ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

Policy Briefing

ICANN82 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 @ ICANN82:

🌐 **gnso.ICANN.org/ICANNmeeting** 🐦 **@ICANN_GNSO**

Welcome to ICANN82 from the GNSO Chair

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council and the GNSO community welcome your participation in the ICANN82 Community Forum in Seattle. As with previous hybrid meetings, at ICANN82, the GNSO will seek to equally leverage contributions of in-person and remote participants to advance important policy development efforts and the work of the GNSO Council. As ICANN82 approaches, I would like to highlight a few GNSO initiatives that will be on the agenda for the meeting, as well as recent and ongoing work that may interest you. Additional information about GNSO projects can be found in the following sections of this document.

During ICANN82, the GNSO plans to progress key policy development initiatives and other GNSO projects. After over three (3) years of work, the Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group submitted its Final Report to the GNSO Council. The Council will consider and vote on the Final Report during its public meeting. The Transfer Policy Review 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 GNSO recently initiated a new PDP on Latin Diacritics, which will examine a single issue. Specifically, the Working Group will investigate the circumstance where a base American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) generic top-level domain (gTLD) and the Latin script diacritic version of the gTLD are NOT variants of each other and determine what mechanism is needed to allow a single registry operator to simultaneously operate both gTLDs. The Latin Diacritics Working Group just began its work and will be meeting during ICANN82.

The GNSO Council's Standing Committing on the Registration Data Request System (RDRS) will also meet at ICANN82. It plans to continue working on the report it will send to the Council, summarizing the trends it has identified, system improvements that have been implemented since the RDRS began operating, and the lessons learned to share with the GNSO Council. This will be an open working session.

During ICANN82, the GNSO Council will hold three working sessions on Sunday, 9 March, an informal meeting on Monday, 10 March, a public meeting on Wednesday, 12 March, and a wrap-up session on Thursday, 13 March. The GNSO Council will also hold bilateral meetings with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and with the ICANN Board.

ICANN82 will be a full meeting with ample opportunities to participate and learn about GNSO policy development. Whether you are attending in person in Seattle, or via Zoom, I look forward to seeing you soon. I wish you all a productive meeting.

Greg DiBiase
GNSO Chair

ICANN82 at a Glance

The GNSO Policy Support Team has developed this briefing document to help community members prepare for ICANN82. 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). This document includes links for additional background reading to help you prepare for ICANN82. 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**. It 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.

ICANN82 Meeting Information

Meeting Page, including Registration and Schedule

General Remote Participation Information

GNSO Session Remote Participation Details

ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior

ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy

GNSO-Related Information

Pre-ICANN82 GNSO Council Webinar

GNSO One-Stop Shop for ICANN Meetings
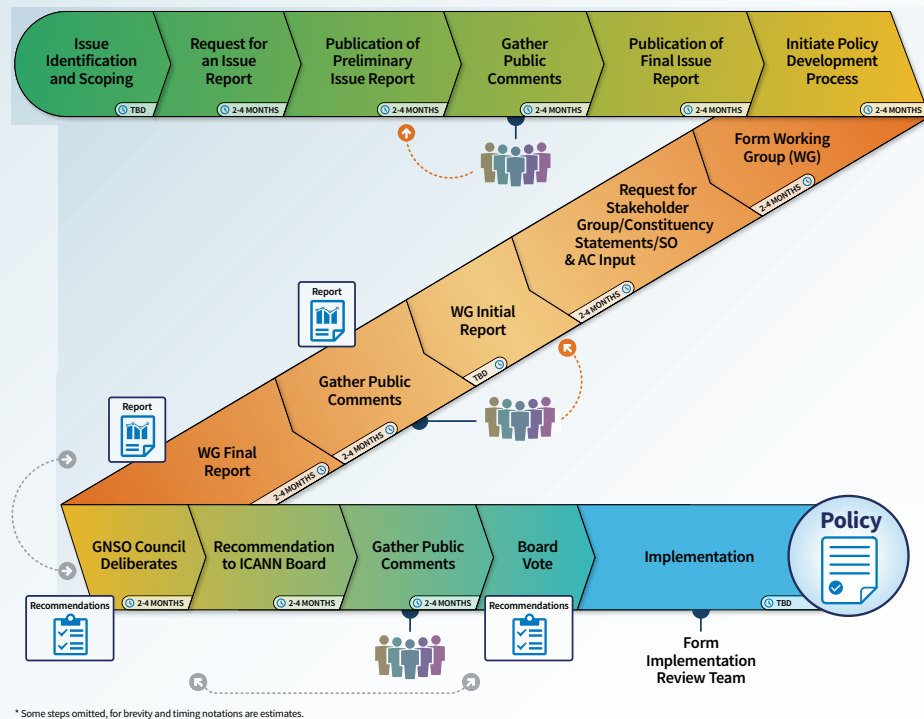
Project List

