
GAC Meeting with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Session 16

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Session Objective

To facilitate an interactive exchange between the GAC and ccNSO communities on a topic of common interest, fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing, and stronger engagement between GAC and ccTLD community members.

Session Agenda and Format

At ICANN87, the session will focus on the interaction between regulatory environments and ccTLD business continuity and disaster recovery (BC/DR) planning and practices, using an interactive World Café format.

Following a short introductory plenary, participants will engage in small-group discussions at four thematic stations reflecting different ccTLD operating contexts, including whether specific BC/DR regulatory frameworks are in place and whether ccTLD operations are managed primarily in-house or outsourced.

Participants will take part in two discussion rounds. The first will explore experiences and perspectives on BC/DR, including the respective roles of ccTLD managers and governments, the relevance of different governance models, and factors considered critical to effective BC/DR planning. The second will build on these exchanges to consider commonalities, gaps, emerging insights, and possible next steps.

Participants will be able to move between stations or remain at the same station to deepen the discussion. Key points from each station will then be shared with the full group, with the aim of

identifying practical insights that can contribute to strengthening ccTLD resilience and BC/DR capacity.

Background

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) is a body within the ICANN structure created for and by ccTLD managers.

The ccNSO provides a platform to nurture consensus, technical cooperation and skill-building among ccTLDs and facilitates the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. The policy development process is managed by the [ccNSO Council](#), which consists of 18 Councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members, three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee).

The GAC and ccNSO have been meeting, when deemed necessary, at ICANN Meetings in order to coordinate and discuss public policy issues of common interest.

The ccNSO appointed a new Liaison to the GAC, Sean Copeland, and the GAC appointed Ian Sheldon as the Point of Contact to the ccNSO. Their role is to facilitate policy and other internal community discussions among their groups and leaderships, while also preparing meeting agendas for joint sessions at ICANN Meetings.

Key Reference Documents

- Draft recommendations as presented by the Study Group at ICANN86:
<https://icann86.sched.com/event/2NQOy/ccnso-study-group-updates-and-consultations>
This session highlighted initial fact-finding themes showing that external recovery support must respect local manager autonomy.

Further Information

- ccNSO web site – <https://www.icann.org/en/ccnso>

The ccNSO Study Group on the IANA role in Disaster Recovery explores and advises on whether and how IANA should be involved in disaster recovery and business continuity for country code top-level domains (ccTLDs).

Background and Purpose

- Origin: Established following a recommendation by the ccNSO Policy Gap Analysis (PGA) Working Group in May 2025.
- Core Goal: Address concerns raised by IANA regarding its potential functions or limits during critical ccTLD outages or major disasters.
- Findings: business continuity and disaster recovery remain the sole responsibility of individual ccTLD managers.

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