



# **Guide for ICANN Prague**

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**June, 2012**

As the main ICANN stage will be dominated by new gTLD announcements, discussions on objection processes, batching mechanisms and the announcement of the new CEO, there are not burning hot issues on the ccNSO's desk at this meeting. So this will most likely be the shortest prep report for a ccNSO meeting ever.

Most of the work within the ccNSO takes place in the working groups. However, these working groups are open to their members only. If you are interested to join a working group or attend one of their sessions, please contact Gabi or Kristina from the ccNSO secretariat.

Finance, Strategic and operational planning and capacity building take place on Sunday. The study group on Names for Countries & Territories has sessions on Monday and Thursday. All meetings are indicated on the main meeting calendar at <http://prague44.icann.org/full-schedule>

## Key Issues and most promising sessions:

**Strategic and operational planning:** The ccNSO has build up an excellent reputation over the recent years as the community's watchdog during ICANN's planning and budget process. Over the last month the ccTLD community has formulated a clear and strong position on the FY 2013 Operating Plan and Budget. This could provide the much needed basis for an interesting discussion on Tuesday. The document is available at: <http://ccnso.icann.org/node/32023>

**IDNs:** The final session on the first full day of the ccNSO meeting focuses in on IDNs. Both the IDN registry experiences from the last two years and the reports from the working groups that look into the structural and organizational impact of IDN registries on the ccNSO might be interesting.

**WCIT and Internet Governance:** The afternoon session of the second day is used for a panel discussion on WCIT, more in particular on how ccTLDs can participate in the process. In the past these panel discussions have been very good, if you only attend one session, it probably should be this one. This will also be one of the main topics for the meeting between the ICANN Board and the ccNSO on Tuesdaymorning.

The ccNSO agenda is available at: <http://ccnso.icann.org/meetings/prague/agenda.htm>

## Key Issues being discussed within the GNSO

Below are key areas of work within the GNSO and surrounding constituencies.

There is a new GNSO website at <http://gnso.icann.org/en/> - this will be introduced quickly on Monday at 8am.

### New gTLDs

The Reveal day on 13th June produced the list of applications (1930 TLD applications of which 66 are community based). Some statistics on the applications were also released by ICANN.

Some of the issues to be updated on in Prague will be; application stats, batching of applications, reconfiguring the URS, status of trademark clearinghouse, policies for excess funds, financial support/JAS applications and the readiness of ICANN for launch of new gTLDs. According the ICANN Costa Rica presentations, the EBERO (emergency back end registry providers) should be known during the Prague Meeting.

There will also be an At-Large meeting on Monday which will cover objection processes, applicant support and other roll-out issues of new gTLDs.

#### Suggested sessions:

GSNO Working session – Agenda item: New TLD Issues (Sunday 11am)

[New gTLD Program Update](#) (Monday 3.30pm)

[Planning for the next gTLD round](#) (Monday 17.30)

[New gTLD Objection & Dispute Resolution](#) (Wednesday 9am)

[Uniform Rapid Suspension](#) (Wednesday 12.30pm)

### Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA)

Background: ICANN-accredited registrars and ICANN commenced a series of direct bilateral negotiations to amend and update the current Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) in November, 2011. Since the Dakar meeting, ICANN and Registrars have had 18 extended negotiations to amend the RAA. There are 12 separate law enforcement (LE) recommendations being addressed.

Developments: Updates to some of the LE recommendations; data maintenance/retention and WHOIS validation/verification – Community discussion still needed on these issues to determine balance between meeting public interest and goals of LE requests. Although there are other amendment topics, ICANN places priority on the topics of whois verification and data retention and community input during Prague will be a focus.

There is an [RAA-Draft posted](#) but it's not an approved document as yet. In a session in Prague (see below), some of the key questions will be pre/post resolution verification, annual re-verification, data retention and universal adoption of the RAA.

