



Guide for ICANN Singapore



**ccNSO, GNSO and GAC key
issues**

March 2015

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ICANN Singapore 2015: What to expect?

ICANN meetings in Singapore have always been special. ICANN's first meeting was held in Singapore in 1999. Attendants to ICANN 41 in 2011 witnessed the kick-off of the new gTLD program. ICANN 52 is set to enter ICANN's history as the meeting where the foundations for the ultimate IANA stewardship transition proposal were laid down. If you read one thing on the subject before going to Singapore, pick the presentation that was shared at the CWG's last webinar. It is available in pdf [here](#).

In addition ICANN 52 is also the meeting where the (finally functional) cross community working group on accountability will start seeding ideas and principles that will guide it through its crucial portfolio.

This pre-meeting report gives an overview of the essential meetings and discussions on these two topics and aims to be a guide for those who want to follow them across the different meeting schedules of SOs and ACs. However, we also want to signal other topics of interest from the ccNSO, the GAC and the GNSO. You can find these in the relevant sections further down.

IANA Stewardship Transition – Essential meetings:

- Sunday 8 February – 9.00-10.00 – Collyer: GAC discussion on Transition of US Stewardship of IANA
- Sunday 8 February – 11.45 – Sophia: GNSO discussion on Stewardship Transition and ICANN Accountability
- Monday 9 February – 10.15-13.00 – Padang: Plenary session on [Responses to the ICG RFP regarding the IANA Stewardship Transition](#)
- Tuesday 10 February – 14.15-15.45 – Olivia: ccNSO IANA Stewardship Transition
- Wednesday 11 February – 10.30-11.45 – Padang: [CWG - Stewardship Questions and Answers](#)

ICANN Accountability – Essential meetings:

- Sunday 8 February – 10.30-12.30 – Collyer: GAC discussion on Enhancing ICANN Accountability
- Monday 9 February – 16.45-19.45 – Padang: Plenary session on [CCWG - Accountability Working Session](#)
- Wednesday 11 February – 9.45-11.15 – Padang: [CCWG-Accountability Engagement Session](#)
- Wednesday 11 February – 14.00-15.30 – Olivia: ccNSO Update and Discussion: Enhancement ICANN Accountability process

ccNSO

Link to ccNSO [agenda](#)

All meetings take place in the OLIVIA room with the exception of the joint meeting with the ICANN Board (Padang) and the joint meeting with the GAC (Collyer).

The ccNSO will be spending a significant amount of time on the two key issues that dominate ICANN these days. The IANA stewardship transition is essential to every single ccTLD and the ICANN accountability discussions are essential to ccTLDs that are active in ICANN. One could even argue that even the ccTLDs that are not active in ICANN should take note as, just to give one example, it would be hard to argue that the introduction of new gTLDs doesn't have an impact on every registry across the globe. While those two topics threaten to trample other issues on the ccNSO agenda, there are a couple of highlights we would like to point out.

The marketing session features 3 CENTR members presenting their most recent accomplishments in education and communication (Tuesday 10 February, 12.00-13.00, Olivia).

While the ccNSO is often shying away from in depth-legal discussions (too much divergence across the jurisdictions), the court case in the US where ccTLDs are dragged into a legal battle by the families of victims of terrorist attacks could have a global impact. Both the topic and Becky Burr's knowledge are good reasons to sit in if you can make it (Wednesday 11 February, 9.00-10.00, Olivia: Does the current court case in the US put ccTLDs at risk?).

Always a highlight: expect open and frank discussions at the session with the ccNSO appointed Board Members (The Mike & Chris Q&A session: Wednesday 11 February, 10.00-10.45, Olivia).

Having an outstanding track record for thought-provoking presentations: Simon is always a good bet if you are looking for an interesting idea or two to take home. He is one of the presenters at the ccTLD news session (Wednesday 11 February, 11.00-12.40, Olivia: [The internet of things](#)).

As already flagged in the intro: do not miss the traditional panel-style discussion on Wednesday 11 February, 14.00-15.30 on ICANN accountability. Expect a crystal clear overview from Mathieu Weill and a proper discussion between Jordan Carter, .nz; Eberhard Lisse, .na; Roelof Meijer, .nl and Giovanni Seppia, .eu. An excellent line-up and a guarantee for an educated debate.

GAC

Link to [full agenda](#)

All meetings take place in the COLLYER room

For questions on site, contact nina@centr.org

The GAC will meet at Singapore under their new leadership team elected at ICANN 51. Thomas Schneider (Switzerland, OFCOM) will replace outgoing Heather Dryden as Chair and is also the GAC's liaison to the ICANN Board. The new Vice-Chairs include Dr Olga Cavalli (Argentina), Henri Kassen (Namibia), Gema M. Campillos González (Spain), Wanawit Ahkupatra (Thailand) and Ihsan Durdu (Turkey).

