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ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING



# ICANN's and GAC's place in the wider Internet community

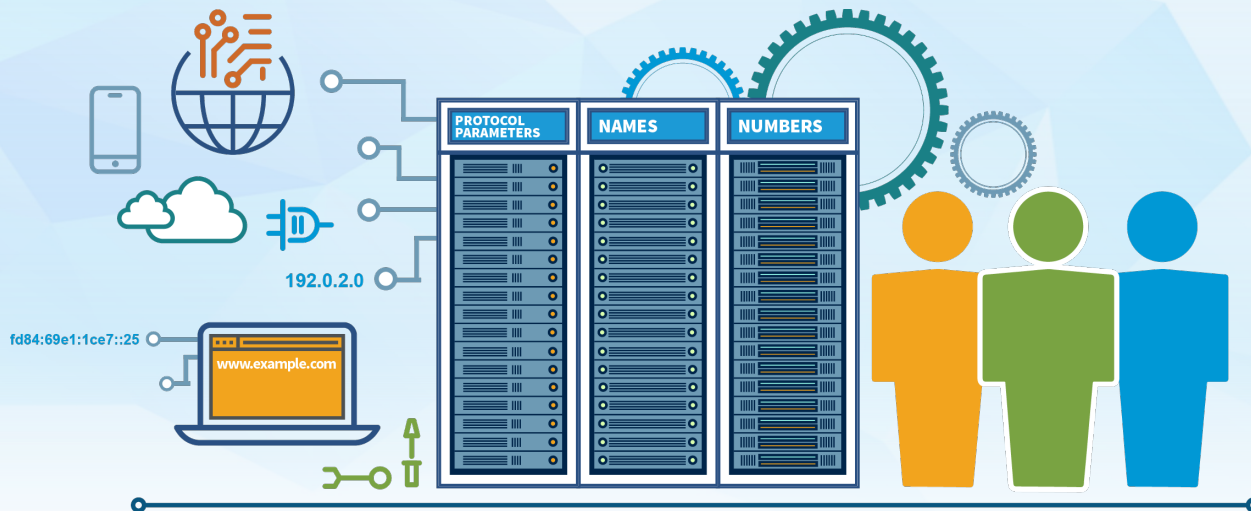
Saturday, 21 October 2023



# ICANN's Role and Governance Model




Coordinating with our partners,  
we help make the Internet work.





# ICANN's Mission


The mission of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is to **ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems**


Specifically, ICANN:

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1 Coordinates the allocation and assignment of names in the root zone of the Domain Name System
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2 Coordinates the development and implementation of policies concerning the registration of second-level domain names in generic top-level domains (gTLDs)
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3 Facilitates the coordination of the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system
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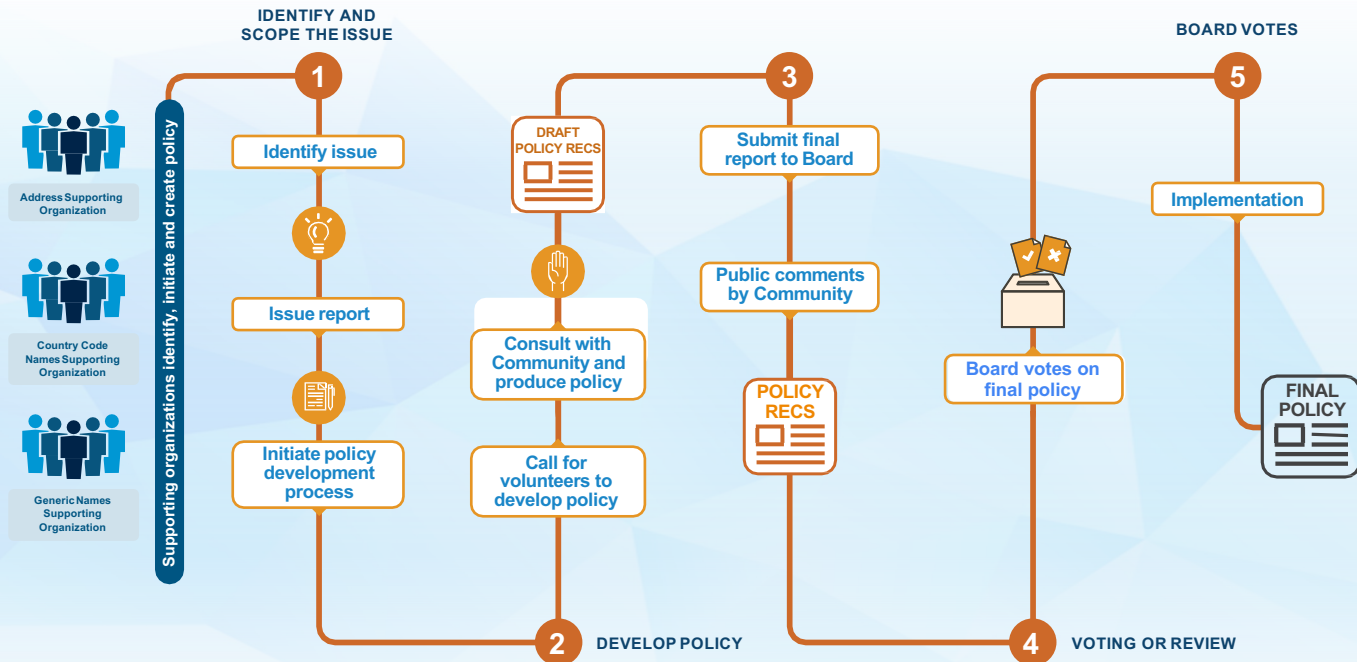
4 Coordinates the allocation and assignment at the top-most level of Internet Protocol numbers and Autonomous System numbers
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5 Collaborates with other bodies as appropriate to provide registries needed for the functioning of the Internet as specified by Internet protocol standards development organizations

