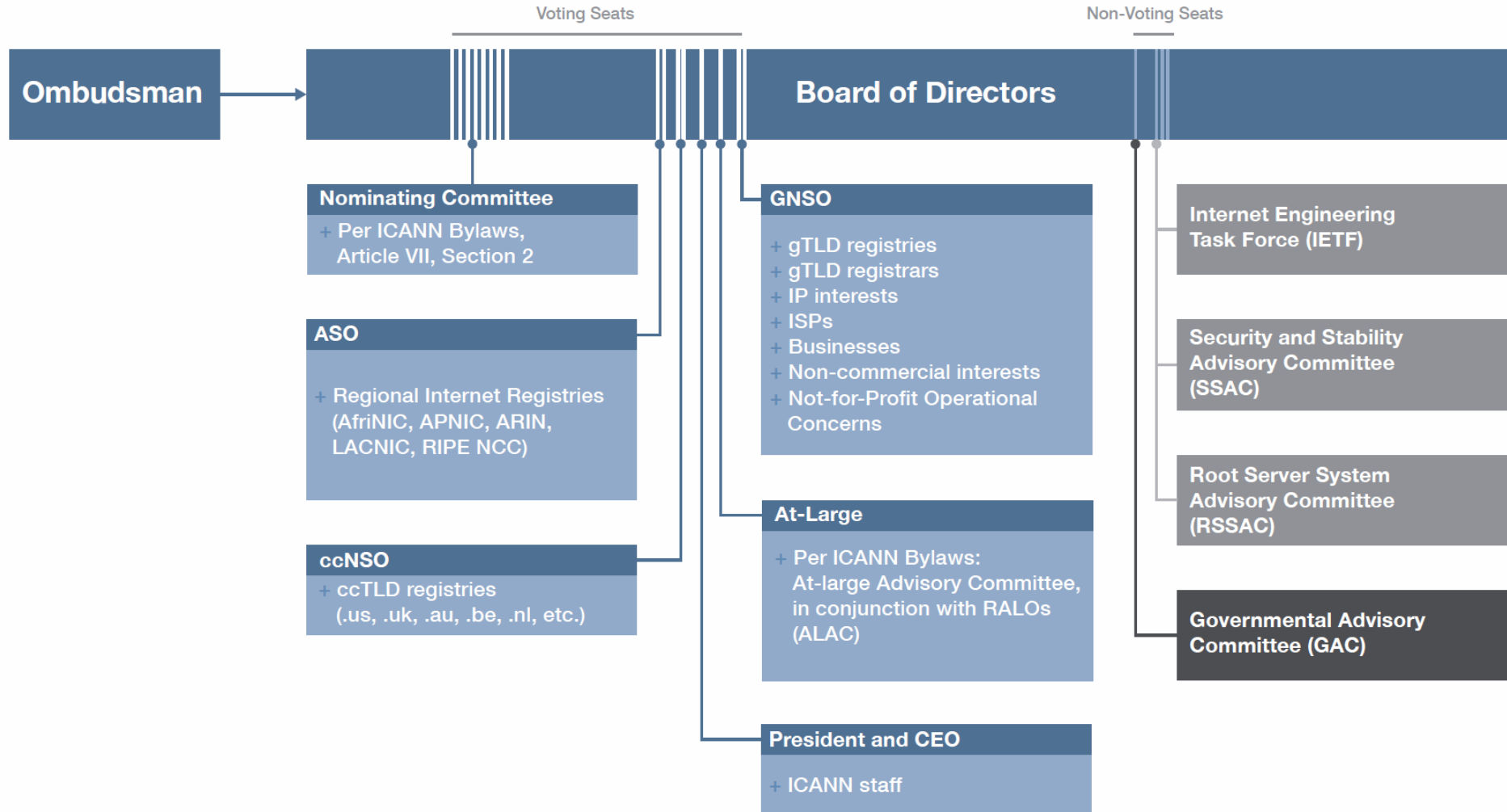# Civil Society in ICANN:
Non-Commercial Users Constituency

