Board Governance Committee (BGC) Activities Report
1 January 2026 – 30 June 2026[1]

Summary:

Completed Activities:

1. Evaluation of Board Member's Conflicts re New gTLD Program: 2026 Round
2. Approval of New Member to Grant Program Board Caucus
3. Survey Questions for Term-Ending Board Members
4. Discussion re Nominating Committee Standing Committee
5. Board Member Training Tracking Chart
6. Discussion on Conflicts of Interest Issues re Generic Names Supporting Organization Recommendation on the Transfer Policy
7. Discussion on Conflicts of Interest Issues re Grant Program
8. Board Liaison to Generic Names Supporting Organization Domain Name System Abuse Policy Development Process Working Group
9. Board Workshop Frequency Survey
10. Review of Board Self-Evaluation Survey Questions
11. Board Liaisons to Generic Names Supporting Organization System for Standardized Access/Disclosure to Nonpublic Registration Data Supplemental Recommendations Team
12. Discussion re Executive Session Procedures
13. Discussion re BGC Practice for Board Engagement in Developing Slate for Board Leadership
14. Review of Proposed Revisions to Board Risk Committee Charter
15. Reporting on Board Group Vacancies

In-Progress Activities:

1. Board Efficiency Work Team
2. "Independent" or "Unaffiliated" Directors and Role of the Nominating Committee
3. Discussion re Periodic Review of Conflicts of Interest Policy
4. 2027 Nominating Committee Leadership Selection
5. Slating for Board Committees and Other Board Groups
6. Executive Session

[1] This report is intended to capture the activities of the BGC from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026. However, because the report was prepared in July 2026, activities that occurred in July 2026 are also captured in the report.

Completed Activities

Item	Description of BGC Activity	BGC Completion Date	Accomplishments/Outcome
1. Evaluation of Board Member's Conflicts re New gTLD Program: 2026 Round	The BGC discussed the potential conflict of interest regarding a Board member concerning the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round (2026 Round). The BGC reviewed the nature of conflict, mitigation proposed, and historical treatment of conflicts. Following discussion, the BGC concluded that a conflict of interest exists regarding the 2026 Round, and it cannot be sufficiently mitigated as suggested. The BGC also discussed how best to leverage the expertise of conflicted Board members without revealing any non-public, confidential information to those conflicted Board members, and noted this is an ongoing discussion.	16 Jan 2026	The BGC Chair communicated the BGC's decision to the Board members.
2. Approval of New Member to Grant Program Board Caucus	The BGC members were reminded to finalize the appointment of a Board member to the Grant Program Board Caucus via email.	16 Jan 2026	The BGC added a new member to the Grant Program Board Caucus.
3. Survey Questions for Term-Ending Board Members	The BGC reviewed and discussed the proposal received from the Nominating Committee (NomCom) regarding the survey questions for Board members eligible for reappointment. Following discussion, the BGC approved the final version of the survey questions.	12 Feb 2026	The BGC informed the NomCom of the approval and the survey was launched.
4. Discussion re NomCom Standing Committee (Standing Committee)	ICANN staff noted that after issuing two a Calls for Expressions of Interest for members of the Standing Committee yielded only a few viable candidates, with a lack of overall diversity, making it difficult to form a balanced committee. To address this, the BGC discussed a proposal to amend the Standing Committee Charter (Charter) to shift the focus from strictly requiring past Nominating Committee service experience to prioritizing broader community expertise and recent experience. The BGC reviewed proposed updates to the Charter, including the revisions previously discussed to expand eligibility requirements while still supporting the goals anticipated for the Standing Committee. Following discussion, the BGC approved a recommendation that the Board approve the publication of the proposed Charter for public comment.	12 Feb 2026	The Board approved the BGC's recommendation on 12 March 2026 (see Resolution 2026.03.12.13).
5. Board Member Training Tracking Chart	The BGC discussed an initiative to improve visibility and possible coordination of Board member training and professional development. The BGC agreed that maintaining and sharing a consolidated training list would enhance transparency, increase	12 Feb 2026	The BGC Chair circulated the consolidated training list to the full Board and Board Ops to maintain the list.

