

Minutes of the GNSO Council Meeting 14 August 2025

GNSO Council meeting on Thursday, 14 August 2025 at 21:00 UTC: [Event Time Announcer - GNSO Council Meeting](#) 14:00 Los Angeles; 17:00 Washington DC; 22:00 London; 23:00 Paris; (Friday) 00:00 Moscow; 07:00 Melbourne

List of attendees:

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): – Non-Voting – Anne Aikman Scalese

Contracted Parties House

Registrar Stakeholder Group: Hong-Fu Meng, Ashley Heineman (first meeting, replaced Greg DiBiase), Prudence Malinki

gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group: Nacho Amadoz, Samantha Demetriou (apologies, proxy to Jennifer Chung), Jennifer Chung

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Desiree Zeljka Miloshevic Evans

Non-Contracted Parties House

Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG): Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Vivek Goyal (tentative apologies due to connectivity, proxy to Lawrence Olawale-Roberts), Osvaldo Novoa, Thomas Rickert (apologies, proxy to Osvaldo Novoa), Damon Ashcraft, Susan Payne

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG): Farzaneh Badii, Bruna Martins dos Santos, Julf

Helsingius, Tomsin Samme-Nlar, Peter Akinremi, Manju Chen

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Paul McGrady

GNSO Council Liaisons/Observers :

Justine Chew : ALAC Liaison

Sebastien Ducos: GNSO liaison to the GAC

Antonia Chu: ccNSO observer (absent)

Guests:

Karen Lentz and Jason Kean ICANN PPSAI IRT support staff

ICANN Staff:

Mary Wong - Vice President, Strategic Policy Management (apology)

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) (apology)

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](#) of the GNSO Council Meeting on 11 June 2025 were posted on 30 June 2025.

[Minutes](#) of the GNSO Council Meeting on 10 July 2025 were posted on 28 July 2025.

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, noted that the previous Item 9 Urgent Requests has been moved to September due to Thomas Rickert being an apology and unable to present today.

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](#).

Item 3: Consent Agenda

- Deferral of CSC Effectiveness Review
- Confirmation of GNSO Non-Registry Liaison and Alternate to the Customer Standing Committee (CSC)
 - GNSO Non-Registry Liaison: John Gbadamosi
 - Alternate: Anil Jain
- Adoption of Team 14 outcomes document - Board Seat 14 appointment
- Confirmation of Support for the Board's Proposed Non-Adoption of Select IGO Recommendations

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, moved to a vote.

[Vote Results](#)

Action Items:

- GNSO Secretariat to communicate the Council's decision to request a deferral of the CSC Effectiveness Review to the Board. [completed, TA sent email to ccNSO support staff]
- GNSO Secretariat to communicate the outcome (appointed candidates) for the GNSO Non-Registry Liaison and Alternate to the CSC to the staff supporting the CSC, the appointees, and the other applicants. [COMPLETED]
- GNSO Secretariat to update GNSO Op Procedures to include new proposed Annex 7 [COMPLETED]
- GNSO Secretariat to 1) inform the Board that GNSO Council does not object to the Board's intention to reject pending Recommendations 3.3.5 and 3.3.7, on the basis that they have been superseded by subsequent developments and 2) confirm that the Council does not intend to develop Supplemental Recommendations for the non-adopted recommendations.

Item 4: COUNCIL VOTE - Approval of IANA Review Function 2 (IFR2) Final Report

4.1 - Introduction of Topic (Tomslin Samme-Nlar, Interim GNSO Co-Chair)

4.2 - Council Vote (Voting Threshold: Supermajority)

4.3 - Next Steps

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, reminded the Councilors based on the July presentation on IFR2, primarily concerning DNSSEC and IANA Naming Function Contract. He read the [resolved clauses](#) and moved to a vote.

[Vote Results](#)

Action Items:

- GNSO Secretariat to communicate the Council's decision to the Co-chairs of the IFRT and relevant ICANN staff [COMPLETED]

Item 5: COUNCIL VOTE - Approval of Recommendations from GNSO Council Small Team on Accuracy

5.1 - Introduction of Topic (Paul McGrady, Small Team Lead)

5.2 - Council Vote (voting threshold: simple majority)

5.3 - Next Steps

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, introduced the topic as it has been a topic for several months for the accuracy Small Team. He presented the four recommendations for Council considerations. Focused on areas of alignment to move things forward. He noted the late SSAC response and it was not considered as the due date was February 14th and it was not considered. He additionally noted that accuracy has not been solved and the Council can put together a new assignment document for additional considerations in the future. He then read the [resolved clauses](#), opened the floor for discussion, and moved to a vote.

