



Report on

ICANN50

London

22 - 26 June 2014



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ccNSO | 3 |
| <hr/> | |
| The IANA Stewardship Transition Process | 3 |
| The ICANN accountability review | 5 |
| Other relevant and recommended ccNSO sessions and topics | 5 |
| Outcomes from ccNSO Council meeting | 6 |
| | |
| HLGM and GAC | 7 |
| <hr/> | |
| High Level Governmental Meeting (24 June) | 7 |
| Governments express a desire for ICANN to take them seriously at the ICANN 50 GAC | 7 |
| Specific strings | 8 |
| Transition of IANA stewardship and ICANN accountability | 8 |
| New gTLD safeguard advice | 9 |
| Protection IGO/INGO names | 9 |
| Protection of geographic names in FUTURE new gTLD processes | 9 |
| WHOIS | 9 |
| Human rights and democratic values | 9 |
| | |
| gNSO | 10 |
| <hr/> | |
| Introduction and highlights | 10 |
| IANA transition and the NTIA | 10 |
| GNSO with ICANN Board | 10 |
| Expert Working Group on Registration Directory Services | 11 |
| GNSO/GAC Relations and engagement | 11 |
| GNSO/ccNSO joint session | 12 |
| „Volunteer burnout“ and participation issues | 12 |
| Global Domains Division (GDD) & new gTLD update | 13 |
| Domain Name Association (DNA) update | 13 |
| IGO/INGO and Red Cross Protections and proposed modifications | 13 |
| GNSO Review | 14 |
| Other updates presented to the GNSO Council | 15 |
| GNSO motions passed at Council Meeting | 15 |

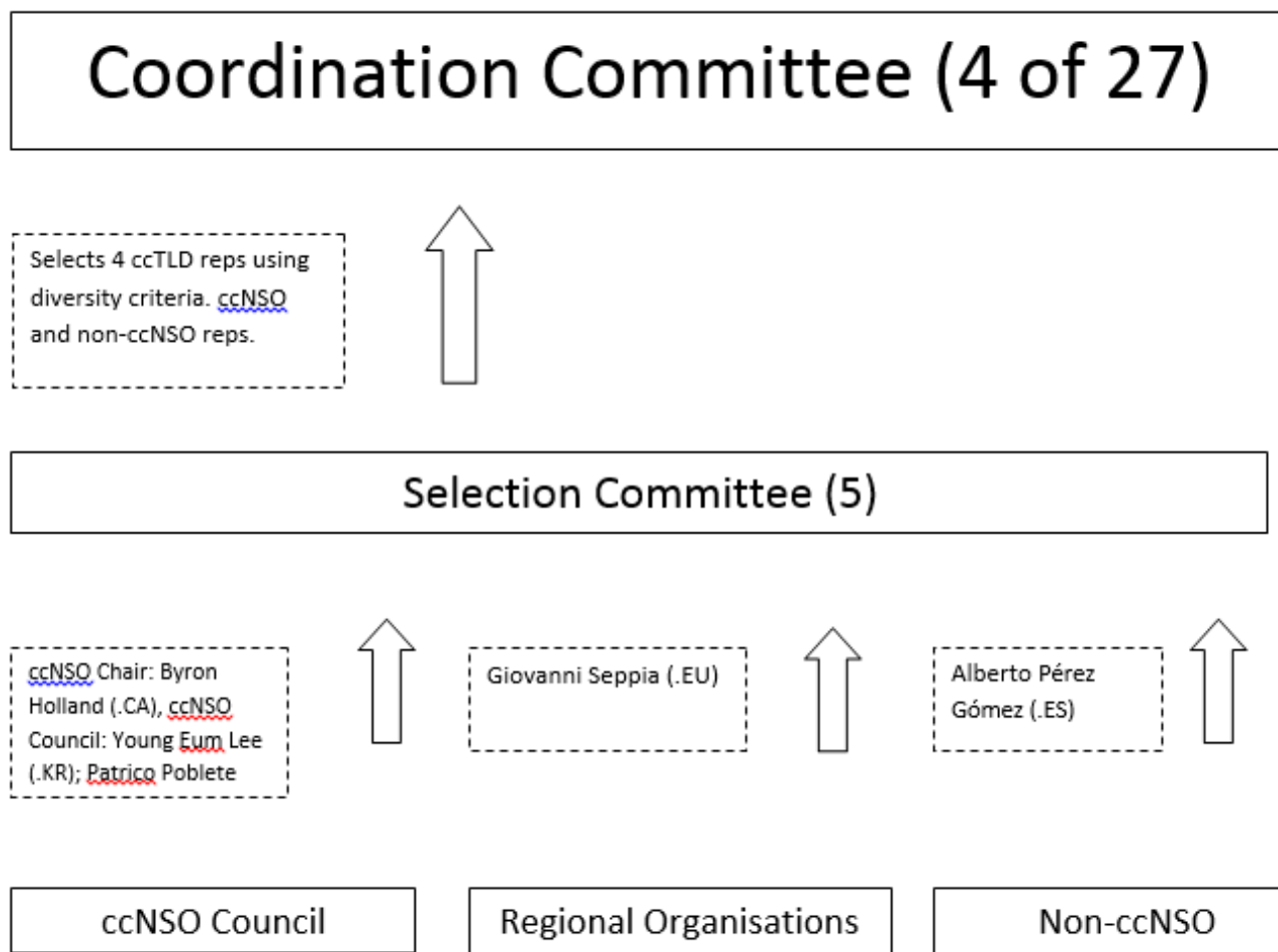
The IANA Stewardship Transition Process

Background: the NTIA has communicated its intention to transition its current stewardship over the IANA functions and has tasked ICANN to come up with an alternative model. In the ICANN process proposal, the ccTLDs get assigned 4 representatives that will take part in the Coordination Committee. A crucial part of this proposal is that not only ccNSO members can take part, but that all ccTLDs can apply for that role in the coordination committee and participate in the debates to come.

