ICANN81
Policy Outlook Report

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Welcome to Istanbul, Türkiye!

In preparation for the ICANN81 Annual General Meeting, the Policy Development Support team has developed the ICANN81 Policy Outlook Report. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN81.

ICANN81 is the 26th Annual General Meeting. Throughout the week, the ICANN community will meet to advance policy and advice work in priority areas. The opening session will include the presentation of the annual Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building. There will also be a plenary session developed by the ICANN community that will explore the intersections of geopolitics, international law, and emerging Internet infrastructures.

A global community of stakeholders and participants with different backgrounds and points of view help coordinate and support the unique identifiers of the Internet. The Internet functions for everyone because everyone is invited to help make it work. Consensus policies developed through the multistakeholder model are highly effective and have the greatest legitimacy.

Thank you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to attend this meeting. No matter if you are an ICANN regular, an occasional participant, or a newcomer, please actively engage in this Annual General Meeting.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

The ASO and ASO Address Council (AC) will convene during ICANN81 for several work sessions and joint sessions with the ICANN Board, the Governmental Advisory Committee, and the Root Server System Advisory Committee. In addition, the ASO will offer an information session about its Internet Coordination Policy-2 (ICP-2) review and a "How It Works" session about the number resources. The ASO AC will conduct seven open work sessions to advance its work and discuss various internal matters.

Background

The ASO is defined in a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), affirming the relationship between the names and numbers communities. The purpose of the ASO is to review recommendations on global Internet Protocol address policy and to advise the ICANN Board. Global policies are defined in the ASO MoU as "Internet number resource policies that have the agreement of all RIRs, according to their policy development processes, and ICANN and require specific actions or outcomes on the part of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority or any other external ICANN-related body in order to be implemented." The ASO ensures that the policy development process has been correctly followed in each RIR community:

- African Network Information Centre
- Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
- American Registry for Internet Numbers
- Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry
- Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre

The ASO conducts policy development work during Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on mailing lists.

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) coordinates the global policy development work of the Internet number community and appoints members to the ICANN Board, the ICANN Nominating Committee, and other ICANN groups. The ASO AC consists of 15 members, three from each RIR.

ASO AC monthly teleconferences are open to observers. For more information, including the teleconference schedule, observer privileges, and remote participation details, visit the ASO AC website.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC +3. Please refer to the ICANN81 schedule for the most current information.

How It Works: All About Numbers

Sunday, 10 November | 10:30–12:00

Joint Session: ASO and RSSAC

Sunday, 10 November | 15:00–16:00

ASO Work Sessions

Monday, 11 November | 13:15–14:30, 15:00–16:00, 16:30–17:30
Tuesday, 12 November | 09:00–10:00, 10:30–12:00
Wednesday, 13 November | 13:15–14:30, 15:00–16:00

Joint Session: ASO and GAC

Tuesday, 12 November | 15:00–16:00

ASO Information Session

Tuesday, 12 November | 16:30–17:30

Joint Session: ICANN Board and ASO

Wednesday, 13 November | 09:00–10:00

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

What to Expect

During the ccNSO sessions, the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community and others interested in ccTLD-related issues will discuss and receive updates on topics relevant to ccTLD managers. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for a select number of ccNSO sessions. The enhanced language support will benefit the ccTLD community by deepening operational exchanges and promoting information sharing.

The ccNSO program will begin on Saturday, 9 November. The Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC), the Policy Gap Analysis Working Group (PGA WG), the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) and the Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) will hold working sessions. The ccNSO schedule continues on Sunday, 10 November, when the Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) and the Technical Working Group will hold working sessions, and the ccNSO Council will hold a workshop on resourcing. Moreover, the TLD-OPS Planning Committee is offering a unique opportunity to strengthen ccTLDs' defenses through a Ransomware Tabletop Exercise (TTX).

Tech Day will be held on Monday, 11 November. Tech Day is a workshop open to all members of the ICANN community with an interest in technical, operational, and security issues.

The ccNSO program on Tuesday, 12 November, will begin with a welcome session, including a kick-off of the review process for the ccTLD financial contributions. Next, during a session by the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) ccTLDs present will review the community engagement with the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and identify takeaways for ccTLDs in the process regarding the 2025 Review of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20). To prepare the ccNSO membership for the upcoming ccNSO Council elections, ccNSO members and others will have the opportunity to ask all candidates questions during a Q&A session. Since ICANN79, the ccNSO has been working closely with the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), to identify and explore potential gaps in the current set of policies pertaining to ccTLDs. The PGA WG will present its findings to date during the final session on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, 13 November, a joint session between ccNSO and GAC will be held. During the DASC session, the committee will remind the ccTLD community of its repository as a useful resource for ccTLD managers to understand and combat DNS abuse, and will present the findings of the second ccTLD DNS Abuse survey. Finally, during the ccTLD News Sessions, ccTLD managers from different regions will share the latest developments relevant to their ccTLDs.

The ccNSO Council will meet on Thursday, 14 November. The detailed ccNSO schedule, including highlights of topics to be covered and details on remote participation for ICANN81, is available on the **ccNSO ICANN81 workspace**.

