



# Multistakeholder Policy Making

*Adam Peake, ICANN Civil Society Engagement | 10  
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# Multistakeholder Policy Making

Origins of  
the Multi-  
stakeholder  
Model

Civil Society  
in ICANN

ICANN Policy  
Development  
Process

# Origins of the multistakeholder model

## 1992

- UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit) first implementation of the multistakeholder approach: seeking access to the knowledge of practitioners
- First Clinton Administration and early Internet:
  - Internet grown without government involvement
  - Stakeholder groups forming to accomplish specific purposes / not the top-down way of government
  - Old models seen as too bureaucratic, too slow and too centralised, less flexible to the evolving

Internet

# Who are stakeholders?

## Stakeholders?

- Democracy: all affected individuals and the right to vote
- Multistakeholder: all affected perspectives represented
  - Challenge: achieving representation

# Typical stakeholders today

- Government
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
  
- International Organizations
- Technical and Academic
- Internet Technical Community
- Academic Community
- Users  
(ICANN)

## Characteristics

- Issue specific stakeholder organizations
- Decentralised and international
- Bottom-up
- Not monolithic, evolving
  
- Larry Strickling: multistakeholder approach involves the full involvement of all stakeholders, in consensus-based decision-making, operating in an open, transparent and accountable manner

# Characteristics of the multistakeholder

- Bottom-up: stakeholders define issues, identify and devise solutions (anyone missing?)
- Consensus based: decisions acceptable with widespread support, and no strong or reasoned opposition (can you live with it?)
- Inclusive, open, participative and diverse: avoidance of barriers and reduce disadvantage (capacity building)

# Characteristics of the multistakeholder

- Transparent: documented processes following agreed procedures, decisions explained, accessible
- Accountable: decisions and decisions making processes justifiable, mechanisms of review and redress, checks and balances
- Supportive of meaningful participation: Actively seek to involve stakeholders, enable participation in processes
- Flexible: future oriented and able to accommodate change

