Post-ICANN68 Policy Report

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A Successful **ICANN68**

We appreciate the robust engagement at the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum! Over 1,000 community members participated in more than 50 sessions organized by the Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, Stakeholder Groups, and Constituencies.

Written by the Policy Development Support team, the Post-ICANN68 Policy Report captures decisions and outcomes from the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. This report also reviews additional activities, looks to next steps, and provides resources to enable sustained engagement on important issues.

The ICANN community develops and refines policies that ensure the operational security, stability, and resiliency of the global Internet. ICANN org is proud to support consensus-driven policy and advice development by enabling efficient and effective bottom-up participation in the multistakeholder model.

In this spirit, we celebrated Olivier Crépin-Leblond as the recipient of the 2020 ICANN Community Excellence Award.

The ICANN Community Excellence Award honors members of the ICANN community who have invested in consensus-based solutions and contributed in a substantive way to policymaking within the ICANN ecosystem. **Watch an interview** with him about the honor and **hear from the Selection Panel**.

As we look ahead to the ICANN69 Virtual Annual General Meeting, we are grateful to the ICANN community for its continued commitment to collaborative planning, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Best regards,

David Olive
Senior Vice President,
Policy Development Support

DNS Abuse and Malicious Registrations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Monday, 22 June 2020 | 05:00 UTC

Agenda

In the first segment, panelists discussed developments since ICANN66, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the second segment, speakers discussed possible next steps that the ICANN community, Board, and org could take to address DNS abuse. Former ICANN Board member Bruce Tonkin moderated the plenary session.

Highlights

- Jim Galvin from the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) and Graeme Bunton from the Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) discussed the strong partnership that exists within the contracted parties to combat DNS abuse. Galvin and Bunton provided updates on the development of DNS abuse best practices since ICANN66 that focus on individual success stories and feedback from registries, registrars, and registrants. They also reflected on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Peter Van Roste from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) highlighted the increased collaboration between registrars and law enforcement to address malicious registrations.

- At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Vice Chair Jonathan Zuck provided the end-user perspective, presenting about individuals and communities who have experienced an increased number of phishing and malware attacks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Mason Cole from the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) discussed the need to hold bad actors accountable. Cole expressed this concern as the "tragedy of the commons," where everyone is incentivized to not do as much because not enough people are held accountable. He recommended the process for implementing tools to combat DNS abuse should be institutionalized as a process and memorialized in contracts.

- Jeff Bedser talked about plans in the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) to develop a set of tools and processes around how to report abuse, what information needs to go into an abuse report, and what would be considered a timely response to an abuse report.

- Brian Cimbolic from the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) noted the need for broader adoption of the Framework to Address Abuse, which several registries and registrars have signed. Cimbolic also stressed the need to incentivize good registrations and to penalize abusive registrations.

- ICANN org Chief Technology Officer David Conrad discussed how ICANN org is responding to the need for greater transparency about DNS abuse, including the refinement of the DNS Abuse Activity Reporting project. Conrad also highlighted the new DNS Security Facilitation Initiative at ICANN org, which aims to enable greater understanding of DNS ecosystem risks and mitigations by providing more information to the ICANN community.

- Laureen Kapin from the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Public Safety Working Group suggested that channels be developed to deal directly with registrars. Law enforcement needs to have the right contacts at registries and registrars in order to escalate requests and receive an immediate response.

Next Steps

Discussions about DNS abuse will continue within the ICANN community. Incremental steps that can be easily implemented are needed to make a tangible impact on combating DNS abuse. This could include a framework of contracted parties and others working in the DNS ecosystem for effective practices of abuse resolution.

The DNS and the Internet of Things: Opportunities, Risks, and Challenges

Tuesday, 23 June 2020 | **05:00 UTC**

Agenda

- Organized by the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), this plenary session explored the opportunities, risks, and challenges for the Domain Name System (DNS) and the Internet of Things (IoT) and the potential role of the ICANN community with respect to IoT applications.

- Moderated by ccNSO Vice Chair Alejandra Reynoso, the plenary session is a follow-up to both a ccNSO session during ICANN66 on the same topic and the June 2019 SSAC publication of **SAC105**, which is a report intended to trigger and facilitate dialogue in the ICANN community.

- IoT device manufacturers, Internet service providers, and DNS operators shared their perspectives, and the discussion was accessible to a wide audience and enabled broad discussion.

Highlights

- SSAC member Cristian Hesselman provided an overview of SAC105 and later offered comments from a DNS operator's perspective.

- Elliot Lear of Cisco discussed how the IoT interacts with the DNS, including encryption.

- Lise Fuhr from the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO) discussed the emergence of 5G networks.

