

ATLAS III Webinars

Introduction to the GNSO



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30 April 2019

Agenda

1

Generic Names
Supporting
Organization
(GNSO)

2

GNSO Policy
Development
Process

3

Q&A

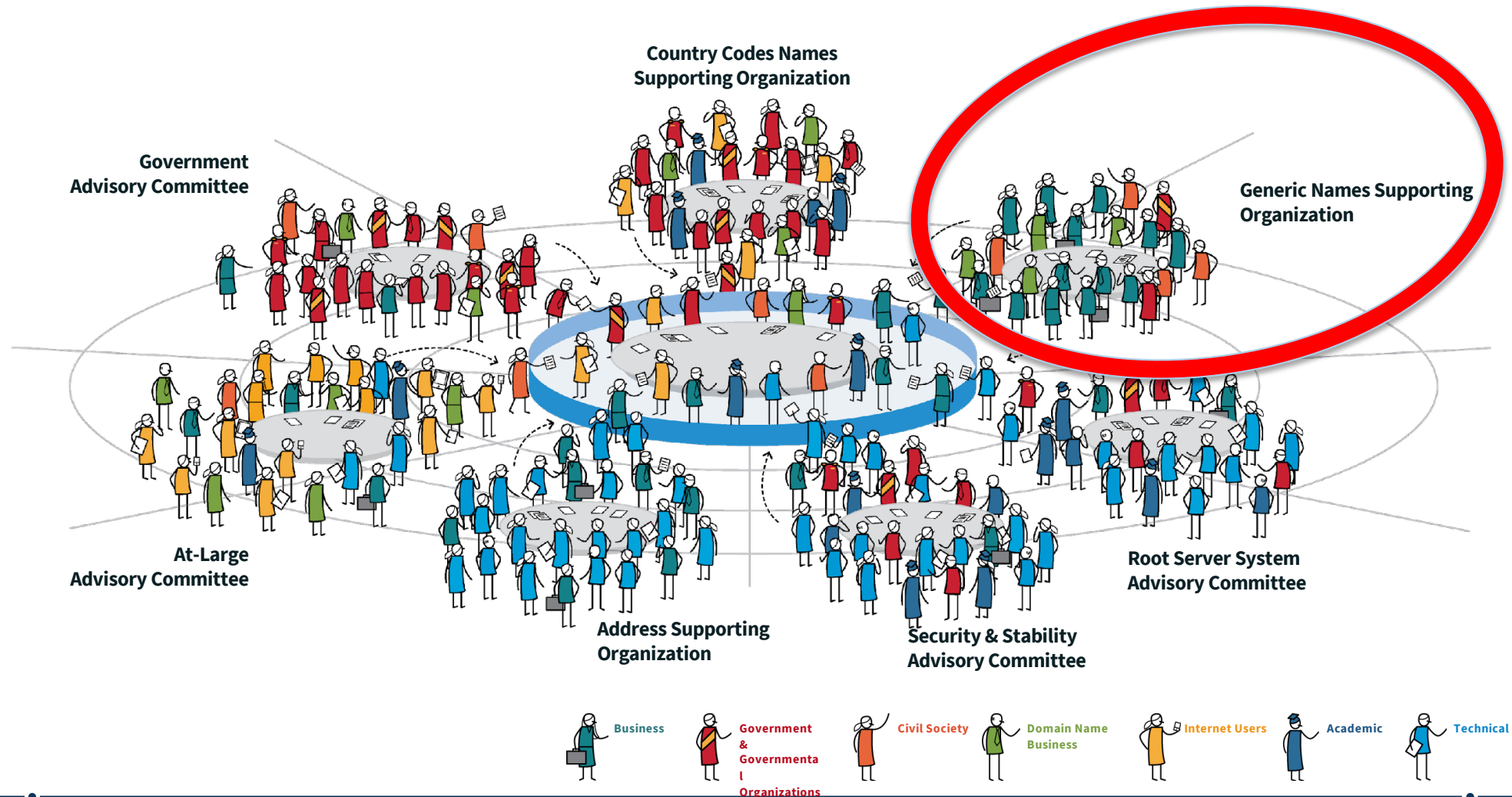
Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

