

Minutes of the GNSO Council Meeting 11 December 2025

GNSO Council meeting on Thursday, 11 December 2025 at 21:00 UTC: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8r3wh>
13:00 Los Angeles; 16:00 Washington DC; 21:00 London; 07:00 Paris; (Friday) 00:00 Moscow; 08:00
Melbourne

List of attendees:

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): – Non-Voting – Anne Aikman Scalese
Contracted Parties House
Registrar Stakeholder Group: Hong-Fu Meng, Ashley Heineman, Prudence Malinki
gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group: Nacho Amadoz(apologies, proxy to Samantha Demetriou), Samantha Demetriou, Jennifer Chung
Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Gaurav Vedi
Non-Contracted Parties House
Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG): Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Vivek Goyal, Osvaldo Novoa, Damon Ashcraft, Susan Payne, Susan Mohr (joined 30 minutes into call, proxy to Osvaldo Novoa)
Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG): Farzaneh Badii, Bruna Martins dos Santos (joined late - absent first vote), Julf Helsingius, Peter Akinremi, Tapani Tarvainen, Benjamin Akinmoyeje
Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Christian Dawson
GNSO Council Liaisons/Observers:
Justine Chew: ALAC Liaison
Sebastien Ducos: GNSO liaison to the GAC
Antonia Chu: ccNSO observer

Guests: none

ICANN Staff:

Mary Wong - Vice President, Strategic Policy Management
Steve Chan – Vice President, Policy Development Support & GNSO Relations
Julie Hedlund - Policy Development Support Director (GNSO) (apology)
Berry Cobb - Senior Program Manager, Policy Development Support
Caitlin Tubergen - Policy Development Support Director (GNSO)
Saewon Lee - Policy Development Support Manager (GNSO)
Feodora Hamza - Policy Development Support Manager (GNSO)
John Emery - Policy Development Support Senior Specialist (GNSO)
Terri Agnew - Policy Operations Senior Specialist (GNSO)
Julie Bisland - Policy Operations Analyst (GNSO)
Devan Reed – Policy Operations Coordinator (GNSO)

[Zoom Recording](#)

[Transcript](#)

Item 1: Administrative Matters

- 1.1 - Roll Call
- 1.2 - Updates to Statements of Interest
- 1.3 - Review / Amend Agenda
- 1.4 - Note the status of minutes for the previous Council meetings per the GNSO Operating Procedures:
Minutes [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) of the GNSO Council Meeting on 29 October 2025 were posted on 15 November 2025.
[Minutes](#) of the GNSO Council Meeting on 13 November 2025 were posted on 27 November 2025.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, updated her SOI with a PIR sponsorship of Digital Meduza.

Item 2: Opening Remarks / Review of Projects & Action List

- 2.1 - Review focus areas and provide updates on specific key themes / topics, to include review of [Projects List](#) and [Action Item List](#).

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, noted that the topics will be discussed later in the meeting, but offered a space for any updates from Councilors.

Item 3: Consent Agenda

- Confirm GNSO Empowered Community Representative
 - Jennifer Chung
- Confirm Standing Selection Committee (“SSC”) Members and Leadership
 - Chair: Julf Helsingius
 - Vice-Chair: Vivek Goyal
- Confirm Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (“SPIRT”) Leadership
 - Chair: Jeff Neuman
 - Vice-Chairs: Cheryl Langdon-Orr and Segunfunmi Olajide
- GNSO Review of the GAC Communiqué

Peter Akinremi, GNSO Vice-Chair, introduced the topics, volunteers, and [resolutions](#).

Vivek Goyal, BC, queried if he was able to vote as he was on the ballot for the SSC.

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, confirmed that it is fine to vote if you are on the ballot.

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, moved to a vote.

Julf Helsingius, NCSG, abstained as he would prefer not to vote for himself.

[Vote Results](#)

Action Items:

- GNSO Secretariat to communicate the Council’s identification of the GNSO’s designee, who shall represent the Decisional Participant to the Empowered Community Administration, to the ICANN Secretary, which will serve as the required written certification from the GNSO Chair.
[COMPLETED]
- GNSO Secretariat to inform the SSC that the membership and leadership team has been confirmed; [COMPLETED]

- GNSO Secretariat to inform the SPIRT that the Leadership Team has been confirmed [COMPLETED]
- GNSO Secretariat to provide the GNSO Council's review of the GAC Communique to the ICANN Board. [COMPLETED]
- GNSO Liaison to the GAC also informs the GAC of the communication between the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board [COMPLETED]

Item 4: COUNCIL VOTE - Final Issue Report on a Policy Development Process for DNS Abuse

4.1 - Presentation of [motion](#) (Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair)

