
Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) on Framework of Principles for Future Cross-Community Working Groups

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN57 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The GNSO does not plan to hold a specific session for this CCWG, since the group's recommendations were all adopted by the GNSO Council on 13 October 2016. As the intention behind the GNSO's chartering of this CCWG (along with the ccNSO Council) was to develop a framework that would be applied to all future CCWGs, however, community members may be interested in considering how the principles recommended by the CCWG are being applied to the proposed new CCWG on New gTLD Auction Proceeds.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

There has been an increasing reliance on Cross-Community Working Groups (CCWGs) as the ICANN community has recognized that there are a rising number of issues that cut across and affect more than just one of ICANN's Supporting Organizations (SOs) or Advisory Committees (ACs). Despite the number of past and current CCWGs, there are no agreed community-wide guidelines on their creation, scope or functioning. This CCWG was chartered jointly by the ccNSO and GNSO Councils to develop a framework of uniform operating principles that would allow for the effective and efficient functioning of future CCWGs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Each SO and AC within ICANN is responsible for different aspects of policy and advice development, operates under different mandates, and has separate remits. Yet, there are issues that affect or interest more than one SO/AC that may require a cross-community working group. Up to now, CCWGs have been formed on an ad-hoc basis, without a consistent framework of underlying operating principles that take into account the different working methods of the various SOs and ACs. The ccNSO and GNSO Councils chartered this group to address these shortcomings.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The CCWG published a draft framework document for [public comment](#) in February 2016. The proposed framework identifies key principles and process steps that ought to be considered during each phase of the CCWG life cycle (i.e., initiation, formation, operation, decision-making, closure, and post-closure). It also contained several open questions for which the CCWG sought specific community input. Following review of all comments received and further community discussion at ICANN56, the CCWG completed its Final Framework and submitted it to the ccNSO and GNSO Councils in September. The GNSO Council approved the [Final Framework](#) in October.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The Final Framework, as adopted by both the ccNSO and GNSO Councils, will be circulated to all other ICANN Supporting Organizations with the recommendation that its principles be applied to all future CCWGs – from their initiation and chartering to their operations, decision making processes and closure.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The CCWG will be closed as its work is completed.

MORE INFORMATION

- Background information: [gnso.ICANN.org/en/group-activities/active/cross-community](https://www.gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/cross-community)
- CWG Workspace: [community.ICANN.org/x/rQbPAQ](https://community.icann.org/x/rQbPAQ)
- The Final Framework of Principles: [community.ICANN.org/x/4CiOAw](https://community.icann.org/x/4CiOAw)

BACKGROUND

In March 2012 the GNSO Council approved an initial set of operating principles for CCWGs that it sent to other SOs and ACs for feedback. Detailed comments and suggestions were received from the ccNSO suggesting additions and clarifications to the initial principles in June 2013. In October 2013, a Charter Drafting Team was tasked to develop a charter for a cross-community Working Group to build on the initial work and continue to develop a finalized framework workable across all SO/ACs by governing the formation, chartering, operation, decision-making, and termination of all future CCWGs.

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