[Vote Results](#)

Peter Akinremi, NCSG, queried about the non-considered SSAC comment.

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, reiterated that it was not considered as it was months late, but is noted here in the Council record and is something that can be considered if the Small Team spins up again.

Action Items: Leadership and Support Staff will follow up on the recommendations from the vote.

Item 6: COUNCIL VOTE - Request Issue Report on DNS Abuse

6.1 - Presentation of Motion (Jennifer Chung, Small Team Lead)

6.2 - Council Vote (voting threshold: simple majority)

6.3 - Next Steps

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, gave background on the progress of the Small Team and the history of the DNS Abuse mitigation work. The Small Team identified remaining gaps for further policy developments and consulted with SGs/Cs to prioritize gaps that are solvable through policy work, with broad consensus, with achievable aims. She mentioned that follow on work will be likely with subsequent PDPs or other mechanisms and recommended a Preliminary Issue Report. She read the [resolved clauses](#), opened it up for discussion, and moved to a vote.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, read this [statement](#) on behalf of the NCSG.

[Vote Results](#)

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC, stated that the accuracy team did refer to the DNS Abuse team around the issue of validation and the DNS Abuse team was not able to do much around that subject matter. Is this going to require a group looking at this, or could it be added to a task for the issues report? What happens to that work?

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, noted that this is in the recommendation report in the table on pg. 7 and was noted by CSG as a priority item. Additionally, recommendation 4 calls to look at remaining gaps and priorities for subsequent next steps. The other priority gaps for SGs/Cs are not dropped, they are within the larger gap matrix in the appendix. She further noted that the Small Team worked through NCSG concerns and has strengthened the language through careful balancing of rights and responsibilities. She thanked NCSG for their input on this matter.

Action Items: Assign staff to lead a draft of the Preliminary Issue Report for DNS Abuse.

Item 7: COUNCIL VOTE - Approval of the Review of Reviews Cross Community Group Charter

7.1 - Presentation of Motion (Susan Payne, IPC Councilor)

7.2 - Council Discussion

7.3 - Council Vote (voting threshold: simple majority)]

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, introduced the topic and discussed how the issue has evolved over the past few months. He noted that nearly all of the Council Small Team's recommendations were integrated into the draft charter and were recognized (in principle) by SOAC chairs. He noted that today's vote only focuses on the RoR CCG Charter and the accompanying task of identifying two GNSO members to work on the CCG.

Susan Payne, IPC, noted how the motion had a lot of background information which was summarized by Tomslin. She noted in essence that there was cross-community work to work on a charter for the CCG, a small group of volunteers has gotten together with Tomslin and Lawrence taking the lead on that with the ccNSO, Board, org, and others. There is now a stable draft charter for a CCG to conduct a review of reviews. Idea is to approve this and formally get underway the selection process for the two GNSO members underway. The next Council meeting will likely ask to approve the SSC selections. She read the [resolved clauses](#), opened it up for discussion, and moved to a vote.

[Vote Results](#)

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, added that the efforts to address the non-compliance with ICANN bylaws will be pursued in parallel and has not been forgotten.

Action Items: Staff to inform the SO/AC Chairs that the Council has approved the RoR CCG Charter.

Item 8: COUNCIL UPDATE - Privacy Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Implementation Work - Questions for GNSO Council

8.1 - Introduction of Topic (Paul McGrady, GNSO Council Liaison to the PPSAI IRT)

8.2 - Council Discussion

8.3 - Next Steps

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, introduced the topic and shared the following [slides](#). Hope is that by September there will be draft responses to the Threshold Questions and socialized to different groups. Pushing hard on speed with evolving RDRS conversations and its relevance for PPSAI, there is clearly some confluence with these topics. Get feedback to IRT as quickly as possible. He asked to have an ad hoc Small Team to look at the Threshold Questions and to draft answers for the IRT. Paul is willing to lead that Small Team.

