

Status updates by ccNSO Working Groups, Committees and more

August 2024 edition

About this document

This document contains the written updates of the various ccNSO working groups and committees, as well as other ICANN initiatives with ccNSO involvement or relevancy. Updates are provided in written format ahead of every ccNSO Council meeting, to allow sufficient time for discussions during the Council meeting itself. The document allows the ccNSO Council and ccTLD community to remain informed about the current status and next steps of the various committees and working groups. To consult previous editions, go to: <https://community.icann.org/x/4QciCw>

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Updates: ccNSO Working Groups or Committees

ccPDP3-Review Mechanism



Current status

Council adopted the recommended policy at its meeting on 16 March 2023 at ICANN76. The ccNSO membership supports the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed review mechanism policy for ccTLDs.

Read more: <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-11may23-en.htm>

A report on the voting was sent to the Issue Manager. The report has been included in the Draft Board Report, which - following approval by the ccNSO Council at ICANN77 - has been submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors, as per [Annex B, section 14 of the ICANN Bylaws](#).

Next steps

The proposed policy is currently under Board consideration. The Board Caucus sent some questions to Council, to assess feasibility of implementation. A drafting team is currently working on an answer. The team provided an update to the community at ICANN80.

What is this about

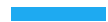
The goal of the third ccNSO Policy Development Process Review Mechanism working group (ccPDP3-RM) is to report on and recommend a policy for a review mechanism with respect to decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of the delegated Top Level Domains associated with the country codes assigned to countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 and within the framework of the ccNSO Policy Development Process.

This policy will introduce a review mechanism with respect to decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of the delegated ccTLDs. It offers ccTLD managers, and applicants for new ccTLDs - as direct customers of the IANA Naming Function - an independent review mechanism for specifically identified IANA Function Operator (IFO) decisions, and it increases the predictability and legitimacy of those decisions. In developing the proposed policy, the ccPDP3 Review Mechanism working group ensured that the following objectives were met: low cost, fast and fundamentally fair.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Stephen Deerhake*

ccPDP4-IDN

ccPDP4 Working Group on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings (ccPDP4-IDN)



Current status

Council adopted the recommended policy at its ICANN79 meeting. The ccNSO membership supports the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed policy.

A report on the voting was sent to the Issue Manager. The report has been included in the Draft Board Report, which - following approval by the ccNSO Council at ICANN80 - has been submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors, as per Annex B, section 14 of the ICANN Bylaws.

Next steps

The proposed policy is currently under Board consideration.

What is this about

This fourth ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP4) will provide a framework to ICANN and the broader community for (i) the selection of IDN country code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) strings and variants thereof, (ii) the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of the selected IDN ccTLD string and its variants, (iii) the use of the review mechanism pertaining to decisions concerning the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of IDN ccTLDs. The proposed policy does not amend or change the current policies on delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs, but rather builds upon them.

Three subgroups focused on specific areas:

- *variant management*

This subgroup closed its work in September 2022, and the full working group accepted the recommendations. The variant management subgroup worked in close coordination with the GNSO EPDP per Board request.

- *de-selection of IDN ccTLDs*

This subgroup completed its work in December 2021 and the recommendations were accepted by the full group in January 2022. The subgroup defined the trigger event(s) that will cause the start of the retirement process for an IDN country code top-level domain (ccTLD) and its variants. The proposals of the group dove-tails with the ccNSO recommended policy on the retirement of ccTLDs.

- *confusing similarity review*

This subgroup reviewed the confusingly similar work undertaken under the Fast track Process and taking into account the outcome of the variant management discussions. In addition, it defined a specific review mechanism, parallel to the ccPDP3 review mechanism.

- Read more [here](#) and here.
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Ai-Chin Lu, Jiankang Yao*

DASC

DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC)



Current status

The DASC held a ccNSO Members Meeting session at ICANN80 on the impact of the amendments to the base generic top-level domain (gTLD) Registry Agreement (Base RA) and the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and what ccTLDs can learn from it. Leaflets were distributed at ICANN80, promoting the work regarding the DASC library and community mailing list.

The DASC typically meets on a monthly basis. Additionally, two subgroups meet in parallel:

1/ Repository subgroup

The group launched its Repository, and invites contributions. During ICANN78, the group launched an email list, as an additional useful resource for ccTLDs.

