



ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

Policy Briefing ICANN76 Edition

The GNSO Background Briefings are produced by ICANN's Policy staff supporting the GNSO. These are drafted specifically in preparation for ICANN meetings to provide the community with concise background information on all relevant GNSO policy efforts.

For more information on the GNSO @ ICANN76:

 gnso.ICANN.org/ICANNmeeting  [@ICANN_GNSO](https://twitter.com/ICANN_GNSO)

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Welcome to ICANN76 from the GNSO Chair



The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council and the GNSO community welcome your participation in the ICANN76 Community Forum in Cancún, Mexico. As with previous hybrid meetings, at ICANN76 the GNSO will seek to equally leverage contributions of in-person and remote participants to advance policy development efforts and the work of the GNSO Council. The meeting will also devote time to stakeholder group and constituency meetings. As ICANN76 approaches, I would like to highlight a few GNSO initiatives that will be on the agenda for the Community Forum as well as recent and ongoing work that may interest you. Additional information about GNSO projects can be found in the following sections.

During ICANN76, sessions will be held for key policy development initiatives and other GNSO projects. The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group was initiated by the GNSO Council in March 2021 to determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers. The working group has completed its review of Public Comments received on its Phase 1A Initial Report responding to charter questions related to inter-registrar transfers. The working group has updated the preliminary recommendations, where appropriate. The working group is now beginning to address charter questions related to reversal of transfers and resolution of transfer-related disputes. During ICANN76, the working group will hold two sessions to discuss charter questions on these topics and seek broader community input.

The GNSO Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) is tasked with providing the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on 1) the definition of all top-level domains (TLDs) and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant generic top-level domains (gTLDs) in the root zone, and 2) how the IDN Implementation Guidelines should be updated in the future. During ICANN76, the working group will hold two sessions to advance its deliberations in preparation for publication of the EPDP Team's Phase 1 Initial Report. It focuses on the team's top-level IDN gTLD-related recommendations.

A GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) is underway to provide additional guidance to support eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program in new gTLD subsequent procedures. At ICANN76, the working group will hold a working session to finish consideration of Tasks 3–5 relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success. It will also begin discussions of Task 6 relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds.

In addition, work continues to support ICANN Board consideration of outputs from GNSO policy development efforts:

- Following the review of the Whois Disclosure System design that was presented to the Council and the EPDP Phase 2 small team during ICANN75, the GNSO Council requested that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System. During ICANN76, the small team is expected to receive an update from ICANN org on the status of implementation and engage on open questions. The implementation of the Whois Disclosure System is intended to help inform the consideration by the ICANN Board of the GNSO Council's recommendations for a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD).
- On 12 December 2022, ICANN org delivered an Operational Design Assessment (ODA) on the affirmations, recommendations, and implementation guidance produced by the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP. The ODA will serve as an important input as the ICANN Board prepares to decide on SubPro Outputs. A small team of GNSO Councilors reviewed the SubPro ODA and the Council **provided its input** to the Board. Timely ICANN Board approval of the SubPro Outputs and the initiation of implementation steps are key priorities for the Council. The Council is also prepared for continued engagement with the Board on this topic, if needed.

During ICANN76, the GNSO Council will hold a three-part working session on Sunday, 12 March, its public meeting on Wednesday, 15 March, and a wrap-up session on Thursday, 16 March. During the working session on Sunday from 16:30–17:30 local time, the Council will be holding its first ever GNSO Town Hall Meeting. The Town Hall will provide an opportunity for the GNSO Community to engage with the GNSO Council and raise any issues or pose any questions participants may have. The GNSO Council will hold bilateral meetings with the ICANN Board and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). An informal meeting will be held with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). There will also be a remote bilateral meeting between the GNSO Council and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) before or after ICANN76.

I also wanted to highlight some additional work on which the Council has recently made important progress. Firstly, the Council adopted the DNS abuse small team's report and recommendations that, among others, **encouraged** targeted negotiations between Contracted Parties and ICANN org to clarify existing DNS abuse requirements. As many of you may know, those negotiations are now underway, and the Council is looking forward to receiving updates on the status of these negotiations. This will help inform potential additional policy initiatives in relation to DNS abuse. Furthermore, the Council is continuing its efforts around continuous improvements of the GNSO's Policy Development Process as well as related procedures and practices. The Council Committee for Overseeing and Implementing Continuous Improvement (CCOICI) delivered its **recommendations report** on its review of Council-directed WS2

recommendations, which was adopted by the Council during its December meeting, as well as its [recommendations](#) in relation to its review of the Working Group Self-Assessment requirements. Further, the GNSO's Statement of Interest (SOI) Task Force has been working on finalizing its recommendations following the review of the GNSO's SOI requirements. In parallel, the Council also made progress on several items that are included in the [PDP Improvements Tracker](#). This is a tool that is aimed at aggregating improvements that have been suggested in different conversations (among the ICANN Board, ICANN org, the ODPs, working group chairs, etc.). By focusing on incremental next steps, the tracker provides a mechanism for the Council and the GNSO community to deploy targeted improvements that we expect will help ensure that the community conducts PDPs in a more efficient and effective manner.

ICANN76 will be a full meeting with ample opportunities to get involved. Whether you are attending in person in Cancún or via Zoom, I look forward to seeing you soon. I wish you all a productive meeting.

Sebastien Ducos
GNSO Chair

ICANN76 at a Glance

The GNSO Policy Support Team has developed this briefing document to help community members prepare for ICANN76. It provides an overview of the status of the GNSO PDP working groups and teams, as well as information about other GNSO policy-related activities, including PDP Implementation Review Teams (IRTs). The document includes links for additional background reading to help you prepare for ICANN76. We hope it fosters active participation from all attendees.

