

Glossary

See also <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/glossary-2014-02-03-en>

Advisory Committee (AC)	An Advisory Committee (AC) is a formal advisory body made up of representatives from the Internet community to advise ICANN on a particular issue or policy area. Several are mandated by the ICANN Bylaws and others may be created as needed. Advisory Committees have no legal authority to act for ICANN, but report their findings and make recommendations to the ICANN Board. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#XI .
Affirmation of Commitments (AoC)	The Affirmation of Commitments is the 2009 agreement that reaffirmed ICANN's independence, and the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's and ICANN's commitment to accountability and transparency, DNS security and stability, competition and consumer choice, international participation, periodic community reviews, and related activities.
Affirmation of Commitments Reviews (AoC Reviews)	Periodic community review of four key objectives are required under the AoC to assess and report on ICANN's progress toward 1) ensuring accountability, transparency (see "ATRT"), 2) preserving security, stability and resiliency of the DNS, 3) promoting competition, consumer trust and consumer choice, and 4) WHOIS policy;
ALAC – At-Large Advisory Committee	The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) is a body within the ICANN structure responsible for considering and providing advice on the activities of ICANN, as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users (the "At-Large" community). See also: http://www.atlarge.icann.org/ .
ASO – Address Supporting Organization	The ASO advises the ICANN Board of Directors on policy issues relating to the allocation and management of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. See also: https://aso.icann.org/ .
ATRT – Accountability and Transparency Review	Reviews required under the AoC to assess and report on ICANN's progress toward ensuring accountability and transparency by providing recommendations to enhance accountability and transparency activities throughout ICANN.
BCG – Board Governance Committee	The Board Governance Committee (BGC) is a committee responsible for conducting periodic evaluations of the performance of the Board and each of its members.
Bottom-up Processes	A fundamental principle of ICANN's decision-making process is that policy analysis and decisions progress from a stakeholder level

(made up of directly affected parties, Internet users, companies and anyone else who wishes to participate in the process) to the ICANN Board level. The process provides the opportunity for open and equal participation at all levels, as practical and possible.

ccNSO – The Country-Code Names Supporting Organization	The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) is a body within the ICANN structure created for and by ccTLD managers. The ccNSO provides a forum for country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers to meet and discuss topical issues of concern to ccTLDs from a global perspective. The ccNSO provides a platform to nurture consensus, technical cooperation and skill building among ccTLDs and facilitates the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. It is also responsible for developing and recommending global policies to the ICANN Board for a limited set of issues relating to ccTLDs, such as the introduction of Internationalised Domain Name ccTLDs (IDN ccTLDs). Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers responsible for managing an ISO 3166 country- code top-level domain. See also: http://ccnso.icann.org/ .
ccTLD – Country Code Top Level Domain	A country code top-level domain (ccTLD) is an Internet top-level domain generally used or reserved for a country, a sovereign state, or a dependent territory. See also: http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld.htm .
CCWG-Accountability	The Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) was convened to design a proposal that ensures that ICANN's accountability and transparency commitments to the global Internet community are maintained and enhanced upon transition from the historical relationship with the U.S. Government. See also: https://community.icann.org/display/acctcrosscomm/CCWG+on+Enhancing+ICANN+Accountability .
Community Mechanism as Sole Member (CMSM)	The Community Mechanism as Sole Member is the proposed corporate governance model that will enable SOs and ACs to exercise the powers that will be vested in them after the IANA stewardship transition takes place.
Cooperative Engagement Process (CEP)	As specified in Article IV, Section 3 of the ICANN Bylaws, prior to initiating an Independent Review Process (IRP), the complainant is urged to enter into a period of cooperative engagement with ICANN for the purpose of resolving or narrowing the issues that are contemplated to be brought before the IRP Panel. It is contemplated that this cooperative engagement process will be initiated prior to the requesting party incurring any costs in the preparation of a request for independent review. Cooperative engagement is expected to be between ICANN and the requesting party, without reference to

outside counsel. See Also:

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/cep-11apr13-en.pdf>.