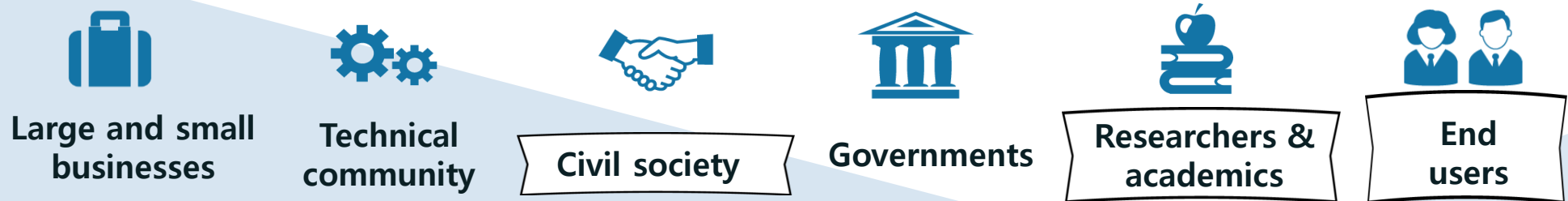




# Civil Society In ICANN

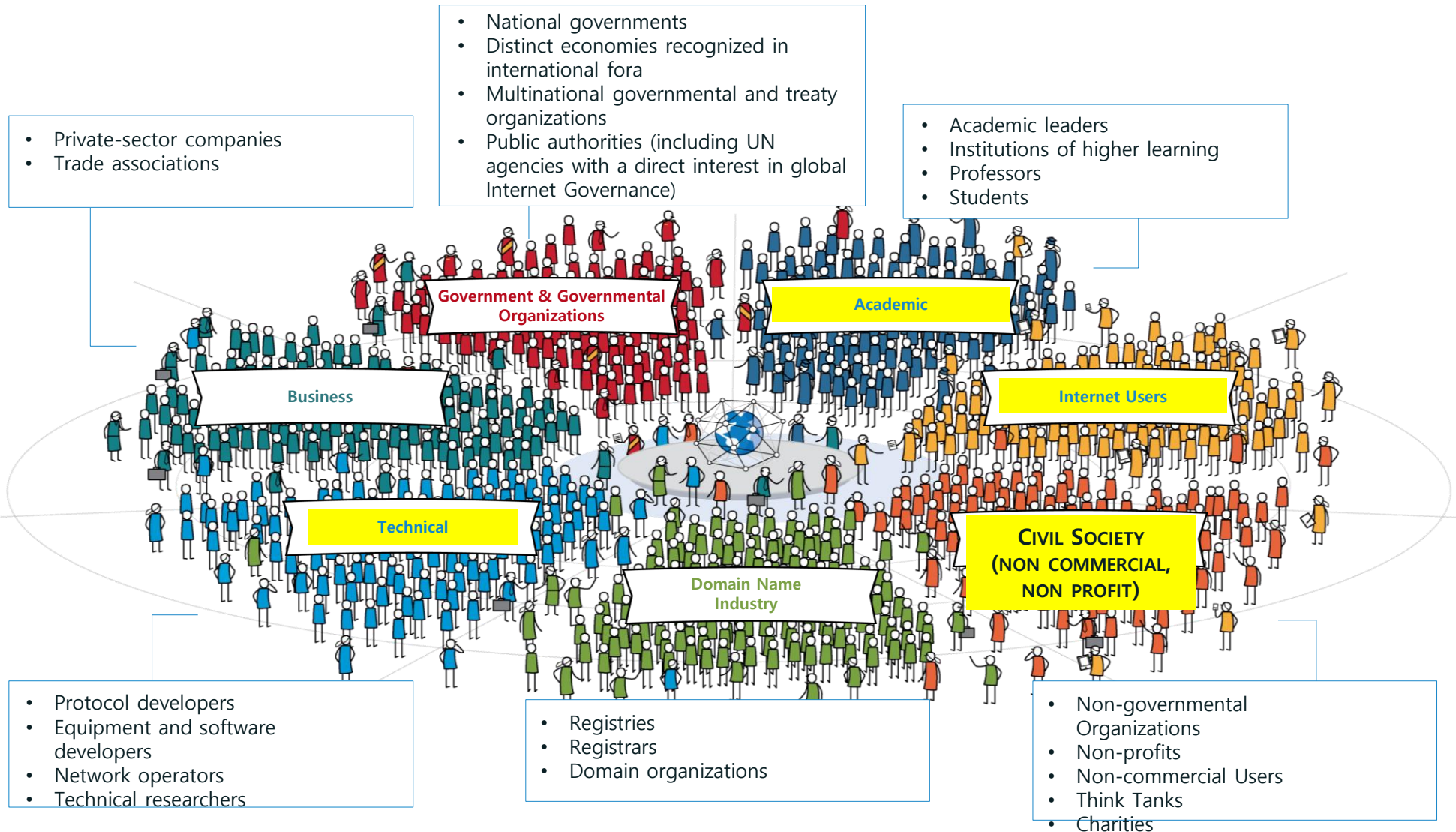
# Civil Society in ICANN

Within ICANN, affected stakeholders include:



