

Status updates by ccNSO Working Groups, Committees and more

May 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, and an update to the community is forthcoming (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

The full ccPDP4 Working Group completed its review of the 2013 policy proposals for the IDN ccTLD string selection process in September 2021 and worked on questions pertaining to the review mechanism. At the request of the ccNSO Council, the full working group discussed and assessed the need for review mechanisms pertaining to decisions under the proposed policy.

Since September 2021, 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 started in September 2022, and reviews 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. The confusing similarity subgroup finalised its initial proposals as well.

At its ICANN79 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the ccNSO Council expressed its support for the proposed policy (Part A - Members Report). On 18 March, the Issue Manager informed the ccTLD Community about the publication of the ccPDP4-IDN ccTLD [Members Report](#). This Report informs the ccNSO membership about the proposed policy and related matters. It also includes the Council Recommendation on which ccNSO Members will be asked to vote. The Members Report includes four (4) parts: Part 0 - Introducing the Members Report, Part A - The Recommended Policy, Part B - Advice to IDN ccTLD Managers, Part C - Annexes.

Next steps

The ccNSO members voted in March-April 2024 to determine whether the ccNSO membership supported the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed ccPDP4-IDN policy (part A of the Members Report). In accordance with the approved timeline, the voting started on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 (00:01 UTC) and closed Wednesday, 17 April 2024 (23:59 UTC).

The vote passed: At the closure of the vote, 56% of the Emissaries (97 out of 174 Emissaries) cast their vote. 97% of the votes cast were in support of the ccNSO Council recommendation to adopt the proposed ccPDP4-IDN policy.

The Bylaw requirements for a valid vote in support of the policy were met: at least 50% of the emissaries are required to lodge their vote and the 66 % of the votes cast need to be in favor.

The policy recommendations will be submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors for 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.

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

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.

- Consult the repository: <https://community.icann.org/x/Ege7Cg>
- Contribute to the repository: <https://community.icann.org/x/DoWZDg>

Survey subgroup

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 next edition of the DASC survey will be launched post ICANN80, with preliminary results for ICANN81 Istanbul.

Next steps

The DASC will start preparing for a session around DNS Abuse, to be held at ICANN80 in June in Kigali (RW). Focus of the session will be 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.

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 ICANN78, The ccNSO GRC organised an Open Space meeting to explore participants' perspectives and views on what continuous improvement means for the ccNSO. This was a closed workshop with in-person participation only. A virtual meeting took place as a follow up on 14 February 2024, prior to ICANN79.

GRC also continues to simplify and harmonise the guidelines. This includes a review and update of the ccNSO guideline on Council Roles and Responsibilities, and the ccNSO Council Election guideline.

Council adopted at ICANN79 the continuous improvement framework as proposed by GRC.

Next steps

Next work items 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)
- Use the continuous improvement framework to improve the participation of the ccTLD community in ccNSO voting. To that end, GRC will organise an Open Space session at ICANN80 (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. During ICANN78, the IGLC held a working session where ccTLD community members and ICANN's Government and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement (GE) team explored what the hot issues in Internet governance are on a regional basis. The IGLC compared the input with previous trends exercises, and invited guest speakers for to further explore two topics with relevance to the African region: digital tax and data protection.

End January, Council appointed Marta Dias (.pt) as new IGLC Vice Chair, replacing former Vice Chair Anil Kumar Jain. During ICANN79, IGLC organised an excellent session on internet fragmentation.

Next steps

IGLC will continue its working regarding the 2025 review of the World Summit on the Information Society and related matters. Among others, at ICANN80, IGLC will hold a session on the Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 capacity building, and how it relates to ccTLDs globally.

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: *Tatiana Tropina*

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 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.

The MPC confirmed at its meeting on 16 May the agenda for the ICANN80 ccTLD News Session.

Next steps

The MPC intends to improve the feedback opportunity for the ccTLD community, based on the continuous improvement framework adopted by Council at ICANN79.

The MPC will continue its planning for ICANN80, to ensure a relevant program for ccTLDs globally.

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*

OISC

Outreach and Involvement Standing Committee (OISC)

Current status

During the first quarter of 2022, the Outreach and Involvement Committee (OISC) discussed a customer journey, including exploring the use case of how to increase ccTLD participation to and contributions in ccNSO working groups, committees and sessions. The group has not met since Q1 2022. There are currently no activities to report.

Next steps

The review of the ccNSO Outreach and Involvement Standing Committee effectiveness is completed. A discussion on the report by ccNSO Council is forthcoming.

What is this about

The ccNSO OISC is established as a standing committee and will have a permanent nature, to ensure a continued and ongoing coordinated approach regarding the existing and potential outreach and involvement efforts by and targeted at the ccNSO and ccTLD community as well as ccTLDs awareness of and involvement in the aforementioned efforts.

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

SOPC

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC)

Current status

In December 2023, ICANN published the draft ICANN FY25 Operating Plan and Budget and the draft PTI FY25 Operating Plan and Budget and the draft 5-Year Plans for Public Comments. During its workshop at ICANN79, SOPC met with relevant ICANN staff to discuss the recent SOPC submission, as well as the submission process.

Next steps

SOPC plans to hold a session at ICANN80 around strategic planning.

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 briefed the community at ICANN79

Next steps

The ad hoc team is currently developing a roadmap. The proposal is to present the roadmap at ICANN80, and seek Council approval.

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.

- [Read more here.](#)
- 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 ICANN79, 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 ICANN80.

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 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. Following the conclusion of ICANN78, UAC started exploring upcoming work items and focus points.

Next steps

Following conclusion of ICANN79, UAC members finalised the UAC repository/library terms of reference doc as well as the UAC workplan. UAC plans to hold a session at ICANN80 on activities regarding UA Day 2025. The UAC leadership team also participates in the ICANN Prep Week Webinar on UA.

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](#)

Next steps

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

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 8 May 2024 the ICANN Board of Directors adopted ICANN's FY25–29 Operating and Financial Plan, the ICANN FY25 Operating Plan and Budget, and the IANA FY25 Operating Plan and Budget. See the announcement [here](#). On 9 May 2024, the Empowered Community Administration received a notice from the ICANN Secretary pursuant to Section 22.5(a)(v) of the ICANN Bylaws, which initiated three (3) 21 days Rejection Action Petition Periods for the community.

Next steps

Currently ongoing: These 21-day Rejection Action Petition periods for (1) IANA FY25 Operating Plan and Budget, (2) ICANN FY25 Operating Plan and Budget and (3) ICANN FY25-29 Operating and Financial Plan commenced on 9 May 2024 and will end at 23:59 PDT on 30 May 2024, or 06:59 UTC on 31 May 2024.

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 are currently focused on preparation and engagement activities to present updates and gather feedback on the ongoing development of a framework, leading up to the next meeting in May.

Next steps

Leading up to the next CIP-CCG in May, CIP-CCG members will undertake 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.

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 (ATR3). 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 March 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)

Next steps

The IFR2 will conduct the review in accordance with the scope specified in [Article 18](#) of the ICANN Bylaws, which centers 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 will meet at ICANN80 in Kigali, Rwanda.

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

After the first scheduled charter review, RZERC had presented charter amendments that were approved by the ICANN Board 7 March 2024. ccNSO appointee: Peter Koch

Next steps

There are currently no items under the consideration of the committee.

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 and an interim meeting in Washington, DC in April 2024. 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 GWG will conduct further work at ICANN80, held in June in Kigali, Rwanda.

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 (.de), Luis Diego Espinoza Sanchez