ICANN80 Policy Outlook Report

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Welcome to ICANN80

In preparation for the ICANN80 Policy Forum, the Policy Development Support team has developed the ICANN80 Policy Outlook Report. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN80.

ICANN80 is the ninth Policy Forum. Throughout the week, the ICANN community will meet to advance policy and advice work in priority areas. There will be a plenary session about Internet governance and a recognition program for working group chairs from across the ICANN community during one of the receptions.

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 Policy Forum.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

Although members of the Internet number community will participate in sessions, the ASO will not be convening during ICANN80. The ASO conducts policy development work during Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on **mailing lists**.

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 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**.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

What to Expect

During ccNSO sessions, the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community and others with an interest in ccTLD-related matters will discuss and receive updates on topics relevant to ccTLD managers.

Tech Day – a workshop open to all ICANN community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics – will take place on Monday, 10 June.

The ccNSO schedule on Tuesday, 11 June, will start with a welcome session where ccTLDs and others will be informed about the ccNSO Activity Portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. During the ccTLD News Session, ccTLD managers from different regions will share the latest developments relevant to their respective ccTLDs. The ccNSO schedule will continue with a session where the Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) explores the impact of the amendments to the base generic top-level domain (gTLD) Registry Agreement (Base RA) and the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), and what ccTLDs could learn from it.

On Wednesday, 12 June, the ccNSO starts with a session by the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC), focusing on its work plan and promoting the use of its library and email list. The UAC will also discuss the relevance of UA Day for ccTLDs, survey outcomes, and next steps to explore UA readiness for ccTLDs. Next, during the Policy Update session, the ccTLDs present and others will be informed and consulted on various aspects of current ccNSO policy work. The ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) will explore how the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) can accelerate progress toward the United Nations (U.N.) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and what role ccTLDs can play in this pursuit. During the final session on Tuesday, the Strategic and Operational Planning Standing Committee (SOPC) will meet with the ccTLD community and relevant ICANN organization staff to discuss ccTLD-relevant aspects of the ICANN FY26–30 Strategic Plan.

On Thursday, 13 June, the ccTLD community will explore how both ccTLDs and the ICANN Registrant Program can benefit from further collaboration. The ICANN Registrant Program team has developed informational resources to educate gTLD registrants about their rights and responsibilities, the domain name ecosystem, how to navigate it, and the ICANN policies that may impact them. Furthermore, the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) is organizing a "world café" session to explore improvements to the ccNSO membership voting process. Finally, the ccNSO Council will meet. The detailed **ccNSO schedule**, including **highlights of the topics covered** and remote participation details for ICANN80, is available on the **ccNSO ICANN80 workspace**.

Background

The ccNSO is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 by and for 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 ccNSO 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**.

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.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Session Details

Session times are in UTC+2. Please refer to the ICANN80 schedule for the most current information and [ccNSO session highlights](#) for details regarding the ccNSO Members Meeting agenda, including a list of speakers, topics, and background materials.

Tech Day

Monday, 11 June | 09:00–12:15

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 ICANN80, Tech Day will focus on DNS Security Extensions, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, and other topics.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 1

Welcome Session: ccNSO Activity Portfolio for FY25–26 and Update on ICANN81 TLD-OPS Workshop
Tuesday, 11 June 2024 | 09:00–10:15

The ccNSO Council chair and Meetings Program Committee chair will welcome participants to the ccNSO Members Meeting. Moreover, participants will be informed about the ccNSO Activity Portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 and the forthcoming TLD-Ops workshop during ICANN81.

ccTLD News Session
Tuesday, 11 June 2024 | 10:45–12:15

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 provide a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share experiences, and discuss ccTLD-related matters.

DASC: gTLD Base RA and RAA Amendments and Considerations for ccTLDs
Tuesday, 11 June 2024 | 13:45–15:00

During ICANN80, the ccNSO DASC is organizing a session to explore ccTLD considerations about the amendments to the base gTLD Base RA) and the 2013 RAA.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 2

UAC: ccTLDs and UA Readiness
Wednesday, 12 June 2024 | 09:00–10:15

During ICANN80, the ccNSO UAC will facilitate a session, focusing on its work plan and promoting the use of its library and email list. The UAC will also inform the ccTLDs present on the relevance of UA Day for ccTLDs and results of surveys to date.