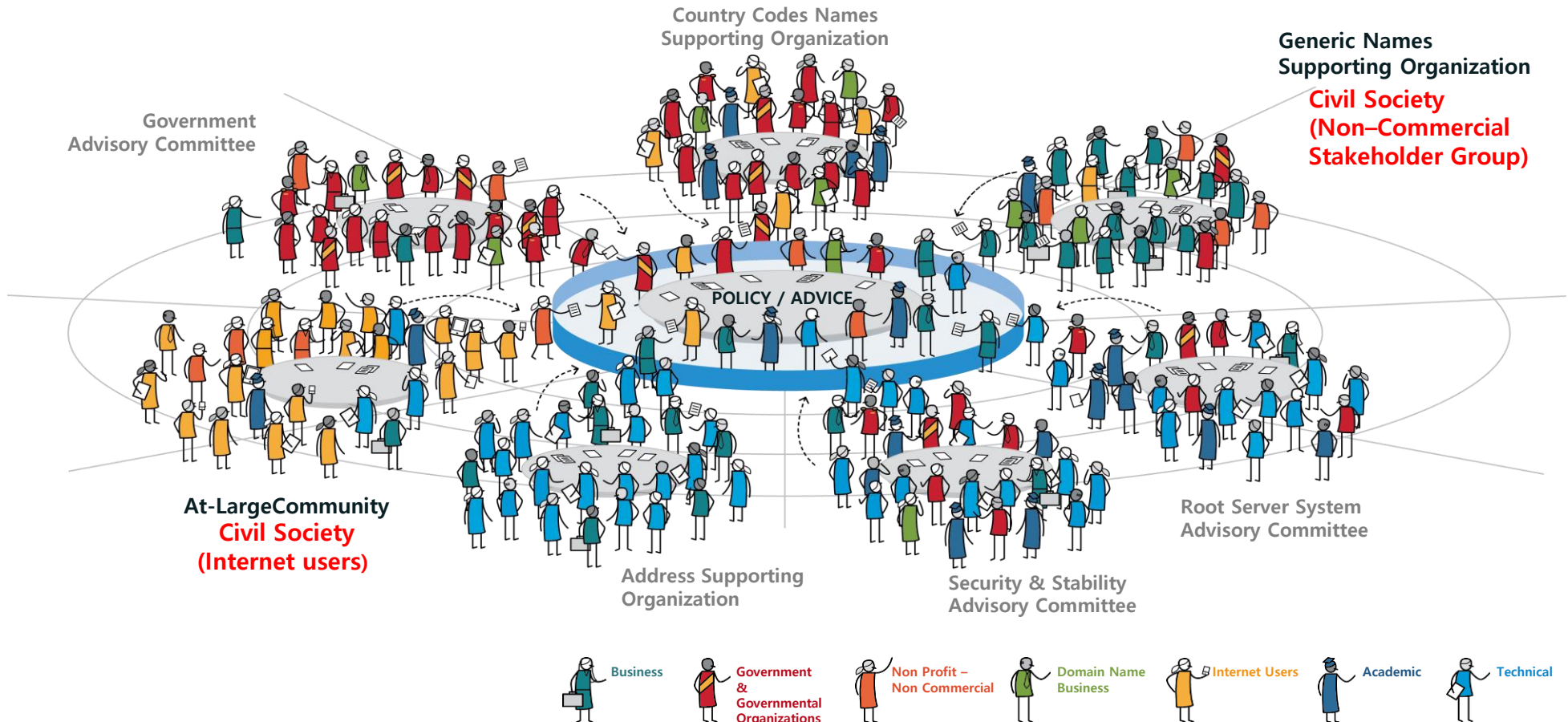
- Civil Society includes not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations, activists, as well as researchers, academics and non-commercial end-users with an interest in the development and deployment of the Internet and public policy related to the DNS

# ICANN's Global Multistakeholder Community



# The ICANN Community At Work

## The Bottom-Up Multistakeholder Model





# Civil society focus areas in ICANN

# Civil society in ICANN today: Issues

- Freedom of expression
  - Multilingual Internet
  - Human rights
  - Development and use of the DNS
  - Privacy and data protection
  - Trademarks and access to knowledge
  - Accountability and transparency
- more ... but as the touch on ICANN's mission

## Privacy, ICANN and WHOIS

- Concern - treatment of domain registrant data
- Recommending privacy protections
- Consideration of data protection regulations

# Civil society in ICANN today: Human Rights

- ICANN's respect for human rights as part of its coordination of DNS clarified in Bylaws, through IANA Stewardship transition
- Dedicated Cross Community Working Party on ICANN Corporate and Social Responsibility to Respect Human Rights
  - A working party to consider and make recommendations about the implications of ICANN's work on human rights
  - Active in the CCWG Accountability (IANA stewardship transition)



## Access to knowledge and trademarks

- Tension between freedom of expression and trademark rights
- Seeking to find a balance in domain policy and dispute resolution; creation and development of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS), and the new gTLD program

# Civil society in ICANN today: operational concerns

## Operational concerns of NGOs and not for profits

- Raising awareness of NGOs and not for profits about the value and importance of the DNS for their day-to-day operations
- Representing NGOs / NFPs' DNS interests within ICANN policymaking
- Capacity development in using the DNS to further their missions

