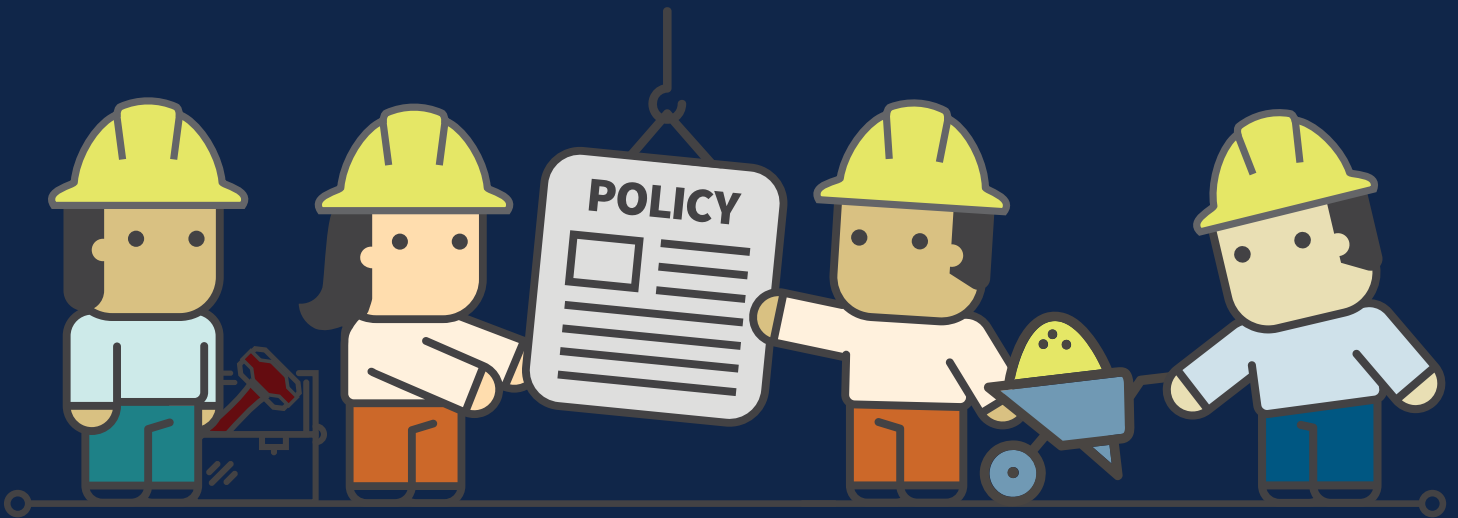


ICANN70 Policy Outlook Report



ICANN|70
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

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Welcome to ICANN70



I am pleased to present the ICANN70 Policy Outlook Report written by the Policy Development Support function. This report provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees during ICANN70.

The ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum is a gathering of the ICANN community, ICANN Board, and ICANN organization. ICANN70 will feature two plenary sessions selected by the ICANN community, a Public Forum, and a public meeting of the ICANN Board. Throughout the week, the ICANN community will meet to advance policy and advice work in priority areas. There will also be joint meetings between various ICANN community groups and the ICANN Board.

A global community of stakeholders with different backgrounds and points of view help coordinate and support the unique identifiers of the Internet. The Internet functions for everyone because everyone is invited to help make it work. Consensus policies developed through the multistakeholder model are highly effective and have the greatest legitimacy.

Thank you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to engage in ICANN70. No matter if you are an ICANN Public Meeting regular, an occasional participant, or a newcomer, I encourage you to actively contribute to this virtual meeting.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David", written in a cursive style.

David Olive
Senior Vice President,
Policy Development Support

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What to Expect

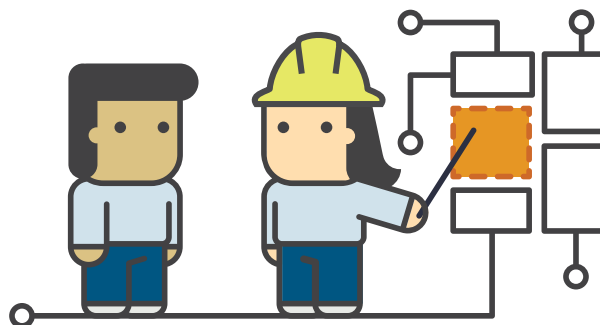
Although several members of the Internet number community, including Address Supporting Organization Address Council (ASO AC) members, will participate in sessions, the ASO will not be convening during ICANN70. The ASO conducts policy development work at Regional Internet Registry (RIR) meetings and on mailing lists. For more information, please refer to the [latest ASO AC update](#) about regional policy development.

