Multi-Stakeholder Consensus Policy Making at ICANN

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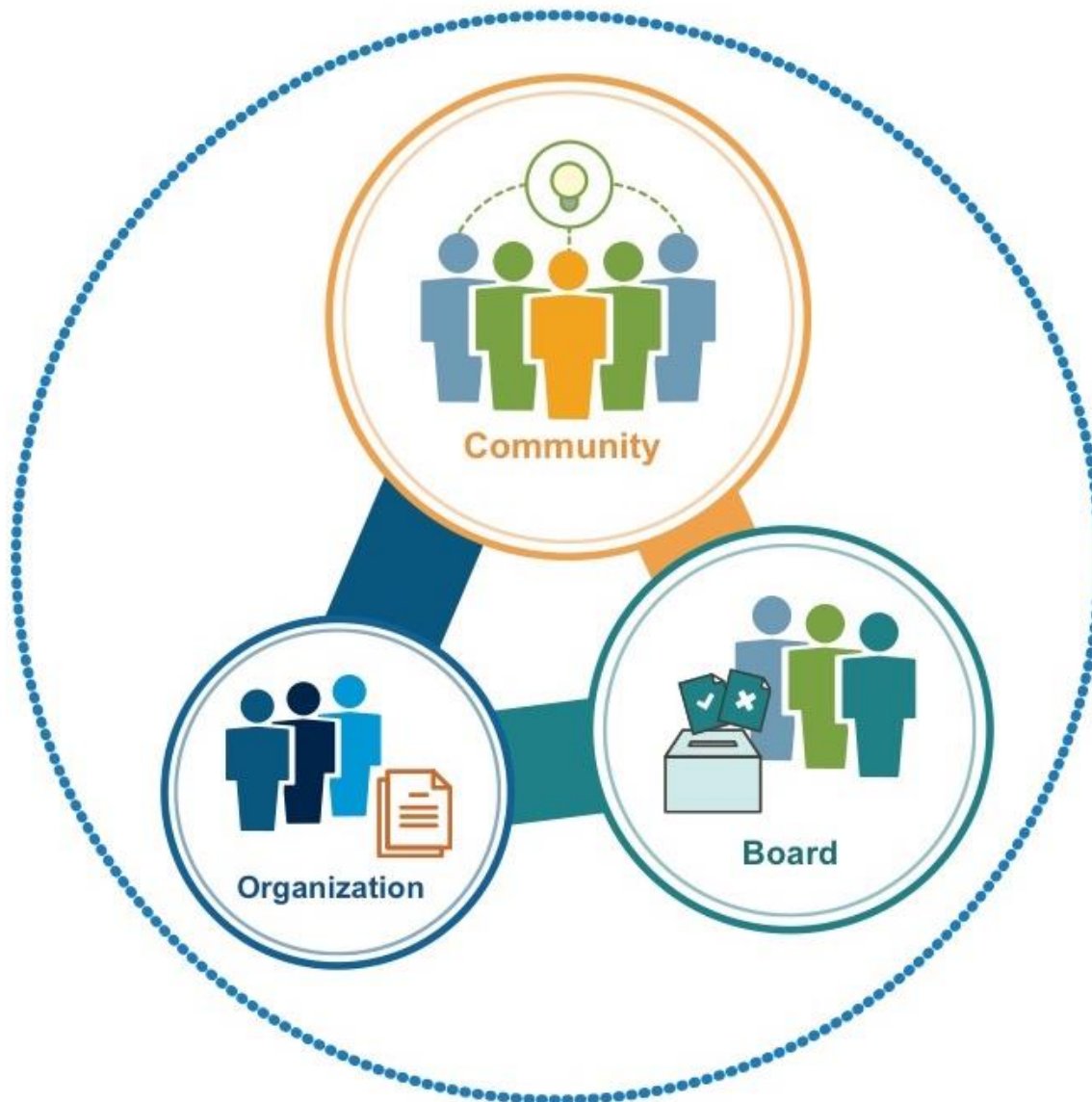
ICANN