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.

Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs Briefing
The ICANN organization's Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP) team has a similar, publicly available, briefing. Its goal is to provide status updates and progress reports on the various community-facing projects that the PRSP team supports, all in preparation for ICANN82 meeting discussions. The pre-ICANN meeting briefings are a valuable resource for the community and help increase visibility and accountability for the multiple projects the PRSP team supports and leads. You can read the PRSP Pre-ICANN82 Briefing **here**.

GNSO Policy Development Process Infographic

The GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) governs how the GNSO develops consensus policies related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs). As shown in the summarized graph below, a GNSO PDP lifecycle consists of different steps. They include issue identification and scoping, PDP initiation, working group, GNSO Council deliberation, ICANN Board vote, and policy implementation.

* Some steps omitted, for brevity and timing notations are estimates.

The respective steps reached by the PDP working groups are detailed in the following sections.

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

- **ICANN Bylaws, Annex A**
- **Detailed Infographic of the GNSO PDP**
- **PDP Manual**

Policy Development Process:
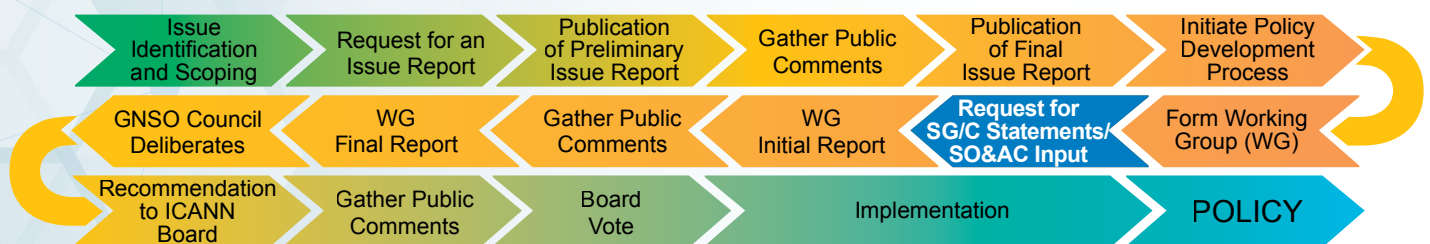# Latin Script Diacritics

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Diacritics are accents, accent marks, or acute accents that are used to modify sounds, or signify stressed syllables in many languages globally that utilize the Latin alphabet. This practice is particularly common in the context of the Domain Name System (DNS), which is limited to the use of the ASCII characters. While the DNS does support Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), including the usage of Latin alphabet-based characters with diacritics, IDNs are stored in the DNS as ASCII strings, relying upon Punycode transcription. As such, some users may elect to omit the diacritic marks instead of relying on an IDN.

