

Introduction to the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Policy Development Process



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Joint At-Large and NPOC Session

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Agenda

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What is a Policy
Development
Process?

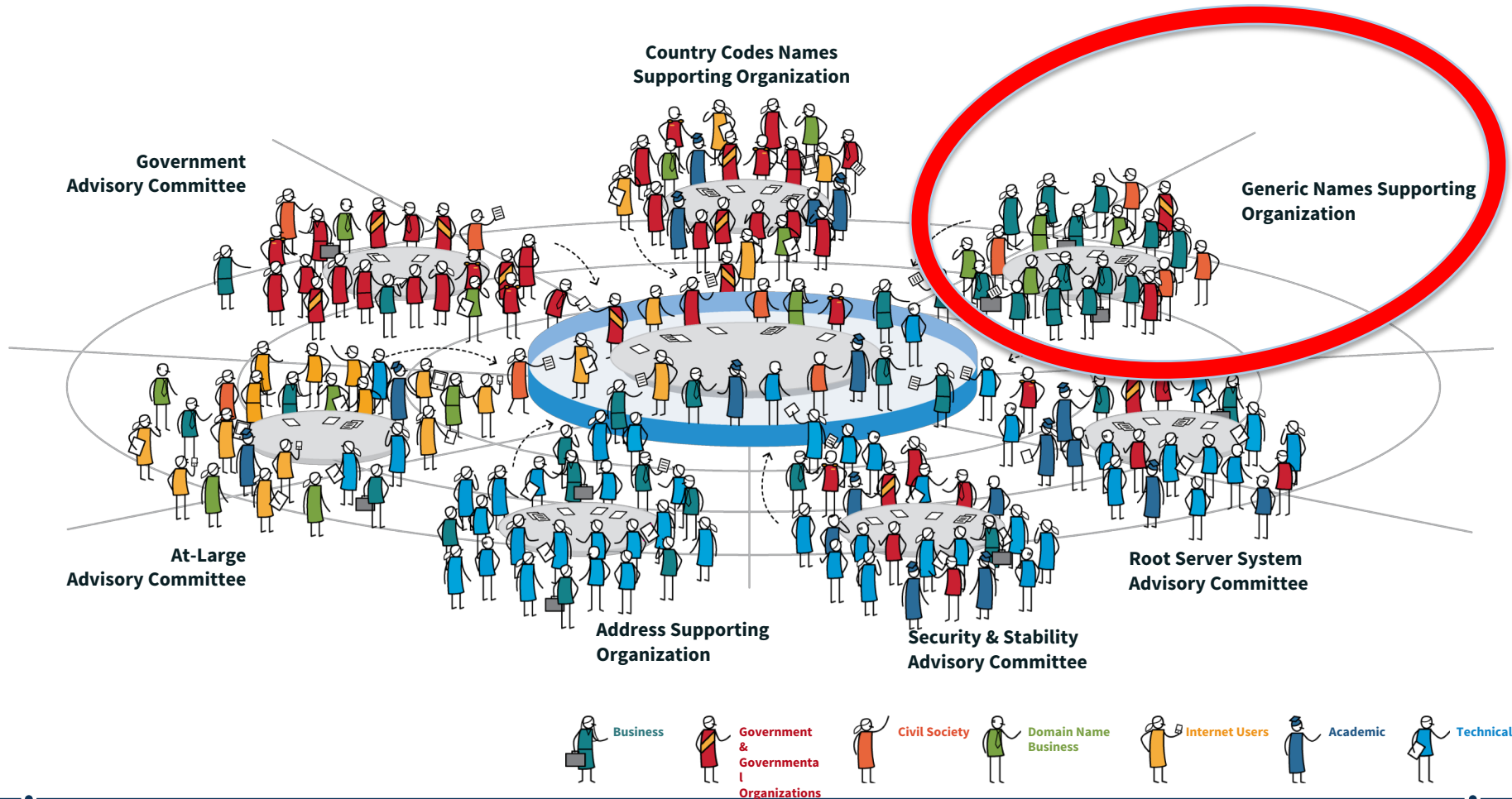
Introduction to the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Policy Development Process

