

How It Works

ICANN Policy and Advice Development

ICANN82 Community Forum

March 2025



Overview of ICANN



The ICANN Multistakeholder Community

MAKING POLICY:

Three Supporting Organizations (SOs) in the ICANN community are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent: IP addresses; generic top-level domains (gTLDs); and country code top-level domains (ccTLDs).



PROVIDING ADVICE:

Four Advisory Committees (ACs) give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics. The ACs are made up of representatives from: governments and international treaty organizations; root server operators; Internet security experts; and Internet end users.



Supporting Organizations (SOs)



ASO

The ASO Address Council is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)— who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.



ccNSO

The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).



GNSO

The GNSO Council is composed of 21 members — divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) — who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

Supporting Organizations (SOs)

Three SOs in the ICANN community are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent.

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Overview of GNSO Policy Development

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

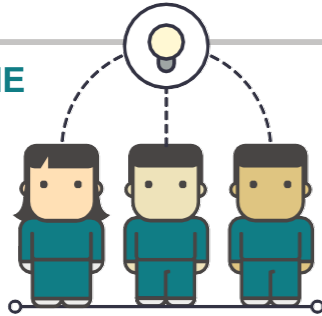
I C A N N | G N S O

Generic Names Supporting Organization

GNSO Council is composed of 21 members – divided into two houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) – who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

GNSO Policy Development Process

IDENTIFY THE ISSUE



1

- GNSO Council, ICANN Board or an AC identifies issue.
- GNSO Council considers if issue will result in consensus policy.

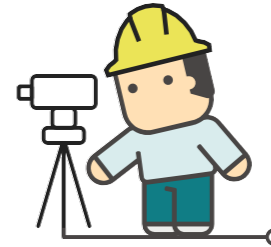


2

- If yes, GNSO Council requests Preliminary Issue Report.
- Staff publishes Preliminary Issue Report for Public Comment Period.
- Following Public Comment review, Final Issue Report is submitted for GNSO Council consideration.

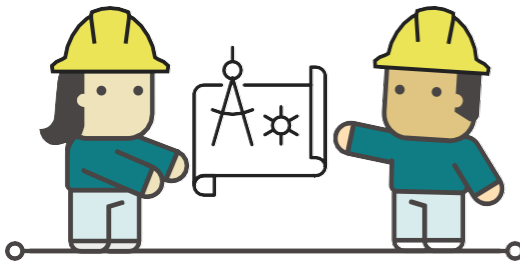


SCOPE THE ISSUE



3

INITIATE THE PDP

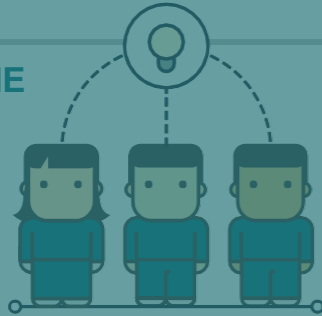


- GNSO Council considers Final Issue Report and decides whether to initiate PDP.
- If yes, GNSO Council develops/adopts charter for PDPWG.
- GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form PDPWG.



GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process

IDENTIFY THE ISSUE



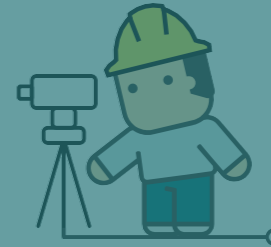
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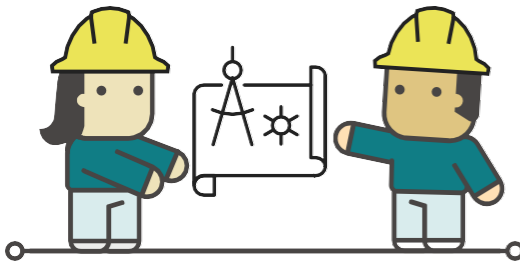
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SCOPE THE ISSUE



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INITIATE THE PDP



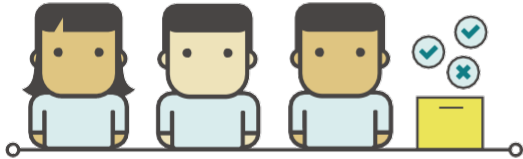
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- If yes, GNSO Council develops/adopts charter for PDPWG.
- GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form PDPWG.

GNSO Policy Development Process



- WG consults with Community and develops Initial Report for Public Comment Period.
- After reviews, WG submits Final Report to GNSO Council.

DELIBERATE THE FINAL REPORT

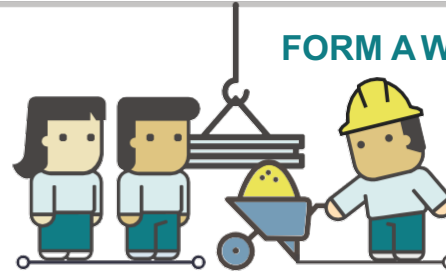


- ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
- ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.



4

FORM A WORKING GROUP



5

- GNSO Council reviews Final Report and considers adoption.
- If adopted, GNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.