Note: GNSO also plans (motion to be resolved in Prague) that issue of Whois access is included in RAA PDP

#### Suggested sessions:

[Update on RAA Negotiations](#) (Monday 11am) – to inform the conclusion of the negotiations

**Further Reading:** [Summary of Negotiations](#), [Amending the RAA - Wiki page](#)

## Protection of IOC and Red Cross

In April, the ICANN declined to adopt the GNSO recommendations to protect the Red Cross/IOC names at the top level of new gTLDs, stating concerns over timing. An [issues report](#) was published in June on a GNSO request to evaluate where to protect the names of international organisations (also to define type of organisation, eg. non-for profit etc) at top and second level in new gTLDs with a comment period open till 25 June 2012.

## IRTP (Inter Registrar Transfer Policy)

Background: The Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP) is a consensus policy which provides for a straightforward process for registrants to transfer domain names between registrars.

The GNSO Council established a series of five Working Groups (Parts A through E) to review and consider various revisions to this policy

Developments:

- Most IRTP Part B recommendations are in process of being implemented (majority in effect 1 June 2012)
  - o Board adopted recommendation on provision of lock/unlock domain names in Costa Rica. Transfer Emergency Action Contact (TEAC) also introduced.
  - o Remaining recommendation on standardising Whois status messages concerning Registrar lock also adopted
- IRTP Part C deals with; change of control function, form of authorisation (if limited by time) and, if Registries be required to use IANA Ids for registrars.
  - o WG conducted data gathering survey (100 responses).
  - o [Initial Report published](#) for comment (close 4 July 2012) which include 4 recommendations: 1. adoption of change of registrant consensus policy for rules and requirements for a change of registrant, 2. Time-limit FOAs (Form of Authorisation), 3. Allow opt-out of time-limited FOA if desired by registrant, 4. All gTLD Registry operators required to public Registrar of Record's IANA ID in TLD's thick WHOIS. The group will present the initial report in the GNSO working session on Saturday at 11am

### Suggestion sessions:

[IRTP Part C workshop](#) (Wednesday 9am)

## Locking Domain names subject to UDRP Proceedings

GNSO Council initiated a PDP on locking of domain names subject to UDRP proceedings (currently no requirement to lock names in period between filing complaint and commencement of proceedings).

A Working Group was formed and first task is to get public input as well as develop a survey for Registrars and UDRP providers for their input. In Prague the group will provide an update to the surveys and development of their work (see below suggested session)

### Suggestion session:

Within [GNSO working Session](#) (Saturday 11.30am)

[Locking Domain names subject to UDRP Proceedings](#) (Thursday 9am)

## Fake Renewal Notices

Background: Fake Renewal notices are correspondence sent to registrants from organisations claiming to represent the current Registrar.

Developments: The GNSO wants further information on the topic to decide whether or not to initiate a PDP so a team organised a survey which had 19 responses (Registrars). More recently a public comment period was closed on the team's [report](#) and the currently the team are reviewing the comments.

## Whois

### Whois Review Team

In May 2012, the WHOIS Policy Review Team published its [final report](#) which included findings and recommendations covering; strategic priority of Whois, outreach, a single Whois Policy, Data accuracy, compliance, privacy/proxy, data access (common interface), internationalised domain names and annual reports.

See the CENTR [summary of the recommendations](#) from the Whois review teams final report

### Whois studies:

'Misuse' of public data (results mid 2013)

Registrant identification (results late 2012)

Proxy/privacy abuse (results mid 2013)

Proxy/privacy relay and reveal (results soon)

Further Reading: [Whois studies overview](#)

### Whois Service Requirements Report

A draft survey was posted 30 May for public comment. The survey will include topics on (among others); mechanisms to find authoritative whois servers, standardised query structure and error messages, history of registration data and internationalised data. Analysis may be useful for IETF protocol efforts. Next steps are to create proposed final draft, conduct the survey and analyse the results in a final report.

Further Reading: [WHOIS Survey working group Homepage](#)

## SSAC

The group will give an update to the GNSO on recent work as well as holding a public session on Thursday. A couple of the topics they are expected to discuss (part of their workplan for 2012) are; 'impact of DNS blocking' (SAC050), and issues relating to root key rollover (DNSSEC in the root)

## Internationalised Registration data (IRD) Working Group

Background: This group is a joint group between GNSO and SSAC studying feasibility and suitability of introducing specifications dealing with internationalised registration data (there are currently no standards).