Newcomers to ICANN and to the GNSO may be interested in additional online learning opportunities that will help them make the most of the upcoming meeting. We highly recommend taking the “Get to Know the GNSO” course on ICANN Learn. The course will make it easier to navigate the structure and content of this Policy Briefing and provide you with a better understanding of PDPs. All are encouraged to enroll.

Please note that any reference to meeting times in this document is provisional. Please consult the ICANN meeting schedule for the latest information.

ICANN76 Meeting Information

[Meeting Page, including registration and schedule](#)

[General Remote Participation Information](#)

[GNSO Session Remote Participation Details](#)

[Expected Standards of Behavior](#)

GNSO-Related Information

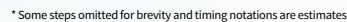
[GNSO Council Policy Update Webinar during Prep Week](#)

[GNSO One-Stop Shop for ICANN Meetings](#)

[Project List](#)

If you have any questions about, or suggestions for, this Policy Briefing or GNSO policy activities, please contact us at policy-staff@icann.org. We look forward to a productive meeting.

The GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) governs the way in which the GNSO develops consensus policies related to generic top-level domains. As shown in the standard and summarized graph below, a GNSO PDP lifecycle consists of different steps, including issue identification and scoping; PDP initiation; working group; GNSO Council deliberation; ICANN Board vote; and policy implementation. Note: The Operational Design Phase shown in the graphic does not apply to all PDPs. Some steps are omitted for brevity. Timing notations are estimates.



For more details about the steps in the PDPs, consult the information below:

- 7 |

Policy Development Process: Transfer Policy Review

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The working group will conduct two working sessions, the first on Saturday, 11 March 2023 from 9:00–10:00 EST and the second on Sunday, 12 March 2023 from 10:30–12:00 EST. Please check the ICANN76 meeting schedule for the confirmed times. During the sessions, the working group will discuss charter questions related to reversal of transfers and resolution of transfer-related disputes, and seek broader community input on these topics.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council [initiated](#) a policy development process (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 addresses the following topics:

- The Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization (FOA), AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers, change of registrant requirements, the transfer emergency action contact and reversing inter-registrar transfers, the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy, and ICANN-approved transfers ([Learn More](#)).

The working group began meeting in May 2021. On 21 June 2022, it published an Initial Report for Public Comment covering the Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization (FOA), AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers. The working group has reviewed Public Comments and incorporated changes into the preliminary recommendations where appropriate. The working group has also conducted preliminary deliberations on change of registrant requirements contained in the Transfer Policy.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Based on deliberations conducted to date, the working group identified the need to make progress on charter questions related to the transfer emergency action contact, reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy before finalizing work on other charter topics. Therefore, deliberations are now focused on developing preliminary agreements and potential recommendations on these topics upon which other subjects are dependent.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The working group charter initially anticipated that the PDP would be conducted in phases, but the approach has since been changed due to dependencies identified between charter topics. The work is now structured as a single phase. The working group is expected to deliver a second Initial Report covering all charter topics, including revisions to the recommendations contained in the first Initial Report, in August 2024. The working group will deliver a single Final Report covering all charter topics.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Parties interested in the Transfer Policy Review PDP should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee and communicate any input they believe may be useful to the Transfer Policy Review PDP's deliberations. Interested parties can also follow the working group's progress by signing up as an observer. A Public Comment period will be held on the second Initial Report. All are welcome to contribute to this Public Comment period.

MORE INFORMATION

- [PDP webpage](#)
- [PDP workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Emily Barabas, Julie Hedlund, Caitlin Tubergen, Berry Cobb

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The EPDP Team will conduct two back-to-back working sessions on Saturday, 11 March 2023: one from 9:00–10:00 EST, and the other from 10:30–12:00 EST. Please check the ICANN76 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the sessions, the working group will discuss topics within its charter and finalize its preliminary recommendations for inclusion in its Phase 1 Initial Report to be published for Public Comment shortly after ICANN76.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the [initiation request](#) for the EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and adopted its [charter](#). The EPDP is expected to provide the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on:

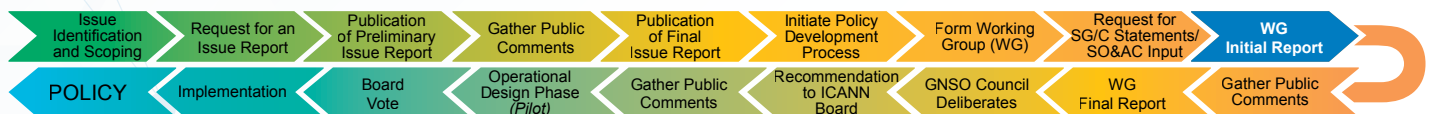
- The definition of all TLDs and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant gTLDs in the root zone, while achieving the security and usability goal of variant labels in a stable manner.
- How the IDN Implementation Guidelines that contracted parties are required to comply with should be updated in the future.

The charter includes 48 questions under seven broader topics, ranging from the “same entity” requirement at the top and second levels, to adjustments to ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs. ([Learn More](#))

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The EPDP Team began meeting in August 2021. During the course of its deliberation, the EPDP Team has taken into account the [early written input](#) on topics in its charter from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), GNSO’s Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).

In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the [project change request](#) from the EPDP Team. It plans to complete its work in two phases, with Phase 1 focusing on topics related to top-level IDN gTLD definition and variant management, and Phase 2 focusing on topics related to second-level IDN variant management. The EPDP Team believes that this two-phased approach will help prioritize the



current implementation planning of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP Outputs that are focused primarily on the top-level.