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	awareness of available programs, and serve as a resource for Board members.		
6. Discussion re Board Caucus for Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Recommendations on the Transfer Policy	The BGC discussed conflicts of interest issues regarding certain Board members' in relation to the GNSO recommendations on the Transfer Policy. Following consultation with the Board Chair, the BGC determined that the recommendations should be presented to the full Board so there was no need to form a Caucus.	8 Mar 2026	The BGC Chair informed the Board and Board Ops.
7. Discussion on Conflicts of Interest Issues re Grant Program	The BGC discussed conflicts of interest issues regarding two Board members' related to the Grant Program. After having reviewed the updated disclosures, the BGC agreed that neither Board member has a currently disclosed conflict that would prohibit the two Board members from participating in discussions and being granted access to materials related to the Grant Program.	26 Mar 2026	The BGC Chair communicated the BGC's decision to the two Board members.
8. Board Liaison to GNSO Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG)	The BGC discussed the scope and purpose of the WG, which is focused on a specific PDP related to associated domain checks in the context of DNS abuse reporting, and that the Board Liaison's role is to facilitate information sharing and coordination between the Board and the WG. The BGC also discussed whether potential conflicts of interest could arise given that some Board members may be affiliated with organizations affected by the policy outcomes, but noted the primary role is to facilitate information sharing.	26 Mar 2026	The BGC approved Jim Galvin to serve as the Primary Board Liaison and Chris Buckridge to serve as the Alternate Board Liaison to the WG.
9. Board Workshop Frequency Survey (Survey)	The BGC discussed the Board Workshop Survey, including draft questions regarding the frequency and format of Board workshops. The BGC noted that the Survey is intended to gather feedback on how Board workshops are conducted, but is not intended to address overall Board workload or determine the total number of workshops, as those issues would require broader discussion by the full Board. The BGC discussed several aspects of the Survey, including potential remote participation, workshop timing, and workshop structure. The BGC agreed to revise the draft Survey, circulate the revised draft to the full Board for input, and finalize the Survey for distribution to the full Board.	19 May 2026	The BGC Chair shared the materials with the full Board so the Board members would have an opportunity to review before the discussion during ICANN86.

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	The BGC discussed the results of the Board Workshop Survey. The Chair noted that he intended to review the individual comments and determine whether they could be grouped or clustered to help inform the Board's discussion. A BGC member noted that the Survey results included a summary of key points that could be useful for the discussion. The Chair noted that the materials would be included in the Board materials so that the full Board would have the opportunity to review them before the discussion during ICANN86.		
10. Review of Board Self-Evaluation Survey Questions	The BGC discussed the Board Self-Evaluation Survey (Survey). Staff noted that the Survey is conducted every two years and was last completed in 2024. The Survey has typically been launched in time for the Board to discuss the results at the Board workshop associated with the Annual General Meeting, but that is not required. The BGC discussed whether the questions should be changed or updated, and staff noted that the questions have remained relatively consistent over time to allow comparison of results across survey cycles, and that each question includes an open-ended comment opportunity. The BGC discussed the value of maintaining consistency in the survey questions so that results can be compared over time. The BGC also discussed the importance of using the survey results to identify any follow-up items or actions for the BGC or the full Board, as appropriate. Following discussion, the BGC agreed to proceed with launching the Board Self-Evaluation Survey.	19 May 2026	The Survey was launched.
11. Board Liaisons to GNSO System for Standardized Access/Disclosure to Nonpublic Registration Data (SSAD) Supplemental Recommendations Team	The BGC discussed the request for Board liaison(s) to the GNSO SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team. The BGC discussed conflict of interest considerations relating to the liaison role, including that the work of the group may impact the way registrars do business. The BGC also discussed the role of Board liaisons and the existing Board liaison guidelines, and the role of a liaison is different from Board deliberations and voting. The BGC noted that while it did not see any conflict that would prohibit Board members from serving as a liaison to a community group, conflicts would need to be considered again if/when matters return to the Board for deliberation or voting.	19 May 2026	The BGC approved Wes Hardaker to serve as the primary and Greg DiBiase to serve as the alternate Board liaison to the SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team.
12. Discussion re Executive Session Procedures	The BGC discussed proposed procedures for executive portions of Board and Board Committee meetings. The BGC noted that the suggestion is for executive sessions to be a standing agenda item	30 Jun 2026	The BGC Chair sent a note to the Committee Chairs about the procedures and they were

