ccNSO Newsletter | October 2020

The October 2020 edition of the ccNSO Newsletter focuses entirely on updates regarding Working Groups and Committees, relevant to ccTLD Managers. Stay informed about their recent and upcoming activities, their contributions to the ICANN69 Virtual Annual General, and more.

Welcome to ICANN69!

ccNSO Council Chair Katrina Sataki reflects on the ICANN69 ccNSO Sessions

Dear All,

*The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) program began on Tuesday 13 October, with the **ccNSO Members Meeting**. The first session focused on governance of the ccNSO, and the second session provided members with an opportunity to meet with candidates for the ccNSO Council. Zoom recordings have been posted within the session description of each session on the ICANN69 public schedule.*

*On Wednesday 14 October, the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (**IGLC**) met, followed by presentations and a lively conversation about the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. On Thursday 15 October, the ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (**SOPC**) continued its discussions on the coordination, facilitation, and participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) strategic and operational planning processes and related budgetary processes. Also on Thursday's agenda, is an interactive question and answer session with the candidates for ICANN Board Seat 12, preparing the ccNSO members for the elections in November.*
The final session of the ccNSO Members Meeting will be held next week, on Tuesday, 20 October, when ccNSO members and the broader ccTLD community participate in a question and answer session with the ccTLD-related ICANN Board members.
***Tech Day** is a workshop open to all community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics. It will be held on Monday, 19 October. The **ccNSO Council** will meet on Wednesday, 21 October 2020. The detailed ccNSO schedule, including a summary of the topics covered and remote participation details for ICANN69, is available on the **ccNSO ICANN69 workspace**.*

The main strength of the ccNSO is its ability to listen to the community and its willingness to respond to the challenges and changes of the DNS environment. ICANN69 provides another opportunity for discussion and engagement.

Katrina Sataki (.lv), ccNSO Chair

TLD-OPS

TLD-OPS is the incident response community for and by ccTLDs and brings together folks who are responsible for the overall security and stability of their ccTLD. The goal of the TLD-OPS community is to enable ccTLD operators worldwide to collaboratively strengthen their incident response capabilities.

The TLD-OPS Standing Committee continues to meet on a regular basis, and addresses work items ranging from process improvements to content development. The group previously created a **Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Playbook**, which serves as a basic business continuity strategy and implementation guide for small country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators. The playbook was a success and its publication was timely. The recent developments provide an excellent opportunity to ccTLD managers to reflect on their recent DR/BCP plan activation and to compare it with the playbook, to see if the activation could have been handled differently. To that end, the TLD-OPS Standing Committee has recently distributed a survey among all subscribers of the TLD-OPS mailing list, with questions related to the playbook. From an operations point of view, the TLD-OPS Standing Committee has not seen any uptake in COVID-19 related security incidents on the TLD-OPS mailing list.

Strategic & Operational Planning Committee

SOPC at ICANN69

The SOPC will meet as part of ICANN69, on **Thursday, 15 October 2020 (12:00-13:30 UTC).** ICANN org's Finance department and senior executives from the HR department will join the meeting to discuss among others the following topics:
- Review/introduction of new ORG structure of the finance team (including responsibilities)
- Auction proceeds – distribution vs holding in reserve
- FY22 budget
- Budget evolution considering the pandemic impact on ICANN activities.

The purpose of the **SOPC** is to coordinate and organise participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN's Strategic and Operational planning processes.

Earlier this year, the SOPC, under the leadership of its Chair Giovanni Seppia (.eu), submitted its **comments** on the ICANN FY21-25 Operating and Financial Plan, and on the draft PTI Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. At the end of March 2020, the SOPC held a conference call with ICANN Org Finance to discuss the SOPC comments and possible adjustments to the ICANN FY21-25 Operating and Financial Plan in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Between the last ICANN meeting of 2019 and ICANN68 the SOPC held calls to discuss possible further support to ICANN Finance and the refinements to the SOPC Charter. The revised **Charter** was approved by the Council at their meeting on 22 June 2020.

Guidelines Review Committee

The purpose of the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (**GRC**) is to review the current guidelines and to ascertain whether they reflect current practices and working methods, identify potential gaps, and based on this analysis propose changes to the current guidelines to the Council.

The ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee is currently discussing, among others, the following topics:

- The governance of the ccNSO and the need to bring the ccNSO into the 2020-ies, including the need to change the Rules of the ccNSO, and how to consult and engage the ccTLD community with respect to changes of the internal 2004 Rules of the ccNSO. The GRC organised a session as part of the ICANN69 ccNSO Members Meeting, on the topic of governance of the ccNSO and the role of the ccNSO Council and ccNSO membership respectively. Consult the Zoom recording **here**.
- A ccNSO guideline to remove Board members, in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws.
- The need to simplify the many guidelines developed and adopted by the ccNSO, eg. by introducing generic procedures or wordings, available in a central location.