## 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)

# Civil society and the IANA stewardship transition

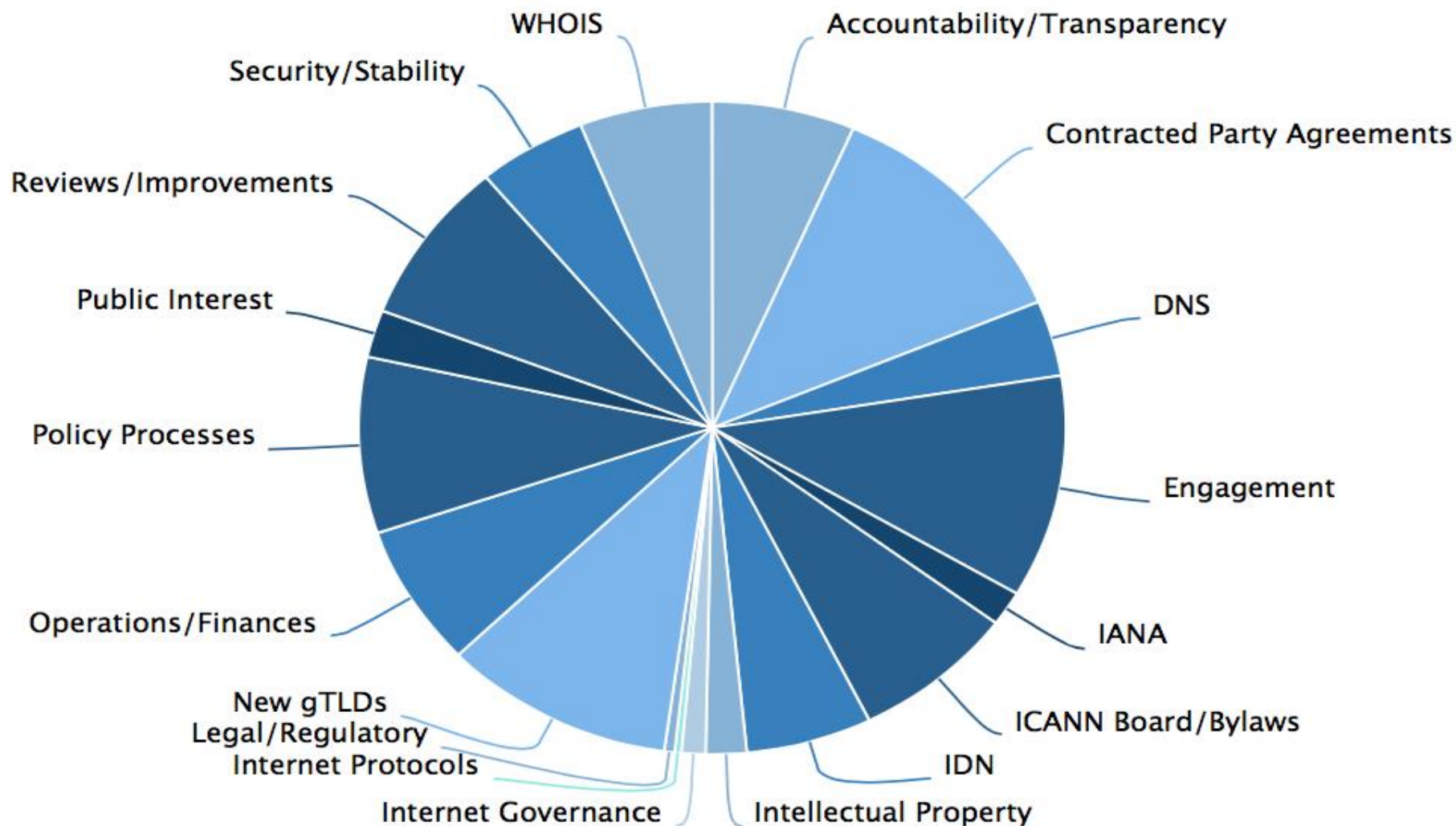
IANA transition and enhancing ICANN accountability:

- NCSG and At-Large representatives active in the ICG, CWG-Stewardship and CCWG-Accountability
- Crucial and expert advocates for strengthening accountability and transparency
- While maintaining the stability of the organization

The transition as a concrete success of the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance:

- Opportunities (and need!) for civil society continue during implementation and Work Stream 2

# At-Large: number of formal comments submitted by



To preserve the multistakeholder model of ICANN and ensure end users have equitable footing / participation in policy development

