



## **8<sup>th</sup> Capacity Building Webinar - 2017**

**Update on WHOIS-related Initiatives :  
Next Generation Registration Services and its impact on end –users**

**Holly Raiche | 04 October 2017 | 21:00 UTC**

# **At-Large:** Representing the Interest of Internet Users

12.2(d)(i) The role of the ALAC shall be to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN, insofar as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users. This includes policies created through ICANN's Supporting Organizations, as well as the many other issues for which community input and advice is appropriate.

# Today's Agenda

1

What is the Policy Development Process?

2

How does the ALAC write Policy Statements?

3

What topics are particularly interesting to End Users?

4

Calling on YOU

5

Current Policy Processes of importance to End Users

6

Questions



# #1: What is the Policy Development Process?

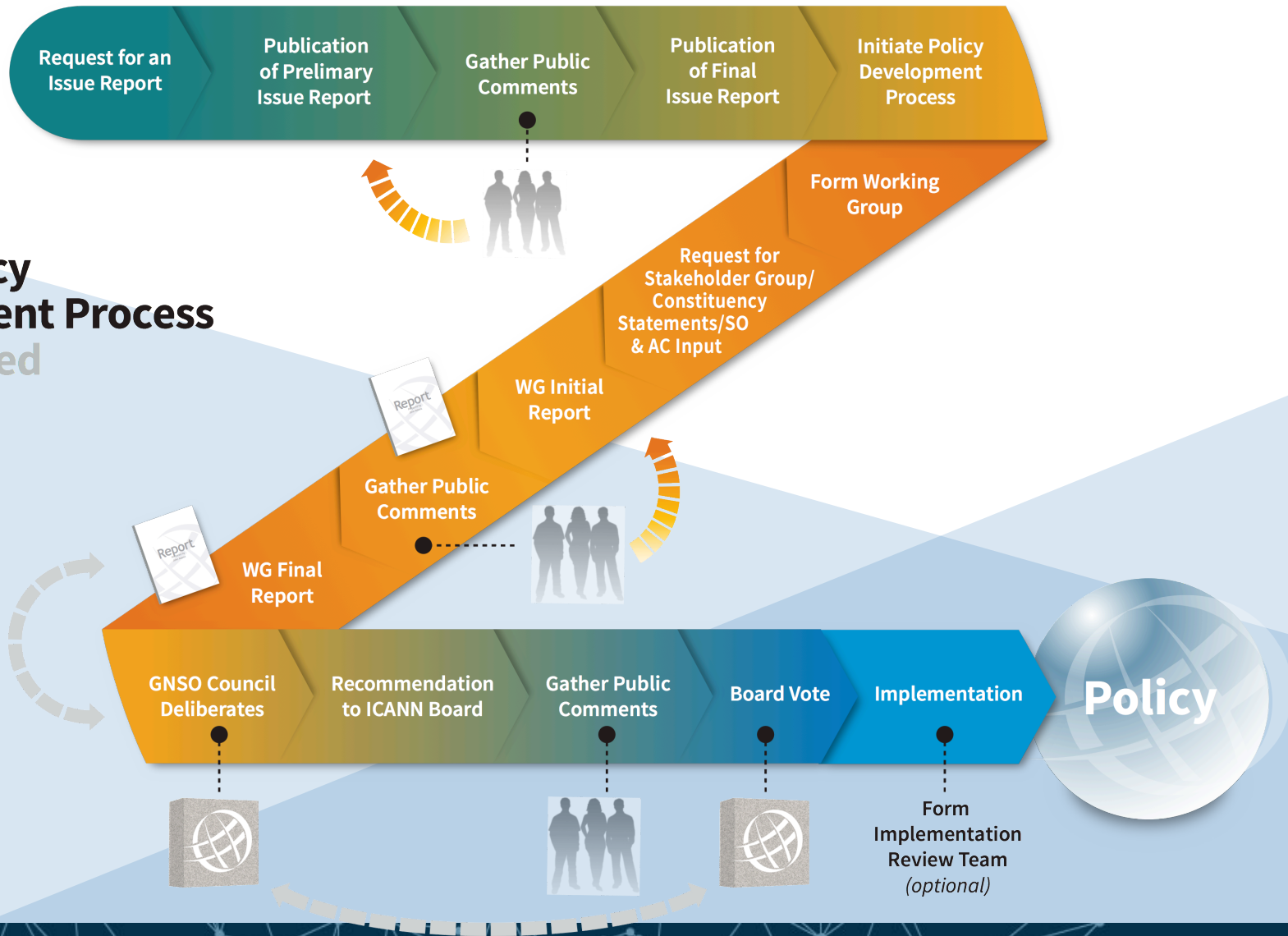
# What is the Policy Development Process?

