



ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

Policy Briefing ICANN83 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 @ ICANN83:

 gns0.ICANN.org/ICANNmeeting  [@ICANN_GNSO](https://twitter.com/ICANN_GNSO)

WELCOME TO ICANN83 FROM THE GNSO CHAIR	3
ICANN83 AT A GLANCE	4
GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS INFOGRAPHIC	6
POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: LATIN SCRIPT DIACRITICS	7
POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: TRANSFER POLICY REVIEW	9
EXPEDITED POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN NAMES	11
EXPEDITED POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: TEMPORARY SPECIFICATION FOR gTLD REGISTRATION DATA - PHASE 2 (SSAD)	13
STANDING COMMITTEE: STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT (SCCI)	15
GNSO SCHEDULE FOR ICANN83	17

Welcome to ICANN83 from the GNSO Chair



The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council and the GNSO community welcome your participation in the ICANN83 Policy Forum in Prague. As with all ICANN Public Meetings, at ICANN83, 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 ICANN83 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 ICANN83, the GNSO plans to progress key policy development initiatives and other GNSO projects.

Preceding ICANN82, the GNSO initiated a new policy development process (PDP) on Latin Diacritics. The PDP 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 is progressing in its work and will hold two meetings during ICANN83.

The GNSO Council's Standing Committee on the Registration Data Request System (RDRS) will also meet at ICANN83. 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. The RDRS Standing Committee will hold two open working sessions.

During ICANN83, the GNSO Council will hold the following meetings: on Tuesday, 10 June, the Council will hold a bilateral meeting with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC); on Wednesday, 11 June, the GNSO Council will hold its public meeting and on Thursday, 12 June, the Council will hold its wrap-up session.

ICANN83 will be a full meeting with ample opportunities to participate and learn about GNSO policy development. Whether you are attending in person in Prague, or via Zoom, I look forward to seeing you soon. I wish you all a productive meeting.

Greg DiBiase
GNSO Chair

ICANN83 at a Glance

The GNSO Policy Support Team has developed this briefing document to help community members prepare for ICANN83. It provides an overview of the status of the GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) working groups and teams, as well as information about other GNSO policy-related activities. This document includes links for additional background reading to help you prepare for ICANN83. 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.

ICANN83 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-ICANN83 GNSO Council Webinar](#)

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

[Project List](#)

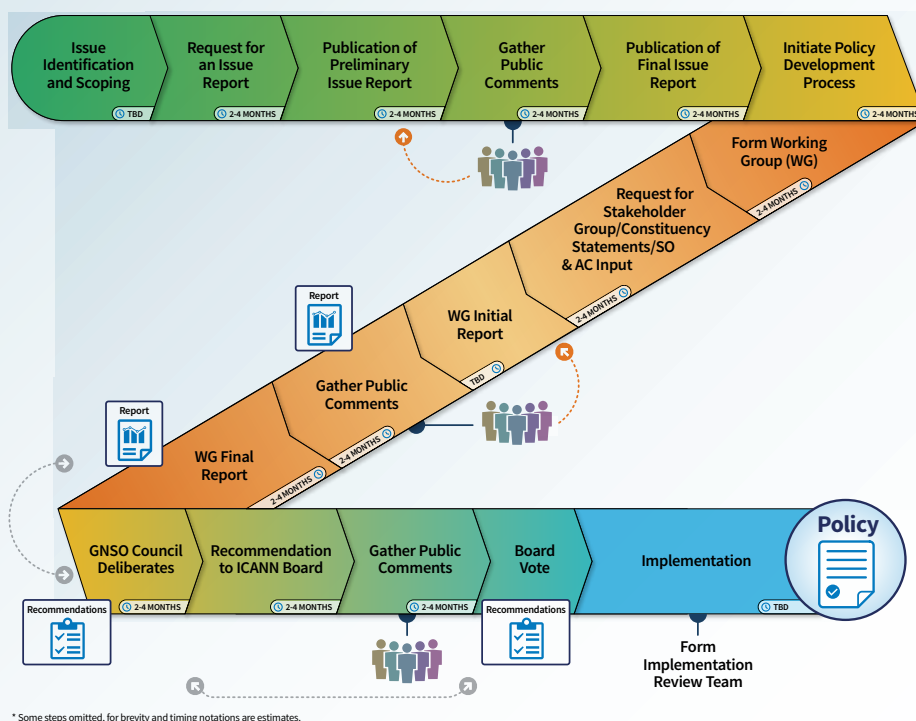
If you have any questions about, or suggestions for, this Policy Briefing or GNSO policy activities, please contact us at policy-staff@ICANN.org. We look forward to a productive meeting.