- IANA Transition & ICANN Accountability  
Discussion of the transition of US Government Stewardship of the IANA function
- IDN Policy  
Regarding the implementation of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the Root Zone
- New gTLDs  
The implementation of New gTLDs and reviews

# At-Large Focus

- Public Interest  
Issues related to the public interest in the ICANN context and impact on end users: consumer rights protections
- Registration Issues  
Reviewing the scope of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), and the challenges faced by Registrants
- Technical Issues  
Focuses on the stability, safety, and security of DNS, such as DNSSEC, DNS exploitation techniques, and the implementation of IPv6
- Capacity development  
Supporting participation, inclusion and outreach in the Internet Governance ecosystem



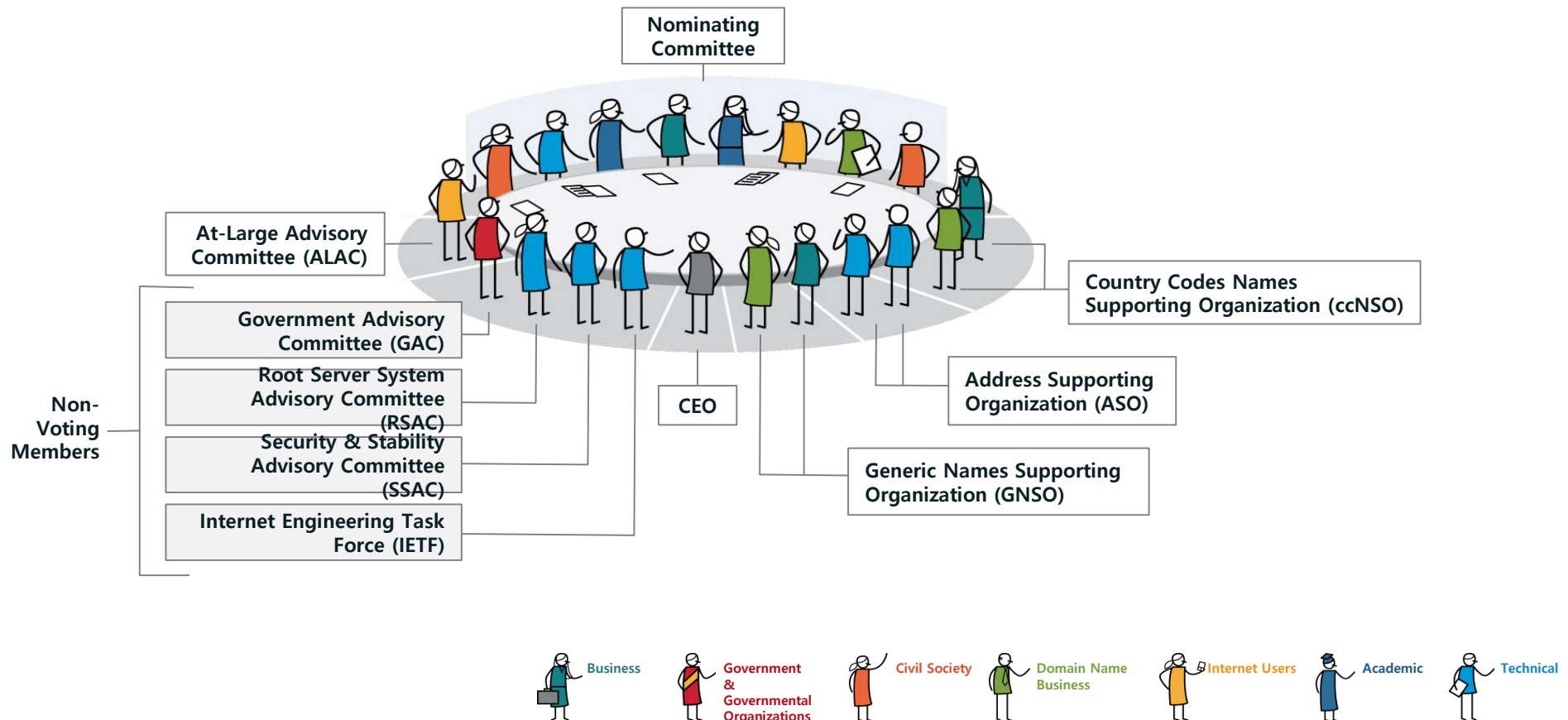
# ICANN policy development



# The ICANN Community At Work

## ICANN Board of Directors

The ICANN Board is responsible for the oversight of the strategy and operations of ICANN, as well as consideration of policy recommendations arising out of the Supporting Organizations, including, as necessary, consideration of advice on those policy recommendations coming out of the Advisory Committees