6

VOTE BY ICANN BOARD



Learn more ►

gns0.icann.org

ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

What is a Consensus Policy?

- ⦿ **The result of a GNSO Policy Development Process**
- ⦿ **Fulfilled specific voting thresholds for approval in both the GNSO Council and ICANN Board**
- ⦿ **Binding on ICANN's Contracted Parties (registries and registrars) through their contracts with ICANN**

Examples

- ⦿ **Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy**
- ⦿ **Domain Name Transfer Policies**
- ⦿ **gTLD Registration Data Policy**

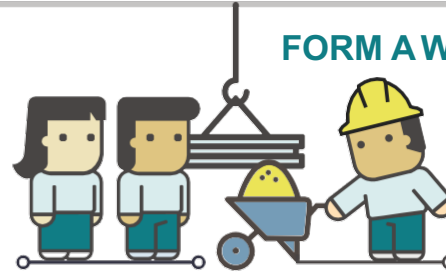
Current PDPs

Latin Script Diacritics PDP

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- After reviews, WG submits Final Report to GNSO Council.

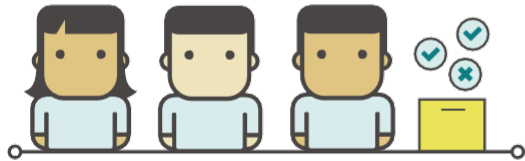
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FORM A WORKING GROUP



5

DELIBERATE THE FINAL REPORT



- ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
- ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.

6



VOTE BY ICANN BOARD

EPDP
IDNs

Transfer Policy Review PDP

- GNSO Council reviews Final Report and considers adoption.
- If adopted, GNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.



Learn more ►

gnso.icann.org

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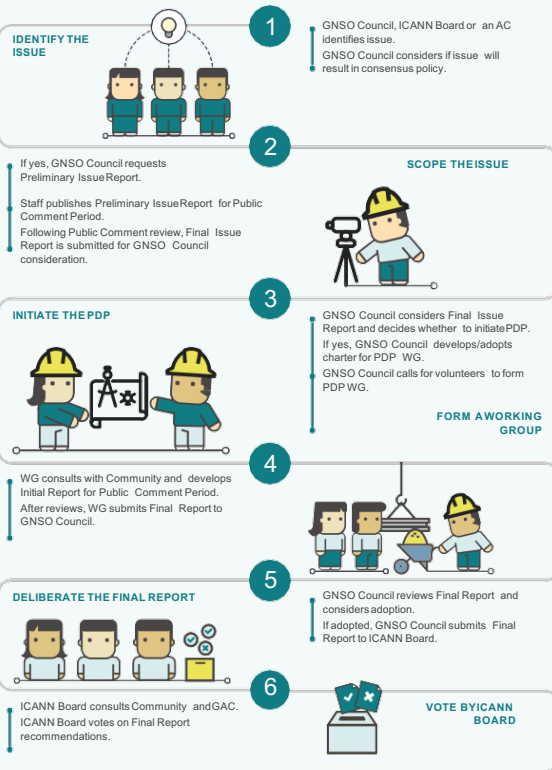
Generic Names Supporting Organization

Multistakeholder Policy Development

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

GNSO Council is composed of 21 members — divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) — who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

GNSO Policy Development Process



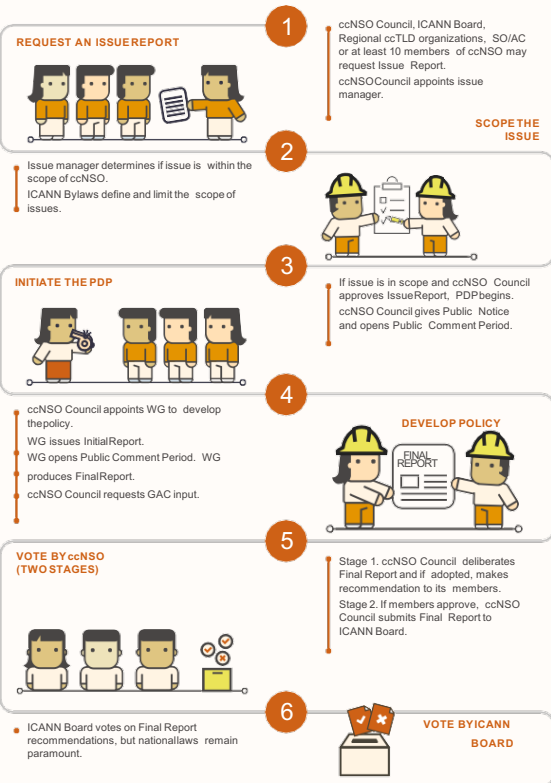
Learn more about the GNSO
gnso.icann.org

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Generic Names Supporting Organization

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).

