

Pre-ICANN68 Policy Report



ICANN|68
VIRTUAL POLICY FORUM

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Welcome to ICANN68



Welcome to the first virtual Policy Forum! I am pleased to present the Pre-ICANN68 Policy Report written by the Policy Development Support team. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN68.

ICANN68 is the fifth Policy Forum. The Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees have taken the lead in organizing the program for the four-day meeting. The meeting will feature plenary sessions exploring DNS abuse and malicious registrations, the DNS and the Internet of Things, and how to advance policy work amid the pandemic. A community selection panel will also announce the recipient of the ICANN Community Excellence Award.

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 to all of 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, I encourage you to actively engage in this meeting.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

David Olive
Senior Vice President,
Policy Development Support

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

Although several members of the Internet number community including Address Supporting Organization Address Council (ASO AC) members will participate in ICANN68 virtual sessions, the ASO will not be convening during ICANN68. The ASO conducts policy development work at Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on mailing lists.

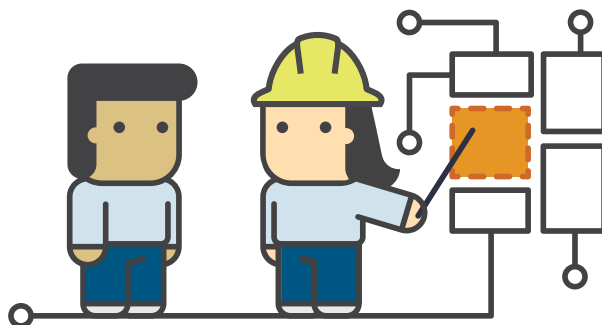
Background

The ASO is defined in a [2019 Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU), affirming the relationship between the names and numbers communities. The 2019 MoU replaces the 2004 MoU and addresses multiple recommendations from the 2017 Organizational Review of the ASO.

The purpose of the ASO is to review recommendations on global Internet Protocol (IP) address policy and to advise the ICANN Board. The ASO does not develop policies relating to Internet number resources but rather ensures that the policy development process has been correctly followed in each Regional Internet Registry (RIR) community: African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN), Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC), and Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC).

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 IANA or any other external ICANN-related body in order to be implemented.” The [ASO Address Council](#) (ASO AC) coordinates the global policy development work of the Internet number community and appoints members to the ICANN Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, and other ICANN groups.

The ASO AC consists of 15 members, three from each RIR. For 2020, Aftab Siddiqui serves as chair; Kevin Blumberg and Jorge Villa serve as vice chairs. They represent the APNIC, ARIN, and LACNIC regions, respectively. All ASO AC teleconferences are now open to observers in line with [Recommendation 15](#) from the 2017 ASO Organizational Review. ASO AC teleconferences take place 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](#).



Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

What to Expect

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) program begins on Monday, 22 June with [Tech Day](#), a workshop open to all community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics.

The [ccNSO Members Meeting](#) consists of three sessions and starts on Tuesday, 23 June with a session focusing on governance models for ccTLD managers. The program continues on Wednesday, 24 June with presentations and discussions about ccTLDs' experience with the COVID-19 pandemic. The final session of the ccNSO Members Meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 June when ccNSO members and the broader ccTLD community will be able to participate in a question and answer session with the ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members.

The [ccNSO Council](#) will meet on Wednesday, 24 June 2020, followed by a meeting by the Internet Governance Liaison Committee ([IGLC](#)). The Strategic and Operational Planning Committee ([SOPC](#)) will meet on Thursday, 25 June.

The detailed ccNSO schedule, including a summary of the topics covered and remote participation details for ICANN68, is available on the ccNSO ICANN68 workspace.

Background

The [ccNSO](#) is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 for and by ccTLD managers, the ccNSO develops and recommends global policies 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, 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 Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the [ccNSO Council workspace](#).

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](#).

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in local time (UTC+8). Please refer to the [ICANN68 schedule](#) for the most current information.

