



# Guide for ICANN London



**ccNSO, gNSO and GAC  
key issues**

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**June, 2014**

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## The main topic

The ccNSO agenda looks quite diverse and is experimenting with different meeting formats, but there really are only two topics on everyone's mind for ICANN 50: the IANA stewardship transition and the accountability process.

It has been a while since the ccNSO took a very strong stance (years ago on SOP), but this time both the response to the ICANN draft proposal for the IANA stewardship transition process and [the letter](#) from the ccNSO Chair to the ICANN CEO and Chair on the enhancement of the accountability process left little to the imagination of how the ccNSO feels about the recent proposals and the seriousness of its concerns.

One of the key concerns is that the ICANN planners want to speed this up so much that the SO's and AC's can't follow their established processes to have a broad debate within their communities.

The second concern is that some of the proposals were so clearly top-down that they were incompatible with the essential principles of multistakeholderism and were expected to be in breach with the NTIA requirements. (e.g. the ICANN and GAC chairs would decide on who represents the ccTLDs in the IANA stewardship transition coordination group).

It can be expected that the ccNSO discussions will focus on process and less on substance at this stage.

Expect discussions on these topics at the following sessions:

HLGM & Transition of NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions: 23 June, 10:30 - 12:00, Sandringham

Meeting with the ICANN Board: 24 June, 9:45 - 10:45, Sandringham

Internet Governance session 2: 24 June, 12:00 - 13:00, Viscount

Joint meeting with the GAC: 24 June; 14:00 - 15:00, Palace Suite

Internet Governance session 3: 25 June, 14:00 - 15:30, Viscount

Enhancing ICANN Accountability: 26 June, 10:30 - 12:30, Sandringham

Transition of NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA functions: 26 June, 13:30 - 15:30, Sandringham

ICANN Public Forum: 26 June, 16:00 - 18:00, Sandringham

ICANN Public Board Meeting: June 26, 18:00 - 19:00, Sandringham

Closely related to this, the Framework of Interpretation working group is wrapping up. The work of this group will be crucial in the upcoming discussions on delegation/redelegation in the context of the NTIA stewardship transition. Clear definitions, rules and interpretation guidelines will become essential.

Their document repository can be found at: <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/foiwg.htm>

FoI WG Update: 24 June, 9:10 - 9:30, Viscount

## Other recommended sessions

IANA update and session on operational excellence: June 24, 16:00 - 16:45, Viscount

Panel debate ccTLDs and Registrars: June 25, 9:00 - 10:00, Viscount

Legal and Policy session: June 25, 10:00 - 10.45, Viscount

Session with ccNSO selected ICANN Board Members: June 25, 12:45 - 13:00, Viscount

In the margin of the introduction of new gTLDs, a new issue emerged: two-character domain names at the second level in the gTLD space (<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-06-12-en>). It can be expected that a discussion will be held at the ccNSO but the timing is unknown at the moment of writing.

# GAC and High Level Governmental Meeting

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In addition to the regular GAC meeting a High Level Governmental Meeting will be held at ICANN 50. All GAC and HLGGM sessions are open to ICANN attendants with the exception of the drafting of the GAC communiqué on Wednesday afternoon, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 14:00 - 18:00.

## The HLGGM

This meeting will take place on Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:15 to 19:00 in the Palace Suite. For the session on the NTIA stewardship transition on the IANA functions, Sandringham will function as an overflow room.

The agenda focuses on two themes:

1. Transition of NTIA stewardship of the IANA function to the global Internet community: 11:30 - 12:30 according to the HLGGM draft agenda. Please check the [full schedule](#) closer to the date.
2. GAC achievements and enhancing the role of Governments in ICANN: this will be discussed both during the opening session (10:30 - 11:30) and as a stand-alone topic at 14:00 to 14:45.

## The GAC meeting

The GAC meeting starts with an opening session on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> and closes on Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup>. Also for the GAC, two main themes can be identified: New gTLDs and a wide range of Internet Governance related topics.