- DASC LIBRARY | The DASC has created a library to share DNS Abuse-relevant information. The [DNS abuse library](#) includes links to tools, articles, reports and more. You can do both searches and suggestions for content in the library. We invite you to have a look.
- DASC EMAIL LIST | Committee has launched a [DNS abuse discussion email list](#), open to all persons associated with a ccTLD with an interest in DNS abuse. The list will be used to regularly inform you about new additions to the library, discussions, and relevant upcoming events for ccTLDs.

2/ Survey subgroup

In 2022, the group launched a survey, to better understand the ccTLD DNS abuse landscape, and better serve ccTLDs. The survey results were shared between March and September 2023. The second edition of the survey runs August-September. See <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-09aug24-en.htm>

Next steps

The intention is to share the first set of results from the latest survey at ICANN81, held 9-14 November in Istanbul (TR). DASC aims to start its charter and effectiveness review at ICANN81.

What this is about

The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) is intended to maintain a dedicated forum for ccTLD Managers to discuss the important topic of DNS Abuse and to share information, insights, and practices. The overarching purpose is to raise understanding and awareness of the issues pertaining to DNS Abuse, promote open and constructive dialogue, and ultimately to assist ccTLD Managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS Abuse.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, acting as liaison to the WG/C: *Nick Wenban-Smith*

GRC

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

Current status

At ICANN80 GRC held a World Cafe session on continuous improvement for ccNSO votings. GRC started evaluating the notes from the session, and plan for a virtual follow-up, as remote participation was not available during the ICANN80 world cafe.

Next steps

A virtual follow-up to the ICANN80 World Cafe session is foreseen for the September 2024 timeframe.

Other next work items for GRC include:

- Continue to simplify and harmonise the ccNSO guidelines, including the Rejection Action & Approval Action Guideline (middle priority)
- Simplification and harmonisation of the self-evaluation framework (low priority)
- Board recall & board member removal procedures (high priority)
- Board Seat 11 & 12 Nomination Guideline (middle priority)

What is this about

The purpose of the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (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 Council.

- Read more [here](#).

- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Sean Copeland*

IGLC

Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC)



Current status

The IGLC prepared an [FAQ](#) prior to ICANN78, in preparation for its session on WSIS+20. The WSIS+20 FAQ for ccTLDs is a comprehensive guide to understanding the significance of the 2025 review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) for ccTLDs. Upon request of Council, IGLC further refined its messaging for ccTLDs and released a paper prior to ICANN80. Read more:

<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-04jun24-en.htm>

At ICANN80, IGLC held a session on how ccTLDs contribute to a better world: In pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). A small subset of the committee started planning for an ICANN81 session with the current working title: Engaging with the Global Digital Compact (GDC): key insights for ccTLDs in the WSIS+20 Process.

Next steps

A review of IGLC activities is foreseen for ICANN81. IGLC also aims to explore another edition of its heat map, to determine which are the hot internet governance topics for each of the ICANN regions, and see whether there are changes with respect to previous editions of the heat map. Overall, IGLC will continue its work regarding the 2025 review of the World Summit on the Information Society and related matters.

What is this about

The IGLC has been established to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet Governance. The ccNSO Council and individual ccTLD Managers, collectively or individually, will be invited to support the position or input of the IGLC. The Committee will take a proactive role in seeking and fostering participation and input into the processes and provide regular feedback to the ccNSO Council, ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community.

- Read more [here](#).

- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: TBC

MPC

Meetings Programme Committee (MPC)

Current status

Post ICANN79, MPC started comparing results of the satisfaction surveys between ICANN66 in 2019 until ICANN79 in March 2024. Overall, the satisfaction survey results over time show a constant improvement of the satisfaction with the members meetings over time.

During its meeting on 18 April, MPC discussed a proposed approach to improve the feedback opportunity, based on the continuous improvement framework adopted by Council at ICANN79, regarding the ccNSO members meetings. It includes 2 proposed actions:

- Collecting instant feedback after conclusion of each session
- Continue using surveymonkey to collect more in-depth feedback, but with a revised set of questions, formulations, and answer options.

ICANN80 was the first time the 2 proposed actions were implemented. MPC evaluated the feedback from ICANN80 and agreed to continue with the instant post-session survey and the post-meeting satisfaction survey.