The ccNSO spend many long sessions at ICANN London discussing how to organize this process. There are two distinct elements:

1. How to guarantee diversity and provide non-ccNSO members opportunities to participate in the Coordination team? The ccNSO's suggestion was to put a Selection Committee in place that would then use preset criteria and guidelines to identify the best candidates for this role.

Procedural: how the ccNSO plans to create diversity in the coordination committee



As could be expected, this turned into an advanced puzzle making exercise, but the outcome provides a well balanced composition of the group.

This is the selection committee:

Byron Holland, .CA, chair of the ccNSO and chair of the committee

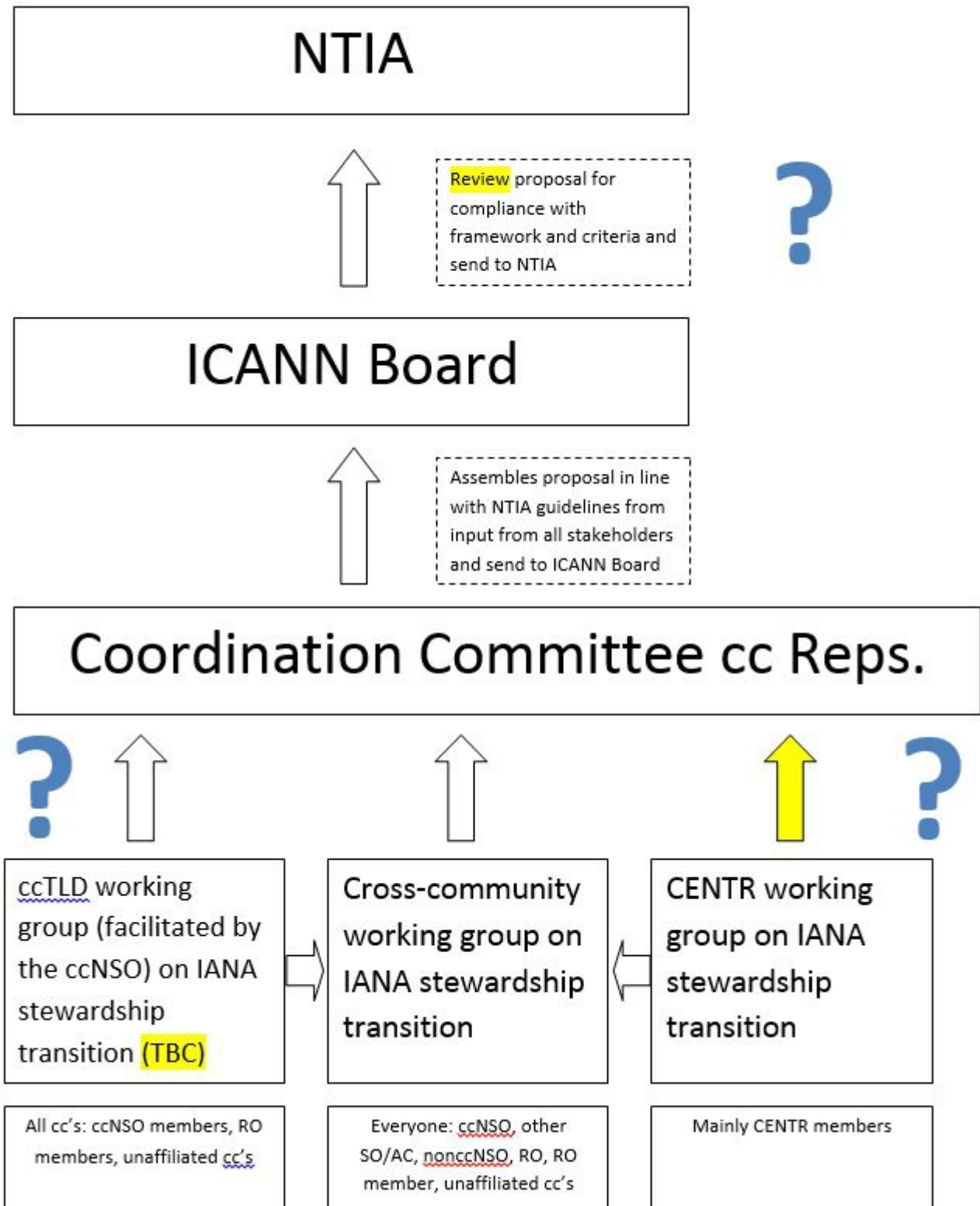
Young Eum Lee, .KR, ccNSO Councillor

¹ As this was a rather special ccNSO meeting, this report is formatted differently. If you would prefer the usual format, containing the details of the session, please send an email to secretariat@centr.org.

Patricio Poblete, .CL, member of the ccNSO
 Giovanni Seppia, .EU, RO appointed member
 Alberto Pérez Gómez, .ES, non-ccNSO member

2. Once the 4 ccTLD representatives have been identified by the selection committee, the real work starts. And this is where there are still a few question marks.