Agenda Item #1

The ICANN Community at Work

The Bottom-Up Multistakeholder Model

The collective efforts of the ICANN community culminate in a common shared goal:
A single, interoperable Internet supported by stable, secure and resilient unique identifier systems



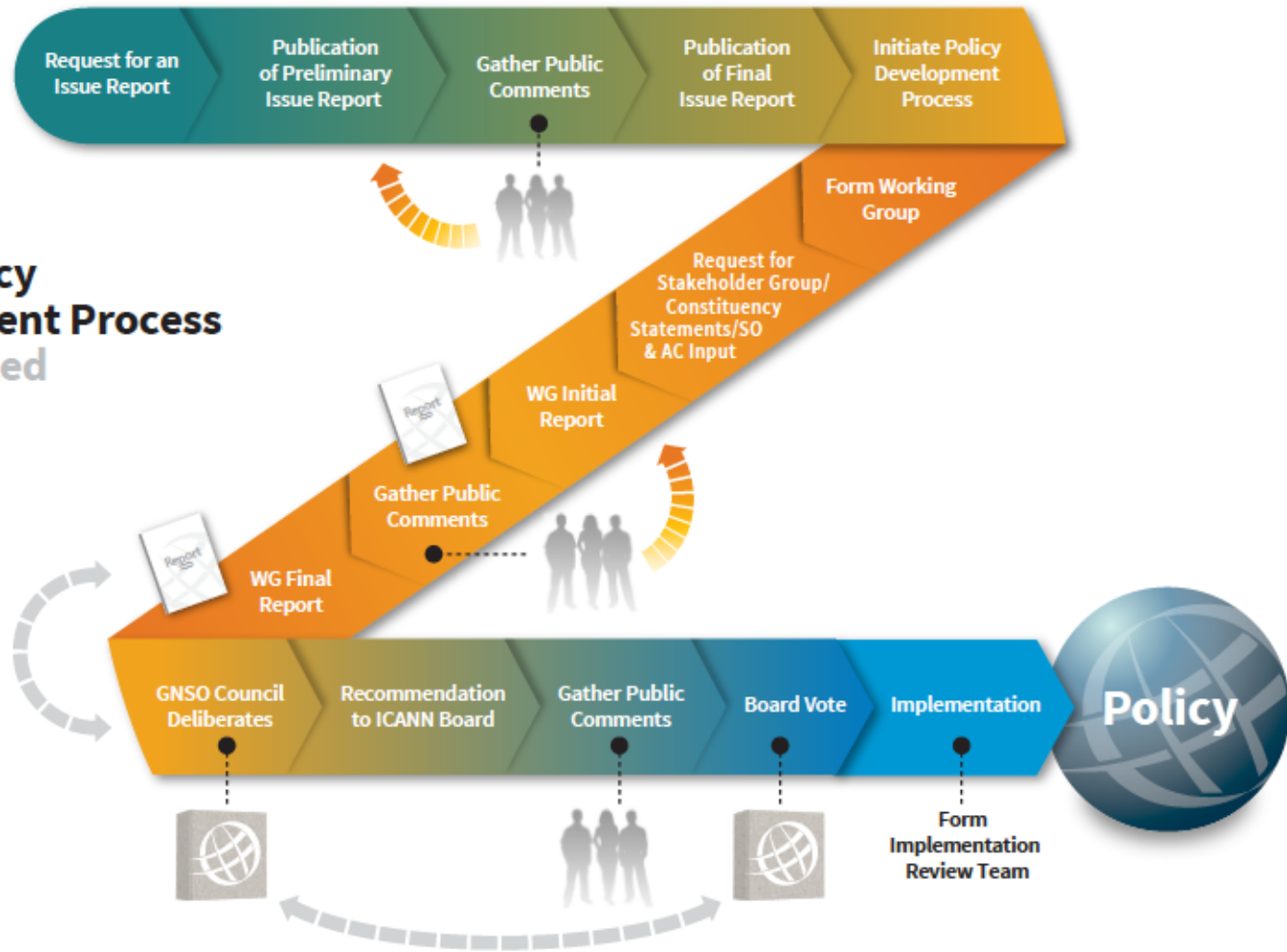
The Importance of the GNSO PDP

From the ICANN Bylaws: the GNSO *“shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains”*

The GNSO Policy Development Process

GNSO Policy Development Process *Summarized

*Some steps omitted, for brevity.