- Philippe Fouqart of the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency, Rafik Dammak of the Non-Commercial Users Constituency, and KC Claffy of the SSAC participated in a "peer review" of the three presentations, providing critical notes or thoughts to stimulate more discussion.

Next Steps

Discussions about the DNS and the IoT in the ICANN community will continue. This is especially relevant in light of the strategic goal to "improve assessment of and responsiveness to new technologies which impact the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems by greater engagement with relevant parties" in the ICANN Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025.

Advancing Policy Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday, 25 June 2020 | 05:00 UTC

Agenda

Featuring ICANN community leaders, ICANN Board members, and ICANN org executives, this plenary session explored approaches to advancing and prioritizing policy work. ICANN org recognizes the unforeseen challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presents. Much of the ICANN community is already accustomed to conducting its work virtually. However, policy development processes and other high-profile community projects rely extensively on in-person interactions to advance discussions.

Next Steps

ICANN org will continue to work closely and proactively with the ICANN Board and ICANN community to ensure that its support continues to meet expectations and adapts to the pressures of the global public health crisis.
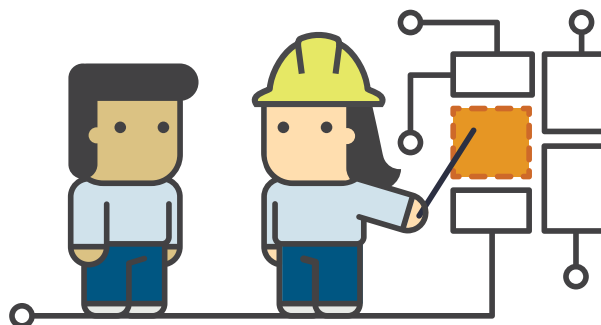
Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

The Address Supporting Organization Address Council (ASO AC) did not convene during the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum.

Next Steps

All ASO AC teleconferences are now open to observers in line with **Recommendation 15** from the 2017 ASO Organizational Review. ASO AC teleconferences normally occur at 12:00 UTC on the first Wednesday of every month. For more information, including the teleconference schedule, observer privileges, and remote participation details, read **here**.

To stay current with regional policy development activity, subscribe to a Regional Internet Registry (RIR) policy mailing list or attend an upcoming RIR meeting. The ASO conducts most of its policy development work on mailing lists and at RIR meetings.

Resource Materials

- **AFRINIC Resource Policy Discussion**
- **APNIC Policy Special Interest Group**
- **ARIN Public Policy**
- **LACNIC Politicas**
- **RIPE Address Policy Working Group**
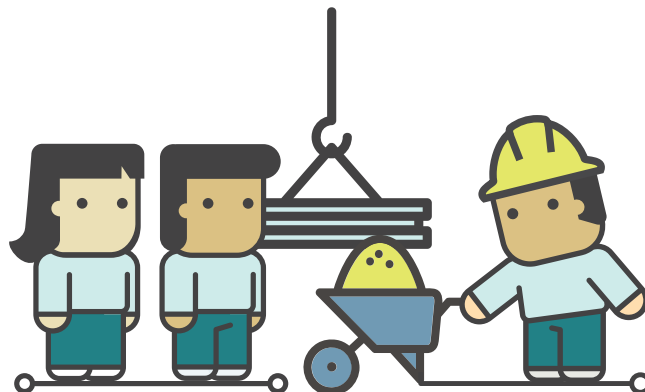
Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Decisions and Outcomes

The ccNSO adjusted its schedule to adapt to the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum. The ccNSO Council held its first virtual workshop prior to ICANN68 and its regular monthly meeting as part of ICANN68. **Tech Day** and the **ccNSO Members Meeting** were also held during ICANN68.

The ccNSO Members Meeting as part of ICANN68 focused on three sessions:

- **Governance Models of ccTLD Managers**

- **DNS in Times of COVID-19: The ccTLD Experience**

- **Question and Answer Session with ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board Members**

Other ccNSO working groups and committees followed their regular schedule and did not meet as part of ICANN68. The ccNSO working groups that did meet were the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) and the Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC), with the aim of engaging with the broader community.

During ICANN68, the ccNSO Council held a bilateral meeting with the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council. Prior to ICANN68, the ccNSO Council met with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC).

ccNSO Council meeting

The ccNSO Council conducted its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 24 June 2020. The agenda and relevant background material are available **here**, and the resolutions approved by the ccNSO Council are available **here**. Highlights of this ccNSO Council meeting include:

- **Adoption of the amended SOPC charter.** The SOPC reviewed its charter and suggested some revisions, including changes to the membership rules.

- **Adoption of RWP-Proposed Assessment & Initial Implementation Plan for the ccNSO Review.** The ccNSO Review Working Party (RWP) concluded its initial assessment of the recommendations made by the independent reviewer.

