

ICANN86 Policy Outlook Report



86

POLICY
FORUM

SEVILLE



Table of Contents

- 03 Welcome to Seville!**
- 04 Address Supporting Organization (ASO)**
- 05 Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)**
- 08 Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)**
- 11 At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)**
- 14 Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)**
- 16 Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)**
- 17 Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)**





Welcome to Seville!



The Policy Development Support team has prepared this Policy Outlook Report as a tool to support your preparation for the ICANN86 Policy Forum. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN86.

Materials such as presentations and recordings from ICANN86 Prep Week, which is being held 20–21 May 2026, will also be available for your review. I also recommend you read the briefing from our colleagues in the Global Domains and Strategy function for the latest information about policy implementation and reviews.

During ICANN86, the ICANN community will advance policy and advice work in priority areas, including the Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Mitigation Policy Development Process. There will also be a session about the ongoing Review of Reviews. During the networking reception on Tuesday, 9 June, the ICANN Board will recognize the leaders of current working groups across the ICANN community.

There will be two plenary sessions led by the ICANN community: “Current and Coming Impact of Artificial Intelligence on DNS Abuse” and “Cross-Community Dialogue on the Feasibility of a Platform for Applicant Support Program-Supported New Generic Top-Level Domains”.

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. The multistakeholder model creates policies based on consensus, which offers legitimacy and global solutions that enable our vision of “One World, One Internet.”

Thank you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to attend ICANN86 either in person or remotely. Whether you are a longtime ICANN community member, an occasional contributor, or joining us for the first time, I encourage you to take an active role.

Russ Weinstein

*Senior Vice President,
Policy Development Support*

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Regional Internet Registry Governance

CURRENT STATUS

The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) continues its work to update Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2), aiming to finish in the coming months. If approved, the RIR Governance Document would supersede and replace ICP-2. The ASO AC provided updates on its work during the recent American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) 57 meeting in Louisville, Kentucky; the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Address Registry (LACNIC) 45 meeting in Panama City, Panama; and the Réseaux IP Européens (RIPE) 92 meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. During ICANN86, the ASO AC will continue to advance its ICP-2 review work and offer an information session to provide an update about its work on Thursday, 11 June.

NEXT STEPS

ASO Address Council members will present the latest work on the RIR Governance Document during the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC) 37 meeting, 24–25 June 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.

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 in this area. 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 (IANA) 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 the communities of each RIR:

- AFRINIC
- Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
- ARIN
- LACNIC
- RIPE Network Coordination Centre

The [ASO AC](#) coordinates the global policy development work of the Internet numbers 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](#).

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Policy Development

The ccNSO is the global forum within ICANN for country code top-level domain (ccTLD) managers to meet, collaborate, and share experiences on issues relevant to ccTLDs. While the ccNSO develops global policies related to ccTLDs, policy development represents only a part of its overall work. Policy development by the ccNSO is targeted, infrequent, and narrowly scoped; it complements the broader work on technical and operational coordination, knowledge sharing, capacity-building among ccTLD managers, and engagement on broader topics such as Internet governance, security and stability, and emerging trends affecting ccTLDs.

Policies developed by the ccNSO include:

- **Policy for the Retirement of ccTLDs**

Status: In force

Provides a clear, predictable framework for the orderly retirement of a ccTLD, including principles for timing, stakeholder communication, and coordination with IANA. The ICANN Board approved the policy, which is now operational practice.

- **ccNSO Review Mechanism Policy**

Status: Implementation planning

Establishes a mechanism for ccTLD managers to request a review of certain IANA decisions relating to ccTLD delegation, transfer, and retirement, strengthening transparency and accountability.

- **Selection of IDN ccTLD Strings**

Status: ICANN Board consideration

Consists of a comprehensive framework for the selection and management of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings and their variants. The policy covers the processes for selection, delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of IDN ccTLDs, and the use of review mechanisms for related decisions. The policy builds on existing ccTLD policies and does not alter the current frameworks for delegation, transfer, revocation, or retirement.



Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Other Work

The ccNSO will host a comprehensive and diverse program during ICANN86, covering strategic, technical, industry, and community-focused topics relevant to ccTLD managers and the wider ICANN community. The program offers multiple opportunities to engage, learn, and contribute, with full details available on the [ccNSO ICANN86 workspace](#).

ccNSO GOVERNANCE AND COMMITTEE WORK

ccNSO committees and working groups will continue their ongoing activities in between ICANN Public Meetings. Some ccNSO committees will meet during ICANN86.

The week starts on Monday, 8 June with a joint session between the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee and the Meetings Programme Committee (MPC), focusing on updates to the ccNSO Meetings Guideline following the MPC effectiveness review.

Sessions during the ccNSO Members Meeting held 9 and 10 June will address DNS resilience, including regulatory developments affecting ccTLDs and how operators are responding. ccNSO groups such as TLD-OPS, the study group on the role of IANA in ccTLD disaster recovery, and the Internet Governance Liaison Committee will contribute to these discussions.

On Wednesday, 10 June, two ccNSO study groups will also report on their progress and seek input: one on the role of IANA in ccTLD disaster recovery and another on IANA public records. Their work will continue during working sessions on Thursday, 11 June.

TECH DAY: SESSIONS OF TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL FOCUS

Monday, 8 June, is dedicated to Tech Day, organized by the ccNSO Technical Working Group. Across four sessions open to the entire ICANN community, participants will explore technical, operational, and security topics relevant to ccTLD operations.

ccNSO MEMBERS MEETING

The two-day ccNSO Members Meeting starts on Tuesday, 9 June, with a welcome session and an update on ccNSO governance, its purpose and goal statement, and priorities.

The agenda includes two ccTLD News Sessions, where participants share case studies, data, and developments from different regions. 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.

The program continues with two sessions which focus on DNS resilience: One will look at global regulatory developments and their impact on ccTLDs, while another gathers input from ccTLD operators on how they are responding to these changes. These discussions include contributions from groups such as TLD-OPS, the Internet Governance Liaison Committee, and the Study Group on the role of IANA in ccTLD Disaster Recovery.

The ccNSO Members Meeting program also includes a consultation session on the progress and initial findings of two ccNSO study groups: one on IANA's role in ccTLD disaster recovery and the other on IANA's public records. Both study groups have made considerable progress and will present their preliminary findings and seek input from the ccTLD community on next steps and future direction. The feedback will help shape any potential further work.

A joint meeting between the ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) and the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Registries Stakeholder Group aims to deepen the discussion on topics of common interest such as Internet governance, DNS Abuse mitigation, and the proposed Root Server System Governance Structure.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

A session led by the ccNSO DASC will look at how ccTLDs and registrars collaboratively reduce and respond to DNS Abuse. Through practical case studies and shared experiences, attendees explore what works well, and how better coordination can improve outcomes, such as tracking abuse that moves between registrars. This session aims to build mutual understanding and practical capacity, focusing on real-world solutions rather than policy debates. With threat actors targeting all TLDs indiscriminately, this discussion is timely and relevant for anyone involved in safeguarding the DNS ecosystem.

230TH ccNSO COUNCIL MEETING

The ccNSO program concludes on Thursday, 11 June, with the ccNSO Council meeting, which is open to observers. Agenda items include upcoming priorities and input from sessions held during the week.

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). ccNSO councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO and managing the policy development process; they also 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 during ICANN Public Meetings and monthly teleconferences. All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the [ccNSO website](#).



Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Policy Development

DNS ABUSE MITIGATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS 1 WORKING GROUP

BACKGROUND

Mitigating DNS Abuse remains a priority issue within the ICANN community due to its ongoing impact on the security, stability, and resilience of the DNS. In recent years, the ICANN community has made measurable progress, including through global amendments to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement and Registry Agreement that strengthened baseline DNS Abuse mitigation obligations. Notwithstanding these developments, the GNSO Council determined that additional gaps warranted further examination in policy development processes (PDPs).