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	for all Board and Board Committee meetings. The BGC noted that clear procedures would be important to identify "off-limit" topics that would require legal counsel to join. The BGC discussed the draft language, scope, and applicability of the procedure. Following discussion of revisions made the Committee approved the Board and Committee Meeting Executive Session Procedures. The BGC later revised the procedures to address the process for moving Board members into executive session. The BGC also discussed and determined that observers should not participate in executive sessions.		shared with relevant staff leads and Board Operations.
13. Discussion re BGC Practice for Board Engagement in Developing Slate for Board Leadership	The BGC discussed proposed revisions to the BGC practice for Board engagement in developing the slate for Board leadership. The BGC noted that the document does not require full Board approval and that the revised document will be shared with the Board. Following discussion, the BGC approved the revised BGC practice for Board engagement in developing the slate for Board leadership, which now allows for more flexibility in how long the call for self-nominations will be open.	30 Jun 2026	Staff shared with the Board and published the revised BGC Practice for Board engagement in developing the slate for Board leadership.
14. Review of Proposed Revisions to Board Risk Committee Charter	The BGC reviewed proposed revisions to the Risk Committee Charter suggested by the Risk Committee. The changes reflect the Committee's current responsibilities. Following discussion, the Committee approved a recommendation that the Board approve the proposed revisions to the Board Risk Committee charter.	30 Jun 2026	The BGC approved a recommendation that the Board approve the proposed revisions to the Board Risk Committee Charter.
15. Reporting on Board Group Vacancies	The BGC reviewed and discussed Board group vacancies. The Chair noted that, for certain Board Committees and groups, no immediate replacement action was needed because the groups could continue their work and the annual slating process was expected to begin soon. The Chair also noted that changes to Board Committee membership would require Board action. The BGC Chair sent out calls for expressions of interest regarding the Grant Program Board Caucus Chair and the GNSO Latin Script Diacritics Policy Development Process (PDP). Following discussion, the BGC approved Amitabh Singhal to serve as the Board liaison to the GNSO Latin Script Diacritics PDP and Raúl Echeberría to serve as the Chair of the Grant Program Board Caucus.	30 Jun 2026	The Chair informed Amitabh Singhal, Raúl Echeberría, and Board of the BGC's appointments.

In Progress Activities

Item	Description of BGC Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
1. Board Efficiency Work Team (EWT)	The BGC established The Board Efficiency Work Team to review proposals, prioritize potential improvements, and develop recommended actions relating to Board efficiency. The BGC agreed that Miriam Sapiro will lead the team, which will report back to the BGC. The BGC will then provide recommendations to the full Board. The Chair of the Work Team provided an update on the status of its activities throughout the past few months and reported that the recommendations will be divided into Phase 1, which are steps that can be addressed quickly and Phase 2 for steps that may require longer-term implementation.	TBD	In progress.
2. "Independent" or "Unaffiliated" Directors	Staff provided the background on the recommendation resulting from the second organizational review of the NomCom that would require the NomCom to select a certain number of ICANN Board members from outside of the traditional ICANN community as a way to gain outside perspective. The NomCom Review Implementation Working Group referred to this potential group as "Unaffiliated Directors" and developed a proposed statement outlining the criteria for this new, heightened standard. Staff noted that during both the public comment and Board deliberations about this proposed definition of Unaffiliated Director, concerns were raised that the proposed definition was complex and difficult to operationalize. As such, the BGC has been tasked with determining if, and if so, how, the recommendation that would require the NomCom to select a certain number of Board members that bring this outside perspective could or should be implemented. The BGC discussed the issues over a few meetings in this reporting period and continues to do so.	TBD	In progress.
3. Discussion re Periodic Review of Conflicts of Interest Policy	The Chair noted that the ICANN Board Conflicts of Interest Policy (Policy) is approved and in place, and that the BGC's discussion could focus on whether there are ways to streamline the process for identifying and addressing conflicts of interest. The BGC discussed procedural considerations relating to the application of the Policy, including the timing for identifying potential conflicts, determining whether conflicted Board members should receive materials, notifying conflicted Board members in advance, and	TBD	In progress.

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	managing conflict discussions during meetings. The BGC discussed how to increase advanced identification of conflicts for matters expected to come before the Board. Staff noted that the ongoing program-related conflicts list is updated before each Board meeting based on current conflicts of interest statements submitted by individual Board members. Following discussion, the BGC asked staff to prepare a document outlining ideas and options for enhancing the processes for identifying and addressing conflicts of interest in advance of and during meetings.		
4. 2027 Nominating Committee (NomCom) Leadership Selection	The BGC reviewed the Expressions of Interest received for the 2027 NomCom Leadership positions and discussed scheduling interviews with candidates, as applicable. The BGC also discussed prior interview practices and evaluations of the NomCom delegates.	TBD	The BGC completed interviewing candidates, and is now tasked with recommending a NomCom Chair-and Chair-Elect for Board consideration.
5. Slating Process	The BGC had its initial discussion of the upcoming slating process for Board Committees, Working Groups, Caucuses, and Board leadership positions. Staff explained that the BGC is responsible for identifying and making recommendations to the Board regarding Board Committee membership and leadership, as well as recommendations for Board Chair, Board Vice-Chair, and BGC Chair, which the Board generally votes on at the Organizational Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. The BGC noted that it is responsible for identifying members of Board Working Groups and Caucuses and those selections do not require formal Board approval. The BGC discussed the survey used to gather Board member preferences for Board Committees, Working Groups, and Caucuses. The BGC asked staff to try to include options for Board members to choose through the survey observer status of relevant Board groups, or alternatively send a separate request to Board members shortly after slating is completed. The BGC also noted that Board members should still have the ability to request observer status throughout the year.	TBD	In progress.
6. Executive Session	The BGC held executive sessions without ICANN staff present.	N/A	The BGC will continue to hold executive sessions.