ICANN

Introduction

- ICANN is an organization based on multIstakeholder model: participation and representation of business, governments, non-commercial, and DNS industry on equal footing

- It is an organization developing policies for generic names, while also coordinating activities around IP addresses and ccTLDs

- Narrow scope and mission, issues that touch the DNS

ICANN Board of Directors

Voting Seats

Non-Voting Seats

Ombudsman

Board of Directors

Nominating Committee
+ Per ICANN Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2

ASO
+ Regional Internet Registries (AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)

ccNSO
+ ccTLD registries (.us, .uk, .au, .be, .nl, etc.)

GNSO
+ gTLD registries
+ gTLD registrars
+ IP interests
+ ISPs
+ Businesses
+ Non-commercial interests
+ Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns

At-Large
+ Per ICANN Bylaws: At-large Advisory Committee, in conjunction with RALOs (ALAC)

President and CEO
+ ICANN staff

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Civil Society in ICANN

- Formal representation via Non-Commercial in GNSO: election & votes

- Participation in policy development and advising the ICANN Board

- Civil Society includes Not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations, activists, researchers, academics and non-commercial end-users with an interest in the development and deployment of the Internet and public policy related to the DNS
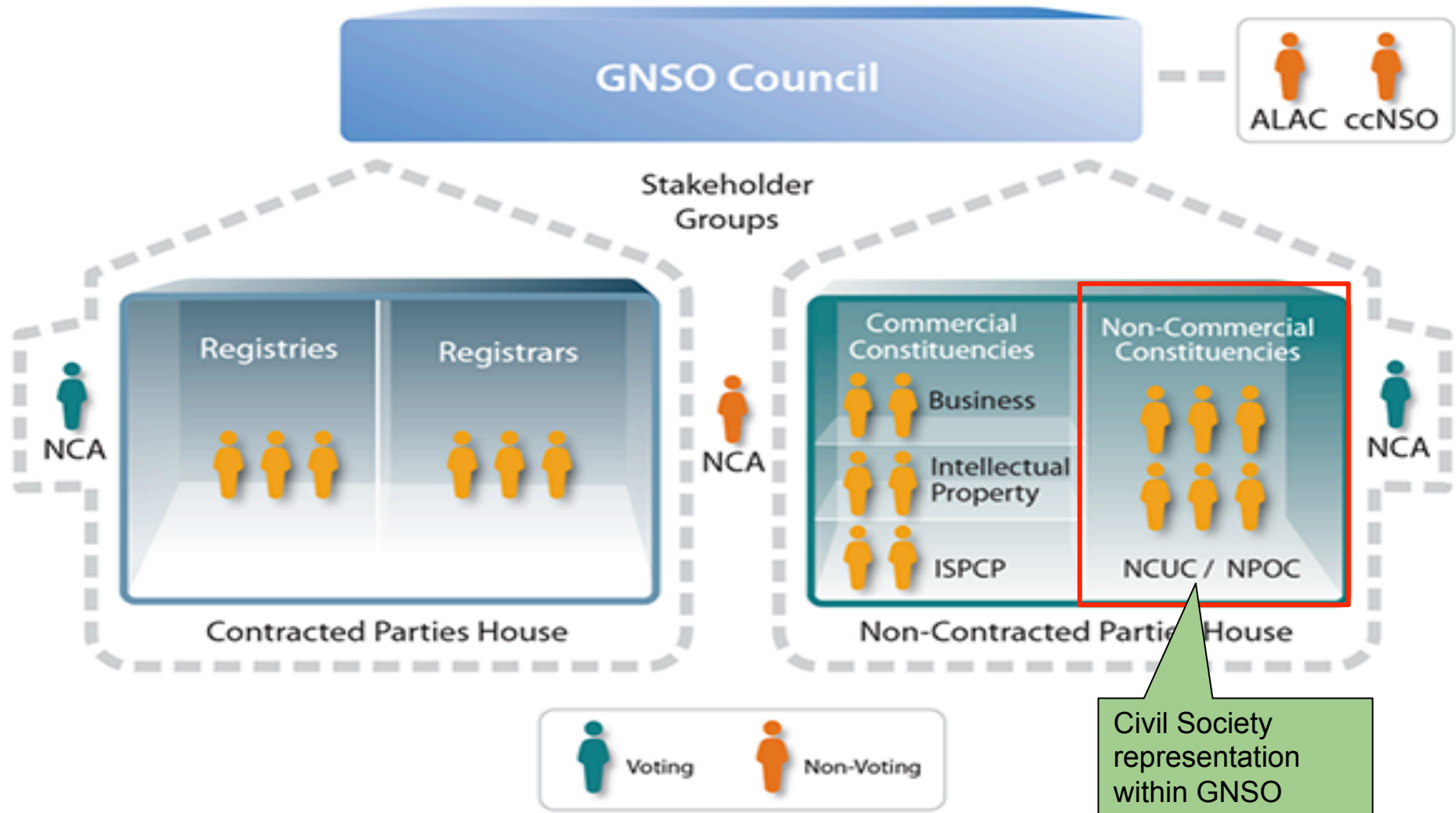
Non-Commercial (1/3)