Background

The ASO is defined in a [2019 Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU), affirming the relationship between the names and numbers communities. The purpose of the ASO is to review recommendations on global Internet Protocol (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 2021, Kevin Blumberg serves as Chair; Hervé Clément and Mike Silber serve as Vice Chairs. They represent the ARIN, RIPE NCC, and AFRINIC regions, respectively. ASO AC monthly teleconferences are open to observers and 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 starts on Monday, 22 March with [Tech Day](#), a workshop open to all community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics.

On Tuesday, 23 March, the first session of the ccNSO Members Meeting will focus on governance of the ccNSO, and the second session will provide members with the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with ccTLD-associated ICANN Board members. On Wednesday, 24 March, a session on ccTLDs and the future will feature panel discussions on related challenges and opportunities. Finally, on Thursday, 25 March, there will be a meeting of the Internet Governance Liaison Committee ([IGLC](#)) on the topic of digital sovereignty, followed by a [ccNSO Council](#) meeting.

The detailed ccNSO schedule, including a summary of the topics covered and remote participation details for ICANN70, is available on the ccNSO [ICANN70 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.

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 UTC-5. Please refer to the [ICANN70 schedule](#) for the most current information.

Tech Day

Monday, 22 March | 09:00-16:00

Since 2006, [Tech Day](#) has been part of ICANN Public Meetings. It provides a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet, present, and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. During ICANN70, Tech Day will focus on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and other topics.

ccNSO Members Meeting

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, and a summary of the topics covered.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Governance of the ccNSO

Tuesday, 23 March | 10:30-12:00

The ccNSO has evolved since its creation in 2003. Its membership has grown from slightly over 40 members to 172 members, and while the ccNSO started as a Supporting Organization with a limited scope and mandate, it is now one of the five Decisional Participants in the Empowered Community. The goal of this session is to review (and update if needed) the governance structure of the ccNSO.

In addition, the [internal rules](#) of the ccNSO have not been updated since their adoption in 2004. They no longer reflect the evolved roles and responsibilities of the ccNSO Council and ccNSO membership. The focus of these discussions will be on ccNSO decision-making processes, roles, and interaction between the ccNSO Council and ccNSO Members. The results of the session will provide the basis for further work on these topics by the ccNSO Council and the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC).

Question and Answer Session with ccTLD-associated ICANN Board Members

Tuesday, 23 March | 16:30-17:30

The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members, Patricio Poblete and Nigel Roberts, have been invited to attend a question and answer session and to share their experiences as ICANN Board members. Other ICANN Board members with an association to the ccTLD community, including Becky Burr, Danko Jevtović, and Lito Ibarra, have also been invited to attend.

ccTLDs and the Future

Wednesday, 24 March | 14:30-17:30

ccTLD stakeholders expect their ccTLDs to be resilient and future-proof. The keynote address in part 1 of this session will explore the properties needed to protect and enhance the future of the Internet. ccTLDs from various regions will look to the future: What do they see as major developments and how do they address them? During the second part of the session, the audience and panelists are invited to share their views on making ccTLDs future-proof.

IGLC

Thursday, 25 March | 09:00-10:00

The IGLC coordinates, facilitates, and increases the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet governance. Join us for a session on the topic of digital sovereignty.

ccNSO Council meeting

Thursday, 25 March | 17:30-19:00

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

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

What to Expect

The 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.

ICANN70 marks a time of transition for the GNSO, with several policy development processes reaching their conclusion. Many members in the community are closely following the work of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, which concluded Phase 2 of its work after GNSO Council adoption of its Final Report in September 2020. Following the closure of the Public Comment proceeding on the Priority 2 topics identified in the Final Report in January 2021, the ICANN Board will consider these topics. The ICANN Board will launch an operational assessment known as the Operational Design Phase (ODP) prior to its consideration of the recommendations related to the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) to nonpublic gTLD registration data.

In January 2021, the GNSO Council approved the Phase 1 final recommendations produced by the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs PDP Working Group. In February 2021, the GNSO Council considered hundreds of final affirmations, recommendations, and implementation guidance (collectively referred to as “outputs”) produced by the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group. The GNSO Council adopted all of those outputs that achieved full consensus, or consensus support, from the working group. These three now concluded PDPs will be an important area of community focus during ICANN70.

The GNSO Council is planning for new initiatives, cataloguing the portfolio of GNSO work, and assessing how that pipeline of work can be effectively managed and executed. The GNSO Council started the EPDP Phase 2A, launched an Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) Work Track, initiated a PDP to review the Transfer Policy, and supported policy efforts related to Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). Additional sessions are anticipated during ICANN70 to support some of these new efforts.