Internet Governance Liaison Committee

For many years, country code top-level domain managers have been engaged in conversations and contributing to the work on Internet Governance related matters.
To bring this engagement to a next level, the ccNSO created the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC). As per its - recently updated - Terms of Reference, the Committee takes an active role in coordinating and facilitating the participation and input of ccTLD managers in IG-related discussions and processes. The focus lies on eight IG-related topics, selected by the IGLC as being relevant to ccTLDs, namely:

- Cybersecurity,
- Capacity building & inclusion,
- Digital divide,
- Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs),
- Local content,
- Regulations,
- Role of the ccTLDs as promoters of the IGF dialogues,
- Technical.

Continue to check the **IGLC workspace** for further information and updates on the activities of the ccNSO IGLC.
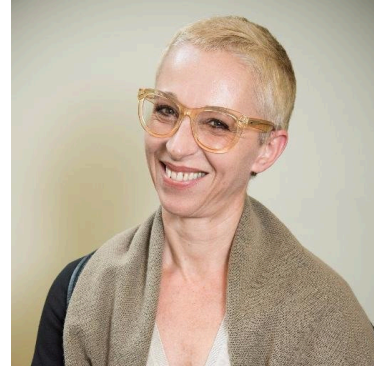
The IGLC at ICANN69

The IGLC met as part of ICANN69, on Wednesday, 14 October (10:00-10:30 UTC): the group, led by Pierre bonis (.fr), held a lively conversation on the topic of digital sovereignty. Zoom recordings have been posted **here**.

Meetings Programme Committee

The objective of the ccNSO Meetings Programme Committee (MPC) is to coordinate and manage the high-level schedule of the ccNSO-related sessions, including the

ccNSO Members Meeting agenda at ICANN public meetings, and related matters. M embership of the Committee is open to all ccTLD managers, regardless of the fact whether they are a member of the ccNSO or not.

Similarly to the approach for ICANN68 in June 2020, the MPC, led byChair Barbara Povše (.si) decided to hold 2 Virtual ccTLD News Sessions, prior to ICANN69, and to focus the **ICANN69 ccNSO Members Meeting** on a limited number of sessions, spread over various days. The MPC contributed to the session planning, together with those involved. The MPC will meet next on Friday, 23 October 2020. Topics on their agenda will include
looking back at ICANN69, and lessons learned for ICANN70 in March 2020.

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ccTLD News MPC Chair Barbara Povše (.si): "*I am pleased to confirm that the MPC organized 2 successful Virtual ccTLD News sessions, with eight interesting presentations and a lively debate.*" Consult a copy of the presentation slides and a recording of the sessions **here**.

Customer Standing Committee

In September 2020, the full slate CSC membership (members and liaisons) was approved by the ccNSO and GNSO Councils as required under the ICANN Bylaws and the CSC Charter.
The Customer Standing Committee provides operational oversight over Public Technical Identifiers (**PTI**) in its performance of the IANA naming function. The CSC and PTI were established in 2016 as a result of the transition of the IANA Stewardship. Background on the CSC, along with its monthly reports on the PTI performance can be found **here**.

Public Technical Identifiers

Stay informed about the IANA services for ccTLD Managers

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Consult the ICANN69 PTI update
to the ccNSO **here**.

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The report addresses the following elements:
- Customer satisfaction
- Annual engagement survey

- System evolution
- Contacting staff
- PTI updates, including on the operating plan and budget, the strategic plan and Board composition

Kim Davies (President of PTI, and Vice President of IANA Services for ICANN), on behalf of the IANA team: *"At ICANN meetings we typically engage with many customers on a one-on-one basis to discuss topics that are of interest to them. With ICANN69 being another virtual meeting, we regret that we cannot do that and would like to remind everyone that we are still available online, and we can host video or phone conferences to have a conversation. Please email us at* **root-mgmt@iana.org** *if you have questions or would like to set up a meeting."*

About PTI

Public Technical Identifiers (**PTI**) is responsible for the operational aspects of coordinating the Internet's unique identifiers and maintaining the trust of the community to provide these services in an unbiased, responsible and effective manner. Mainly, PTI is responsible for the operation of the IANA functions:
- **Domain Names**
- **Number Resources**
- **Protocol Parameter Assignments**

PTI was incorporated in August 2016 as an affiliate of ICANN, and, through contracts and subcontracts with ICANN, began performing the IANA functions on behalf of ICANN in October 2016. Learn more about the delivery of the IANA services at **iana.org**.

ccPDP3: Retirement of ccTLDs and Review Mechanisms

Phase 1
ccPDP3 Initial Proposals for Process to Retire ccTLDs

The third ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP3-RET) Working Group, tasked with developing and proposing policy for the retirement of country code Top-Level Domains, recently sought input and feedback from the broader community on its proposed process to retire ccTLDs, when the country code is removed from the list of country codes in the ISO3166 standard. The working group reviewed the comments received and developed a final set of policy recommendations.

ccPDP3-ret WG at ICANN96

At ICANN69, the group will discuss a carve-out from the overall ccPDP3 and finalising the retirement part, without waiting for the completion of part 2, which is developing review mechanisms pertaining to decisions regarding the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs.
Read more about ccPDP3-RET **here**.

