Participating in policy development work at ICANN: public comment opportunities

Presentation for the At Large Capacity Building Program 2018
3 December 2018
The ICANN Community

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)
Multistakeholder Policy Development

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

GNSO Council is composed of 21 members — divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) — who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

1. IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
   - If yes, GNSO Council requests Preliminary Issue Report.
   - Staff publishes Preliminary Issue Report for Public Comment Period.
   - Following Public Comment review, Final Issue Report is submitted for GNSO Council consideration.

2. SCOPE THE ISSUE
   - GNSO Council considers Final Issue Report and decides whether to initiate PDP.
   - If yes, GNSO Council develops/adopts charter for PDP WG.
   - GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form PDP WG.

3. INITIATE THE PDP
   - WG consults with Community and develops Initial Report for Public Comment Period.
   - After review, WG submits Final Report to GNSO Council.

4. FORM A WORKING GROUP
   - GNSO Council considers Final Issue Report and considers adoption.
   - If adopted, GNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.

5. DELIBERATE THE FINAL REPORT
   - ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.

6. VOTE BY ICANN BOARD
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations, but national laws remain paramount.

Learn more about the GNSO
gnso.icann.org

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).

1. IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
   - ccNSO Council appoints issue manager.

2. SCOPE THE ISSUE
   - Issue manager determines if issue is within the scope of ccNSO.
   - ICANN Bylaws define and limit the scope of issues.

3. INITIATE THE PDP
   - ccNSO Council appoints WG to develop policy.
   - WG issues Initial Report.
   - WG opens Public Comment Period.
   - WG produces Final Report.
   - ccNSO Council requests GAC input.

4. DEVELOP POLICY
   - Stage 1. ccNSO Council deliberates Final Report and if adopted, makes recommendation to its members.
   - Stage 2. If members approve, ccNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.

5. VOTE BY ccNSO (TWO STAGES)
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

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

1. IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
   - Any individual may submit global policy proposal to ASO AC or RIR.
   - RIR PDP generates global policy proposal.
   - ICANN Board may also request global policy proposal.

2. DETERMINE REQUIREMENTS
   - Five RIRs review global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs must approve identical global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs submit approved global policy proposal to ASO AC for review.

3. REVIEW BY RIRS AND ASO AC
   - ASO AC submits ratified global policy proposal to ICANN Board.
   - ICANN Board may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.

4. REVIEW BY ICANN BOARD
   - ASO AC approves Policy Proposal Facilitator Team (PPFT).
   - ASO or PPFT determine if global policy proposal requires specific IANA functions actions or outcomes.
   - ASO AC oversees global PDP.

Learn more about the ASO
aso.icann.org

Learn more about the ccNSO
ccnso.icann.org

Learn more about the GNSO
gnso.icann.org

*Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)
- AFRINIC Africa
- APNIC Asia and Pacific region
- ARIN Canada, parts of the Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the U.S.
- LACNIC Latin America and parts of the Caribbean
- RIPE NCC Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia

Designed by ICANN Communications | January 2017
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<tr>
<th>Remit</th>
<th>Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)</th>
<th>Country Code Supporting Organization (ccNSO)</th>
<th>Address Supporting Organization (ASO)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains (gTLDs)</td>
<td>Global policies relating to country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs)</td>
<td>Policy issues relating to the operation, assignment, and management of Internet addresses</td>
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| Where does policy development happen? | At ICANN | Some at ICANN, most at national level | Regional level |

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<th>Examples of current policy development topics</th>
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<td>• Expedited PDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data</td>
<td>Delegation, re-delegation and retirement of ccTLDs</td>
<td>No global policies currently; for regional policies see <a href="https://aso.icann.org/global-policies/rir-regional-policies/">https://aso.icann.org/global-policies/rir-regional-policies/</a></td>
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GNSO Policy Development Process & Public Comment Opportunities

GNSO Policy Development Process

*Summarized

*Some steps omitted, for brevity.
Public Comments: Accountability & Transparency in Policy Making & Implementation

Who can launch an ICANN public comment forum?
- Public comment proceedings can be initiated by an ICANN community structure (e.g. for new policies being proposed) or ICANN Org department (e.g. for operational questions)
- A typical public comment proceeding runs for a minimum of 40 days
  - In exceptional circumstances, this can be shortened
  - In many situations, the group launching the public comment proceeding can agree to extend the time beyond 40 days
- A staff report is published 14 days after the forum is closed

What are the rules for submitting a public comment?
- Participation requires compliance with ICANN’s Expected Standards of Behavior and is subject to ICANN’s Terms of Service
- All comments submitted are published on the relevant webpage
- Each commentator’s name and (if provided) affiliation is also published
Where can I find more information?

- Currently open public comment forums: [https://www.icann.org/public-comments](https://www.icann.org/public-comments)
- Upcoming public comment proceedings: [https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/upcoming-2012-02-25-en](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/upcoming-2012-02-25-en)
- Recently closed forums: [https://www.icann.org/public-comments#closed-public](https://www.icann.org/public-comments#closed-public)
- All public comment proceedings (archived and searchable by year): [https://www.icann.org/public-comments/archive](https://www.icann.org/public-comments/archive)
What are other tools and mechanisms used for policy participation?

- Working groups within each SO or ACI
- Meetings: in-person, teleconference, virtual
- Public comments are critical
- Online collaboration mechanisms
- Regular publications & briefings
- Webinars & updates

These tools all support bottom-up, multi-stakeholder consensus policy work.
Where to find more information

• Sign up for the various **ICANN regional newsletters** to get news about selected policy work, current public comment opportunities and upcoming webinars
• Sign up for the **Policy Update webinars**, scheduled before each ICANN meeting
• Check out each SO and AC’s webpage for news:
  • [https://aso.icann.org/](https://aso.icann.org/)
  • [http://ccnso.icann.org/](http://ccnso.icann.org/)
  • [https://atlarge.icann.org/](https://atlarge.icann.org/)
  • [https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee](https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee) (all GAC Communiques are listed in the Register of Advice)
  • [https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-4c-2012-02-25-en](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-4c-2012-02-25-en) (for all RSSAC reports and advisories, see [https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-publications-2014-05-12-en](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-publications-2014-05-12-en))
  • [https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac](https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac) (for all SSAC reports and advisories, see [https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac/documents](https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac/documents))