Furthermore, progress continues on PDP 3.0, an important GNSO Council initiative focusing on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the GNSO PDPs. As the GNSO Council scopes and initiates new GNSO policy development efforts, it is actively applying PDP 3.0 improvements to the design of this work. Following discussion during its annual Strategic Planning Session, the GNSO Council is exploring a framework for continuous improvement with implications for PDP 3.0.

During ICANN70, the GNSO Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, 24 March. The GNSO will also meet with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), ICANN Board, and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). Due to the condensed format of this virtual ICANN Public Meeting, the session with the ccNSO will occur prior to ICANN70 and the session with the ICANN Board will take place following ICANN70. 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.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

On 19 July 2018, the GNSO Council initiated the two-phased EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. Phase 1 aimed to decide whether the Temporary Specification should be confirmed by 25 May 2019. Phase 2 focused on the discussion of a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) to nonpublic gTLD registration data, as well as additional topics held over from Phase 1.

Phase 1 of the EPDP concluded in March 2019. An [Implementation Review Team](#) (IRT) is tasked with implementing the [ICANN Board-approved](#) Phase 1 policy recommendations. Phase 2 work concluded with GNSO Council [adoption](#) of its recommendations in September 2020. The EPDP Phase 2 Final Report sets recommendations for the SSAD as well as recommendations and conclusions for the so-called “Priority 2” topics (e.g. data retention, city field redaction).

As part of its approval, the GNSO Council agreed to request a consultation with the ICANN Board to discuss the financial sustainability of the SSAD and some of the concerns expressed within the different minority statements, including whether a further cost-benefit analysis should be conducted before the ICANN Board considers all SSAD-related recommendations for adoption.

As the requested consultation related only to SSAD-related recommendations, the ICANN Board opted to consider the Priority 2 recommendations separately, and conducted a [Public Comment proceeding](#) on those recommendations from December 2020 to January 2021. Prior to ICANN70, the GNSO Council held an initial consultation with the ICANN Board regarding the SSAD-related recommendations before the ICANN Board launches the ODP.

Following the request from some EPDP Team members, the GNSO Council asked the EPDP Team to further consider two topics: (1) the differentiation of legal vs. natural persons’ registration data and (2) the feasibility of unique contacts to have a uniform anonymized email address. As a result, the EPDP Team is currently reviewing these topics in [Phase 2A](#) of its work, which is shorter in duration than the first two phases. The team has been meeting regularly since December 2020 and anticipates publishing its Initial Report in May 2021. During the GNSO Council public meeting during ICANN70, the chair of EPDP Phase 2A will present an update on progress thus far and the likelihood to reach consensus on the two topics.

While the EPDP Team is not planning to meet during ICANN70, those interested in the implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 recommendations are welcome to attend the IRT session on Thursday, 25 March, since it will discuss the draft gTLD Registration Data Policy.

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group began its work on 22 February 2016. Over the course of several years, it convened several subgroups and undertook extensive deliberations on the long list of topics in the working group’s charter. This work included numerous opportunities for community input, including Public Comment periods on its [Initial Report](#), [Supplemental Initial Report](#), [Additional Supplemental Initial Report from the PDP’s Work Track 5](#), and [Draft Final Report](#).

The working group submitted its [Final Report](#) to the GNSO Council for its consideration on 18 January 2021. It put forward more than 300 outputs under 41 topics. Only two outputs did not receive consensus or full consensus support from the working group. On 28 January 2021, the PDP co-chairs hosted a [webinar](#) for the GNSO Council to provide a detailed review of these outputs.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously [approved](#) the outputs achieving consensus or full consensus contained in the PDP Final Report. The GNSO Council also requested that the ICANN Board initiate an ODP on the PDP Final Report and requested that ICANN org convene an IRT to implement PDP outputs.

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

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 has two phases: Phase 1 reviewed all the RPMs applicable to gTLDs launched under the 2012 New gTLD Program. Phase 2 will focus on reviewing the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which has been an ICANN Consensus Policy since 1999.

The working group published its Phase 1 Initial Report on 18 March 2020 for [Public Comment](#). From late May to September 2020, the working group reviewed the Public Comments received from 55 contributors in order to finalize its Phase 1 recommendations. The working group also developed its final recommendations by taking into account the outcome of other policy efforts, such as the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review Team (CCT-RT) and the Wave 1 Report of the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation #27.