Process flow for ccTLDs to provide input into the IANA stewardship transition proposal



It is crucial to understand that the representatives in the coordination committee have a preset task: collect and assemble input from their respective communities into a proposal that meets the NTIA's criteria. They are however free to decide on how they will collect this input. Based on a gNSO initiative, there will be a cross-community working group that will collect input and send a position to the coordination committee. This group will be open for everyone to participate. Its main weakness is that it would not allow for a ccTLD only position. As a result there are calls for a ccTLD working group - coordinated by the ccNSO - for all ccTLDs to participate in. Additionally, the regional organisations might form their own (joint?) working group and feed into the process directly. However, it is currently unclear how that contribution could formally be fed into the process.

A final question mark in the chart above identifies the lack of clarity with regard to ICANN's review role. Can ICANN refuse to forward the proposal from the coordination committee to the NTIA?

The ICANN accountability review

Background: At NetMundial ICANN's CEO had committed to start an accountability review. He made clear that this review was interrelated to the IANA stewardship Transition Process, but not linked to it.

Since NetMundial, members of the different communities have been asking louder and louder to make the accountability review a condition for the stewardship transition to take place. At the ICANN 50 London public forum, this request was formalized by joint proposal from the gNSO community to create an independent accountability mechanism. Several ccNSO members have expressed their support for such a proposal. It is likely that this will be addressed at the ICANN 51 Los Angeles meeting.

There was an excellent panel discussion that is well worth checking out:

<http://london50.icann.org/en/schedule/thu-enhancing-accountability>

Other relevant and recommended ccNSO sessions and topics

Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names in the New gTLD Namespace

Several new gTLD registries have asked for an authorization to have two-character domains on a second level. For ISO 3166 codes, there is a possibility to use these codes if there is an agreement from the relevant registry manager.

From the debates in the ccNSO, there was no clear conclusion. While the effects on security and stability of the zone seem to be minimal, some of those who already have two character domains on the second level warn for the policy implications.

Framework of Interpretation Working Group concludes its work

The FoI Working Group has finalized its report. At the time of writing it hasn't been made public yet. It should be published shortly on <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/foiwg.htm>

This final version has only changed marginally from the previous version on which we have reported in our previous reports. This has been an immense task, that relied heavily on the efforts of the working group members and its chair Keith Davidson. The next step is for the GAC to give the report its blessing.

UK Security Roadmap – Simon McCalla, .uk

A presentation on the development of a security roadmap for Nominet discussing some of the thinking behind the security products and services being rolled out to the UK namespace. Food for thought that includes some interesting ideas on reputational models.

<http://london50.icann.org/en/schedule/tue-ccnso-members/presentation-ry-security-roadmap-24jun14-en.pdf>

IANA update

Excellent update from IANA with focus on a long list of plans and ideas that require prioritization. IANA welcomes in particular input from all ccTLDs.

<http://london50.icann.org/en/schedule/tue-ccnso-members/presentation-iana-24jun14-en.pdf>

Further information on all ccNSO sessions

<http://ccnso.icann.org/meetings/london50/agenda.htm>

Outcomes from ccNSO Council meeting

- .ro (Romania) was approved as the 151st ccNSO member
- Council appointed Giovanni Seppia (.EU) as Interim chair Strategic and Operations Planning WG (SOP WG) until Los Angeles meeting (ICANN51)
- The council appointed Lise Fuhr (.DK) as ccNSO appointed co-chair of the ccWG on Use of names of Countries and Territories as TLD's.
- Becky burr appointed as ccNSO co-chair for ccWG for future ccwg's. ('CCWG Squared')
- Council deferred charter to the CCWG on Internet Governance due to lack of support from GNSO related to wording in the charter.
- Council sent out an invitation for volunteers to join a cross community group to draft a charter for the upcoming CCWG on IANA stewardship transition.

HLGM and GAC

High Level Governmental Meeting (24 June)

110 representatives of 75 governments as well as representatives from 11 intergovernmental organizations responded to say they would attend the High Level Government meeting. High level government attendees included Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for Digital Agenda and Lu Wei, Minister of the State Internet Information Office, China, and Bernadette Lewis, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Telecommunications.

There were four main topics of discussion at the meeting:

1. Transition of NTIA stewardship of the IANA function to the global Internet community
2. Enhancing the role of Governments in ICANN
3. Review of outcomes from “NETmundial” meeting (Internet governance principles and way forward)
4. Report of ICANN's High Level Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms

Some highlights of interventions by high-level government representatives:

- France stated that NGPC's decision to move ahead with .WINE and .VIN was an example of ICANN's failure to listen not only to governments, but to business stakeholders (in the form of wine producers from Europe, as well as a selection of wine producers in South Africa, Australia and South America)
- Bangladesh expressed concern about some governments using the threat of cybercrime to push for greater online surveillance activities
- China stated that all governments, whether of big or small countries, should have an equal say in how the Internet is managed. While an ICANN news item² stated that “Minister Lu expressed appreciation and support for the advancements of the multistakeholder model that framed the NETmundial meeting”, it's worth noting that in the High Level Governmental Meeting, China also reinforced the Tunis Agenda³ concept of different roles and responsibilities for different stakeholder groups.
- Russia also referred to stakeholders and their respective roles, expressing confidence that future Internet governance discussions would further refine the roles of stakeholder groups.
- Sweden expressed their belief that stakeholders other than governments also have legitimate interests in public policy issues.
- A large number of countries expressed appreciation for the NETmundial meeting held in Sao Paulo in April this year. Given the strong objections recently to any mention of NETmundial in some intergovernmental forums (CSTD in particular) this was a very positive development.
- Many governments expressed a desire to further clarify and strengthen the role of governments in Internet governance and within the ICANN model in particular.

