

ICANN Community Leadership Digest



The ICANN org Policy Development Support function publishes this twice-weekly digest to help ICANN community leaders track requests and follow updates.

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NEW: Join ITI Session on Upcoming Improvements to Public Comment

The Information Transparency Initiative (ITI) team is preparing to release enhancements to the ICANN Public Comment feature in August 2021. The ITI team is hosting an ICANN71 Prep Week session to demonstrate these improvements and solicit your feedback.

[Read more.](#)

NEW: ICANN Completes the First Step in the FY23 Strategic Planning Process

Each year, the ICANN community, Board, and org participate in strategic outlook trend sessions to identify trends that may affect the ICANN mission and operations, as well as the associated risks and opportunities, which inform the ICANN strategic plan, operating plan, and budget.

Between March and April 2021, ICANN held six strategic outlook sessions with the ICANN community, including over 100 participants. In a virtual setting, we used virtual breakout rooms and whiteboards to engage participants in brainstorming exercises, which led to over 400 data points collected. Thanks to those who participated in these sessions. The sessions focused on identifying trends, risks, and opportunities across five focus areas: security, unique identifier systems, governance, geopolitics, and financials. The data collected during the community trend sessions can be found on the ICANN [strategic planning web page](#).

[Read more.](#)

NEW: ICANN Extends Travel and Face-to-Face Meetings Ban to 31 July 2021

The ICANN organization extended its current ban on travel and face-to-face meetings from 30 June 2021 to at least 31 July 2021 due to the continued impacts of the pandemic. The ban is being extended by one month to provide ICANN org adequate time to conduct a thorough risk assessment and to develop the travel processes and procedures necessary to ensure the health and safety of the community and staff.

[Read more.](#)

NEW: .WEB Independent Review Process Update

ICANN has received the [Final Declaration of the Independent Review Process \(IRP\)](#) regarding .WEB. The ICANN IRP is a formal dispute resolution mechanism created in the ICANN Bylaws to hold ICANN accountable.

The Final Declaration in the Afilias Domains No. 3 (Afilias) v. ICANN IRP regarding .WEB was issued on Thursday, 20 May 2021, by a three-member panel of neutral arbitrators, following a formal and lengthy process administered by the International Centre for Dispute Resolution. The ICANN IRP is one of the three main accountability mechanisms included in the ICANN Bylaws, along with the Reconsideration Requests and ICANN Ombudsman.

[Read more.](#)

DUE FRIDAY: ICANN Continues the Pandemic Internet Access Reimbursement Program

Interested ICANN community members **must apply** in advance of ICANN71, and those who meet the eligibility requirements will be selected to participate. The application deadline is **Friday, 28 May 2021 at 23:59 UTC**.

The goal of this program is to facilitate participation in ICANN Public Meetings during this pandemic. It offers ICANN community members who have limited Internet capacity financial assistance to increase their Internet bandwidth.

REMINDER: ICANN71 Prep Week Schedule Now Available

ICANN announced the ICANN71 Prep Week schedule of ten sessions to prepare the ICANN community for the ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum taking place 14-17 June. ICANN71 Prep Week will be 1-3 June.

[Read more.](#)

Public Comment

CLOSES TUESDAY: [GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration](#)

Close Date: Tuesday, 1 June 2021

[Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 5 \(MSR-5\)](#)

Close Date: Tuesday, 8 June 2021

[Draft North America Engagement Plan FY21-25](#)

Close Date: Friday, 2 July 2021