Developments: The group has published its [final report](#) which contains a set of recommendations with an additional one of which being that ICANN should take steps to require gTLD registries and registrars and persuade ccTLDs and their registrars to support the standards agreed by the working group. Once the GNSO Council approve (motion during public council meeting on Wednesday 27th June) the report it will go to the ICANN Board.

### ***Other sessions of interest***

GSNO working Session– discussion with new ICANN CEO (Saturday 2.30pm)

[DNSSEC Workshop](#) (Wednesday 8.30am)

[IPv6 Session](#) (Thursday 9am)

[IDN Variant TLDs update](#) (Thursday 11am)

The GAC is meeting on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On the current agenda on the ICANN website most sessions including all the GAC Plenary sessions, are marked as closed sessions. However we received information that this should be outdated and that most sessions will be open. It's advisable to check the schedule for update.

Traditionally the closed sessions are used to discuss the GAC's operational principles, to prepare joint sessions, eg with the ICANN Board and to write the communiqué.

Unfortunately the GAC is not publishing a more detailed agenda on its website as it did a couple of times in the past.

## **Main topics and background**

### **new gTLDs**

Logically the new gTLDs will be the high on the GAC's agenda. There are two issue that will definitely get the GAC the attention, the early warning and initial evaluation and the batching process.

#### *Early warning.*

The timely processing of GAC advice will remain of major concern to GAC members. The GAC can issue an early warning within 60 days after the publication of the list of applications and a formal GAC advise later on during the evaluation period. By issuing an early warning the GAC basically warns the applicant that he might expect a negative formal advice during the evaluation phase.

At previous meetings the GAC stated that it would not be able to process more than 500 applications during the timeframe set for early warning and evaluation. The Costa Rica Communiqué explicitly asks the Board to consider that early warning should also occur in batches.

The question is now how the GAC will react on almost 4 times 500 applications. Will the GAC ask for more time to process all the applications? Will the GAC demand that the early warning will follow the batching?

#### *Batching – digital archery*

At the time of previous ICANN meeting, and very much to the annoyance of the GAC, no information was available on the criteria, rules and process for batching. In the mean time the batching process and in particular the digital archery have been heavily criticized for being flawed and many asked for the whole process to be abandoned.

It is to be expected that the Governments will have a strong opinion on this.

### **Law enforcement recommendations**

In 2009 Law enforcement agencies made 12 recommendations to amend the Registrar accreditation agreement with the aim to reduce the risk of criminal abuse of the domain name system. The recommendations were endorsed by the GAC. Ever since the GAC is criticizing ICANN and registrars for not taking their responsibility in applying the recommendations.

(Presentations of the Law Enforcement Recommendations

<http://brussels38.icann.org/meetings/brussels2010/presentation-gac-raa-19jun10-en.pdf> )

### **Conflict of Interest / Ethics**

ICANN's policy of ethics and conflicts of interest came under pressure in Dakar. The ICANN Board promised concrete actions and a review of the policy by the meeting in Prague. Within the GAC the European Commission attached great importance to this topic.

### **GAC secretariat**

The Costa Rica GAC session was overshadowed by discussions on the organization of the GAC Secretariat and the trust in the secretariat funded since 2011 by Norway, Brazil and the Netherlands. By the end of the session it was said that a compromise was found on some general principles which would be further refined by an intersessional working group. With the huge amount of work the new gTLD process brings along it is necessary for the GAC to take a decision during the Prague ICANN meeting. This session will be held behind closed doors.

### **Open Meetings**

(as noted in the online agenda on 19 June – CHECK for updates!!!):

Sat. 23 June

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Sun. 24 June

11.00-12.30: GAC/Board working group (Accountability ad transparency review)

16.00-17.15: GAC/GNSO joint session

Tue. 26 June

10.00-11.00: GAC/ALAC joint session

14.00-14.30: GAC/SSAC joint session

16.45-18.15: GAC/Board open session

Wed. 27 June

9.00-10.00: GAC/ccNSO joint session

11.00-12.00: GAC/SSR RT joint session (Security, Stability & Resiliency of the DNS Review Team)  
official agenda: - update on SSR RT progress

Thur. 28 June

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GAC communiqué San Jose meeting