- **The ccNSO Council Nomination and Election Process for 2021.** The ccNSO Council adopted a timeline and election process, including the appointment of an election process manager. Nominations will start in September 2020, followed by elections (if needed) in November 2020.

- **Adoption of the Final Report of the Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds.** The ccNSO Council is expected to adopt the Final Report of the CCWG-AP at its August 2020 meeting.

- **Review of the first ccNSO Council Virtual Workshop.** The ccNSO Council will look back at the format of its first virtual workshop, review the results, and prepare next steps.

The next ccNSO Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20 August 2020 at 12:00 UTC.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Additional Activities

Although not all ccNSO working groups and committees met as part of ICANN68, they did continue their work according to their regular year-round schedule. A few highlights from the ccNSO working groups and committees:

Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS): Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Playbook

The TLD-OPS Standing Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and address work items ranging from process improvements to content development. The group previously created a **Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Playbook**, which serves as a basic business continuity strategy and implementation guide for small country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators.

The playbook was a success, and its publication was timely. Recent developments have provided an excellent opportunity for ccTLD managers to reflect on their recent plan activation and compare it with the playbook to see if the activation could have been handled differently. The TLD-OPS Standing Committee distributed a survey to TLD-OPS members with questions related to the playbook and in preparation for an upcoming workshop to be held during ICANN69. From an operations point of view, the TLD-OPS Standing Committee has not seen any uptick in security incidents related to COVID-19 among members on the TLD-OPS mailing list.

TLD-OPS is the incident response community for and by ccTLDs and brings together the people 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.

SOPC

The SOPC submitted its **comments** on the ICANN FY21-25 Operating and Financial Plan and the Draft PTI Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. At the end of March 2020, the SOPC held a conference call with the ICANN org Finance team to discuss the SOPC comments and possible adjustments to the ICANN FY21-25 Operating and Financial Plan in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SOPC is also reviewing its **charter**.

The purpose of the **SOPC** is to coordinate and organize participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN's strategic and operational planning processes.

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

The ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee is currently discussing the following topics:

- A ccNSO Guideline to remove ICANN Board members nominated by the ccNSO Council in accordance with the ICANN Bylaws.

- The need to simplify the many guidelines developed and adopted by the ccNSO, introduce generic procedures or wording and make available in a central location.

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 propose changes to the current guidelines to the ccNSO Council, if needed.

IGLC

The IGLC created a **selection** of sessions during ICANN68 that address Internet governance topics relevant to ccTLDs. The IGLC contributed to "The DNS in times of COVID-19: The ccTLD Experience," which was a session held as part of the ccNSO Members Meeting and focused on capacity building efforts by ccTLD managers.

For many years, ccTLD managers have been engaged in conversations and contributing to the work on Internet governance-related matters. To bring this engagement to the next level, the ccNSO created the IGLC. Per its terms of reference, the committee takes an active role in coordinating and facilitating the participation and input of ccTLD managers in Internet governance-related discussions and processes.

The focus lies on eight topics relevant to ccTLDs selected by the IGLC, namely: cybersecurity, capacity building and inclusion, digital divide, Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), local content, regulations, role of the ccTLDs as promoters of Internet Governance Forum dialogues, and technical aspects of a ccTLD. Continue to check the **IGLC workspace** for further information and updates on the activities of the ccNSO IGLC.

ccPDP3: Retirement of ccTLDs and Review Mechanisms

Phase 1: Initial Proposals for a Process to Retire ccTLDs

The third ccNSO Policy Development Process Retirement Working Group (ccPDP3-RET) is tasked with developing and proposing policy for the retirement of ccTLDs. The working group is seeking input and feedback from the broader community on its proposed process to retire a ccTLD when its country code is removed from the ISO 3166 standard list of country codes.

After closure of the Public Comment proceeding, the working group will review the submissions and take them into account while developing a final set of policy recommendations. Read more **here**.

Phase 2: Review Mechanisms

The ccPDP3 Review Mechanisms Working Group focuses on the development of a review mechanism for the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs. The group decided on a three-step approach to identify decisions that should be subject to review:

1. **Decision Points.** As part of the development of the retirement process, the ccPDP3-RET working group compiled a list of six decisions taken by the IANA Functions Operator (IFO) and the ICANN Board of Directors. Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) staff presented an overview of the **delegation and transfer process** with the aim to identify decision points.

2. **Scope.** As a next step, the working group needs to determine whether the decisions are within scope of the policy on the proposed review mechanism.

3. **Questions.** The working group is advised to discuss a set of questions, including who takes the identified decision, who and how is oversight provided, and which decisions are to be made subject to a review mechanism.

The working group is also looking at the existing set of potentially relevant dispute resolution mechanisms – ranging from the Remedial Action Process as agreed between the Customer Standing Committee (CSC) and PTI, to the ICANN Independent Review Process. For more information, go to the ccPDP3-RM workspace.