List of volunteers: Paul, Tomslin, Damon, Ashley, Vivek, Farzi, and Peter

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, mentioned the disclosure frameworks and she was unsure how to respond to the TQs in the Small Team. Stated her opinion that the PPSAI should come up with implementation of how to accredit the privacy proxy. Other recommendations have been overtaken by events. She queried if there is a possibility for providing an answer that some of these recommendations should not be implemented at all.

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, replied that these are Board adopted Council recommendations. The Small Team remit would be narrow and looking specifically about the questions asked in light of the recommendations as they are now. Any un-adoption would be a separate work path, if people wanted to go down that road. Disclosure is narrow for Privacy/Proxy, and there would be work in aligning workstreams with RDRS. Small group would not want to be ambitious of overturning prior policy adopted by the Board.

Action Items: Staff to work with volunteers to set up regular meetings for Small Team Minus: Paul, Damon, Tomslin, Ashley, Vivek, Farzi, and Peter [Completed].

Item 9: COUNCIL UPDATE: Outcome of Transfer Policy Review PDP Human Rights Impact Assessment

9.1 - Introduction of Topic (Farzaneh Badii, GNSO Councilor)

9.2 - Council Discussion

9.3 - Next Steps

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, shared the following [slides](#). She discussed how to facilitate PDP work to apply HRIA iteratively and escalate only if triggers are hit in answering the question. Requested Council to request an issue report on transfer dispute mechanism and transfer dispute resolution, she wants to prioritize this work.

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, noted that the prioritization discussion will continue asking staff to help put data into the topics that were on the table. This request for including the Issue Report for Rec

33 should be part of the discussion. He asked if that will address this?

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, replied yes.

Prudence Malinki, RrSG, queried if the request of the issue report would have any impact on the ongoing work of Transfer Policy Review.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, it is Recommendation 33 of the PDP, the IRT will look into this so it will not impede. We should look into this and request an issue report if this is needed.

Caitlin Tubergen, ICANN org, also replied that if the Board were to approve, then the recommendations should be implemented and recommendation 33 is to request an issue report and Farzaneh is asking for that to be prioritized, but would not impact other TPR recommendations.

Damon Ashcraft, IPC, observed that this topic is important and complex and does not want analysis by paralysis. ICANN is a nonprofit public benefit corporation, it should be simple and streamlined.

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, had questions about the Council appointed Liaison the Human Rights liaison? Is it for all PDPs or is it a new role? It is better to ask the liaison to be appointed to just keep an eye on it. The version of the slides linked is an older version.

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, we don't need a roving HR liaison, question about what we do with this from here. This is not a PDP because this is already Board driven. The next steps are to look at GNSO operating procedures to have a checklist. It is an operational issue.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, agreed with this proposal.

Justine Chew, ALAC Liaison, in the chat: Isn't it already Council practice to include the HRIA and GPIA checklists in future PDPs?

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, agreed that it is an operating procedure issue and is a part of the PDP process.

Steve Chan, ICANN org, ongoing way in which Council can impact HRIA vs. the post report analysis Farzi and Roger conducted. Consider the Latin Diacritics PDP is doing speaking to the first part. Considering that there are future improvements that need to be made. Diacritics during PDP made WG aware of HRIA and GPI and to review consensus policies. These are now required elements of the PDP and made WG aware of all PDPs going forward. The substance of the impact assessment leadership of diacritics and staff will perform these with a stable set of recommendations to look at them holistically. On path to initial report and consider them against these frameworks, and this will go into the Initial Report for Public Comment, to ensure impact assessment is robust and considering all the factors. Second is the TPR specific question.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, as a preliminary step, suggested asking the diacritics liaison to keep an eye on the HR issues and work on the liaison description. There should not be anything prescriptive at this stage, but have some lightweight best practices.

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, noted that it might be an interactive process, because of the Board readiness

team, when the PDP process can be improved. Would the solution be to flag something when it is a Human Rights issue and it is something that triggers some kind of intervention by someone with expertise in this area.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, noted this needed to be done cost-effectively. There are many open-source human rights checklists that people can use in doing their work. Unless there is something very evident or disagreement on how to tackle it, that is where an outside expert could be useful.