### *New gTLDs*

The ICANN Board has provided some controversial responses to GAC advice on new gTLDs. Expect some animosity at:

GAC Discussion on Board Responses to GAC Advice on New gTLDs: Saturday June 21, 14:30-18:00, Palace Suite

For more details on this GAC advice, see the [previous GAC communiqué](#) (Paragraph IV. 4) and the [CENTR analysis](#).

A topic of particular interest to ccTLDs is the protection of geographic name in the new gTLD program. The first session is an update from the GAC working group, the second session will look into the substance.

GAC WG Updates – Future gTLD working group - Geographic names sub-group: Sunday 22 June, 09:00 - 10:00, Palace Suite

Geographic Names Protection Briefing to Community by the Subgroup on Geographic Names to the Future gTLD Issues Working Group: Wednesday 25 June, 9:00 - 10:00, Palace Suite

There is also a new gTLD session scheduled on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 9:00 - 10:00.

### *Internet Governance Issues*

Transition of U.S. Stewardship of IANA: Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 - 11:30, Palace Suite

ICANN Accountability: Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 - 12:30, Palace Suite

In the light of the accountability discussion the following could be more interesting than usual: Board/GAC Recommendation Implementation Working Group (BGRI-WG) - ATRT2 Implementation: Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 16:30 - 18:00, Palace Suite

### ***Other recommended sessions***

The ccNSO - GAC meeting will discuss the following issues:

- update on status of work in Framework of Interpretation (Fol) Working Group,
- discuss Fol WG outcomes and plan for GAC further handling and approval
- discuss ICANN's plans to build a stronger registrar network in underserved regions
- discuss views on transition of U.S. Stewardship of IANA.

This meeting takes place on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 14:00 - 15:00, Palace Suite

The GAC/Board joint session takes place on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 16:45 - 18:00, Palace Suite

GAC Open Forum - open session for the community: Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 - 10:00, Palace Suite

The purpose of this session is to inform the community about the GAC and the GAC's working methods, in accordance with ATRT2 Recommendation 6.1.a.

## gNSO

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### **Introduction (GNSO)**

Key work in the GNSO takes place on the first Saturday and Sunday before the official opening on Monday of ICANN50. In those sessions the GNSO hears updates on the various working groups as well as sessions with key people and groups. The GNSO will meet with the ICANN Board, the GAC, the Generic Domains Division (Akram Atallah & team) and the Senior Advisor to the CEO on Strategy, Theresa Swineheart. They will also meet with the ccNSO on Monday in their usual joint session. Further to these sessions, they will also hear updates from the GNSO related working groups (some of which are described in more detail below in this report).

Subjects of interest expected (including policy work) include: NTIA and ICANN accountability, IGO/INGO protections, future new gTLD application rounds, CWG on use of country codes and territory names, Expert WG on registration data, GNSO review and workload volume plus many updates from the GNSO working groups. Below are selected topics of interest and their related session times.

### **IANA transition and Stewardship**

**Background:** In March 2014, the US Commerce department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intent to transition the IANA functions to the global multi-stakeholder community. It was noted strongly that NTIA will not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an inter-governmental organization solution.

**Update:** On June 6, ICANN posted the 'Process to Develop the Proposal and Next Steps' which includes as part of the next steps provision for the composition of a coordination group (formerly called the steering group). Respective communities are to elect their representatives and submit the names by 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.

During the initial consultation process, the question of ICANN accountability (in a future with no contractual arrangement with the US government) also came up. This has become a separate process on ICANN accountability has been launched.

The GNSO have been offered 3 seats on the coordination group (non-registry representation). It's likely the selection of these representatives will come from the respective Stakeholder Groups within the GNSO.

*Cross Community WG:* There are currently discussions between the SO and ACs to draft a charter for a cross community WG on IANA stewardship transition which could provide input to the Coordination Group ICANN is setting up (see above). The topic is now part of the agenda of both ccNSO and GNSO council meetings during ICANN50.

