



Guide for ICANN Singapore



**ccNSO, gNSO and GAC
key issues**

March, 2014

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ccNSO Pre Report

Internet Governance - IANA transition

This will be the main topic of the ccNSO meeting in Singapore. The latest version of the ccNSO agenda reflects the recent events and has introduced 3 sessions that will zoom in from different angles on the NTIA announcement. While the ccNSO plans to discuss the underlying **principles** of the transition **process**, the more detailed and concrete proposals that are already being discussed within the different ICANN communities and in fora such as 1Net might force the discussions to a more practical level.

Tuesday 23 March

09.20 - 09.50 SGT **NTIA update**

11.00 - 11.30 SGT **Developments in Asia**

11.30 - 13.00 SGT **Perspectives on the Globalisation of IANA**

The final session will allow for a discussion on the requirements for the IANA function transition process.

Wednesday 24 March

14.00 - 15.30 SGT **Community Discussion**

It can also be expected that IANA related discussions will take over the agendas for the exchanges with the Board (Tue 10.00 - 10.45 SGT), the GAC (Tue 14.00 - 15.00 SGT), the gNSO (Wed 17.15 - 18.45 SGT) and ALAC (Mon 12.15 - 13.15 SGT).

The key issues are the functional and/or organisational separation of the policy and administration function (i.e. Should ICANN still be running IANA after the transition?), oversight mechanisms (Who holds ICANN/IANA/NewCO accountable via what legal instruments?) and internationalisation (Should the function in the future be subject to US/Californian legislation?) and what does this mean for the full automation plans (Will ccTLDs be able to make changes to their records without oversight or intervention?)

In this context, the work of the Framework of Interpretation Working Group becomes even more relevant. Their reports and resources are available at <http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/foiwig.htm>

Also worth mentioning are the security and registry news sessions (Wednesday 09.00 - 12.30 SGT).

Most ccNSO sessions are held in room Olivia.

<http://ccnso.icann.org/meetings/singapore49/agenda.htm>

The CENTR GA statement on the IANA transition:

“The CENTR community acknowledges the statement by the United States Government in relation to the transition of the IANA stewardship.

The CENTR ccTLD community believes that IANA should be managed through an open, transparent and consistent multistakeholder model in which ccTLDs should continue to be actively involved.

In the long standing tradition of valuable and constructive cooperation with IANA, the ccTLDs will closely monitor IANA’s responsiveness, stability and reliability in delivering its technical and administrative service at the highest standard.

It is crucial that IANA remains accountable to the community it serves.”

gNSO Pre Report

Introduction

Currently there are 11 policy development process (PDPs) ongoing in different stages and 7 other 'non-PDP' projects. The GNSO will be discussing most of these during ICANN49 (details below) as well as meeting with the ICANN Board, the ccNSO and the GAC. Other discussions will be between the GNSO and ICANN strategy staff (Teresa Swinehart) and the ICANN Strategy Panels.

Internet Governance is expected to be brought up in many discussions (eg with ICANN CEO as well as a special slot in the GNSO Council meeting). The GNSO essentially will be discussing the impacts of Internet Governance on them as well as scope and remit of the Council. The IANA/NTIA issue will also be discussed and Jonathon Robinson (GNSO Chair) has mentioned that there is a proposal to prepare a joint statement on IANA globalisation on behalf of SO/ACs.

The below topics in this report will provide a background on many of the topics the GNSO will discuss in Singapore. Other topics (not below but relevant to the GNSO) are;

- IRTP Part D PDP ([initial report](#) recently release)
- Two recent Whois Studies recently completed ([more information](#))
- Translation and Transliteration of contact information PDP

These topics plus others will be detailed more in the CENTR Report from ICANN49 to be published toward the end of the week in Singapore.

GNSO discussion on ICANN Strategy and the Strategic Panels

Two sessions will be held to allow discussion on ICANNs Strategy (Teresa Swinehart) as well as an update on the Strategic Panels. There is currently a discussion among GNSO Councilors to provide a structured written comment from the Council in regards to the Strategy Panels in particular to specific outputs of the Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Panel (Chaired by Beth Novek) and its recommendations some of which have sparked a lot of discussion/concern (potential 'top down' concern and GNSO remit overlaps) on the GNSO council list.

Sessions (ICANN49 Singapore): Sunday 23 March 10.15am (Teresa Swinehart) and 11.00 (Strategic Panels)

New gTLD updates

On Monday 24 March at 12.00pm Christine Willet (gTLD Operations) will provide an update on the status and progress of the new gTLD program (auction implementation, name collision, community priority evaluation, implementation of GAC advice). Related to new gTLDs, however also IDN ccTLDs will be a [session](#) on the same day regarding TLD Universal Acceptance.

