Multi-Stakeholder Consensus Policy Making at ICANN

Mary Wong

APIGA 2023

ICANN

The ICANN Ecosystem & the Multistakeholder Model

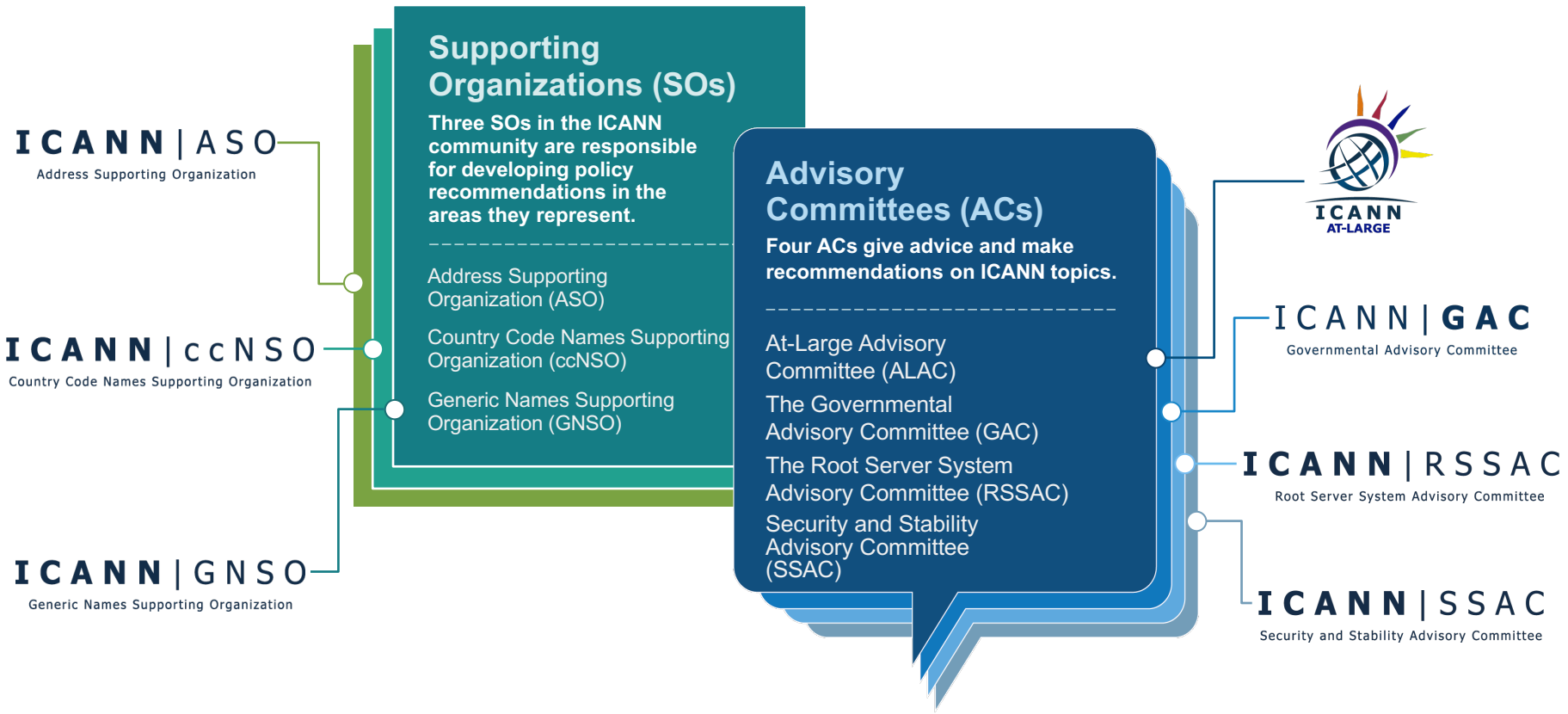
Bottom-up, consensus-driven policy development and advice is at the core of ICANN's mission.