Standing Committee (CSC) and PTI, to the ICANN Independent Review Process. For more information, go to the **ccPDP3-RM workspace**.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Next Steps

ccPDP4: (De)selection of IDN ccTLD strings

The fourth ccNSO Policy Development Process aims to develop policy recommendations for the ICANN Board. In time, the results of this ccPDP will replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process, which currently guides the selection process of IDN ccTLD strings. In May 2020, the ccNSO Council adopted the **Issue Report** on IDN ccTLD strings. With the adoption of this report, the ccNSO initiated its fourth policy development process.

On Wednesday, 8 July 2020 and Thursday, 9 July 2020, the ccNSO hosted webinars to inform the community about the topics and working methods of the ccPDP4. Following these webinars, the ccNSO support team will send out a call for volunteers and will invite other stakeholders in the community to participate in the working group. Continue to check the **announcement section on the ccNSO home webpage** for further updates.

Resource Materials

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 to the ICANN Board, such as the retirement of ccTLDs. 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 responsible for managing an ISO 3166-1 ccTLD.

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

- All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the **ccNSO Council workspace**.

- Enroll in the "Introductory Course about the ccNSO." Go to **ICANN Learn**, where you can read more about the organization, practice what you have learned through quizzes, and find additional links and resources.

- Consult the **"Quick Guide to the ccNSO"** to learn more about its work and how it is organized. **Subscribe** to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed. Previous editions are available in the **archive**.

Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN68, the GNSO community organized 13 sessions, which included a series of GNSO policy development process (PDP) working group meetings, sessions devoted to Stakeholder Group and Constituency work, a GNSO Council meeting, and bilateral meetings with other ICANN community groups. Some GNSO sessions typically held in person at ICANN Public Meetings were not included in the ICANN68 schedule due to the virtual format. The work planned for these sessions will either be conducted through other channels or rescheduled to take place outside of ICANN68.

EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

The Phase 2 EPDP team did not hold sessions during ICANN68; however, the EPDP team did meet during its standard time on Tuesday, 23 June 2020 to continue working toward its Final Report. Additionally, a small team of interested EPDP team members met on Monday, 22 June to continue discussing proposed models for a mechanism for evolution (Recommendation 19). The EPDP team recently submitted a Project Change Request (PCR) to the GNSO Council, in which it asked for an extension to submit its Final Report on critical path items (e.g., System for Standardized Access/Disclosure to gTLD registration data) from 11 June to 31 July. In the coming weeks, the team aims to complete its Final Report for submission to the GNSO Council by 31 July at the latest.

The EPDP Phase 1 Implementation Review Team ("IRT") held one **meeting** on Monday, 22 June. The team provided a short update to the community regarding the status of its work. Following this update, the GNSO Council liaison to the IRT moderated a discussion on the implementation of Recommendation 7, which details the requirements for the transfer of registration data from registrars to registries.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP

As the working group prepares to publish its draft Final Report for Public Comment, it is finalizing recommendations on several of the most challenging topics in its charter. The working group held one **session** on Tuesday, 23 June 2020, which focused on obtaining community input on two topics for which the working group is still refining its recommendations.

- **Discussion of Private Auctions.** In 2012, some new gTLD applicants resolved their contention sets by mutually agreeing to participate in private auctions. These private auctions allowed applicants who participated in and lost the private auction to gain financially. Participants in the session shared different perspectives on how to reduce applications in future rounds from parties who have no intention to operate the gTLD while supporting applicants who wish to pursue creative solutions for resolving contention sets.

- **Discussion of Predictability.** The working group sought input on its draft framework to ensure that there is a predictable manner to triage issues arising from changes to the New gTLD Program after the Applicant Guidebook has been finalized. The working group discussed possible ways to address concerns that have been raised about the framework as well as the structure proposed to support the triage process: the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT).

Following ICANN68, the working group will finalize draft final recommendations, taking into consideration the input received during this session. The working group expects to publish its draft Final Report and open a Public Comment proceeding in the coming weeks.

Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs PDP

The working group's Phase 1 Initial Report was published on Wednesday, 18 March 2020 for **Public Comment**, which closed on Monday, 4 May 2020. From late May 2020, the working group started reviewing Public Comment received from fifty-five contributors in order to complete its Phase 1 recommendations. Two subgroups were formed to conduct concurrent analysis of the extensive comments for the working group's preliminary recommendations, using a **Public Comment review tool**.