4.2 - Council discussion

4.3 - Council vote (voting threshold: an affirmative vote of more than one-third (1/3) of each House or more than two-thirds (2/3) of one House)

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, introduced the topic and discussed the updated [motion](#) considered friendly by her and Damon. She noted that the motion proposes initiating two separate PDPs with one following the other. However, based upon the NCSG objections, leadership agreed to amend the motion to immediately convene a charter drafting team for the Associated Domain Checks - PDP 1. There were some additional concerns regarding the membership model, but recalling that Council discussed this last meeting. The updated and amended motion provides the Council and broader community additional time to carefully review, consider, and if needed, further develop the second draft charter. The motion text now is PDP 1 and PDP 2 and the draft charter is on PDP 1 on associated domain checks (ADC). There will be additional time to review the PDP 2 draft charter when the time comes and will not be contemplated at this moment. It is ultimately up to Council in consultation with PDP 1 WG and staff to determine when this is most practical and perhaps stating the obvious, PDP 2 cannot begin without the Council taking the next step. This proposal reflects substantial input received through Public Comment, the ICANN84 DNS Abuse session, and our subsequent discussions in Council. Across these inputs, we heard both a strong desire for progress on DNS Abuse Mitigation and a clear expectation that policy development should be scoped in a way that is realistic, targeted, and capable of producing implementable outcomes. Many commenters during Public Comment and the ICANN84 discussion indicated that the ADC topic appears to be at a more advanced stage of problem framing, making it a more suitable candidate for convening the WG first. There was relatively broad alignment that requiring checks for associated domains using existing registrar tools could produce tangible results relatively quickly, noting that some Rrs conduct ADC voluntarily already.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, continued outlining the concerns around human rights, noting that it would not simply be the impact assessment, but would be central throughout. She cited page 48 of the Final Issue Report highlighting it would be for confirmed malicious domains and compromised domains would be specifically excluded. The decision to revisit the PDP 2 charter and commence work will be a Council decision in consultation with the PDP 1 WG, staff, and all concerned parties to ensure a timely start that takes into account resource constraints and bandwidth. Given the concerns raised by NCSG, a vote on the Charter of DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 on ADC has been deferred to the January Council meeting to allow a charter drafting team to address the two primary issues of: Working Group Model and further addressing human rights concerns. From a leadership perspective, we believe these are the only two issues that should be considered for amendments by the charter drafting team.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, read the [resolved](#) clauses.

Damon Ashcraft, IPC, thanked Jen for the revisions in light of NCSG comments. He felt it was a good compromise, but remained concerned about the two PDPs and their timing, but he was happy to second it and support it.

Sam Demetriou, RySG, noted that the registries understand in order to get a charter finalized it will require some expedient work before the holiday and she will put her name down for the charter drafting team.

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC, queried about the charters in place for upcoming PDPs and what the process would be to continue on with multiple PDPs on DNS Abuse.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, stated that the information is in the final issue report concerning how we have departed from our initial prioritization plan. She reiterated that there are two draft charters in the Final Issue Report that were for the two priority items from the Small Team. The two in the Final Issue Report are ADC and API access and the charter drafting team for PDP1 will meet immediately. The charter drafting team for PDP 2 will likely occur when the time comes as determined by the progress of PDP 1. There is no specific timeline on the additional PDPs, but tightly scoped and focused PDPs should bring about developments in a relatively short amount of time.

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC, confirmed his question and he expressed fear and suspicion that hopefully as the work progresses this will then be how to manage timelines. Previously it was discussed that once PDP 1 recommendations were in PDP 2 could commence. He wanted to ensure that there would not be lags between PDPs.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, shared her analysis on the Final Issue Report and shared why it represented a lot of risk for the NCSG. She emphasized it was not just about human rights, but also about people's access to domain names. She was asking for due diligence and transparency in ADC and other PDPs API safeguards included with a potential for remedies for registrants. ADC could have implications when mitigation goes wrong and there is a false positive when a domain is suspended when they have not done anything. She was also concerned with ADC being prioritized as NCSG was on record as opposing this ordering of PDPs. She raised an additional procedural issue, although they would approve the motion, on how this order was selected. She raised issues with the Final Issue Report – that there should be transparency, due diligence, and accountability. She summarized the concerns of NCSG and thanked the Council for allowing the charter drafting team to be convened.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, responded that there was a lot of time spent looking at feedback and comments and that NCSG is heard. She thanked her for putting this on the record and added that during the charter drafting period some language could be looked at.

Justine Chew, ALAC Liaison, noted that Council has heard NCSG and that this has led to a compromise position on this topic. She reminded everyone that DNS abuse affects many people apart from these registrants, naming end users, as well as brands, thus Council is not just looking at one point of view. She added an administrative point that the link in preamble number 8 is to the 1 December version of the Final Report rather than the 4 December version and should be updated. She then volunteered for the charter drafting team.

