

REDLINE VERSION:
Process for Amending GNSO Stakeholder Group and Constituency Charters (2025)

Overview

Charters of Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies are approved by their respective memberships and the ICANN Board according to the ICANN Bylaws. As a best practice, each Stakeholder Group and Constituency should review its charter and governance documents on a regular basis. In addition, Work Stream 2 (WS2) Recommendation 6.5 (Updates to Policies and Procedures) of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability encourages regular updates.

This document replaces the process established by the ICANN Board in 2013. The process has been updated in recognition of the continuous evolution of the multistakeholder ICANN community and to reflect the review roles of the ICANN Board and ICANN organization.

Questions about this process can be directed to policy-staff@icann.org.

Phase 1: Charter Revision

1. Initiate. When a GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency begins a charter revision process, it should notify its ICANN organization support team as soon as possible.
 - a. *Liaison.* The GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency should identify a liaison to the ICANN organization for the charter revision process.
 - b. *Templates.* A charter template and an operating procedures template are available to guide GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies. The templates account for requirements in the ICANN Bylaws, GNSO Operating Procedures, and applicable WS2 recommendations.
2. Revise. During the charter revision process and at the request of the GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency, the ICANN organization may serve as a resource. The ICANN organization may identify requirements related to ICANN reviews and implementation. The aim is to raise concerns early and prior to approval by the GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency.
3. Conclude. The GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency should approve any proposed charter amendments according to its operating procedures. After approval, the GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency sends the proposed charter amendments to its ICANN organization support team.

Note: If required, proposed amendments to GNSO Constituency charters must first be submitted to the applicable GNSO Stakeholder Group for consideration before ICANN organization review.

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Phase 2: ICANN organization Review

1. Initial Review. After the GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency submits its revised charter, the ICANN organization will identify any areas of concern or outstanding questions related to ICANN governance and legal requirements.
2. Engagement. Depending on the complexity of the documents and potential issues, the ICANN organization may engage in a discussion with the GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency. The timing of this engagement may vary.
3. Submission to the ICANN Board. After the ICANN organization completes its review, it will submit the proposed charter amendments to the appropriate ICANN Board committee as a report, identifying any fiscal, legal, or governance concerns for its consideration.

Phase 3: Public Comment

If the appropriate ICANN Board committee approves the ICANN organization report of the proposed charter amendments, it then directs the ICANN organization to open a Public Comment proceeding. The Public Comment proceeding will include an overview of the proposed charter amendments. The ICANN organization will prepare a Public Comment summary report of all submissions for the consideration of the appropriate ICANN Board committee.

Phase 4: ICANN Board Review

The appropriate ICANN Board committee will review the proposed charter amendments, the report by the ICANN organization, and the Public Comment summary report then make a recommendation for the consideration of the ICANN Board. At any point in its consideration, the ICANN Board may engage with the GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency for more explanation and information about the proposed charter amendments.

The ICANN Board can either:

1. Recognize the proposed charter amendments by a simple majority vote; or
2. Reject the proposed charter amendments by a supermajority (2/3) vote and provide specific rationales for its concerns.

Phase 5: Adoption

ICANN Board recognition of the proposed charter amendments constitutes approval. The GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency shall adopt the amended charter and publish it.

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Phase IV: Board Review

At the next available opportunity after the delivery and publication of the Staff report, the appropriate Board committee shall review the

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