Governments express a desire for ICANN to take them seriously at the ICANN 50 GAC

Since ICANN 49 in Singapore, five new members have joined the GAC, bringing the total number of government members to 142. The new members are Barbados, Israel, Liberia, Timor-Leste and Venezuela.

While relations between the ICANN Board and GAC have improved considerably over the last couple of years, at ICANN 50, governments expressed frustration a number of times about the ICANN Board making overly liberal interpretations of GAC advice.

² Largest Ever ICANN Meeting Convenes in London | Affirmation of Multistakeholder Model for Internet Governance by World Leaders
<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2014-06-23-en>

³ See paragraph 35 at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

Specific strings

.africa

The African Union expressed concern about the lack of information it has received from ICANN about the status of current Independent Review Panel (IRP) on .africa and information on how long the process may last. For Africa, the deployment of the .africa TLD is a development issue, and the longer the process takes to resolve the IRP affects this development. In response, the GAC Communiqué⁴ requests that the ICANN Board keep the affected parties up to date with all developments and, when the IRP is completed, authorize delegation of .africa as quickly as possible.

.wine and .vin

These strings have been a divisive issue in the GAC since ICANN 46 in Beijing. However, it seems that only with some very strong statements at ICANN 50 by France, the European Commission and other European countries did some of those blocking any safeguards for geographic indications realize quite how seriously the Europeans felt about the issue. France and other European GAC representatives linked the .wine and .vin issue to wider concerns about ICANN accountability and ability to protect the public interest. In addition, they suggested that a way forward would be for the GAC to request the ICANN Board put the .wine and .vin applications be put on hold while the geographic indication issue was decided in a more appropriate forum (the World Trade Organization). On Wednesday morning, it appeared that there was some positive movement towards consensus in informal corridor negotiations. However, by midday, it was clear that no such consensus was going to emerge. The final GAC Communiqué noted that there was still a divergence of views.

Although it may seem that the .wine affair is an obscure side event of the first round of new gTLD program it is, in fact, an early warning of what could be a series of clashes between ongoing negotiations in issue-specific intergovernmental forums and Internet-related developments. Communities like ICANN do not have the specialist skills to solve international topics of disagreement, such as the trade issue that underpins the .wine affair, and will remain at an impasse on such issues. Such impasses, however inevitable, may then affect the view, rightly or wrongly, that frustrated parties have of the multistakeholder model. For example, parallel to the GAC negotiations on .wine at ICANN 50, France made a public statement that, “Today ICANN is not the appropriate forum to discuss Internet governance.” There is a very real risk that a number of European governments who traditionally have supported the multistakeholder model may, due to the frustration they feel over the .wine issue, seek to find other models of Internet governance that are less sympathetic to multistakeholder participation. With the ITU Plenipotentiary 2014 in October and ongoing negotiations underway for the modalities of the tenth anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society, there is a risk that there will be fewer governments supporting the current Internet governance ecosystem in these processes.

.spa

In the ICANN 49 Communiqué, it was reported that Belgium had reached agreement with one of the .spa applicants. Subsequently, the NGPC stated that the .spa applications would “proceed through the normal process”. The ICANN 50 Communiqué asks for clarification about what the “normal process” is, and whether that “normal process” includes GAC advice on the string.

Transition of IANA stewardship and ICANN accountability

The GAC had been allocated two seats on the Coordination Group that will be responsible for managing the process of developing a proposal for a replacement of NTIA's stewardship of IANA. There was much discussion during the GAC meeting that having only two seats would make it difficult to represent the full diversity of views of the world's governments. Similar to discussions held by other stakeholder groups at ICANN 50, the governments at the GAC were concerned about how their representatives would participate on the Coordination Group: as individual governments, or as conveyors of GAC consensus positions. There was also general agreement that it would make sense to have a GAC representative for each of the five ICANN regions on the Coordination Group, which would make it easier for each regional representative to communicate and coordinate directly with GAC members in that region. The GAC's Communiqué requests that the GAC be allocated five seats on the Coordination Group.

Accountability was also an important topic for many GAC members, particularly those from Europe who were supporting the addition of safeguards on the .wine and .vin gTLDs.

⁴ See link [here](#)

New gTLD safeguard advice

A number of GAC members expressed frustration that the ICANN Board's interpretation of various facets of the GAC's previous safeguard advice had involved too much creative interpretation. In response, the Communiqué requests that the Board respond to the GAC at least four weeks before each ICANN meeting to allow there to be a dialogue between the Board and GAC on the Board's understanding of the previous meeting's Communiqué. Attached to the Communiqué, as an Annex, is the GAC's detailed response to the NGPC's response to previous safeguard advice by the GAC.

Protection IGO/INGO names

Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), represented by the OECD, expressed frustration about the length of time it is taking ICANN to reach a conclusion on the protection of IGO and International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) names and acronyms at the top and second levels of domain names. The ICANN 50 Communiqué expresses concern about the length of time the IGO/INGO process is taking, and notes that the GAC is willing to work with the GNSO to develop protections that address the concerns of IGOs.