# ICANN Ecosystem



# How Does the Community Develop Policy?



Advisory Committees can participate during the process



At-Large Advisory Committee



Security and Stability Advisory Committee



Root Server System Advisory Committee



Government Advisory Committee

# In a Nutshell

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- ICANN is a non profit organization with a specific technical mandate
- ICANN collaborates with other technical organizations
- ICANN is a multistakeholder organization in which Governments play a key role
- With the IANA transition ICANN has developed a full bottom-up governance model (supervision by the ICANN Community)

# The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)





# GAC Membership

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GAC membership comprises:

- 180 governments (Ministries and Regulators) and 2 distinct economies (African Union Commission and Europe Commission) as members
- 38 Intergovernmental Organizations as observers

Members and observers participate equally in all discussions

Only members are eligible to voting (normally takes place only during elections)

# Role of the GAC

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- According to ICANN Bylaws, Art. XI, Section 2, § 1: the GAC “consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to concerns of governments, particularly matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues.”
- GAC provides advice to ICANN Board per ICANN Board request or on its own initiative
- GAC provides advice on issues of public policy, especially where there may be interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements

# GAC Advice According to GAC Operating Principles

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Principle 1: “The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) shall consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to concerns of governments, multinational governmental organisations and treaty organisations, and distinct economies as recognised in international fora, including matters where there may be an **interaction between ICANN’s policies and various laws and international agreements and public policy objectives.**”

Principle 2: “The GAC shall provide advice and communicate issues and views to the ICANN Board. **The GAC is not a decision making body.** Such advice given by the GAC shall be without prejudice to the responsibilities of any public authority with regard to the bodies and activities of ICANN, including the Supporting Organisations and Councils.

# How the GAC Works

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- 3 meetings/year where it discusses issues with the ICANN Board and other ICANN SO/AC and other groups.
- Non-voting liaison to the ICANN Board and the ICANN Nominating Committee (liaison to other SO/ACs possible)
- Mailing lists and Conference calls
- Website: <https://gacweb.icann.org>
- 6 UN languages + Portuguese for meetings.
- Travel support for up to 30 participants per meeting
- GAC secretariat by ICANN Policy Team

# Active GAC Working Groups on Substance

- GAC Working Group on Under-Served Regions (USRWG): Focuses on regions under-served by the DNS industry, and least developed economies and small island developing states
- GAC Working Group to Examine the Protection of Geographic Names in any Future Expansion of gTLDs : Examines the Protection of Geographic Names in any Future Expansion of gTLDs to review and considers any necessary improvements to the existing protections
- GAC Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) : Focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures that implicate the safety of the public
- GAC Working Group on Human Rights and International Law : Focuses on aspects of ICANN's policies and procedures which relate to human rights and relevant international law

**Thank You!**