**Suggested session:**

GNSO Working session – Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 8.45-16.00 ([agenda link](#))

Participant Overflow Viewing Room: HLG & Transition of NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions – Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 10.30 – 12:00 ([Agenda link](#))

[More information on NTIA stewardship transition of IANA](#)

[More information on ICANN Accountability](#)

## IGO/INGO protection Issues

**Background:** Recommendations voted on during ICANN48 state that exact matches of the full IOC, RC/RC, IGO and INGO names should not be eligible for delegation as gTLDs. The GNSO Council however also recommended not to protect acronyms of these organizations and rather just have a 90 day claim period in the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH) – this conflicts with GAC advice. The GNSO brought up the issue of the IGO/INGO conflict issue with the Board at ICANN49 and is concerned that the Board will not adopt these policy recommendations (given the GAC advice).

**Update:** More recently Cherine Chalaby (Board New gTLD program committee) wrote to the GNSO stating there is a proposal being discussed with the GAC which would permit IGO's to submit up to 2 acronyms representing their names in up to 2 languages into the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH).

Some GNSO councilors are concerned with the possible rejection of their policy advice – this topic will likely have a lot of airtime during the GNSO Council meeting and its meeting with the ICANN Board.

Linked to the topic of IGO/INGO protections, another topic on curative right protection measures (such as UDRP and URS) is also being discussed and a charter is to be voted on for a PDP – more on this in the full CENTR report from ICANN50.

## GNSO with Board and CEO

The GNSO meet usually with the Board and CEO at ICANN meetings. In London, topics expected to be discussed are likely to be;

- Seats on the Board from the SO/ACs and how they are reconciled with duties of a director.
- Difficulties in the volume of work considering the volunteer structure (cause and effects)
- How the groups within the GNSO feel on ICANN performance of core functions that SG's rely on – the speed of development of ICANN and if the community is keeping pace with the myriad of initiatives.

**Suggested session:**

GNSO with Fadi Chehade – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 9.30-10.15 ([agenda link](#))

GNSO with ICANN Board – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 13.00-14.30 ([agenda link](#))

## New gTLDs

A session entitled 'Stories Panel' will be held whereby ICANN will pose questions to a group of new gTLD applicants and registry operators on their ideas and experiences so far in the program. Themes may include business plans, challenges faced and the future of the domain name industry in general. The GNSO council also has a slot in their Council meeting for the evaluation of the new gTLD program. They will discuss the program from the point of view of their own policy which effectively launched new gTLDs. They will also discuss their potential involvement in future new gTLD rounds. ([agenda link](#))

**Sessions:**

New gTLD 'Stories' Panel – Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> 15:15 – 16:45 ([agenda link](#))

GNSO discussion – Council Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> June – 13:00-15:00 ([agenda link](#))

**Other related sessions:**

New gTLDs applicants group (NTAG) Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June - 8:00 ([agenda link](#))

New gTLD registry operator engagement – practical information session – Wed 25<sup>th</sup> June – 8:00 ([agenda link](#))

**Cross Community WG (CWG) on Principles for future Cross Community WGs**

Don't let the title scare you – this is a cross-community working group (approved by ccNSO and gNSO in March 2014) to work on principles and frameworks of how cross-community working groups can operate. Essentially it will produce a set of checklists/guidelines as part of a template for the formation, operation and termination of future Cross community working groups. There will be a dedicated sessions (below) for this group as well as a short update to the GNSO council in their Saturday (June 21<sup>st</sup>) session. The topic will also be updated on during the ccNSO/GNSO joint session (Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> June 17:00)

More information on this group [here](#)

**Suggested Sessions:**

Cross Community WG on Framework of CWG Principles – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – 13.30 – 15.00 ([agenda link](#))

**Expert Working Group on gTLD directory services**

The EWG on gTLD directory services has recently released its final report which proposed a more centralized approach to registrant contact data. Essentially much of the contact data would be hidden, or 'gated' available only to registered (Accredited) users of the system.

The GNSO are expected to discuss the report over their weekend sessions and consider the next steps to take. The EWG will also present the report in a dedicated session on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

More information on this group [here](#)

**Suggested sessions:**

GNSO discussion of final report (Sunday 22<sup>st</sup> June - expected 12.15-13.00)

EWG Overview of Final Report - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - 15.15-16.15 – [agenda link](#)

**Motions for GNSO Council Meeting**

The following is a list of the Motions to be considered before the GNSO Council meeting

1. Approval of a Charter for a Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group for the IGO & INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP
2. The GNSO Council creates a new committee of the whole 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 rounds