On the more specific topic of protection of Red Cross and Red Crescent names, the GAC, having heard that the GNSO may have been suggesting that protection of the names was similar to protection of trademarks, advised the ICANN Board that there should be no such connection. In addition, the GAC advised the Board that protection for these two names should not be subjected to a policy development process but that the two names should be confirmed as being protected permanently as a matter of priority.

Protection of geographic names in FUTURE new gTLD processes

The GAC working group on the protection of national, cultural, geographic and religious names in future new gTLD rounds presented an updated version of the draft document of protection mechanisms that it had presented during ICANN 49. In particular, the new version removes attempts to produce lists of geographic names that should be protected. The new draft also suggests that any lists of names included in the applicant guidebook should be clearly labeled as illustrative only, and not to be considered definitive lists of geographic terms to be protected.

WHOIS

Following detailed presentations by the ICANN Staff and the Expert Working Group on gTLD Registry Services (EWG), members of the GAC, particularly the USA and European states, expressed awe at the sheer scale of the work and issues involved. In particular, GAC members were concerned about the public interest and cross-border issues raised by proposed changes to WHOIS. The Communiqué, therefore, contains advice that ICANN strengthen its communication of public interest-related issues of WHOIS work and to extend the deadline for Board action on the EWG so the GAC can hold an extended session in Los Angeles on WHOIS public policy implications.

Human rights and democratic values

The Council of Europe submitted a document for the consideration of GAC members, ICANN's procedures and policies in the light of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic values⁵. European governments supported the document. China and the USA stated that they had not had enough time to read the document fully and would not be commenting on the contents of the document. Often, in diplomatic circles, such a statement is a sign that the government isn't happy with the contents of the document but hasn't yet had enough time to form a full justification to oppose the contents. As a result, the Communiqué does not express support for the document, but notes “that there is a developing interest in the ICANN community to include human rights issues in future discussions”.

⁵ See [attachment to email](#)

Introduction and highlights

The GNSO conducted their usual 'working sessions' over the weekend before the official opening of the ICANN50 meeting. There they received updates from their relevant working groups, spoke about current issues and met with key groups such as the ICANN Board, Global Domains Division, ICANN strategy management and the ICANN CEO.

Some of the areas of interest in the GNSO currently revolve around IANA transition/ICANN accountability (including cross community WG), workload and participation issues of working groups, GAC relations, IGO/INGO protection issues, PDP improvements, and many others. Below provides some overview to these and other topics discussed over the week in London. Some of the highlights are listed below.

- GNSO to commence recruitment and selection of a GNSO Liaison to the GAC
- GNSO begin discussions on Expert Working Group report on possible Whois replacement
- Workload and working group volunteer participation issues discussed at length
- GNSO discuss requested modifications to their IGO/INGO working group recommendations with potential to re-convene the group.
- GNSO discuss IANA transition topic in reference to CWG and Coordination group participants as well as link with ICANN accountability topic. Selection of the coordination group participants will happen at the SG level (rather than council).
- Work on improvements to the PDP presented with the proposal of working group 'observer' status to be integrated.
- GNSO pass motion to create a discussion group to discuss the experiences gained by the first round of new gTLD applications and identify subjects for future issue reports, if any, that might lead to changes or adjustments for subsequent application procedures
- Domain Name Association (DNA) present to GAC with hope to make a regular feature.

IANA transition and the NTIA

In a session on the weekend, Teresa Swineheart (special advisor to the ICANN CEO on Strategy) provided an update and answered questions from the GNSO council in relation to the IANA transition topic and coordination group. Teresea introduced the topic highlighting a couple of points on the process document posted on 6 June, as follows;

- Change from term 'steering group' to 'coordination group' - resonates better with community
- No rule for the ICANN Board or GAC in any of the selection process and that the emphasis is self-selection from the community
- Elimination of the distinction between affected and non-affected parties
- Strong focus that the coordination group itself is to create their work plan and methodology. ICANN wants to ensure it remains a facilitator.
- Next steps is the submit representatives by 2nd July 2014 and that a tentative face to face meeting would take place (with remote participation) in mid-July to begin scoping their charter etc.

Some comments from GNSO suggested concerns regarding how the IANA transition is positioned along with the ICANN accountability topic – whether they are interdependent, run in parallel or if Accountability should be dealt with first. The Enhancing ICANN accountability document was posted with a reply period ending 27 June (considered by some as too short). Other concerns from the council related to the fact that the scoping document is limited when it should not be.