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

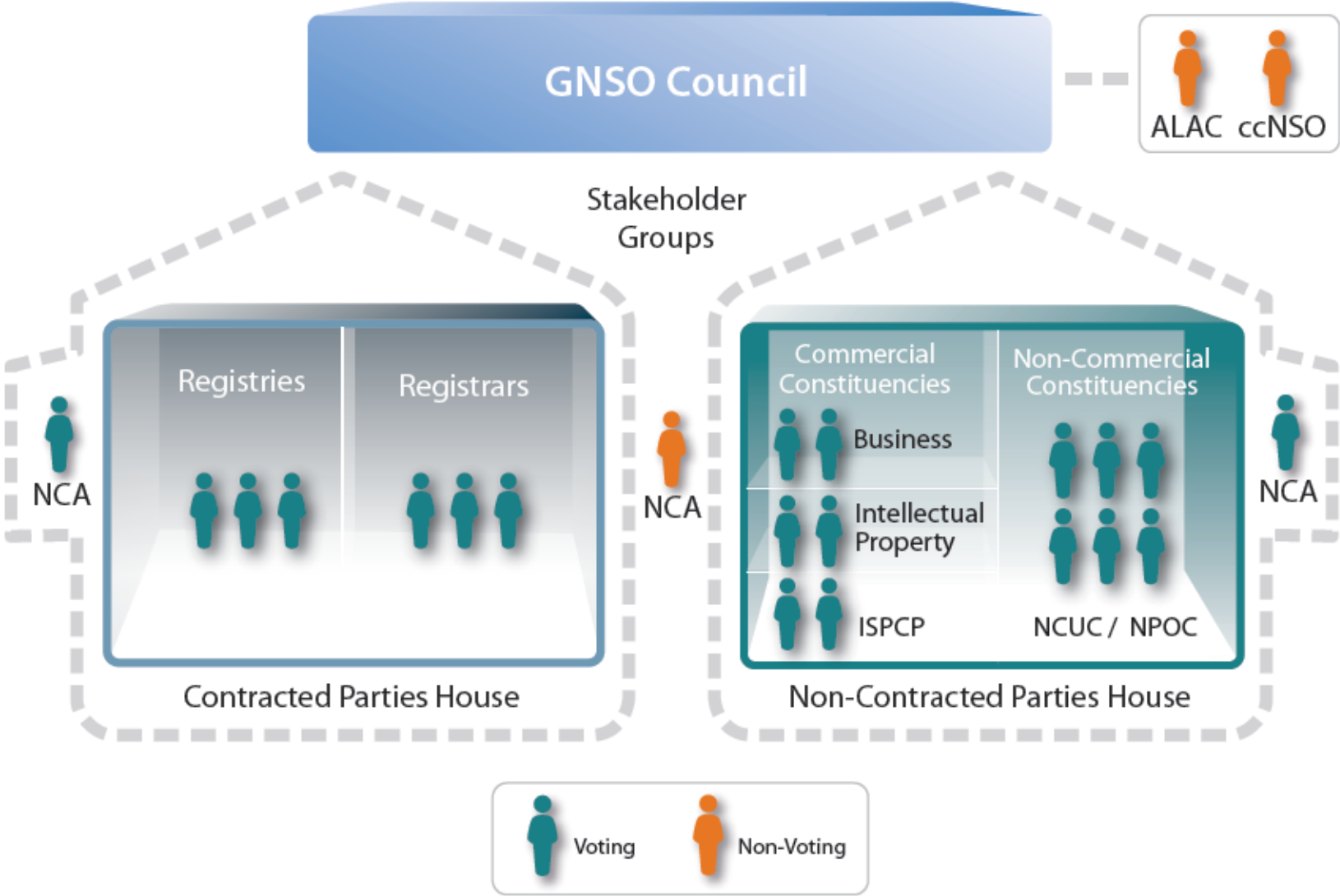
From the ICANN Bylaws: the GNSO *“shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains”*

The GNSO and the GNSO Council



- Generic Names Supporting Organization
- GNSO is responsible for policy development related to generic Top Level Domain (e.g. .com, .net, .info, .museum, .pro)
- GNSO Council - 21 Councilors from 6 different constituencies / Stakeholder Groups & Nom Com appointees

GNSO Council Structure



GNSO Council Leadership



Keith Drazek
GNSO Chair



Pam Little
GNSO Vice-Chair
(Contracted Party
House)



Rafik Dammak
GNSO Vice-Chair
(Non-Contracted
Party House)

GNSO Council – How does it work?