- Development of Policy relating to ICANN's mission
- Takes place in an ICANN Supporting Organisation (SO):
  - Address Supporting Organisation (ASO)
    - Mostly done within the Regional Internet Registries (AFRINIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE)
  - Country Code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO)
    - Mostly done at Country Code / Country Registry level
  - Generic Name Supporting Organisation (GNSO)
    - Done in GNSO working groups
      - Policy Development Process (PDP) working groups

# GNSO Council – the Manager of the PDP

## GNSO Policy Development Process \*Summarized

\*Some steps omitted, for brevity.



# PDP Requirements

## Process prescribed by Bylaws, PDP Manual and Working Group (WG) Guidelines:

- ⦿ Must formally **seek opinions** from other ICANN Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations, and statements from GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies, at early stage of the PDP
- ⦿ Specific roles for WG chair(s) and members in WG Guidelines – consensus-building emphasized
- ⦿ Publication of Initial Report for **public comment**
- ⦿ WG must review comments in preparing Final Report
- ⦿ Final Report – including consensus levels for each recommendation - delivered to GNSO Council



# WGs use a Standard Methodology for Decision-Making



- ⦿ There are specific designations for WGs to indicate support for policy recommendations
- ⦿ Chair is responsible for determining level of support – an iterative process
- ⦿ Current designations:
  - ✓ Full consensus
  - ✓ Consensus
  - ✓ Strong support but significant opposition
  - ✓ Divergence
  - ✓ Minority view

## #2: How does the ALAC write Policy Statements?

# How does the ALAC write Policy Statements?

## ICANN Public Comment Page:

<http://www.icann.org/public-comments>

## At-Large Policy Advice Development Page:

<https://community.icann.org/x/bwFO>

- A web-based platform for collaborative work
- Duplicate the content from ICANN Public Comment pages
- Present the internal timeline for developing ALAC responses, their drafters
- Publish initial draft, final draft, and submitted ALAC responses
- Collect comments from the At-Large Community on the draft ALAC responses

# How does the ALAC respond?



*ALAC policy advice development process*





### #3: What topics are particularly interesting to end users?

(Extracted from The Document on: [https://atlarge.icann.org/advice\\_statements/9895](https://atlarge.icann.org/advice_statements/9895) )



# Policy Topic: New Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs)

o A TLD is the rightmost label starting from the last dot in a web address (e.g. .com, .net, .biz). The domain namespace originally had eight TLDs. In 2000, seven new TLDs were introduced, and in 2004, eight more were made available. In 2012, ICANN launched the New gTLD Program which resulted in the massive expansion of the domain namespace. As of today, more than 1,000 new gTLDs have been delegated to the root zone.

## Why should end users care?

- o New gTLDs offer greater **flexibility** for individual registrants to create memorable, innovative names for their websites. They also ease the overcrowding in the legacy gTLD domain market.
- o As New gTLDs open up opportunities for new Registries and Registrars to enter the domain name industry, individual registrants have more **choices** when purchasing services.
- o New gTLDs also could cause widespread **confusion**, as users may have to learn the new addresses of websites that they are using.
- o In addition, users may be exposed to **fraud**, **counterfeiting**, and **identity theft** when criminals take advantage of this confusion to create hostile sites with new gTLDs.

# Policy Topic: WHOIS / Registration Directory Services (RDS)

- o Every year, millions of individuals, businesses, organizations and governments register domain names. Each one must provide identifying and contact information which may include: name, address, email, phone number, and administrative and technical contacts. This information is often referred to as “WHOIS data.”
- o WHOIS service is not a single, centrally-operated database. Instead, the data is managed by independent entities known as registrars and registries. Any entity that wants to become a registrar must earn ICANN accreditation.
- o WHOIS data is key for fixing system problems, maintaining Internet stability, and enhancing the accountability of registrants.

## Why should end users care?

- o The “one-size-fits-all” disclosure of identifying information may also expose registrants, especially individual registrants, to potential spam, phishing, and identity theft.
- o Due to its implication in privacy, data protection, policing, security, and malicious use and abuse, WHOIS matters to end users, especially individual registrants.

