

TO: ccNSO Council

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Monthly Report of ccNSO Liaison to the GNSO Council

(July 2025)

I. Policy Work

1. Vote on Next Steps Regarding ICANN Reviews

Background: On 27 May 2025, the Board wrote to SO/AC Leaders with an update on the ICANN Reviews. Specifically, following input from the community, the Board informed SO/AC leaders that it took the following actions related to reviews during its 19 May meeting:

- Continue the deferral of Organizational Reviews until the completion of one CIP cycle (estimated at 3 years).
- Conclude the Pilot Holistic Review and following the completion of the CIP cycle, consider whether to rename and re-charter an effort focused solely on designing a review of the CIP.
- Continue the community dialogue to support a broader discussion on reviews. This will include an engagement session at ICANN84 focused on the purpose and essential subject areas for reviews.
- Continue the deferral of the fourth Accountability and Transparency Review (ATRT4) to support the community's capacity to participate in the dialogues, and any related activities that may result from such discussions.

During its May meeting, the Council had agreed to send correspondence to the Board, sharing its thoughts on next steps for ICANN Reviews. With the Board's suggested approach generally in line with sentiments shared during the Council's May meeting, it seems that circumstances may have overtaken the need to send correspondence in the context of that action item.

During ICANN83, the SO/AC Chairs met with ICANN org to discuss a potential path forward. During the Council's Wrap-Up session, GNSO Chair Greg DiBiase shared a high-level overview of that approach, asking that Councilors begin socializing the approach with their respective groups. Additional options were subsequently circulated to the GNSO Council.

1. The ICANN Board amends the Bylaws to allow for a one-time review of all Reviews currently required by the Bylaws (with solutions for the issues we face today with Reviews as output recommendations) and to suspend the initiation of all Reviews until this exercise is completed. (this option was discussed by the SOAC leaders at ICANN83 and put forth by the NCSG on list)
2. The ICANN Board amends the Bylaws to change the cadence of mandated Reviews to alleviate concerns about non-compliance with current Bylaws and initiates a one-time review of all

Reviews through other means (i.e., the review of all Reviews is NOT outlined in a Bylaws amendment).

3. The ICANN Board does not amend any Bylaws but continues to defer Reviews while the Community initiates a review of all Reviews. (this option is essentially the path envisioned in the Board's resolution)
4. ATRT4 is convened with the mandate to conduct a review of Reviews (although this would not be binding, and the ATRT 4 team would be able to change scope as indicated in the relevant Bylaws text)

Progress: The Council continued its discussion from ICANN83, discussed feedback from SG/Cs on the potential options, and determine next steps. Greg DiBiase (GNSO Chair) updated that there was an SO/AC call with the Board and leaders. First, Chair of ccNSO has started on a draft charter proposing a CCG charter for a review of reviews and is looking for feedback on the document. Second, the Board expressed a willingness to consider the Bylaws amendment proposed by a couple of stakeholder groups to change the cadence of Bylaws mandated reviews with a one time review of reviews. They were hesitant to put in a firm timeline because of uncertainty how this would proceed and a strict time period could be problematic. The Board is willing to engage with the community where there are concerns. Council leadership will write a summary of the current updates and status, so it is digestible for everyone to bring to their groups. Staff will send email for volunteers noting current volunteer list of: Anne Aikman-Scalese, Tomslin Samme-Nlar, Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Osvaldo Novoa, Prudence Malinki, Susan Payne, and Nacho Amadoz.

2. Second IANA Naming Function Review Team (IFR2) Draft Report

Background: The IANA Naming Function Review is an accountability mechanism created as part of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) stewardship transition to ensure that ICANN's IANA work through Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) meets the needs and expectations of its naming customers. Under the ICANN Bylaws, the ICANN Board must convene an IFR no less frequently than every five years, measured from the date the previous IFR was convened. The board convened the first IFR on 16 September 2018.

The second IFR team (IFR2) conducted the review in accordance with the scope specified in the ICANN Bylaws. The review focuses on PTI's performance of the IANA naming function against the contractual requirements in the IANA Naming Function Contract and the IANA Naming Function Statement of Work. The naming functions under review include management of the DNS root zone, a critical function for the ongoing operation of the Internet.

The IFR2 recently sought public comments on its Draft Report, which contained findings and recommendations in three key areas:

- Presence of specific Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) policy details in the IANA Naming Function Contract
- Transparency and availability of Contract amendments
- Frequency of reviews

Progress: After considering public comment received and making adjustments as appropriate, the IFR2 team is working to reach consensus on its Final Report. The Draft Report included two recommendations that will amend the IANA Naming Function Contract; neither recommendation received objections during the public comment period.

However, Section 18.6 (b) of the Bylaws reads that any recommendations by the IFR that would amend the IANA Naming Function Contract shall only become effective if:

- (i) The IFR Recommendation has been approved by the vote of
 - (A) a supermajority of the ccNSO Council (pursuant to the ccNSO's procedures or, if such procedures do not define a supermajority, two-thirds (2/3) of the ccNSO Council's members); and
 - (B) a GNSO Supermajority.

