
GAC Meeting with the GNSO Council

Session 9

Contents

Session Objective	p.1	Talking Points & Questions	p.1	Background	p.2	Further Information	p.2
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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. Introduction

- a. Incoming GNSO Liaison to the GAC.

2. State of cooperation between the GAC and GNSO Council

- a. How the GAC and GNSO Council work together
- b. Definition of potential improvements

3. WHOIS - Data Accuracy

- a. Questions from GNSO Council: Following the [ICANN80 GNSO Council Wrap-Up \[icann80.sched.com\]](#) session, the GNSO Council Chair asked Councilors to consider the following questions:
 - i. **Evaluation of Proposed Alternatives:** In its [write-up \[gnso.icann.org\]](#), ICANN noted limitations in processing data for the purpose of assessing accuracy and proposed two alternatives (analyzing historical audit data and engagement with Contracted Parties on ccTLD practices – see detail below). Is pursuing these alternatives worthwhile? If not, are there other alternatives for obtaining data Council should consider?

- ii. **Consideration of Scoping Team Restart:** *Given the limitations with respect to access to data, would there be value in restarting the Scoping Team at this time?*
- iii. **Advancing the Topic:** *If restarting the Scoping Team at this time is not deemed advisable, what other ideas do you have to advance this topic given its importance to the ICANN community?*

During the Council's July meeting, the Council agreed that restarting the Scoping Team at this time is not recommended. However, during the August meeting, some Councilors suggested potentially convening a small team to discuss how to make progress on this topic. Council Leadership has worked on a proposal [[gnso.icann.org](https://www.gnso.icann.org)] of how to solicit additional feedback from GNSO groups with directed questions, in order to receive information from which an eventual small team (if that is the Council's chosen vehicle) can decide how to handle the important topic of accuracy."

4. ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct on SOIs and General Ethics Policy

- a. GNSO Council and GAC exchange.

5. New gTLD Program Next Round

- a. Auctions
- b. Applicant Support Program

6. Diacritics

- a. GNSO Council update on potential Diacritics PDP.

7. Privacy/Proxy Work

- a. GNSO Council update.

Talking Points & Questions

TBC

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 Greg DiBiase. Vice Chairs are Nacho Amadoz and Tomslin Samme-Nlar. 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.

Further Information

Further information about the GNSO and its policy development process is available at <http://gns0.icann.org/en/about>. GNSO web site – <https://gns0.icann.org/en>

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