Background

The ccNSO is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 for and by ccTLD managers, the ccNSO develops and recommends global policies, such as the retirement of ccTLDs, to the ICANN Board. The ccNSO provides a global platform to discuss topics and issues of concern, build consensus and technical cooperation, and facilitate the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers.

The ccNSO is administered by the ccNSO Council, which consists of 18 councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members, three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee). The ccNSO councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO. ccNSO Councilors manage the policy development process, lead and participate in **various ccNSO working groups**, engage with the ICANN community on topical issues, and develop positions based on ICANN community feedback. The ccNSO Council meets regularly at ICANN Public Meetings and at monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the **ccNSO website**.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Participate in the ccNSO Course on ICANN Learn to find out more about its work and how it is organized. Subscribe to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC+3. Please refer to the ICANN81 schedule for the most current information.

Please refer to the ccNSO ICANN81 session highlights for detailed agendas and more information.

Working Group and Committee Sessions

Universal Acceptance Committee
Saturday, 9 November | 09:00–12:00

Universal Acceptance refers to the concept of treating all domain names equally and ensuring that they are recognized, accepted, and functional across all Internet applications, systems, and devices. The purpose of the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) is to provide the ccTLD community a platform to interact and share information at a global level and with other groups under the ICANN umbrella on topics related to UA and acceptance of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). The UAC will hold a working session to explore its future deliverables.

Policy Gap Analysis Working Group
Saturday, 9 November | 10:30-12:00
Tuesday, 12 November 2024 | 15:00–16:00

The ccNSO Policy Gap Analysis (PGA) Working Group started its assignment in August 2024. Its objective is to identify, analyze, and advise the ccNSO Council, after consulting the ccTLD community, whether and how to address gaps in existing ccNSO policies, guidance, or practices pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs, and other related IANA Naming Functions for ccTLDs. The PGA Working Group expects to present and discuss its initial findings during the ICANN81 ccNSO Members Meeting. Before that, the group will meet for a working session on Saturday, 9 November.

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee
Saturday, 9 November | 13:15–14:30

The purpose of the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) is to provide input into ICANN's and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) strategic and operational planning and related budget processes that are relevant from a ccTLD or ccNSO perspective. It also coordinates, facilitates, and encourages participation of ccTLD managers in these processes. The ccNSO SOPC will hold a working session.

DNS Abuse Standing Committee
Saturday, 9 November | 15:00–16:00

The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) is the centerpiece of the ccTLD community-driven DNS abuse mitigation processes at the global level under the ICANN umbrella. The DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important issue of DNS abuse and to share information, lessons learned, and practices. The DASC will hold an internal working session to prepare for ICANN81 and discuss its work plan for the coming year.

Internet Governance Liaison Committee
Saturday, 9 November | 16:30–17:30

The ccNSO established the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) to coordinate, facilitate and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in Internet governance (IG) discussions and processes. The IGLC will hold a working session to explore the hot issues in IG from a regional perspective.

Tech Working Group
Sunday, 10 November │ 09:00–10:00

ccNSO Tech Working Group organizes Tech Day, a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. The group will hold an internal working session.

Guidelines Review Committee - closed workshop
Sunday, 10 November │ 09:00–10:00

The purpose of the ccNSO 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 ccNSO Council. The group will hold an internal working session, evaluating the results of recent World Café sessions on ccNSO voting processes.

ccNSO Council - closed workshop
Sunday, 10 November │ 10:30–12:00

To discuss resourcing for ongoing and future ccNSO work and prepare ICANN81, the ccNSO Council will hold a closed workshop.

TLD-OPS-TTX - closed Tabletop Exercise
Sunday, 10 November │ 13:15–16:00

As the world of cybersecurity continues to evolve, one thing remains constant: the need for strong, resilient strategies. During ICANN81, the TLD-OPS TTX Planning Committee is offering a unique opportunity to strengthen ccTLDs' defenses through a TLD-OPS Ransomware TTX. Building on the success of previous exercises, including those at ICANN66 in 2019 and the CENTR Jamboree in May 2024, this TTX will dive deep into ransomware scenarios. It provides an invaluable opportunity for registered ccTLD representatives to assess and strengthen their Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans.

The Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS) Standing Committee is the oversight body of the **TLD-OPS mailing list**. Its purpose is to govern the daily operation of the TLD-OPS email list and, when necessary, to develop and implement progress plans for future improvements and developments, including its ecosystem. TLD-OPS is the incident response community for and by ccTLDs and brings together those 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.

Joint Sessions

ccNSO and ICANN Board
Tuesday, 12 November │ 11:30–17:30

The ccNSO and the ICANN Board will hold a joint session to discuss issues of common interest. Please refer to the **ccNSO ICANN81 session highlights** for a detailed agenda.

ccNSO and GAC
Wednesday, 13 November │ 09:00–10:00

The ccNSO and the GAC will hold a joint session to discuss issues of common interest, including the ccTLD DNS abuse survey, work by the ccNSO Policy Gap Analysis Working Group, and ICANN and the GDC and WSIS+20, the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Tech Day

Monday, 11 November | 10:30–17:30

Since 2006, Tech Day has been part of ICANN Public Meetings. It provides a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. During ICANN81, Tech Day will focus on DNS Security Extensions, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, and other topics.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 1

ccNSO Welcome Session
Tuesday, 12 November | 09:00–10:00

The ccNSO Council Chair and Meetings Program Committee Chair will welcome participants to the ccNSO Members Meeting. This session also kicks off the review process for the voluntary ccTLD financial contributions.