Consensus	<p>Consensus is a form of decision-making employed by various supporting organizations within ICANN. The method to establish whether one has reached consensus differs per supporting organization, for example, the following method is used in the GNSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full consensus - when no one in the group speaks against the recommendation in its last readings. This is also sometimes referred to as Unanimous Consensus.• Consensus - a position where only a small minority disagrees, but most agree.¹
Consolidated RIR IANA Stewardship Proposal (CRISP) Team	<p>The Consolidated RIR IANA Stewardship Proposal Team (CRISP Team) was established by the Internet Number Community through the Regional Internet Registries to produce a proposal for IANA activities related to the allocation of blocks of Internet Number Resources, the IANA Number Registries, administration of the special-purpose "IN-ADDR.ARPA" and "IP6.ARPA" DNS zones, and other related registry management tasks.</p> <p>See also: https://www.nro.net/nro-and-internet-governance/iana-oversight/consolidated-rir-iana-stewardship-proposal-team-crisp-team.</p>
Constituency Groups	<p>"Constituency Group" is a technical term referring to a group of stakeholders united around a particular common interest or perspective.</p>
CWG-Stewardship	<p>The Cross Community Working Group to Develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions (CWG-Stewardship) whose main goal is to produce a consolidated transition proposal for the elements of the IANA Functions related to the Domain Name System. See also: https://community.icann.org/x/37fhAg</p>
Directors	<p>Natural persons who direct the activities and affairs of ICANN as a not-for-profit public benefit corporation and have fiduciary duties with respect to exercise of corporate power. Directors are distinguished from observers and liaisons, who can attend Board meetings but cannot vote. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#VI.</p>
Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP)	<p>ICANN's Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP) is intended to ensure that information contained in documents concerning ICANN's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or control, is made available to the public unless</p>

¹ For those that are unfamiliar with ICANN usage, you may associate the definition of "Consensus" with other definitions and terms of art such as rough consensus or near consensus. It should be noted, however, that in the case of a GNSO PDP originated Working Group, all reports, especially Final Reports, must restrict themselves to the term "Consensus" as this may have legal implications.

there is a compelling reason for confidentiality. A principal element of ICANN's approach to transparency and information disclosure is the identification of a comprehensive set of materials that ICANN makes available on its website as a matter of course.

DNS – Domain Name System	The Domain Name System (DNS) helps users to find their way around the Internet. Every computer on the Internet has a unique address – just like a telephone number – which is a rather complicated string of numbers. It is called its "IP address" (IP stands for "Internet Protocol"). IP Addresses are hard to remember. The DNS makes using the Internet easier by allowing a familiar string of letters (the "domain name") to be used instead of the arcane IP address. So instead of typing 207.151.159.3, you can type www.internic.net. It is a "mnemonic" device that makes addresses easier to remember.
Five-Year Operating Plan	Five-Year Operating Plan is a means of planning and executing portfolios of ICANN work in alignment with the strategic objectives and goals articulated in the Strategic Plan . This plan serves as a link between strategy and the one year operating plan and budget, setting out planned outcomes (key success factors), means of measuring progress (key performance indicators), operational risks, dependencies and resources needed to accomplish goals.
Fundamental Bylaws	A Fundamental Bylaw is a Bylaw provision that requires both a high level of community approval and approval of the ICANN Board as described in Section 3B before it can be amended or removed.
GAC – Governmental Advisory Committee	The GAC is an Advisory Committee comprising appointed representatives of national governments, multi-national governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and distinct economies. Its function is to advise the ICANN Board on matters of concern to governments. The GAC operates as a forum for the discussion of government interests and concerns, including consumer interests. As an Advisory Committee, the GAC has no legal authority to act for ICANN, but reports its findings and recommendations to the ICANN Board. See also: https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee
GNSO – Generic Names Supporting Organiza-tion	The GNSO is the successor to the responsibilities of the Domain Name Supporting Organization (DNSO) that relate to the generic top-level domains. The GNSO is the body of six constituencies, as follows: the Commercial and Business constituency, the gTLD Registry constituency, the ISP constituency, the non-commercial users constituency, the registrar's constituency, and the IP constituency. See also: http://gns0.icann.org/en/ .
gTLD – Generic Top Level Domain	A generic top-level domain (gTLD) is one of the categories of top-level domains (TLDs) maintained by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) for use in the Domain Name System of the Internet. It is visible to Internet users as the suffix at the end of a domain

name.