GNSO with ICANN Board

The GNSO meet with the ICANN Board on their Sunday session and focused on several topics: the working relationship between the GNSO and GAC (see GNSO/GAC relations section in this report), recent achievements of the GNSO (decision on spec 13, input to meeting strategy group, MSI panels plus working groups) and

a discussion on the EWG report (see below). Another topic of discussion was around Board representation from the GNSO and how any conflicts of interest are dealt with. The distinction between 'personal' conflicts and 'organisational' conflicts was highlighted and several board members gave examples of each case and when they would recuse themselves from decisions made at board level. The responses and discussion were general well received and understood. Bruce Tonkin (Board) also added to the GNSO communication via email further details on the role of Board members in being able to effectively liaise with their appointing organisation. He quotes the following bylaws:

Directors shall serve as individuals who have the duty to act in what they reasonably believe are the best interests of ICANN and not as representatives of the entity that selected them, their employers, or any other organizations or constituencies. He highlighted that “Directors do NOT serve as representatives of the GNSO, nor any other selecting entity”

[Slides from Board/GNSO meeting](#)

In a session with the CEO the topic of overload in the work was discussed (see above) as well as an impassioned debate on the apparent/perceived mistrust between the community and ICANN staff to which Fadi is keen to fix. Some strong words were exchanged between audience/council members and Fadi on the question of who he and the Board 'work for'. Fadi affirmed they 'work for the community' whereas several comments from the community stated they 'work for the corporation'. This debate raised tension although Fadi's stance seemed consistently of good will and positivity. He constantly reaffirmed his open-door management style and the fact that he is always happy to be re-guided from the community on how he can improve things.

On the question of 'top down' versus 'bottom up', Fadi defended his actions and initiatives giving an analogy: “does the community provide advice on what coffee ICANN uses, or which airline he flies with?” – some things need to be decided on in order to move ahead. “I work for you, no one else. If you think things are top down, re-guide and we'll work through it”. It was again very clear that Fadi is very committed to working for the community also adding that he is “like no other CEO” – he adapts and changes his course when it's needed.

Expert Working Group on Registration Directory Services

The Expert Working Group (EWG) recently completed its work in examining the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data. Their report addresses the question on whether there is an alternative to today's Whois which would 'better serve the global internet community'. The 15-month effort has resulted in a conclusion that today's model in Whois of giving the same anonymous public access to “often-inaccurate” data should be abandoned.

Their report proposes the 'Registration Directory Service' (RDS) with the aim to strike a balance between accuracy, access and accountability. Essentially, the group proposed a more centralized approach to registrant contact data where much of the contact data would be hidden, or 'gated' available only to registered (accredited) users of the system. In a GNSO/Board session the Board (plus ICANN CEO) were very clear on the EWG report stating they will do nothing until they hear back from the GNSO. Around the council, a few ideas were circulated such as the possibility to break up the EWG report into several streams in order to tackle it more effectively as well as ideas on a legal analysis, feasibility analysis and the issue of one dissenting comment made by one of the EWG members to which was not included in the report. It was generally clear that the report would take some time to digest and that the GNSO is not likely to have a response immediately nor any concrete next steps just yet. It is however likely that the council will eventually discuss the report in detail and potentially initiate a policy development process around it.

[EWG presentation slides](#)

GNSO/GAC Relations and engagement

The GAC-GNSO consultation group was established to address the issue of GAC early engagement in the GNSO Policy development process and contains representatives from both groups. The consultation group are discussing issues ranging from day to day cooperation to specifics in GAC early engagement in the PDP. Exemplified by the IGO/INGO issues, the group is also seen as a way to help deal with potential conflicting advice in the future. Several concrete aspects to the initiative were discussed both in the GNSO and within the GNSO/GAC joint session. As part of the GNSO/GAC consultation group work a proposal for a GNSO liaison to the GAC was discussed. This proposal was well received within the GAC and generally well from GNSO councilors. There are concerns within the council that role will be complex and therefore finding a suitable candidate will be important and challenging. The search for a liaison will most likely be initiated will be piloted starting from the ICANN51 in Los Angeles for a 1 year period. The liaison role is aimed at

being a conduit rather than a negotiator. Other initiatives in 'early awareness' notifications were also discussed and a survey launched to solicit input from GAC members for their thoughts on the topic.

With regard to GAC early engagement in the GNSO PDP, Jonathan Robinson lead a discussion within a joint session which focused on ensuring the GAC is aware of existing mechanisms available to provide input into the GNSO PDP. Specifically to this, Jonathan outlined the opportunities to engage such as early phases in the PDP (issue reports). It was stressed that any Advisory Committee (ie. GAC) can request an issue report. Effectively, the aim is to have GAC views and any concerns to be aired in the early stages (rather than toward the end).

GNSO/ccNSO joint session

Strategic and Operational Planning WG - Roelof Meijer gave an update to the SOP working group which recently provided [comments](#) on the draft FY15 operating plan and budget as well as a [submission](#) to the ICANN Strategic plan FY16-20. There are concerns in big increases in operational cost in the budget especially considering a potential over-estimation of revenue. There was a suggestion from a GNSO councillor that the two SO's hold a session with ICANN leadership on this topic. The ccNSO was proposed to review this further and determine any further course of action.

CCWG on use of country names as TLDs - Heather Forrest provided update on the Working groups progress mentioning there had been 2 meetings by phone prior to London and another to come should after ICANN50. They are currently setting parameters for meetings going forward. [More information](#)

Framework of ccWGs for future ccWGs (CCWG squared) – An update was made on this group stating their first in person meeting has taken place during ICANN50 in London. The work of this group is considered timely (regarding IANA transition was noted that the group has a healthy number of participants).

NTIA stewardship transition process A discussion took place on the IANA transition including the launch of ccWG noting that this group is in the drafting stages. Comments from the room on this topic:

- There are some confusions in the GAC between the work of the ccWG and the coordination committee (duplicate work).
- On the issue of timing – it was noted that the past 3 months have not been used well as not much has happened. Another comment suggested that determining the Accountability topic was an important step made in this period.
- We should take the September 2015 deadline very seriously considering the political environment the US.
- When are ccNSO and gNSO going to pick their reps on the drafting team? Byron: shortly after this meeting (cocktail) hopefully.