Engaging with the Global Digital Compact: Insights for ccTLDs in the WSIS+20 Process
Tuesday, 12 November | 10:30–12:00

A moment of change is coming in the Internet governance system, with a key 2025 event attracting growing attention as an opportunity to refound Internet and technology governance for the future. During a session by the ccNSO IGLC, ccTLDs present will review community engagement with the GDC and identify takeaways for ccTLDs regarding the 2025 Review of the Outcomes of the United Nations (UN) led review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The aim is empowering ccTLDs around the world to navigate and influence the global digital governance landscape effectively.

Question and Answer Session with ccNSO Council Candidates
Tuesday, 12 November | 13:15–14:30

To prepare the ccNSO Membership for the upcoming elections for the ccNSO Council, the ccNSO membership and others will be able to question all candidates during a Q&A session.

Policy Gap Analysis Working Group Update
Saturday, 9 November | 10:30–12:00
Tuesday, 12 November 2024 | 15:00–16:00

In June 2023, the ccNSO Council was informed by IANA staff that operational measures would need to be taken for an extraordinary and temporary operational situation, without being able to rely on specific policies that would govern the situation at hand. As a result, the ccNSO Council invited IANA staff to participate in an ad hoc ccNSO Council group to identify potential gaps in IANA policies, procedures, and practices related to ccTLDs.

The ad hoc group, after briefing and consulting with the community since ICANN78, recommended in June (during ICANN80) that the ccNSO Council mandate and establish a working group to further analyze the issues at hand and to engage the broader community in this work.

The ccNSO PGA Working Group began its assignment in August 2024. Its objective is to identify, analyze, and advise the ccNSO Council whether and how to address gaps in existing ccNSO policies, guidance, or practices pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs, and other related IANA Naming Functions for ccTLDs. The PGA Working Group expects to present and discuss its initial findings during the ICANN81 ccNSO Members Meeting. The PGA Working Group will also hold a working session on Saturday, 9 November at ICANN81.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 2

DNS Abuse: Tools and Measurements
Wednesday, 13 November | 13:15–14:30

The ccNSO DASC is the centerpiece of the ccTLD community-driven DNS abuse mitigation processes at the global level, under the ICANN umbrella. The DASC was created to serve as a dedicated forum for ccTLD managers to discuss the important issue of DNS abuse and to share information, lessons learned, and proven practices. The DASC is organizing a session at ICANN81 to inform interested community members about the results of the second edition of the ccTLD DNS Abuse survey. In addition, the DASC reminds the ccTLD community of its dedicated email list and repository as a useful resource for ccTLDs, and invites ccTLDs worldwide to use and contribute to those resources.

ccTLD News Session
Wednesday, 13 November | 15:00–17:30

Previous editions of the ccTLD News Sessions included a collection of case studies, statistics, new developments, trends, and more. The ccTLD News Sessions have been part of the ccNSO Members Meetings for several years. They have provided a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share experiences, and discuss ccTLD-related aspects. Please refer to the ccNSO ICANN81 session highlights for a detailed agenda.

ccNSO Council

Thursday, 14 November | 13:15–14:30

Topics for discussion include outcomes from the ccNSO Council workshop on resourcing. Additional topics for the ccNSO Council meeting will be made available on its workspace.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

What to Expect

The GNSO is the policy development body responsible for gTLDs. Its members include representatives from gTLD registries, ICANN-accredited registrars, intellectual property interests, Internet service and connectivity providers, business, and noncommercial interests. The GNSO brings these different stakeholders and other parts of the ICANN community together to develop gTLD policy recommendations through a multistakeholder process driven by working groups and teams.

The GNSO Council will make progress on policy development initiatives during ICANN81:

- The Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group plans to host one session, during which it will continue to review the Public Comments received on its second Initial Report as it prepares its Final Report.

There are recent developments regarding ICANN Board consideration of outputs from GNSO policy development efforts:

- On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board adopted a majority of the outputs from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP and placed 38 outputs into a "pending" status. The GNSO Council convened a small team to address all pending recommendations. Subsequently, during its September and October 2023 meetings, the ICANN Board resolved to not adopt several recommendations. The small team developed Supplemental Recommendations in respect of the non-adopted recommendations, submitting them to the GNSO Council, except for Topic 24: String Similarity Evaluations, for consideration at its meeting on 18 April, where the GNSO Council **adopted** the recommendations and subsequently remanded Topic 24 to the small team for possible revision. The ICANN Board **considered** and took action on the Supplemental Recommendations on 8 June 2014. Further, the GNSO Council small team developed a Supplemental Recommendation in respect of Topic 24: String Similarity Evaluations, which were approved by the GNSO Council on 19 September 2024, will be considered by the ICANN Board in the future.

