



# Civil Society in ICANN

# Civil Society and ICANN's multistakeholder community

“Stakeholder” refers broadly to anyone who has an interest in the Internet

Within ICANN, stakeholders include:



Large and small  
businesses



Civil society



End  
users



Technical  
community



Researchers  
& academics



Governments

- The multistakeholder community functions on bottom-up consensus building which, by design, is resistant to capture due to the openness, diversity and equal division of authority among participants
- ICANN's multi-stakeholder community supports the success of the Internet's DNS
- The Internet is so essential to all aspects of our lives – as individuals, companies, government and civil society – that how it's managed, how policies are made affects us all
- Civil Society includes not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations, activists, researchers, non-commercial end-users and academics with an interest in the development and deployment of the Internet and public policy related to the DNS

# The At-Large Community

## THE AT-LARGE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### 5 REGIONAL AT-LARGE ORGANIZATIONS (RALOs) — OVER 190 AT-LARGE STRUCTURES (ALSes)



The At-Large Structures form the basis of the At-Large community representing the interests of individual internet users worldwide. The five RALOs unite our ALSes based on their geographic regions, namely Africa (AFRALO), Asia, Australasian and Pacific Islands (APRALO), Europe (EURALO), Latin American and the Caribbean Islands (LACRALO), and North America (NARALO).

### AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ALAC) — 15 MEMBERS



10 selected by RALOs to serve on the ALAC (2 from each RALO)



5 selected by Nom Com to serve on the ALAC (1 from each region)



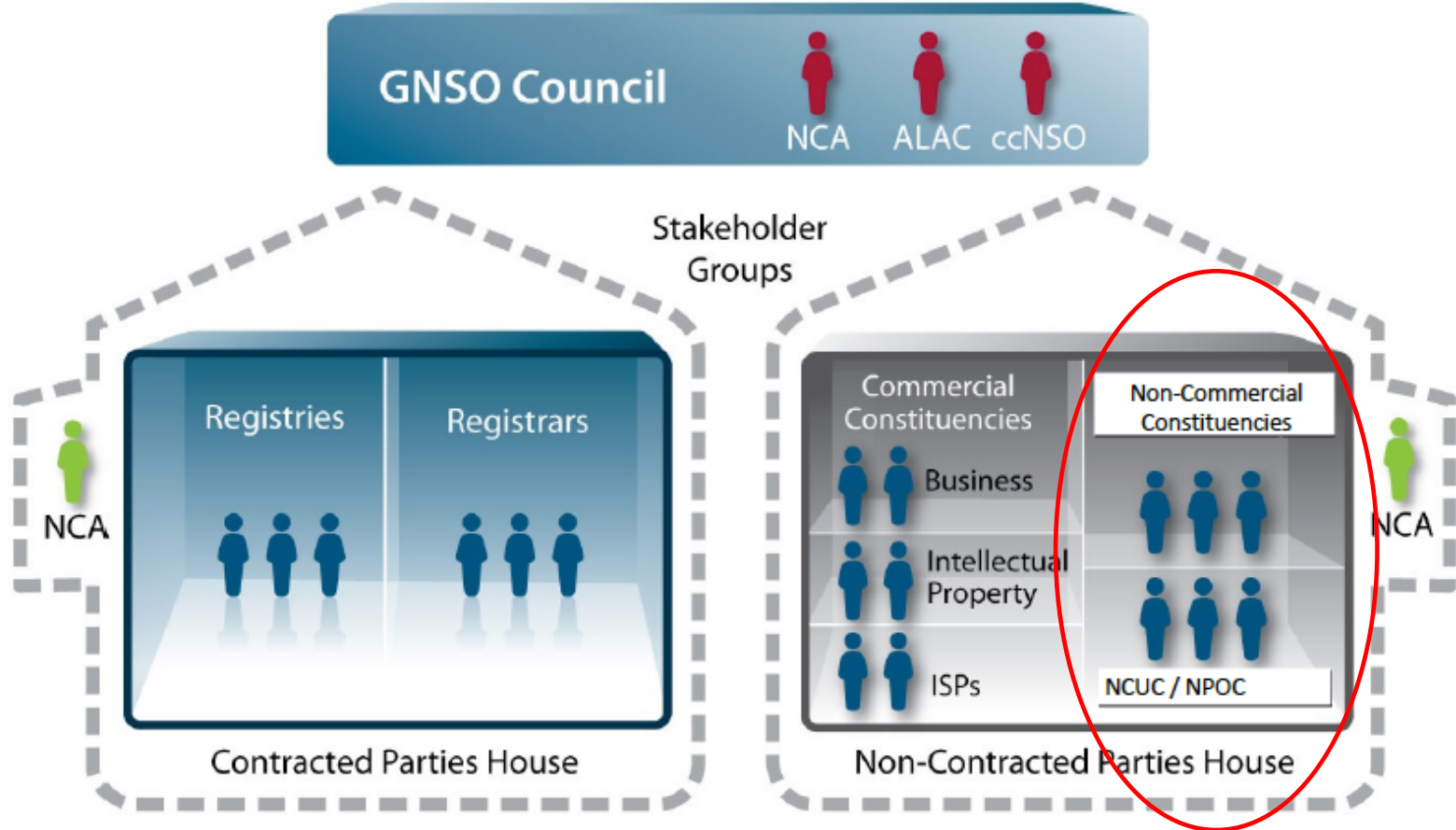
SEAT #15 ON THE ICANN BOARD IS SELECTED BY THE ALAC AND THE AT-LARGE COMMUNITY

# The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

What does the ALAC do?

- Provides policy advice on ICANN **public comment** requests
- Issue comments on **any subject**, process, structure, policy or topic in ICANN affecting Internet users it deems important to comment on
- Issue comments about **any external process** linked to ICANN and which affects Internet users
- Takes part in **cross-community working groups** (CWGs/CCWGs) within ICANN
- Conducts **capacity development** for ALS and Internet end users
- Relays the ICANN **message** to Internet Users around the world

# The GNSO: Structure



General interests of civil society are represented by the non-commercial constituencies within the non-contracted parties house of the GNSO, the organization in charge of developing policies for generic TLDs

 Voting  Non-Voting

# Non Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)

- The Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) is one of the formal stakeholder groups of ICANN, it can initiate policy development within ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
- The NCSG provides a voice and representation in the GNSO and other ICANN policy processes to non-profit organizations and individuals who are primarily concerned with the noncommercial, public interest aspects of domain name policy

# NCSG Constituencies: NCUC and NPOC

- The NCSG has two differently focused constituencies, the Non-Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC) and the Not-for-profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC)
  - NCUC, focusing on gTLD policy development, Internet governance policy, protecting noncommercial communication and consumer protection, civil liberties and human rights; and,
  - NPOC, interested in operational concerns related to ICANN and the Domain Name System, such as domain name registration, expansion of the Domain Name System, and Domain Name System and fraud and abuse