During ICANN68, the working group held one working session on Tuesday, 23 June 2020. Both subgroups provided a brief update on their Public Comment review progress and reported that they were likely to finish their work ahead of schedule. The working group is expected to further deliberate on the Public Comment submission flagged by the subgroups in order to consider potential amendments or clarifications to the recommendations. During this session, the working group also started analyzing the Public Comment submissions for proposals submitted by individual working group members that did not rise to the level of preliminary recommendations. The working group completed the review of Public Comment for five individual proposals pertaining to the Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) System and determined to preserve three proposals for further deliberation and refinement in preparation for the consensus call. Additionally, the group held a regular working session during the week.

After ICANN68, the working group is expected to continue the review of Public Comment for its Initial Report. The working group's review of the Public Comment submissions may lead to consensus to 1) amend, add, and/or remove its preliminary recommendation published in this Initial Report; and 2) make final consensus recommendations on any of the individual proposals. The working group aims to deliver its Final Report on Phase 1 recommendations to the GNSO Council in mid-October 2020.

GNSO Council Meeting

The GNSO Council held a meeting on Wednesday, 24 June 2020. The GNSO Council discussed a number of items, including:

- Project Change Request and Next Steps for Priority 2 Items in relation to Phase 2 of the EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

- The Final Report from the Cross-Community Working Group on new gTLD Auction Proceeds

- The implementation obligations of the GNSO with respect to the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability Work Stream 2 outputs and what further information the GNSO Council may need as it plans for next steps

- Composition of the group responsible for selecting the Independent Review Process Standing Panel

- GNSO work prioritization, including the GNSO Council work plan and program management efforts

- Draft response to the ICANN Board regarding recommendations from the Registration Directory Service Review Team passed on to the GNSO Council

The GNSO Council also passed a resolution to request an Issue Report on the Transfer Policy.

Additional Activities

The GNSO Council and ICANN Board had a **joint meeting** focused on the following:

- Review of pending consensus policy recommendations under ICANN Board consideration, including seeking to reach a common understanding on current status, dependencies for consideration, and possible next steps.

- Update on the evolution of the multistakeholder model.

- DNS abuse, including discussing the need to level-set on what DNS abuse means, determining what other tools are needed to better combat DNS abuse, and considering how the community can develop or enhance those tools, as well as the potential role of the GNSO in those actions.

The GNSO **met** with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and discussed:

- The fourth country-code policy development process on the (de)selection of Internationalized Domain Name country-code top-level domain strings.

- Letter to the ICANN Board regarding the procedure used for adopting the FY21 Budget and Five-Year Operating Plan.

- Approval of the full membership slate of the Customer Standing Committee (CSC).

Next Steps

In the coming weeks, the GNSO Council, GNSO working groups, and cross community working groups will return to their regular meeting schedules and are expected to make further progress on the topics outlined above. GNSO community leaders and ICANN org representatives are working together to prepare for ICANN69.
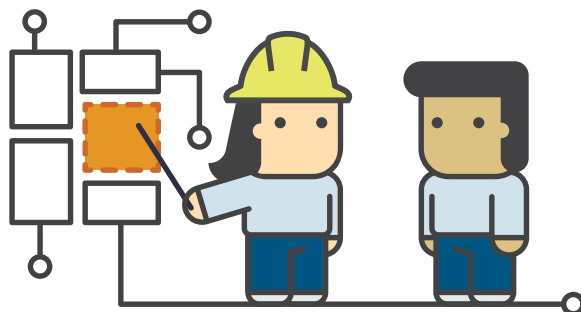
At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Decisions and Outcomes

During ICANN68, the At-Large community, including the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) members, Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) leaders, and ALAC liaisons, held 11 sessions to discuss policy issues of interest to At-Large and to individual Internet users. The At-Large community also held sessions on DNS abuse, Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and PIC Dispute Resolution Procedure (PICDRP) improvements, new generic top-level domain (gTLD) applicants, and Universal Acceptance.

During the At-Large Leadership Wrap-Up Session on Thursday, 25 June 2020, ALAC Chair Maureen Hilyard asked for ALAC endorsement of the **At-Large Review 2 Implementation Final Report to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC)**. The ALAC strongly endorsed the Final Report and submitted it to the OEC on Tuesday, 30 June 2020. The session also featured a question and answer period with the ICANN President and CEO as well as members of the ICANN Board.

Additional Activities

At-Large Policy Statements

Prior to ICANN68, the ALAC submitted 12 policy advice statements, including the first joint African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) statement. The **AFRALO and APRALO joint statement** was in response to the ICANN Middle East and Adjoining Countries (MEAC) Strategy 2021-2025. The countries that fall under the MEAC Strategy within AFRALO and APRALO provided feedback on topics including Domain Name System (DNS) security, ICANN governance, unique identifier systems, and geopolitics. AFRALO also published a **statement** regarding the ICANN regional strategies that impact countries within their RALO.