IANA – Internet Assigned Numbers Authority	ICANN has performed the IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) functions on behalf of the global Internet community since 1998. The IANA functions include: the maintenance of the registry of technical Internet protocol parameters; the administration of certain responsibilities associated with Internet DNS root zone and the allocation of Internet numbering resources. See also: http://www.iana.org/ .
IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG)	The IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) was formed to coordinate the development of a proposal among the communities affected by the IANA functions. The creation of the ICG was initiated and facilitated by ICANN, and the membership of the ICG has been defined by the Internet communities participating in it. The groups' sole deliverable is a proposal to the NTIA recommending a transition plan of NTIA's stewardship of IANA functions to the Internet community, consistent with the key principles outlined in the NTIA announcement on March 14, 2014. See also: https://www.icann.org/en/stewardship/ .
IANAPLAN Working Group	The IETF established the IANAPLAN Working Group (IANAPLAN WG) to produce a proposal for the transition of IANA functions related to the maintaining of the codes and numbers contained in a variety of Internet protocols developed by the IETF. See also: http://www.ietf.org/iana-transition.html .
ICANN – The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers	The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is not-for-profit public benefit corporation that operates internationally and has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. Originally, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities performed these services under U.S. Government contract. ICANN now performs the IANA function. As a private-public partnership, ICANN is dedicated to preserving the operational stability of the Internet; to promoting competition; to achieving broad representation of global Internet communities; and to developing policy appropriate to its Mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes. See also: https://www.icann.org/ .
ICANN Community Forum (ICF)	The ICANN Community Forum is a forum where the exercise of any of the community powers is discussed across the whole ICANN community – before the power under consideration is used. This discussion phase would help the community reach well-considered conclusions about exercising its new powers, and would ensure that decisions were taken on the basis of shared information as well as what was known within the individual decision-making processes of the SOs and ACs that cast votes in the Community Mechanism as

Sole Member proposed model.

IETF – Internet Engineering Task Force	The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is a large open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet. It is open to any interested individual. The IETF develops Internet Standards and in particular the standards related to the Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP).
Independent Review Process (IRP)	The Independent Review Process (IRP) is a process for independent third-party review of Board actions or inactions alleged by an affected party to be inconsistent with ICANN's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.
Independent Review Process Panel (IRP Panel)	Independent Review Process Panel (IRP Panel) is an independent panel charged with reviewing actions of the ICANN Board contested under the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and with declaring whether the Board has acted consistently with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (each such process an Independent Review Process (IRP)). See also: https://www.ietf.org/ .
Internet Protocol (IP)	The communications protocol underlying the Internet, IP allows networks of devices to communicate over a variety of physical links. Each device or service on the Internet has at least one IP address that uniquely identifies it from other devices or services on the Internet. An IP address is the numerical address and DNS naming uses user-friendly names to locate the devices and services.
Multistakeholder Approach	<p>The Multistakeholder Approach is an organizational framework or structure for governance and policymaking which aims to bring together all stakeholders to collaborate and participate in the dialogue, decision-making and implementation of solutions to identified problems or goals.</p> <p>The Multistakeholder Approach at ICANN is comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders with an interest in Internet numbering, naming and protocols from around the world who have organized into various Supporting Organizations, Constituencies and Advisory Committees, and agree to operate in an open, bottom-up, consensus-driven, and transparent manner.</p>
NETmundial Principles	The NETmundial meeting, which took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 23-24 April 2014, was the first multistakeholder-designed event to

focus on the future of Internet governance. NETmundial identified a set of common principles and important values that contribute to an inclusive, multistakeholder, effective, legitimate, and evolving Internet governance framework, and recognized that the Internet is a global resource which should be managed in the public interest. See also: <http://netmundial.br/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NETmundial-Multistakeholder-Document.pdf>.

Nominating Committee (NomCom)	The Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee tasked with selecting eight members of the ICANN Board of Directors, five members of the At-Large Advisory Committee, three members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), and three members of the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/nomcom-2013-12-13-en .
NTIA	The U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is the Executive Branch agency that is principally responsible for advising the President of the United States on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA maintains a contract with ICANN for the technical coordination of the Internet's domain name and addressing system. In March 2014, NTIA announced its intent to transition out of its contractual role, with respect to the IANA Functions, and requested proposals from the ICANN multistakeholder community for that transition. See also: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ .
Ombudsman	The ICANN Ombudsman investigates and addresses complaints brought by the ICANN community. The Ombudsman is independent, impartial, and neutral, a reviewer of facts and an investigator of complaints about unfairness. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/accountability/ombudsman-en .
PDP – Policy Development Process	A set of formal steps, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws, to guide the initiation, internal and external review, timing and approval of policies needed to coordinate the global Internet's system of unique identifiers.
Private Sector	Private sector includes businesses, not-for-profit bodies, individual persons, non-governmental organizations, civil society and academic institutions.
RALOs – Regional At-Large Organizations	The At-Large community is structured into five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs). These organizations serve as the communication forum and coordination point, to promote and assure the participation of regional Internet user communities within ICANN activities as well as enhance knowledge and capacity building.
Reconsideration Process	Reconsideration Process is a mechanism to challenge ICANN staff action taken against ICANN policies, or ICANN Board actions taken

without consideration of material information or based upon false or inaccurate information.