Universal Acceptance (UA) 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 UAC is to provide the ccTLD community with a platform to interact and share information globally and within ICANN on topics related to UA and IDNs.

Policy Update Session
Wednesday, 12 June 2024 | 13:45–15:00

In this session the ccTLDs present and others will be informed and consulted on various aspects of current ccNSO policy.

IGLC: How ccTLDs Contribute to a Better World
Wednesday, 12 June 2024 | 13:45–15:00

During ICANN80, the ccNSO IGLC is organizing a session entitled, "How ccTLDs Contribute to a Better World: In Pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals".

The goal of the session is to explore how the GDC and the WSIS+20 can accelerate progress towards the U.N. SDGs and the unique role ccTLDs can play in this pursuit. The session showcases the relevance of the SDGs to ccTLDs and the partnerships that drive progress toward their achievement.

The IGLC has been established to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet governance.

SOPC: ccTLD-relevant Aspects in the ICANN FY26-30 Strategic Plan
Wednesday, 12 June 2024 | 15:30–17:00

ICANN is expected to publish its draft FY26–30 Draft Strategic Plan in July 2024. To guide the SOPC to provide its comments on the draft Strategic Plan, the SOPC will explore with the audience aspects of the proposed strategies, which are relevant for ccTLDs.

The purpose of the SOPC is to provide input into the ICANN and Public Technical Identifiers strategic and operational planning and related budget processes that are relevant from a ccTLD or ccNSO perspective. It also coordinates, facilitates, and encourages the participation of ccTLD managers in these processes.

ccNSO Members Meeting, Day 3

Registrant Capacity Building
Thursday, 13 June 2024 | 09:00–09:35

The ICANN Registrant Program team has developed informational resources that aim to help educate registrants about their rights and responsibilities, the domain name ecosystem, how to navigate it, and the ICANN policies that may impact them. Members of the ICANN Registrant Program team and ccTLDs continue to explore how further collaboration can benefit both ccTLDs and the Registrant Program.

GRC: World Café on ccNSO Membership Voting Improvements
Thursday, 13 June 2024 | 09:35–10:15

The ccNSO GRC is organizing a World Café session to explore improvements to the ccNSO membership voting process. This session will be in person only. An online follow-up session will be scheduled before ICANN81.

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.

ccNSO Council

Thursday, 13 June 2024 | 13:45–15:00

Topics for discussion include, among others:

- Outcomes from the ccNSO session on the policy gaps in the ccTLD post-delegation processes.

- Outcomes from the World Café session on the membership voting process.

- Approval of the report to the ICANN Board on the ccNSO Policy Development Process regarding the proposed policy (Part A of the Members Report) which aims to provide a framework to ICANN and the broader community for:

    i. ithe selection of IDN ccTLD strings and variants thereof,

    ii. the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of the selected IDN ccTLD string and its variants,

    iii. the use of the review mechanism pertaining to decisions concerning the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of IDN ccTLDs.

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 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.

The GNSO Council will make progress on policy development initiatives during ICANN80:

- The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group plans to host one session to inform the broader ICANN community of its consolidated portfolio of draft recommendations from its Group 1(a), 1(b), and Group 2 deliberations, before publishing their second Initial Report for Public Comment.

- The Expedited Policy Development Process for Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP-IDNs) Working Group plans to host one session to make progress on its Phase 2 recommendations pertaining to second-level variant management, following the Public Comment on its Initial 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 that collaborated with the ICANN Board 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 worked on developing Supplemental Recommendations in respect of the non-adopted recommendations. The GNSO Council submitted the recommendations, except for Topic 24: String Similarity Evaluations, to the GNSO for consideration at its meeting on 18 April, whereby the GNSO Council **adopted** the recommendations and subsequently remanded Topic 24 to the small team for possible revision.

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.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

The working group is expected to deliver a second Initial Report covering all charter topics, including revisions to the recommendations contained in the first Initial Report. During ICANN80, the working group plans to host an informational session to share an overview of its preliminary recommendations and answer questions from the community, prior to publishing its second Initial Report for Public Comment.

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 held its first meeting on 11 August 2021. In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the **project change request** from the working group 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.