Next steps

MPC kicked off its planning for ICANN81, to ensure a relevant program for ccTLDs globally. The call for presentation proposals for ccTLD News will be launched at the end of August 2024.

What is this about

The objective of the ccNSO Meetings Programme Committee (MPC) is to coordinate and manage the high-level schedule of the ccNSO-related sessions, including the ccNSO Members Meeting agenda at ICANN public meetings, and related matters.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Alejandra Reynoso*

OMC

Onboarding and Mentoring Committee (OMC)



Current status

The original Terms of Reference (ToR) of the former ccNSO Outreach & Involvement Standing Committee (OISC) were reviewed in 2023 and as a result the Council agreed to adjust and limit the terms to processes and procedures pertaining to onboarding and mentoring of newcomers, and create the ccNSO Onboarding and Mentoring Committee (OMC).

Next steps

A call for volunteers for the OMC will be launched in the August-September 2024 timeframe, with the aim to kick off the work by OMC during or prior to ICANN81.

What is this about

The ccNSO OMC is established as a standing committee. It's objectives are to:

- Develop an ongoing program for on-boarding and mentoring of (potential) newcomers to the ccNSO.
 - Oversee and execute the on-boarding and mentoring programs
 - Increase awareness of the ccNSO with other programs for newcomers, for example the ICANN's fellowship program and coordinate on-boarding and mentoring efforts with other Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees.
 - Maintain and when deemed necessary develop additional ccNSO learning material
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- Read more here. (link available soon)
 - ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *TBC*

PGA

Policy Gap Analysis Working Group (PGA WG)



Current status

The ccNSO Council was informed by IANA staff in June 2023 that operational measures would need to be taken for an extraordinary and temporary operational situation, without being able to rely on specific policies that would govern the situation at hand. This led to an invitation by the ccNSO Council to IANA staff to participate in discussions relating to curing the policy gap in that instance, and more broadly across ccTLD-related policies that pertain to IANA functions. An ad-hoc group of Councillors explored the issues and briefed the community since ICANN87. The group recently advised Council to mandate and establish a working group to further analyse the issues at stake and involve the broader community in this work. The ccNSO now [welcomes volunteers](#) to a new working group: the ccNSO Policy Gap Analysis Working Group (PGA WG).

Next steps

In July, ccNSO Council appointed volunteers to the PGA WG. The first meeting will be held on 27 August.

What is this about

The objective of the PGA WG is to identify, analyze, and advise Council if and how to address gaps in existing ccNSO policies, guidance or practices pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs, and other related IANA Naming Functions for ccTLDs. For details regarding the background, its scope and objective, read the [PGA WG Charter](#) as adopted by Council during meeting 206.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *TBC*

SOPC

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC)



Current status

SOPC held a session at ICANN80 around ICANN's strategic planning.

Next steps

Following the publication of the request for public comment process on the FY26-30 Strategic Plan, SOPC uses the following method to review and provide comments on the draft Strategic Plan:

- three (3) groups who each will prepare the review and comments on one or two of the Strategic Objectives of the plan, building on and taking into account the comments from the session in Kigali. (completed)
- Each group will present their findings and concerns at a SOPC call dedicated to that/those specific Objective(s). (completed)
- Using the Findings and comments and results of the discussion, SOPC leadership and secretariat will compile a draft comment (ongoing)
- The draft will be circulated to the full group for review and discussion (ongoing)
- After updating the draft, the SOPC will sign off on it and submit the doc as part of the Public comment and inform the community in the final week of August. (ongoing)

What is this about

The Strategic and Operational Working Group (SOPWG) was created at the Cairo ICANN meeting in November 2008. In November 2017 it was renamed the Strategic and Operational Standing Committee (SOPC) to reflect its permanent nature. The aim of the Committee is to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN and PTI's strategic and operational planning processes and related budgetary processes. The ccNSO Council and individual ccTLD managers, collectively or individually, will be invited to support the position or input of the Committee. Membership of the Committee is open to all ccTLD managers (whether members or non-members of the ccNSO). The Committee may submit a relevant Rejection Action Petition against the ICANN and IANA budgets, as well as their Strategic and operating Plans as defined in the ICANN Bylaws, Annex D, section 2.1 (f), (g), (h) and (i) to the ccNSO as Decisional Participant.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Biyi Oladipo*

Registrant Capacity ad hoc group

Current status

During ICANN78 and ICANN79, Members of the ICANN Registrant Program team and ccTLDs in attendance continued to explore how further collaboration can benefit both ccTLDs and the Registrant Program. The ad hoc team, consisting of ccTLD representatives supported by staff, planned to brief the community at ICANN80.

