Guide to
ICANN56
Helsinki

ccNSO, GNSO and GAC key issues

June 2016

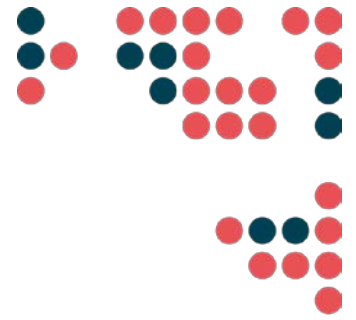# Contents

CENTR Guide to ICANN56 Helsinki – Introduction

The meeting in Helsinki will be the first one held within the structure of the new meeting format (B meeting or "Policy Forum"). The goal is to encourage more discussion and collaboration between the different stakeholder groups and break down the walls between the communities. This is supposed to be a "short" meeting with a focus on cross community working groups and policy development. With less participants and some of the standard features of an ICANN meeting removed (such as opening session, open forums and gala event), more cities should be able to host an ICANN meeting in the future.

At the time of writing, around 800 participants are publicly listed, which is indeed lower than usual. The total number of participants for the previous ICANN meeting in Marrakech was over 2,000.

Within the different SOs and ACs, there was a fair bit of confusion on how the new meeting should be planned. Most went for the safe option of doing something in-between a regular meeting (keeping the tried-and-tested regular agenda items) and some new or intensified exchanges with other SOs and ACs.

We hope this guide helps you find your way through the ICANN schedule and identify the sessions that are of interest. The CENTR team in Helsinki consists of nina@centr.org, alex@centr.org and peter@centr.org. Feel free to reach out and let us know if there is anything we can help you with.

If you would like to read the CENTR report from the previous ICANN meeting in Marrakech to refresh your memory, you can find it here. Find a full list of acronyms here.

ccNSO pre-report

PDP on retirement of ccTLDs and the review mechanism for decisions on delegation, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs

The most important topics on this meeting's ccNSO agenda are the Policy Development Processes (PDP) on (1) the retirement of ccTLDs; and (2) the review mechanism for decisions on delegation, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs. These separate but interrelated PDPs are needed to fill in the gaps identified by the Framework of Interpretation (FoI) working group. It also seems that the IANA stewardship transition triggered an increased sense of urgency to complete these PDPs. This will also be the main topic of the Cross-community session between the ccNSO and the GAC later that same day. Highly recommended reading for those who want to engage in the discussion: Final Framework of Interpretation working group report

Session: Tuesday 09.10 – 10.00 Veranda 2 and Tuesday 15.15 – 16.45 Hall A

Session on GAC survey on government relations with ccTLD managers

Last year the GAC ran a survey to better understand the relations between governments and ccTLD managers and the different models that exist around the globe. While the survey received a relatively small number of responses, it provides an interesting starting point for this debate.

Session: Tuesday 15.15 – 16.45 Hall A
Reading: Survey
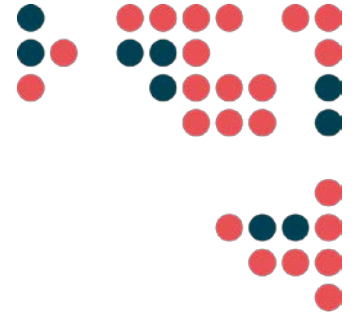
Country & Other Geographic Names Forum (ccNSO/GNSO)

Following the "straw-woman" paper produced at ICANN55 by the CCWG on the Use of Country and Territory Names (UCTN), the group has identified a significant divergence of opinions among interested parties. With this in mind, the CCWG looks at an opportunity to have a broader discussion on topics related to the use of country and other geographic names. The purpose of this session is to seek community feedback and input on the feasibility of a harmonized framework.

Warning: this session might end up more confusing than anything else, since there is very specific work being done right now by various SO/ACs on this general topic (the CCWG on UCTN is currently focusing on 3-letter TLDs, the GAC on the use of country and territory names at second level, etc.). However, it will be of particular interest for CENTR members to have a say in this discussion.