On 24 November 2020, the working group submitted its [Phase 1 Final Report](#), which contains a total of 35 final recommendations to the GNSO Council for its consideration. The working group classified its recommendations into three categories: 1) recommendations for new policies and procedures; 2) recommendations to modify existing operational practice; and 3) recommendations to maintain status quo. The working group also put forward an overarching data collection final recommendation, aiming at addressing data-related gaps. Thirty-four recommendations received full consensus support and one (1) recommendation received consensus support from the working group.

Prior to its vote, the GNSO Council held a [webinar](#) to discuss the details of all these recommendations. On 21 January 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously [approved](#) the Phase 1 Final Report. On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council agreed to send the [Recommendations Report](#) to the ICANN Board of Directors for its review of all Phase 1 final recommendations. A Public Comment proceeding will be held to support ICANN Board consideration of these recommendations.

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 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. In September 2020, the GNSO Council conducted an Expression of Interest process for the IGO work track Chair and issued a call for volunteers to the various community groups to assign members. Since December 2020, the Chair has been identified and the membership has been established. The work track met for the first time on 22 February 2021.

New Policy Initiatives

Over the past several years, the GNSO Council has devoted significant effort to cataloguing the portfolio of GNSO work and assessing how that work can be effectively managed. Focusing on priorities identified through this effort, the GNSO Council:

- Initiated a PDP to review the Transfer Policy
- Supported the initiation of an operational work track to address the impacts from the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Guidelines 4.0
- Convened an EPDP charter drafting team to facilitate the launch of a policy work track to address the impacts from the IDN variant TLD recommendations

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Transfer Policy

Following receipt and review of the ICANN org [Transfer Policy Status Report \(TPSR\)](#), the GNSO Council agreed to establish a Transfer Policy Review Scoping Team. The scoping team provided its [Initial Scoping Paper](#) to the GNSO Council in April 2020, recommending the GNSO Council initiate a PDP, or series of PDPs, as applicable, for policy work on issues with the Transfer Policy that the scoping team identifies. On 23 June 2020, the GNSO Council requested a Preliminary Issue Report on the issues identified in the Initial Scoping Paper. The [Preliminary Issue Report](#) was published for [Public Comment](#) on 12 October 2020. The report was updated following Public Comment and submitted a [Final Issue Report](#) to the GNSO Council on 12 January 2021.

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council [initiated](#) a two-phase PDP to review the Transfer Policy. This PDP is tasked to determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers. As recommended in the Final Issue Report, this PDP is to address the following topics in sequence: Form of Authorization and AuthInfo Codes (Phase 1A); change of registrant (Phase 1B); transfer emergency action contact and reversing inter-registrar transfers, Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy, NACKing transfers, and ICANN-approved transfers (Phase 2). As a next step, the GNSO Council will finalize and approve the charter for this PDP.

IDNs

In August 2020, following the adoption of the IDN Scoping Team [Final Report](#), the GNSO Council supported the initiation of an operational work track to address the impacts from the [IDN Implementation Guidelines 4.0](#) upon existing registry agreements and future applicants. A Contracted Parties House (CPH) team has been tasked to determine what specific amendments may be required for the guidelines to allow them to continue toward ICANN Board consideration and a doption. To achieve this goal, the CPH team is in the process of developing suggested revisions to the guidelines and to the extent that it is necessary, identifying elements that should be removed for resolution in policy development instead.

In October 2020, the GNSO Council initiated efforts related to the policy work track, which is to focus on the definition and management of IDN variant TLDs. In November 2020, the GNSO Council launched a call for volunteers within the GNSO community for a [drafting team](#) to develop a draft charter, as well as an initiation request for an EPDP on IDNs. Since its establishment in December 2020, the drafting team has been meeting on a regular basis, with the aim to submit its deliverables for GNSO Council review in Q2 2021.

Furthermore, to fulfill the ICANN Board request that the GNSO coordinates with the ccNSO to ensure a consistent solution is developed for IDN variant gTLDs and IDN variant ccTLDs, in January 2021 the GNSO Council appointed a liaison to the ccNSO PDP on the Selection and Deselection of IDN ccTLD Strings.

PDP 3.0

The GNSO Council started the PDP 3.0 initiative in 2018, with the aim to introduce incremental improvements to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the PDP working groups, as well as to empower the GNSO Council to better serve in its role as the manager of PDPs.

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 concerning consensus building, project management, and expectations for working group leaders and members. The Final Report also included additional proposals such as a revised PDP working group charter template.

PDP 3.0 has been identified as an integral component of the “Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICANN’s Multistakeholder Model” effort. On 15 September 2020, the GNSO Council held a webinar to highlight practical examples of the PDP 3.0

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

work products that have been applied in ongoing GNSO working groups, as well as kick start the preliminary assessment of PDP 3.0's impact. The webinar also included an introduction to the [Consensus Playbook](#), which aims to provide the community with practical tools and best practices for building consensus, bridging differences, and breaking deadlocks within ICANN processes.