Bottom-up, consensus-driven policy development and advice is at the core of ICANN's mission.
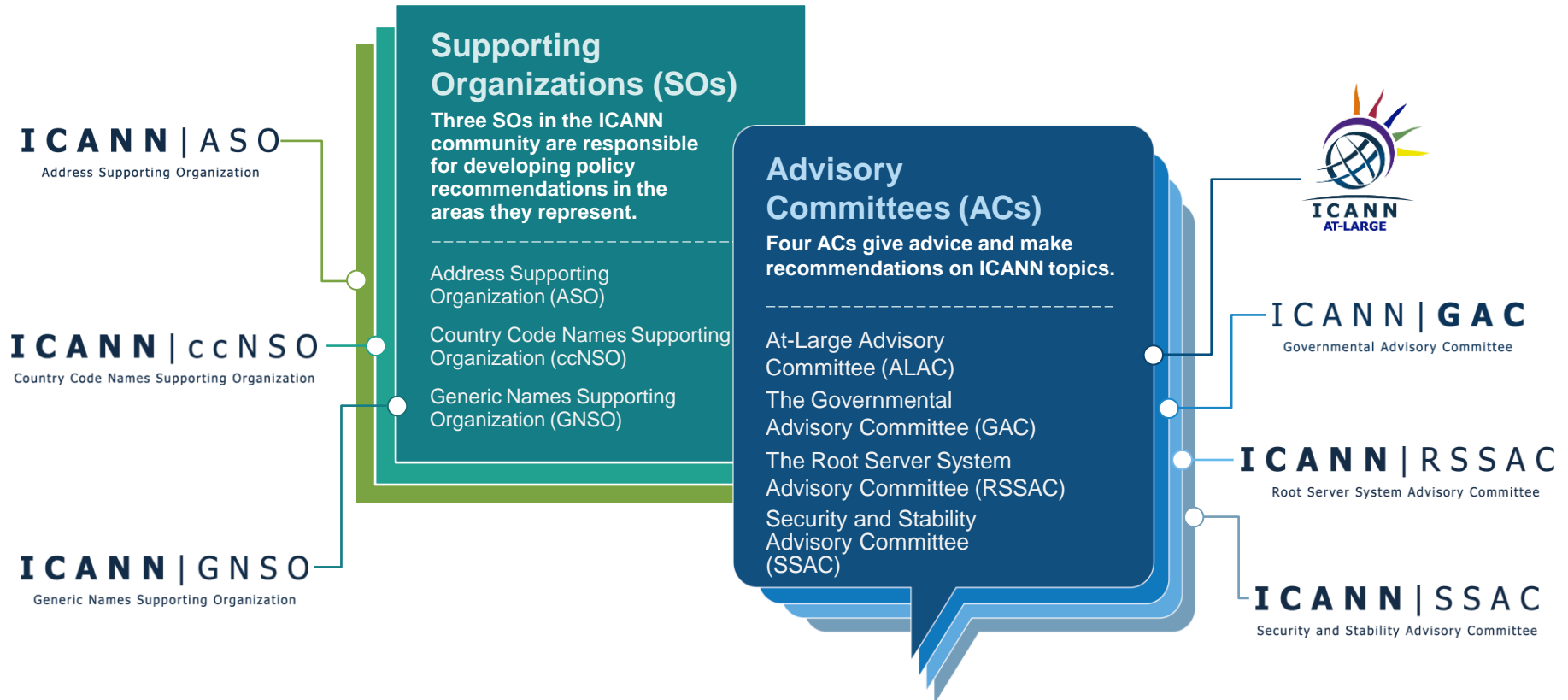
ICANN's mission (as defined by the ICANN Bylaws):

*"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."*

The ICANN Ecosystem & the Multistakeholder Model
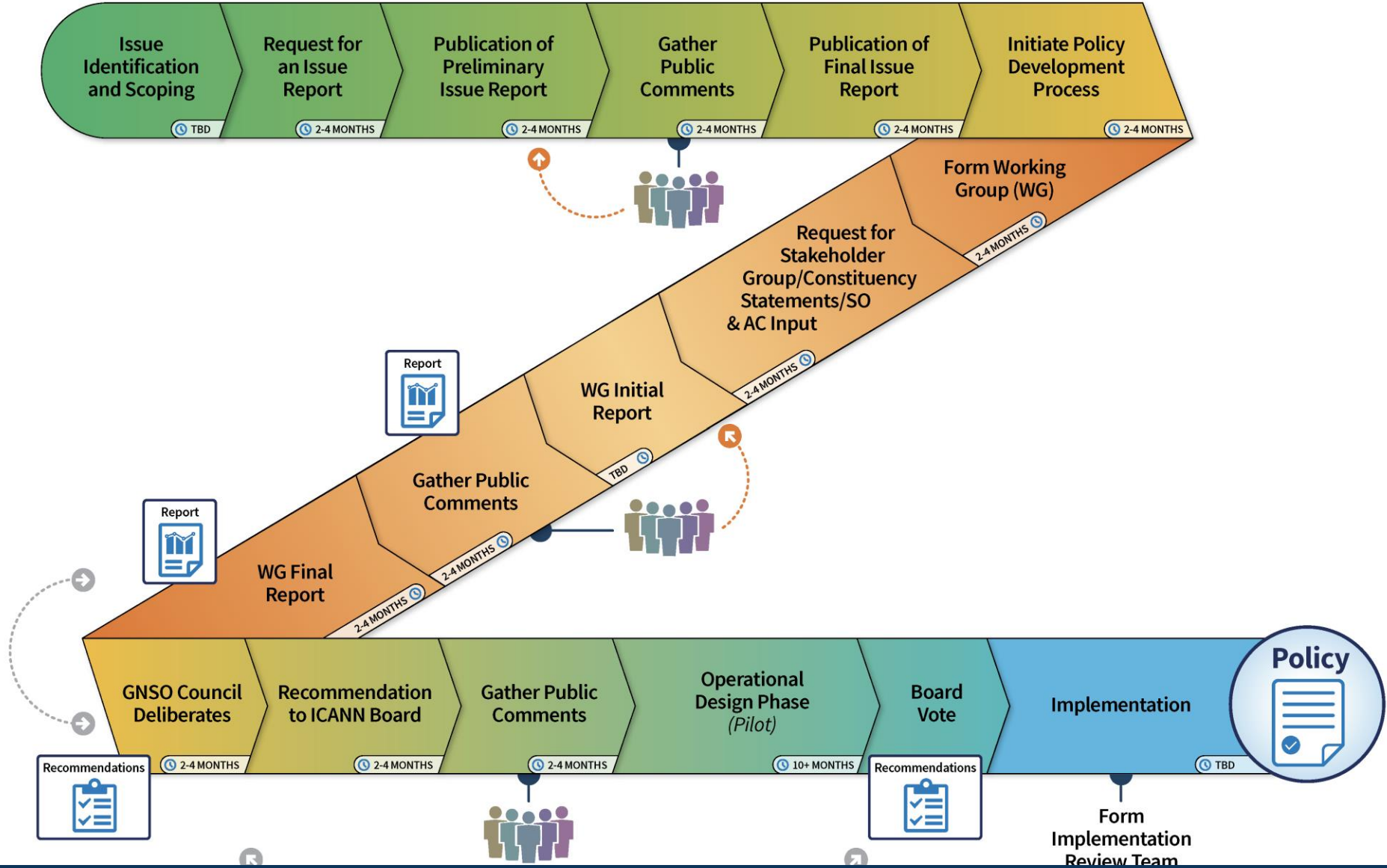
The ICANN Community

