NPOC

Not-for-Profit
Operational Concern
Constituency

THE HOME OF

Not-for-Profit Organizations
in DNS Concerns

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO **NPOC**

ICANN THE INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS

WWW.NPOC.ORG   @NPOC_ICANN   NPOCICANN   NPOC@NPOC.ORG

NOT-FOR-PROFIT OPERATIONAL CONCERNS:
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

The NPOC Beginner's Guide was developed to educate new members about NPOC and its role within the ICANN ecosystem. It is also a great resource for those who want to become more involved in the policy development process.

After reading this booklet, you will:

- Have a better understanding of NPOC's mission
- Identify how NPOC operates within ICANN's structure
- Understand the GNSO working process
- Join a working group as a member or as an observer
- Be able to make a public comment
- Participate in NPOC elections
- Know where to find the latest information on ICANN
- Identify the most commonly used acronyms

Start sharing your thoughts, become active, and work together to build a stronger voice within the ICANN ecosystem. For more information, please contact us at: **npoc@npoc.org**

Raoul Plommer
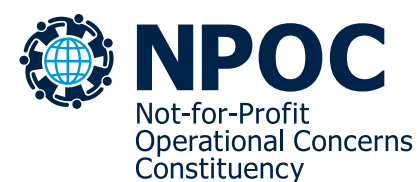asks a question
at the public forum

CONTENTS

NPOC
Not-for-Profit
Operational Concerns
Constituency

ABOUT **NPOC**

WHAT DOES NPOC STAND FOR?

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency.

WHAT IS NPOC?

NPOC brings together not-for-profits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate as a constituency of their own in the development of generic top-level domain names. The "operational" part of NPOC's name gives a hint: NPOC is about how not-for-profits use the Domain Name System (DNS) to operate their organizations and achieve their goals. NPOC allows not-for-profits to participate in the DNS policy development process.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN NPOC?

The Domain Name System (DNS) is part of the protocol that allows the Internet to exist in the way we know it today. The DNS is a very powerful technical tool and a major factor in how humans and society interact with the Internet. Having a say in the process of how the Internet evolves is crucial to ensuring that NGOs can achieve their missions. Being a member of NPOC means being part of an international community of not-for-profits, while also providing a fantastic opportunity to communicate, share, network, unite common causes, and much more.

WHAT IS
NPOC'S ROLE
WITHIN ICANN?

NPOC is part of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups (NCSG) which represents the interests and concerns of non-commercials users and not-for-profit organizations.

NCSG´s has two different constituencies within its structure (like sub-groups). One of them is NPOC, and the other is the Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC). While NPOC aims to represent the concerns of not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations who have an Internet domain registered, NCUC seeks to protect and support non-commercial communication and activity on the Internet, including rights such as freedom of expression and privacy. Since their objectives are different, NGOs can be part of both constituencies as long as they are NCSG members.

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups (NCSG)

NPOC
Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency

NCUC
Noncommercial Users Constituency

WHAT IS NPOC'S ROLE WITHIN THE GNSO STRUCTURE?

NPOC hosts community members in Hyderabad

NPOC and NCUC are part of the Non Commercial Stakeholder Groups (NCSG) within the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO).

The Generic Names Supporting Organization debates and recommends policies for generic top-level domains (like .com, .org, .ngo .legal .berlin .google, etc.). The GNSO strives to keep gTLDs operating in a fair, orderly fashion across one global Internet while promoting innovation and competition. It works in a way that fosters open debate, while achieving consensus through its diverse community in a bottom-up manner. The community will always have a say in what topics are discussed and the conclusions that are made.

Examples of GNSO topics:

- *When you register a domain name, what services must the registrar provide?*
- *If you forget to renew your domain name and it expires, can you get it back?*
- *What happens if someone registers a domain name that is confusingly similar to yours?*

The Generic Names Supporting Organization is divided into two houses, each representing the interests of their members:

1. **The Contracted Parties House (CHP)**: Made up of registries and registrars.
   a. **Registries** operate the database of all domain names registered under a certain top-level domain. For example, the Public Interest Registry (PIR) operates the database for all .ngo and .org domains
   b. **Registrars** are authorized by ICANN to sell domain names. For example, GoDaddy, which then sells .ngo, .org, .com, .legal, etc.
2. **The Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH)**: Made up of the Commercial Stakeholder Group (those that are directly contracting with ICANN) and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (those that are not directly contracting with ICANN).
   a. The Commercial Stakeholder Group is composed of the Commercial and Business Users Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency, and ISP Constituency.
   b. The Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group is composed of the Non-Commercial Users Constituency and the Non-Commercial Operational Concerns Constituency
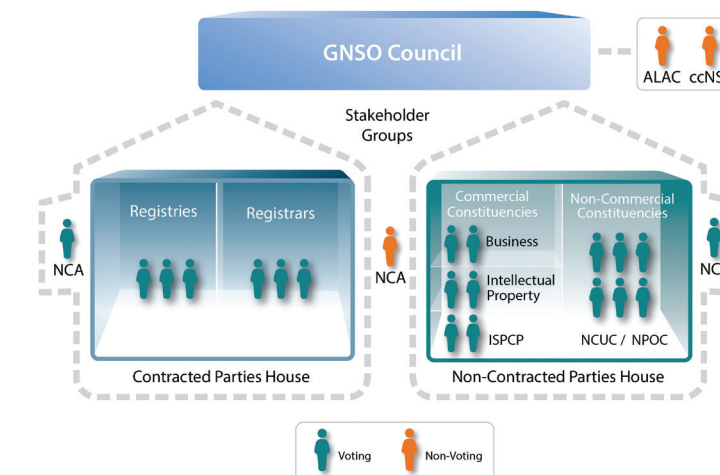
NPOC is part of the Non-Contracted Parties House. As a result, NPOC's place within the GNSO structure looks like this:

NPOC members play a vital part in the GNSO's policymaking process by voting representatives to the GNSO Council (through the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group), working groups, and other positions in ICANN.

In the final phase, the ICANN Board reviews the GNSO Council's policy recommendations and ultimately decides on its implementation.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NPOC'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE?

The Executive Committee (ExCom) helps the constituency do its work by organizing its members and managing administrative tasks, including calls, meetings, events, membership database, communications, and elections. The Executive Committee also works closely with other ICANN bodies. It is not the Executive Committee's duty to develop policy, but to help facilitate the best possible working environment for its members.

Meeting NPOC members on Constituency Day

HOW TO DO WORK IN **NPOC**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN NPOC'S WORK?

Since NPOC is part of the GNSO, members participate in the process for developing and reviewing generic top-level domain policy. You can do this by joining the email list, taking part in Q&As, providing public comments[1] when called upon, or being a part of a GNSO Working Group[2] as a voting member or observer. NPOC needs volunteers to help maintain the constituency and to perform administrative work – mainly handling the membership base, policy work coordination, preparing for calls and meetings, and conducting outreach to increase NPOC's membership.

WHY PARTICIPATING IN THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IS IMPORTANT

The Domain Name System is the entrance gate to the Internet. Participating in the DNS policy development process helps shape the future of the Internet and is critical to ensuring an open and universal Internet that a lows everyone to be connected. In ICANN's multistakeholder approach, the voice of not-for-profit organizations is just as valuable as those of businesses, governments, and individual users, and is critical to the continued development of the Internet.

[1] Visit https://www.icann.org/public-comments

[2] Visit https://whois.icann.org/en/gnso-working-groups

HOW DOES NPOC AND ITS MEMBERS DEVELOP POLICY INSIDE THE GNSO?

The GNSO develops its policy through a Policy Development Process (PDP). To summarize, the process begins with an issue report, on which a working group (WG) is formed with multiple stages for public comments. Members of NPOC, like many other people inside and outside of ICANN, can participate in the PDP process depending on the stage and type, since not every PDP is the same. Once the working group has a final report, it goes to the ICANN Board for approval.

Working groups aim to address different policies regarding the DNS. All of them are composed of interested community volunteers with various types of interests and expertise. Since members are geographically dispersed around different time zones, most working groups complete work by using teleconferences and online resources.

WHAT ARE THE ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS?

To find out what working groups you can join or follow, visit the GNSO website: **gnso.icann.org**.

HOW TO JOIN A WORKING GROUP

After reviewing the active working groups, you must send an email to the GNSO secretariat (**gnso-secretariat@icann.org**) expressing your interest in joining a specific working group.

If you are new to the community, it is recommended you join a working group as it is forming. If you would like to join a working group that is already in progress, materials such as meeting transcriptions, charter, member lists, etc., are made available.

Next, you will be asked to complete a Statement of Interest (SOI) form, which discloses general information about your interests and how they might affect the working group. Each member's SOI is public.

In case you are unable to be an active member in a working group, you may join as an observer. An observer can join the discussion mailing list to follow the conversation, but cannot participate in deliberations. An observer can become an active member at any time, but must complete the SOI form.

WHAT ARE MY DUTIES IF I JOIN A WORKING GROUP?

If you join a working group, you may be asked – on a voluntary basis – to assist in tasks such as research, survey management, and report drafting. Additional membership duties can include:

- Develop and draft working-group documents
- Contribute ideas and expertise to working group discussions
- Act as a liaison between the working group and its respective stakeholder group or constituency
- Ensure that the stakeholder group or constituency statements are developed in an informed and timely way
- Actively and constructively participate in the consensus decision-making process

HOW MUCH TIME MUST I COMMIT?

Each working group has its own schedule and deadlines so the amount of time and work committed to the group varies. Working groups can span years, months, or just weeks depending on each group's respective needs. Although your commitment is voluntary, working groups address tough issues and require a high-level of collaboration. The "Call for Volunteers" announcement will usually indicate the amount of commitment expected, so please read it carefully.

UNDERSTANDING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS?

Public comment is another way to participate in ICANN. It offers all stakeholders an opportunity to provide input and feedback, participate in current community discussions, review past work, and browse upcoming topics.