As the GNSO Council scopes and initiates new GNSO policy development efforts, it is actively applying PDP 3.0 improvements to the design of this work. For example, the IGO Work Track has adopted a representative working group model, specified expectations, and required skills for its members and Chair. The updated charter template developed through PDP 3.0 work will be used for the PDP to review the Transfer Policy and the EPDP on IDNs, where the template has contributed to GNSO Council emphasis on effectively scoping any new work it initiates. In addition, the toolkit for project and program management of PDPs has continued to evolve with a new tool to more effectively track the execution of [action items](#).

The deployment and application of PDP 3.0 improvements was one of the topics for the annual GNSO Council Strategic Planning Session, which provided an opportunity for the GNSO Council to look at issues of importance. Following discussion during the Strategic Planning Session held in November 2020, the GNSO Council is exploring a framework for continuous improvement, which may include evaluating the effectiveness of PDP 3.0, as well as considering additional PDP 3.0 elements not yet implemented that should be addressed as a matter of priority.

More Information

To help you prepare for ICANN70, read the GNSO Policy Briefing. This report has recently been redesigned to be more concise and engaging by focusing on the latest updates in GNSO PDP working groups and implementation review teams.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-5. Please refer to the [ICANN70 schedule](#) for the most current information.

PDP Working Group Meetings

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) Work Track

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

Introduction: PDP to Review the Transfer Policy

Monday, 22 March | 14:30-16:00

GNSO Council Meeting

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

Joint Meetings

GNSO and ccNSO

Wednesday, 17 March | 14:00-15:00

GNSO and GAC

Wednesday, 24 March | 9:00-10:00

GNSO and ICANN Board

Thursday, 1 April | 14:00-15:00

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

What to Expect

During ICANN70, the At-Large community, including At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Members and Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) Leaders and Liaisons, will hold nine sessions. The sessions are organized under three tracks: At-Large policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. The focus of the sessions include:

- **Policy Discussions** | At-Large will hold three policy workshops related to the future of the ICANN mandate and the development of the Domain Name System (DNS), new legislations and regulations, challenges and opportunities regarding the ICANN multistakeholder model, as well as a session on Applicant Support.
- **Project Updates** | Updates on At-Large projects include the priorities of policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. Related to the At-Large Review implementation, there will be a review of the Final Report of the Unaffiliated Individuals Working Party.
- **Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) Activities** | There will be several activities for the RALOs, including a series of sessions hosted by the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) as part of its Virtual General Assembly, and the traditional Joint African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)-AfrICANN meeting.
- **Joint Meetings** | The ALAC will hold a meeting with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). The ALAC will meet with the ICANN Board after ICANN70.

Preparatory Sessions

Prior to ICANN70, the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) held three webinars on [Social Media Best Practices](#), [Creating Promotional Videos in Powerpoint](#), and [Giving Better Presentations Online: Forming Old Habits in the New Reality](#). The At-Large CBWG also held two webinars the week prior to ICANN70: The [At-Large ICANN70: What to Expect Webinar](#) on Monday, 15 March featured an overview of the At-Large sessions under the three tracks of policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. At-Large leadership introduced each of the ICANN70 sessions they will be hosting. The At-Large Social Media Working Group (SMWG) led the second webinar, [At-Large Social Media Webinar](#) on promotional strategy and social media collaboration, on Tuesday, 16 March.

Background

Track One: At-Large Policy Advice Activities, Workshops, and Discussions

Prior to ICANN70, the ALAC submitted eleven policy statements including an [ALAC Statement on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group Final Report](#) and [ALAC correspondence regarding Mozilla DNS over HTTPS \(DoH\) and Trusted Recursive Resolver \(TRR\) Comment Period](#), which resulted in the ICANN Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) submitting comments to the Mozilla consultation on [4 January 2021](#).

The ALAC statement on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group Final Report presented ALAC concerns and/or dissent in respect of the PDP recommendations and implementation guidance as contained in eight topics of the Final Report. These are (1) DNS Abuse Mitigation, (2) Enforceability of Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs), (3) Closed Generics, (4) Applicant Support, (5) Auctions and Private Resolution of Contention Sets, (6) Community Priority Evaluation (CPE), (7) Geographic Names at the Top Level, and (8) ALAC Standing in Community Objection. Read the full ALAC statement [here](#). The ALAC is also developing [Advice to the ICANN Board on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures](#).