ICANN Bylaws:

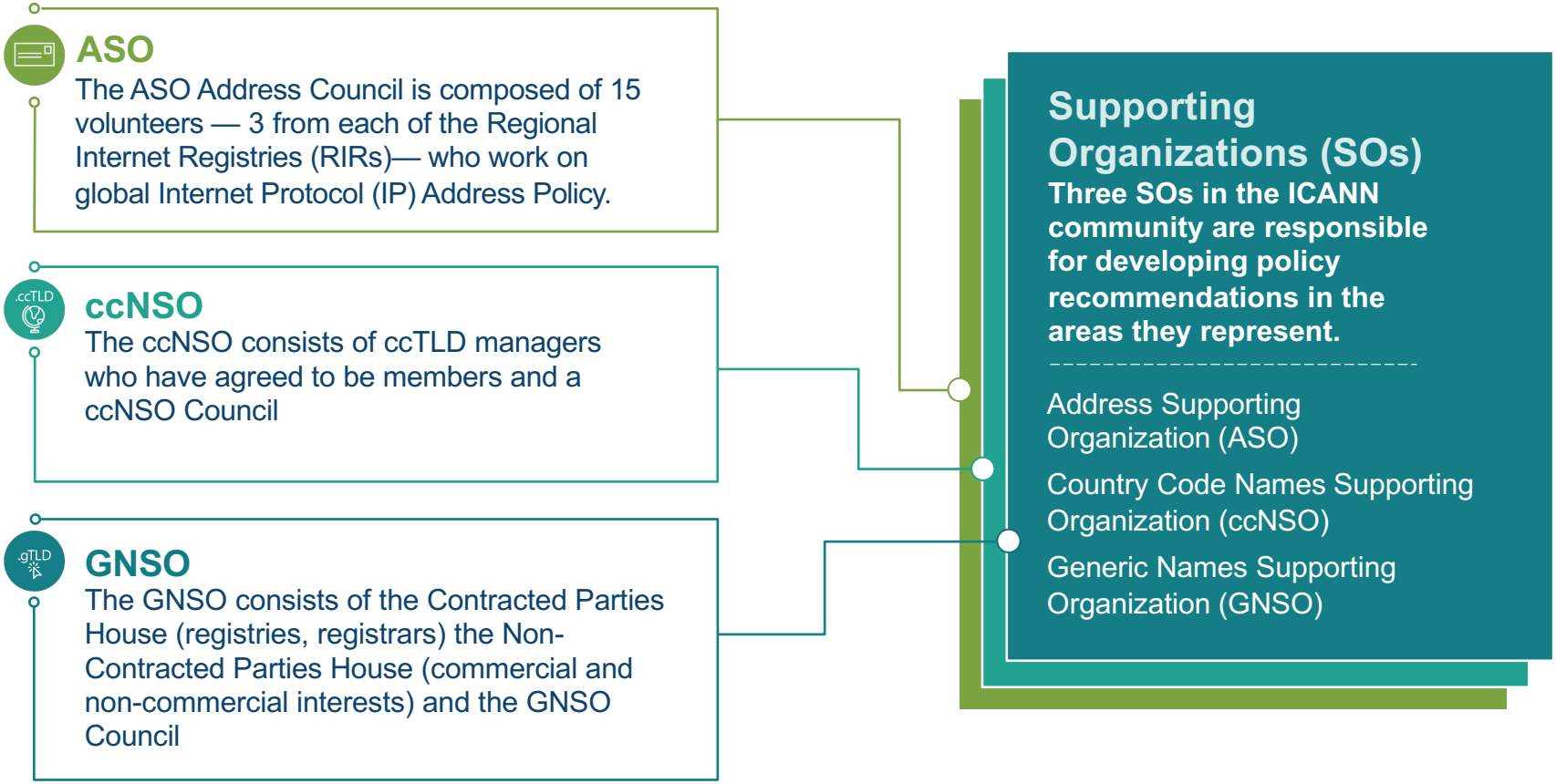
*"To coordinate the development and implementation of **policies that are developed through a bottom-up consensus-based multistakeholder process** and designed to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique names systems."*

ICANN's Supporting Organizations & Advisory Committees

The ICANN Community



Policy Development: the Supporting Organizations (SOs)



Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

ICANN | ASO
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.)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

ICANN | ccNSO

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)