Phase 2
ccPDP3 Review Mechanisms Working Group

The ccPDP3-RM Working Group focuses on the development of a review mechanisms pertaining to decisions regarding the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs. The group decided on a 3-step approach to identify decisions that should be subject to review:

- *Decision points*

As part of the development of the retirement process, the ccPDP3-RET WG compiled a list of 6 decisions taken by the IANA Function Operator (IFO) and the ICANN Board of Directors. PTI staff presented an overview of the **delegation and transfer process**, to identify decision points.

- *Scope*

As a next step, the WG needs to determine whether the decisions are within scope of the policy on the proposed review mechanism.

- *Questions*

Lastly, the group is advised to discuss a set of questions, on who takes the identified decision, who and how is oversight provided and which decisions are to be made subject to a review mechanism.

For more information, go to the **ccPDP3-RM workspace**.

ccPDP4: on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings

This fourth-ever ccNSO Policy Development Process aims to develop policy recommendations for the ICANN Board. In time, the results of this ccPDP will replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process, which currently guides the selection process of IDN ccTLD strings. The ccPDP4 Working Group kicked off its work in August, and just adopted its Rules of Engagement. The nomination of its Chair and Vice Chair is expected to be completed shortly as well. There will be at least 2 sub-groups to the overall ccPDP4 WG, that deal with confusing similarity on the one hand and variant management on the other. Potentially, there will be a third sub-group on the de-selection of IDN ccTLDs. Read more **here**.

The CCWG new gTLD Auction Proceeds

The New gTLD Auction Proceeds Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) submitted its **Final Report** to the Chartering Organizations - including the ccNSO - for their consideration.
The Final Report sets out the core issues that the CCWG addressed in carrying out its **charter** since its inception in January 2017. It includes responses to questions posed in the CCWG's charter, a series of recommendations, as well as guidance to be considered in the implementation phase. The final recommendations

- include proposals for consideration by the Chartering Organizations on the mechanism for allocating the new gTLD Auction Proceeds.
- address the entity that should be responsible for considering and selecting projects to receive funding, due diligence requirements that preserve ICANN's tax status, directly related matters such as handling potential or actual conflicts of interest, and other topics.

Out of scope for the CCWG: Any recommendations or determinations with regards to specific funding decisions, including specific organizations or projects to fund or not.

Following approval by the Chartering Organizations, the recommendations have been submitted at the start of September 2020 to the ICANN Board for approval.
Read more: Consult the New gTLD Auction Proceeds CCWG **Workspace**, including Charter, background documents and information.

ccNSO Members Meeting | Agenda

The ccNSO Members Meeting as part of the ICANN69 focuses on the sessions included below. For a short summary of the topics covered, an overview of the list of presenters, the session chair and/or moderators, and links to the ICANN69 schedule and recordings, go to **https://community.icann.org/x/awG-C**

Tuesday, 13 October 2020
- ccNSO Governance | 10:00-11:30 UTC
- Q&A with ccNSO Council Candidates | 12:00-13:30 UTC

Wednesday, 14 October 2020
- The impact of Covid-19 on ccTLD managers | 12:00-13:30 UTC (part 1)
- The impact of Covid-19 on ccTLD managers | 14:00-15:00 UTC (part 2)

Thursday, 15 October 2020
- Q&A with Board Seat 12 Candidates | 12:00-13:30 UTC

Tuesday, 20 October 2020
- Q&A with cccTLD-related ICANN Board Members | 12:30-14:00 UTC

Zoom recordings are posted within the session description of each session as soon as they become available, which is generally within 24 hours of the session conclusion.

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ICANN69: Links to bookmark now

- **ccNSO Schedule & Remote Participation Hub**
https://community.icann.org/x/SQC-C
The one-stop page for all your remote participation queries

- **Agenda Tech Day**
https://community.icann.org/x/WgC-C

- **Agenda Members Meeting**
https://community.icann.org/x/awG-C

- **ICANN69 ccNSO Members Meeting: Session Brief**
https://community.icann.org/x/awG-C
Background on the various sessions during the ccNSO Members Meeting.