Tech Day

Monday, 22 June | 15:00-17:30

Since 2006, [Tech Day](#) has been part of ICANN Public Meetings. It provides a forum for both experienced people and newcomers to meet and to present and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. During ICANN68, Tech Day will focus on DNSSEC and other topics.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

The DNS and the Internet of Things

Tuesday, 23 June | 07:00-08:30

The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) published [SAC105](#), a report on the interplay between the Domain Name System (DNS) and the Internet of Things (IoT). Unlike typical SSAC publications, SAC105 does not provide particular recommendations to the ICANN Board, but instead, it is informative in nature and is intended to trigger and facilitate dialogue in the broader ICANN community. The ccNSO and the SSAC are organizing a plenary session to enable community members to discuss and advance their thinking on the interplay of the DNS and the IoT. This is a follow-up from the ICANN66 ccNSO Members Meeting. The intention of this plenary session will be on providing attendees a high-level understanding of the opportunities, risks, and challenges for the DNS and the IoT industries, as well as the potential role of the ICANN community with respect to IoT applications.

ccNSO Members Meeting

Tuesday, 23 June; Wednesday, 24 June; and Thursday, 25 June

Session times during the ccNSO Members Meeting are subject to change. Please refer to the [ccNSO Members Meeting workspace](#) for the most current information, including detailed agendas, a summary of the topics covered, and remote participation details.

Governance Models for ccTLD Managers

Tuesday, 23 June | 15:00-17:30

Presenters will introduce the four ccTLD governance models (not-for-profit organization, for-profit company, academic institution, and governmental institution) followed by a presentation and discussion on the benefits and risks for each of these models.

DNS in Times of COVID-19: The ccTLD Experience

Wednesday, 24 June | 08:30-11:00

The first part of this session focuses on the operational impact of COVID-19 on ccTLD managers, including shelter and work from home arrangements and capacity building. Part 2 of this session focuses on DNS abuse, the involvement and pressure by external parties, and how ccTLD managers deal with these pressures in comparison with other TLDs.

Question and Answer Session with the ccNSO-Appointed ICANN Board Members

Thursday, 25 June | 16:30-17:30

The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members, Chris Disspain and Nigel Roberts as well as Patricio Poblete (who replaces Chris Disspain after ICANN69) have been invited to attend a virtual question and answer session. ICANN Board members with a long association to the ccTLD community, Becky Burr, Danko Jevtović, and Lito Ibarra, have also been invited to attend. The session will be moderated by ccNSO member Jordan Carter (.nz).

ccNSO Council Meeting

Wednesday, 24 June | 15:00-16:00

Topics the ccNSO Council will discuss will be made available on the [ccNSO Council workspace](#) closer to the meeting.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

What to Expect

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is the policymaking 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 together these different stakeholders, as well as other parts of the ICANN community, to develop gTLD policy recommendations using a bottom-up, multistakeholder process driven by working groups and teams consisting of community volunteers.

One important area of ongoing work for the GNSO and the broader ICANN community is the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The EPDP Team is currently reviewing community input on the Phase 2 Initial Report and will consider these comments when developing its Final Report. The EPDP Team is not planning to meet during ICANN68, although the work plan is subject to change.

Other GNSO policy development process (PDP) working groups will hold sessions to advance their efforts. The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group plans to publish a draft final report and open a Public Comment around ICANN68. It looks forward to engaging with the community on its draft final recommendations. The Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs PDP Working Group has been focusing on reviewing the Public Comments on its Phase 1 Initial Report. It is expected to provide an update on its progress during ICANN68.

Moreover, progress continues on PDP 3.0, an important GNSO Council initiative focusing on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the GNSO PDPs. The GNSO Council is in the process of deploying the 14 PDP 3.0 improvements based on their respective time frames. Prior to ICANN68, the [Consensus Playbook](#), a work product originating from the PDP 3.0 initiative, was published for the ICANN community to reference and exclusively use in support of ICANN-related work.

During ICANN68, the GNSO will engage with the ICANN Board and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) to discuss topics of common interest in joint sessions. All ICANN community members are welcome to attend and observe the different PDP working group sessions, as well as the GNSO Council and the GNSO community sessions.

Background

EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data to allow contracted parties to comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements while also complying with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The adoption of the Temporary Specification triggered the requirement for the GNSO to complete a consensus PDP within a one-year period.

On 19 July 2018, the GNSO Council initiated the EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The EPDP is being conducted in two phases. Phase 1 aimed to decide whether the Temporary Specification should be confirmed by 25 May 2019. Phase 2 examines a number of remaining issues including a standardized access model to nonpublic registration data.

Phase 1 of the EPDP concluded last year. An [Implementation Review Team](#) (IRT) is tasked with implementing the [ICANN Board-approved](#) Phase 1 policy recommendations. Since April 2019, the EPDP Team has been busy conducting its Phase 2 work. The [scope](#) includes: Deliberation on the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure to Non-Public Registration Data (SSAD); Issues noted in the [Annex to the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#); and Issues deferred from Phase 1.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

On 7 February 2020, the EPDP Team published its [Phase 2 Initial Report](#), which included proposed building blocks and policy principles of the SSAD. It published an [Addendum to its Initial Report](#) on 26 March 2020, which included preliminary recommendations and conclusions on issues deferred from Phase 1, such as legal vs. natural persons, redaction of city field, etc. The EPDP Team is now carefully reviewing community input to consider when developing final responses to charter questions, final recommendations, and implementation guidance in its final report.

The EPDP Team is not planning to meet during ICANN68, but its work plan is subject to change. Those interested in the implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 recommendations are welcome to attend the IRT session on Monday, 22 June as it continues to discuss the draft gTLD Registration Data Policy.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group convened on 22 February 2016. Over the course of several years, it has convened several subgroups and undertaken extensive deliberations on the long list of topics in this working group's charter. The work has included numerous opportunities for community input, including the publication of its [Initial Report](#) for Public Comment on 3 July 2018, a [Supplemental Initial Report](#) on October 2018, and an [additional report](#) from the PDP's Work Track 5, devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top-level.

The working group reviewed all of the community input received in detail and has spent the majority of 2020 refining its draft final recommendations to be included in a draft final report. Recommendations include seeking resolution on topics where open issues remain, such as closed generics, string contention resolution mechanisms, and a predictability framework.

The working group will package a draft of the final recommendations and questions into a draft final report, which will be published for Public Comment to draw attention to new aspects and soliciting new information. These draft final recommendations and questions will form the basis for discussions at ICANN68.

At ICANN68, the working group is set to meet on Tuesday, 23 June 2020. They also expect to meet at one of its normally rotating times on Thursday, 25 June, where it will at a minimum allow observers. It will continue reviewing draft final recommendations and seek resolution for outstanding topics.

Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP

The GNSO Council initiated the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP on 18 February 2016 and chartered the working group in March 2016. This PDP is being conducted in two phases: Phase 1 covers all the RPMs applicable to gTLDs launched under the 2012 New gTLD Program.

The working group began its Phase 1 work with reviewing the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure (TM-PDDRP), which was completed in late 2016. From October 2018 to October 2019, the working group sequentially completed its initial review of the Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) dispute resolution procedure, Sunrise and Trademark Claims services, and the structure and scope of the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH). At the ICANN67 meeting in March 2020, the working group completed the review of the draft Phase 1 Initial Report.

The Phase 1 Initial Report was published on 18 March 2020 for [Public Comment](#), which was closed on 4 May 2020. From late May 2020, the working group started reviewing the Public Comments received from fifty-five contributors in order to complete its Phase 1 recommendations. Two subteams were formed to conduct concurrent analysis of the extensive comments using a [Public Comment review tool](#).

At ICANN68, the working group is expected to provide an update on its Public Comment review progress during its public session on Tuesday, 23 June. The working group also expects to hold a regular meeting during the ICANN68 week to continue advancing its work.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms

In April 2019, the GNSO Council **voted** to approve recommendations 1-4 in the **Final Report** of the International Governmental Organization and International Non-Governmental Organization (IGO-INGO) Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP Working Group. The GNSO Council also resolved to not approve Recommendation 5 and directed the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP to consider whether an appropriate policy solution can be developed that is generally consistent with Recommendations 1-4. After engaging in dialogue with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and INGOs, the GNSO Council adopted an **addendum** to the charter of the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP to initiate a separate work track focusing solely on the deliberation of IGO issues. The GNSO Council has prepared to issue a call for members and observers and conduct an Expressions of Interest process to identify a single work track chair. However, the GNSO Council has deferred these actions due to recent concerns about community capacity to initiate new substantive work.

PDP 3.0

The PDP 3.0 initiative started in 2018, when over the course of several discussions, the GNSO Council identified a number of challenges and possible improvements related to GNSO PDP working groups.