The Latin Script Diacritics PDP will examine the circumstance where a base ASCII gTLD and the Latin script diacritic version of the gTLD are not variants of each other. It is seeking an appropriate mechanism to be in place where currently none exists that allows a single registry operator to simultaneously operate both gTLDs. The GNSO Council **initiated** a PDP for Latin Script Diacritics on 13 November 2024.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

With the initiation of the PDP, the WG's **charter** was adopted on 19 December 2024. Upon the establishment of its membership, the Latin Script Diacritics PDP WG commenced its work in February 2025. The WG remains in its early stages of deliberations.

Issue Identification and Scoping	Request for an Issue Report	Publication of Preliminary Issue Report	Gather Public Comments	Publication of Final Issue Report	Initiate Policy Development Process
GNSO Council Deliberates	WG Final Report	Gather Public Comments	WG Initial Report	Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input	Form Working Group (WG)
Recommendation to ICANN Board	Gather Public Comments	Board Vote	Implementation		POLICY

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?
Once the Latin Script Diacritics PDP WG concludes its deliberations, the next steps are to formulate its preliminary recommendations and publish its Initial Report for Public Comment.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
The Latin Script Diacritics PDP WG is structured as an Open Model, where it is open to all parties that are interested in participating. Other opportunities to participate in this topic will be through the Public Comment opportunities. For more information, please visit its **workspace**.

MORE INFORMATION

━ **PDP webpage**

━ **PDP workspace**

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Saewon Lee, John Emery, Steve Chan

Policy Development Process: Transfer Policy Review

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN82 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The working group will not hold a meeting at ICANN82.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council **initiated** a PDP to review the Transfer Policy, or the policy that describes the requirements for registrars when a registrant wishes to transfer their domain name(s) to a new registrar or registrant. 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.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

After reviewing the public comments received in response to its comprehensive **Initial Report**, which was published on 16 June 2022, the working group delivered its **Final Report** to the GNSO Council on 5 February 2025.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The GNSO Council will consider and vote on the policy recommendations in the Final Report during its public meeting at ICANN82.
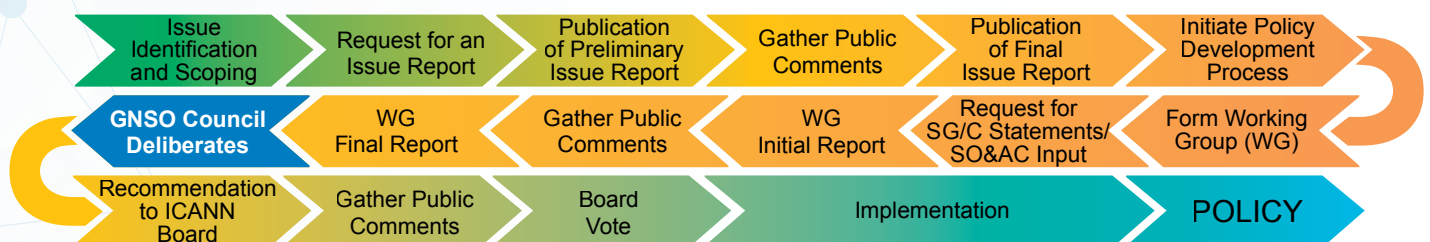
HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The working group is no longer meeting, but interested parties may follow the progress of the Final Report by visiting the **PDP workspace**.

MORE INFORMATION

- **PDP webpage**
- **PDP workspace**

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Caitlin Tubergen, Julie Hedlund, Christian Wheeler, Feodora Hamza

Issue Identification and Scoping → Request for an Issue Report → Publication of Preliminary Issue Report → Gather Public Comments → Publication of Final Issue Report → Initiate Policy Development Process

GNSO Council Deliberates ← WG Final Report ← Gather Public Comments ← WG Initial Report ← Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input ← Form Working Group (WG)

Recommendation to ICANN Board → Gather Public Comments → Board Vote → Implementation → POLICY

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN82 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Team (hereafter "the EPDP Team") will not hold a working session at ICANN82 as it has completed its work. During ICANN82, the ICANN Board of Directors is anticipated to take action on the Phase 2 policy recommendations, following the GNSO Council's approval of all the Outputs from the **Phase 2 Final Report**.

