
GAC Meeting with the GNSO Council

Session 20

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Session Objective

The GAC and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) meet at ICANN Meetings to discuss policy matters of interest to both parties.

The agenda for the session is scheduled to focus on an exchange on the following topics:

1. Next Round of New gTLDs
 - a. Update on Small Team Plus Work
 - b. Latin script diacritics: status update on the work being done on Latin Script Diacritics in New gTLDs, including a tentative timeline for decisions and actions
 - c. Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT) Charter
2. GNSO Statements of Interest (SOIs) status and next steps
3. DNS Abuse
 - a. Potential post contractual amendments policy developments on DNS Abuse, including botnets and phishing
 - b. Update on GNSO Council Small Team on DNS Abuse
4. WHOIS
 - a. Data accuracy / Data Processing Agreements between ICANN and Contracted Parties
5. Any Other Business

Talking Points & Questions

New gTLD Program Next Round

a. Update on small team “plus” work

The GAC welcomes an update from the GNSO Council on the Small Team Plus work in preparation for the New gTLD Program Next Round. Are there any specific points where a policy decision is pending that would affect the GAC?

b. Status update on the work being done on Latin Script Diacritics in New gTLDs, including a tentative timeline for decisions and actions

Following the [GNSO’s response](#) to the ICANN Board regarding the ICANN78 GAC Advice and issues of importance, the GAC wishes to request a status update on the work being done on Latin Script Diacritics in New gTLDs, including a tentative timeline for decisions and actions. Furthermore, while the “.quebec” TLD issue has become the de facto case study, the issue is much broader in that it identifies a substantial gap in policy that is counter to the narrative of supporting multilingual internet. French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, etc. languages could all face related issues in the future.

c. Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT) charter

The GAC welcomes a GNSO Council’s update on the SPIRT Charter Drafting Team, recognizing a meeting took place to date. The GAC finds this cross community work to be extremely important and is looking to appoint GAC representation to the SPIRT Charter Drafting Team as soon as possible. Could the GNSO Council provide an overview on the SPIRT Charter Drafting Team for GAC membership (e.g. timeline, output and approval process, expectations from members including cadence of meetings and time commitment)?

GNSO Statements of Interest (SOIs) status and next steps

- ICANN’s processes should be fair and transparent to ensure the trust and confidence of all stakeholders, including governments, in the multistakeholder system of Internet governance. The importance of transparency is enshrined in ICANN’s Bylaws.
- In its ICANN76 and ICANN78 Communiqués, as an issue of importance, the GAC addressed the exception within the GNSO’s Operating Procedures that permits participants to refrain from disclosing the individuals or entities that they represent at ICANN.
- These exceptions ignore globally established norms in policymaking, where representatives are required to disclose client identities when engaging in policymaking processes.
- The GAC firmly supports transparency at ICANN and, in its view, considers this exception in conflict with the ICANN Bylaws.
- The GAC hopes to see further opportunities to review this issue so community members can advocate for changes that promote greater transparency at ICANN.

DNS Abuse Mitigation

- a. Potential post contractual amendments policy developments on DNS Abuse, including botnets and phishing

The GAC was pleased to hear that the DNS Abuse amendments to the RA and RAA were approved by the Board and will become effective on April 5th.

In the GAC's [public comment](#) on the amendments, the GAC noted several potential areas for further work on DNS abuse, including, for example:

- Guidance on Key Terms in the Amendments, such as “appropriate,” “prompt,” “actionable,” and “reasonable;”
- Due Process Considerations, in the event that a registrant maintains that registrar/registry action taken pursuant to the new obligations was unwarranted; and/or
- Policy options designed to address registrants that are “repeat offenders” in the DNS abuse category, which could include identifying thresholds of abuse complaints at which compliance inquiries are automatically triggered, or positive incentives for registrars to achieve positive results in DNS abuse mitigation.

The GAC also understands that interest has been expressed in exploring different policy approaches for addressing maliciously-registered domains versus compromised domains.

Recognizing that some time must pass in order to observe the effect and impact of the new provisions, what are the thoughts of the GNSO on any prospective Policy Development Processes pertaining to DNS abuse which build upon the foundation created by the new contract obligations, and in advance of the next round of new gTLD applications?

How can GAC representatives participate in future discussions on potential policy work and PDPs on DNS Abuse issues?

- b. Update on GNSO Council Small Team on DNS Abuse

Could the GNSO kindly provide an update on the Small Team on DNS Abuse? Is any further work envisioned?

WHOIS/Data Protection

- a. Data accuracy / Data Processing Agreements between ICANN and Contracted Parties

The GAC would welcome a status update from the GNSO Council on where we stand on these issues, where the GAC has repeatedly stated its concern.

AOB

- The GAC welcomes a GNSO Council Update on “urgent requests” and highlights the need to start work as soon as possible on this important issue. What is the timeline contemplated for this work?
- The GAC also welcomes an update on the status of Privacy Proxy Accreditation Implementation. When will work begin on assessing what policies remain fit for purpose in light of other policy developments related to GDPR? What is the timeline contemplated for this work?

Further Information

Further information about the GNSO and its policy development process is available at <http://gnso.icann.org/en/about>. GNSO web site – <https://gnso.icann.org/en>

Background

With the pace of GAC participation in ICANN policy development activities changing in recent years, it has been observed that information sharing with various parts of the ICANN community is more valuable than ever to help GAC members understand the context of various DNS issues. At recent public meetings, the GAC has interacted with various community groups from the gTLD space including business, intellectual property and non-commercial interests. This meeting with the GNSO Council will continue that strategic communications approach.

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is a body within the ICANN community responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains. The GNSO is the largest Supporting Organization within the ICANN framework.

The GAC normally meets with the Chair and other members of the GNSO Council at each ICANN public meeting to discuss issues of common concern and identify methods for better cooperation. The current Chair of the GNSO Council is Sebastien Ducos. Vice Chairs are Greg DiBiase and John McElwaine. The GNSO Liaison to the GAC is Jeff Neuman. The GAC’s point-of-contact to the GNSO is Jorge Cancio (Switzerland).

The GNSO is a “federation” of different stakeholder groups. It is made up of two “Houses” - one “house” for parties contracted to ICANN (Registries and Registrars) and a second “house” for other non-contracted parties – commercial and non-commercial interests.

The GNSO Council and the GNSO stakeholder groups have different roles within the GNSO. The Council undertakes the role of manager of the policy development process. The Council is populated by representative members of the various GNSO stakeholder groups and constituencies. Comparatively, the stakeholder groups themselves (including the Registry

Stakeholder Group (RySG) and the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG)) are focused on operational considerations, sharing information and helping their members understand the overall GNSO activities and responsibilities. Various stakeholder groups participate directly in policy development working groups.

Prior to ICANN Public Meetings, the leadership teams of both the GNSO Council and the GAC meet via teleconference to identify the most pressing issues that merit further face-to-face discussions at the upcoming meeting.

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