„Volunteer burnout“ and participation issues

A theme which seemingly spanned beyond more than the GNSO, a general sense of work overload (particularly related to the working groups) was discussed across different sessions. Some comments considered it was not only a work overload, but also a that working group members might have a sense of dissolution with the outcomes of their work. An “is it worth it” and “why get involved” was noted to be a common reason for non-engagement. It was also very apparent that engagement is an issue whereby working groups are often filled with the 'same people' – when those people step down, they leave big holes.

Several comments and points from the discussions:

- “We are not volunteers, we are stakeholders” (M Cade)
- “It's not a problem of numbers, it's a question of lack of incentives and interest – look at these causes and not ust the symptoms”.
- How can we draw external people with expertise to the work? - If you want external experts, you have to pay for it.
- Concerns in not having enough of the materials available in different languages (hard for non-English speakers to engage)
- Consider asking the ccNSO on their experience and processes in working groups and outputs.

This topic was also raised with Fadi Chehade where he mentioned that recent discussions with SO/AC leaders had focused almost entirely on this issue. He stated he is now very aware of the issue and has committed to hold a weekend workshop for the SO/AC community leaders in an effort to address it. He spoke of the workload issue as a supply chain problem and that there are mechanisms that can help (adding capacity, slowing things down or prioritisation).

Global Domains Division (GDD) & new gTLD update

The GDD ran a dedicated session providing an overview to their department and allowing the public to ask questions. The GDD is the unit of ICANN that 'engages the Internet community to implement ICANN policies through contracts and services, and delivers IANA functions'. Its responsibilities lie in 4 key areas: community engagement, policy implementation, IANA services, DNS security, stability and Resiliency. Each of these areas were outlined as well as the GDD Portal – a central place to facilitate work between the GDD and stakeholders.

Attached to this session was some updates on the new gTLD program. Of 1721 applications who have passed the evaluation, around 440 contracts have been signed (many more invited) and 319 strings have been delegated. It is expected that the remaining strings will take up until 2017 to be delegated at current rates. Other stats were outlined relating to GAC advice, string contentions and community priority evaluations (more in the slides). In regards to the Emergency Back end Providers (EBERO) there are currently 3 (CNNIC, CORE and Nominet) and a public RFP is expected in July to add additional providers.

[Click for presentation slides](#)

Domain Name Association (DNA) update

The Domain Name Association (DNA) gave a presentation to the GAC with views that the session could become a regular feature. They stated they are interested in being a valuable source of industry and technical information and even suggested providing the GAC with a written report on the status of domain names. Several members linked to the DNA gave detail to areas linked to their respective areas. Among them was Alex Blowers (Nominet) who gave a ccTLD perspective in relation to the IANA transition.

He made the following points among others;

- Most ccTLDs have a good understanding of geo-political aspects in relation to making changes to IANA arrangements
- ccTLDs want to see the same levels of service excellence in any future arrangements
- Particular needs of ccTLDs were presented noting the opposition to a one size fits approach particularly in relation to ccTLDs rights, their national governments and other stakeholders in setting their own policies.
- There should be no requirement for ccTLDs to contract with IANA (many currently do not have any contract). ccTLDs should continue to lead on bottom up policy via the ccNSO. Other policies are done at National level.

GAC reacted well to the session with a couple of positive comments on the ccTLD perspective update made.

IGO/INGO and Red Cross Protections and proposed modifications

Cherine Chalaby on behalf of the new gTLD program committee (NGPC) recently [wrote](#) to the GNSO regarding issues relating to protections of acronyms to IGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent (RCRC) protections. The proposed modifications would essentially mean the previous 90 day claims for acronyms of IGO (on the GAC list) and Red Cross identifiers would be instead be made permanent for the life of the Trademark Clearinghouse. See table below for more detail. There is still a clarification to be worked out on if the issue is deals with pre or post registrations.

The discussion in the GNSO council weekend sessions largely centred on whether the working group which originally produced the consensus recommendations should be re-convened in some form to re-examine the issues proposed. There are concerns that re-convening the group might send the wrong message to how conflicts in ICANN can be dealt with as well as potentially reinforce the problem of volunteer disillusionment/engagement as described earlier in this report.

The substantial issues of changes proposed (ie. Extensions to 90 claims protection) are considered by many to be of lesser importance than the issue of process in the PDP which made the original recommendations. Despite this, it was generally felt that the Board (and letter from NGPC) was made good faith and a positive step to collaboration.

The GNSO are discussing to consider possible amendments to the PDP via reconvening the WG.