Following the Public Comment proceeding for the Phase 1 Initial Report, the EPDP-IDNs Team finalized its 69 recommendations pertaining to gTLD variant definition and management and submitted its Phase 1 Final Report to the GNSO Council on 8 November 2023. On 21 December 2023, the GNSO Council **approved** the **EPDP-IDNs Phase 1 Final Report**, including all 69 policy recommendations.

The EPDP-IDNs Team submitted a **revised timeline** to the ICANN Board on 25 July 2023, upon request, identifying all charter questions that would impact the next Applicant Guidebook (AGB). Though the two-phased approach remained unchanged, the working group shortened the Phase 2 timeline by 13 months, with the estimated delivery date of the Phase 2 Final Report in October 2024.

Consequently, the EPDP-IDNs Team completed the initial deliberation of all remaining Phase 2 charter questions through the dedicated workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This was followed by the EPDP-IDNs Team publishing its Phase 2 Initial Report for **Public Comment** on 11 April 2024.

During ICANN80, the EPDP-IDNs Team plans to host one working session on Monday, 10 June to make progress on its Phase 2 recommendations pertaining to second-level variant management, following the Public Comment on the Initial Report.

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.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

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 on developing Supplemental Recommendations, where appropriate, for the recommendations that the ICANN Board did not adopt. The small team finalized its draft Supplemental Recommendations and shared them with the ICANN community during ICANN79. The small team submitted its finalized Supplemental Recommendations to the GNSO for consideration during its meeting on 18 April, where the GNSO Council adopted the recommendations and subsequently remanded Topic 24 to the small team for possible revision.

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 ICANN80 and plans to discuss six months of metrics reports and begin identifying trends.

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.

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 meeting. The GNSO Council plans to discuss accuracy during ICANN80.

More Information
Read the GNSO Policy Briefing to prepare for ICANN80.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC -4. Please refer to the ICANN80 schedule for the most current information.

PDP Working Groups and Scoping Team Work Sessions

EPDP-IDNs
Monday, 10 June | 13:45–15:00

Transfer Policy Review PDP
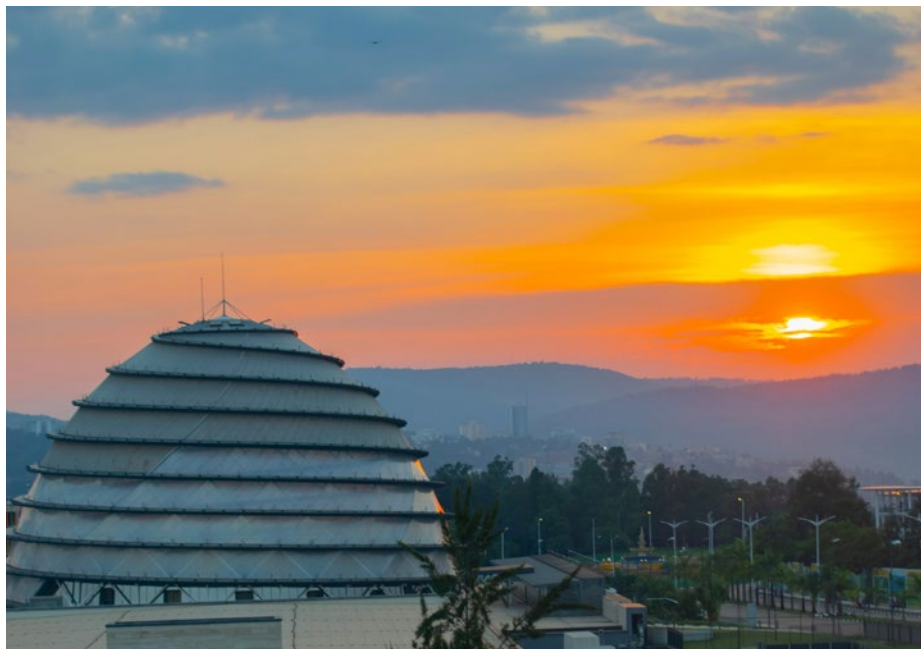**Tuesday, 11 June | 15:30–17:00**

GNSO Council Meeting

Wednesday, 12 June | 13:45–15:45

Joint Sessions

GAC and GNSO Council
Tuesday, 11 June | 09:00–10:15

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN80, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members will host 12 sessions. The sessions will include a policy topics session, two joint sessions, two sessions focused on engagement, five 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 260 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and over 160 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; outreach, engagement, and capacity building; and operations. 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

Policy Advice Sessions

- At-Large will host an **At-Large Policy Topics Session** which will include policy topics identified by the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group closer to ICANN80. This session will allow for a deeper discussion on one or two policy topics that are seen as being a priority for end users. Topics currently discussed within the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group include the Next Round Program, Transfer Policy Review, RDRS, and IDNs.

