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## GAC Meeting with the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

### Session # 9 - Meeting with the GNSO

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#### Session Objectives

This session will feature discussions with representatives of the GNSO in hopes of furthering understanding and resolving various issues - including the long-standing issue of access to curative rights protection mechanisms for intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), the development of subsequent procedures for potential future rounds of new gTLDs and matter of mutual interest regarding the evolution of the GNSO's Policy Development Process and the impact improvements in that area can have on the entire ICANN community.

#### 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. Regular 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 throughout the community.

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 Keith Drazek. Vice Chairs are Pam Little and Rafik Dammak. The GNSO Liaison to the GAC is Johan (Julf) Helsingius. The GAC's point-of-contact to the GNSO is Olga Cavalli (Argentina).

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 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.

## **Agenda**

Each bilateral community meeting features discussion of topics specific to that group's interests as they pertain to governments at ICANN.

The respective GAC and GNSO leadership teams have confirmed that the Cancun bilateral meeting agenda will focus on the three major GNSO Policy Development Process efforts - Review of Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) (with particular focus on IGO access to RPMs), new gTLD Subsequent Procedures, and the Expedited PDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data - Phase 2. The groups will also discuss the GNSO PDP 3.0 effort with particular emphasis on the working group processes involving membership and consensus decision making. Both community groups may share written documentation before the meeting to clarify particular aspects of the topics as needed.

## **Further Information and Documentation**

For additional insights on topics that may be discussed during this session, please review the pre-meeting topic briefings for new gTLD Subsequent procedures and WHOIS and Data Protection Policy.

Further information about the GNSO and its policy development process are available at <http://gns0.icann.org/en/about>.

GNSO web site – <https://gnso.icann.org/en>

## Document Administration

<b>Meeting</b>	ICANN67 Cancún, 7-12 March 2020
<b>Title</b>	GAC Meeting with GNSO
<b>Distribution</b>	GAC Members (before meeting) and Public (after meeting)
<b>Distribution Date</b>	Version 1: 10 February 2020