IANA Stewardship Transition and ICANN Accountability

Unsurprisingly, the GAC will dedicate a lot of time to the IST and Accountability debate. 5 members (including Thomas Schneider and Michael Niebel) sit in the [ICG](#). 2 GAC representatives are [members of the CWG](#) on Stewardship Transition (Elise Lindeberg, Norway, and Wanawit Ahkuputra, Thailand). 5 GAC representatives are part of the [CCWG](#) Enhancing Accountability drafting team. The first GAC session on this issue focuses on getting updates on the developments on CWG, the other community proposals and the ICG. These issues will also be discussed during the meeting with the ccNSO and ICANN Board.

- Sunday 8 February – 9.00-10.00 – Transition of US Stewardship of IANA
- Sunday 8 February – 10.30-12.30 – Enhancing ICANN Accountability
- Sunday 8 February – 14.00-14.30 – Continuation of discussions
- Tuesday 10 February – 11.00-12.00 – Meeting with ccNSO
- Wednesday 11 February – 8.30-9.30 – Meeting with ICANN Board

Framework of Interpretation Working Group report

The GAC will discuss their response to the [final draft report](#). Whereas the ccNSO [unanimously adopted](#) the draft report, endorsement by the GAC is still outstanding. Comments were submitted prior to the meeting. Their main concern are implications of the recommendations for public policy. 5 GAC representatives are members of the [FOIWG](#) for the delegation and re-delegation of ccTLDs. The subject will also be discussed at the meeting with the ccNSO.

- Saturday 7 February – 17.00-18.00 – Framework of Interpretation Working Group Report
- Tuesday 10 February – 11.00-12.00 – Meeting with ccNSO

Country names and geographic names

Whereas at ICANN51 the GAC largely acknowledged that the use of two-character second level names has not raised any concerns, debates on the use of **country and territory names at second level** continue, particularly in view of proposals for such a use by some TLD registries. The issue will also be discussed at the meeting with the ccNSO.

- Tuesday 10 February – 9.30-10.30
- Tuesday 10 February – 11.00-12.00 – Meeting with ccNSO

At the last ICANN meeting in LA, a sub-group of the GAC led a debate on the **protection of geographic names** (such as .amazon, .spa) in future new gTLD application rounds. The group drafted a [document](#) on the issue and sought [Community input](#) until 15 November 2014. The upcoming session seeks an exchange of view with the community.

- Wednesday 11 February – 10.30-11.30

WHOIS

At ICANN 51, GAC noted that the [2007 GAC Principles on WHOIS](#) remain relevant and will continue guiding the work. Various issues had significant impact on the workload of the GAC, including accuracy, conflicts with national privacy laws, privacy/proxy accreditation issues, implementation of Thick WHOIS, etc. (s.a. [Communiqué LA](#)).

- Tuesday 10 February – 16.30-17.00

Briefing on domain name industry developments, Architelos

As a goodbye treat before most of the GAC will be heading home, the GAC have invited Architelos to present a briefing on developments in the domain name industry.

- Thursday 12 February – 12.00-12.30

GNSO

Introduction

Key work in the GNSO takes place on the first Saturday and Sunday before the official opening on Monday of the ICANN meeting. Saturday consists mainly of policy updates such as IDN variants, IGO/INGO protections, proxy/privacy accreditation (initial report due), Expert Working Group update, Policy and Implementation WG (initial report due), SSAC discussion, new gTLD subsequent rounds and others.

On Sunday the GNSO will meet with the Global Domain Division (GDD), Theresa Swinehart, CEO Fadi Chehade, the ICANN Board and the GAC, and the joint GNSO/ccNSO session will take place on Monday morning at 7.30 (IANA stewardship and ICANN accountability are likely to be topics). The GNSO will also conduct its council meeting where it votes on policy development on Wednesday. On Monday there is also the SO/AC high-level interest topic session, in which the GNSO will participate.

IANA Stewardship Transition (GNSO perspective)

There are 4 individuals from the GNSO who are 'members' on the CWG - each from a different stakeholder group. GNSO leadership continue to encourage stakeholder groups remain well informed (although a recent GNSO meeting suggested they are challenged by the speed and complexity of the topic). Concern was recently raised regarding a congressional hearing in Washington which may suggest the NTIA have concerns over the direction of the stewardship transition workings (see [article](#)). Next steps considered important are in the transition topic: obtaining legal advice on relevant elements of the proposal, further engagement with the CCWG-Accountability and further work on developing the proposal with support from SO's. A discussion document (soon to be published) will set out areas of convergence/divergence and attempt to highlight critical questions for the Community regarding the transition/proposal.

