

Multi-Stakeholder Consensus Policy Making at ICANN

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The ICANN Ecosystem & the Multistakeholder Model





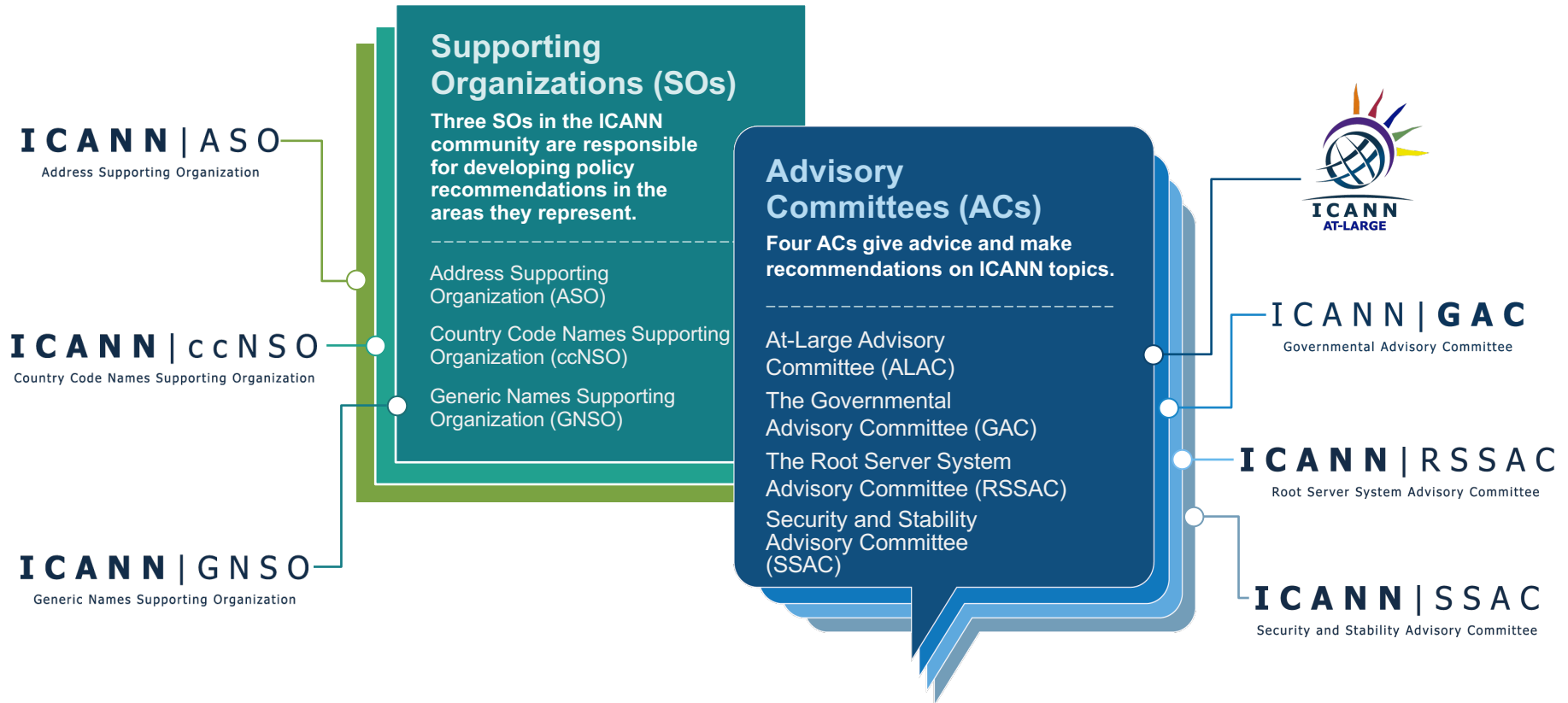
Bottom-up, consensus-driven policy development and advice is at the core of ICANN's mission.

ICANN Bylaws:

*“To coordinate the development and implementation of **policies that are developed through a bottom-up consensus-based multistakeholder process** and designed to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique names systems.”*

ICANN's Supporting Organizations & Advisory Committees

The ICANN Community



Policy Development: the Supporting Organizations (SOs)



ASO

The ASO Address Council is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)— who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.



ccNSO

The ccNSO consists of ccTLD managers who have agreed to be members and a ccNSO Council



GNSO

The GNSO consists of the Contracted Parties House (registries, registrars) the Non-Contracted Parties House (commercial and non-commercial interests) and the GNSO Council

Supporting Organizations (SOs)

Three SOs in the ICANN community are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

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Address Supporting Organization

The ASO advises the ICANN Board on global policy issues relating to the operation, assignment, and management of Internet addresses.

The ASO was established through a Memorandum of Understanding between ICANN and the Number Resource Organization (the five Regional Internet Registries.)