The GNSO also are hoping to discuss (at their weekend sessions) the subsequent application rounds for new gTLDs and how they should prepare for them.

Update: As at Monday 17 March, there are roughly 250,000 registrations made under 136 delegated strings. The top 5 largest new gTLDs so far are .guru, .photography, .tips, .today and .technology

Universal Acceptance Session

During this session (co-sponsored by ccNSO/GNSO) stakeholders will describe the challenges faced in making full use of new TLDs, from experiences of those who've started and operated new TLDs, those who produce the software used on the Internet, and experiences of consumers who expect "better."

The goal of the session is to determine the role ICANN will play in attaining a successful state of TLD acceptance. On the Panel part of the session will be speakers from Mozilla, Google, Afilias, Microsoft and the At Large IDN group.

Session: Monday 24 March, 15.15 – [More information](#)

Cross Community Working Groups Principles

Background: There is a need to develop coherent framework for effective collaboration across ICANN SO/ACs on issues of common interest. GNSO draft principles for CWGs circulated and the ccNSO has provided [feedback](#).

Update: a CWG drafting team co-chaired by GNSO and ccNSO is creating a charter for approval by ccNSO and GNSO Councils (see GNSO Motions below) to form a Working group which is expected to form shortly after ICANN Singapore.

Sessions (ICANN49 Singapore): The group will provide an update to the GNSO Council on Sat 22 March (morning) and have a face to face [meeting](#) on Thurs 27 March 8.00am.

Policy and Implementation WG

Background: 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.

Update: 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.

Sessions (ICANN49 Singapore): The GNSO council will most likely receive an update from this WG during their Saturday (22 Mar) session. There is also a [meeting](#) of the group on Wed 26 March, 15.30

Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues

Background: 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. [Read more](#)

Update: A PDP working group was chartered in October 2013 and have been meeting weekly. The group will meet in Singapore and aim to publish and initial report in early 2015.

Sessions (ICANN49 Singapore): The group will provide an update to the GNSO Council on Sat 22 March (late afternoon) and a face to face [meeting](#) on Thurs, 27 March, 9.00am -

Note: the Working Group is still accepted participation from any interested community members.

Motions for GNSO Council Meeting

The following is a list of the Motions to be considered before the GNSO Council meeting (26 Mar 2014).

1. Motion for Approval of a Charter for a Cross Community Working Group to Develop a Finalized Framework of Operating Principles for Future Cross Community Working Groups
2. Motion on the adoption of a charter for a Cross-Community Working Group to develop a framework for the use of Country and Territory names as TLDs **Background:** objective of the proposed Working Group is considered to be of common interest to the broader community, the GNSO, in addition to other Supporting Organisations (SOs), Advisory Committees (ACs) and others, is invited to participate in the working group on equal footing

3. Motion for Approval of a Charter of the GAC-GNSO Consultation Group on GAC Early Engagement in GNSO Policy Development Processes. **Background:** There is wide agreement on the need to engage the GAC early within the GNSO policy development process. This is something that has been highlighted on a number of occasions including through the Accountability and Transparency Review process.
4. Motion to close Joint IDN working group plus next steps for IDN related issues. **Background:** Recognizing that further work needed to be done in relation to IDNs, in particular IDN variants and universal acceptance of IDNs, the ccNSO and GNSO Councils requested in November 2013 that the JIG put forward suggestions on how to deal with these issues and deliver these suggestions to the Councils by the ICANN Singapore Meetings in March 2014.

GAC Pre Report

Overview GAC sessions during ICANN Singapore

The GAC is meeting in Singapore from Saturday until Thursday with the exception of Tuesday. This CENTR pre-report is mainly based on the online agenda on the ICANN website as on Wednesday 19 March noon. Please check the ICANN site for the any changes to the timing of the sessions.

The general ICANN agenda doesn't indicate any closed sessions, but it is known that traditionally the opening session, the preparation of the meeting with the ICANN Board and the drafting of the communiqué are closed sessions.

The sessions in red in the overview are probably the most interesting from a ccTLD's perspective.

Internet Governance

'How does the GAC sees itself and its role within ICANN?' is an important question that has gained in relevance after the US Government announcement on the future of IANA. Will governments and the GAC want to play a more central role within ICANN if there is a transition from a US stewardship on IANA to a multi-stakeholder model lead by the technical community? Are all countries represented in the GAC at ease with such a transition?

Definitely a lot of these questions will be discussed between country representatives during break-fasts, coffee breaks and private meetings. Nevertheless the [session on ICANN's Strategic planning](#) on Sunday, the [Board/GAC meeting](#) on Monday evening and the [Internet Governance Briefing by the ICANN CEO](#) on Wednesday morning might give an insight on the ongoing debate(s) between governments.