Meanwhile, the Implementation Review Team (IRT) as a sub-track of the existing SubPro IRT, which is established to support the implementation of Phase 1 policy recommendations, will be holding working sessions at ICANN82. Please check the **ICANN82 meeting schedule** for the confirmed times.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Domain names are mostly registered under the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) alphabet characters. As such, IDNs allow people to use domain names in their native languages and scripts, allowing the Internet to be more accessible to people who do not use ASCII. However, it has been identified that IDN labels may have variant labels where there is no accepted definition for variant top-level domains (TLDs) nor a "variant management" mechanism for TLDs. This EPDP set out to resolve these issues and on 20 May 2021 the GNSO Council approved the **initiation request** for the launch of the EPDP on IDNs and adopted its **charter**.

In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the **project change request** from the EPDP Team to divide its work into two phases to best prepare for the Next Round of the new gTLDs and avoid any potential delays that may affect the implementation work; Phase 1 was to focus on topics related to top-level gTLD definition and variant management while Phase 2 on topics related to second-level variant management.

For Phase 1, the EPDP Team finalized sixty-nine (69) outputs (fifty-eight (58) final recommendations and eleven (11) implementation guidance) pertaining to gTLD definition and variant management. The GNSO Council **approved** the EPDP-IDNs **Phase 1 Final Report** on 21 December 2023, including all sixty-nine (69) outputs, followed by the ICANN Board adopting fifty-six (56) of the fifty-eight (58) final recommendations on 7 September 2024.[1]

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[1]On 8 June 2024, the ICANN Board took action to adopt 52 recommendations from the Phase 1 Final Report and identified 6 recommendations as pending. Four (4) of the pending recommendations were adopted on 7 September 2024, leaving two (2) pending recommendations as of the drafting of this Report. See the Board's approved resolutions here: https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-regular-meeting-of-the-icann-board-07-09-2024-en

For Phase 2, the GNSO Council approved all twenty (20) outputs ((fourteen (14) recommendations, and six (6) implementation guidance)) pertaining to second-level variant management documented in the **Phase 2 Final Report** and delivered the **Recommendations Report to the ICANN Board** in December 2024. Subsequently, the ICANN Board conducted an open proceeding on the Final Report until 3 February 2025, gathering Public Comments to help it reach a final decision on the policy recommendations.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?
The ICANN Board has reviewed the Public Comments received from the community to help inform its forthcoming decision on the policy recommendations during ICANN82.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?
In accordance with the ICANN Bylaws, the ICANN Board is expected to take action on the Phase 2 policy recommendations during ICANN82.
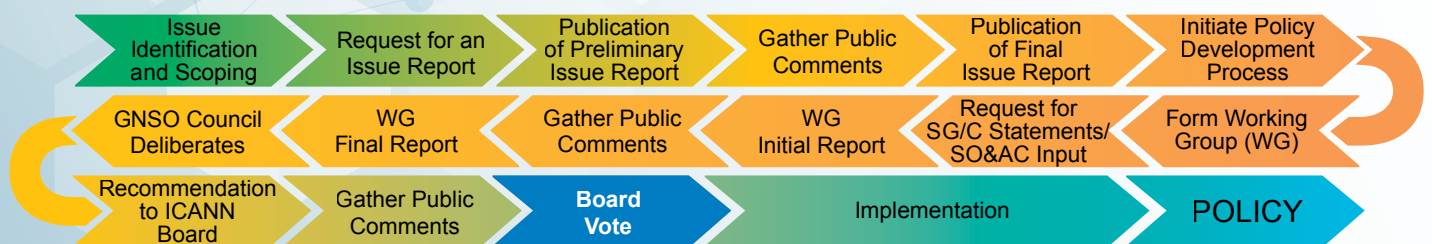
HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
Since the EPDP Team has now completed its work and the final Public Comment for Phase 2 organized by the ICANN Board is also closed, those interested in this topic are welcome to participate through IRT working sessions and/or other Public Comment opportunities led by the IRT.

