



Guide for

ICANN

Buenos Aires



**ccNSO, GNSO and GAC key
issues**

June 2015

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Guide to the ccNSO activity

IANA Stewardship Transition

It won't come as a surprise to anyone who has been even remotely following the IANA Stewardship Transition (IST) discussions that this – in conjunction with the ICANN Accountability improvements' work – will be the main theme for ICANN Buenos Aires.

The CWG proposal has been sent to the chartering organisations and therefore the ccNSO is now expected to discuss and approve it. In case all the chartering organisations support the proposal, it will go to the IANA coordination group (ICG) to be merged with the proposals from the numbering and protocol communities.

What to expect and prepare for?

While there are still quite a few open-ended issues in the CWG proposal, it can be expected ccNSO discussions will focus mostly on the following:

1. SLE (service level engagement)

An essential component of the proposal was not finalised in time. It is still unclear what service levels (cc)TLDs can expect from the newly structured IANA. There are two main points of view: (1) the service levels from the current contract with the NTIA should be copied into the new contract and the Customer Standing Committee (CSC – see below) should be fine-tuned later when needed; (2) the service level IANA customers enjoy today is much better than the one set out in the contractual clauses with the NTIA. Therefore, the new contract should reflect the current, higher standard SLE. (Note that we are talking about an SLE and not a service level agreement, as most ccTLDs would not have an agreement with ICANN and/or IANA).

2. Composition of the Post Transition IANA (PTI) Board

Most feel strongly that the new IANA should have a small and operational-focused Board. Others believe that it should be representative of the wider community.

3. The composition of the Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Most if not all ccTLDs agree that this customer committee should only be composed of customers (i.e. registries). Others feel that the wider community should be represented. Even if it is restricted to customers only, some fear that gTLD interests would dominate over ccTLD interests.

4. Composition and triggers for the IANA Functions Review Team (IFRT)

This group would essentially trigger any future separation. Who should be on it? What circumstances would allow them to initiate a separation of the IANA functions from ICANN? It should be noted that it is still unclear under which framework both the CSC and IFRT groups would operate.

5. Review mechanisms and complaint resolution

The proposal provides two mechanisms to solve operational issues. It does not provide mechanisms to resolve delegation/redelegation requests.

6. Dependencies on the work of the work of the cross-community working group on ICANN Accountability improvements

Many of the fundamental issues that are addressed by the CWG proposal rely on proposed accountability improvements. Without proper implementation of these, it would be possible to overturn any of the structural changes made during the IST at a later stage.

The final proposal can be found [here](#) .

A two-page summary can be downloaded [here](#).

[CENTR Board of Directors comment](#) to CWG proposal.

Main sessions in the ccNSO on the IST:

Tuesday 23 June: 14.00 – 15.45

Wednesday 24 June: 9.30 – 10.45 and 12.30 – 16.30

Other interesting sessions

As the ccNSO agenda is completely dominated by the IST and accountability discussions, some of the traditional sessions have been dropped.

The ccNSO agenda is available here: <http://ccnso.icann.org/meetings/buenos-aires53/agenda.htm>

Tuesday 23 June

9.10 – 9.45: country and territory names WG update by Annebeth Lange from Norid

16.00 – 17.30: Universal acceptance and ccTLDs by Dusan Stojicevic from .RS

Wednesday 24 June

9.00 – 9.30: Session with ICANN Board members

11.00 – 12.30 ccTLD news session

Guide to GNSO activity

Overview

The meta-theme of ICANN53 will be the IANA Stewardship Transition (IST) and related ICANN accountability track. The GNSO as chartering organisation to this work, will be voting on the final proposal of the CWG during their Wednesday council meeting, with discussions in the days leading to it. Other areas of interest are new gTLDs (auction proceeds and a future round of applications), next generation registration directory services and use of country/territory names as TLDs, among others.

Key policy work and updates 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 updates from working groups and key policy work and on Sunday, the GNSO meets with the Global Domains Division, Theresa Swinheart and hears updates on the IST, ICANN accountability groups as well the ICG. On Sunday, the GNSO meets with the ICANN CEO, the Board and the GAC.

Tuesday 23 June is constituency day and at 18.00 the GNSO council will meet with its Stakeholder groups and constituencies to discuss any concerns regarding motions on the GNSO council meeting (for the following day). A key discussion there will most likely be the IST and ICANN accountability topics.

IANA Stewardship Transition

The GNSO, like other chartering organisations have now received the [final proposal](#) for the IST. The GNSO will discuss the proposal in their working session on Sunday 21 June and a motion to approve it is scheduled on Wednesday 24 June. The approval of the proposal will, based on the document, be conditional based on the ICANN-level accountability mechanisms (Work Stream 1 – CCWG Accountability) being developed, approved (GNSO council and ICANN Board) and implemented prior to transition. It is worth noting that the Business Constituency had concerns about this dependency and would prefer an additional comment period once Accountability work has been finalised.