Next steps

The ccNSO work around the ICANN registrant program has been deferred until there is more clarity around the future of ICANN's registrant capacity and the work with the ccTLD community.

What is this about

The ICANN Registrant Program team has developed a number of informational series that aim to help educate registrants about their rights and responsibilities, the domain name ecosystem, how to navigate it, and the ICANN policies that may impact them.

- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Biyi Oladipo*

Tech WG

ccNSO Technical Working Group

Current status

The Tech Working Group organised Tech Day as part of ICANN80, featuring technical and operational registry topics, security, and other Domain Name System (DNS)-related work. This workshop was open to all community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics.

Next steps

The group will organise Tech Day at ICANN81.

What is this about

The purpose of the Tech Working Group is to provide the country code Top Level Domain community with advice and to share information on the technical and operational aspects of running a ccTLD.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Stephen Deerhake*

TLD-OPS SC

TLD-OPS Standing Committee



Current status

TLD-OPS briefed the ccTLD community at ICANN79 and ICANN80 about its plan for a future business continuity and disaster recovery workshop.

Next steps

At ICANN 81, the group intends to have another edition of the Montreal ICANN66 workshop on business continuity and disaster recovery, with some modifications. To help plan for ICANN81, the group recruited

a TLD-OPS Workshop planning committee. Also, the SC continues its work to improve the contact repository system.

What is this about

The 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 deemed necessary, to develop and implement progress plans for future improvements and developments of the TLD-OPS email list, including its ecosystem.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Ali Hadji Mmadi*

UASC

Universal Acceptance Standing Committee

Current status

Following a call for volunteers, the UAC met for the first time mid-September 2024. Following the conclusion of ICANN78, UAC started exploring upcoming work items and focus points. Following conclusion of ICANN79, UAC members finalised the UAC repository/library terms of reference doc as well as the UAC workplan.

UAC held a session at ICANN80 on activities regarding UA Day 2025 and UA-related surveys. The UAC leadership team also participated in the ICANN Prep Week Webinar on UA.

Leaflets were distributed at ICANN80, promoting the work regarding the UA library and community mailing list.

Next steps

UAC reviewed in July its first session, held at ICANN80. The group is currently exploring its next work items, including a UA survey, which the group aims to finalise by ICANN 81.

What is this about

Universal Acceptance (UA) refers to the concept of treating all domain names equally and ensuring that they are recognized, accepted, and functional across all internet applications, systems, and devices.

The purpose of the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) is to provide the ccTLD community a platform to interact and share information at a global level and with other groups under the ICANN umbrella on topics related to UA and acceptance of IDNs. The initiative should not overlap with other related efforts. In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the Committee is not to formulate any policy or standards, recognising that these issues are within scope of individual ccTLDs and out of scope of the ccNSO.

- Workspace
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Ai-chin Lu, Jiankang Yao*

Triage Committee



Current status

The Triage Committee helps the Council with developing and managing the ccNSO Work Plan and Activity Portfolio, and also acts to quickly review incoming requests for input and make a suggestion to the Council on how to react to the requests. Its recent work has involved improving ccNSO prioritisation approaches, including proposing a high level Strategic Plan and 2023-2025 Council work plan.

This Council Committee was chaired by Jordan Carter (ccNSO Vice Chair), until Nick Wenban-Smith took over at ICANN80.

Read more:

- [ccNSO 2023-2025 Activity Portfolio](#)
- [ccNSO Purpose and Goal Statement](#)

The Triage Committee prepared an updated Activity Portfolio report for Council's consideration. It was presented to the community at ICANN80.

Next steps

The committee continues its regular activities.

What is this about

The Triage Committee is dedicated to quickly review incoming requests for input and make a suggestion to the Council on how to react to the requests.