ccNSO Policy Development Process



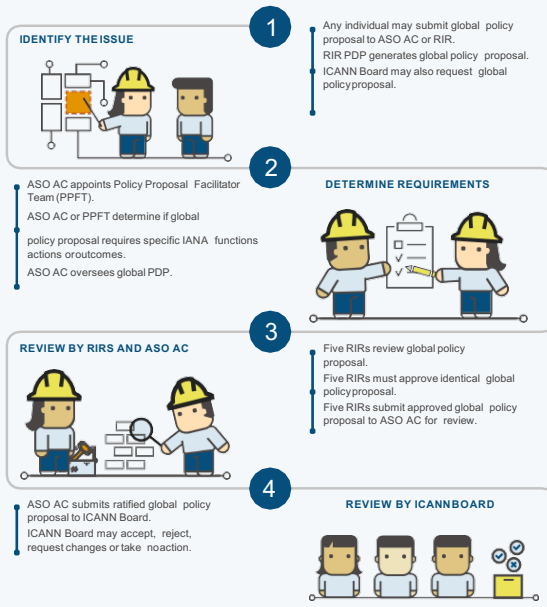
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ccnsso.icann.org

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Country Code Names Supporting Organization

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

ASO Address Council (AC) is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)* — who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.

ASO Global Policy Development Process



*Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) AFRINIC Africa

APNIC Asia and Pacific region
ARIN Canada, parts of the Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the U.S.
LACNIC Latin America and parts of the Caribbean
RIPE NCC Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia

Learn more about the ASO
aso.icann.org

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Address Supporting Organization

GAC Governmental Advisory Committee | PDP Policy Development Process | SO/AC Supporting Organizations/Advisory Committees | WG Working Group

Advisory Committees (ACs)

Advisory Committees (ACs)

Four ACs give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)



ALAC

The ALAC voices the interests of the individual Internet user and is composed of 15 members- 2 from each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and 5 appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee. It is supported by over 200 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and volunteers.



GAC

The GAC provides advice on public policy issues, particularly on interactions with policies and national laws or international agreements.



RSSAC

The RSSAC advises the ICANN community and Board on the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.



SSAC

The SSAC advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

Multistakeholder Advice Development

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

ALAC voices interests of Internet end users and advises ICANN Board on policies within ICANN's mission and scope.

ALAC Advice Development Process



Learn more about the ALAC
alac.icann.org



Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

GAC advises ICANN Board on public policy issues, particularly in areas where ICANN policies intersect with national laws and international agreements.

GAC Advice Development Process



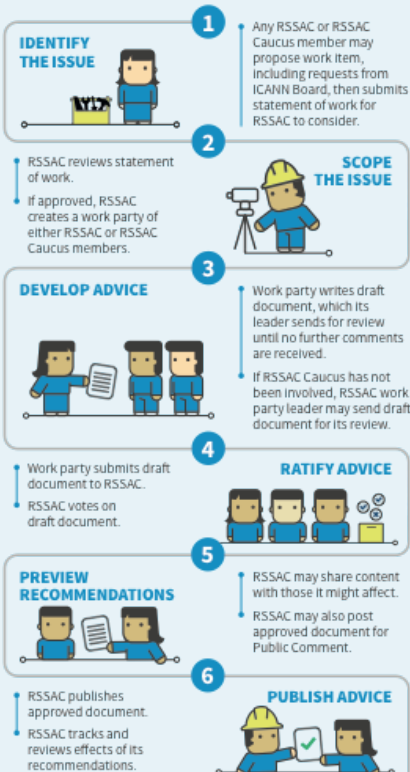
Learn more about the GAC
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ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

RSSAC advises ICANN Board and community on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.

RSSAC Advice Development Process



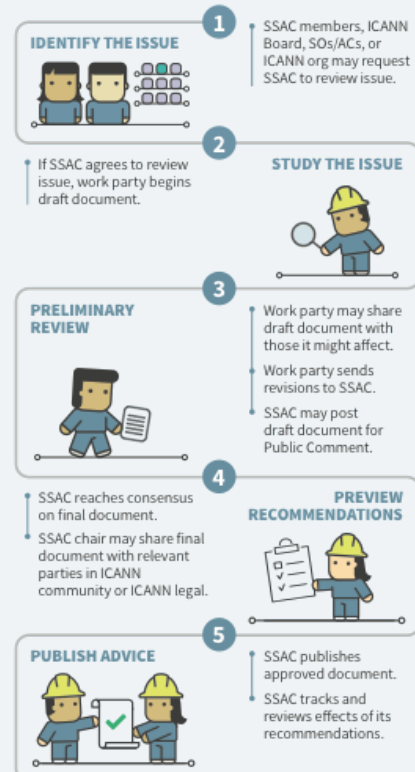
Learn more about the RSSAC
rssac.icann.org

ICANN | RSSAC
Root Server System Advisory Committee

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

SSAC advises ICANN Board and community on issues relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

SSAC Advice Development Process



Learn more about the SSAC
ssac.icann.org

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Security and Stability Advisory Committee

SO/AC Supporting Organizations/Advisory Committees

How to Get Started



1

JOIN

an open community group



2

OBSERVE

a working group



3

WRITE

a Public Comment
submission

Question and Answer Session



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