The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN") engaged Westlake Governance Limited to conduct an independent review of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), as mandated by ICANN's Bylaws.

As part of ICANN's ongoing commitment to its evolution and improvement, Section 4.4(a) of ICANN's Bylaws contains provisions for "periodic review of the performance and operation of each Supporting Organization, each Supporting Organization Council, each Advisory Committee (other than the Governmental Advisory Committee), and the Nominating Committee."

These periodic reviews present ICANN structures with opportunities for continuous improvement through consistent application of compliance review principles to objectively measure performance relative to specific and quantifiable criteria developed by ICANN based on the unique nature of its structures. The resulting implementation of improvements and the systematic means of measuring performance and validating effectiveness of implementation are of utmost importance to the ongoing legitimacy of ICANN.

The GNSO is the policy-making body responsible for generic Top-Level Domains, such as .COM, .NET, and .ORG. Its members include representatives from generic Top Level Domains (gTLD) registries, gTLD registrars, intellectual property interest, Internet service providers, businesses and non-commercial interests. The GNSO strives to keep gTLDs operating in a fair, orderly fashion across one global Internet, while promoting innovation and competition.

For additional information on the GNSO Review, see the revised Timeline and Key Links below.

GNSO Review Timeline:
Key Links

- Final Report of Independent Examiner
- Community Engagement Meetings
- 360 Assessment
- Documents and Review Information
- Independent Examiner Information
- Working Party Information
- Activities, Milestones and Statistics
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

THE DOMAIN NAME INDUSTRY

VALUE CHAIN

ICANN
ICANN is responsible for coordinating the global Internet names and numbers systems, in particular, ensuring its stable and secure operation.

GNSO Review - Post-Review Survey Results
updated Oct 25, 2016 • view change

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
updated Oct 03, 2016 • view change

GNSO Review 2014 Home
updated Oct 03, 2016 • view change

Activities, Milestones and Statistics
updated Sep 30, 2016 • view change