Session: Wednesday 15.15-16.45, Helsinki Hall

Other recommended sessions

Always a safe bet: the ccNSO legal session (Wednesday 10.45 – 12.00 Veranda 2) and marketing session (Wednesday 14.00 – 15.00 Veranda 2). Even though both may have some overlaps with previous presentations at CENTR meetings, a generous splash of ccTLD news from around the world makes them interesting and refreshing.

GNSO pre-report

Although this is meant to be a shorter-than-usual ICANN meeting, the GNSO will definitely have quite a bit on its plate in Helsinki. It is working around the new schedule by focusing on policy development processes (PDPs) and keeping the Council meeting to a much shorter timeframe.

Hot topics that will be generating a lot of discussions include the New gTLD Auction Proceeds and the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG. Other fun ones worth noting are the CCWG[2] (see below), the Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services (RDS) PDP, the Review of all trademark-related Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs and the Country & Other Geographic Names Forum.

The GNSO will also be holding bilateral meetings with the Board and GAC, implementation meetings on Thick WHOIS and hold sessions on IANA transition implementation issues. Although the Council is also looking for a new GNSO Liaison to the GAC, Mason Cole's term will be extended until ICANN57 in Hyderabad.

For its meeting with ICANN's new CEO Göran Marby, the GNSO will have 15 minutes (less time than usual) to discuss topics including permanent protections for IGO/INGO/Red Cross and the status of privacy/proxy accreditation recommendations (currently under GAC scrutiny).
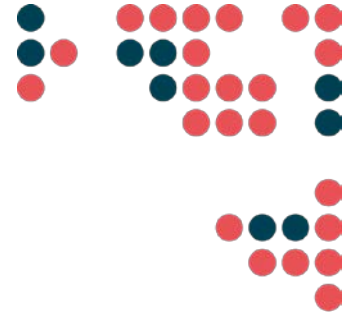
New gTLD Auction Proceeds

Proceeds from the New gTLD auctions now amount to a staggering $105.6 million USD. Although the burning question that remains is what is ICANN going to do with all that money, the meeting in Helsinki will first serve as a stage to discuss the *framework* and *scope* of the working group, whose daunting task will be to come up with an answer from the community to that question. A group of volunteers is currently drafting a charter for a CCWG, which will be discussed at ICANN56.

Session: Tuesday 15.15-16.45, Hall A
Draft charter
Discussion paper

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group is intended to review issues identified from the 2012 round of the New gTLD Program and determine if changes or adjustments for subsequent new gTLD procedures are needed. An open community dialogue session will be held to discuss the subjects (38 in total, of which 6 have been identified as high-level, overarching subjects) that have been considered to date by the WG. It will be especially important for this WG to take into account other efforts related to new gTLDs (CCT-RT, CWG on the Use of Country and Territory Names, Review of All RPMs in all gTLDs PDP, etc.). The scope of this WG is quite large, hence the extensive discussions (the session will last all day).

Sessions: Wednesday 10.45-12.00 and 13.30-15.00, Hall B
WG charter

CCWG²

This CCWG on CCWGs (hence the informal CCWG² nickname) is working on a draft framework of principles for futures cross-community working groups (CCWG). The Final Framework document is expected to be released a few days before ICANN56. The CCWG will be conducting an open community session on key changes and major areas of community concern (diversity, budget, resources, defining "consensus" and implementation).

Session: Wednesday 17.00-18.30, Hall A

Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service (RDS) PDP

After nearly 15 years of GNSO task forces, working groups, workshops, surveys & studies, the ICANN community has been unable to reach consensus on comprehensive WHOIS policy reforms. In response to the 2012 WHOIS Policy Review Team's Final Report, the ICANN Board launched the RDS PDP & the Expert Working Group (EWG) to inform it, and reconfirmed the request for a PDP in 2014 following the delivery of the EWG Final Report.