- [Graphical overview of the triage process](#)
- [Decisions on the requests for input](#)
- [Workspace](#)
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Nick Wenban-Smith*

Updates: other

ECA

Empowered Community Administration (ECA)



Current status

On the 9th of August the Empowered Community Administration (ECA) sent correspondence to ICANN's Secretary designating the NomCom's appointments to ICANN Board Seats 1, 2, and 3.

- Amitabh Singhal (Region: AP) – Seat #1
- Miriam Sapiro (Region: NA) – Seat #2
- Tripti Sinha (Region: NA) – Seat #3

Next steps

An empowered community session is tentatively scheduled for ICANN 81, regarding bylaw amendments related to the Auction Proceeds.

What is this about

The Empowered Community Administration is the administrative body through which the Empowered Community acts. Each of the Decisional Participants of the Empowered Community designates one representative to the Empowered Community Administration.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Alejandra Reynoso*

CCG WS2 Implementation

Community Coordination Group on Work Stream 2 Implementation



Current status

The Cross-Community Working Group on Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) Work Stream 2 (WS2) recommendations that appear to benefit from community coordination are

- Recommendation 1.1 (seven proposed elements of diversity),
- Recommendation 1.7 (on a process for handling complaints about diversity), and
- Recommendation 2.3 (on a standalone framework for exercising Empowered Community powers).

The CCG may also wish to share information about implementation efforts related to Recommendation 3 (Human Rights Framework).

Next steps

The WS2 CCG has completed work on:

- Diversity:
 - WS2 Recommendation 1.1 – the CCG found that the seven elements of diversity from the [WS2 Final Report](#) - Geographical/regional representation, Language, Gender, Age, Physical disability, Diverse skills, Stakeholder group or constituency - are a shared foundation of diversity within the ICANN community that community groups may build upon as appropriate for their organizations. The CCG proposed and reached consensus on the inclusion of a footnote regarding its use of the term “physical disability” which CCG members believe better reflects its considerations.
 - The CCG also considered an Org directed recommendation and helped fashion it into a useful Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit and surveys.
 - A number of CCG members shared their practices with respect to human rights and the HR-FOI, which the group discussed and observed as appropriate.
- Empowered Community/Good Faith Standards:
 - Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 are being implemented by ccNSO, ASO, GNSO, ALAC, and GAC. The CCG is still considering Recommendation 2.3 and whether to seek action on this as part of the Continuous Improvement Program.

What is this about

This Community Coordination Group serves as an information sharing and coordinating forum for the community’s implementation of certain specific recommendations from the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) Work Stream 2 (WS2). Each Supporting Organization, Advisory Committee, Regional At-Large Organisation, and GNSO Stakeholder Group appointed one representative (and alternate, if appropriate).

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO appointee: *David McAuley*

CIP-CCG

Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group



Current status

CIP-CCG members involved in engagement activities to present updates and gather feedback on the ongoing development of a framework. To that end, CIP-CCG members undertook the following actions:

1. Present updates on the progress of the CIP-CCG meetings to their respective groups in April, focusing on the "five principles for the framework in progress using group resources. For reference, the five principles are;
 - The first principle is "The SO, AC, or NomCom is fulfilling its purpose".
 - The second principle is "The structures of SO, AC, or NomCom are effective".
 - The third principle is "The operations of SO, AC, or NomCom are efficient".
 - The fourth principle is "The SO, AC, or NomCom is accountable internally to its stakeholders, and externally to the wider ICANN community".
 - The fifth principle is: "The ICANN community collaborates to further the mission of ICANN and the effectiveness of the ICANN multistakeholder model".
2. Take questions and provide responses as needed.
3. Collect feedback to present back to CIP-CCG in May

The objective is to engage the community on what is being considered, offering an opportunity to educate and address any questions.

Next steps

What is this about

The group is being convened to help evolve ICANN Organizational Reviews into a CIP to implement Recommendation 3.6 of the Third Accountability and Transparency Review (ATRT3). The development of a CIP is part of a larger effort to enhance the effectiveness of the ICANN multistakeholder model, and is also in furtherance of the ICANN Interim President and [CEO Goal 11](#) related to the management and refinement of Reviews.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Sean Copeland*

CSC

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Current status

PTI's performance over the last month was again Excellent - PTI met all of the currently 64 defined thresholds.