On 24 October 2018, the GNSO Council **resolved** to provide full support to 14 improvements to GNSO PDPs, concerning consensus building, project management, and expectations for working group leaders and members. The GNSO Council also agreed to trial some of the improvements in the EPDP Team in advance of other GNSO PDP working groups.

In January 2019, the GNSO Council formed a **small team** of councilors to support the implementation efforts. The small team met regularly between April 2019 and February 2020. As part of the implementation efforts, the ICANN org also contracted an external vendor to develop a Consensus Playbook, a work product originated from a PDP 3.0 improvement.

On 20 February 2020, the GNSO Council adopted the **Final Report** of the PDP 3.0 implementation, which included all work products associated with the 14 improvements, as well as additional proposals such as a revised PDP working group charter template and suggested updates to the GNSO Operating Procedures. Since then, the GNSO Council has been in the process of deploying the PDP 3.0 improvements based on their respective time frames.

In April 2020, the **Consensus Playbook** was published. It aims to provide the community with practical tools and best practices for building consensus, bridging differences, and breaking deadlocks within ICANN processes. The Consensus Playbook was developed with community-wide applicability in mind, drawing on engagement with leaders across the community. While it has already been widely distributed across Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SOs and ACs), additional opportunities are anticipated for the ICANN community to discuss the contents and practical utility of the playbook.

As a next step, the GNSO Council plans to provide an update to the community about the deployment of PDP 3.0 improvements. The outcomes of the PDP 3.0 initiative may inform the ICANN community's continuing discussions and subsequent work related to the Evolution of the Multistakeholder Model.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Policy Scoping and Other Projects

In April 2020, the GNSO Council received [recommendations](#) from a scoping team, which was tasked to advise the GNSO Council on how to approach further policy work on the Transfer Policy. The GNSO Council will review and discuss these recommendations.

The GNSO Council has been conducting a variety of additional projects and activities, including addressing a multitude of issues related to the Registration Directory Service, as well as prioritizing its upcoming policy work, such as the Transfer Policy and Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) variant management. [Learn more](#).

More Information

To help you prepare for ICANN68, read the [GNSO Policy Briefing](#). This document provides you detailed information about GNSO PDP working groups and other GNSO policy-related activities, including GNSO co-chartered cross-community working groups and PDP implementation review teams. The GNSO Policy Webinar will be held on Wednesday, 17 June at 12:00-13:30 UTC and will provide an in-depth review of major GNSO PDPs.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in local time (UTC+8). Please refer to the [ICANN68 schedule](#) for the most current information.

PDP Working Group Meetings

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP

Tuesday, 23 June | 08:30-09:30

Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP

Tuesday, 23 June | 10:00-11:30

GNSO Council Meeting

Wednesday, 24 June | 13:00-15:00

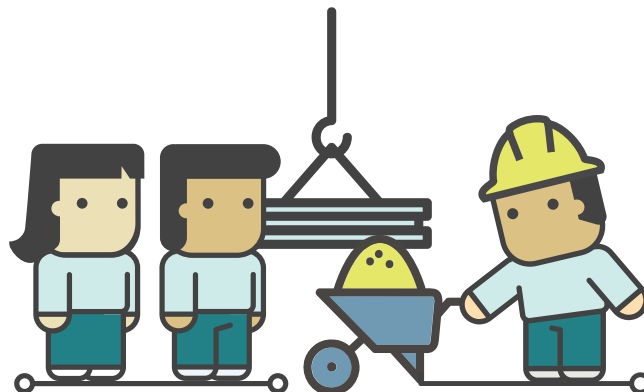
Joint Meetings

Meeting with ICANN Board

Wednesday, 24 June | 15:30-16:30

Meeting with ccNSO

Wednesday, 24 June | 11:30-12:30



At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN68, the At-Large community, including the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) members, Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) leaders, and ALAC liaisons, will hold 11 sessions to discuss policy issues of interest to At-Large and to individual Internet users. The At-Large community will also hold several 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.

Background

At-Large Policy Advice Activities, Workshops, and Discussions

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 within At-Large and an [AFRALO statement](#) regarding ICANN regional strategies impacting countries within their RALO. 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. These two regional statements demonstrate increasing involvement of the RALOs in policy activity within At-Large, under the leadership of ALAC chair, Maureen Hilyard, and the RALO chairs.

