

ECOSOC Quadrennial Report

ICANN's Submission

14 May 2024



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Background

From the ECOSOC website:

Under ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council must submit to the Committee on NGOs, a brief report of their activities every 4 years, known as the quadrennial report, which includes information about contributions of the NGO to the work of the United Nations. To emphasize the need to abide strictly by this requirement, ECOSOC resolution 2008/4 stipulates measures that the Council has taken to suspend, and subsequently withdraw consultative status of organizations that fail to submit their reports on time.

The consultative relationship is a reciprocal one. NGOs are granted the privilege of participating in a wide variety of United Nations-sponsored events, meetings and activities. In return, they are expected to contribute to the development aims of the Economic and Social Council, and the United Nations at large, based on their relevant areas of experience and expertise.

Thus, the quadrennial review presents an opportunity for NGOs to inform Member States about their activities in support of the United Nations, and at the same time, receive feedback from Member States on their programme of work as well as an official acknowledgement of their contribution as partners in development.

The quadrennial review exercise therefore serves as a critical tool in monitoring the relationship between the United Nations and the steadily growing number of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

From ICANN:

ICANN applied for and was accepted for special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2020. This quadrennial report covers 2020-2024 and was submitted directly to the ECOSOC webpage form on 14 May 2024. ICANN answered all of the questions posed and they are listed below exactly as they were submitted.

ICANN's Report

Introduction

ICANN is a nonprofit, public-benefit organization with a global reach, dedicated to coordinating the technical management of the Internet. Its responsibilities include overseeing domain names, allocating IP addresses, setting protocol parameters, and managing the root server system. ICANN's mission is to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet.

Aims and purposes of the organization

ICANN's mission is to ensure the stability, security, and resilience of the DNS that allows thousands of networks across the globe to be one global interconnected Internet. This is vital in sustaining and fortifying the overall trust of Internet users around the world in the operation of the Internet. ICANN follows a multistakeholder model in which individuals, non-commercial stakeholder groups, industry, and governments play important roles in its community-based, consensus-driven, policymaking approach.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

ICANN plays a pivotal role in supporting relevant initiatives of the United Nations by actively engaging with and contributing to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Through financial contributions to the IGF, ICANN provides support for its operations and facilitates the IGF's ability to address pressing global, digital challenges related to Internet governance. ICANN's active participation in the IGF and its role in the Multistakeholder Advisory Group reinforce its commitment to promoting inclusive dialogue and collaboration through the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended all meetings of several different entities: the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security; the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names; and the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2022, ICANN contributed US\$1 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) in support of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) work in Ukraine. Further strengthening this relationship, ICANN and WFP entered into a partnership agreement in 2024 to enable additional contributions supporting future ETC efforts to restore Internet access to other areas in times of crisis. ICANN also supports multistakeholder forums such as the ITU WSIS

Forum and the IGF. ICANN is a Sector Member of the ITU-D and has participated in key meetings and major events such as the World Telecommunication Development Conference and ITU Plenipotentiary. Moreover, ICANN maintains collaborative partnerships with the ITU, joining the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. ICANN partnered with UNESCO to promote linguistic diversity online. From 2021 to 2024 ICANN and U.N. permanent missions organized several information sessions for U.N. diplomats, focusing on the inner workings of the Internet and the Internet ecosystem.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals / Sustainable Development Goals

Many of ICANN's initiatives support several of the SDGs. Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) programs support SDG 9 on Industry, innovation and infrastructure as well as SDG 17 on Partnerships. These two programs are crucial for increasing access online by ensuring all domain names and email addresses, regardless of language, script, or length (e.g., .pф, .PHOTOGRAPHY, مثال.موقع @ای-میل) are accepted equally and can be used by all Internet users on all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems. In 2022, ICANN increased its work to enable the secure use of top-level domains (TLDs) in local languages and scripts. On 20 June 2022, ICANN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Registry for Internet Domains vzw (EURid), the registry that manages the .eu top-level domain. The MoU is an effort between the two organizations to strengthen their collaboration in supporting Internationalized Domain Names and promoting the Universal Acceptance (UA) of all domain names and email addresses. Held annually and organized by the community-led UA Steering Group and ICANN, UA Day was established in 2023 as a means to rally local, regional, and global stakeholders to spread awareness and encourage UA adoption through a mix of virtual, in-person, and hybrid informational and training sessions (See [Universal Acceptance Day Report](#), June 2023).



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