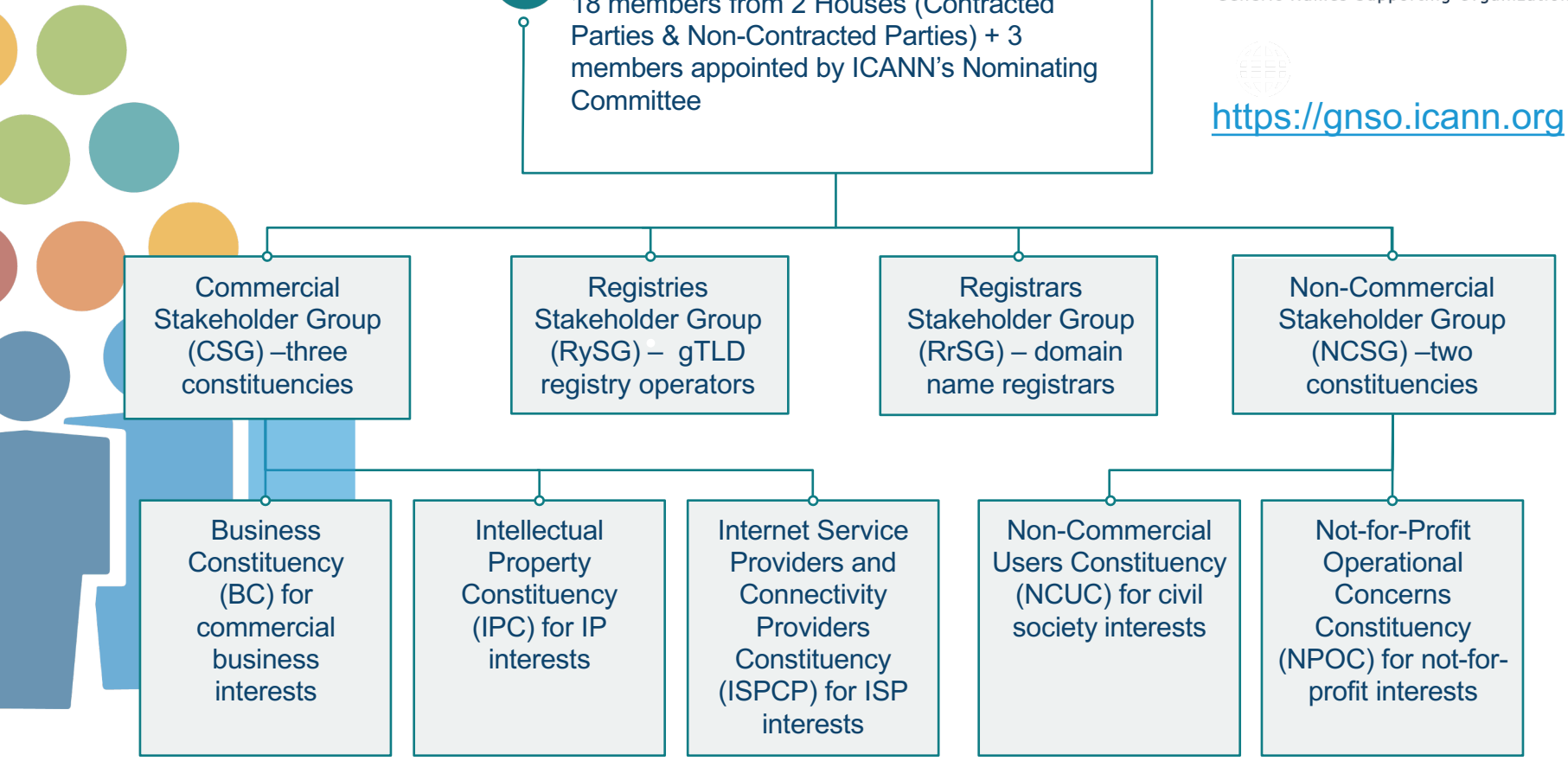
ICANN | GNSO

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)



Additional Note on gTLD "Consensus Policies"