- On 7 September 2024, the ICANN Board adopted four of the pending recommendations for Phase 1 of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on IDNs (hereafter "EPDP-IDNs"), which were previously deferred as they directly related to the ongoing fee structure work for the Next Round. The ICANN Board has now **adopted** 56 of the 58 final recommendations for EPDP-IDNs Phase 1; two pending recommendations remain to be considered by the ICANN Board at the time of drafting this Report. The ICANN organization will incorporate the four pending recommendations into the existing implementation work in coordination with the existing SubPro IRT.

Background

Transfer Policy Review PDP

Following receipt and review of the **Transfer Policy Status Report** developed by the ICANN organization, the GNSO Council established a Transfer Policy Review Scoping Team that provided an **Initial Scoping Paper** in April 2020. A **Preliminary Issue Report** for a PDP was published for **Public Comment** on 12 October 2020, with an updated **Final Issue Report** submitted to the GNSO Council on 12 January 2021.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council **initiated** the two-phase Transfer Policy Review PDP and **adopted** the PDP working group **charter** on 24 March 2021, with the working group first meeting in May 2021. The charter initially anticipated that the PDP would be conducted in phases, but the approach has since been changed due to dependencies identified between charter topics. The work is now structured as a single phase.

On 21 June 2022, the working group published an **Initial Report** for Public Comment covering the Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization (FOA), AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers. It has reviewed public comments and incorporated

changes into the preliminary recommendations where appropriate. It has since conducted deliberations on its remaining charter topics, including those related to the Transfer Emergency Action Contact (TEAC), the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP), ICANN-approved bulk transfers, and the change of registrant requirements contained in the Transfer Policy.

On 1 August 2024, the working group published a second **Initial Report** covering all charter topics, including revisions to the recommendations contained in the first Initial Report. During ICANN81, the working group will hold a public session where it will continue reviewing the public comments received during the recent **public comment forum**.

EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the **initiation request** for the EPDP-IDNs and adopted its charter. The EPDP-IDNs Working Group (hereafter "the EPDP Team") held its first meeting on 11 August 2021. In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the **project change request** from the EPDP Team to divide its work into two phases, with Phase 1 focusing on topics related to top-level gTLD definition and variant management, and Phase 2 focusing on topics related to second-level variant management. The two-phased approach was intended to help prioritize the current implementation planning of the SubPro PDP Outputs that are focused primarily on the top-level and avoid potential delays for the implementation of the Next Round of the new gTLDs.

For Phase 1, the EPDP Team finalized sixty-nine (69) Outputs [fifty-eight (58) final recommendations and eleven (11) implementation guidance] pertaining to gTLD definition and variant management. The GNSO Council approved the EPDP-IDNs Phase 1 Final Report on 21 December 2023, including all 69 Outputs, followed by the ICANN Board approving 56 of the 58 final recommendations as of **7 September 2024**.

Phase 2 initial deliberations, including the identification of all charter questions that would impact the next Applicant Guidebook (AGB), were completed in December 2023 as a result of the dedicated face-to-face workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Phase 2 Initial report was published on 11 April 2024, shortening the Phase 2 timeline by 13 months. Following an extensive review of the eight submissions from the Public Comment period, the EPDP Team put forward 20 outputs, including 14 recommendations and six items of implementation guidance. The EPDP-IDNs Team is expected to have completed its Phase 2 Final Report prior to ICANN81.

Consequently, there will be no working session at ICANN81 for the EPDP-IDNs Team as it has completed its work. However, the GNSO Council is expected to consider a motion to adopt the Phase 2 Final Report during its November GNSO Council Meeting during ICANN81.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group began its work on 22 February 2016. The working group submitted its **Final Report** to the GNSO Council for its consideration on 18 January 2021. On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously **approved** the outputs achieving consensus or full consensus contained in the Final Report. On 24 March 2021, the GNSO-adopted outputs and the **Recommendations Report** were sent to the ICANN Board. On 12 September 2021, the ICANN Board directed the ICANN organization to initiate an **Operational Design Phase (ODP)** for the Final Report outputs. The ODP began on 3 January 2022, and on 12 December 2022, the ICANN organization delivered an **Operational Design Assessment (ODA)** on the outputs produced by the SubPro PDP, which served as an important input for ICANN Board consideration of the SubPro outputs.

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board **adopted** the majority of the SubPro PDP outputs and began the implementation efforts to prepare for launching the New gTLD Program Next Round. The ICANN organization has established the **Implementation Review Team (IRT)** to support the implementation of policy recommendations for future rounds of new gTLD applications.