Non-commercial are part of the GNSO. GNSO is the structure within ICANN developing policies for generic top level domain e.g. .com .net

From ICANN by-laws, the GSNO "shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains"

Civil Society is represented there via NCSG (Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, http://ncsg.is & @ncsg_icann) and its constituencies such as NCUC (Non-Commercial Users Constituency)

Non-Commercial (3/3)

- Members with voting rights can be:
  - Individuals: activists, non-commercial users, academics
  - Organizations: NGOs, NPOs, foundations, universities, charities, associations, think-tanks
- Examples: Association for Progressive Communication, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Wikimedia Foundation
- Issues related to human rights, privacy, development and access to domain names

Non-Commercial Users Constituency

NCUC:

1. Mobilizes civil society actors to participate in ICANN, including its working groups and other relevant processes
2. Develops and advocates policy positions
3. Collaborates and interacts with other stakeholders in ICANN
4. Inform civil society outside ICANN and liaise with it
5. Organizes conferences and events exploring global Internet governance issues

www.ncuc.org & @ncuc

NCUC membership

Created in 1999 as one of the founding constituencies in ICANN to ensure the representation of non-commercial users and their interests. Currently 504 members from 133 different countries, 116 noncommercial organizations and 388 individuals
 (May 2016)

Africa	90
Asia Pacific	104
Europe	122
Latin American & Caribbean	52
North America	114
Unknown	22

Privacy & Data protection

Privacy at WHOIS

- Concern - treatment of registrant data and access to them by different parties
- Recommending privacy protections
- Consideration of data protection regulations
- Concerns all registrants, in particular activists and NGOs

Human Rights

- ICANN developed policies may have impact on Human Rights e.g. freedom of expression.
- Cross Community Working Party on ICANN Corporate and Social Responsibility to Respect Human Rights.
  - Working party to consider and make recommendations about the implications of ICANN's work and policies on human rights
  - Active in the ICANN Accountability work

Access to Knowledge

Access to knowledge and trademarks

- Tension between freedom of expression and trademark rights/intellectual property
- Seeking balance in domain policy and dispute resolution, currently protecting more the trademark holders

Development

Development and underserved communities

- Lack of participation by stakeholders from developing countries and regions, their issues are under represented
- Development of internationalized domain names (IDNs)
- Access to new gTLDs e.g. for communities, non for profits
- More registrars in developing countries to respond to local needs

How to get Involved

Several ways:

- Joining a stakeholder group/constituency
- Joining a working group; open membership
- Participate in public comments (regular consultations about ongoing policies)
- Participate physically or remotely at an ICANN meeting
- Following the updates about policy-development in ICANN

Thanks!

Questions?

Contact: rafik.dammak@gmail.com & @rafik