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

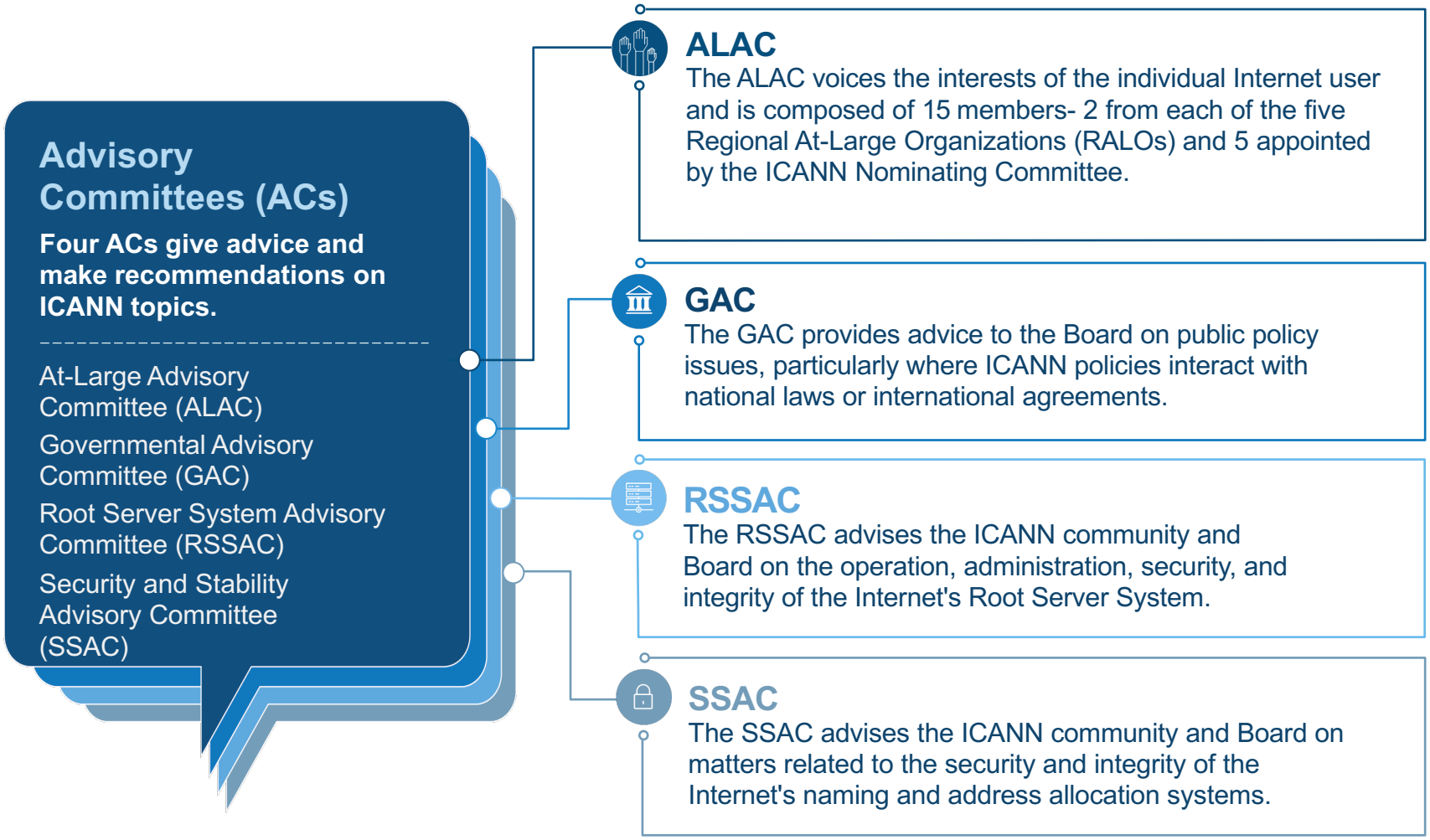
1. gTLD policies developed by community consensus and approved by the GNSO Council become binding Consensus Policies if they are adopted by the Board.

- 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)



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

One World, One Internet

Visit us at **icann.org**

@icann

facebook.com/icannorg

youtube.com/icannnews

flickr.com/icann

linkedin/company/icann

slideshare/icannpresentations

soundcloud/icann