

Informational Session: 15-day timeline for registrars to validate and verify registrants contact information

GAC Speakers:

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Governmental Advisory Committee

GNSO Council Speakers:

Susan Payne (Chair)
Jennifer Chung (Vice Chair)

Registrar Stakeholder Group Executive Committee Speakers:

Owen Smigelski (Chair)
Sarah Wyld (Vice Chair, Policy)

Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Theme 1 – Background on the timeline for Verification Requirement**
- **Theme 2 – Understanding the problem space**
- **Theme 3 – Considerations around how new contract obligations arise**

Background

- [GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services](#) (28 March 2007), reiterated in the [ICANN60 Abu Dhabi Communiqué](#) (1 November 2017): “**gTLD WHOIS services should provide sufficient and accurate data about domain name registrations and registrants** subject to national safeguards for individuals' privacy [...]”
- [GAC expresses serious concerns to the GNSO](#) (22 June 2020) regarding issues **not addressed in EPDP Phase 2**, including Registration Data Accuracy and requests in its [GAC Minority Statement on the EPDP Phase 2 Final Report](#) (24 August 2020) that accuracy be addressed in subsequent phases.
- The GAC takes part in the [GNSO Accuracy Scoping Team](#) (formed in Oct.2021, paused in Nov. 2022)
- The [GAC provides input on the GNSO’s threshold questions](#) (14 Feb. 2025) to determine next steps
- The GNSO Council approves the [recommendation](#) of the GNSO Accuracy Small Team on Registration Data (31 July 2025) to: “*examining the existing process for validating and verifying registration data under the 2024 Registrar Accreditation agreement and the potential impact on registrants if this process is modified*”
- In the [ICANN84 Dublin Communiqué](#), **the GAC urges the GNSO to identify an implementation path** for the Accuracy Small Team recommendations (3 November 2025)

Background

- in the [GAC Mumbai Communiqué](#) (16 March 2026) the GAC
 - Expresses *“its strong interest in engaging further with the Board and the Contracted Parties on how to address – in a swift and effective manner – the current 15-day timeline for registrars to validate and verify registrants contact information”*
 - Notes from the [INFERMAL study](#) (8 Nov. 2024) that *“when the validation of registrant information takes place during the account creation or before the domain purchase, it is associated with a 70% decrease in malicious registrations”*
 - Proposes that: *“To mitigate DNS Abuse, verification of registrant contact information should take place before a newly registered domain name can become accessible through the DNS. A possible path to be further explored in this regard is contract amendments, and the GAC will continue to consider the best path for efficient implementation”*
- The [GAC Chair requests](#) (11 May 2026) to reconvene the trilateral setting, between the GAC, the ICANN Board and the GNSO to address this matter.

- **Theme 1: Background on the timeline for Verification Requirement**
 - What is the history behind verification/validation of the 15-day verification timeline?
 - How did confirmation of email/phone number technology look back then?
 - Is there a difference in the timing of registrant responses on new registrations, versus transfers or renewals?
 - 2FA is now routine across many different sectors, applications and services. Why not on Domain Name registrations? Would there be specific challenges for registrars who work on a reseller model and how could these challenges be addressed ?
 - Are there specific lessons learnt or considerations that ICANN compliance can offer on this timeline?

- **Theme 2: Operational and implementation considerations**

- What is the implementation cost of the 15-day window for registrars' verification of the registration data and [DB1] what is the primary cost-driver?
- What additional operational, technical, financial or resource considerations do registrars foresee if the existing 15-day verification timeline was shortened, and how could these be addressed ?
- What would the cost be on the registrars for implementing a policy whereby the domain does not become active until verification happens?
- *Given the DNS Abuse PDP, Supplemental Recommendations to SSAD and other PDP work currently ongoing in ICANN, what specific operational, technical, financial, or resource impediments does GNSO foresee if policy work was also undertaken to shorten the current 15-day verification timeline and details of how such impediments may manifest in practice and potentially be addressed?*

- **Theme 3: Possible implementation path**

- The GAC noted in the ICANN85 GAC Communiqué that contract amendments is one possible path for addressing the current 15-day verification timeline. Can the GNSO discuss how such a path could potentially be utilised in this context, including any relevant precedents within ICANN ?
- The GAC would also welcome views of GNSO on alternative policy, contractual, operational, or implementation paths for addressing this issue in a swift and effective manner.