By ICANN76, the EPDP Team will have completed the substantive deliberations on all Phase 1 charter questions. The EPDP Team is in the process of reviewing the feedback received from ICANN org for a subset of its draft recommendations before finalizing them for inclusion in the Phase 1 Initial Report. This feedback was based on ICANN org's implementation and operational perspectives.

The EPDP Team also conducted outreach activities seeking critical input externally to facilitate its deliberations. Following ICANN75, it requested the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Generation Panels to initiate additional work on identifying characters that should not be allowed to become single-character TLDs in the Han script. As IDNs are an important topic for the GAC, the EPDP Team also conducted a targeted outreach event in February 2023 to help brief GAC representatives on the EPDP Team's work and encourage the GAC to get involved in the upcoming Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment.

To ensure a consistent solution for variant TLDs is being developed, the EPDP Team monitors the activities in the ccNSO's ccPDP4 on the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD Strings. The EPDP Team and the ccPDP4 periodically hold joint sessions to discuss their preliminary recommendations, compare similarities, and understand the differences.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The EPDP Team will continue its substantive deliberations and work toward developing its Phase 1 Initial Report, which is expected to be published for Public Comment shortly after ICANN76. During ICANN76, the EPDP Team plans to work toward finalizing its preliminary recommendations for inclusion in its Phase 1 Initial Report.

In addition, the EPDP Team is expected to conduct data collection efforts to prepare for deliberation on Phase 2 charter questions related to second-level IDN variant management.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Parties interested in the EPDP on IDNs should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee and communicate any input they believe may be useful to the EPDP's deliberations. The EPDP's "representative + open" membership model allows interested parties to join as a participant and take part in substantive EPDP deliberations, except when an official position is needed from the relevant organization or for a consensus call. Interested parties are also able to follow the working group's progress by signing up as observers.

A Public Comment period will be held on the EPDP Team's Phase 1 Initial Report following ICANN76. All are welcome to contribute to the Public Comment period.

MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP webpage](#)
- [EPDP workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Ariel Liang, Steve Chan, Emily Barabas

GNSO Guidance Process: Applicant Support

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

At ICANN76, the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) working group will hold a working session to seek to finish consideration of Tasks 3–5 relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success, and begin discussions of Task 6 relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

A GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) is underway to provide additional guidance to support eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program as recommended in the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Report.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

During its meeting on 25 August 2022, the GNSO Council [approved](#) the GGP Initiation Request to perform work on Applicant Support. The working group was subsequently formed and began its work in November 2022. The working group has developed a [work plan and timeline](#), which has been confirmed by the GNSO Council. It has completed Task 1, which required reviewing historical Applicant Support and Task 2, which resulted in the working group asking community leaders to suggest subject matter experts (SME), if their appointed members are not already their SMEs. The working group is focused on Tasks 3, 4, and 5, which relate to data, metrics, and measures of success.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Once the working group completes Tasks 3, 4, and 5, it will turn its attention to that last item in its remit, Task 6. This requires the group to recommend a methodology for allocating financial support when there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.

Per its work plan, once the working group completes its tasks, it is responsible for producing a GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report. The Draft GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report will be posted for Public Comment after which the working group will review and take into consideration the Public Comments received. It will update the Draft GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report if there are any recommendations that require modification to address comments received. Subsequently, the working group will produce a Final Report for consideration by the GNSO Council. If approved by the Council, the recommendations will be submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The working group is comprised of members and observers. The invited groups have appointed their members and alternates but interested parties can participate as observers. They can sign up and receive invitations for the working group meetings and will be able attend meetings in real-time, though they will only be able to listen to the conversation. Anyone interested in participating as an observer should contact the GNSO Secretariat at gnso-secs@icann.org.

MORE INFORMATION

- [GGP workspace](#)
- [GGP Initiation Request](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Julie Hedlund, Steve Chan

Expedited Policy Development Process: Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

In April 2019, the GNSO Council voted to adopt Recommendations 1–4 of the **Final Report** of the International Governmental Organization and International Non-Governmental Organization (IGO-INGO) Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms Policy Development Process, but elected to refer Recommendation 5 to the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group. In January 2020, the GNSO Council adopted an Addendum to the RPMs charter to integrate consideration of Recommendation 5 and initiate a separate Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) Work Track. In August 2021, the GNSO Council took the procedural step of initiating an EPDP to continue the work of the IGO Work Track. The EPDP Team delivered its Final Report to the Council on 4 April 2022 and the Council approved the five (5) consensus recommendations in June 2022. Therefore, the EPDP Team will not be meeting at ICANN76.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council tasked the IGO Work Track, now EPDP Team, to consider whether an appropriate policy solution can be developed that is generally consistent with Recommendations 1–4, allows for the possibility that an IGO may have jurisdictional immunity in some circumstances, and respects a registrant’s right to seek judicial review of an initial Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) or Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) decision. ([Learn More](#))

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP (provided for context)

The original PDP working group submitted its Final Report to the GNSO Council on 9 July 2018. The GNSO Council resolved to accept the Final Report on 19 July 2018. However, the Council did not take final action on the report at that time, noting that it would seek to consider the topic of curative rights protections for IGOs in the broader context of the appropriate overall scope of protection for all IGO identifiers.



The GNSO Council's deliberations included consultation with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). On 18 April 2019, the Council resolved to approve Recommendations 1–4 of the Final Report and refer Recommendation 5 to the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP Working Group as part of its Phase 2 work.