# Policy Topic: Contracted Party Agreements

## **(i.e. Registry Agreement, Registrar Accreditation Agreement)**

- o A registry operator of a top-level domain (TLD) must enter a contract (i.e. Registry Agreement - RA) with ICANN in order to operate and maintain a generic TLD (gTLD).
- o Registrars that offer domain name registration services with a direct access to TLD registries are also required to obtain accreditation from ICANN (i.e. Registrar Accreditation Agreement - RAA).
- o ICANN's Contractual Compliance Department ensures registries and registrars are in compliance with those agreements.
- o The RA and RAA are also subject to changes by consensus policy developed through the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)'s bottom-up, consensus-based Policy Development Process (PDP).

## **Why should end users care?**

- o Policy changes to the RA and RAA directly affect individual registrants' rights, obligations, and overall experiences using the domain name registration services.
- o As contracted party agreements are critical to the security and stability of the domain name system and have implications to the public interest, they also affect end users who do not have domain registrations.
- o Individual registrants and end users can contribute to shaping contracted party agreements, specifically the RAA, through GNSO processes.

# Policy Topic: Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

- o IDNs give users around the world the ability to access the web in their native tongue, making it easier for them to discover/remember websites and promote local content via service providers likely in their own countries.
- o It is expected that IDNs will increase the Internet penetration in emerging economies of Asia Pacific, Africa, and Latin America where English is not the primary language.
- o Due to the lack of universal acceptance, using IDNs can be challenging across browsers, emails, and mobile apps.

## Why should end users care?

- o ICANN's work on the universal acceptance, Label Generation Rules, and other key IDN issues will ultimately improve user experience, increasing the IDN uptake and making the Internet truly multilingual.

<http://افغانستان.example>

<http://বাংলাদেশ.example>

<http://中国.example>

<http://இலங்கை.example>

<http://österreich.example>

<http://беларусь.example>

<http://ελλάδα.example>

# Policy Topic: The Public Interest

- o Discussions on the topic of “public interest within ICANN’s remit” have been going on for years within the ICANN Community. Some community members are advocating to devise mechanisms that will more effectively address the public interest.
- o The Public Interest is a key topic of the At-Large Community. It has established a Public Interest Working Group. In particular, the European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO) has advocated for related principles such as Open Access, Free Software, and Creative Commons since its inception.
- o One sub-topic that At-Large cares deeply about is the Public Interest Commitments (PICs), especially pertaining to the Category 1 TLDs related to sensitive strings as defined by the GAC, such as .doctor and .bank.

## Why should end users care?

- o The Internet has become a critical part of the global public sphere. As the influence of commercial interests and state powers has been increasing, stakeholders need to work together and form a comprehensive vision on the Internet that addresses the protection of civil liberties, such as free speech and privacy.



# #4: Calling on YOU

- Statements & Advice
- Participation

# Ways to participate

- Join a GNSO, ccNSO, Cross-Community WG
- Join an At-Large WG that shadows non-At-Large groups
  - ICANN Evolution, gTLD, Registration Issues
- Draft Statements for ALAC Consideration
  - Join a drafting group
- Comment on draft statements

# How to get up to speed!

- Attend targeted webinars
- Attend pre-ICANN meeting briefings
- ICANN meetings often have sessions reviewing WG activities and all have remote participation
- Join a group and just listen
- Read regular monthly briefings that ICANN distributes
- And coming soon....

# New Policy Briefings documents

- Aimed specifically at At-Large members
- Intent is to be understandable
  - Presumes minimal prior knowledge
  - Multiple languages



It is only with wide  
contributions that we can be  
sure we are representing the  
needs of Internet Users

# Current Policy Processes of importance to End Users

# Current Policy Advice Development

Policy Advice Currently being drafted:

**Policy Advice Development Page:** <https://community.icann.org/x/bwFO>

Already Submitted Policy Advice:

**At-Large Website:** <https://atlarge.icann.org/policy-summary>

# Summary of what we have covered today

**1**

Policy Development  
Process at ICANN

**1**

GNSO Open to All.  
End Users - YOU are  
encouraged

**2**

ALAC Writes Policy  
Statements

**2**

YOU can write and  
comment

**3**

Many Topics affect  
End Users directly

**3**

YOU can influence  
Global Policy directly



**Questions? Comments?**





# Thank You and Questions

Reach us at:

Email: [staff@atlarge.icann.org](mailto:staff@atlarge.icann.org)

Website: [atlarge.icann.org](http://atlarge.icann.org)



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