In the March 2023 resolution, the ICANN Board also designated 38 SubPro PDP outputs as "pending". As a result, the GNSO Council convened a small team that in collaboration with the ICANN Board, resolved all pending recommendations. Subsequently, the small team turned its focus to developing Supplemental Recommendations, where appropriate, for the recommendations that the ICANN Board **did not adopt**. For several of the non-adopted recommendations, the small team submitted proposed Supplemental Recommendations to the GNSO Council for consideration, whereby the GNSO Council **adopted** the recommendations, though it subsequently remanded Topic 24 to the small team for possible revision. The ICANN Board considered and took action on the Supplemental Recommendations on 8 June 2024. On 19 September 2024 the GNSO Council **approved** the **Supplemental Recommendation for the non-adopted SubPro recommendations related to Topic 24**: String Similarity Evaluations set forth on Annex 1, for subsequent consideration by the ICANN Board.

EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

In May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data to comply with both ICANN contractual requirements and the GDPR. This led to the EPDP-TempSpec within a year. The two-phase EPDP-TempSpec was initiated in July 2018. Phase 1 concluded in March 2019, with **policy recommendations** to be implemented by the ICANN Implementation Review Team. Phase 2, ending in September 2020, addressed **System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) and other topics**. Furthermore, financial concerns and minority statements prompted an **Operational Design Assessment (ODA) for the SSAD**. A small team, formed by the GNSO Council, found the ODA lacking and **recommended a "proof of concept" approach**.

Subsequently, the ICANN Board instructed the development of the **"Whois Disclosure System"** based on this recommendation. After reviewing the system design, the small team proposed updates resulting in an **addendum** to its preliminary report, which the **GNSO Council supported**.

In February 2023, the ICANN Board **directed** the ICANN organization to develop and launch the WHOIS Disclosure System (System), now called the **Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)**.

The **GNSO Council recommended** that the RDRS run for a period of up to two years, after which sufficient information should be available to make a determination on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations. Furthermore, the small team put forward a proposed charter to the GNSO Council for a RDRS Standing Committee to help inform the next steps on the SSAD policy recommendations.

The Standing Committee, which began meeting in January 2024, is responsible for reviewing the monthly RDRS metrics reports published by the ICANN organization and for advising the GNSO Council on next steps, when appropriate. The Standing Committee will host one meeting during ICANN81 and plans to discuss the trends it has identified since the inception of the RDRS.

gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

The GNSO Council adopted the **formation and instructions** of the gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team during its meeting on 22 July 2021. The scoping team has been tasked to consider a number of accuracy-related topics, such as current enforcement and reporting, measurement of accuracy, and effectiveness.

The scoping team began its deliberations in October 2021, focusing its efforts on the assignments that the GNSO Council provided in its **instructions**. The scoping team submitted its write-up for two assignments to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November 2022 meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation #3 in the **write-up** but deferred consideration of recommendations #1 and #2 regarding registrar survey and registrar audit. As a consequence, the work by the scoping team required access to gTLD registration data to be paused.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The GNSO Council encouraged the ICANN organization to conduct outreach to the European Data Protection Board and to proceed with the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) in connection with the scenario(s) in which the request and processing of gTLD registration data takes place as a matter of urgency. The GNSO Council requested that the ICANN organization and Contracted Parties finish negotiations on the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) as soon as practicable. The absence of a completed DPA may act as a roadblock for additional policy work.

The ICANN organization provided an initial update to the GNSO Council in March 2023, which provided details on four scenarios that were identified to review the accuracy of registration data. This update was considered by the GNSO Council during its meeting in April 2023. The GNSO Council resolved during its July 2023 meeting to extend consideration of the Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team recommendations until certain dependencies are met or six months elapse.

ICANN conducted a comprehensive assessment of the four scenarios, as well as DPIAs on scenarios two and four, and identified several deficiencies and challenges in pursuing them, which the GNSO Council discussed during its November 2023 meeting. In recognition of the current challenges in pursuing the scenarios, GNSO councilors noted that, barring (i) completion of the Data Processing Agreement, (ii) implementation of the NIS2 directive, or (iii) publication of the Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains (INFERMAL) Study, it may not be the appropriate time to reconvene the Accuracy Scoping Team and deferred consideration for another six months (by August 2024) during its February 2024 meeting. In September 2024, the GNSO Council again deferred the consideration of the Scoping Team's recommendations and is working on soliciting further input from GNSO groups on how to make substantive progress on this topic given the known limitations.

More Information
Read the GNSO Policy Briefing to prepare for ICANN81.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC +3. Please refer to the ICANN81 schedule for the most current information.

PDP Working Groups and Scoping Team Work Sessions

Transfer Policy Review PDP
Saturday, 9 November | 15:00–16:00

GNSO Council Meeting

Wednesday, 13 November | 13:15–15:15

Joint Sessions

GAC and GNSO Council
Sunday, 10 November | 15:00–16:00

What to Expect

During ICANN81, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members will host 22 sessions. The sessions will include two At-Large plenary sessions, policy and operations overview sessions, a series of At-Large strategic planning sessions, three joint sessions, two sessions focused on community engagement, four RALO sessions, a welcome session, and a wrap-up session.

Background

At-Large is the community of individual Internet users who participate in the policy development of ICANN. Currently, more than 265 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and over 210 individuals organized into five RALOs that represent the views of individual Internet users.

The ALAC consists of 15 members and serves as the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual Internet users. The role of the ALAC is to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users.