ICANN | ASO
Address Supporting Organization

ICANN | ccNSO
Country Code Names Supporting Organization

ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

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)

Advisory Committees (ACs)

Four ACs give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics.

- -

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

ICANN AT-LARGE

ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

ICANN | RSSAC
Root Server System Advisory Committee

ICANN | SSAC
Security and Stability Advisory Committee

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)?

The GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP)

The Concept of "Consensus" in the ICANN Community

	ASO	ccNSO	GNSO	ALAC	GAC	SSAC	RSSAC
Is consensus defined?	Not specifically, but RIR unanimity required for global policies For regional policies, each RIR maintains its own process	No, though ccNSO Council required to "seek to act by consensus" and each working group's charter must define its decision-making methodology	Yes, for PDP Working Groups No, for GNSO Council actions (but specific voting thresholds required)	Yes	Yes, for GAC Consensus Advice	Yes, for work party outcomes	Not specifically, but specific voting threshold required

GNSO: gTLD Policy Decision Making

GNSO Working Groups:

- ⊙ Full Consensus (unanimity)

- ⊙ Consensus (most agree, only small minority disagree)

- ⊙ Strong Support but Significant Opposition

- ⊙ Divergence (no consensus, many different points of view)

- ⊙ Minority View

GNSO Council:

- ⊙ Different voting thresholds depending on type of decision:
  - ○ GNSO Supermajority (approve PDP recommendations): either 2/3 of the Council members of each House, or 3/4 of the Council members of one House and a majority of the Council members of the other House.

ICANN Board: Approving Community-Developed Policy

GNSO Policy Recommendations:

- Any PDP Recommendations approved by a GNSO Supermajority Vote shall be adopted by the Board unless, by a vote of more than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board, the Board determines that such policy is not in the best interests of the ICANN community or ICANN

ccNSO Policy Recommendations:

- The Board shall adopt the ccNSO Recommendation unless by a vote of more than 66% the Board determines that such policy is not in the best interest of the ICANN community or of ICANN.

Policy Making at ICANN: Three Myths (maybe …)

- ⊙ The policy development process takes too long.

- ⊙ The policy development process is too complex.

- ⊙ The policy development process is too reactive.

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

Public Comments: Accountability & Transparency

APPENDIX

Links to ICANN's SOACs and Their Work

Links to ICANN Community Structures (1)

- ⊙ ASO: https://aso.icann.org/
  - ○ ASO Global Policy Development Process Flowchart: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/aso-pdp-flowchart-16oct17-en.pdf

- ⊙ ccNSO: https://ccnso.icann.org/en
  - ○ ccNSO Policy Development Process flowchart: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ccnso-pdp-flowchart-20oct17-en.pdf

- ⊙ GNSO: https://gnso.icann.org/en
  - ○ GNSO Policy Development Process flowchart: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/gnso-pdp-flowchart-31aug17-en.pdf

Links to ICANN Community Structures (2)

- ⊙ At Large: https://atlarge.icann.org/
  - ○ ALAC Advice Process Flowchart: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/alac-advice-process-flowchart-31aug17-en.pdf
- ⊙ GAC: https://gac.icann.org/
  - ○ GAC Advice Process flowchart: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/gac-advice-process-flowchart-31aug17-en.pdf
- ⊙ RSSAC: https://www.icann.org/groups/rssac
  - ○ Directory of RSSAC Advice: https://www.icann.org/groups/rssac/documents
- ⊙ SSAC: https://www.icann.org/en/ssac
  - ○ Directory of SSAC Advice: https://www.icann.org/en/ssac/publications
- ⊙ The ICANN Empowered Community: https://www.icann.org/ec

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