These two regional statements demonstrate increasing involvement of the RALOs in policy activity within At-Large, under the leadership of the ALAC chair and the RALO chairs. RALO involvement in At-Large policy activity will continue after ICANN68 with a planned LACRALO statement regarding the **Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025**. The drafting team has members from across LACRALO, including both current and elected LACRALO leaders.

Preparatory Sessions

To prepare for ICANN68, the ALAC and At-Large Capacity Building Working Group, held three preparatory webinars: **At-Large ICANN68 Highlights**, **DNS Abuse - An End-User Perspective**, and **Universal Acceptance: How It Affects End Users, Language Communities and ICANN At-Large**.

Policy Advice Activities, Workshops, and Discussions

At-Large Policy Sessions during ICANN68 included two sessions on DNS abuse, including **DNS Abuse, COVID-19, and End-User Issues**, moderated by ALAC Vice Chair Joanna Kulesza, and **DNS Abuse: Setting an Acceptable Threshold**, moderated by ALAC Vice Chair Jonathan Zuck. The first DNS abuse session led by Joanna Kulesza featured presentations by the ALAC liaison to the Governmental Advisory Committee on protecting individual end-user interests in the time of a pandemic as well as a discussion of how the COVID-19 pandemic is redefining multistakeholder consensus development. Joanna Kulesza presented on governments protecting individual rights and how Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) fit into the picture and concluded with a summary of the session. The second session on DNS abuse featured a discussion on data-driven enforcement, including presentations on the ICANN Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) project, what data the registrars collect, and objective measures of DNS abuse. For more information, see ALAC activity **on DNS abuse** and its **advice statement**.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Additional At-Large Policy Sessions during ICANN68 included **PICs and PICDRP: How To Get Them Right, New gTLD Applicants: Expanding the Circle**, and a session on **Aligning Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names with the Multilingual Internet: End-User Perspectives**.

The PICs and associated PICDRP session began with an introduction by Holly Raiche and included discussions on consumer expectations of PICs and PICDRP, the role of the ICANN org Compliance function in PICs, the role of PICDRP in PICs, and if the PICs system works for both applicants and end users.

The session on new gTLD applicants included an overview of the topic and presentations on challenges with the Applicant Support Program (ASP) and Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) from a not-for-profit applicant perspective and suggested improvements; challenges with the CPE and a grassroots community applicant perspective; and suggestions to boost the interest and participation of less conventional community entities in applying for and securing niche community TLDs. The session culminated on what prerequisites for and better results of the ASP could look like, as well as identifying key policy recommendations aimed at improving the ASP. The session ended with a presentation on the CPE and the At-Large interest in interventions for improving the chances of less conventional applicants in securing niche community TLDs through CPE.

The Universal Acceptance session began with a discussion about challenges in African communities, the European experience with Universal Acceptance, Universal Acceptance adoption by industry, and support required from At-Large. The session then explored opportunities and challenges of Universal Acceptance and the multilingual Internet and concluded with addressing Universal Acceptance readiness through analysis, training, and remediation. The session provided a global end-user perspective and discussion among Universal Acceptance Ambassadors at the grassroots level.

The **Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting during ICANN68** was held on Tuesday, 23 June 2020. The participants discussed the draft AFRALO-AfrICANN statement, "**Enhancing the resilience of the ICANN community in the face of calamities**," sharing the concerns and perspectives of the African ICANN community. The statement offers suggestions to the ICANN Board and org, such as providing the necessary means to achieve robust remote participation to maintain the engagement and work of the African ICANN community in times of crisis.

The **At-Large Regional Leadership Meeting** was held on Wednesday, 24 June 2020. This meeting included a number of discussions of regional importance. The **At-Large Review 2 Implementation Final Report to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC)** was presented to the At-Large Regional Leaders as many of the issues impact the At-Large regions. The results of the **Post-ATLAS III Survey Analysis and Recommendations Report** were also discussed, which included recommendations related to policy, capacity building, outreach and engagement, and operations and communications based on the results of feedback from the participants of the third At-Large Summit.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

At-Large Outreach and Engagement Activities

The At-Large Social Media Working Group (SMWG) held its regular ICANN Public Meeting **Twitter Competition**. The At-Large community members posted photos of themselves attending ICANN68 sessions from their location and shared it using the #ALAC68 hashtag. The **top three winners of the competition** received the most retweets and likes on Twitter:

Winner - Sébastien Bachollet, European At-Large Regional Organization (EURALO) Chair

Second place - Satish Babu, APRALO Chair

Third place - Sarah Kiden, AFRALO Secretariat

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Next Steps

The **At-Large CPWG** will hold **teleconferences about the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Policy Development Process** in preparation for a Public Comment proceeding later this year. The CPWG SubPro Small Team organizes these sessions and gives weekly presentations to the CPWG on the topic. The CPWG also concluded an At-Large geographic names survey, the results of which will be used to determine At-Large consensus on the topic.