Based on [Public Comment](#) and the [Final Issue Report](#), the GNSO Council [voted](#) to initiate two PDPs on DNS Abuse Mitigation: PDP 1 on Associated Domain Checks, which convened its working group immediately, and PDP 2 on safeguards for unrestricted Application Programming Interface (API) access. PDP 2 will convene when the GNSO Council decides on an appropriate time, taking into consideration the progress made and resources needed for DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1. The GNSO Council [adopted](#) the DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 [charter](#) on 15 January 2025. The working group formed and held its first meetings during ICANN85.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

During ICANN85, the DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 Working Group held its inaugural meeting and commenced its policy work across four sessions. To support effective collaboration, attendees participated in an interactive consensus-building exercise based on the [Consensus Playbook](#), an important framework used across PDPs to guide deliberations and decision-making. Since ICANN85, the working group has been working diligently to address its charter questions and make progress in its deliberations, working toward an effective and efficient PDP timeline with weekly meetings and substantial asynchronous work. With this work and based on community input, GNSO Council accepted the [project plan](#) at its 16 April meeting with an adjusted timeline that shortened the overall length of the PDP by four months. The working group has built consensus in answering its [charter questions](#) and has progressed on the first cluster of questions on initiating an associated domain check (charter questions 1–6). As it continues with the second cluster of questions on demonstrating compliance (charter questions 7–9), it will conduct periodic reviews of human rights impact assessments and the global public interest checklist.

WHAT TO EXPECT

During ICANN86, there will be four DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 working sessions, where the working group will continue its deliberations toward an Initial Report. The working group will utilize this time to build consensus around answering its charter questions.

LATIN SCRIPT DIACRITICS PDP WORKING GROUP

BACKGROUND

The Latin Script Diacritics PDP set out to examine circumstances where a base American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) gTLD and the Latin script diacritic versions of the gTLD are not variants of each other. The working group seeks an appropriate mechanism to be in place that will allow a single gTLD registry operator to simultaneously operate both gTLDs.

The GNSO Council [initiated](#) the Latin Script Diacritics PDP on 13 November 2024, [adopting](#) the working group charter on 19 December 2024. The working group [began](#) on 8 March 2025, and the GNSO Council approved its [project plan](#) on 10 April 2025.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The Latin Script Diacritics PDP Working Group has made substantial progress. The working group published its 54 preliminary recommendations and implementation guidance on 12 January 2026. The [Initial Report](#) was available for [Public Comment](#) through 23 February 2026. The Public Comment [summary report](#) was published on 9 March 2026. During ICANN85, the working group began addressing the Public Comment submissions. Since then, it has continued its deliberations, subsequently updating its recommendations in light of Public Comment input.

WHAT TO EXPECT

During ICANN86, the PDP will hold one working session to continue its review and integration of Public Comment. Once the working group concludes its review, it plans to stabilize its policy recommendations and submit a Final Report to the GNSO Council for its consideration.

EXPEDITED PDP ON THE TEMPORARY SPECIFICATION FOR GTLD REGISTRATION DATA

BACKGROUND

On [12 March 2026](#), the ICANN Board passed a resolution not adopting the 18 pending System for Standardized Access and Disclosure (SSAD) recommendations. In its resolution, the ICANN Board noted, after reviewing input from the ICANN community, engaging with the GNSO Council Registration Data Standing Committee, and consulting the GNSO Council on the SSAD policy recommendations, that the SSAD recommendations in the Expedited PDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 Final Report were not in the best interests of the ICANN community or ICANN. The ICANN Board's non-adoption of the pending SSAD recommendations trigger the Supplemental Recommendation process as outlined in Annex A, Section 9 of the ICANN Bylaws.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The GNSO Council has begun working on Supplemental Recommendations through the SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team, which is expected to:

1. Provide supplemental recommendations on all SSAD recommendations;
2. Advise the GNSO Council on any specific questions or issues to raise during meetings with the ICANN Board concerning SSAD; and
3. Base the supplemental recommendations on the recommendation rationale provided in the GNSO Council Registration Data Standing Committee's Final Findings Report.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team will meet before ICANN86 and will have three additional meetings during ICANN86 to make significant progress on the supplemental recommendations.