This WG is looking into what will be replacing or improving the current WHOIS. It has been formed to reach a consensus on two main questions: what are the fundamental requirements for gTLD registration data? and is a new policy framework and next-generation RDS needed to address these requirements? The WG is in its early stages: it is currently gathering input to form a comprehensive list of *possible* requirements (it's all about the list at this point) for a gTLD RDS. In Helsinki, it will be focusing on the following areas: users/purposes, gated access, data accuracy, data elements and privacy.
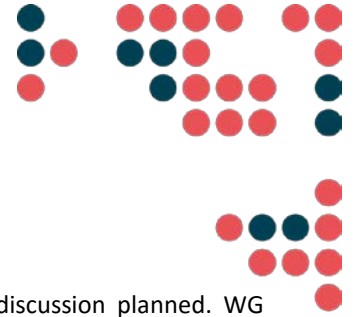
In addition to a face-to-face Working Group meeting, there is also a cross-community discussion planned. WG members will draw from their own experiences to share examples and invite attendees to join in a lively conversation about possible requirements which they believe should be supported by gTLD registration data and directory services. Inputs gathered during this cross-community session are essential to inform this PDP WG's phase 1 recommendations on whether a next-generation RDS is needed to replace WHOIS and why.

Cross-community session: Monday 15.00-16.30, Hall A
Face-to-face WG meeting: Tuesday 8.00-10.30 and 10.45-12.00, Hall B
WG Wiki space

Review of All Trademark-Related Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs

New RPMs were developed in the context of the New gTLD Program in 2012. This PDP WG was chartered by the GNSO Council to review them all in two phases: the first phase is to review all RPMs created for the New gTLD Program:

- Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH) and related RPMs (Sunrise Registrations, Trademark Claims Notices);

- Uniform Rapid Suspension Procedure (URS); and

- Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure.

The second phase will focus on the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which will potentially require a vast and extensive community consultation due to the fact that (just as WHOIS) this mechanism has been in place for many years. An open community dialogue session focused on Phase One will be held at ICANN56 for community feedback on the proposed methodology; sources and approach for data gathering; and scope of issues to be addressed in Phase One.

Cross-community session: Monday 16.30-18.00, Hall A
WG session: Thursday 8.00-10.30, Hall B

GAC pre-report

The GAC have tried to fit a 6-day meeting into the B-Meeting's 4-day corset. The (rough) daily structure is: GAC WG-meetings and a report of these to plenary, plenary including administrative/operative issues, GAC high-interest subjects and cross-community activities in the afternoon. The GAC Communiqué will only be published on Thursday. The GAC agenda can be found here:

- GAC website: GAC Agenda

- ICANN56 website: general schedule (NB: not all GAC sessions carry their acronym, look out for "Olof Nordling")

- All meetings take place in Hall A (unless indicated differently)

Country, territory and geographic names and codes at various levels

As can be expected, these issues are prone to confusion, which the GAC try to mitigate (s.a. persisting inconsistencies in the ICANN agenda):
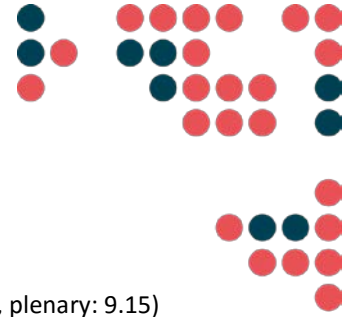
- GAC WG on Protection of Geographic Names (focus: work plan) (Monday 8.15-9.15, plenary: 9.15)

- GAC: Country Codes and Names as Second Level Domains (SLDs); focus: mitigate confusion between 2-letter codes ("character labels") and country names at the second level and as TLDs (Monday 10.45-11.30)

- GAC: Three-character codes as TLDs, focus: presentation of the "straw-woman" paper developed by the CWG UCTN (Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs) (Tuesday 12.00-12.30)