Councilors will share IFR2 draft report with their respective groups as it will be voted on during the August Council meeting. Raise any concerns from groups expeditiously.

Second IANA Naming Function Review Team (IFR2) Initial Report:

<https://itp.cdn.icann.org/en/files/public-comment/summary-report-second-iana-naming-ifr2-initial-report-29-05-2025-en.pdf>

3. Update on Privacy Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Implementation Work

Background: On 9 August 2016, the ICANN Board approved the Final Report of the Privacy Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Working Group, which contains 21 policy recommendations. ICANN org convened an Implementation Review Team (IRT) in 2016 and worked on the implementation of the policy recommendations until 2019 when the implementation work was paused due to overlapping issues around the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data processing, and the Temporary Specification.

In June 2024, ICANN org reconvened the PPSAI IRT and has been refining a set of overarching threshold questions that require input from the GNSO Council in order for ICANN org to, in consultation with the IRT, move forward on implementation of the 21 policy recommendations from the Final Report. ICANN org will soon be sending the threshold questions to the GNSO Council for further guidance.

Progress: The threshold questions currently under discussion are:

1. Are there any policy questions or items the IRT already wants to bring to the GNSO Council for guidance?
2. Implementation Model: Accreditation Program or Alternative Implementation:
 - Can an implementation model without a new standalone accreditation program remain consistent with the policy recommendations?
3. Disclosure Frameworks (Intellectual Property and Law Enforcement)
 - Are there specific areas to revisit under new law/policy?
 - Can these frameworks be aligned with existing work on the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS), Registration Data Policy, and other existing procedures and remain consistent with

the policy recommendations?

Paul McGrady (NCPH NCA) provided additional background that staff chose to pause the IRT because of the overlapping issues on GDPR, data processing and Temp Spec; the work ran into changes in the law that required a pause. He emphasized that some of the 21 recommendations seem outdated as recommendations from 2015. The IRT is putting together a list of questions that Council needs to weigh in on.

4. GNSO Council Small Team on Accuracy Draft Report

Background: During the Council's March 2025 meeting, the Council agreed to form a dedicated small team on accuracy, which would be tasked with:

- Reviewing the written input received on the Council's threshold questions; and
- Providing a detailed summary of the input received, taking into consideration the potential other sources that can inform the discussion - i.e. (but not limited to) INFERMAL study, EU NIS2 cooperation group, recommendation CC.1, and provide a recommendation to the Council on how to best make progress on the topic of registration data accuracy, e.g., relaunch scoping team with updated assignment, request Issues Report, request additional study (including the recommended form and aim of the study), etc.

Progress: The Small Team, led by Paul McGrady (NCPH NCA), began meeting on 15 May 2025 and has been drafting recommendations for the Council's consideration related to:

- Examining the current timeline for validation and verification of registration data under the 2024 RAA;
- Assembling a diverse and representative group of interested stakeholders who could work together on producing clear and user-friendly registrant educational materials related to the importance of accurate registration data;
- Further work on a previously-approved Whois2 Review Team recommendation (CC.1) related to the inclusion of a notation in the RDDS record that the domain name is suspended due to incorrect data.

Susan Payne (IPC) mentioned new input from SSAC and asked if there had been an opportunity to consider that. Council Chair and Small Team lead agreed that as new inputs come and recommendations arise, the Small Team can react as they come in.

5. Customer Standing Committee (CSC) Effectiveness Review Deferral

During ICANN83 Prague the GNSO Chair met with some CSC members and ccNSO chair to discuss a deferral of the CSC Effectiveness Review. Last year, both the ccNSO and GNSO requested the Board defer the CSC Effectiveness review. That is because the status of the implementation of some of the major recommendations from the second CSC Effectiveness Review Team are still being implemented. Given that that's still underway, there was general agreement within that group that they should request another deferral. Provided there are no objections, GNSO Council can vote on

this as part of the Consent Agenda during the August meeting and circulate a reminder of what that letter looked like in terms of deferring this review till June 2026.

II. Council Activities

1. Confirm the GNSO-Appointed Member for the Universal Acceptance (UA) Expert Working Group (EWG)

On 7 May 2025, ICANN opened a Call for Nominations inviting the At-large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) to each submit one nomination for the formation of a new Universal Acceptance (UA) Expert Working Group (EWG) to provide guidance on promoting UA adoption. The GNSO Council tasked the GNSO Standing Selection Committee (SSC) with reviewing the UA EWG Member applications. On 30 June 2025, the SSC submitted its Full Consensus recommendation to the GNSO Council with Nitin Walia as the GNSO nominee for the UA EWG. The nomination was confirmed by the GNSO Council in its July meeting.

2. Update on the GNSO Council Leadership Position

Gregory DiBiase, GNSO Chair has stepped down from this position. The GNSO Council Vice-Chairs, Nacho Amados (Registries Stakeholder Group, Contracted Parties House) and Tomslin Samme-Nlar (Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group representative, Non-Contracted Party House) will share the duties until the next GNSO Chair Election held during ICANN84 on Wednesday, 29 October 2025. The notification has been sent to ICANN Board, as well as Chairs of the Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies.