

**ARTICLE X: GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION; Section 1.
DESCRIPTION**

There shall be a policy-development body known as the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), which shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains.

**ARTICLE X: GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION; SECTION 2.
ORGANIZATION**

The GNSO shall consist of:

- (i) A number of Constituencies, if any organized within the Stakeholder Groups as described in Section 5 of this Article (link TBD);
- (ii) Four Stakeholder Groups organized within Houses as described in Section 5 of this Article (link TBD);
- (iii) Two Houses within the GNSO Council as described in Section 3 of this Article (link TBD);
- (iv) and a GNSO Council responsible for managing the policy development process of the GNSO, as described in Section 3 of this Article (link TBD).

Except as otherwise defined in these by-laws, the GNSO Council, the two Houses, the four Stakeholder Groups, and the Constituencies will be responsible for defining their own charters, and/or names with the approval of their members and of the ICANN Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE X: GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION; SECTION 3. GNSO
COUNCIL**

1. Subject to the provisions of Transition Article XX, Section 5 of these Bylaws (link TBD) and as described in Section 5 of Article X (link TBD), the GNSO Council shall consist of:

- a. three representatives selected from the Registries Stakeholder Group;
- b. three representatives selected from the Registrar Stakeholder Group;
- c. six representatives selected from the Commercial Stakeholder Group;

d. six representatives selected from the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group; and

e. three representatives selected by the ICANN Nominating Committee, one of which shall be non-voting, but otherwise entitled to participate on equal footing with other members of the GNSO Council including, e.g. the making and seconding of motions and of serving as Chair if elected. One Nominating Committee Appointee voting representative shall be assigned to each House (as described in Section 5 of this article [link TBD]) by the Nominating Committee.

No individual representative may hold more than one seat on the GNSO Council at the same time. Stakeholder Groups should, in their charters, ensure their representation on the GNSO Council is as diverse as possible and practicable, including considerations of geography, GNSO Constituency, sector, ability and gender.

Comment [SE1]: Should the following limitation be included? "No more than one officer, director or employee of any particular corporation or other organization (including its subsidiaries and affiliates) shall serve on the GNSO Council at any given time."

There may also be liaisons to the GNSO Council from other ICANN Supporting Organizations and/or Advisory Committees, from time to time. The appointing organization shall designate, revoke, or change its liaison, or revoke or change the designation of its liaison, on the GNSO Council by providing written notice to the Chair of the GNSO Council and to the ICANN Secretary. Liaisons, who shall not be members of or entitled to vote, to make and to second motions, or to serve as an officer on the GNSO Council, but otherwise liaisons shall be entitled to participate on equal footing with members of the GNSO Council. The appointing organization shall designate its liaison, or revoke or change the designation of its liaison, on the GNSO Council by providing written notice to the Chair of the GNSO Council and to the ICANN Secretary. The GNSO Council may also have observers as described in paragraph 9 of this Section (link TBD).

2. Subject to the provisions of the Transition Article XX, and Section 5 of these Bylaws (link TBD), the regular term of each GNSO Council member shall begin at the conclusion of an ICANN annual meeting and shall end at the conclusion of the second ICANN annual meeting thereafter. The regular term of two representatives selected from Stakeholder Groups with three Council seats shall begin in even-numbered years and the regular term of the other representative selected from that Stakeholder Group shall begin in odd-numbered years. The regular term of three representatives selected from Stakeholder Groups with six Council seats shall begin in even-numbered years and the regular term of the other three representatives

selected from that Stakeholder Group shall begin in odd-numbered years. The regular term of one of the three members selected by the Nominating Committee shall begin in even-numbered years and the regular term of the other two of the three members selected by the Nominating Committee shall begin in odd-numbered years. Each GNSO Council member shall hold office during his or her regular term and until a successor has been selected and qualified or until that member resigns or is removed in accordance with these Bylaws.

Except in a “special circumstance,” such as, but not limited, to, meeting geographic or other diversity requirements defined in the Stakeholder Group charters, where no alternative representative is available to serve, no Council member may be selected to serve more than two consecutive terms, [in which case a Council member may serve one additional term.](#) For these purposes, a person selected to fill a vacancy in a term shall not be deemed to have served that term. A [former](#) Council member who has served two consecutive terms must remain out of office for one full term prior to serving any subsequent term as Council member. A “special circumstance” is defined in the GNSO Council Operational Rules and Procedures approved by the Board.

3. [A vacancy on the GNSO Council shall be deemed to exist in the case of the death, resignation, or removal of any member. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appropriate Nominating Committee or Stakeholder Group that selected the member holding the position before the vacancy occurred by giving the ICANN Secretary written notice of its selection.](#) Procedures for handling [Stakeholder Group-appointed](#) GNSO Council member vacancies, resignations, and removals are prescribed in the applicable Stakeholder Group charter ~~or Nominating Committee charter approved by the Board.~~

[A GNSO Council member selected by the Nominating Committee may be removed for cause stated by a three-fourths \(3/4\) vote \(see Section 5\(?\) of this Article \(link TBD\)\) of all members of the GNSO Council \(excluding the member to be removed\), subject to approval by the ICANN Board.](#)

4. The GNSO Council shall make selections to fill Seats 13 and 14 on the ICANN Board by written ballot or by action at a meeting, *placeholder regarding manner of selection – TBD by Board.* Election procedures are defined in the GNSO Council Operational Rules and Procedures approved by the Board.

Notification of the Board seat selections shall be given by the GNSO Chair in writing to the ICANN Secretary, consistent with Article VI, Sections 8(4) and 12(1).

5. The GNSO Council shall select the GNSO Chair for a term the GNSO Council specifies, but not longer than one year, by written ballot or by action at a meeting or both. The ~~provisions procedures~~ for selecting ~~the Chair and any other officer~~ ~~these positions~~ are contained in the GNSO Council Operating Rules and Procedures approved by the Board.

Comment [SE2]: The inclusion of "both" confuses the requirements – what is trying to be achieved here? It may be better to remove "or both" unless we can reach a better formulation of this.

Each House [\(as described in Section of this Article\)](#) shall select a Vice-Chair, who will be a Vice-Chair of the whole of the GNSO Council, for a term the GNSO Council specifies, but not longer than one year, by written ballot or by action at a meeting or both. ~~The provisions for selecting these positions are contained in the GNSO Council Operating Rules and Procedures approved by the Board.~~ In the event that the GNSO Council has not elected a GNSO Council Chair by the end of the previous Chair's term, the Vice-Chairs will serve as Interim GNSO Co-Chairs until a successful election can be held.

Comment [SE3]: Same comment.

6. Typically for voting purposes, the GNSO Council (see Section 3(1) of this Article) shall be organized into a bicameral house structure as described below:

a. the Contracted Parties House includes the Registries Stakeholder Group (three members), the Registrar Stakeholder Group (three members), and one voting member appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee for a total of seven voting members; and

b. the Non Contracted Party house includes the Commercial Stakeholder Group (six members), the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group [\(six members\)](#), and one voting member appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee to that House for a total of thirteen voting members.

Each member of a voting house is entitled to cast one vote in each separate matter before the GNSO Council. Except as otherwise specified in the [se Bylaws, Annex A hereto, or the GNSO Council Operating Rules and Procedures approved by the Board, the default threshold to pass a GNSO Council motion or other voting action requires a simple majority vote of each house. Transition Article XX, Section 5 \(link TBD\) or Annex A of these Bylaws \(link TBD\), all bicameral house voting thresholds required to pass a GNSO Council motion or other action are prescribed in the GNSO](#)

~~Council Operating Rules and Procedures approved by the Board with the following Bicameral Council voting thresholds:~~

~~a. Create an Issues Report: requires more than 25% vote of both houses or majority of one house; b. Initiate a PDP Within Scope: requires more than 33% vote of both houses or more than 66% vote of one house; c. Initiate a PDP Not Within Scope: requires a vote of more than 75% of one house and a majority of the other house ("Super Majority"); d. Approve a PDP Recommendation Without a Super Majority: requires a majority of both houses and further requires that one representative of at least 3 of the 4 Stakeholder Groups supports; e. Approve a PDP Recommendation With a Super Majority: requires greater than 75% majority in one house and majority in the other house; f. Election of officers: The voting thresholds for electing Council officers are contained in the GNSO Council Operating Rules and Procedures approved by the Board. g. Other issues: require a simple majority of both houses.~~

Comment [SE4]: Could this be moved to Annex A for the PDP Procedures? I think that this entire paragraph can be replaced by the paragraph above.

Comment [SE5]: If this is already specified in the Op. procedures, do we need to restate this here?

ARTICLE X: GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION; Section 4. STAFF SUPPORT AND FUNDING

1. A member of the ICANN staff shall be assigned to support the GNSO, whose work on substantive matters shall be assigned by the Chair of the GNSO Council, and shall be designated as the GNSO Staff Manager (Staff Manager).
2. ICANN shall provide administrative and operational support necessary for the GNSO to carry out its responsibilities. Such support shall not include an obligation for ICANN to fund travel expenses incurred by GNSO participants for travel to any meeting of the GNSO or for any other purpose.

ARTICLE X: GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION; SECTION 5. STAKEHOLDER GROUPS AND CONSTITUENCIES

1. The following Stakeholder Groups are hereby recognized as representative of a specific group of one or more Constituencies, approved by the Board, and subject to the provisions of the Transition Article XX, Section 5 of these Bylaws (link TBD):
 - a. Registries Stakeholder Group representing all gTLD registries under contract to ICANN;
 - b. Registrar Stakeholder Group representing all registrars accredited by and under

contract to ICANN; and

c. Commercial Stakeholder Group representing the full range of large and small commercial entities of the Internet; and

d. Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group representing the full range of non-commercial entities of the Internet; and

Each Stakeholder Group is assigned a specific number of Council seats in accordance with Section 3(1) of this Article (link TBD).

2. Each Stakeholder Group identified in paragraph 1 of this Section (link TBD) and each of its associated Constituencies shall maintain recognition with the ICANN Board. Recognition is granted by the Board based upon the extent to which, in fact, the entity represents the global interests of the stakeholder communities it purports to represent and operates to the maximum extent feasible in an open and transparent manner consistent with prevailing privacy laws and consistent with procedures designed to ensure fairness. Stakeholder Group and Constituency Charters ~~will~~ may be reviewed periodically as prescribed by the Board.

3. Any group of individuals or entities may petition the Board for recognition as a new or separate Constituency. ~~including recommended organizational placement within a particular Stakeholder Group.~~ Any such petition shall contain ~~a detailed explanation of:~~

a. ~~A detailed explanation of w~~Why the addition of such a Constituency will improve the ability of the GNSO to carry out its policy-development responsibilities; and

b. ~~A detailed explanation of w~~Why the proposed new Constituency would adequately represent, on a global basis, the stakeholders it seeks to represent;

~~c. A recommendation for organizational placement within a particular Stakeholder Group; and~~

~~d. A proposed charter that adheres to the principles and procedures contained in these Bylaws.~~

~~Prior to approval and confirmation, such new Constituency shall submit a formal charter to the Board that adheres to the principles and procedures contained in~~

~~these Bylaws.~~ Any petition for the recognition of a new Constituency and the associated charter shall be posted for public comment.

5. The Board may create new Constituencies within any Stakeholder Group in response to such a petition [as described at Section 4 \(link\)](#), if ~~the Board~~ determines that such action would serve the purposes of ICANN. Whenever the Board posts a petition or recommendation for a new Constituency for public comment, ~~the Board~~ shall notify the GNSO Council and the appropriate Stakeholder Group affected and shall consider any response to that notification prior to taking action.