Joint Sessions

- 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 Applicant Support Program.

- The **ALAC will host a joint session with the SSAC**, which is expected to include discussions on the risk of data manipulation mentioned in the Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 Report, DNS abuse mitigation efforts, the Safer Cyber campaign, an At-Large campaign item, as well as general security and stability concerns that may impact end users.

Engagement Sessions

- **At-Large is organizing a session focusing on engaging with ICANN Fellows and NextGen participants.** As part of a new focus on developing ways to better engage with them, this session will allow for open dialogue with ICANN Fellows and NextGen participants about their interest in joining At-Large.

- **At-Large will host a session focused on how to increase the participation of At-Large structures that are also Internet Society (ISOC) chapters.** This session will be an initial discussion on how to better gather information about interest and involvement in At-Large and ICANN among ISOC chapters. Given the large number of At-Large members who are also members of their local ISOC chapters, the session aims to better facilitate the inclusion of At-Large end user interests in policy development.

Regional At-Large Organization Activities

TThe five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) have several priority activities for ICANN80.

- The RALO leaders will host one Cross-RALO Coordination Meeting during ICANN80. Topics include issues which require joint RALO strategies and actions, including:
  - Discussion about At-Large policy advice development.
  - Discussion about the RALO Partnership.
  - An opportunity to review the outcomes and implementation of FY24 strategic plans and finalize RALO plans for FY25 strategic plans.
  - Developing a unified onboarding process for new At-Large Structure (ALS) and individual members.
- AFRALO will host several sessions during ICANN80 under the theme: Empowering Africa: Bridging Digital Divides, Connecting Cultures.
  - AFRALO will host two roundtables on the following topics: "Enhancing Internet Infrastructure in Africa for an Inclusive Internet" and "Building a Multilingual Internet: Opportunities and Challenges". The roundtables will bring together AFRALO members and others from the ICANN community.
  - AFRALO will host a networking event for its members, ICANN Fellows, and ICANN community members to meet and share ideas, projects, concerns, thoughts, etc.
  - The traditional AFRALO meeting will discuss and approve a statement related to the theme of the AFRALO events. The AFRALO community will present an overview of the topic and make recommendations.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN80, the GAC is planning over 21 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:

- The next round of new gTLDs, including how to ensure a commitment from the ICANN organization to substantially reduce or eliminate the application fees and ongoing ICANN registry fees to expand financial support for applicants from underrepresented or underserved regions.

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

- DNS abuse mitigation measures.

In addition, GAC members will discuss various operational issues, including a focus on strategic planning matters that will help the GAC confirm goals and priorities for the next year and beyond.

Although not a part of GAC sessions during ICANN80, the Government of Rwanda will be hosting the sixth GAC High Level Governmental Meeting (HLGM) on Sunday, 9 June.

Capacity Development

The GAC continues to evolve its approach to capacity development with a particular emphasis on issues and topics relevant to the African region. Several onboarding and introductory webinar opportunities are available to GAC members. The GAC will also devote the afternoon of Tuesday, 11 June, to informing attendees about the issues of importance to the region and to discussing African engagement efforts in ICANN and the GAC.

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).

During ICANN80, the theme for GAC capacity building will focus on issues of importance to governments in the African region. There will be one targeted session designed to offer perspectives and enable discussion on how GAC member governments address important Internet issues in their region. A second session will focus on engagement efforts and opportunities in Africa.

Agenda

GAC sessions will begin on Monday, 10 June, with an overview of the week and introductions by all attending GAC representatives (both in person and online). Time permitting, the GAC chair will also review recent work progress and GAC accomplishments since ICANN79, including GAC correspondence, ICANN Board responses to the GAC ICANN79 Communiqué, and plans for the joint session with the ICANN Board during ICANN80. The GAC also plans joint sessions with the ALAC and GNSO Council.