Leading up to the ICANN69 Virtual Annual General Meeting, the At-Large community will develop ICANN Learn courses and a webpage for the ten end-user issues in the At-Large Policy Platform. At-Large leadership position descriptions and the At-Large communications strategy will be developed as well.

In addition, the **At-Large Structure (ALS) Mobilization Working Party** is expected to conclude its work and make a recommendation to the ALAC on what needs to be done to allow the full implementation of changes in support of ALS participation in At-Large, in accordance with the plans proposed under Issue #2 of the At-Large Organizational Review. An Individuals Mobilization Working Party, under the leadership of Roberto Gaetano, will soon begin work, and the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group will continue its **series of webinars**.

Additional information on At-Large activities at ICANN68 is available on the **At-Large ICANN68 Workspace**.

Resource Materials

At-Large Policy Statements

- At-Large activity on **Universal Acceptance**
- **At-Large Policy Sessions at ICANN Public Meetings**
- **Membership**
- **Policy Summary**

At-Large Workspace

- **At-Large Governance**
- **At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group**
- **ALAC Policy Advice Development**

At-Large Outreach

- **Facebook**
- **Twitter**
- **YouTube**
- **ALAC Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee (O&E SC)**
- **At-Large Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG)**
- **At-Large Social Media Working Group (SMWG)**

Decisions and Outcomes

The GAC leveraged the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum to conduct over 11 hours of sessions on substantive and operational topics of interest and another six hours devoted to GAC Communiqué drafting discussions. That work culminated in the publishing of the **ICANN68 GAC Communiqué** on Saturday, 27 June 2020.

Although the GAC did not develop specific consensus advice for the ICANN Board during ICANN68, it provided information in its Communiqué on a number of issues of importance to the GAC, including subsequent procedures for new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on gTLD registration data (detailing topics of high interest to the GAC such as the need for evolution of any proposed system for standardized access/disclosure, the distinction between natural and legal entities, data accuracy, data controllership, and anonymized emails), DNS abuse, international governmental organization (IGO) protections, and implementation of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability Work Stream 2 recommendations. The Communiqué also included follow-up on previous GAC advice regarding the GNSO EPDP on gTLD registration data.

Additional Activities

The GAC was able to tailor its agenda to priority GAC topics while maintaining flexibility for GAC participants to connect to other activities during ICANN68. Compared with the ICANN67 program, the GAC was able to increase the number of its meeting sessions by 20% and slightly increase the time devoted to the GAC plenary program at ICANN68, while maintaining adequate time for discussions needed to develop the GAC Communiqué.

To accommodate the virtual meeting format, the GAC shifted some working group activities and several bilateral meetings with other communities away from the four-day meeting schedule. GAC members were also encouraged to participate in (and took advantage of) **ICANN68 Prep Sessions** to help them prepare for ICANN68. As a result, some meetings or potential sessions were held two weeks before the actual dates of ICANN68 and others are being planned to take place after ICANN68.

This scheduling approach enabled GAC members to conduct extensive discussions of new gTLD subsequent procedures (three sessions), DNS abuse mitigation (two sessions), and WHOIS and data protection policy issues throughout ICANN68. Additional sessions gave GAC members the opportunity to discuss implementation of the Work Stream 2 recommendations and recent developments regarding rights protection mechanisms for IGOs.

The GAC was also able to conduct its session with the ICANN Board at ICANN68 during which a number of topics were discussed including:

- New gTLD subsequent procedures
- DNS abuse mitigation and related issues associated with
  - Privacy/proxy services
  - Proactive anti-abuse measures
  - Accuracy of gTLD registration data
- Domain name Registration Directory Service and data protection
- Upcoming topics of GAC Interest

For the first time, the ICANN Board responses to GAC questions were made available in the transcript of the joint GAC-ICANN Board meeting that was appended to the GAC Communiqué.

By closely managing the timing of the various ICANN68 sessions, GAC members were also given the opportunity to participate in over four hours of plenary discussions and a focused GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Working Group session.

Each day during the meeting, the GAC chair conducted an update call for those members who found it difficult to participate due to time zone issues. Those updates provided information about sessions held the previous day and offered a preview of sessions and topics expected for the day ahead.

