

NCSG COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

If you have any questions about how you can get involved, please contact us! We want you to develop your interests and contribute your skills, knowledge, and expertise to NCSG's non-commercial and public interest efforts!



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Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)

The NCSG – located within the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) – is the home for civil society organizations, non-profit organizations, public interest groups, and individuals who are primarily concerned with non-commercial and public interest aspects of Domain Name System (DNS) policy.

The NCSG has two member constituencies representing different non-commercial interests:

Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC)

The NCUC advocates positions on domain name-related policies that protect and support non-commercial communication and activity on the Internet. NCUC members include individuals and non-profit organizations involved in a wide-range of issues such as civil liberties and human rights, Internet freedom issues, consumer protection, education, development, and more. The NCUC supports a global and multilingual Internet and believes domain names are for everyone. In pursuing this mission, the NCUC focuses on issues such as fair and balanced domain name disputes, diversity and consumer choice, and respect for human rights as they relate to the DNS and the policies that govern it. The NCUC's global membership is made up of individuals and noncommercial organizations from over 100 countries.

Not-for-profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC)

The NPOC focuses on the impact of DNS policies on the operations of not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations that have registered a domain name. Operational concerns include domain name registration, expansion of the DNS, fraud and abuse, using the DNS to provide and collect information, and how the DNS can best serve their members and communities.

What does the NCSG do?

- The NCSG develops and advocates policy positions on behalf of both its constituencies and unaffiliated members.
- The NCSG collaborates and interacts with other stakeholders across the ICANN community, including businesses, governments, and others, on matters of common concern.
- The NCSG organizes conferences and events that explore Internet governance issues that fall within the remit of our constituencies.
- The NCSG elects and appoints members representing civil society and non-commercial interests to different leadership positions within ICANN.

PRINCIPLES OF THE NCSG

- 1. Non-discriminatory and impartial application of rules:** The NCSG is open and represents all non-commercial stakeholders; no non-commercial organization or individual will be denied membership. All non-commercial organization and individual applicants are given equal opportunity to excel and contribute if they meet the membership eligibility criteria and act in accordance with our standards of member behavior. There is no discrimination on the basis of religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or any other characteristic.
- 2. Transparency:** Information on the proceedings of NCSG meetings is available to all NCSG members through open and archived mailing lists, as well as other online communication channels. Meeting schedules are always announced well in advance.
- 3. Behavior standards for elected officers:** Every NCSG officer, including the Chair, must act in an impartial and accountable manner, and avoid conflicts of interest. NCSG officers must be fair, trustworthy, and responsible custodians of NCSG activities.
- 4. Standards of member behavior:** All NCSG members should behave in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws and Expected Standards of Behavior, which supports the consensus model of treating everyone with dignity, respect and courtesy; listening and understanding others effectively; and acting with honesty and sincerity.
- 5. Encourage consensus:** The NCSG's main principle is to encourage consensus, communication, and cooperation among members on various issues of non-commercial interest.

How can I get involved?

Whatever your skills or interests, there's always a way to contribute in the NCSG!

- Are you a **digital privacy advocate**? The NCSG is the right place for you. You believe that the WHOIS directory, which is used to collect personal information of domain name registrants, can be abused and compromise registrants' personal information. You want ICANN to make access to this personal data private and/or provide tiered access. You value privacy rights more than the protection of trademark rights or think there needs to be a balance. By joining the NCSG, you can pursue your goal of enhancing the privacy of domain name registrants.
- Are you a **freedom of speech advocate** and want to stop trademark overreach on the Internet? You can do that by joining us. The dispute resolution policy for resolving trademark disputes in domain names is overreaching. You can advocate to stop such encroachment at ICANN through the NCSG.
- Interested in **Internet and content regulation**? Do you want to maintain the technical mission of ICANN but prevent ICANN from regulating and censoring content using DNS? Join NCSG. The NCSG is focused on maintaining ICANN's limited technical mission and preventing it from becoming a content regulator.
- **Help us hold the Empowered Community accountable!** In the Internet governance ecosystem, there are too few spaces where everyone is treated equally. ICANN is the only place where non-commercial interests have equal structural influence and voting rights! Civil society cannot effectively impact the evolution of the Internet if ICANN loses credibility and ceases to exist, so the NCSG does its part in making public interest-orientated contributions that provide a balance against commercial interests.
- Do you enjoy **performing policy work**? Analyze and provide commentary, advice, or alternative proposals on ICANN policies, deliverables, and decisions that reflect the views and needs of non-commercial Internet users.
- If you have a **background in finance**, you can review and provide comments on strategic plans and operating budgets for ICANN, as well as monitor and voice issues of concern. You can help the NCSG request additional funding through the special budgetary request process, and help apply these resources to advance non-commercial interests.
- If you have **language skills**, you can make the Internet truly multilingual by contributing to universal acceptance activities and by pushing for Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).
- If you believe in **fostering diversity**, help us promote inclusion by leading targeted initiatives to bring new voices into our work while keeping them versed in domain name policy issues. Outreach, engagement, and capacity building efforts are critical for maintaining a sustainable stream of NCSG volunteers from diverse regions.