

ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

SC Name: GNSO's ICANN Budget and Operations Townhall

Section I: Group Identification

Chartering Organization(s): Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council and Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies

Charter Approval Date: [TBD]

Name of committee Chair/Co-Chairs: N/A

Name(s) of Appointed Liaison(s): N/A

Committee Workspace URL: <https://community.icann.org/display/GCSCOIBOP>

Committee Mailing List: <http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/gnso-sc-budget/>

GNSO Council Resolution:

Title:	Adopt the revised charter for the GNSO Budget and Operations Townhall (BOT)
Ref # & Link:	TBD

Important Document Links: Not applicable

Section II: Mission, Purpose, and Deliverables

Mission & Scope:

The task of the GNSO's ICANN Budget and Operations Townhall (BOT) is to coordinate and facilitate dialogue to fully understand ICANN's strategic and operational planning and budgetary processes, in particular in preparation for the annual budgetary public comments cycle.

The scope of activities will be limited to serving as an open, central forum ("townhall") for the GNSO Council and all SG/Cs interested to collaborate as necessary with respect to ICANN's strategic and operational planning and budgetary processes. The primary purpose will be to interface with ICANN Finance to gather information and ask questions as needed. In doing so, interested members will be empowered to aid in knowledge transfer and dissemination between and to the various GNSO groups.

Secondarily, the townhall will also serve as a forum as needed to discuss budgetary topics of mutual interest amongst the GNSO Council and SG/Cs. Lastly, the townhall may also coordinate in the development of public comments by the constituent bodies (i.e., GNSO Council or SG/Cs) if applicable (e.g., if there is broad support to submit a comment that is in relation to the GNSO's role as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community).

It is also critically important to note what is NOT in scope for the townhall:

- It will NOT prevent the GNSO Council or any SG/C from meeting individually in order to develop its public comment.
- It will also NOT develop a singular GNSO public comment; the Council and SG/Cs MUST retain the ability to submit individual public comments.

Membership of the townhall is open to any interested GNSO members

Objectives & Goals:

Interface with ICANN Finance in a coordinated and efficient manner to gather information and ask questions as needed. In meeting with ICANN Finance, the members will help with help knowledge transfer and dissemination between and to the various GNSO groups.

Deliverables & Timeframes:

As this townhall is only intended to serve as an open discussion forum regarding ICANN's strategic and operational planning and budgetary processes, no deliverables are anticipated.

Section III: Formation, Staffing, and Organization

Membership Criteria:

Membership of the townhall is open to any interested GNSO members.

Group Formation, Dependencies, & Dissolution:

The BOT will be a committee, only in the sense that there will be a mailing list maintained, with membership evolving as members elect to join or depart. This townhall will be chartered by the GNSO Council via an approved motion. Prior to every budgetary cycle, the GNSO Secretariat should circulate a 'Call For Volunteers' to SG/C leadership to confirm continuing interest by existing participants or solicit for new interest.

GNSO Council Liaison:

The GNSO Council shall appoint one (1) Liaison who is accountable to the GNSO. The GNSO Council Liaison must be a member of the Council and will facilitate the BOT. The GNSO Council Liaison shall only be considered a facilitator of the group, where necessary, rather than a Chair with formal decision-making responsibilities.

Review of Charter and Activities:

A review of this charter and activities will take place when considered necessary, for instance when the general ICANN process will change and affects the charter.

Staff Support:

The ICANN staff assigned to the townhall will fully support the work of the townhall as necessary, including meeting support, document drafting, editing and distribution and other substantive contributions when deemed appropriate.

Staff assignments to the townhall:

- GNSO Secretariat
- ICANN policy staff members

Statements of Interest (SOI) Guidelines:

Each member of the BOT is required to submit an SOI in accordance with Section 5 of the GNSO Operating Procedures.

Section IV: Rules of Engagement

Decision-Making Methodologies:

The townhall is not intended to be tasked with executing on deliverables and therefore, should not be required to perform consensus calls on any outputs; as such, decision-making methodologies are not applicable.

Status Reporting:

The Council liaison to the townhall will report through email to the GNSO Council as needed.

Problem/Issue Escalation & Resolution Processes:

{Note: the following material was extracted from Sections 3.4, 3.5, and 3.7 of the Working Group Guidelines and may be modified by the Chartering Organization at its discretion}

The townhall will adhere to [ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior](#) as documented in Section F of the ICANN Accountability and Transparency Frameworks and Principles, January 2008.

If a townhall member feels that these standards are being abused, the affected party should appeal first to the Council Liaison and, if unsatisfactorily resolved, to the Chair of the Chartering Organization or their designated representative. It is important to emphasize that expressed disagreement is not, by itself, grounds for abusive behavior. It should also be taken into account that as a result of cultural differences and language barriers, statements may appear disrespectful or inappropriate to some but are not necessarily intended as such. However, it is expected that townhall members make every effort to respect the principles outlined in ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior as referenced above.

The Council Liaison is empowered to restrict the participation of someone who seriously disrupts the townhall. Any such restriction will be reviewed by the Chartering Organization. Generally, the participant should first be warned privately, and then warned publicly before such a restriction is put into place. In extreme circumstances, this requirement may be bypassed.

Any townhall member that believes that his/her contributions are being systematically ignored or discounted or wants to appeal a decision of the townhall should first discuss the circumstances with the townhall Council Liaison. In the event that the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the townhall member should request an opportunity to discuss the situation with the Chair of the Chartering Organization or their designated representative.

In addition, if any member of the townhall is of the opinion that someone is not performing their role according to the criteria outlined in this Charter, the same appeals process may be invoked.

Closure:

The townhall will close upon an approved motion by the GNSO Council if it determines that it is no longer effective or required.

Section V: Charter Document History

Version	Date	Description
v0.6.2	5 Dec 2017	Import of draft into standard GNSO template and content edits
V1.0	21 Dec 2017	Update of header after GNSO Council approach
V1.1	28 Oct 2018	Updated to reflect permanent charter and leadership updates.

V2.0	24 Jan 2023	Reduced scope of the SCBO (to be referred to as the BOT going forward) and conversion to an open forum
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