On 16 May 2019, the GNSO Council transmitted its Recommendations Report (relating to Recommendations 1–4) to the ICANN Board. ICANN org conducted a [Public Comment](#) consultation process for Recommendations 1–4 from 11 July to 20 August 2019. The GAC sent a [letter](#) to the GNSO Council, noting the Council's approval of Recommendations 1–4 and referring Recommendation 5 to the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP Working Group to ensure it is consistent with GAC advice.

EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOS

Following its referral of Recommendation 5 to the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP, the GNSO Council prepared a draft Addendum to the RPMs charter and consulted with the GAC and IGO representatives. Subsequently, the GNSO Council adopted the [Addendum](#) in January 2020 to initiate a separate IGO Work Track.

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 appoint members to the work track. Members of the work track met for the first time on 22 February 2021 and made significant progress on preliminary draft recommendations. Following the procedural step noted above to initiate an EPDP to complete the IGO Work Track's work, the EPDP Team published its [Initial Report for Public Comment](#) on 14 September 2021. The EPDP Team considered the comments received and made changes to its report as necessary. The Final Report and its five recommendations were delivered to the GNSO Council on 4 April 2022 and the five (5) consensus recommendations were approved by the GNSO Council in June 2022. The Council approved the Recommendations Report to the ICANN Board in July 2022. The Bylaws-mandated [Public Comment](#) proceeding on the recommendations took place from 28 November 2022 until 30 January 2023.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The ICANN Board is now considering Recommendations 1–4, taking into account the Public Comments received. Regarding Recommendation 5, the EPDP Team has delivered its Final Report and the GNSO Council has approved the five (5) consensus recommendations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

With the EPDP Team having completed its work and the recommendations approved by the Council, please stay tuned for additional information about future opportunities to engage on this topic.

MORE INFORMATION

- [IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP webpage](#)
- [IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP workspace](#)
- [EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Mary Wong, Steve Chan, Berry Cobb

Policy Development Process: New Generic Top-Level Domain Subsequent Procedures

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group will not be meeting at ICANN76 as it has completed its work. The GNSO Council adopted its **Final Report** in February 2021 and sent the PDP outputs and **Recommendations Report** to the ICANN Board for review.

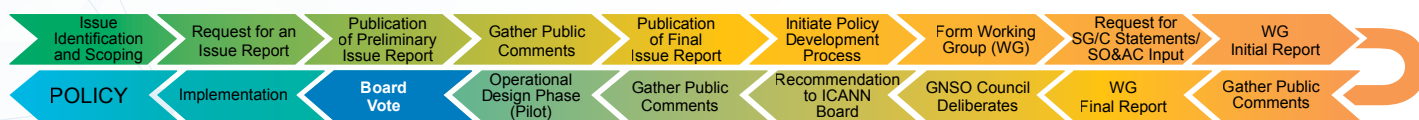
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This PDP working group sought to determine if any changes needed to be made to the existing policy recommendations from the 2007 [Final Report on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains](#). ([Learn More](#))

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

On 12 December 2022, ICANN org delivered an [Operational Design Assessment \(ODA\)](#) on the affirmations, recommendations, and implementation guidance produced by the SubPro PDP. The ODA will be an important input as the ICANN Board prepares to decide on SubPro Outputs. A small team of GNSO Councilors reviewed the SubPro ODA and the Council [provided its input](#) to the Board. Timely ICANN Board approval of the SubPro Outputs and the initiation of implementation steps are key priorities for the Council. The Council is also prepared for continued engagement with the Board on this topic, if needed.

In addition, on 6 March 2022, the ICANN Board sent a [letter](#) and [framing paper](#) to the GNSO Council proposing a Board-facilitated process for a GAC-GNSO Council dialogue on the topic of Closed Generics. Closed Generics was one of the topics in the SubPro PDP WG's charter, but the group was unable to agree on recommendations. Following an initial, informal meeting at ICANN75 in Kuala Lumpur, the dialogue participants met regularly via Zoom to conduct preliminary tasks, including reaching an agreement on good faith participation commitments to govern the group's deliberations, identifying concrete "use cases", and highlighting specific interests and groups that will be impacted by closed generic gTLDs. The group met for a substantive two-day face-to-face meeting in Washington, D.C. on 26–27 January 2023 and produced a summary of its deliberations. It will continue its discussions virtually. The group may also hold a closed session at ICANN76, if needed.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The ICANN Board is expected to act on the approved SubPro policy recommendations in accordance with the Bylaws.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Please stay tuned for additional information about future opportunities to engage on this topic.

MORE INFORMATION

- [PDP webpage](#)
- [PDP workspace](#)
- [ODP webpage](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Steve Chan, Emily Barabas, Julie Hedlund

Expedited Policy Development Process: Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data - Phase 2 (SSAD)

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

During ICANN76, the EPDP Phase 2 small team is expected to engage with ICANN org on the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System. A session has been scheduled on Saturday, 11 March 2023 from 13:15–14:30 EST.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification for generic top-level domain (gTLD) Registration Data to allow contracted parties to comply simultaneously with existing ICANN contractual requirements and the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This Board action triggered the GNSO Council's initiation of a PDP on 19 July 2018. The PDP was conducted in two phases: Phase 1 aimed to confirm, or not, the Temporary Specification by 25 May 2019; Phase 2 discussed, among other elements, a standardized access model to nonpublic registration data. Phase 2A also discussed the differentiation of legal and natural persons' registration data and the potential feasibility of unique contacts having a uniform anonymized email address. ([Learn More](#))

The GNSO Council approved the [Phase 2 Final Report](#) during its meeting on 24 September 2020 by supermajority vote. The Final Report details the EPDP Team's recommendations for a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) to nonpublic gTLD registration data, as well as recommendations and conclusions for the so-called Priority 2 topics, which include data retention, city field redaction, etc. With respect to the Priority 2 topics (recommendations not related to the SSAD), the Board [adopted](#) the four Priority 2 recommendations during its 21 June 2021 meeting.

