

GNSO goals

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ICANN mission

The mission of The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN") is to coordinate, at the overall level, the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers, and in particular to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN:

- 1. Coordinates the allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet, which are**
 - a) Domain names (forming a system referred to as "DNS");**
 - b) Internet protocol ("IP") addresses and autonomous system ("AS") numbers; and**
 - c) Protocol port and parameter numbers.**
- 2. Coordinates the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system.**
- 3. Coordinates policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions.**

Key Core values

- Preserving and enhancing the operational stability, reliability, security, and global interoperability of the Internet.
- Where feasible and appropriate, depending on market mechanisms to promote and sustain a competitive environment
- Making decisions by **applying documented policies neutrally and objectively**, with integrity and fairness

Scope of ICANN policy process

- 1. is within the scope of ICANN's mission statement;**
- 2. is broadly applicable to multiple situations or organizations;**
- 3. is likely to have lasting value or applicability, albeit with the need for occasional updates;**
- 4. will establish a guide or framework for future decision-making; or**
- 5. implicates or affects an existing ICANN policy.**

GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains.

GNSO Mission

The mission of the GNSO is to coordinate, at the overall level, the global Internet's systems of generic top level domains, and **in particular to ensure the stable and secure operation** of the Internet's generic top level domain identifier systems. In particular, ICANN:

Coordinates policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions.

Regarding Government oversight of .com

- As a condition of approval, the Department negotiated an amendment to its existing Cooperative Agreement with VeriSign to address the competition and Internet security and stability issues identified during the review process.
- Under this amendment, the Department retains oversight over any changes to the pricing provisions of, or renewals of, the new .com registry agreement.
- Department approval of any renewal will occur only if it concludes that the approval will **serve the public interest in the continued security and stability of the Internet domain name system** and the operation of the .com registry, and the provision of registry services at reasonable prices, terms and conditions.

ICANN's limitations

- **ICANN is not a government entity or a law maker**
- **Its ability to enforce policies on legal entities is based on its contracts with registry operators and registrars**
- **These contracts make some allowance for policy changes with some limitations**