The work of the At-Large community takes place primarily in working groups divided into three tracks: policy advice, operations, and community engagement. At-Large conducts its work through regular teleconferences and active participation during ICANN Public Meetings.

Learn more about the At-Large community, its activities, and how to join on the **At-Large website** and **At-Large workspace**. Also, **two ICANN Learn courses** provide additional information on how to start and sustain involvement in the activities of the At-Large community.

Session Details

At-Large session details are available on this **At-Large workspace**.

At-Large Plenary Sessions

At-Large will hold two At-Large plenary sessions that were selected by the At-Large ICANN81 Planning Committee among several proposals.

- **Cross-Community Collaboration to Deliver the New gTLD Program Next Round that We All Want**
  - The session objectives include opportunities to explore and develop concrete steps in which At-Large may collaborate with other ICANN community groups and org teams to support the outreach and engagement plans for the Next Round and especially the Applicant Support Program (ASP).
  - Participants from the ICANN community who are actively engaged in the ASP and New gTLD Program will be invited to participate in this discussion and in the brainstorming subgroups.

- **At-Large Community Priorities for Fiscal Years 2026–2030**
  - The objective of this session is to identify the At-Large Community's top priority areas with reference to the FY26–30 ICANN Strategic Plan.
  - This session calls for the At-Large Community to consider the FY26–30 ICANN Strategic Plan and the FY26–30 Operating Plan, to identify up to two Strategic Goals under each of the four Strategic Objectives, and to provide the incoming ALAC and RALO Leaderships with indicators to devise ways to support the delivery of this ICANN Strategic Plan.

– Speakers include the two co-chairs of the ICANN Board Strategic Planning Committee and several ALAC members.

Policy Advice Session

- At-Large will host an At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) session which will include an overview of CPWG policy topics and likely feature discussions on one to two policy topics of importance to end users identified by the CPWG. This session will provide the opportunity for interested community members to learn more about the CPWG as well as for a deeper discussion on one or two policy topics considered a priority for end users. Topics currently discussed within the CPWG include the Next Round Program, IDNs, and Label Generation Rules.

Operational Advice Session

- At-Large will host an At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) session which will provide an overview of the OFB-WG topics, deeper discussion on the At-Large contribution to the Strategic Plan and Operating Plan Framework, and an overview of upcoming Public Comment proceedings on the five-year and annual Operating Plan and PTI Strategic Plan.

At-Large Strategic Planning Sessions

Given the leadership transitions that will occur at the end of ICANN81, the ALAC/At-Large will hold a series of strategic planning sessions that are designed to facilitate common understanding of its mission, to harness and align collective insights, and to develop a roadmap of tangible objectives for 2025 and for continuous improvement.

Joint Sessions

- The ALAC will meet with the ICANN Board to discuss issues of mutual interest.

- The ALAC will host a joint session with the GAC, which will likely include discussions about DNS abuse mitigation and Next Round topics, such as contention resolution and the ASP.

- The ALAC will host a joint session with the SSAC, which is expected to include discussions on the Safer Cyber campaign, SAC126: DNSSEC DS Automation, DNS abuse mitigation, as well as general security and stability concerns that may impact end users.

Community Engagement Sessions

- At-Large will meet with ICANN81 Fellows and NextGen participants. As part of a continuing focus on developing ways to better engage with ICANN Fellows and NextGen participants, this session will allow for open dialogue with them about their interest in joining At-Large.

- The ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee will meet to discuss the process to implement At-Large mobilization activities using the new At-Large Campaign Playbook as a reference. During ICANN81, an At-Large mobilization campaign focusing on the ASP will be discussed.

Regional At-Large Organization Activities

The five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) have several priority activities for ICANN81.

- The RALO leaders will host one Cross-RALO Coordination Meeting during ICANN81. Topics include issues which require joint RALO strategies and actions, including:

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

- A discussion with the GSE on the Next Round and the role of the RALOs.

- A discussion on operational improvement and coordination between RALOs and enhancing understanding of the processes and activities.

- An opportunity to review the implementation of FY25 strategic plans.

- An update on the contributions of the RALOs to the Continuous Improvement Process.

- The African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) will host a meeting on the theme of "Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Enhance Multilingualism in the African Internet Space: An ICANN Initiative"

  - This will be the 36th meeting held since 2010. The traditional AFRALO meeting will present an overview of the topic, discuss and approve the statement, and make recommendations to the ICANN community and organization.

- The Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) will hold several sessions during ICANN81:

  - APRALO is holding an Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be a hybrid event to include members participating ICANN81 in person as well as those who are participating remotely. The hybrid APRALO AGM will provide an opportunity for APRALO members to reflect on their achievements and prepare for 2025. APRALO is co-hosting two At-Large plenary sessions, as outlined above.

  - APRALO community members will join a networking evening.

- The European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO) is holding a hybrid General Assembly (GA) to include members participating in person and those who are participating remotely. The hybrid GA, an annual event, will include a presentation of EURALO achievements in 2024 and discuss strategic planning for 2025.

What to Expect

During ICANN81, the GAC is planning 28 hours of programming featuring a combination of policy discussions, bilateral meetings with other ICANN community groups, capacity development opportunities, and preparation of the GAC Communiqué.