Prudence Malinki, RrSG, thanked Jen and the Small Team for their work and issued a statement from the Registrar Stakeholder Group. We, as in the Registrar Stakeholder Group, we support the continued

discussions relating to the wording and substance of the charter questions that are going to happen subsequently after this meeting. And also, we support the vote relating to the further progression of the PDPs, both of them, the two PDPs. However, we just want to make sure that the Registrar Stakeholder Group have made sure that it's recorded officially on the record that we as registrars would prefer to have an alternative ordering of the PDPs whereby the prioritization of the API PDP going first as opposed to the Associated Domain Checks PDP going first. However, that being said we really still want to engage and participate in today's vote. We really do want to see both of these PDPs proceeding, and we do support and believe in the progress of the PDPs as a whole, but we just take slight issue with the ordering of those PDPs, and we just wanted to go on record saying that. But otherwise, we support the working endeavors so far.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, sought clarification that registrars were still prepared to vote on this motion.

Prudence Malinki, RrSG, replied yes that they will engage in the vote and substantive discussions on the charter. RrSG wanted on record their preferred ordering of PDP 1 and PDP 2 to be switched.

Vivek Goyal, BC, requested for all volunteers to keep in mind that the discussion is for the Charter itself and not preempt the outcomes. He urged Councilors to resolve concerns when the PDP has commenced with concrete examples of the possible impact of this. The charter is just the charter, and he called on Councilors not to argue the PDP's work during the charter drafting.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, thanked Vivek and noted that the charter drafting team had very limited time to focus on getting the charter correct and focused for the PDP to start.

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, moved to a roll call vote.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, shared a [statement](#) from NCSG

Bruna Martins dos Santos, NCSG, abstained from the vote and thanked Farzi for addressing most of our concerns.

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, shared the vote totals.

[Vote Results](#)

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA Non-Voting, raised a point of order that if there is an abstention there should be a statement in connection with it according to the operating procedures.

Steve Chan, ICANN org, agreed that there should be an explanation with an abstention.

Bruna Martins dos Santos, NCSG, Requested to share her abstention on list, but was aligned with the [statement](#) by NCSG with more time for charter discussion in addition to her concerns raised on Council list.

Action Items:

- GNSO Secretariat to send doodle poll to Charter Drafting volunteers to be completed EOB 12 December [COMPLETED]

- Volunteers: Jen (Chair), Samantha, Anne, Farzaneh, Justine, Ashley, Lawrence, Vivek, Susan Mohr, and Peter
- GNSO Secretariat to send enrollment for ICANN Join for Charter Drafting team [COMPLETED]
- Farzi to convey NCSG statement and Bruna to convey abstention to GNSO Secretariat [COMPLETED]

Item 5: COUNCIL VOTE - Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) Standing Committee Findings Report

5.1 - Presentation of [motion](#) (Susan Payne, GNSO Chair)

5.2 - Council discussion

5.3 - Council vote (voting threshold: simple majority)

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, introduced the topic and noted that Council accepts the RDRS Standing Committee's Findings Report as being helpful input to inform our future deliberations within the GNSO regarding the next steps on how to treat the EPDP Phase 2 recommendations, also the SSAD recommendations. She reiterated that the Standing Committee's Findings Report makes recommendations, but they are not GNSO policy recommendations. Nevertheless, the findings report is the reflection of a significant amount of effort and community engagement. The primary purpose of the assignment to the RDRS Standing Committee was to help the Council determine next steps regarding the SSAD recommendations particularly as they were informed by the results from the RDRS pilot. So, the Standing Committee is recommending pursuing the path of supplemental recommendations. She emphasized the Council role to consider requesting the Board to non-adopt recommendations to kick off supplemental recommendation. The RDRS SC contained other recommendations for enhancing RDRS, which may require a small team in Council.

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, read the [resolved](#) clauses.

Vivek Goyal, BC, raised that RDRS is a poor measure of the demand for such a service without mandatory participation and the low levels of results that requestors got. He believed that the demand for this is huge, but hopes that going forward RDRS improves so that more requesters can benefit from the service that can truly reflect the demand that is out there.

Peter Akinremi, GNSO Vice-Chair, echoed Susan's comments to perhaps convene a small team to dig further into the Findings Report.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, suggested keeping the RDRS Standing Committee as it is extremely helpful to look at empirical analysis and see what is happening with a policy to refine recommendations as well. She also mentioned discussions in the INFERMAL group and the accreditation of the request and narrow authentication for law enforcement and this kind of experiment is being continued. She praised the initiative overall.