As part of its approval of the SSAD recommendations, the GNSO Council agreed to request a consultation with the ICANN Board. The goal is to discuss the financial sustainability of the SSAD and concerns expressed in different minority statements. The issues in question include whether a further cost-benefit analysis should be conducted before the ICANN Board considers all SSAD-related recommendations for adoption. During ICANN70, the Board directed the ICANN org to initiate an Operational Design Phase (ODP) for the SSAD-related recommendation.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Following the approval of the Phase 2 policy recommendations by the GNSO Council, the ICANN Board asked ICANN org to conduct an ODP and produce an ODA on the SSAD recommendations. After the publication of the [ODA](#), the GNSO Council formed a small team consisting of Council members as well as EPDP Team members to assist the Council with its review of the ODA. The small team provided input on proposed next steps for the consultation process between the Board and the Council regarding the cost-benefit analysis of the SSAD recommendations.

The small team submitted its [preliminary report](#) to the GNSO Council. It expressed the view that the ODA does not provide sufficient information to determine the cost and benefit of the SSAD. The small team also recommended the implementation of a proof-of-concept approach, which would allow collecting more data to better inform the decision on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations. Subsequently, the GNSO Council requested the ICANN Board to direct ICANN org to design such a proof of concept (what is now known as the Whois Disclosure System). The ICANN Board sought GNSO Council input on prioritization of these projects to be transparent about resource demands and to align expectations. The GNSO Council indicated that it believes that both the design paper and one of the affected areas of work, the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) SubPro ODP, are priorities and that it is ultimately for ICANN org to best determine how to plan its work effectively and minimize negative impacts. On 14 July 2022, the ICANN Board confirmed that it accepted the ICANN org approach of proceeding with both projects in parallel.

ICANN org published the [Whois Disclosure System design paper](#) in September 2022 and presented it to the Council and small team during ICANN75. The small team subsequently reviewed the design paper and continued its consultations with ICANN org, resulting in an [addendum](#) to its preliminary report. The GNSO Council accepted the addendum and [communicated](#) to the ICANN Board its support for the request that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System, provided that the updates identified by the small team in the addendum are made. Furthermore, the GNSO Council confirmed to the ICANN Board that, pending the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System for a period of up to two years, the SSAD recommendations from Phase 2 of the EPDP on the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data should remain paused for consideration by the ICANN Board unless the data resulting from the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System would allow and warrant a decision at an earlier stage.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Following the Council's consideration of the Whois Disclosure System design and its [communication](#) to the ICANN Board, the Board will need to decide how to proceed. If it follows the Council's request to proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System, further engagement and consultation is expected to take place between the Board, ICANN org, and the GNSO Council's small team to address open issues and collaborate on the successful implementation of the system. The Council has recommended that the Whois Disclosure System run for a period of up to two (2) years, at which point, if not earlier, sufficient information should be available to make a determination on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

For more information on the SSAD ODP, please visit this [page](#). For more information about the EPDP Phase 2 small team, please see [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP Phase 2 webpage](#)
- [EPDP workspace](#)
- [EPDP Phase 2 small team workspace](#)
- [SSAD ODP webpage](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Caitlin Tubergen, Marika Konings, Berry Cobb

Policy Implementation Update

Implementation Review Teams (IRTs) are convened to assist ICANN org in developing the implementation details for the Board-approved policy developed in GNSO PDP working groups. This is to ensure that the implementation conforms to the intent of the policy recommendations, as per IRT Principles and Guidelines. ([Learn More](#))

Registration Data Policy for gTLDs (EPDP PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION)

The IRT will conduct a working session at ICANN76 on Thursday, 16 March 2023 from 15:00–16:00 EST. Please check the ICANN76 meeting schedule for the confirmed time.

Three stages of the policy implementation were designed in advance of the Board resolution:

- Stage 1: Effective 20 May 2019, contracted parties must continue to implement measures consistent with the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data, as adopted by the Board on 17 May 2018.
- Stage 2: This stage will begin after the ICANN org publishes a Registration Data Policy as a consensus policy and formally notifies the contracted parties. During this stage, contracted parties may implement the Interim Policy, the Registration Data Policy, or elements of both, as they prepare for the effective date of the Registration Data Policy. The timing of this milestone is to be determined.
- Stage 3: Contracted parties must comply with the Registration Data Policy as of its effective date, which the EPDP Team on the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data recommended to be 29 February 2020.

The Stage 1 Interim Consensus Policy, [Interim Registration Data Policy for gTLDs](#), was published on 17 May 2019.



In January 2021, the GNSO Council passed a [motion](#) to provide guidance on the interpretation of EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 7. In October 2021, the ICANN Board directed the implementation of the policy per the guidance. In June 2021, the Board [adopted Recommendations 19–22](#) from the EPDP Phase 2 [Final Report](#). The implementation of these recommendations, referred to as Priority 2 items, was added to the implementation scope. On 24 February 2022, the Board [adopted](#) the GNSO Council’s Supplemental Recommendation for EPDP Recommendation 12 concerning the deletion of data in the organization field as it addresses the Board’s overarching concern of loss of essential data.

Thirty-four (34) recommendations were analyzed to determine the implementation tasks: from EPDP Phase 1 (29), EPDP Phase 2 (4), and a Supplemental Recommendation (1). The draft Registration Data Policy language and review and analysis of all impacted policies and procedures have been published for [Public Comment](#).