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Country Code Names Supporting Organization

The ccNSO is responsible for developing global policies relating to country-code top-level domains

The ICANN Bylaws define the scope of the ccNSO's policy remit, recognizing the complex relationship between ICANN and ccTLDs policy issues.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

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Generic Names Supporting Organization

The GNSO is responsible for developing and recommending to the Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains (e.g. .com, .org, .net, .asia, .shop, .movie, “dot-brands”)

The GNSO Council manages the gTLD policy development process.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

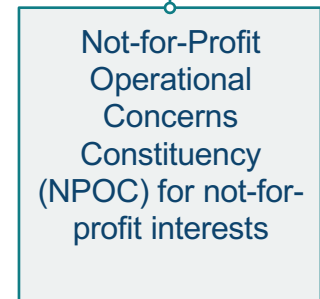
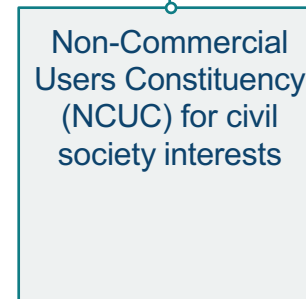
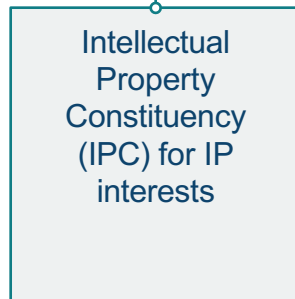
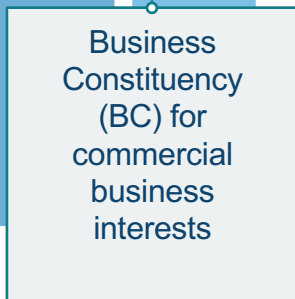
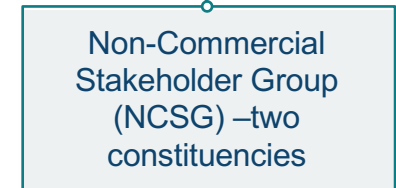
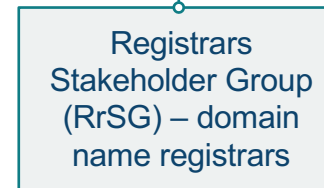
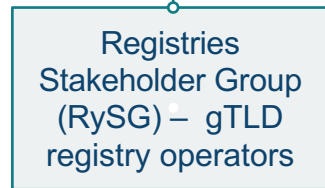
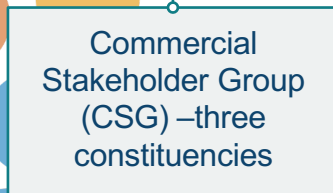


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Generic Names Supporting Organization



<https://gns0.icann.org>



Additional Note on gTLD “Consensus Policies”

There are two ways to impose binding obligations on ICANN’s Contracted Parties:

1. gTLD policies developed by community consensus and approved by the GNSO Council become binding Consensus Policies if they are adopted by the Board.

- The Board must adopt these community-developed policies unless it determines that the recommendations are “not in the best interests of ICANN community or ICANN” (requires >2/3 vote of the Board).
- Under ICANN’s contracts with registries and registrars, these Contracted Parties “shall comply with and implement all Consensus Policies ... as may in the future be developed and adopted in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws”.

OR:

2. Successful bilateral contractual negotiations between ICANN and the Contracted Parties

Policy Advice: the Advisory Committees (ACs)

Advisory Committees (ACs)

Four ACs give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)



ALAC

The ALAC voices the interests of the individual Internet user and is composed of 15 members- 2 from each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and 5 appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee.



GAC

The GAC provides advice to the Board on public policy issues, particularly where ICANN policies interact with national laws or international agreements.



RSSAC

The RSSAC advises the ICANN community and Board on the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.



SSAC

The SSAC advises the ICANN community and Board on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

Additional Note on the Role of the GAC

ICANN Bylaws:

- ⦿ “In the event that the Board determines to take an action that is not consistent with Governmental Advisory Committee advice, it shall so inform the Governmental Advisory Committee and state the reasons why it decided not to follow that advice. ***Any Governmental Advisory Committee advice approved by a full Governmental Advisory Committee consensus, understood to mean the practice of adopting decisions by general agreement in the absence of any formal objection ("GAC Consensus Advice"), may only be rejected by a vote of no less than 60% of the Board***, and the Governmental Advisory Committee and the Board will then try, in good faith and in a timely and efficient manner, to find a mutually acceptable solution.”
- ⦿ How does this work in practice?

POP QUIZ!

1. How many hours does the community spend developing policy and advice per year across the SOACs?
 - a. 3000 – 4000
 - b. 4000 – 5000
 - c. Over 5000
2. How many community sessions take place at each ICANN Public Meeting?
 - a. 50-100
 - b. 100-150
 - c. Over 150
3. What is the registration fee to attend an ICANN Public Meeting (in person or virtually)?

How Can I Participate in ICANN's Multi-Stakeholder Policy Process?

Ways to Participate



1

JOIN or OBSERVE
a SOAC community or
open working group



2

ENGAGE with ICANN's
regional teams and
attend our events



3

SUBMIT a public
comment and seek out
specific opportunities



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