# Multistakeholder Policy Development

- The GNSO has a rigorous policy development process
- Includes the development of what are known as "consensus policies", which ICANN contracted parties, registries and registrars are required to comply
- Policy development is defined in the ICANN bylaws, including various voting thresholds to initiate a process, accept or reject reports

# ccNSO and ASO policy development

Country Codes Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and Address Supporting Organization (ASO) develop most policy at the national (ccTLD) or regional (IP-addresses) level

Where required there are formal policy development processes identified in the ICANN bylaws

# Engage with ICANN civil society



## Thank You and Questions

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Reach us at

Email: [civilsociety@icann.org](mailto:civilsociety@icann.org)

Website:

<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/civil-society>

Workspace:

<https://community.icann.org/display/gsecivilsoc/Civil+Society+Home>

# The ICANN Civil Society Community At Work

## Civil Society and the Bottom-Up Multistakeholder Model



Business



Government  
&  
Governmental  
Organizations



Non Profit -  
Non Commercial



Domain Name  
Business



Internet Users



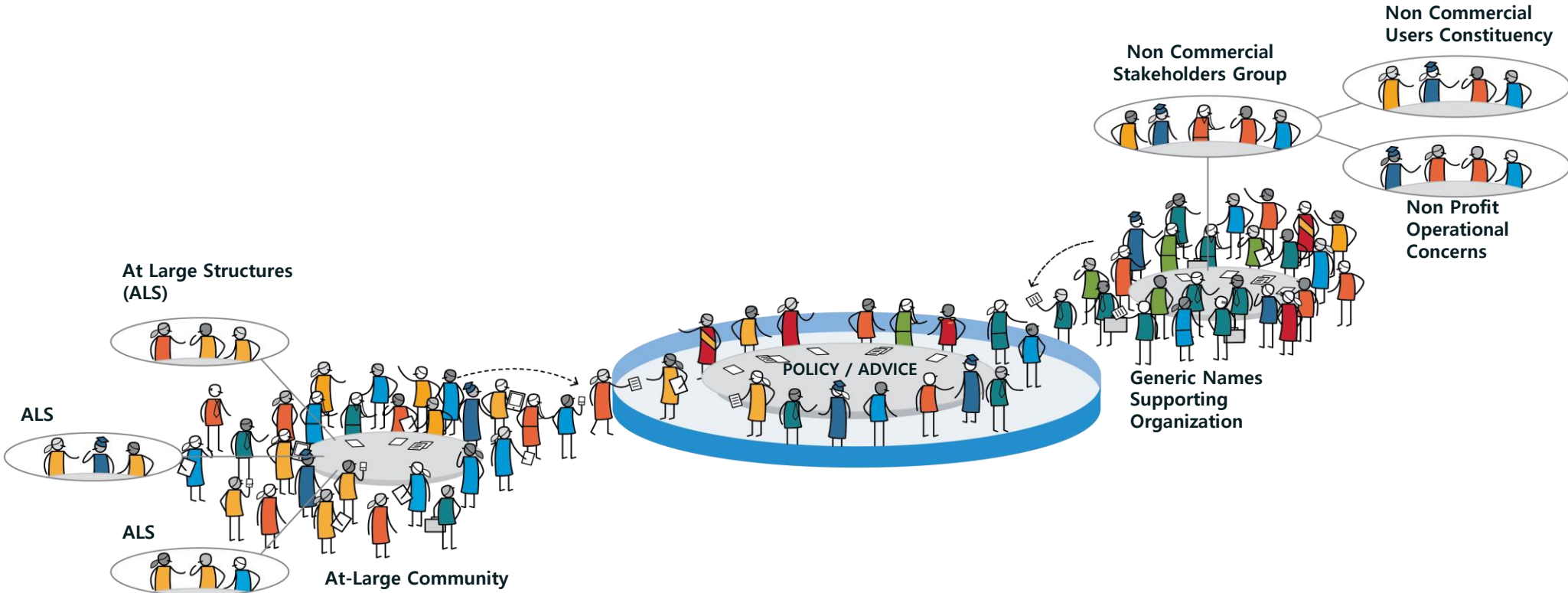
Academic



Technical

