

Background on the Empowered Community (EC)

The EC is a nonprofit association consisting of the three ICANN Supporting Organizations (ASO, ccNSO, GNSO), the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) — each a Decisional Participant. The five Decisional Participants together comprise the EC. The EC's sole purpose is to exercise its rights and perform its obligations under the ICANN Bylaws, and it may act only as provided in the Bylaws.

Under the Bylaws, the EC has the following nine powers:

- Appoint and remove individual Directors (other than the President)
- Recall the entire ICANN Board
- Reject ICANN and IANA budgets, and ICANN operating and strategic plans
- Reject Standard Bylaw Amendments
- Approve Fundamental Bylaw and Articles amendments, and Asset Sales
- Reject Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) Governance Actions
- Require the ICANN Board to re-review its rejection of recommendations from reviews relating to PTI
- Initiate a Community Reconsideration Request, mediation, or a Community Independent Review Process (IRP)
- The rights of inspection and investigation

Under the Bylaws, each Decisional Participant is required to adopt procedures for exercising the rights of the individual Decisional Participant in accordance with Annex D of the Bylaws. Work in this regard is underway in the GNSO.

Background on the EC Administration

The EC Administration is the administrative body through which the Decisional Participants act collectively. The EC Administration comprises a designated representative from each of the five Decisional Participants. In representing a Decisional Participant on the EC Administration, the individual representative acts solely as directed by the represented Decisional Participant and in accordance with processes developed by such Decisional Participant.

Annex D of the Bylaws sets out the procedures through which the EC Administration implements decisions made by the EC.

Responsibilities for the EC Administration

From a GNSO perspective the representative is primarily a conduit for communicating GNSO Council decisions to the EC Administration. As a general matter, the EC Administration is responsible for the following tasks:

- Receiving and sending EC notifications required by the Bylaws
- Moderating Community Forums that may be required to be called under the Bylaws
- Tallying decisions of Decisional Participants related to the exercise of EC powers

- In a Community Mediation initiated where the Board is alleged to have refused or failed to comply with a valid decision of the EC under the Bylaws, designating individuals to represent the EC in the mediation