New gTLDs

The Internet governance debate and the future of IANA will dominate ICANN Singapore. One should not forget that other major project, the introduction of roughly 1,700 new gTLD strings in the root zone. Even though the first new gTLD domains are fact, there are still some issues to be solved. Most of the Saturday is dedicated to new gTLDs.

The GAC already looks towards the future and discusses some aspects of the next round(s) of new gTLDs. For ccTLDs it might be interesting to hear the report of the [Working group on the Protection of Geographic names](#) on Sunday afternoon. In the schedule there's also an update from the same working group 'to the community' on Thursday morning.

To get some insight and additional background it might be interesting to scan through the GAC Buenos Aires Communiqué and the GAC section of CENTR report on the ICANN Buenos Aires meeting.

GAC Buenos Aires Communiqué: [link](#) (pdf)

CENTR report on the ICANN Buenos Aires meeting: [link](#) (pdf)

GAC Agenda

Saturday 22 March

14:00 to 14:30 SGT **GAC Opening Plenary** (closed)

14:30 to 15:30 SGT **GAC Discussion on New gTLDs**

- Board Responses to GAC advice on new gTLDs and Implementation of GAC Safeguard Advice
- Clarification of any remaining aspects of implementation of safeguard advice on new gTLDs
- Public Interest Commitment Specifications Dispute Resolution Process (PIC-DRP).

16:00 to 17:00 SGT

- Staff briefing on String Similarity Review Process
- Staff briefing regarding auctions
- Specification 13 of the new Registry Agreement
- The release of two-letter country codes in .brand top level domains (TLDs)

17:00 to 18:00 SGT

- Protections of Red Cross/Red Crescent national names at the second level in the current new gTLD round.

Sunday 23 March

09:00 to 09:30 SGT Discussion on Accountability and Transparency.

09:30 to 10:00 SGT ICANN staff Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) coordination of effort with GAC

10:30 to 11:30 SGT **Discussion on ICANN Strategic Planning and IANA Functions Globalisation**

- Results of Panels 1-4 and inclusion in ICANN's Strategic Plan and IANA Functions Globalisation.

14:00 to 14:30 SGT **Future Issues/gTLD Working Group Update**

- Update to the GAC on progress of work, and what, if any, GAC action needs to be agreed or taken at this meeting as well as next steps.

Subgroup Updates:

Protection of Geographic Names

Applicant Support/Developing Economies

Community Applications

14:30 to 15:00 SGT Update regarding Multistakeholder Meeting Strategy Working Group.

15:00 to 16:00 SGT GAC-GNSO Consultation Group Progress Report and Discussion

16:30 to 17:30 SGT Board/GAC Recommendation Implementation Working Group (BGRI-WG).

17:30 to 18:00 SGT GAC Working Methods Working Group Update.

Monday 24 March

09:30 to 10:30 SGT **GAC Discussion on WHOIS**

- the current state of play
- explore opportunities to prepare potential GAC input on WHOIS issues with regard to Next Generation TLD Services and Proxy and Privacy Services Accreditation.

11:00 to 12:00 SGT **GAC Discussion on Framework of Interpretation Working Group (FOI) on Delegation and Re-delegation of Country Codes**

12:00 to 12:30 SGT **London High Level Meeting Planning**

14:00 to 15:00 SGT **GAC/ccNSO Joint Meeting**

- Discussion on the Substantial Reports from Framework of Interpretation Working Group on Delegation and Re-delegation of Country Codes (Significantly Interested Parties, Revocation)
- Improving format of the GAC–ccNSO meeting.

15:00 to 16:00 SGT GAC Preparatory Session for Briefing from CEO and ICANN Board (closed)

16:45 to 18:00 SGT **GAC/Board Meeting**

Tuesday 25 March

- no GAC sessions –

Wednesday 26 March

09:00 to 10:00 SGT **GAC Briefing from ICANN CEO regarding ICANN and Global Internet Governance and the upcoming meeting in Brazil.**

10:30 to 11:00 SGT **GAC/RSSAC Joint Session**

11:00 to 11:30 SGT **Protection Mechanisms for IGO Names and Acronyms** - Current Round of New gTLDs.

- Review of draft proposal from ICANN Board, update to the GAC on progress.

11:30 to 12:00 SGT Communiqué Overview (closed)

14:00 to 18:00 SGT Communiqué Drafting (closed)

Thursday 26 March

09:00 to 10:00 SGT GAC London Planning.

10:00 to 10:30 SGT GAC Open Forum – Session Planning.

Begin GAC planning to hold an informational session about the GAC, and the GAC's working methods, for the community at the upcoming GAC meetings in London.

11:00 to 11:30 SGT **Geographic Names Protection Briefing**

Geographic Names Protection Briefing to Community by the Subgroup on Geographic Names to the Future gTLD Issues Working Group.