MORE INFORMATION

- **EPDP webpage**

- **EPDP workspace**

- **EPDP Phase 2 Initial Report Public Comment**

- **EPDP Phase 2 Final Report Public Comment**

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Saewon Lee, Steve Chan, Daniel Gluck

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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN82 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) Standing Committee (SC), the committee of volunteers charged with reviewing RDRS metrics and making recommendations to the GNSO Council, will hold one working session during ICANN82. The Standing Committee is currently drafting its report, which will help to inform policy discussions related to a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD). The working session is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 12 March from 16:30 to 17:30 local time, but please verify the **ICANN82 meeting schedule** for the confirmed time.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The ICANN Board **directed** ICANN org in February 2023 to develop and launch the Whois Disclosure System (System), now called RDRS, as requested by the GNSO Council. In November 2023, the RDRS launched, and ICANN org began collecting and publishing the metrics associated with the System. In January 2024, ICANN released the **first RDRS metrics report**.

One of the main purposes of the RDRS is to collect data about system usage, which will inform future discussions between the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board on the pending Recommendations 1–18 from the **Final Report** of the GNSO **Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2**.

The RDRS was developed to provide insight into the estimated volume of requests a possible System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) may receive. In addition, the RDRS may provide other information that helps determine the costs or benefits of the SSAD recommendations and whether the community may consider updates to the existing policy recommendations.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?
During ICANN81, the RDRS SC agreed to start drafting its report that will be shared with the GNSO Council. The RDRS will continue to work on this report during ICANN82. The RDRS SC deemed that after one year the pilot had yielded enough data for the RDRS SC to start formulating recommendations to help inform policy discussion related to SSAD.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?
The RDRS SC will focus on completing its report, which will be shared with the GNSO Council for their consideration. Further engagement and consultation are expected to continue between the Board, the ICANN organization, the GNSO Council, and the RDRS Standing Committee to collaborate on the review of the System.
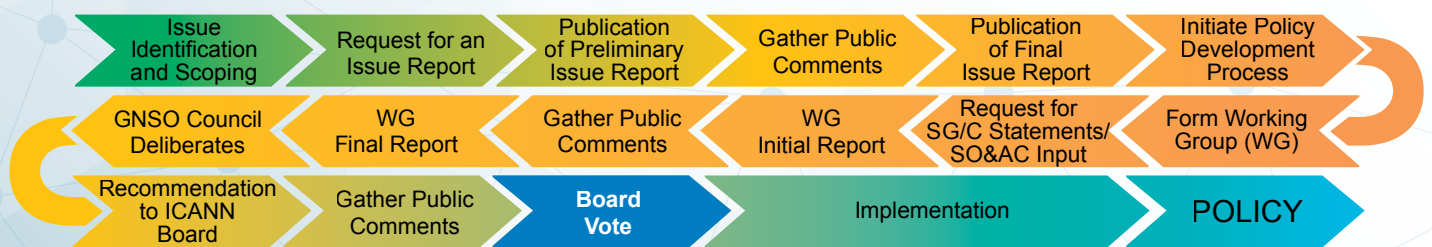
HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
For more information on the SSAD ODP, please visit this **page**. For more information about the RDRS Standing Committee, please see its **workspace**.

