
GAC Meeting with the GNSO Council

Session #9

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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
2. Registration Data Request Service
3. Urgent Requests/Law Enforcement Authentication
4. Accuracy of Registration Data
5. DNS Abuse
6. AOB

Talking Points & Questions

1. Introduction
2. RDRS
 - The GAC appreciated the opportunity to provide comments to the RDRS Standing Committee Council report issued in August. To increase its utility, the GAC reiterates its position that the RDRS should continue beyond the pilot and become mandatory for all gTLD registrars and optional for ccTLD operators. As already discussed during ICANN83, the GAC is concerned by the increasing number of registrars withdrawing from the pilot.
 - As indicated in its response to the public comment, the GAC further believes that immediate work on the RDRS should include incorporation of the solution for LEAs

authentication whenever available and technical enhancements to improve the user friendliness of the tool. The GAC also agrees with the RDRS Standing Committee that work on Privacy/Proxy would be very useful but disagrees on a blanket rejection of all EPDP Phase 2/SSAD Recommendations.

- The GAC would appreciate details on the GNSO's approach towards next steps following the public comment period and particularly on the timeline and options for the future of RDRS, noting that its pilot period is rapidly coming to an end and that the public comment highlighted diverse opinions on what needs to be done within the ICANN community.

3. Urgent Requests / Law Enforcement Authentication

- The GAC would like to express satisfaction for the good cooperation between all parties in the Implementation Review Team (IRT) that is tasked with establishing the timeline for urgent requests for registration data. In particular, the GAC is supportive of the current compromise text, pending public comment, that foresees a timeline of 24H with possible extension to 72H in exceptional circumstances (force majeure)
- At the same time, the GAC is concerned by the latest insertion in the IRT text, which seems to imply that the authentication mechanism for law enforcement would require new policy development in order to be enshrined in Consensus Policy. As the GNSO is aware, the work to set up the authentication mechanism is already ongoing and progressing well with participation of PSWG, Contracted Parties and ICANN org.
- The GAC would appreciate the perspective of the GNSO on this matter, in particular in light of the trilateral agreement between the ICANN Board, the GNSO and the GAC that set up two parallel workstreams (timeline and authentication) as part of the same implementation process of the already established Consensus Policy (EPDP Phase 1).

4. Accuracy

- The GAC read with interest the conclusions of the GNSO Small Team on Accuracy and understands that the GNSO Council approved all its (four) recommendations during its meeting of August 2025.
- The GAC would appreciate more details on how the GNSO Council plans to implement these recommendations and particularly Recommendation 1 of the Small Team which concerns *"examining the existing process for validating and verifying registration data under the 2024 Registrar Accreditation agreement 1 and the potential impact on registrants if this process is modified"*. The Small Team did not indicate nor support a specific path for implementing this recommendation although listed potential options such as *"referral of the issue to the GNSO Council Small Team on DNS Abuse, further policy work via a narrow PDP, etc."* as a way

forward. The GAC highlights that it is important to reduce the time for the verification of registrant contact details from its current 15-day period as abuse associated with maliciously registered domain names tends to occur very shortly after registration. Ideally, validation and verification should be done before the domain name becomes active.

- Could the GNSO Council elaborate on what options are under discussion for implementing Recommendation 1 (above) as well as concerning the implementation of other recommendations from the Small Team ?

5. DNS Abuse

- The GAC appreciated the work of the GNSO Small Team on DNS abuse (summarized in its final report) and the subsequent preparation from ICANN org of a preliminary issue report on a Policy Development Process on DNS abuse mitigation. The GAC welcomes that the Issue Report takes into account the latest GAC Advice to the Board on the topic of DNS Abuse. The GAC considered both documents thoroughly and submitted a response to the Public Comment proceedings highlighting some elements of importance for governments.
- Following the conclusion of the public comment period, the GAC would welcome any reflection from the GNSO on the feedback received from the various communities and any update on the timeline and next steps for launching the PDP on unrestricted APIs and associated domains suggested in the Issue Report. The GAC reiterates that the organization of the upcoming PDP(s) into narrowly scoped track(s) should be conducive to effective and fast delivery of the PDP.
- The GAC [as expressed in its Public Comment to be submitted by 18 October 2025] would also welcome further reflections from the GNSO Council on additional paths for addressing policy gaps of importance to the GAC, which are indicated in the GNSO Small Team final report and the Preliminary Issue Report, but which are not prioritized for the first PDP effort, such as: proactive monitoring/preventative measures, accuracy and transparency of reporting obligations.

6. AOB

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 Chair of the GNSO Council will be appointed shortly, and at the time of this briefing the Vice Chairs Nacho Amadoz and Tomslin Samme-Nlar are acting co-chairs. The GNSO Liaison to the GAC is Sebastien Ducos. The GAC's point-of-contacts to the GNSO are Manal Ismail (Egypt) and Rida Tahir (Canada).

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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