Sebastian Ducos, GNSO Liaison to the GAC, noted that keeping the RDRS Standing Committee is the last recommendation of the Findings Report.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA Non-Voting, queried about the language of future discussions and next steps on EPDP Phase 2 SSAD recommendations. She asked about the language of resolved clause 1. The Board did not adopt SSAD and strongly favors improvements to RDRS and potentially making it mandatory. She inquired as to whether this group is going to be formed, next steps, and potential future policy on this.

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, outlined next steps as the SSAD recommendations are sitting in limbo with

the Board, but have not been non-adopted/rejected yet. Separately, there is an RDRS system operational that has been reviewed by the standing committee with some recommendations to improve it. There is a gap from policy recommendations and what we currently have as a system to be enhanced or not. The next step is to have a dialogue with the Board. There is another public comment currently out with staff looking at alignment of policy gaps, so that should aid in next steps. The job today is to get from where we are now to have some policy that backs up the RDRS system or its possible successor.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA Non-Voting, inquired if there would be a Council small team or what the next steps should be. The concern she raised was what was in the policy remit of the Council as we are all trying to make a system work.

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, moved to a vote.

Vote Results

Action Items:

- Susan to circulate email on list concerning RDRS Recommendation 5 regarding how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations, to inform the Council's eventual dialogue with the Board re: next steps for SSAD recommendations.
- If there is no Council alignment, interested councilors may form an informal team to review the RDRS report for Recommendation 5 and the upcoming Board/Council discussion on this specific topic.

Item 6: COUNCIL DISCUSSION - Preparation for 2026 Strategic Planning Session (SPS)

6.1 - Introduction of Topic (Steve Chan, GNSO Support Staff)

6.2 - Council Discussion

6.3 - Next Steps

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, introduced the topic and the GNSO staff that would be giving an update on the January SPS in Barcelona. It is something that is a bit shorter than normal at two days, but is foundational to the work that is done as Council.

Steve Chan, ICANN org, shared the following [slides](#) in detail concerning the history of the SPS and the goals and requirements for the January SPS.

Caitlin Tubergeren, ICANN org, shared the following [slides](#) and previewed the quiz-style game to ensure that Councilors do their homework prior to the meeting.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA Non-Voting, queried about the projects list and work being done that is not directly under GNSO auspices, specifically CCG review of reviews.

Caitlin Tubergeren, ICANN org, answered that projects list track projects directly under the Council. Ancillary efforts should be captured in the Council meeting agenda planning tool, that is open to all Councilors. If there is something in the CCG, or IG tracking team, that can be a part of the monthly meeting, but not on the Project's list. So, for those type efforts, please update the agenda planning tool directly.

Osvaldo Novoa, CSG ISP, added that Sophie Hey and he will send an email update of the CCG progress.

The CCG is open for everyone and the wiki has documents open to everybody. He solicited feedback on how the different contributors and stakeholders think about reviews and which should be deleted or postponed.

Caitlin Tubergen, ICANN org, concluded and turned it over to Terri Agnew for AOB

Action Items: Councilors to study ADR and Projects list to prepare for quiz at SPS in January

Item 7: Any Other Business

7.1 - SPS Logistics

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, discussed SPS logistics with the Councilors and let them know that the invites would be coming shortly. She also updated the Council on the following:

- The evening of Monday, 19 Jan will be a welcome receipt for those who have arrived.
- Tuesday, 20 January, will be council activity & dinner
- Wednesday, 21 January free night
- Hotel confirmations will be sent 1-2 weeks prior to travel
- We again thank Nacho and .CAT for sponsoring the space

7.2 - WSIS+20 developments and the upcoming meetings in New York (Anne Aikman-Scalese and Jennifer Chung)

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA Non-Voting, sent an email but updated the Council on the informal Internet governance tracking team. It consists of Farzi, Jen, herself, and Desiree who has termed out of Council, and Seb. She noted that many would be in New York for WSIS +20 and she discussed how active Jen had been on the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB). It has generally been a collaborative process and ICANN has participated actively. A finalized document will be circulated to list. She noted that it appears the group will likely shut down considering the government work is concluding but the revision three and final version to be voted on by the UN General Assembly.

Jennifer Chung, GNSO Vice-Chair, added that Revision 3 would come out on 11 December at 19:00 EST.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA Non-Voting, thanked Jen for all of her hard work on that.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, asked if Council is planning to submit a public comment on the strategic budget that ICANN org has called for. Can we discuss suggesting budget proposals? NCSG is going to comment on 2027 and was wondering if Council was doing something on that.

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, replied no that Council could if there was something that they could collectively say.

Steve Chan, ICANN org, informed Councilors that there is a new group called the Budget and Operations Town Hall and he would send an email on that.

Susan Payne, GNSO Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Action Items: Steve Chan to email Council about Budget & Operations Townhall
Meeting Adjourned at 23:00 UTC