The [At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#), led by co-chairs Jonathan Zuck and Olivier Crepin-Leblond, held [several single-issue teleconferences about New gTLD Subsequent Procedures \(SubPro\) PDP](#) in preparation for a Public Comment proceeding later this year. The CPWG SubPro Small Team, led by ALAC member Justine Chew, organized these sessions and gave 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.

For more information regarding ALAC and At-Large policy comments and advice, please visit the [At-Large Website Policy Summary](#) and [ALAC Executive Summaries](#).

ICANN68 Activities

Prior to ICANN68, the ALAC and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) held two leadership teleconferences to coordinate on issues of joint interest, [including the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures \(SubPro\) PDP](#) and Phase 2 of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The ALAC and GAC leadership agreed to hold an additional call to further intersessional collaboration around ICANN meetings.

During ICANN68, At-Large will host a total of 11 sessions. The welcome session on Monday, 22 June will include a discussion of the At-Large ICANN68 talking points and a review At-Large policy objectives. At-Large will hold several policy-related sessions:

- PICs and PICDRP: How to Get Them Right?
- DNS Abuse, COVID-19, and End User Issues
- New gTLD Applicants: Expanding the Circle
- Universal Acceptance

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Given that the issue of DNS abuse is an important concern for At-Large, there will be two sessions devoted to this topic. The first will be a session focused on DNS abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic focusing on end user issues. The second DNS abuse session is a cross-community collaboration to discuss a more defined role for ICANN-accredited registrars with regards to DNS abuse, which is one of the recommendations from the [ALAC Advice statement](#). For more information, see [At-Large activity on DNS abuse](#). The Universal Acceptance session will emphasize the involvement of stakeholders from the host region, as the topic of Universal Acceptance is of particular interest within APRALO.

The At-Large Leadership wrap-up session on Thursday, 25 June will address any outstanding issues. At-Large members will meet with ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby, ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman, and members of the ICANN Board. [An At-Large Regional Leadership Meeting is also being planned, involving leadership from across the 5 RALOs.](#)

Additional information on At-Large activities at ICANN68 is available on the [At-Large ICANN68 workspace](#).

Policy Involvement

[The ALAC will have a brief update during ICANN68 on the evolution of the At-Large Policy Platform.](#) The platform includes ten topics identified by At-Large which can potentially impact Internet end users. The list of key topics was determined by ALAC and within the various regions. The key topics include:

1. Universal Acceptance
2. DNS abuse
3. Human rights
4. Consumer protection
5. Jurisdiction
6. Internet governance
7. More domains
8. Transparency and accountability
9. At-Large partners
10. End-user concerns

This platform guides both post-ATLAS III activities and the At-Large Review Implementation of Issue 2, focused on improving the engagement of At-Large Structures (ALSes) and individuals.

Capacity Development

As a part of its ongoing capacity development plan, the [At-Large Capacity Building Working Group \(CBWG\)](#) has created three subgroups: ICANN Learn Policy Development Course Team, the At-Large Onboarding Slide Deck Team, and a Webinars Team. The CBWG created an [At-Large Capacity Building and Resources Dashboard](#) that outlines the series of ICANN Learn courses, videos, and other policy engagement tools that are being developed. The CBWG [2020 series of At-Large webinars](#) remains ongoing.

Outreach and Engagement Activities

The At-Large community consists of over 243 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and 134 individuals in the five RALOs. Ahead of ICANN68, members of the [Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement](#) worked on several activities to plan for FY21 with a focus on COVID-19 and the adaptations ALAC will need to make in regards to project work plans and activities. A [Participation Toolkit Resource Workspace](#) includes key information for At-Large members' activities related to outreach and engagement. In addition, the RALOs finalized their FY21 Regional Strategic Outreach Plans, working in collaboration with Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) and the At-Large support team.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

At-Large Operations

The At-Large Review Implementation (ARI) Working Group focused on further implementation of the eight Issues within the ARI. The ARI Final Report will be submitted to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee by the end of June. The ALS Mobilization Working Party, which will focus on Issue 2 related to the increased effectiveness of ALSes and individuals in At-Large policy advice development, continued its work on the review of ALS expectations. [Learn more.](#)

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in local time (UTC+8). Please refer to the [ICANN68 schedule](#) for the most current information.