- Cross-community: Country & Other Geographic Names Forum (see ccNSO section) (Wednesday 15.15-16.45)

Consumer protection and public safety, intellectual property rights & privacy

- GAC meeting with CCT Review Team (tasked to assess how the New gTLD Programme has impacted Competition, Consumer Trust & Consumer Choice, more details), focus: learn about the team's work plan (Monday, 13.30-14.00)

- GAC PSWG (Public Safety Working Group) focus: WG work plan (Tuesday 8.15-9.15, plenary: 9.15-9.30), big bummer: the actual meeting is closed (Wednesday, 17.00-18.30, Restaurant Hall 1)

- GAC: Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) (linked to the work of the PSWG), focus: PDP recently concluded in GNSO (final report), try to resolve issues of ongoing concern to the GAC (Tuesday 11.00-12.00)

- GAC HRIL WG (Human Rights and International Law, i.e. another way of saying "intellectual property"), focus: WG work plan (Wednesday 8.15-9.15, plenary: 9.15-9.30; in joint session with ICANN's CCWP-HR: Thursday 15.00-15.45, Veranda 4)

- Cross-community: Next Generation Registration Directory Services (see GNSO section) (Monday 15.00-16.30) and Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs (also see GNSO section); focus: trademarks, dispute resolution (Monday 16.30-18.00)

### Administrative and operative issues

Among internal matters, the GAC are concerned about the effectiveness of GAC Advice (Monday 14.00-15.00), the increased workload due to parallel sessions, participation in PDPs, etc. (and have therefore called for a cross-community discussion on workload scheduling & management – Thursday 15.15-16.45), and policy development in future gTLD rounds (Tuesday 13.30-15.00)

The GAC will meet with other communities in various constellations, e.g. with the ccNSO (Tuesday 15.15-16.15, see ccNSO section), GNSO (Wednesday 9.30-10.30) and the cross-community sessions in the afternoon.

IANA Stewardship Transition and CCWG Accountability

CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2 Working Session

The cross-community working group on accountability (CCWG Accountability) provided the part of the transition proposal that improves ICANN's accountability. Work Stream 1 dealt with the issues that needed to be implemented before the transition takes place. These recommendations are now being turned into ICANN Bylaws. Work Stream 2 deals with aspects (such as human rights) that were less time-bound.
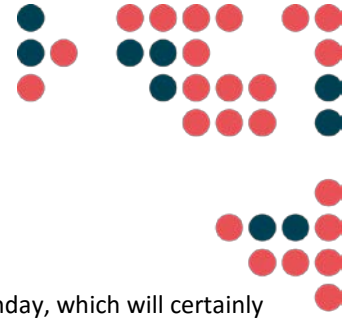
The CCWG Accountability will be holding a full day working session on Work Stream 2 on Sunday, which will certainly be feeding into updates that will be given to SO/ACs during the week.

Working session: Sunday 8.00-17.00, Hall A

Implementation of CWG-Stewardship proposals

Now that the transition package has been approved by the communities and the Board and since the NTIA confirmed it meets the requirements, it is time to look at the implementation aspects. It will be crucial for the ccTLD community to have a constructive debate on the expectations it has for the ccTLD representatives in the Customer Standing Committee (CSC) and the Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC).

Session (ccNSO): Tuesday 13.30-15.00, Veranda 2

IANA Stewardship Transition (IST), CCWG Accountability Work Stream 1 and progress on Work Stream 2

Session on CCWG Accountability (ccNSO): Wednesday 9.00-10.30, Veranda 2

Session on IST and CCWG Accountability WS1 (GAC): Tuesday 9.30-10.30, Hall A

Session on CCWG Accountability WS2 (GAC): Wednesday 10.45-12.00, Hall A

Session on IST implementation (GNSO): Monday 9.30-10.00 and 14.30-15.00, Hall B