Suggested sessions:

- GNSO discussion on Stewardship Transition and ICANN Accountability (Sunday 8 February – 11.45) [Agenda link](#)
- The joint ccNSO/GNSO session (Monday 9 February – 7.30) [Agenda link](#)
- CWG Working session (Wednesday 11 February – 17.15) [Agenda link](#)
- Q&A session (Thursday 12 February – 10.30) [Agenda link](#)

New gTLD subsequent rounds

There is a discussion group expected to report on recommended subjects for a future issue report which may lead to adjustments for future applications. A [letter](#) was drafted to the Board giving overview of some of the topics the Board raised and how the discussion group are dealing with them. Some topics include: community considerations, special cases, rights protection at 2nd level, string similarity, registry agreements, public interest, applicant support, name collision and IGO/INGO.

Suggested session: New gTLD Subsequent Rounds Discussion Group (Saturday 7 February – 11.30) [Agenda link](#)

CWG on the use of Country and Territory names as TLDs

The aim of this group is to review the issues related to the use of Country/Territory names under different policies (new gTLD IDN ccTLD, RFC 1591) and potentially develop a framework which could be used across SOs/ACs. **Update:** The group has proposed cooperation with a sub-group in the GAC which deals with the same issue. The group will meet in Singapore as well as with the GAC sub-group and ICANN staff are preparing a straw man paper presenting options regarding the issues found from an earlier study group.

Suggested session: CCWG on use of country/territory names as TLDs (Monday 9 February – 12.15) [Agenda link](#)

WHOIS - Next Generation Directory Services

A Board/GNSO process working group has been meeting monthly since ICANN 51 (LA) discussing aspects relating to purpose, accuracy, availability, privacy, anonymity, cost, policing, IP protection, security and malicious use. The group will update the GNSO on their work during in Singapore.

Suggested sessions: during the GNSO working session (Saturday 7 February – 10.00 – [agenda link](#)) and ‘All Things WHOIS’ session (Monday 9 February – 14.00 – [agenda link](#)).

GNSO/GAC Relations and engagement

A 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 which began in late 2013 discusses issues ranging from day-to-day cooperation between the groups as well as specific issues of common interest. **Update:** Preliminary recommendations on issue scoping have been published. The core of the recommendations relates to a ‘quick-look’ mechanism committee to allow for early indication in the PDP of whether the issue is of interest to the GAC.

Suggested session: GAC/GNSO session (Sunday 8 February – 15.00) [Agenda link](#)

Framework for future cross community working groups

In March 2014, the ccNSO and GNSO Councils approved a charter for a Cross Community WG to develop a framework of principles for formation, chartering, operations, decision-making and termination of CWGs. The group is sometimes referred to as ‘CWG Squared’ as it is a cross community WG to look at cross community WGs. The group is reviewing past efforts and working on frames for typical life cycles of CWGs. They are expected to discuss a set of initial checklists/guidelines in Singapore as part of a template for the formation/operation/termination of future CWGs with view it will be ready by ICANN 53.

Suggested session: Working group meeting (Wednesday 11 February – 11.15) [Agenda link](#)

Policy & Implementation WG

GNSO Policy & Implementation WG posted its [Initial Recommendations Report](#) on 19 January for public comment. A discussion (Q&A) is expected on this topic on the Saturday working session ([agenda link](#)).

IRTP Part D recommendations

A WG was chartered to answer questions related to reporting requirements for registries and dispute providers, handling disputes in cases of multiple transfers, dispute options for registrants, EPP authinfo codes and other issues. **Update:** The GNSO Council adopted the recommendations of the [final report](#) which will be passed to the ICANN Board for consideration during ICANN 52. If approved, an implementation team will be formed.

Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation

The work of this group spans from issues identified during the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) negotiations. The WG charter includes questions over the following categories: general issues, maintenance and registrations of P/P services, contact points for P/P services, relay and reveal procedures, and termination and accreditation. The group aims to produce an initial report by the Singapore meeting as they have reached consensus on a number key recommendations. Recommendations relate to: no distinction between 'privacy' and 'proxy', abuse reporting, relay of electronic communication and reveal of customer identity details. More detail will be provided CENTR's final ICANN 52 report.

Suggested session: Update from WG in GNSO working session (Saturday 7 February – 17.45) [Agenda link](#)

Other potential discussion topics

Discussion on new gTLD auctions - In a previous ICANN meeting, the Board stated they are waiting for the community to come forward with ways to deal with money raised from new gTLD auctions. The GNSO considers a cross community WG to be a possible way forward. The topic is considered timely.

Policy work on name collisions - NGPC asked GNSO in October 2014 to consider policy work on long term plans to manage gTLD name collision issues. The GNSO have the view that policy work on the issue would be premature framework has only recently been implemented (hence limited data whether successful or not).

IDN Implementation Guidelines - The last revision of the IDN implementation guidelines was in 2011 and the Global Domains Division (GDD) have request GNSO and others to help in the review process. The GNSO plan is to provide a list of initial issues it believes should be examined when IDN implementation guidelines are updated. They are forming an informal group to discuss this and work is ongoing.