At-Large Policy Sessions

[PICs and PICDRP: How to Get Them Right?](#)

Monday, 22 June | 10:00-11:30

[DNS Abuse, COVID-19, and End User Issues](#)

Monday, 22 June | 13:30-14:30

[New gTLD Applicants: Expanding the Circle](#)

Tuesday, 23 June | 15:00-16:30

[Activating on Universal Acceptance](#)

Thursday, 25 June | 10:30-12:00

Regional and Outreach Sessions

[At-Large Regional Leadership Meeting](#)

Tuesday, 23 June | 08:30-09:30

[Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting](#)

Wednesday, 24 June | 16:30-17:30



Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

What to Expect

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) plans to leverage resources and the virtual format of the ICANN68 Policy Forum to conduct almost 20 hours of substantive discussions on topics and issues of priority interest to government participants.

For 2020, the GAC leadership and membership identified a number of key topics that demand priority attention. These topics include subsequent procedures for potential new rounds of generic top-level domains; WHOIS and data protection policy, including Phase 2 of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data; Domain Name System (DNS) abuse mitigation measures; and rights protection mechanisms for intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). The GAC ICANN68 schedule will feature discussions of these various topics.

Building on a successful ICANN67, the GAC schedule will enable participants to devote time to both GAC-specific sessions as well as cross-community discussions on a number of GAC priority topics including new gTLD subsequent procedures and rights protection management. Feedback from participants during ICANN67 confirmed the value of this scheduling approach as it will provide for GAC-focused time followed by community discussions that can then lead to follow-up internal conversations and planning.

Expanding the Scope of the GAC Interactions

Building on experience from ICANN67, the GAC has expanded the scope of its meeting interactions to include community dialogues on targeted “bilateral” calls and meetings both before and after ICANN68. This more expansive consideration of bilateral community interactions will allow the GAC to concentrate on direct internal member discussions during ICANN68 and enable the committee to conduct more fulsome information exchanges with other communities (e.g., the ALAC, ccNSO, and GNSO) both before and after ICANN68. An interesting consequence of these bilateral exchanges is that they may lead to expanded intersessional collaboration between the GAC and other ICANN community groups throughout the year.

The Regular GAC Meeting Agenda

In addition to the substantial focus on subsequent procedures for new gTLDs (a topic GAC members have focused substantial energies on since ICANN67), the GAC regular public meeting agenda for ICANN68 features a number of other substantive topics and work efforts including planning and developments regarding implementation of accountability recommendations from Work Stream 2, focused discussions on DNS abuse mitigation, follow-up on recent developments regarding WHOIS and data protection matters, drafting of the GAC ICANN68 Communiqué, and interactions with the ICANN Board.

The GAC chair will report to the GAC on recent work progress and accomplishments since ICANN67. Certain GAC working groups will update the full committee on their recent efforts and plans for further work the rest of the year. The ICANN org GAC support team will also brief the GAC on the GAC leadership nomination period and other election planning considerations.

Each day during ICANN67, GAC leadership held an update call with those GAC members who found it difficult to participate remotely due to time zone issues. Those updates were highly valued by participants who attended the meeting from different time zones. With ICANN68 taking place in the Kuala Lumpur time zone, those update calls for GAC members will again be scheduled in order to provide basic information about sessions held the previous day and to offer a preview of sessions and topics expected for the day ahead.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Background

The GAC provides advice on the public policy aspects of ICANN's responsibilities with regard to the DNS. The GAC is not strictly a decision-making body but advises ICANN on issues that are within its scope. 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.

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. This includes the United Nations (UN) agencies with a direct interest in global Internet governance such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). There are currently 178 GAC members and 38 GAC observer organizations

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

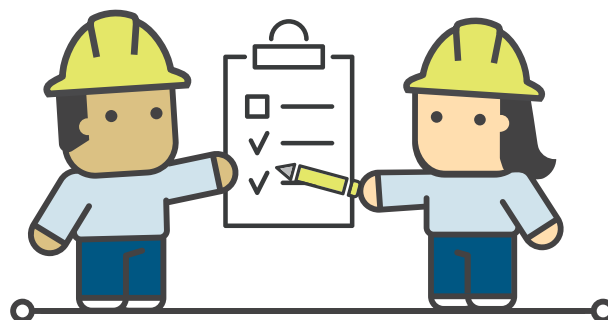
Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in local time (UTC+8). Please refer to the [ICANN68 schedule](#) for the most current information.

