday, 25 October. ALAC Vice Chair and Liaison to the GAC Joanna Kulesza will moderate a session titled "Multistakeholder Governance for New Internet Infrastructures: SpaceX, IRIS2, and Equitable Access for All." The session aims to explore the evolving landscape of new Internet infrastructure, focusing on their potential impact on individual end users, their role in multistakeholder governance, as well as the role of the Internet community in ensuring equitable Internet access globally.

The EURALO will also hold its annual General Assembly. The session will include an overview of the past year, review of the yearly report, and look toward the future.

Additional Information

Additional information on all At-Large ICANN78 sessions may be found on the ICANN78 schedule and the **At-Large ICANN78 Meeting Workspace**.

What to Expect

During ICANN78, the GAC plans to conduct nearly 18 hours of substantive discussions on Domain Name System (DNS) policy topics and operational matters of interest to governments, including more than seven hours dedicated to development of the GAC ICANN78 Communiqué.

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

- Next round of the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program, including how to ensure an organizational commitment to substantially reduce or eliminate the application fees and ongoing ICANN registry fees to

- expand financial support for applicants from underrepresented or underserved regions

- Registration Data Services (RDS)/WHOIS and data protection policies

- DNS abuse mitigation measures

In addition, GAC members will discuss various operational issues, including the GAC's future contributions to the work of the ICANN Nominating Committee. The GAC schedule for ICANN78 also creates opportunities for GAC attendees to participate in ICANN community deliberations and collaborate with other ICANN community groups.

Capacity Development Workshop

Recognizing the substantial number of new GAC participants in the last two years (more than 134), the GAC plans to conduct a 10-hour Capacity Development Workshop (CDW) for GAC members. Based on priorities identified by GAC members during ICANN77 and memorialized in the GAC ICANN77 Communiqué, the CDW sessions will, among other introductory topics, focus on emerging technologies and their potential impacts on the DNS.

The program on Saturday, 21 October, will feature a policy theme. Specific topics will include:

- ICANN's place in the wider Internet community.

- How ICANN interacts globally and how various GAC member governments are active in those endeavors.

- Information and discussions regarding the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team.

The program on Sunday, 22 October, will follow a technology theme. Specific sessions will include:

- Learning about the DNS: Roles, responsibilities, and challenges that DNS registries and registrars experience in their respective roles.

- Receiving information about new technologies: Alternative name spaces, blockchain, and A Universal Acceptance.

- Learning how some governments are dealing with new technology developments.

While the final list of topics and the order of the CDW agenda are still to be finalized, the GAC looks forward to a weekend of information sharing and capacity development for new and current GAC participants.

Agenda

GAC sessions will begin on Monday, 23 October, with an overview of the schedule and with introductions by all attending GAC representatives. Time permitting, the GAC chair will also review recent work progress and accomplishments since ICANN77, including GAC correspondence, the ICANN Board's scorecard response to the GAC ICANN77 Communiqué, and plans for its joint session with the ICANN Board during ICANN78.

Throughout ICANN78, 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 ICANN78 Communiqué, and interactions with the ICANN Board, the At Large community, and the GNSO.

During ICANN78, the GAC plans to conclude its 2023 GAC vice chair election, and the next GAC leadership team (to start in March 2024) will be announced.

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 182 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 and will feature simultaneous interpretation in the six United Nations languages. This principle of openness will be particularly evident during the GAC Communiqué drafting sessions. Details regarding specific GAC sessions can be found on the GAC ICANN78 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, and the RSSAC Caucus will conduct its second meeting of the year.

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 is one active work party in the RSSAC Caucus to study root server system security incident reporting.

The next RSSAC Caucus meeting will be held during IETF 118 in Prague, Czechia.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC+2. Please refer to the ICANN78 schedule for the most current information.

How it works: RSS
Sunday, 22 October | 13:15–14:30

RSSAC Work Session
Sunday, 22 October | 15:00–16:00

RSSAC Caucus Meeting
Tuesday, 24 October | 10:30–12:00

RSSAC Meeting
Tuesday, 24 October | 14:00–15:30

Joint Session: ICANN Board and RSSAC
Tuesday, 24 October | 16:30–17:30

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 ICANN78. 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 name server 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.

How Do I Participate in the SSAC?

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

Session Details

SSAC Information Session

Thursday, 21 September │ 09:00-10:00

The SSAC will review its recent publications and 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, 25 October │ 09:00-10:00, 10:30-12:00, and 13:15-15:15

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.