Building on the ICANN67 experience, the GAC was very pleased to take advantage of ICANN org's ability to provide real-time interpretation services for all GAC plenary sessions in all six United Nations languages plus Portuguese. Usage of the interpretation services at ICANN68 greatly increased over the ICANN67 experience.
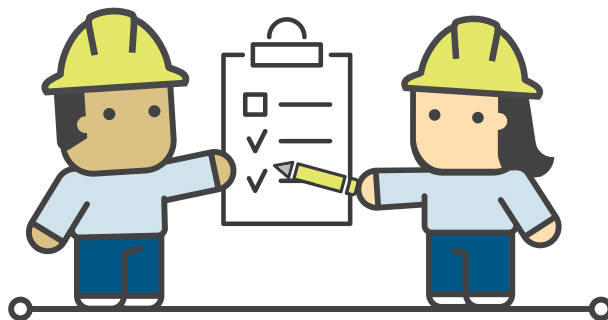
Next Steps

The GAC will continue its ICANN68 discussions with the expectation that Public Comment proceedings will soon open on both new gTLD subsequent procedures and the GNSO EPDP Phase 2. The GAC also hopes to engage further with the GNSO on the new Consensus Playbook

The GAC will also be working on Public Comment proceedings regarding recommendations of the Final Report of the Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds, recommendations set forth in the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) Final Report, and the latest developments on Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model.

Resource Materials

There are currently 178 member countries and territories and 38 observer organizations in the GAC. Of those, representatives from 76 members and three observers participated in the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum. More information about GAC sessions during ICANN68, including pre-meeting briefings, slide decks, and links to session transcripts and recordings can be found **here**.

The Root Server System Advisory Committee did not convene during the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum.

Next Steps

The **RSSAC Caucus** is comprised of Domain Name System (DNS) experts who have an interest in the Root Server System (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 appoints RSSAC Caucus members through the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee. In addition, all RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus. Currently, there are over 100 members of the RSSAC Caucus from more than 20 countries.

Currently, there are two active **work parties** in the RSSAC Caucus studying:

- Tools to gather a local perspective of the Root Server System.
- Effects and mitigations of a rogue root server operator.

The next RSSAC Caucus meeting will be conducted virtually on 21 July 2020.

Resource Materials

- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **RSSAC Meeting Minutes**
- **RSSAC Publications**
- **RSSAC Webpage**
- **RSSAC Work Plan**
- **RSSAC Caucus Webpage**
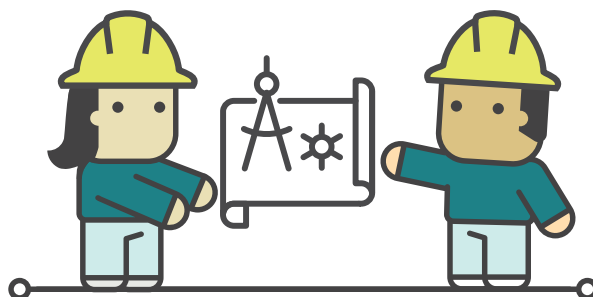
Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Activities

The SSAC held its regular **Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and Security Workshop** at ICANN68. This session was a public presentation and discussion with those actively engaged in DNSSEC deployment and other Internet security issues. Registries, registrars, Internet service providers (ISP), and others who plan to deploy DNSSEC services benefited from the presentation and discussion of the deployment experience. Anyone with an interest in the deployment of DNSSEC – particularly registry, registrar, and ISP employees with technical, operational, and strategic planning roles – may want to review the materials.

The DNSSEC Workshop has been a part of ICANN Public Meetings for several years and has provided a forum for both experienced and new people to meet, present, and discuss current and future DNSSEC deployments. Recently the workshop changed its name to the DNSSEC and Security Workshop to address a broader range of topics including; DNS over TLS/ DNS over HTTPS (DoT/DoH) impacts and potential abuses, impacts of Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) deployments, Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) hijacking and other Internet-related routing issues

The DNSSEC and Security workshop included:

- Regional panel discussion on DNSSEC deployment

- Presentation from IANA on Key Signing Key (KSK) Rollover Updates

- Presentation on Open Standards Everywhere

- Presentation on the LocalRoot project

- Panel discussion on DNSSEC Provisioning

The SSAC held a **public meeting** and presented summaries of the following documents published since ICANN67:

- **SAC109: The Implications of DNS over HTTPS and DNS over TLS**

- **SAC110: SSAC Comments on the Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2) Review Team Draft Report**

- **SAC111: SSAC Comment on the Initial Report of the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 Expedited Policy Development Process**

The SSAC also provided updates on topics currently under examination by the SSAC, including DNS abuse, private-use TLDs, and the ongoing work of the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. This also included updates on ongoing work on SSAC projects including the Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP) and the Scan of Threats to Internet Naming and Addressing.

Next Steps

The DNSSEC and Security Workshop Program Committee will shortly begin work on the planning of the DNSSEC and Security Workshop to be held during ICANN69. The SSAC also will continue the development of reports, advisories, and comments on a range of topics and will prepare a public presentation of its recent activities for ICANN69.

Resource Materials

- **DNSSEC and Security Workshop materials**

Information about the SSAC and how to participate:

- **SSAC Operational Procedures**

- **SSAC Introduction**

- **SSAC website**

- **SSAC publications**