GAC plenary sessions will start on the morning of Monday, 22 June and are scheduled to go until Thursday, 25 June. The GAC will take active part in plenary sessions scheduled during the week. The GAC has worked to integrate its agenda with those plenary sessions as much as possible. More details regarding particular GAC plenary sessions can be found on the [GAC ICANN68 schedule page](#) where all session briefing, materials, and presentations will be published.

All GAC plenary sessions will be open to the entire ICANN community. For the first time, each GAC session will feature simultaneous remote interpretation in the six UN languages plus Portuguese. The GAC is excited that ICANN org has offered this capability for ICANN68, and the experience will be closely monitored to gauge its technical effectiveness for use during future meetings.

The GAC principle of openness will be particularly evident during the Communiqué drafting sessions scheduled for Wednesday, 24 June and Thursday, 25 June. The GAC devoted considerable time to Communiqué drafting during ICANN67. Based on that successful experience, the GAC has scheduled over five hours of drafting time during ICANN68.



Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

What to Expect

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) members will participate in ICANN68 and contribute to some of the sessions including the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) Workshop. The RSSAC will not host any sessions during ICANN68.

Background

The [RSSAC](#) advises the ICANN community and ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Root Server System (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.

In 2014, the RSSAC launched the RSSAC Caucus. The [RSSAC Caucus](#) is comprised 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 perform research and produce publications on topics relevant to the mission of the RSSAC.

The RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee appoints members of the RSSAC Caucus. In addition, all RSSAC members are members of the RSSAC Caucus. Currently, there are two active [work parties](#) in the RSSAC Caucus studying:

- Tool to Gather a Local Perspective of the Root Server System
- Effects and Mitigations of a Rogue Root Server Operator

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

What to Expect

The SSAC will hold a workshop on DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and security during ICANN68. 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, come hear about what they are learning as they deploy and manage DNSSEC.

The SSAC recently published three documents:

- [SAC109: The Implications of DNS over HTTPS \(DoH\) and DNS over TLS \(DoT\)](#)
- [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 \(EPDP\)](#)

SAC109 includes a comparison of DoH and DoT and explores the implications of these technologies for several different groups of stakeholders. In SAC110, the SSAC responded to the Public Comment proceeding on the Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review (SSR2) Draft Report, which included comments on the overall methodology of the report as well as specific comments on its recommendations. In SAC111, the SSAC provided comments on the EPDP Phase 2 Report and recommendations; the SSAC also made four recommendations to the EPDP Team and GNSO Council.

Background

What is the SSAC?

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

How does the SSAC operate?

The SSAC produces reports, advisories, and comments on a range of topics. Reports are longer, substantive documents, which usually take several months to develop. Advisories are shorter documents produced more quickly to provide timely advice to the community. Comments are responses to reports or other documents prepared by others (e.g. ICANN org, Supporting Organizations, other Advisory Committees, and other groups outside of ICANN). The SSAC considers matters pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the Root Name System, to address allocation and Internet number assignment, and to registry and registrar services such as WHOIS. The SSAC also tracks and assesses threats and risks to the Internet naming and address allocation services. For more information, please visit the [SSAC website](#).

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

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DNSSEC and Security Workshop

Monday, 22 June | 10:00-12:30

This session is a public presentation and discussion with those actively engaged in the deployment of DNSSEC. Registries, registrars, ISPs, and others who plan to deploy DNSSEC services will benefit from the presentation and discussion of the deployment experience. Anyone with an interest in the deployment of DNSSEC and these new topics, particularly registry, registrar, and ISP employees with technical, operational, and strategic planning roles may want to attend.

The original DNSSEC Workshop has been a part of ICANN Public Meetings for many years and has provided a forum for both experienced and new people to meet, present, and discuss current and future DNSSEC deployments. The new DNSSEC and Security Workshop has added a focus on security to address various emerging security-related issues such as 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.