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 ICANN83 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-ICANN83 Briefing on this [webpage](#).

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.



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 CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN83 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The Latin Script Diacritics (LD) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) will be holding two working sessions at ICANN83. The working sessions are scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 11 June from 9:00 to 10:15 and 10:45 to 12:15 Prague local time, but please verify the [ICANN83 meeting schedule](#) for the confirmed time.

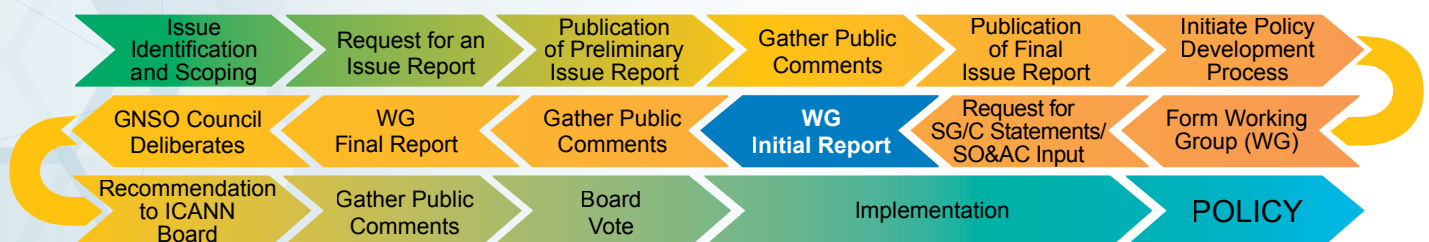
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

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 American Standard Code for Information Interchange (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 LD PDP examines 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?

The LD PDP WG is still in its early stages of deliberations understanding the topic through its Charter questions. The Project Plan was approved by the GNSO Council on 10 April and the request for Stakeholder Group/Constituency (SG/C) statements and Supporting Organization (SO) and Advisory Committee (AC) input closed on 24 April.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Once the LD PDP WG concludes its initial deliberations, the next steps are to formulate its preliminary recommendations and publish its Initial Report for Public Comment.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The LD 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 ICANN83 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The working group (WG) will not hold a meeting at ICANN83.

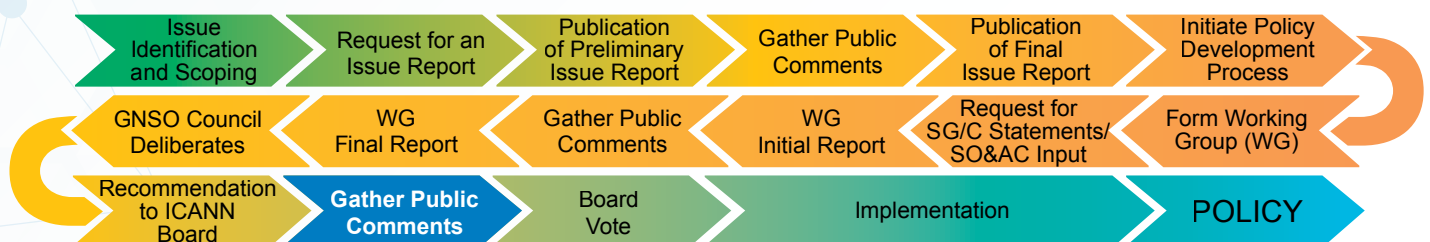
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council [initiated](#) a policy development process (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?