Other Work

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT (SCCI)

BACKGROUND

The GNSO Council [convened](#) the Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement (SCCI) as a permanent committee on 13 November 2024 to oversee the implementation of projects related to continuous improvement that are focused on structural, procedural, and process improvements to the GNSO PDP. This is the outcome of a pilot framework known as the GNSO [Council Committee for Overseeing and Implementing Continuous Improvement \(CCOICI\)](#).

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

While the SCCI operates under the GNSO Council's supervision, its scope is not limited to GNSO Council work and extends to the broader GNSO community. For clarity, the SCCI's remit does not include projects or topics that come within the scope of policy development, which must be handled through the GNSO PDP. As necessary, the SCCI will carry out its work through dedicated task forces composed of GNSO Councilors and representatives from each GNSO Stakeholder Group and Constituency.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The SCCI is in the process of finalizing the assessment framework, as an initial stage of Phase 1 (Assessment and Prioritization Phase) for the GNSO Continuous Improvement Program (CIP).

WHAT TO EXPECT

During ICANN86, the SCCI will hold one working session to continue its work on CIP Phase 1. Following the stabilization of the assessment framework, the SCCI will develop an assessment plan for data collection.

Background

The GNSO is the policy development body responsible for generic top-level domains (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.

GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The GNSO PDP governs how the GNSO develops consensus policies related to gTLDs. A GNSO PDP lifecycle consists of different steps, including issue identification and scoping, PDP initiation, working group deliberation, GNSO Council deliberation, ICANN Board consideration, and implementation.

For more details about the steps in the PDPs, consult the information below:

- [ICANN Bylaws, Annex A](#)
- [Detailed infographic of the GNSO PDP](#)
- [GNSO PDP Manual](#)



At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Advice

POLICY

ALAC recently produced two statements:

- [ALAC Statement on the Draft Guidelines for Advancing Universal Acceptance Adoption](#) | ALAC and the At-Large community support the draft and encourage the ICANN organization to finalize it with a stronger end user emphasis.
- [ALAC Statement on the Latin Script Diacritics PDP Initial Report](#) | ALAC and the At-Large community appreciate the GNSO Council's responsiveness to concerns raised by the At-Large community and commend the working group for prioritizing consumer trust and confidence. On the other hand, ALAC and the At-Large community encourage careful attention to transparency, proportionality, and future review to ensure that gains in consumer trust and confidence are sustained without unnecessarily constraining consumer choice over time.

ALAC also submitted two letters to the ICANN Board on the topic of funding levels for the New gTLD Program 2026 Round Applicant Support Program:

- [17 April 2026](#)
- [20 March 2026](#)

During ICANN86, At-Large will hold several sessions discussing policy advice development to advance its current work. These sessions will also increase At-Large member knowledge and understanding of policy issues of interest to Internet end users:

- The **At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group** session scheduled for Tuesday, 9 June, will include an overview of current policy advice development consisting of updates from ALAC representatives on the NS Abuse Mitigation PDP1 and the System for Standardized Access and Disclosure Supplemental Recommendations Team.
- An At-Large plenary session entitled, “**Universal Acceptance as a Policy Imperative: Bridging the Gap Between Technical Readiness and Real-World Adoption**”, scheduled for Monday, 8 June, aims to explore Universal Acceptance as a policy challenge requiring coordinated action from governments, private sector actors, and the ICANN community. It will examine whether existing ICANN frameworks sufficiently promote Universal Acceptance readiness and what policy interventions are needed to accelerate adoption. The At-Large plenary session will highlight experiences from emerging markets, where lack of Universal Acceptance readiness continues to limit digital inclusion, local content development, and access to digital services.
- The **joint session between ALAC and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)**, scheduled for Tuesday, 9 June, will include a discussion of the most recent SSAC research and topics of mutual interest.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