| GNSO Recommendation (Nov 2013) | Proposed Modification (June 2014) |
|---|---|
| <p>Red Cross & Red Crescent (RC):</p> <p><u>90 days</u> TMCH claims notice for Exact Match of RC Scope 2 Identifiers (i.e. full names and acronyms of 189 national RC societies (in English and respective national language) and of international RC entities - ICRC, CICR, IFRC, FICR (in UN6))⁶</p> | <p>Red Cross & Red Crescent (RC):</p> <p>Claims notice for <u>life of TMCH</u> (pre-registration notice to registrant plus post-registration notice to relevant RC entity) for Exact Match of RC Scope 2 Identifiers</p> <p>New Curative Rights PDP WG to consider same no/low cost mechanism for acronyms of international RC entities (viz. ICRC, CICR, IFRC, FICR) as any that may be recommended for IGOs/INGOs</p> |
| <p>IGO Acronyms:</p> <p><u>90 days</u> TMCH claims notice for acronyms of IGOs on GAC list of 22 March 2013⁷</p> <p>Issue Report (now PDP) to address curative rights access for IGOs (and INGOs)⁸</p> | <p>IGO Acronyms:</p> <p>Claims notice for <u>life of TMCH</u> (pre-registration notice to registrant plus post-registration notice to relevant IGO) for acronyms of IGOs on GAC list</p> <p>New Curative Rights PDP WG directed to consider no/low cost procedure for IGOs on GAC list</p> <p>New Curative Rights PDP WG directed to consider third party binding arbitration (in lieu of appeal to national courts) for second level domain name disputes involving acronyms of IGOs on GAC list</p> |

Curative right protections - As one of the outcomes from the PDP on IGO/INGO protections one specific topic is being discussed: curative right protection measures (such as the UDRP and URS). Situations where these measures are currently used are when registrants have registered domains at the second level that are identical or similar a protected trademark. An initial report was produced on this topic and the GNSO council recently passed a motion to initiate a PDP to evaluate where the UDRP and URS should be amended to enable their access by the IGO-INGO). The GNSO passed a motion in their council meeting which approved a charter for the PDP working group.

GAC communique link - The GAC communique released on Thursday provided more fuel in the fire as they have stated that protections Red Cross and Red Crescent terms/names should not be subject to PDP and that permanent protection of the terms should be confirmed and implemented as a matter of priority. The debate is expected to continue within the GNSO and already Councilors are concerned (some very angry).

[See full GAC communique](#)

GNSO Review

As a requirement in the ICANN bylaws, there is a GNSO review process expected to begin 1st July 2014. A GNSO review working party has been formed and met at ICANN50 to work on preparation for the process. The structural improvement committee (SIC) is to provide oversight to the work and has confirmed an 'independent examiner'. In terms of progress it was noted that pre-review activities have begun in March 2014 and they are moving toward the actual review in July which will last through to Jan/Feb 2015. This will then be followed by an implementation phase.

[Click for presentation slides](#)

Other updates presented to the GNSO Council

Proposals to PDP improvements: Staff provided an update to the Council regarding the status of work done on improvement proposals to the Policy Development Process (PDP). The update gave an overview to 10 proposed improvements. Of particular interest to the ccNSO is the proposal for the requirement of working groups to have a representative from each SO/AC. Another interesting proposal is to allow for observers to the working groups (ie listen only members in the group) – this proposal was met with generally a positive response from the Council with a couple of reservations.

See [presentation slides](#) for more details on the proposals.

SSAC update: Patrick Fältström gave an update to SSAC recent activities as well as IANA function stewardship transition work part which is currently working on developing a principles and description document (expected in Q4 2014).

[Click for presentation slides](#)

Data & Metrics for Policy Making Working Group - The effort (originally called “uniformity of reporting”) here is to investigate more formal process for requests of data, metrics and other reporting needs from the GNSO that could help in GNSO policy development. Areas to be explored are; baseline for current practice and capabilities to problem reporting, evaluation PDP efforts and how metrics could have enhanced the process, GNSO work product templates (charters, issue reports etc) and external data sources that might benefit the policy process (eg abuse stats and DNS industry data). The GNSO approved the WG charter in January 2014 and the group (25 members) are to publish an initial report with a public comment period to follow. Along the line there will be reach out to SO/ACs for their input on a series of questions derived from the charter.

Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues - As the topic of privacy and proxy registrations was not addressed in the 2013 RAA negotiations, there is now a group discussing the related policy issues with a view to developing an accreditation program for the services. Privacy and Proxy registrations in broad terms relates to the masking of certain aspects of contact data of a domain name holder in the Whois database. A PDP working group was chartered in October 2013 and have been regularly. They aim to produce an initial report by early 2015. [More information](#)

Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP - Questions in the charter for this group were whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script, and, who should decide who should bear the burden translating contact information to a single common language or transliterating contact information to a single common script.

Although there is no particular milestone for this group, it's worth noting that the group plans to deliver its initial report by October and has planned a face to face meeting at ICANN50

[Click for presentation slides](#)**Policy and Implementation WG** - While developing a bright-line rule as to what is policy or implementation may not be possible, the hope is that by developing clear processes and identifying clear roles and responsibilities for the different stakeholders, it will become easier to deal with these issues going forward. The group started deliberations in August 2013.

The WG has developed a set of [working definitions](#) and is finalizing a set of working principles that are expected to underpin the WG deliberations on the charter questions. The WG aims to deliver an Initial Report by the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles.

[Click for presentation slides](#)

GNSO motions passed at Council meeting

- 1. Approval of a charter for a PDP working group for the IGO & INGO access to curative rights protection mechanisms.** The GNSO Council approved the Charter
- 2. Consideration and evaluation of the New gTLD programme** - The GNSO Council creates a new discussion group to discuss the experiences gained by the first round of new gTLD applications and

identify subjects for future issue reports, if any, that might lead to changes or adjustments for subsequent application procedures. They also resolve to invite the NGPC to provide input into the GNSO council to identify areas possible for discussion. The council also resolved to request a status report from staff on the current status of the new gTLD program as well as timeline projections and work plans. Motion passed unanimously.