On 12 March 2025, the GNSO Council voted to [approve](#) all forty-seven (47) policy recommendations from the Transfer Policy Review WG's Final Report and voted to [approve](#) the Recommendations Report to the ICANN Board regarding the Final Recommendations from the Transfer Policy Review PDP WG 10 April 2025.

The ICANN Board opened a [Public Comment](#) period on the Final Report, and the ICANN community is invited to provide feedback. Comments are due 2 July 2025.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Following the Public Comment period, the ICANN Board will consider the WG's Final Report.

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](#) or provide [Public Comments](#) on the Final Report. Public Comments are due on 2 July 2025.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN83 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

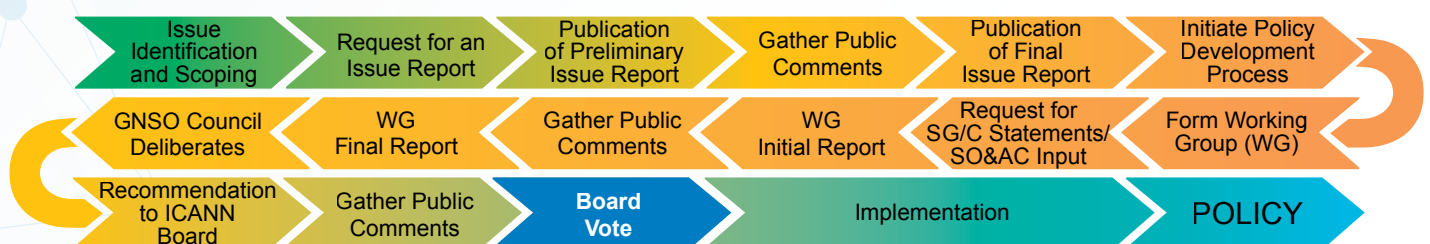
The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Team (hereafter “the EPDP-IDNs Team”) will not hold a working session at ICANN83 as it has completed its work.

Meanwhile, the Implementation Review Team (IRT) as a sub-track of the existing Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) IRT, which is established to support the implementation of Phase 1 policy recommendations, will be holding working sessions at ICANN83. One sub-track for IDNs IRT will take place on Tuesday, 10 June from 15:30 to 17:00 Prague local time, but please check the [ICANN83 meeting schedule](#) for the confirmed times.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Domain names are mostly registered under the ASCII alphabet characters. As such, IDNs allow people to use domain names in their native languages and scripts, enabling the Internet to be more accessible to people who do not use ASCII. At the time, there was no accepted definition for variant TLDs nor a corresponding mechanism for “variant management.” The EPDP-IDNs set out to resolve these issues and on 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the [initiation request](#) of the EPDP on IDNs and adopted its [charter](#).

Subsequently, the EPDP-IDNs Team divided its work into two (2) 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 focused on topics related to top-level gTLD definition and variant management, while Phase 2 focused on topics related to second-level variant management. The GNSO Council approved the [project change request](#) in November 2022.



Consequently, 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](#) by 7 September 2024. 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](#) on 13 November 2024, delivering the [Recommendations Report to the ICANN Board](#) in December 2024. The ICANN Board has since reviewed the Public Comments received from the community.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The ICANN org is conducting its feasibility/impact analysis on Phase 2 policy recommendations to help the ICANN Board on its forthcoming decision.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

In accordance with the ICANN Bylaws, the ICANN Board is expected to act on the Phase 2 policy recommendations..