The GAC will continue its work on several topics that have attracted attention from governments:

- New gTLD Program: Next Round and the Applicant Support Program

- Registration Directory Services (RDS)/WHOIS and data protection policies

- DNS abuse mitigation measures

In addition, GAC members will discuss various operational issues, including strategic planning and progress on its annual plan.

Agenda

GAC sessions will begin on Saturday, 9 November, with an overview of ICANN81 and introductions by all attending GAC representatives (both in person and online). Time permitting, the GAC chair will also review recent work, including:

- Correspondence

- Extensive consultations with the ICANN Board stemming from GAC consensus advice set forth in the GAC ICANN80 Communiqué

- ICANN Board responses to the GAC ICANN80 Communiqué

- Plans for the joint session with the ICANN Board during ICANN81

Throughout ICANN81, the GAC agenda will feature GAC strategic planning for the next year and discussions on several government priorities such as recent developments and expectations regarding preparations for the next round of new gTLDs, DNS abuse mitigation matters, progress on RDS/WHOIS and data protection, and drafting the GAC ICANN81 Communiqué.

ICANN81 marks the conclusion of the 2024 GAC leadership election. Members of the future GAC leadership team, including the chair and five vice chairs, will begin preparations for their terms starting in March 2025.

Capacity Development and Onboarding

Over the past several ICANN Public Meetings, briefings for the onboarding of new GAC members have been migrated to webinars. New GAC delegates can learn about the basics of GAC operations and information needed before they attend their first GAC meeting (online or in person). Several onboarding and introductory webinars are also available to GAC members between ICANN Public Meetings.

GAC capacity development emphasizes structural or policy development matters that expand the knowledge of all GAC participants. These sessions are evolving to include more regionally-relevant topics based on the location of each ICANN Public Meeting. For example, the GAC will devote the afternoon of Saturday, 9 November, to informing attendees about strategic DNS priorities of governments and about the issues of importance to the Middle Eastern and African regions. This programming approach helps to assure that advice from the GAC on public policy matters (and input on other operational matters) is informed and based on commonly understood factual foundations.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Strengthening Relationships

For the first time in over a decade, the GAC will conduct bilateral meetings with every Supporting Organization and every other Advisory Committee. In addition to meeting with the ICANN Board, the GAC typically meets with the ALAC and the GNSO during ICANN Public Meetings. During ICANN81, the GAC will also meet with the ASO, ccNSO, RSSAC, and the SSAC. These meetings will help maintain, reinforce, and expand channels of communication, share information and identify areas of common ground to help facilitate future collaboration.

Background

GAC membership consists of national governments and distinct economies recognized in international forums. Multinational governmental and treaty organizations as well as public authorities participate in the GAC in an observer capacity. There are currently 183 GAC members and 39 GAC observer organizations.

The GAC provides advice on the public policy aspects of ICANN responsibilities with regard to the DNS. GAC consensus advice has a particular status under the ICANN Bylaws. Such advice must be duly taken into account by the ICANN Board, and if the ICANN Board proposes actions that would be inconsistent with GAC consensus advice, it must provide reasons for doing so and attempt to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the GAC.

Further information about the GAC and its various work efforts, processes, and operating principles can be found on the GAC website.

