

GNSO Council Aspirational Statement

13 May 2025

Per the ICANN Bylaws, the GNSO Council is responsible for managing the policy development process (PDP) of the GNSO. The members of the GNSO Council strive to effectively manage the PDP to enable each process to produce policy recommendations that address the issue at hand, achieve consensus, and can be implemented into Consensus Policy.

The Council's management begins by scoping each PDP clearly to articulate a common understanding of the policy issue and to facilitate deliberations that fall within ICANN's remit, and then by chartering each PDP Working Group (WG) to account for both relevant expertise and diversity within the WG membership. During the lifecycle of the PDP, the Council oversees work of the WG by receiving regular updates from the WG Chairs, Staff, and Council Liaisons. The Council ensures that work is proceeding according to the established work plan and timeline and, if needed, serves as a resource for the WG to mitigate issues that arise, including stalemates in the deliberations of the WG.

Once the PDP WG concludes its work and produces a Final Report, the Council considers all of the recommendations contained therein, the level of consensus those recommendations achieved, and whether all relevant procedures were followed before voting on whether to approve all or a portion of the recommendations. While individual GNSO Councilors and the groups they represent may not fully agree with the final policy recommendation text, GNSO Councilors strive to support recommendations that follow the PDP's consensus-building processes because doing so supports the broader multistakeholder model.

Finally, the Council is available to serve as a resource for the ICANN Board while it considers adopting Council-approved policy recommendations. The Council then appoints a Liaison to the Implementation Review Team (IRT) tasked with implementing Board-approved policy recommendations to escalate any issues that may be resolved by input or action by the Council.