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## GAC Meeting with the GNSO

### Session 6.1

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#### Session Goals

This session will enable the GAC and members of the GNSO to exchange views and information and discuss matters of mutual interest, including the GNSO EPDP Phase 2, the ICANN org Charter on Government Engagement and Legislative Tracker and other potential matters.

#### Purpose and Background

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 Mr. Keith Drazek. Vice Chairs are Ms. Pam Little and Mr. Rafik Dammak. The GNSO Liaison to the GAC is Mr. Johan (Julf) Helsingius.

The GNSO is a “federation” of different stakeholder groups. It is comprised of two “houses” - one “house” for parties contracted to ICANN (registries and registrars) and a second “house” for other 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), the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG), the Commercial Stakeholders Group CSG) and the Non Commercial Stakeholders Group (NCSG) 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.

The GNSO and GAC relationship is an important component of the ICANN multistakeholder ecosystem. In late January the GNSO Council conducted a Strategic Planning Meeting and subsequently produced a report of the discussion during that gathering (see - <https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/council-strategic-planning-session-final-25jan19-en.pdf> [gnso.icann.org]). In the report (36 pages) the GAC is mentioned about 20 times regarding a number of topic areas including:

- Role of the GNSO Council in the ICANN governance model
- Relationship between GNSO Council and other ICANN SO/ACs (including liaisons to other SO/ACs)
- Participation of GAC in PDPs
- Improvements to GNSO Policy Development (including detailed discussions of PDP 3.0, a set of improved rules for PDPs targeted to be implemented by end of 2019)
- Objectives of the GNSO Council in 2019
- Various issues such as conflicts with national legislation, legal threats on participants in PDP WG, etc.

With the pace of GAC participation changes in recent years, it has been observed that information sharing with various parts of the ICANN community is valuable to help GAC members understand the context of various DNS issues. Occasional dialogue with members of other ICANN communities can enhance communications and information sharing and create connections that can be relied on as new policy and operational topics are introduced and discussed.

At recent public meetings, the GAC has interacted with other groups from the gTLD space including contracted parties (registries and registrars), business, intellectual property and noncommercial interests. This meeting with the GNSO Council in Marrakech will continue that strategic communications approach.

## Agenda

For the Marrakech meeting the GAC and the GNSO have scheduled a stand-alone specific topic session (see GAC Marrakech Session 7.1) to discuss matters related to the recent GNSO Council decision to approve recommendations # 1 - 4 from the IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms Policy Development Process (CRP PDP) Working Group. Because of time and scheduling constraints this session will be devoted to other topical matters of interest.

The discussion with leaders of the GNSO Council will include:

- EPDP Phase 2
- ICANN org Charter on Government Engagement and Legislative Tracker
- AOB

## Further Information

For additional insights on topics that may be discussed during this session, please review the topic briefings for IGO protections and the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data.

- Further information about the GNSO and its policy development process are available at <http://gnso.icann.org/en/about>.
- GNSO web site – <https://gnso.icann.org/en>
- Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) Web Site – <http://icannregistrars.org/>
- gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group Web Site – <https://www.rysg.info/>
- Report of January 2019 GNSO Council Strategic Planning Meeting - <https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/council-strategic-planning-session-final-25jan19-en.pdf> [[gnso.icann.org](https://gnso.icann.org)]

## Document Administration

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