The CSC has completed its work on the drafting update on SLA Change procedure. The CSC was also informed about the upcoming CSC election period. For the ccNSO it implies selecting a new member to replace Brett Carr as he will complete his 3rd and final term by 1 October 2024. In addition, the election of an alternate. Currently alternates are appointed for 1 year. The current alternate is Abdalmonem Galila.

Next steps

After both the CSC and PTI agree on the text for the changes of the SLA procedure, a public comment period will be launched and if no major changes are suggested the ccNSO and GNSO Council will have to approve the amended procedure.

What is this about

The CSC ensures the satisfactory performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) naming function. It is responsible for monitoring Public Technical Identifier's (PTI) [performance](#) of the IANA naming function against the service level expectations in the IANA Naming Function Contract.

- Read more [here](#).
- Point of contact to Council: *Bart Boswinkel*

IFR2

The Second Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Naming Function Review Team

Current status

The review team has determined an initial methodology for conducting detailed fact-finding. An outreach plan to get input from the direct customers of the IANA Naming Function Process, as well as the broader ICANN community, has been developed. The committee is currently conducting an in-depth text review of the IANA Naming Functions Contract, including the Statement of Work (SOW).

Virtual Meetings are held bi-weekly. ccNSO appointees are Peter Koch (.de, co-chair), Sami Ali (.bh), Olga Cavalli (NomCom appointed ccNSO Council member)

The team has concluded its first in-depth pass through the contract, including information gathering from PTI/IANA, the CSC and ICANN legal. There are no significant findings to highlight, so far.

Next steps

The IFR2 will conduct the review in accordance with the scope specified in [Article 18](#) of the ICANN Bylaws, which centres around a review and evaluation of PTI's performance of the IANA naming function against the contractual requirements in the [IANA Naming Function Contract](#) and the [IANA Naming Function Statement of Work](#). The team met at ICANN80 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The next steps will include community consultations, details of which are TBD.

What this is about

The IFR is an accountability mechanism created as part of the IANA stewardship transition to ensure that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), via its affiliate Public Technical Identifiers (PTI), meets the needs and expectations of its naming customers. This will be the second iteration of the review. The first review was completed in 2021.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO appointee: *Peter Koch*

Community Representatives Group to nominate members to the IRP Standing Panel

Independent Review Process Standing Panel



Current status

[Recent blog post by the Independent Review Process Community Representatives Group:](#)

[...] Since March, we have been meeting regularly. You can follow our progress on this [wiki](#), although much of the substance of our work will remain confidential in light of the personal details and backgrounds that we are reviewing. On the [wiki](#), you can also see the terms of engagement of the various participants in this process, as well as the terms of reference for our work.

Our initial phase of work was organizational and administrative such as choosing an administrative chair and deciding the meeting times and format. More substantively, after ICANN org presented a short list of potential firms, we selected an external expert consultant, Odgers Berndtson, to help us in our work. Odgers Berndtson is an executive search consulting firm based in Brussels and has experience in rendering such services to the ICANN NomCom.

We recently moved into a new phase of analyzing the backgrounds of applicants for membership to the standing panel in a largely anonymized fashion. While we only see information about various applicants' qualifications, gender and ICANN regional residency, we do not at this point know the identity of the candidates. These are data points to assist our winnowing process and our endeavor to achieve cultural, linguistic, gender and legal diversity. Diversity by geographic region is indicated in ICANN's Bylaws.

While we have not yet completed the initial phase of background analysis, it is clear that among the applicants there is a sizable group of individuals with impressive and suitable backgrounds for the standing committee – this makes our work difficult in selecting potential candidates from among them. [...]

Next steps

The group conducted virtual interviews in November and December of 2022 and maintained a regular follow-up schedule in the first quarter of 2023. The CRG's rules of engagement prevent it from giving much detail about candidates. It is noted that the ICANN Board Accountability Mechanisms Committee met on April 20, 2023, and received an update on the IRP Standing Panel. Further, at its [meeting](#) on June 2d, the BAMC acknowledged receipt of the nominations from the CRG and decided upon next steps. The CRG members remain engaged to answer any questions the BAMC may have. It is expected that the BAMC will make its recommendations to the full Board very shortly.