MORE INFORMATION
- **EPDP Phase 2 webpage**
- **EPDP workspace**
- **EPDP Phase 2 small team workspace**
- **RDRS Standing Committee workspace**
- **SSAD ODP webpage**
- **RDRS Usage metrics reports**

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Feodora Hamza, Caitlin Tubergen

Standing Committee: Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement (SCCI)

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN82 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement (SCCI) will hold a working session at ICANN82 as it develops preliminary recommendations for the GNSO Council relating to the Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) Framework. The working session is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 8 March from 16:30 to 17:30 local time, but please verify the **ICANN82 meeting schedule** for the confirmed time.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The SCCI was **convened** by the GNSO Council as a permanent committee on 13 November 2024 to oversee the implementation of continuous improvement-related projects that are focused on the GNSO's structural, procedural, and process improvements to the Policy Development Process (PDP). This is the outcome of a pilot framework known as the **Council Committee for Overseeing and Implementing Continuous Improvement (CCOICI)**.

The GNSO Council has the responsibility of approving the SCCI's projects as well as its outcomes. The SCCI's remit does not include projects or topics that come within the scope of policy development, which must be handled through the GNSO's PDP. However, the SCCI's scope is not limited to the GNSO Council's work only and extends to the GNSO community. As necessary, the SCCI will carry out its work through dedicated Task Forces comprised of GNSO Councilors and representatives of each GNSO Stakeholder Group and Constituency.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The SCCI's **charter** was adopted on 13 November 2024. Upon the establishment of its membership, the SCCI commenced its work in February 2025. The SCCI is still in its initial stages of deliberations.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The SCCI's initial projects will include:

- CIP Framework recommendations; and

- Policy & Implementation **WG**; **PDP3.0**.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The SCCI is a standing committee sponsored by the Council. It is a representative model. All members will serve in representative capacity, where applicable, and as such, be responsible for consulting with their respective groups on a regular basis. Anyone interested may join as an observer.

MORE INFORMATION

— **SCCI workspace**

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Steve Chan, Saewon Lee, Julie Hedlund

GNSO Schedule for ICANN82

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, 08 March 2025	Joint Session: Contracted Party House (CPH) with Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) Memberships
	NCSG: How to do a Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) when mitigating DNS Abuse
	Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) Membership Work Session [C]
	Latin Script Diacritics PDP Working Group
	Non-Contracted Party House (NCPH) Work Session
	CPH Membership Work Session [C]
	CPH ExComs Work Session [C]
	NCSG Policy Committee Work Session (1 of 2)
	Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement (SCCI)
	CPH ExComs with ICANN Senior Staff [C]
	Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) Membership Work Session

DATE	MEETING
Sunday, 09 March 2025	GNSO Council Working Session (3 Sessions)
	CPH TechOps Working Session (2 Sessions)
	Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC) Membership Work Session
	Joint Session: Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) Work Session
	CPH Registration Data Policy Implementation Discussion [C]
	Joint Session: GAC and GNSO Council
	CPH Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Community Update
	Joint Session: CPH and CSG Work Session
Monday, 10 March 2025	Joint ICANN Board and GNSO Council
	Joint Session GNSO: RrSG & ICANN Compliance Meeting [C]
	GNSO Council Informal Session [C]
	(RySG) Brand Registry Member Working Session

DATE	MEETING
Tuesday, 11 March 2025	Joint Session: ICANN Board and NCSG
	CPH Membership Work Session
	Joint Session: ICANN Board and CPH
	NCSG Policy Committee Work Session (2 of 2)
	Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers (ISPCP) Membership Work Session
	Business Constituency (BC) Membership Work Session
	Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) Membership Work Session (3 Sessions)
	IPC Membership Work Session
	RySG Membership Work Session (3 Sessions)
	NCSG Issue Forum Work Session
	NCUC Membership Work Session
	Joint Session: ICANN Board and CSG
	NCSG Membership Work Session
Wednesday, 12 March 2025	RySG GeoTLD Group Membership Working Session
	RrSG Outreach: A Registrant's Journey
	CPH ExComs Luncheon with Select Board Members [C]
	GNSO Council Public Meeting
	RySG Public Comments workshop [C]
	Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) Standing Committee Work Session
	RySG Base RA Review Team with ICANN Staff [C]
Thursday, 13 March 2025	GNSO Council Wrap-Up Work Session
	RySG Wrap-Up Work Session

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