Currently, the implementation team is considering Public Comments and finalizing the policy language with the support of the IRT, working to publish the language to begin the 18-month implementation period.

This IRT is open to all. If you believe you have the requisite expertise, you may join as either a member (with full posting rights to the mailing list and the ability to participate in all meetings), or as an observer (with read-only status for the mailing list). To join please follow the instructions in the [Call for IRT](#) announcement. The IRT meets every other week via teleconference and in person at ICANN Public Meetings.

MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP Phase 1 background](#)
- [Policy Implementation Status webpage](#)
- [IRT workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Dennis Chang

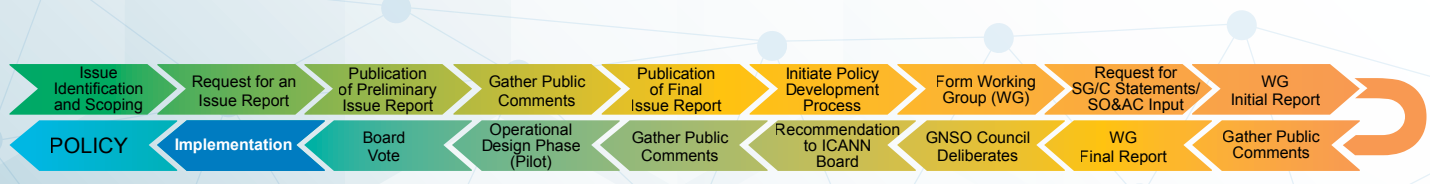
Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Phase 1

The IRT is expected to conduct a working session at ICANN76 on Wednesday, 15 March 2023 from 09:00–10:00 EST. Please check the ICANN76 meeting schedule for the confirmed time.

On 24 November 2020, the PDP working group submitted its [Phase 1 Final Report](#). It contains 35 recommendations. On 21 January 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously [approved](#) the Phase 1 Final Report and sent the [Recommendations Report](#) to the ICANN Board of Directors on 19 March 2021. A [Public Comment](#) proceeding on the Phase 1 Final Report was conducted from 7 April to 21 May 2021. The [Staff Report](#) was published on 4 June 2021.

On 16 January 2022, the ICANN Board voted to [adopt](#) all 35 final Phase 1 PDP recommendations. The resolution includes the following Board directives to the ICANN org:

- For the 16 recommendations that call for updates to existing operational practices – proceed with implementation as soon as feasible and develop an implementation plan.
- For the nine recommendations affirming the status quo – include them for future expansions of the new gTLDs and inform the community about the plans to implement them.
- For the six recommendations that require substantial resourcing and multiple stakeholders’ involvement – develop an implementation plan that includes estimated timing, staffing, and other resources required, as well as how their implementation fits into operational planning and prioritization of the anticipated implementation efforts that will require the ICANN org’s resourcing and support.
- For the four recommendations that call for specific changes to the Applicant Guidebook and/or the Base Registry Agreement and coordination with the expected Subsequent Procedures IRT – incorporate the implementation of these recommendations into the work on updates to the Applicant Guidebook for subsequent new gTLD rounds.



Following the Board's vote, ICANN's Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) function began planning for implementation of the Phase 1 recommendations. On 19 October 2022, ICANN org issued a [call](#) for volunteers to assemble an IRT to assist in the implementation of the policy recommendations from Phase 1. On 13 December 2022, the implementation team held its kick-off meeting. The team will focus on implementing the recommendations in the first and third implementation categories identified above. Implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Phase 1 Final Report will be integrated into the implementation work related to the subsequent round of new gTLDs.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Policy Implementation Status webpage](#)
- [IRT workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Antonietta Mangiacotti

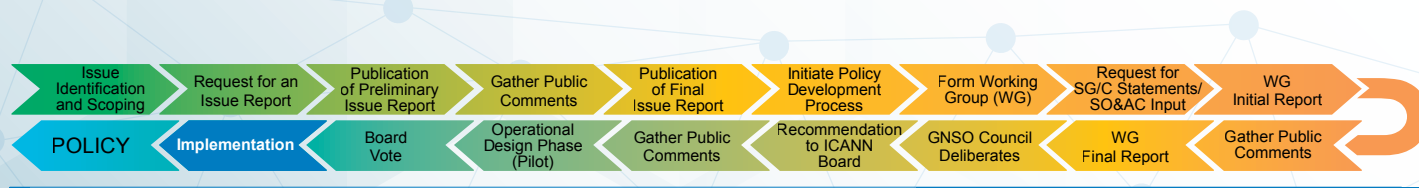
The following IRTs do not plan to meet at ICANN76.

Registration Data Policy for gTLDs

(EPDP PHASE 2A IMPLEMENTATION)

The ICANN Board [**approved the EPDP Phase 2A policy recommendations on 10 March 2022**](#). As set forth in Section 3 of the Final Report, the recommendations include: 1) a recommendation that a field or fields **MUST** be created to facilitate differentiation between legal and natural person registration data and/or if that registration data contains personal or non-personal data. ICANN org is expected to coordinate the implementation of this recommendation with the technical community. Once created, this field(s) is optional for use by contracted parties that choose to differentiate. Contracted parties that choose to differentiate are not required to use the field(s); 2) a recommendation that includes guidance developed by the EPDP team to assist contracted parties that choose to differentiate; 3) a recommendation that, should any possible future work within ICANN be undertaken in relation to the development of a GDPR Code of Conduct, the guidance developed concerning legal vs. natural differentiation should be considered; and 4) a recommendation that includes guidance for those contracted parties that choose to publish a pseudonymized registrant-based or registration-based email address in the publicly accessible Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS).