What is this about

The IRP is a form of arbitration, which provides for third-party review of ICANN Board and organization actions (or inactions) that are alleged to be inconsistent with the ICANN Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws. The IRP is an essential mechanism for holding the ICANN Board and the organization accountable, and the seating of an omnibus standing panel to hear these claims is an important component of achieving a consistent, binding outcome.

The Independent Review Process (IRP) Community Representatives Group is responsible for supporting the SOs and ACs in proposing a slate of nominees, for confirmation by the ICANN Board of Directors, to constitute an omnibus standing panel that will hear and resolve disputes filed under the IRP described in the [ICANN Bylaws](#).

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO appointee: *David McAuley*

Planning Prioritization Process

Current status

The FY24 Planning Prioritization exercise was held in October-November 2022. The final Prioritised List of activities is available [here](#), and the planning Prioritisation Framework v3 was published in March 2023. The Planning Prioritization Framework v3 is an update of the Planning Prioritization Framework v2, and includes feedback and lessons learned from the FY24 planning prioritization process that concluded in October 2022.

In April 2023, ccNSO Council nominated Irina Danelia as the ccNSO appointee on the Planning Prioritization Group and Chris Disspain as the alternate.

The FY25 Planning Prioritization exercise was completed in June 2023. See <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=244945188>

Next steps

What is this about

Planning at ICANN is one of the 15 operating initiatives included in ICANN's operating plan since FY21. A key goal of this operating initiative is to improve ICANN organization's (org) ability to prioritize during the annual planning process. As part of this initiative, the ICANN org Planning team led the creation of a Draft Planning Prioritization Framework to help the ICANN ecosystem prioritize its work within the planning cycle in a manner that is transparent, inclusive, and efficient.

ICANN's planning department is leading the creation of a Planning Prioritization Framework to help the ICANN ecosystem prioritize its work within the planning cycle in a manner that is transparent, inclusive, and efficient.

The Prioritization Framework needs to:

1. Be broadly adopted by the community, Board, and org as the basis for decision-making on how to prioritize work in scope of the project
2. Enhance effective decision-making without hampering workflow and day-to-day operations
3. Be implemented in the annual planning cycle subject to Public Comment

The planning department is responsible for facilitating prioritization at an organizational level in order to include the prioritized projects into the annual Operating and Financial plans.

- [Link](#) to the Planning Prioritization Framework Publications
- [Link](#) to Planning Prioritization Framework Pilot (March 2022-April 2022) webpage.
- [Link](#) to Becky Nash's March 2022 blog on ICANN's Draft Planning Prioritization Framework.

- Read more on the ICANN Planning and Finance workspace [here](#).
- ccNSO appointee: *Irina Danelia, with Chris Disspain as alternate. Chris as liaison to Council*

RZERC

Root Zone Evolution Review Committee



Current status

RZERC did not meet recently

Next steps

What is this about

The RZERC reviews proposed architectural changes to the content of the DNS root zone, the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone.

- Read more: <https://www.icann.org/rzerc>
- ccNSO appointee: Peter Koch

RSS GWG

Root Server System Governance Working Group



Current status

The committee has been working on principles for the governance structure during bi-weekly virtual meetings. Areas of particular interest are the recognized stakeholder groups for the future RSS Governance Structure (including ccTLDs and gTLDs) and questions of funding for the RSS GS.

Next steps

The current draft design envisions a council composed of the stakeholders, currently the root server operators, the ccTLD registries and the gTLD registries. Deriving from the current number of 12 root server operators (there are thirteen letters, but "A" and "J" are operated by the same organisation), the council is planned to have 24 seats, twelve to be filled by one per root server operator ("direct participation") and 6 each for the ccTLDs and the gTLDs with ideas of decision making by consensus vs "supermajority" (19, so no two groups could outweigh the third). The challenge for either group of TLDs would likely be to find 6 (or more, should alternatives be needed) individuals each who could participate

continuously and on equal footing (time commitment, subject matter expertise combining tech and policy) to achieve and maintain the desired balance in the council.

There are expectations by some that the structure as a whole would deal with funding of the root server system, as well.

What is this about

The RSS GWG is tasked with suggesting a governance structure for the root server system.

- Read more: <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=120820189>
- ccNSO appointees: Peter Koch, Luis Diego Espinoza Sanchez