Registrar	Domain names ending with .aero, .biz, .com, .coop, .info, .museum, .name, .net, .org, and .pro can be registered through many different companies (known as "registrars") that compete with one another. A listing of these companies that have been accredited by ICANN appears in the Accredited Registrar Directory.
Registry	The "Registry" is the authoritative, master database of all domain names registered in each Top Level Domain. The registry operator keeps the master database and also generates the "zone file" which allows computers to route Internet traffic to and from top-level domains anywhere in the world. Internet users don't interact directly with the registry operator; users can register names in TLDs including .biz, .com, .info, .net, .name, .org by using an ICANN-Accredited Registrar.
Review Mechanisms	A review mechanism is a process to assess how a decision or policy is being put in place. ICANN has a series of review mechanisms mandated in its Bylaws to ensure its accountability and transparency.
RIR – Regional Internet Registry	There are currently five RIRs: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC and RIPE NCC. These not-for-profit organizations are responsible for distributing and managing IP addresses on a regional level to Internet service providers and local registries.
Root Servers	The root servers contain the IP addresses of all the TLD registries – both the global registries such as .com, .org, etc. and the 244 country-specific registries such as .fr (France), .cn (China), etc. This is critical information. If the information is not 100% correct or if it is ambiguous, it might not be possible to locate a key registry on the Internet. In DNS parlance, the information must be unique and authentic.
Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)	The Root Server System Advisory Committee ("RSSAC") advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-4c-2012-02-25-en .
Root Zone	The root zone is the central directory for the DNS, which is a key component in translating readable host names into numeric IP addresses. See Also: www.iana.org/domains/root/files .
SO – Supporting Organizations	The SOs are the three specialized policy developments bodies that provide the ICANN Board of Directors with policy recommendations on issues relating to domain names (GNSO and CCNSO) and IP addresses (ASO).
Sponsor	A Sponsor is an organization to which is delegated some defined ongoing policy-formulation authority regarding the manner in which a particular sponsored TLD is operated. The sponsored TLD has a

Charter, which defines the purpose for which the sponsored TLD has been created and will be operated. The Sponsor is responsible for developing policies on the delegated topics so that the TLD is operated for the benefit of a defined group of stakeholders, known as the Sponsored TLD Community, that are most directly interested in the operation of the TLD. The Sponsor also is responsible for selecting the registry operator and to varying degrees for establishing the roles played by registrars and their relationship with the registry operator. The Sponsor must exercise its delegated authority according to fairness standards and in a manner that is representative of the Sponsored TLD Community.

SSAC – Security and Stability Advisory Committee	The SSAC is the President's standing committee on the security and stability of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems. Their charter includes a focus on risk analysis and auditing. SSAC consists of approximately 20 technical experts from industry and academia as well as operators of Internet root servers, registrars, and TLD registries. See also: https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac .
Stakeholder	A stakeholder is any individual or group affected by the actions of ICANN. Stakeholders at ICANN include Country Code top level domain name registries; generic top-level domain registries and registrars; regional internet registries who manage the regional distribution of Internet number resources including IP address and Autonomous System Numbers; the thirteen root name server operators; commercial interests - including those representing large and small businesses, intellectual property interests and providers of Internet and other communications services; non-commercial interests – including non-commercial users and not-for-profit organizations; governmental interests – including national governments, multi-national governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and distinct economies; technical experts from industry and academia; and Internet users worldwide.
Stakeholder Groups	Stakeholder Groups represent a wide variety of individuals that compose the ICANN community. Stakeholder Groups function as caucuses, and are intended to facilitate the creation of new constituencies as well as self-growth and expansion.
Standard Bylaws	A Standard Bylaw is a Bylaw that is not, by definition, a Fundamental Bylaw, and may be amended by the ICANN Board unless the community decides to object. The Bylaws as a whole (Standard and Fundamental) set out the structures and rules for governance and operations within ICANN.
Stress Test	Stress Testing is a simulation exercise where a set of plausible, but not necessarily probable, hypothetical scenarios are used to gauge how certain events will affect a system, product, company or industry. Stress tests have been used to analyse how certain ICANN and DNS ecosystem risks or contingencies can be mitigated by applying the

accountability mechanisms available to the CCWG-Accountability.

**TLD –
Top-level
Domain**

TLDs are the names at the top of the DNS naming hierarchy. They appear in domain names as the string of letters following the last (rightmost) ".", such as "net" in "www.example.net". The administrator for a TLD controls what second-level names are recognized in that TLD. The administrators of the "root domain" or "root zone" control what TLDs are recognized by the DNS. Commonly used TLDs include .com, .net, .edu, .jp, .de, etc.

Work Streams

CCWG – Accountability Work Stream 1 has focused on mechanisms to enhance ICANN accountability that must be in place or committed to within the time frame of the IANA Stewardship Transition. Work Stream 2 is focused on addressing accountability topics for which a timeline for developing solutions and full implementation may extend beyond the IANA Stewardship Transition.