OPERATIONS

The At-Large community recently developed six statements about operations, including:

- [Fundamental Bylaws Amendments on IANA-Related Reviews and Customer Standing Committee Charter Update](#)
- [Standard Bylaws Amendment – Transition Article on Specific Reviews](#)
- [ICANN Public Meeting Proposed Dates for Fiscal Years \(FY\) 2029–2033](#)
- [ICANN FY 2027–2031 Operating and Financial Plan, ICANN/IANA FY27 Operating Plans and Budgets](#)
- [Draft Public Technical Identifiers FY27 Operating Plan and Budget](#)
- [ICANN Office of Ombuds Framework and Process](#)

During ICANN86, At-Large will hold several sessions related to operations:

- The **At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group** will hold a session on Thursday, 11 June, which will include an update on the activities related to the ALAC CIP, the development of the ALAC FY27 strategic priorities, and an update on the Reviews of Reviews.
- An At-Large plenary entitled, “**At-Large Preparations for the 2026 Round: Comments, Objections, and Community Engagement**”, scheduled for Wednesday, 10 June, will improve the At-Large community’s understanding of the process to review the 2026 round of new gTLD string applications, with a focus on the development of ALAC procedures for filing comments and objections. This At-Large plenary session will highlight the coordination among the At-Large gTLD Applications Review Group, Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs), and ALAC. The session will also explore practical approaches enabling meaningful community participation. In addition, members of the RALOs will have an opportunity to learn how to effectively engage in reviewing applications and contribute to the At-Large review process.

Other Work

RALOs

The ongoing work of the five RALOs focuses on outreach and engagement. Current At-Large policy and operational statements are also discussed to ensure that the regional perspective is included in statements.

The RALO leaders will host an At-Large Regional Leadership Meeting on Wednesday, 10 June. Topics feature issues which require joint RALO strategies and actions, including:

- Strategic plan alignment among the RALOs
- Review of RALO outreach and engagement plans for FY27
- Updates from the ICANN organization Global Stakeholder Engagement function

The **European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO)**, as the host RALO, will hold several sessions:

- The **EURALO General Assembly**, bringing together EURALO members to review achievements and discuss strategic priorities for FY27.
- A **EURALO session with the NextGen@ICANN86 Program Participants and ICANN86 Fellows** to provide a deeper understanding of EURALO and opportunities for engagement.
- A **EURALO networking event** focused on engaging with EURALO members, ICANN86 Fellows, and NextGen@ICANN86 program participants.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

AFRICAL REGIONAL AT-LARGE ORGANIZATION (AFRALO) MEETING

AFRALO will focus on ICANN transparency and accountability. This session will serve as an opportunity to conduct structured analysis of past AFRALO statements on such topics. The aim is to develop a consolidated AFRALO perspective on next steps for improving ICANN accountability and transparency mechanisms and develop the resulting analysis into a new AFRALO statement. It is expected that the input will also contribute to the current Review of Reviews.

Background

The At-Large community consists of ALAC, five RALOs, At-Large Structures (currently 275), and individual members (currently 270). ALAC has 15 members who consider and provide advice on the work of ICANN as it relates to the interests of individual Internet users and serves as the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual Internet users.

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

Learn more about the At-Large community and how to participate on the [At-Large website](#) and [At-Large workspace](#). [Two ICANN Learn courses](#) provide additional information on how to start and sustain involvement in the At-Large community.



Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Advice

Consistent with the GAC [Strategic Plan](#) and latest [Annual Plan](#), GAC members remain actively involved in several areas of policy development, such as ensuring GAC readiness for the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round, collaborating with other ICANN community groups on policy development efforts centered on DNS Abuse, and gTLD registration data policy.

GAC READINESS FOR THE NEW GTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

- GAC members continue to work to finalize their procedures and workflows (e.g., for handling GAC Early Warnings and potential GAC Advice) in accordance with the process framework and deadlines established for the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round. GAC is planning two capacity development sessions during ICANN86 on this topic.

gTLD REGISTRATION DATA POLICY

- In its ICANN85 Communiqué, GAC highlighted several issues of importance: implementing an authentication mechanism for urgent requests to access gTLD registration data within the 24-hour deadline supported by GAC and broader ICANN community; expeditious completion of policy work on a permanent, centralized, and globally accessible mechanism to channel gTLD registration data requests; and advancing the implementation work on privacy and proxy services accreditation.
- GAC has been invited to appoint a subject matter expert and an alternate to participate in a new GNSO Council group to propose appropriate modifications to the original GNSO policy recommendations relating to a System for Standardized Access and Disclosure to gTLD registration data.
- GAC will continue to discuss topics of interest relating to access to gTLD registration data during ICANN86. It plans to invite subject matter representatives from other SO and AC groups to participate in these discussions.

DNS ABUSE MITIGATION POLICY

- Mitigating DNS Abuse remains a priority for GAC, which has appointed representatives to participate in the GNSO DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 relating to Associated Domain Checks. The GAC DNS Abuse Small Group is supporting GAC participation in the PDP.
- The GAC ICANN85 Communiqué included several issues of importance concerning DNS Abuse, including the need to address policy gaps beyond the targeted scope of the current PDP. During ICANN86, GAC will continue its discussions on these topics.

Other Work

Based on its previous advice and discussions with the ICANN Board, GAC proposed a plenary session for ICANN86 that will feature a facilitated dialogue on the feasibility of a platform for successful new gTLD applicants from the Applicant Support Program for the 2026 Round. GAC plans to participate in the dialogue along with other ICANN community groups.

GAC will also hold its regular communiqué drafting sessions during ICANN86, in preparation for issuance of its customary communiqué after each ICANN Public Meeting.

All GAC sessions are open to the ICANN community and will feature simultaneous interpretation in the six United Nations languages and Portuguese. Details regarding specific GAC sessions can be found on the [GAC ICANN86 agenda webpage](#), where all session briefings, descriptions, materials, and presentations will be published.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Background

GAC membership consists of national governments and distinct economies that are 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 184 GAC members and 41 GAC observer organizations.

The GAC provides advice on public policy aspects of ICANN's activities regarding the domain name system. GAC consensus advice has a particular status under the ICANN Bylaws: viz., such advice must be duly considered by the ICANN Board, and if the ICANN Board proposes actions that are inconsistent with GAC consensus advice, it must provide reasons for doing so and attempt to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the GAC. The ICANN Board and the GAC engage regularly, including at joint sessions during ICANN Public Meetings, to ensure that GAC advice is clear and carefully considered, and that issues of importance to governments are identified and explored well before the potential for advice materializes.

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



Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Advice

Currently, there is one active [work party](#) in the RSSAC Caucus to update “RSSAC001v2: Service Expectations of Root Server Operators” and develop RSSAC001v3. This work party will meet on Tuesday, 9 June.

RSSAC is also developing the charter for a work party on interpreting RSSAC Operational Procedures. RSSAC will discuss this on Wednesday, 10 June.

ROOT SERVER SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

In June 2018, RSSAC published a proposed governance model for the RSS and Root Server Operators (RSOs) in “RSSAC037: A Proposed Governance Model for the DNS Root Server System” (RSSAC037). RSSAC037 outlined 11 guiding principles for the RSS and proposed five functions to provide governance, accountability, and transparency for the RSS.