Throughout ICANN80, the GAC agenda will feature 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, progress on RDS/WHOIS and data protection, and drafting of the GAC ICANN80 Communiqué.

At the conclusion of ICANN80, the nomination period will begin for GAC leadership elections to be held later this year for the positions of GAC chair and GAC vice chairs.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

High Level Governmental Meeting

HLGMs are events hosted, organized, and implemented by a GAC member government in conjunction with the GAC and ICANN. HLGMs are crucial gatherings that underscore the vital role governments play in advising the ICANN Board on public policy issues that are crucial for the secure and stable operation of the DNS.

HLGMs are intended to serve multiple purposes:

- Clarify the role of governments within ICANN processes

- Facilitate high-level discussions on current public policy challenges involving governments and ICANN

- Introduce ICANN and its mission to top administrative and elected officials, enhancing their understanding of and engagement with ICANN

- Engage governments and administrations not currently active in the GAC or ICANN

HLGM attendees typically include senior representatives from governments and international organizations, invited by the host government, with an interest in DNS policy.

The host of the ICANN80 HLGM is the Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Innovation. The HLGM chair is the Honorable Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation. This HLGM is scheduled for Sunday, 9 June. A reception for delegates and invited guests from the ICANN community will follow the HLGM.

Preliminary topics identified by the host government and GAC members for potential HLGM discussions include:

1. **Overview of ICANN and the multistakeholder model, including:**

   - Evolution of ICANN

   - The role of the GAC

   - Accomplishments of the ICANN multistakeholder community over the last 25 years

   - Emerging technologies that may impact future DNS policy development

   - A review of the HLGM agenda

2. **Cooperation and governance**
   Discussion of the future of Internet governance (e.g., Global Digital Compact, WSIS+20, Summit of the Future). This topic area will highlight the ICANN role in Internet governance and allow for discussion of topics such as cybersecurity, DNS abuse, Internet fragmentation, and the value of the single Internet. This topic area also will enable exploration of how the International Telecommunication Union, ICANN, and the U.N. can bring various policy programs together to help governments deliver on their national aspirations.

3. **Digital inclusion**
   Potential discussion of the value of an open Internet, IDNs, UA, multilingualism, the next round of new gTLDs, ccTLDs, and the development of digital economies.

4. **Supporting the development of meaningful connectivity in Africa**
   Potential discussion about meaningful connectivity initiatives in Africa and a presentation about the Coalition for Digital Africa. This may include topics such as the main challenges African countries face in terms of the digital divide and what the ICANN organization and the ICANN community are doing/can do to support African countries in the development of their national digital ecosystems.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

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 committee.

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 ICANN80 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 three RSSAC work sessions to advance its work and discuss various internal matters, including root server system security incident reporting and guidelines for changing root server addresses. The RSSAC will conduct its monthly meeting and will continue to raise awareness about its recent publications.

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 is one active work party in the RSSAC Caucus to study root server system security incident reporting.

The next RSSAC Caucus meeting will be held during IETF 120 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Session Details

Session times are in UTC +2. Please refer to the ICANN80 schedule for the most current information.

RSSAC Work Sessions
Wednesday, 12 June | 13:45–15:00
Wednesday, 12 June | 15:30–17:00
Thursday, 13 June | 10:45–12:15

RSSAC Meeting
Thursday, 13 June | 13:45–15:00

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 ICANN80. 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 Name Collisions Analysis Project (NCAP) Study 2 Report and **SAC124: SSAC Advice on Name Collision Analysis**. The SSAC is also convening a panel discussion with ICANN stakeholders to delve into DNS abuse. The session will focus on identifying current research, uncovering areas for improvement, and exploring how the SSAC can support responses from the ICANN community.

In addition, the SSAC will host several work sessions that typically include work party meetings, joint sessions with other ICANN community groups, and examining topics for future study.

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+2. Please refer to the ICANN80 schedule for the most current information.

DNSSEC and Security Workshop
Monday, 10 June | 13:45–15:00
Monday, 10 June | 15:30–17:00