Paul McGrady, NCPH NCA, rare instances where additional expertise will be needed. He wants to go back to discuss the informal process for Latin Diacritics. Suggested that the Council liaison to the PDP job description is written down in the operating procedures.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, returning to TPR, this is coming up in the September agenda of the Council meeting for prioritization.

Steve Chan, ICANN org, materials will be updated for discussion by Council.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, asked if TPR will be automatically prioritized?

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, its Councilors as a whole should determine what will be prioritized.

Action Items: Staff and Leadership to consider the operationalization discussion of GPI HRIA and the Council liaison job description in the operations procedures.

Item 10: Any Other Business

10.1 - ICANN84 planning and GNSO Draft schedule (Terri)

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, shared the tentative [schedule](#) of ICANN84.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, in chat: What is the GNSO hosted DNS abuse session?

Steve Chan, ICANN org, coalesced a CPH request from other parts of the community to talk about the substance of the issue. Council having requested an issue report. The idea is to set a basis for the PDP to make progress to set the PDP up for success.

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, CPH DNS Abuse WG is for that session to not be there and to replace it for the GNSO hosted DNS Abuse working session.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, asked how these sessions are requested?

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, this was a discussion between leadership and staff on how best to address the conflicts and topics that seemed similar. So there does not have to be conflict on the agenda with Council slots. That is how the decisions were made.

Steve Chan, ICANN org, added that the general approach works with Council leadership and WGs in

session. This specifically was answered by Tomslin.

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, continued through the tentative [schedule](#) of ICANN84. Requested a Councilor to sponsor the Council dinner. Desiree and Paul volunteered to sponsor the dinner. Funded travelers email will be out shortly.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA, queried how to ensure that there is adequate time to prepare both the GAC and the Board agenda in a working session prior to the meetings.

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, yes, leadership will be meeting with GAC leadership to determine the agenda prior to the meeting.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA, requested to make this a discussion item for the September Council meeting for agenda.

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, responded it can be added, though it is unclear if there will be any agenda items from GAC at that time.

Susan Payne, IPC, asked about the number of sessions for review of reviews.

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, there are still sessions moving around and it is rumored to be scheduled during the Council wrap up session. It is unclear whether that will be open to the community or just for representative members. We are awaiting that update to come out.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, asked why there are cross-community sessions on Review of Reviews.

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, Charter there are outcomes that are required to be discussed by the community at ICANN84 for the Review of Review work. There is a good point that the second review of reviews meetings will already have the CCG.

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC, at AGM there is the meeting to have the discussion around Review of Reviews to brief the community for bylaw changes and expectations in the course of the week, then it would be siloed, to have a meeting the last day to bring forth all the discussions to have an action plan.

Action Items:

- Add to September Council agenda to discuss topics for GAC agenda at ICANN84 [COMPLETED]
- Staff to follow up with volunteers for sponsors of Council dinner at ICANN84, both Paul & Desiree raised their hands, email sent to see who is the “winner”. [COMPLETED]

10.2 - WSIS update (Desiree Miloshevic or Jennifer Chung)

10.3 - GNSO Liaison to the GAC update (Sebastien Ducos)

Sebastien Ducos, GAC Liaison, noted in the chat: Given the time: I can confirm we will have a tentative agenda with the GAC for Dublin by our September meeting. I am meeting with them on 27 August.

Action Items: Desiree and Seb to email Council list with respective updates. [COMPLETED]

10.4 - Question re: GNSO Liaison to the GAC

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, introduced the topic.

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC, queried staff on bylaws noting the clause that there cannot be two Councilors from the same organization. Is there a precedent previously or would this set the precedent?

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, responded that there has not been, but will double check.

Susan Payne, IPC, this is a liaison out of the GNSO Council, not serving on Council so agrees with the assessment. What would be the case with a liaison into the Council, from ALAC or ccNSO, this theoretically could arise and that would maybe be a different matter.

Anne Aikman Scalese, NCA, asked what the second question from legal was. If the term appearance was what mattered. Not objecting to Seb and Ashley, but it is an important procedural issue.

Tomslin Samme Nlar, GNSO Vice Chair, opted to continue the discussion on list.

Action Items: Continue procedure discussion on the mailing list and Tomslin to resend the second question from the email.

Meeting Adjourned: 23:06 UTC