Suggested session: [GNSO working session](#) – Sunday 21 June (11.00 – 12.00) and [GNSO council meeting](#) – Wednesday 24 June

New gTLDs

Subsequent rounds – A discussion group formed in 2014 have evaluated the first round of the new gTLD program. They came up with 100 or so different issues which have been categorised into 5 or 6 key areas. They will submit results of the work to the GNSO council for discussion during ICANN53. Next steps will be to decide on any future policy development activity such as an issue report for a PDP, which is what the group is likely to recommend. Given the work of this group, some councillors feel a second round could look a lot different to the first – this *may* also result also in possible changes to the Registry agreement. Others raise questions of whether it's fair that 2012 applicants would have had a different situation to future rounds' applicants. Suggested session: [GNSO working session](#) – Saturday 20 June (10.15)

Auction proceeds – A cross-community group is to be formed on the topic of how to deal with auction proceeds from the new gTLDs applications. The council received a letter from Steve Crocker which created some concern in the GNSO about how the decisions would be made (i.e. Board would take input from a CCWG as well as “other sources”). Suggested sessions: [GNSO working session](#) – Sunday 21 June (13.00), [SO-AC High Interest session](#) – Monday 22 June [Pre-CWG Seminar on new gTLD auction proceeds](#) – Wednesday 24 (17.00)

Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs

The purpose of this CCWG is to review issues related to the use of country and territory names under different policies (new gTLDs, IDN ccTLDs, RFC 1591). Work so far has been focused on definitions of country and territory names (as compared to scope of definitions in new gTLD applicant guidebook) and the issue of 2-letter codes. During ICANN53 it's expected the GNSO will also speak with the GAC on significant overlapping work on this topic, a lack of transparency of the work on this topic in the GAC as well the low participation rate of GNSO members in the work of the CCWG. Linked to the topic is the question of country codes and country/territory names being used at the second level, which is being pursued by the Registry SG. Suggested session: [Working Group session](#) – Monday 22 June (13.00)

Other potential topics of interest

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 published its [initial report](#) for public comment which closes on 7 July 2015. The group will update the GNSO during the GNSO working session. Suggested session: [GNSO working session](#) – Saturday 20 June (14.00)

Policy and Implementation WG Final Report - Resulting from discussions around implementation related issues of new gTLD program, the focus of this work was on which topics call for policy and which call for implementation work. The final report from this group was published in early June noting full consensus among WG members. The report will be presented to and discussed with the GNSO council on Saturday 20 June and then voted for adoption during the council meeting during ICANN53.

Guide to GAC activity

Agenda: <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/ICANN+53+-+GAC+meetings+agenda>

Dates: Saturday 14.00, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12.30

Place: All meetings will be taking place in the SAN TELMO room

Contact: on site and via e-mail: nina@centr.org

GAC Communiqué ICANN52 Singapore:

https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/27132037/GAC_SINGAPORE52_COMMUNIQUE_FINAL2.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1423724031000&api=v2

Highlights

IANA Stewardship Transition

As a Chartering Organisation, the GAC will discuss the CWG proposal and its opinion on it. Whether this will take the form of an approval or political endorsement remains to be seen.

- Sunday, 08.30-10.00 and 14.30-15.00
- Wednesday, 09.30-10.30 (CWG: Jonathan Robinson, Lise Fuhr)

ICANN Accountability

- Sunday, 10.30-12.30
- Wednesday, 11.00-12.30

GAC / ICANN Board

- Wednesday, 08.30-09.30

New gTLD safeguards

gTLD safeguards refer to certain strings that the GAC has defined to have an impact on the public interest (e.g. .kids, .game, .bio, .insurance, .bank). The ICANN Board set up a group to make decisions regarding the new gTLD Programme (called: NCGP). The GAC will define this safeguards in current and future rounds. We should get more information about the .wine/.vin issue here. No (official) updates are planned. Rumour has it that the issue is solved (<https://safebrands.fr/nouvelles-extensions/issue-finale-pour-les-extensions-vin-et-wine-20150612/>). Indeed, for both .wine and .vin the application status has changed to “in contracting”. Let’s see what the European Commission has to say (also about .eu in Greek).

- Saturday, 16.00-17.00

Country and territory names as second-level domain names

The GAC will review the progress with regards to its GAC Advice issued at ICANN52, namely: to develop public database to streamline process for release of country and territory names at second level (s.a. Specification 5 of the Registry Agreement). It informs whether individual GAC members intend to agree to all requests, review them case-by-case, or not agree to any (absence of input is no agreement). The GAC also called for more engagement from the CCWG on Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs and the Geo-names WG (see below). (Note that the GAC also issued advice at ICANN52 for the release of 2-letter codes at second level)

- Saturday, 17.30-18.00

Geographic names

Update from Geo-names WG and discussion

Version

<https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455403/Geo%20names%20in%20new%20gTLDs%20Updated%20V3%20%2029%20august%202014%5B4%5D.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1411549504000&api=v2> on the “protection of geographic names in the new gTLDs process” prepared by the sub-working group (carrying the same name) has been commented by various stakeholders. An update on this can be expected. The paper focused on names with national, cultural, geographic and religious significance and the

need for gTLDs to respect national sensitivities. Geographic names comprise for e.g. capital city names, place mentioned in ISO 3166-2, UNESCO regions and UN continental names.

- Tuesday, 08.45-09.45

Unusual

HLGM Discussion

Every 2 years or so, GAC members host a High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) at ICANN. The next of this kind will take place at ICANN55 in Morocco (lead country of this session). This session will prepare the meeting. HLGM attendance goes beyond those countries that are part of the GAC and allow admin and elected officials to discuss public policy issues at senior level.

- Tuesday, 16.30-17.00

Framework of Interpretation (FoI)

Note that this is not on the agenda at this meeting. In fact, the outcome of the FoI Working Group is scheduled for approval under ICANN Board's consent agenda. Formal approval by the GAC is not needed (and was not reached at ICANN52). ICANN is set to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations starting with forming an advisory group, which will work with IANA.