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

The At-Large community previously organized several policy sessions related to examining DNS over HTTPs (DoH) and DNS over TLS (DoT), including an [ICANN67 At-Large policy workshop on DoH and DoT](#) looking at current threats and challenges, as well as an [At-Large Capacity Building Working Group \(CBWG\) Webinar on DoH and DoT](#) explaining the background for encrypted DNS, including the implications it has on operations for the DNS. ALAC correspondence with OCTO on the topic may be [read here](#).

During ICANN70, At-Large will hold [three policy workshops](#) related to the future of the ICANN mandate and the development of the DNS, new legislations and regulations, challenges and opportunities regarding the ICANN multistakeholder model, as well as a session on Applicant Support.

The Future of the DNS

One At-Large policy workshop related to DNS is planned for ICANN70. [“The Future of the ICANN Mandate and the Development of the DNS: Voices of the Next Generation”](#), to be moderated by ALAC member from the European At-Large Regional Organization (EURALO) Matthias Hudobnik, who will primarily involve NextGen@ICANN program alumni as well as former ICANN Fellows and third At-Large summit (ATLAS III) participants who currently work in constituencies across ICANN to discuss the topic. There will be eight presentations from the various constituencies sharing their view about the topic, as well as a question and answer session.

ICANN Multistakeholder Model

At-Large will host a cross-community roundtable on the topic of the [“ICANN Multistakeholder Model: New Legislation and Regulation, Challenges and Opportunities”](#), led by Hadia Elminiawi, ALAC delegate from the African region to the ICANN Nominating Committee. The aim of the session is to explore how new national legislations and regulations can affect the ICANN multistakeholder model. The session will attempt to introduce the challenges and opportunities and discuss how the ICANN multistakeholder model can be agile in the face of changes. This meeting will bring together members from each of the five RALOs in addition to members from different ICANN constituencies, with the aim of sharing and understanding the different stakeholder perspectives.

Applicant Support

The third At-Large policy workshop during ICANN70 on the topic of [“Applicant Support: What Does Success Look Like?”](#) will be moderated by Hadia Elminiawi and ALAC Vice Chair for Policy Jonathan Zuck. The session will consider the 2012 Applicant Support Program, including the community mentoring initiative. The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group has made proposals for improvement, leaving the details to the Implementation Review Team. A question that remains and should be considered a matter of policy rather than implementation, is the identification of goals for the program. Goals need to be results-oriented, not measures of effort. Goals could include number of applicants for support, number of awarded and delegated strings, and geographic distribution of applicants. In this session, the At-Large community will discuss community objectives for applicant support, including some possible concrete goals and measures of success for the next round of gTLDs.

Discussions on Policy Development Processes

Finally, the At-Large community will hold policy discussions related to the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, and next steps regarding the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP.

For more information regarding At-Large Policy Comments and Advice, please visit the At-Large [Website Policy Summary](#), [ALAC Executive Summaries](#), and the workspace of the [At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#).

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Track Two: At-Large Outreach and Engagement Activities

Post-ATLAS III Activities

The ATLAS III was an assembly of future policy and outreach ambassadors who gathered from 4-7 November 2019 during ICANN66. The four areas of post-ATLAS III activities include policy, capacity building, outreach and engagement, and communications. The implementation of these areas are the focus of the [At-Large Priority Activities - 2021](#), which will be discussed during ICANN70. The [At-Large Communications Strategy 2020-21](#) was ratified by the ALAC in advance of ICANN70. Sessions on policy, capacity building, and outreach and engagement will all address progress on these post-ATLAS III activities.

Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) Activities

The At-Large community consists of over 250 At-Large Structures (ALSes), 143 individuals, and 20 observers in the five RALOs. During ICANN70, RALO leaders will participate in regional leadership activities to focus on policy topics and outreach and engagement activities.

LACRALO will hold a virtual General Assembly consisting of four sessions. On Monday, 15 March, LACRALO members and leadership will meet to discuss institutional issues as well as the implementation of the LACRALO Rules of Procedure. The virtual General Assembly will feature speeches by ICANN org executives and ICANN Board members from the LAC region. On Wednesday, 17 March there will be a capacity building session for LACRALO members to strengthen skills needed to participate in At-Large policy activities. The capacity building session will be moderated by LACRALO member Jose Arce and a professional facilitator. On Monday, 22 March there will be a [LACRALO Roundtable](#) open to the ICANN community, which will discuss a LACRALO regional strategy for the next five years. Finally, all are welcome to join the [LACRALO Social Event](#) on Wednesday, 24 March, which will highlight the cultures of LACRALO.