- Manager of the policy development process (PDP)
- Meetings usually once per month
- Decisions typically made through formal motions. Submitted 10 days in advance of a meeting
- Policy work undertaken in working groups that are generally open to anyone interested (not only GNSO) to participate in

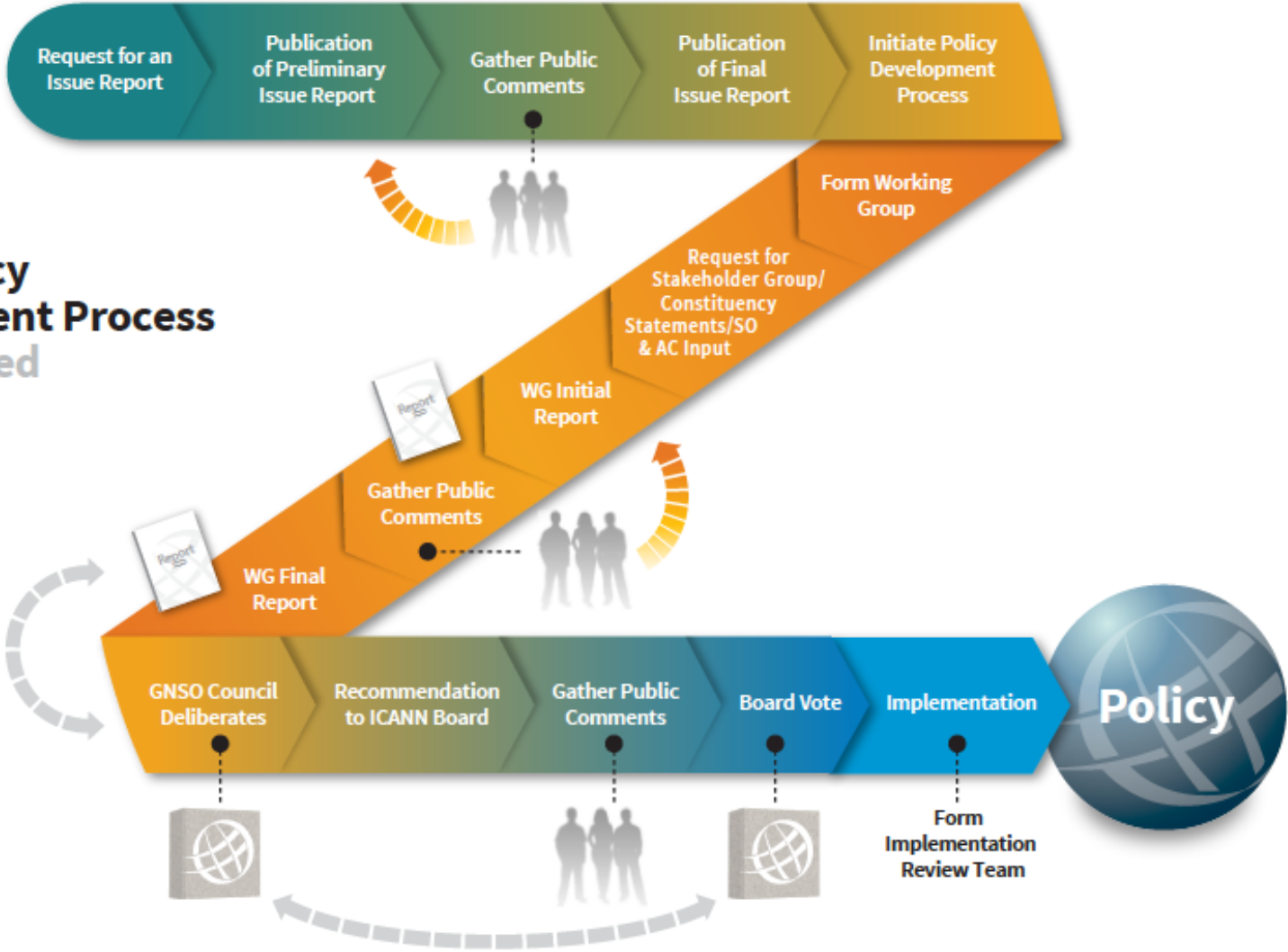
GNSO Policy Development Process

Agenda Item #2

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

- In most cases, **anyone can participate** in a GNSO Working Group
- In most cases, 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 – Key topics under discussion

1

Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification

2

New gTLD Subsequent Rounds PDP

3

Review of RPMs in all gTLDs PDP

4

IGO/INGO Access to Curative Rights Mechanisms

5

PDP 3.0 – Enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the GNSO PDP

6

GNSO Processes and procedures post-transition

Questions & Answers

Agenda Item #3



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