What is ICANN “Consensus Policy”

- ⦿ All ICANN-accredited registrars and registries have contracts with ICANN that contain binding legal obligations:
<http://www.icann.org/en/general/agreements.htm>
- ⦿ In this context, “**Consensus Policy**”* is a policy broadly supported by ICANN’s stakeholders, and which can bind ICANN-accredited registrars and registries

**Please refer to particular contracts for specific limitations and to the ICANN Bylaws for the overall context. Note that this presentation does not constitute legal advice or a waiver or modification of any ICANN agreement*

Consensus Policy

In their contracts with ICANN, registries and registrars agree to comply with “consensus” policies adopted by ICANN; provided that (i) such policies do not unreasonably restrain competition, and (ii) the policies relate to:

- 1) Issues for which uniform or coordinated resolution is reasonably necessary to facilitate interoperability, technical reliability and/or stable operation of the Internet or domain-name system;
- 2) Registry / registrar policies reasonably necessary to implement Consensus Policies relating to registrars/registries; and
- 3) Resolution of disputes regarding the registration of domain names (as opposed to the use of such domain names)

Detailed topics subjected to “Consensus Policy” are also further defined in the gTLD Registry and Registrar Agreements

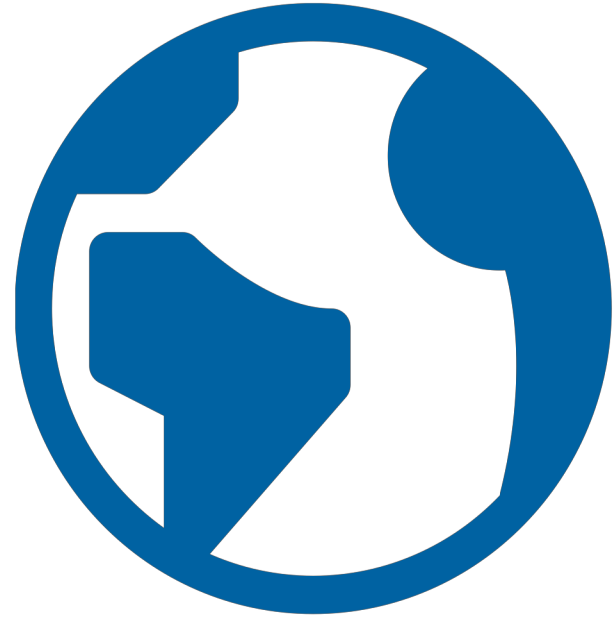
“The Picket Fence”



- ⊙ The general policy making authority granted to ICANN to preserve the stability and security of the DNS and the policy authority described in previous slide create a “picket fence” around ICANN’s authority
- ⊙ ICANN could establish policy and/or best practices affecting issues outside the picket fence, but could not mandate registry and registrar compliance with such policies

Tools and Mechanisms for PDP Support

- ⦿ The Working Group model
- ⦿ Meetings: in-person, teleconference, virtual
- ⦿ Public comments are critical
- ⦿ Online collaboration mechanisms
- ⦿ Regular publications & briefings
- ⦿ Webinars & updates



These tools all support
bottom-up, consensus
policies and guidelines

Important Facts about GNSO Participation



- ⦿ **Anyone can participate** in a GNSO Working Group
- ⦿ Anyone can join a Working Group as a **Member or Observer**
- ⦿ Participation in a GNSO Working Group remains **open throughout the lifecycle** of the project
- ⦿ Much policy development work occurs regularly throughout the year, not just at ICANN meetings
- ⦿ Although attending an ICANN meeting is useful, **all Working Groups conduct their work via conference calls, mailing lists and virtual meeting rooms**

GNSO Policy and Implementation Work

PDP

- Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs
- New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
- Expedited PDP on Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data – phase 2
- Curative Rights Protections for IGO/INGOs

IRT

- Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues
- Translation & Transliteration of gTLD Registration Data
- Protection of IGO and INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs (Certain Red Cross and Red Crescent Names)
- 'Thick' WHOIS

Engage with ICANN



Thank You and Questions

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