Session Details

All GAC sessions will be open to the ICANN community and will feature simultaneous interpretation in the six U.N. languages. This principle of openness will be particularly evident during the GAC Communiqué drafting sessions. Details regarding specific GAC sessions can be found on the GAC ICANN81 agenda webpage where all session briefings, descriptions, materials, and presentations will be published.
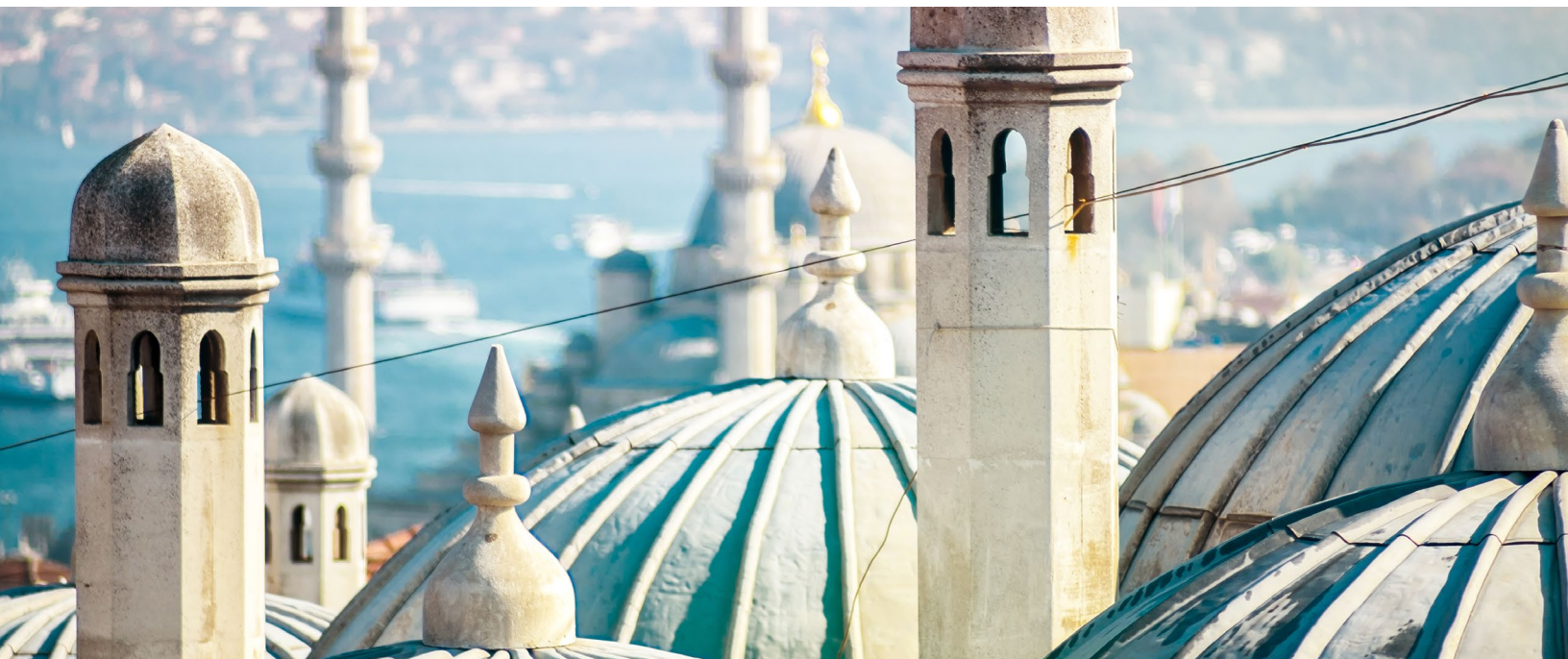
Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

What to Expect

The RSSAC will conduct two work sessions to advance its work and discuss various internal matters, including Root Server System (RSS) security incident reporting and guidelines for changing root server addresses. The RSSAC will hold joint sessions with the ASO and GAC and continue to engage with the ICANN community by offering a tutorial on the RSS.

In addition, the RSSAC will conduct its monthly meeting and continue to raise awareness about its recent **publications**. The RSSAC Caucus will conduct its second meeting of the year.

Background

The **RSSAC** advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the RSS. The RSSAC consists of representatives from the root server operator organizations and liaisons from the partner organizations involved in the technical and operational management of the root zone.

The **RSSAC Caucus** is composed of Domain Name System experts who have an interest in the RSS, broadening the base of diverse technical expertise available for RSSAC work. The primary role of the RSSAC Caucus is to perform research and produce publications on topics relevant to the mission of the RSSAC.

The RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee appoints members of the RSSAC Caucus. In addition, all RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus. Currently, there are two active **work parties** in the RSSAC Caucus to study:

- Root server system security incident reporting, and
- Guidelines for changing root server addresses

The first RSSAC Caucus meeting in 2025 will be held during IETF 122 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Session Details

*Session times are in UTC +3. Please refer to the **ICANN81 schedule** for the most current information.*

Joint Session: GAC and RSSAC

Sunday, 10 November | 09:00–10:00

Joint Session: ASO and RSSAC

Sunday, 10 November | 15:00–16:00

How It Works: RSS

Sunday, 10 November | 13:15–14:30

RSSAC Work Sessions

Monday, 11 November | 13:15–14:30, 16:30-17:30

RSSAC Meeting

Tuesday, 12 November | 13:15–14:30

RSSAC Caucus Meeting

Tuesday, 12 November | 15:00–16:30

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

What to Expect

The SSAC will host a workshop on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and Security during ICANN81. DNSSEC continues to be deployed around the world at an accelerating pace. Now that DNSSEC has become an operational norm for many registries, registrars, and Internet service providers, this workshop will provide the opportunity to hear about what the SSAC is learning as it deploys and manages DNSSEC.

The SSAC will host an educational session exploring their insights and recommendations from the recent **SAC125: Report on Registrar Nameserver Management** and **SAC126: DNSSEC Delegation Signer (DS) Record Automation**. In light of the recent ICANN Board approval of NCAP recommendations, the SSAC is also convening a panel discussion to delve into the implementation of the name collision analysis framework.

In addition, the SSAC will host several work sessions. Theytypically include work party meetings, joint sessions with other ICANN community groups, and deliberation about topics for future study. These sessions are open to the ICANN community to observe.

Background

The SSAC advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet. This includes operational matters such as those pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the root name system; administrative matters such as those pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment; and registration matters such as those pertaining to registry and registrar services like WHOIS.

How Do I Participate in the SSAC?

For information on how to participate in the SSAC, see the **SSAC Operational Procedures** and the **SSAC Introduction**.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC+3. Please refer to the ICANN81 schedule for the most current information.

DNSSEC and Security Workshop
Wednesday, 13 November | 9:00–10:00
Wednesday, 13 November | 13:15–14:30
Wednesday, 13 November | 15:00–16:00