The ICANN Board has directed ICANN org to develop and execute an implementation plan for the above adopted recommendations that is consistent with the guidance provided by the GNSO Council and to continue communication with the community on such work. Implementation planning is now underway.



Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues

The IRT for the [policy recommendations](#) developed by the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group began meeting in October 2016. It has reviewed the draft Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and other associated program materials in preparation for the Public Comment phase.

On [4 March 2019](#), ICANN org wrote to the GNSO Council with the suggestion to wait before proceeding to Public Comment and implementation of the PPSAI recommendations until the completion of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The GNSO Council deferred the decision on this issue to ICANN org in a [message](#) on 30 April 2019. In its [response](#) on 5 September 2019, ICANN org confirmed that implementation work would remain paused pending the resolution of EPDP Phase 2.

With both phases of the EPDP complete, ICANN org provided its [draft review](#) of the impact of the EPDP recommendations on existing policies and procedures, including the PPSAI recommendations, per the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27. Following review by the EPDP Phase 1 IRT, the [report](#) was shared with the GNSO Council to help determine next steps. In its [7 July 2021 letter](#), the GNSO Council indicated an expectation that implementation would continue. ICANN org is now considering next steps for the PPSAI implementation within the org's planning activities, factoring in existing and upcoming activities, as well as direction from the Board.

MORE INFORMATION

- [PDP background](#)
- [Policy Implementation Status webpage](#)
- [IRT workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Dennis Chang

Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information

The ICANN Board [adopted](#) the recommendations of the PDP working group in September 2015. Since commencing implementation work in July 2016, the IRT and Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) have produced a [preliminary policy document](#). Due to complexities emerging from the IRT's discussions and work in other areas related to Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS) – in particular the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Expedited Policy Development Process](#) (EPDP)—the implementation's projected announcement and effective dates are to be determined.

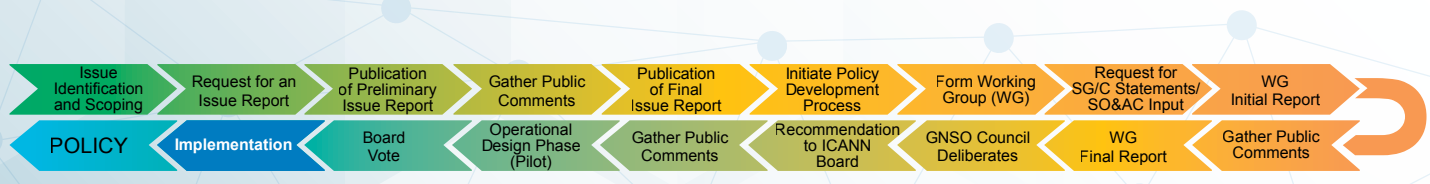
Given the implementation's relationship to the evolution of registration data policies and procedures, the PDP working group's recommendations are being assessed per Recommendation 27 of the EPDP on the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data Phase 1 Team's [Final Report](#). This is to ensure policy and implementation consistency across the many work streams in this area.

Both phases of the EPDP are now complete. The ICANN org has provided its draft review of the impact of the EPDP recommendations on existing policies and procedures, including the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information recommendations, per the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27. Following review of the EPDP Phase 1 IRT, ICANN org provided a [report](#) to the GNSO Council. ICANN org is considering next steps regarding the GNSO Council's consideration of the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27, Wave 1.5 Report, per its [letter](#) dated 7 July 2021. This includes incorporating next steps on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information recommendations into ICANN org's planning activities, and factoring in timing and prioritization of work with other existing activities, including applicable dependencies.

MORE INFORMATION

- [PDP background](#)
- [Policy Implementation Status webpage](#)
- [IRT workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Isabelle Colas



Protection of IGO and INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs

On 16 January 2018, the [implementation](#) of the Consensus Policy for the Protection of Certain Specific International Governmental Organization (IGO) and International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Identifiers for All gTLDs was published. As of 1 August 2018, implementation has been completed for the portion of the policy that provides protection by reserving full names for certain specific names of IGOs, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC). For INGOs, the implementation period will be 12 months from the release of the INGO Claims Systems Specification, which is currently being developed by the ICANN org.

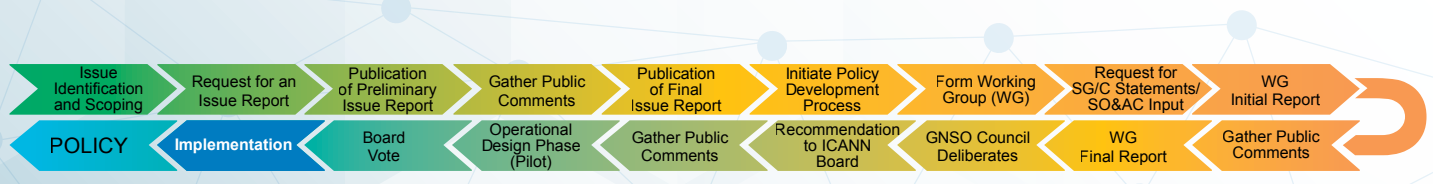
In January 2019, the ICANN Board [adopted](#) the policy recommendation proposed by the Reconvened PDP Working Group on the Protections of the Specific Red Cross Red Crescent Names in All gTLDs. After the [Public Comment phase](#), the [consensus policy language](#) was revised and published in February 2020. The implementation was completed by 1 August 2020, which resulted in increasing the number of [reserved Domain Name System \(DNS\) Labels](#) from 700 to more than 7,000.

The INGO Claims System implementation is currently on hold due to potential additional requirements that could be combined to create this new system. ICANN org is consulting with the IRT on the timing of the restart.