# The ICANN Civil Society Community At Work

## Civil Society and the Bottom-Up Multistakeholder Model



Business



Government & Governmental Organizations



Non Profit - Non Commercial



Domain Name Business



Internet Users



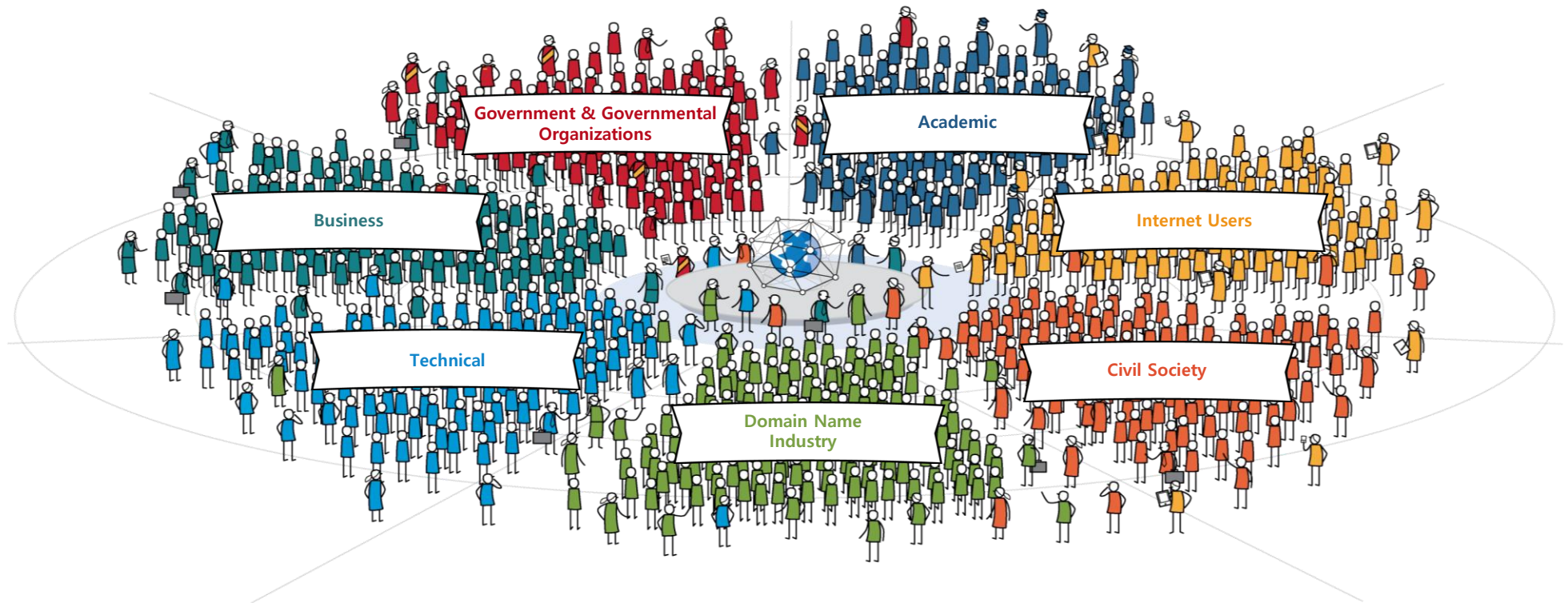
Academic



Technical

# ICANN's Global Multistakeholder Community

## Today's Community of Communities



# ICANN Supporting Organisations

- Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) - Develops policies for generic Top-Level Domains
- Country Codes Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) - Develops and recommends global policies to the ICANN Board for a limited set of issues relating to ccTLDs
- Address Supporting Organization (ASO) - Reviews and develops recommendations on Internet Protocol (IP) address policy at the global level



# ICANN Advisory Committees

- At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) - Provides advice on activities of ICANN as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users
- Government Advisory Committee (GAC) - Provides advice to ICANN on issues of public policy
- Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSAC) - Advice on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System
- Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) - Advice on matters relating to the security and integrity