

# Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

## Decisions and Outcomes

On Thursday, 17 June 2021, the ccNSO Council had its 174th meeting. Council's adoption of the policy recommendations for ccPDP3 regarding the retirement of ccTLDs marks a true milestone in the ccNSO policy development process.

Moreover, the Council decided on the ccNSO Council work plan for the next 2 years, and a transition towards quarterly work plans. The ccNSO Council also reviewed the ccNSO implementation-related part of the second ccNSO organizational review recommendations, concluding that the ccNSO is not expected to undertake any further efforts. Related, the Council discussed how to organize the continuous organizational improvement process and asked the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) to review its mandate to make this happen. Finally, the Council agreed that starting at its next meeting, it will take a closer look at the potential role of the ccNSO in the ongoing discussion around DNS Abuse.

All Council meetings are open to observers. Read more about the ccNSO Council [here](#).

## Additional Activities

The ccNSO Meetings Program Committee (MPC) organized several sessions prior to ICANN71:

- Two editions of a [ccTLD Community Webinar for newcomers](#), where the ccNSO Council Chair helped the audience to gain an understanding of the work of the ccNSO, what to expect from the ccNSO at the Virtual ICANN71 Community Forum, as well as how ccTLD community representatives can participate in the important work that affects them and their region.
- Two editions of the pre-ICANN71 [ccTLD News Sessions](#), with presentations from ccTLD managers from various regions. Each session focused on one single theme, namely *ccTLDs & Security: Regulatory Demands* and *DNS Abuse: the ccTLD Experience* respectively. The ccTLD News Sessions have been a part of the ccNSO Members Meetings for several years and have provided a global platform for both experienced and new people to meet, share experiences and discuss ccTLD-related topics.

The ccNSO program at ICANN71 started with [Tech Day](#) on Monday, 14 June 2021. Tech Day during ICANN71 featured technical and operational registry topics, security, and other Domain Name System (DNS)-related work, relevant to the broader community.

The ccNSO-appointed ICANN Board members, Patricio Poblete and Nigel Roberts, attended a [Question-and-Answer Session](#) to share their experiences as ICANN Board members. ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman, and other ICANN Board members associated with the ccTLD community, including Becky Burr, Danko Jevtović, and Lito Ibarra also contributed to the discussion.

During the [ccNSO Policy Session](#) on Wednesday, 16 June, two ccNSO Policy Development Process Working Groups provided an update on their progress to date and sought input from the ccTLDs and other community members present on their proposals:

- The ccPDP3 Working Group, which develops a review mechanism for decisions pertaining to delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs has - among others - identified the decisions that should be subject to a review mechanism and is currently exploring the requirements for the review mechanism itself. For more information, visit the [ccPDP3-RM workspace](#).
- The ccPDP4 Working Group on the (de) selection of Internationalized Domain Name ccTLD strings is steadily making progress reviewing and updating the criteria, procedures and documentation of the process for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings. The Working Group compiled a brief document with the core criteria for its discussion. Read more [here](#).

Moreover, during the ccNSO Policy Session, the ccTLD and broader communities had an opportunity to learn more about the proposed policy regarding ccPDP3 on the retirement of country code top-level domains, which will now go into the decision-making phase.

The Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) met on Thursday, 17 June. The purpose of the [SOPC](#) is to coordinate and organize participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN strategic and operational planning processes. The SOPC regularly holds joint meetings with its counterpart from the Generic Supporting Organisation. The groups discussed whether to continue with ranking the importance for them of ICANN org's Operating Initiatives. The ranking is used to share views and to focus the attention on specific Initiatives considered important by the specific group and Functional Activities. At ICANN71, the SOPC agreed to further improve and repeat this exercise in future. Moreover, the SOPC met with the ICANN org Planning Team on what the community may expect over the next couple of months in terms of planning- and finance topics.

The detailed ccNSO schedule, including a summary of topics covered, is available on the [ccNSO workspace](#).

## Ongoing Discussions - Next Steps

ICANN71 marked the third [ccNSO governance session](#), which built on previous sessions held during ICANN69 and ICANN70. The ICANN71 session featured engagement with the ccNSO members on whether to include certain elements in the new set of rules, which will have a direct impact on the governance structure of the ccNSO, including the ccNSO Council. A follow-up survey for ccNSO members as well as an additional consultation session leading up to ICANN72 are foreseen.

At the start of July, voting will start to determine whether the ccNSO membership supports the proposed policy on the retirement of ccTLDs. Participation by ccNSO members in this election is important, and the deadline for voting is Wednesday, 28 July 2021 (23:59 UTC). During the ICANN71 [ccNSO Policy Session](#), the ccTLD and broader communities had an opportunity to learn more about the proposed policy.

## Resources

The [ccNSO](#) is one of the three Supporting Organizations within ICANN. Created in 2003 for and by ccTLD managers, the ccNSO develops and recommends global policies to the ICANN Board, such as the retirement of ccTLDs. The ccNSO provides a global platform to discuss topics and issues of concern, build consensus and technical cooperation, and facilitate the development of

voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers responsible for managing an ISO 3166-1 ccTLD.

The ccNSO is administered by the [ccNSO Council](#), which consists of 18 councilors (15 elected by ccNSO members and three appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee). The councilors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO. Councilors manage the policy development process, lead and participate in [various ccNSO working groups](#), engage with the community on topical issues, and develop positions based on community feedback. The ccNSO Council meets regularly at ICANN Public Meetings and on monthly teleconferences.

- All ccNSO Council documents, minutes of meetings, resolutions, and discussions are published on the [ccNSO Council workspace](#).
- Enroll in the “Introductory Course about the ccNSO.” Go to [ICANN Learn](#), where you can read more about the ccNSO, practice what you have learned through quizzes, and find additional resources.
- Consult the [“Quick Guide to the ccNSO”](#) to learn more about its work and how it is organized. [Subscribe](#) to the ccNSO monthly newsletter to stay informed. Previous editions are available in the [archive](#).