RSSAC concurrently published “RSSAC038: RSSAC Advisory on a Proposed Governance Model for the DNS Root Server System” (RSSAC038). In RSSAC038, the RSSAC made three recommendations for next steps to the ICANN Board.

Throughout 2019, the ICANN Board—through the Board Technical Committee (BTC)—oversaw the development of a “Concept Paper on a Community-Driven Process to Develop a Final Model Based on RSSAC037” (Concept Paper) as part of ICANN Board consideration of RSSAC037. The Concept Paper outlined an ICANN community-driven process to develop a final governance model for the RSS. The Concept Paper was in response to recommendation one from RSSAC038, which called on the ICANN Board to “initiate a process to produce a final version of the Model for implementation based on RSSAC037.” That process was the focus of the RSS Governance Working Group (GWG).

The BTC also directed ICANN org to develop a draft charter, operating procedures, and work plan for the GWG. After Public Comment, the ICANN Board convened the GWG in November 2019. By convening the GWG, the ICANN Board completed its consideration of recommendation one from RSSAC038.

In February 2026, the GWG approved and published its functional model and governance principles for the RSS. The GWG proposes a governance structure in the form of the RSS Council to perform five functions, supported by a secretariat. The GWG report also outlines a three-phase implementation plan. The GWG presented its outputs during ICANN85.

NEXT STEPS

ICANN org is analyzing the GWG outputs by assessing the feasibility of its recommendation and by developing a comparative analysis of them with RSSAC advice.

Other Work

During ICANN86, RSSAC will offer a joint open microphone session with SSAC and conduct its monthly meeting. RSSAC is also working on implementing its Continuous Improvement Program.

Background

[RSSAC](#) advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the RSS. 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 DNS 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 conduct research and produce publications on topics relevant to the mission of RSSAC. The RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee appoints members of the RSSAC Caucus. In addition, all RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus.

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Advice

SSAC currently has four active work parties.

SSAC recently launched the **DNS Transparency Work Party** and is finalizing its charter. This work party will examine enhanced data-sharing mechanisms for registries and registrars that support security researchers in studying and combating security and stability threats to the DNS.

The **DNS Abuse and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Work Party** is in the early stages of examining how AI is transforming the DNS Abuse landscape, including its potential to both enable and mitigate threats.

The **DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) Operational Considerations Work Party** is developing a report on DNSSEC implementation, functionality, and maintenance. The report will address security, operational, and infrastructure considerations for deploying DNSSEC and examine factors promoting or detracting from adoption.

The **Responsible Integration into the DNS Ecosystem Work Party** is examining integrations of third-party naming systems (such as blockchain) into the DNS. The report will discuss challenges related to the domain name lifecycle, potential DNS integrity conflicts (such as name collision), security and stability risks, and policy and governance issues.

Other Work

SSAC will hold two Lightning Talk sessions. Lightning Talks present concise, technical perspectives on current security, stability, and resiliency issues independent of ongoing SSAC studies, and include a brief question-and-answer period.

SSAC will hold a joint open microphone session with RSSAC. This interactive session invites community members to ask SSAC and RSSAC members directly about current work, past reports and recommendations, security, stability, and resiliency issues related to the Internet's naming and address allocation systems, the DNS Root Server System, or any other topics relevant to SSAC or RSSAC.

SSAC will meet jointly with ALAC, the GNSO Contracted Parties House, and the GNSO Noncommercial Stakeholder Group for bilateral discussions on topics of mutual interest.

SSAC will host the DNSSEC and Security Workshop during ICANN86. The workshop is an informational forum where DNSSEC and security experts share what they are learning as they deploy and manage DNSSEC. The workshop during ICANN86 will feature short presentations on current issues.

Background

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.

For information on how to participate in SSAC, see the [SSAC Operational Procedures](#) and the [SSAC Introduction](#).