As is customary, the African community will hold their [Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting](#) on Wednesday, 24 March to discuss regional issues and finalize their joint statement, “ICANN Multistakeholder Model and the Increase in National Legislation and Regulation”. The meeting will be the 25th Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting since 2010.

The At-Large SMWG will hold its regular ICANN Public Meeting [Twitter competition](#), as well as a Facebook competition. At-Large community members, ICANN Fellows and NextGen@ICANN program participants will post photos during ICANN70 sessions from their location and share them using #ALAC70. The top three winners of the competition have the most engaging social media content and receive the most retweets and likes. The At-Large SMWG, ICANN Fellows, and NextGen@ICANN program participants began a collaboration on ICANN70 regional and virtual activities, with the goal to promote engagement with At-Large policy sessions and encourage new membership. ICANN Fellows and NextGen@ICANN program participants in the LAC region are promoting ICANN70 At-Large sessions in regional languages, including Spanish. In addition, Lilian Ivette de Luque Bruges, regional chair of the SMWG, organized a series of ICANN70 promotional videos in regional languages with LAC and At-Large leaders. See the videos [here](#).

Finally, two ICANN Learn Courses, “ICANN At-Large: Welcome to our World” and “At-Large Policy Development at ICANN: A Guide to Participants”, were developed in advance of ICANN70, and will be promoted.

Joint Meetings

At-Large leaders will meet to discuss policy issues with other stakeholders, including the GAC. The ALAC will meet with the ICANN Board following ICANN70 to [discuss a series of questions](#) related to At-Large policy priorities, which were developed in advance of ICANN70. At-Large members will also be participating actively in the plenary sessions and Public Forum.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Track Three: Operations

At-Large Leadership will hold an ICANN70 welcome and introductory session on Monday, 22 March. The agenda includes a discussion on [At-Large Priority Activities for 2021](#), including operational and project updates, as well as an overview of sessions during ICANN70 and At-Large talking points. The [At-Large leadership will hold a wrap-up session](#) on the final day of the meeting.

At-Large Review Implementation

The [At-Large Structure \(ALS\) Mobilization Working Party](#), focused on Issue 2 of increased effectiveness of ALSes and individuals in At-Large policy advice development, began its implementation in January 2020. The ALAC ratified the [ALS Mobilization Working Party Final Report on 4 December 2020](#), which finalized the activities of [Issue 2 of the At-Large Review implementation](#). In addition, the [Unaffiliated Individuals Mobilization Working Party \(UIM-WP\)](#) concluded its work prior to ICANN70. During ICANN70, they will present an update to the ALAC on their work in support of unaffiliated individuals' participation in At-Large.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-5. Please refer to the [ICANN70 schedule](#) for the most current information.

At-Large Policy Sessions

The Future of the ICANN Mandate and the Development of the DNS: Voices of the Next Generation

Monday, 22 March | 12:30-14:00

ICANN Multistakeholder Model: New Legislation and Regulation, Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday, 22 March | 10:30-12:00

Applicant Support: What Does Success Look Like?

Wednesday, 24 March | 10:30-12:00

Regional and Outreach Sessions

LACRALO Roundtable

Monday, 22 March | 14:30-16:00

At-Large and Latin American and the Caribbean Networking Session

Wednesday, 24 March | 16:00-17:30

Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting

Wednesday, 24 March | 12:30-14:00

Joint Meetings

ALAC and GAC

Tuesday, 23 March | 16:30-17:30

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

What to Expect

The GAC plans to leverage the ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum to conduct almost 20 hours of substantive discussions on topics and issues of priority interest to government participants.

As with previous virtual ICANN Public Meetings, the GAC will be expanding its activities beyond the core meeting week to conduct work sessions and bilateral meetings with other community groups.

As the 2021 calendar year begins, the GAC leadership and membership are continuing their work on a number of topics that demand priority attention. These topics include subsequent procedures for potential new rounds of generic top-level domains (gTLDs), WHOIS and data protection policy, including follow-up on 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 ICANN70 schedule will include opportunities for discussions on a number of these topics.

Building on successful virtual experiences throughout 2020, the GAC schedule will enable participants to devote time to both GAC-specific sessions as well as cross-community discussions on high priority topics including new gTLD subsequent procedures and rights protection management. Feedback from meeting participants during 2020 confirmed the value of this scheduling approach as it provides for GAC-focused time, followed by community discussions that can then lead to follow-up internal conversations and planning.