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Since the EPDP-IDNs 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 ICANN83 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

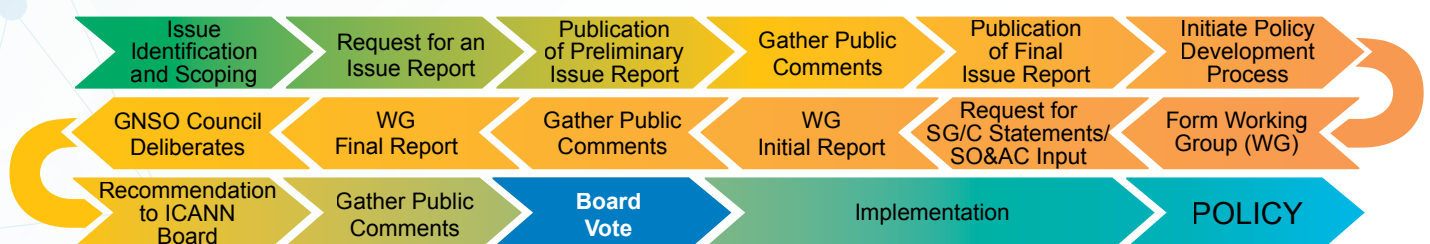
The Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) Standing Committee (SC), the committee of volunteers charged with reviewing RDRS metrics and making recommendations to the GNSO Council, will hold two working sessions during ICANN83. The Standing Committee is currently drafting its report, which will help to inform policy discussions related to a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD). The working sessions are scheduled to take place on Monday, 9 June 2025 from 10:45 to 12:15 and Tuesday, 10 June 2025 from 15:30 to 17:00 Prague local time, but please verify the [ICANN83 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, which will be shared with the GNSO Council. The RDRS will continue to work on this report during ICANN83. 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 and share it 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 SC 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 SC, 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 ICANN83 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement (SCCI) is expected to hold a working session at ICANN83 as it continues to review the Policy and Implementation (P&I) Policy Status Report (PSR). The working session is scheduled to take place on Monday, 9 June from 13:45 to 15:00 Prague local time, but please verify the [ICANN83 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 composed of GNSO Councilors and representatives from each GNSO Stakeholder Group and Constituency.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The SCCI is still in the early stage of deliberations; considering the GNSO's draft Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) Criteria and Indicators and formulating recommendations on P&I. The Project Plan for 2025 and its corresponding assignment forms for CIP, P&I PSR, PDP 3.0 were all approved by the GNSO Council on 10 April.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The SCCI will continue to develop preliminary recommendations for the GNSO Council on the P&I and finalize the GNSO's CIP Criteria and Indicators once more clarity is available regarding the overall CIP Framework.

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 ICANN83

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
Monday, 09 June 2025	Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) Membership Meeting
	Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) Standing Committee Work Session (1 of 2)
	Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) Brand Registry Group (BRG) DotBrand Use Cases and Key Insights for the Next Round
	Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)/Constituencies Membership Work Session
	Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) Membership Work Session [C]
	Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement (SCCI) Work Session
	Contracted Parties House (CPH) Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Community Update
Tuesday, 10 June 2025	NCSG Policy Committee Work Session (2 sessions)
	RySG Membership Work Session
	IPC Membership Work Session
	Registrars and ICANN Compliance [C]
	Joint Session: Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and GNSO Council
	Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers (ISPCP) Membership Work Session
	GNSO Council Informal Session [C]
	Joint Session: Address Supporting Organization (ASO) and ISPCP
	RDRS Standing Committee Work Session (2 of 2)
	RySG GeoTLD Group Membership Working Session and Community Outreach
	Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) Membership Work Session

DATE	MEETING
Wednesday, 11 June 2025	Latin Script Diacritics PDP Working Group (2 Sessions)
	RrSG DNS Abuse Example Review and Panel Discussion
	NCSG Discussion with Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) Leaders
	GNSO Council Public Meeting
	Business Constituency (BC) Membership Work Session
	Joint Session: ccNSO and RySG Memberships
Thursday, 12 June 2025	Non-Contracted Party House (NCPH) Work Session
	Joint Session: CPH Membership with the SSAC
	CPH Membership Meeting [C]
	NCSG Wrap-Up Work Session
	GNSO Council Wrap-Up
	Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) of Disclosure Systems for Domain Name Registrant Data

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