ARTICLE X: GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION; Section 6. POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

~~Initially, the~~The policy-development procedures to be followed by the GNSO shall be as stated in Annex A to these Bylaws. These procedures may be supplemented or revised in the manner stated in Section 3(4) of this Article. [\[Check cross-reference\]](#)

ARTICLE XX: TRANSITION ARTICLE; SECTION 5. GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION

1. The Generic Names Supporting Organization ("GNSO"), upon the adoption of this Transition Article, shall continue its operations; however, it shall be restructured into four new Stakeholder Groups which shall represent, organizationally, the former Constituencies of the GNSO, subject to ICANN Board approval of each individual Stakeholder Group Charter:

- ☐a. The gTLD Registry Constituency shall be assigned to the Registries Stakeholder Group;
- ☐b. The Registrar Constituency shall be assigned to the Registrar Stakeholder Group;
- ☐c. The Business Constituency shall be assigned to the Commercial Stakeholder Group;
- ☐d. The Intellectual Property Constituency shall be assigned to the Commercial Stakeholder Group;
- ☐e. The Internet Services Providers Constituency shall be assigned to the Commercial Stakeholder Group; and
- ☐f. The Non-Commercial Users Constituency shall be assigned to the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group.

2. ~~Notwithstanding the adoption of these Bylaws Amendments, e~~Each GNSO Constituency described in paragraph 1 ~~above of this subsection~~ shall continue operating substantially as before and no Constituency official, working group, or other activity shall be changed until further action of the Constituency, provided that each GNSO Constituency shall submit to the ICANN Secretary a new or revised

Charter (which may itself of necessity be a transitional Charter) inclusive of its operating procedures, adopted according to the Constituency's processes and consistent with these Bylaws Amendments, no later than the ICANN meeting in October 2009, or another date as the Board may designate by resolution.

3. Prior to the commencement of the ICANN meetings in October 2009, or another date the Board may designate by resolution, the GNSO Council shall consist of its current Constituency structure as described in Article X, Section 3(1) of the Bylaws as amended effective 29 May 2008 <<http://www.icann.org/en/general/archive-bylaws/bylaws-29may08.htm#X-3.1>> (link TBD). Thereafter, the composition of the GNSO Council shall be as provided in these Bylaws, as they may be amended from time to time. All committees, task forces, working groups, drafting committees, and similar groups established by the GNSO Council and in existence immediately before the adoption of this Transition Article shall continue in existence with the same charters, membership, and activities, subject to any change by action of the GNSO Council or ICANN Board.

Comment [A6]: And officers?

4. Beginning with the ICANN Meetings in October 2009, or another date the Board may designate by resolution Upon the adoption of this Transition Article, the representatives on the Generic Name Supporting Organization ("GNSO") Council from each of the existing six Constituencies shall be appointed or elected consistent with the number of Council seats allocated by its respective Stakeholder Group subject to the following:

a. The three seats currently assigned to the Registry Constituency shall be reassigned as three seats of the Registries Stakeholder Group;

b. The three seats currently assigned to the Registrar Constituency shall be reassigned as three seats of the Registrar Stakeholder Group;

c. The three seats currently assigned to each of the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Services Provider Constituency (nine total) shall be decreased to be six seats of the Commercial Stakeholder Group;

d. The three seats currently assigned to the Non-Commercial Users Constituency shall be reassigned as three seats of the six seats of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group; and

Comment [A7]: Where will it be specified how the reassignment of these seats will be handled?

e. The three seats currently selected by the Nominating Committee shall be assigned

by the [Nominating Committee](#) as follows: one voting member to the Contracted Party House, one voting member to the [Non-Contracted Party Users](#) House, and one non-voting member assigned to the GNSO Council at large.

5. ~~After the adoption of this Transition Article and a~~As soon as practical after the conclusion of the ICANN meeting in October 2009, or another date the board may designate by resolution, the Generic Names Supporting Organization Council shall, in accordance with Article X, Section 3(7) (linkTBD) and its Operating Rules and Procedures, elect officers and give the ICANN Secretary written notice of its selections.

Comment [A8]: Does this imply that the current chair will continue until the conclusion of the October 2009 meetings? Should there be an arrangement for an interim chair or co-chairs for any gap between the end of the October meeting and the election of the new chair or co-chairs? Our concern is to avoid a void in the GNSO's leadership.