The GAC Agenda

In addition to the focus on subsequent procedures for new gTLDs (a topic GAC members have focused substantial energy on over the past year), the GAC agenda for ICANN70 features a number of other substantive topics and work efforts. This includes planning and developments regarding implementation of accountability recommendations from Work Stream 2 of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, updates and strategic planning on DNS abuse mitigation matters, follow-up on recent developments regarding WHOIS and data protection, drafting of the GAC ICANN70 Communiqué, and interactions with the ICANN Board. The GAC chair will also report to the GAC on recent work progress and committee accomplishments since ICANN69.

Each day during previous virtual ICANN Public Meetings in 2020, the GAC leadership held an update call with 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 ICANN70 taking place in the Cancún, Mexico time zone, these 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 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. 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](#).

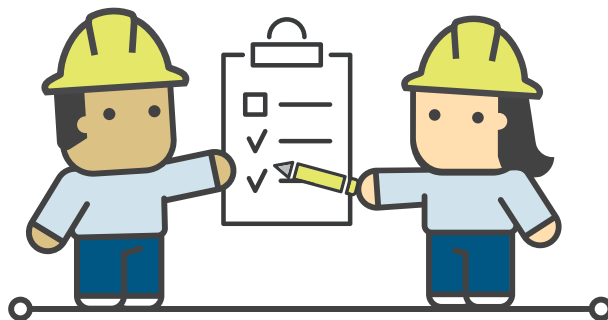
Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-5. Please refer to the [ICANN70 schedule](#) for the most current information.

GAC plenary sessions will start on the morning of Monday, 22 March and are scheduled to go until Thursday, 25 March. The GAC will take an 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 ICANN70 scheduling page where all session briefings, materials, and presentations will be published.

All GAC plenary sessions will be open to the entire ICANN community. Each GAC session will feature simultaneous remote interpretation in the six UN languages. The GAC is pleased that ICANN org has again offered this capability for ICANN70 and the committee will be utilizing an improved Zoom capability for interpretation that will allow many attendees to access interpretations directly through the Zoom interface. This interpretation experience will continue to be closely monitored to gauge its technical effectiveness for use during future GAC public meetings.

The GAC principle of openness will be particularly evident during the Communiqué drafting sessions scheduled for Wednesday, 24 March and Thursday, 25 March. The GAC devoted considerable time to Communiqué drafting improvements during previous virtual meetings in 2020. Based on that successful experience, the GAC has again scheduled over five hours of document drafting time during ICANN70.



Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

What to Expect

The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) will conduct three work sessions throughout the week to advance the work of two RSSAC Caucus work parties on (1) a tool to gather a local perspective of the Root Server System and on (2) the effects and mitigations of a rogue Root Server Operator. The other work session will focus on the principles guiding the operation of the Root Server System. The RSSAC will continue to raise awareness about its recent [publications](#), namely, “RSSAC052: Statement on Recommendations for an Early Warning System for Root Zone Scaling”, “RSSAC053: Statement on IANA Naming Function Review Initial Report”, and “RSSAC054: Statement on ICANN’s Root Name Service Strategy and Implementation”.

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.

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. One work party is developing a tool to gather a local perspective of the Root Server System, and a second is focused on the effects and mitigations of a Rogue Root Server Operator.

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-5. Please refer to the [ICANN70 schedule](#) for the most current information.

RSSAC Work Sessions

Tuesday, 23 March | 09:00-19:00

Tuesday, 23 March | 12:30-14:00

Thursday, 25 March | 09:00-10:00



Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

What to Expect

The SSAC will hold a workshop on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and security during ICANN70. 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 and hear about what they are learning as they deploy and manage DNSSEC.

The SSAC recently published “SAC114: SSAC Comments on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Draft Final Report”. SSAC directs its recommendations to the ICANN Board to consider along with the Generic Names Supporting Organization New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Report. SSAC is concerned about proceeding with subsequent rounds of the New gTLD Program without addressing several fundamental issues related to the security and stability of the DNS. SAC114 contains seven recommendations, some generally concerning the New gTLD Program and others specifically referencing elements of the draft Final Report.

Background

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 such as those pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the root name system; administrative matters such as those pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment; and registration matters such as those pertaining to registry and registrar services like WHOIS.

How do I participate in the SSAC?

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

Session Details

Session times provided in this report are in UTC-5. Please refer to the [ICANN70 schedule](#) for the most current information.

SSAC Public Meeting

Thursday, 25 March | 12:30-14:00

The SSAC will review its recent publications and ongoing work parties for the ICANN community. The open session will include a question and answer segment. The SSAC invites anyone interested in its work related to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet to participate.

DNSSEC and Security Workshop

Wednesday, 24 March | 09:00-10:00, 10:30-12:00, 12:30-14:00

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.