MORE INFORMATION

- [PDP background](#)
- [Policy Implementation Status webpage](#)
- [IRT workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Dennis Chang



Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

While the Council awaits feedback from ICANN org on its request, the scoping team's activities are paused.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council formally adopted the [formation of and instructions](#) to the Accuracy Scoping Team during its meeting on 22 July 2021. The scoping team has been tasked to consider several accuracy-related aspects such as current enforcement and reporting, measurement of accuracy, and effectiveness. These considerations are expected to help inform its deliberations and the development of recommendations to the GNSO Council on whether any changes are recommended to improve accuracy levels, and if so, how and by whom these changes would need to be developed (for example, if changes to existing contractual requirements are recommended, a PDP or contractual negotiations may be necessary to effect a change). Each Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, and Advisory Committee has been invited to appoint [representatives](#).

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The scoping team commenced its deliberations in October 2021. Following a review of proposals that may assist in the measurement of accuracy, the team submitted a [write-up](#) for assignments Number 1 (Enforcement & Reporting) and Number 2 (Measurement of Accuracy) to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation Number 3 of the write up. This means that:

- Work is paused in relation to proposals that require access to generic top-level domain (gTLD) registration data (as recommended by the scoping team).
- The GNSO Council [encouraged](#) ICANN org to proceed with its outreach to the European Data Protection Board and proceed with the Data Protection Impact Assessment in connection with the scenario(s) in which the request and processing of gTLD registration data takes place as a matter of urgency.
- The GNSO Council requested that ICANN org and contracted parties finish negotiations on the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) as soon as practicable because the absence of a completed DPA may act as a roadblock for additional policy work.



- Consideration of recommendations Number 1 (registrar survey) and Number 2 (registrar audit) has been deferred until such time as the DPA negotiations between ICANN org and contracted parties have completed and there is feedback from ICANN org on whether and how it anticipates the requesting and processing of gTLD registration data will be undertaken in the context of measuring accuracy, or for six months, whichever is shorter.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Following feedback from ICANN org, or after six months, whichever is shorter, the GNSO Council will consider how to proceed. This will include a review of the scoping team's formation and instructions, based on the feedback gathered from scoping team members by Council leadership.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Scoping Team instructions](#)
- [Scoping Team workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Marika Konings, Caitlin Tubergen, Berry Cobb

GNSO Schedule for ICANN76

Please confirm against the [final schedule](#) as changes may occur. For remote participation details, please consult this [wiki page](#), created by the GNSO Support Team. Live audio streaming, recording, and transcripts will become available after the meetings. Unless specified with the symbol [C], sessions published in this table are open to all. At the time of publishing, virtual meeting rooms have not yet been finalized. Please see the final schedule for further information.

DATE	MEETING
Saturday, 11 March 2023	Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Working Session (1 of 2)
	EPDP on IDNs Working Session (2 of 2)
	Transfer Policy Review (TPR) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (1 of 2)
	Joint Session: GAC, GNSO and ALAC - Facilitated dialogue on the topic of Closed Generics [C]
	Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) Brand Registry Group (BRG) SubPro ODA implications for prospective Future TLD Applicants
	EPDP Phase 2 (SSAD) - Implementation of Whois Disclosure System
	RySG GeoTLD Group: NIS2 Impact on the Registration Procedure
	Non-Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC) Membership Meeting
	Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) Membership [C]
	Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns (NPOC) Membership Meeting
	Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers (ISPCP) Membership Meeting (1 of 2)

DATE	MEETING
Sunday, 12 March 2023	Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) Membership
	Transfer Policy Review (TPR) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (2 of 2)
	Contracted Party House (CPH) TechOps (1 of 3)
	GNSO Council Working Session (1 of 3)
	GNSO Council Working Session (2 of 3)
	Contracted Party House (CPH) TechOps (2 of 3) [C]
	Contracted Party House (CPH) TechOps (3 of 3) [C]
	GNSO Council Working Session (3 of 3)
Monday, 13 March 2023	CPH DNS Abuse Amendment Team Meeting [C]
	GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) Initiation Request for Applicant Support
	CPH DNS Abuse Outreach
	IPC Membership Meeting
	Business Constituency (BC) Membership Meeting
	Joint Session: ICANN Board and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)
	CPH Membership meeting
	ISPCP Membership (2 of 2)
	Joint Session: GNSO and ccNSO Councils
	Joint Session: Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) and ICANN Compliance [C]
	CCWP on ICANN and Human Rights Session

DATE	MEETING
Tuesday, 14 March 2023	Joint Session: ICANN Board and GNSO Council
	Joint Session: ICANN Board and CPH
	Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) Membership Meeting
	NCSG Policy Committee
	RySG Membership Meeting (1 of 2)
	RySG Membership Meeting (2 of 2)
	RrSG Membership Meeting (1 of 2)
	RrSG Membership Meeting (2 of 2)
	Joint Session: ICANN Board and CSG
	GNSO Informal Council Session [C]
Wednesday, 15 March 2023	Joint Meeting: Government Advisory Committee (GAC) and GNSO Council
	CPH Roles and Responsibilities Discussion Group with ICANN Staff [C]
	CPH ExComs with Board Members - Lunch Meeting [C]
	GNSO Council Public Meeting
	Joint Meeting: CPH and CSG Membership meeting
	Noncommercial Outreach and Engagement
Thursday, 16 March 2023	RySG Membership Wrap-Up
	Being an ICANN Accredited Registrar
	GNSO Council Wrap-Up
	Registration Data Policy Implementation Review Team (IRT)

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Generic Names Supporting Organization