Participating in the Public Comment is an easy process. You can find all the information you need at: **https://www.icann.org/public-comments**.

You can respond to any comment in your capacity, but in order for the comment to be endorsed by NPOC or other groups, you must go through the approval process.

PARTICIPATING IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

In order to work efficiently, the NPOC relies on its members to actively participate in its committees (Policy, Membership, Communications). Assisting the committees is a great way for members to learn more about the NPOC and its processes, and open the door to future ExCom positions.

Raoul Plommer,
Juan Manuel Rojas
and Joan Kerr
in Abu Dhabi

USEFUL **RESOURCES**

NPOC COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

NPOC's website provides general information about the constituency, such as information about membership, elections, and committees.

Visit us at **npoc.org**

Visit us on Twitter at: **@NPOC_ICANN**

ICANN COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

ICANN website: **icann.org**

Twitter:
@ICANN (English)
@ICANN_es (Spanish)
@ICANN_pt (Portuguese)
@ICANN_fr (French)
@ICANN_ru (Russian)

Follow the ICANN President and CEO on Twitter:
@icann_president

Follow ICANN on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/icannorg

Watch ICANN videos on the ICANN YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/ICANNnews

ICANN RESOURCES

ICANN LEARN: is a free and open online learning platform for the global Internet community. You could take different courses on ICANN and the Internet Governance ecosystem.
http://learn.icann.org/

ICANNWIKI: is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Internet community's collaborative development of wiki articles on ICANN and Internet Governance-related topics. The wiki provides neutral, third-party information for ICANN meeting attendees and Internet citizens at large. The project is independent of ICANN but it has become a good source of information for the community. During meetings, you have the chance to have your own caricature done: **https://icannwiki.org**

ICANN BEGINNER'S GUIDES: are booklets intended to help newcomers quickly grasp the basics. These guides help demystify some of the complexity within ICANN's technical coordination and policy-making mission. The documents are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, and Russian. You can find them on ICANN's website.

ACRONYMS

There are many acronyms commonly used by ICANN and its community. This Acronym Guide spells out some of the most frequently used terms.

Acronym	Term	More Information
AFNIC (NIC-France)	Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération	http://www.nic.fr
AfriNIC	African Network Information Center	http://www.afrinic.org
AFTLD	African ccTLDs	http://www.wwtld.org/aftld.txt
APTLD	Asia Pacific Top-Level Domain Association	http://www.aptld.org
APNG	Asia Pacific Network Group	http://www.apng.org
APNIC	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre	http://www.apnic.net
ARIN	American Registry for Internet Numbers	http://www.arin.net
ARPA	Address and Routing Parameter Area (See also DARPA)	http://www.darpa.mil
CAIP	Canadian Association of Internet Providers	-
CENTR	Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries	http://www.centr.org
CNRI	Corporation for National Research Initiatives	http://www.cnri.reston.va.us
CORE	Council of Registrars	http://www.corenic.org
CORE-MoU	Council of Registrars Memorandum of Understanding	-
DARPA	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency	http://www.darpa.mil
DNS	Domain Name System	-
DOC	US Department of Commerce	http://www.doc.gov
ETNO	European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association	http://www.etno.be
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute	http://www.etsi.org
FCC	US Federal Communications Commission	http://www.fcc.gov
GNSO	Generic Names Supporting Organization	http://gnso.icann.org
gTLD	generic Top-Level Domain (not associated with a country code)	-
IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority	http://www.iana.org
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers	http://www.icann.org
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce	http://www.iccwbo.org
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force	http://www.ietf.org
IESG	Internet Engineering Steering Group	http://www.ietf.org/iesg.html
INTA	International Trademark Association	http://www.inta.org
IOPS.ORG	Group of Commercial Internet Service Providers	-
iPOC	gTLD-MoU Interim Policy Oversight Committee	-
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	https://www.iso.org
ISOC	Internet Society	http://www.isoc.org
ISP	Internet Service Provider	-
ISPA-uk	Internet Services Providers Association of the UK	http://www.ispa.org.uk/
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	http://www.itu.int
LACTLD	Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs	http://www.lactld.org
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	-
NANC	North American Numbering Council	-
NANP	North American Numbering Plan	-
NCHP	Non-Contracted House Party (GNSO)	-
NCUC	Noncommercial Users Constituency	-
NIC	Network Information Center	-
VeriSign Global Registry Services	Sep 2000: the name "NSI Registry" has been changed to "VeriSign Global Registry Services"	http://www.netsol.com
PAB	gTLD-MoU Policy Advisory Body	-
POC	gTLD-MoU Policy Oversight Committee	-
RFC	Request for Comments	-
RIPE	Réseaux IP Européens	http://www.ripe.net
SRS	Shared Registry System	-
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol	-
TLD	Top Level Domain	-
URL	Uniform Resource Locator	-
WWTLD	World-wide Alliance of Top-Level Domains	-

NPOC

Not-for-Profit
Operational Concern
Constituency

WWW.NPOC.ORG

@NPOC_ICANN

NPOCICANN

NPOC@NPOC.ORG