# GNSO Council Member Commitments

**Preamble.** The GNSO Council members, elected or nominated by their peers, share the responsibility of managing the gTLD policy development process for the community.   
As such Councilors are already have a number of responsibilities such as the ones included here <https://gnso.icann.org/en/basics/101/role-council-member>

More generally, as members of the ICANN Community we agree to adhere to [ICANN’s Expected Standards of Behavior](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/expected-standards-2016-06-28-en) included here https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/expected-standards-2016-06-28-en

Beyond these responsibilities as Members of the GNSO Council, and as part of the wider ICANN Community, we commit to:

**Commitments:**

* In terms of our Councilor responsibilities:
  + Keeping up to date with all the information and documentation shared with the Council members in preparation for Council meetings or other Council activities,
    - to be able to adequately inform and advise our Stakeholder Groups and/or Constituencies and ourselves;
    - to be able to participate and positively contribute to conversations and debates when these occur, and;
    - To be able to take decisions and participate in votes in the full understanding of the issues at hand.
* In terms of Supporting, Building and Maintaining Consensus:
  + Building our understanding of the issue either directly or via trusted and recognized subject matter experts who can be referenced or quoted;
  + Making efforts to listening to and understanding others’ point of view particularly when these are in opposition to our own;
  + Striving to making our views understood by presenting them in an open and transparent manner;
  + Endeavoring to finding middle grounds that are acceptable to all, and where these cannot be achieved, clearly defining where consensus exists and where it does not;
  + Owning outcomes wherever these might have landed compared to our own or our group’s views, in their entirety, for the portions where Consensus exists and recognizing where it didn’t;
  + Refraining from relitigating issues in other ICANN venues;
  + Acknowledging participation to similar efforts outside of the ICANN Community;
  + Remembering that Consensus is hard to build, engages efforts and resources that are scarce, which are wasted and lost when we prove unable to respect and maintain it.
* In terms behavior:
  + Being kind while maintaining the right to vigorously disagree;
  + Acting respectfully toward others, especially those with opposing points of view;
  + Refraining from attacking adversaries through uncivil discourse, both in public and in private;
  + Being transparent about the motives and interests behind our positions, as an essential part of civil discourse;
  + Applying to ourselves and encouraging others to conduct themselves with the highest levels of honesty, transparency, and to foster constructive civil discourse based on these principles;
  + Understanding and acknowledging that politely expressed disagreements about substantive issues should not be viewed as personal attacks;
  + Refraining from what may be perceived as the making of snide remarks and condescending attitudes;
  + Valuing honesty and good will while striving to solve problems, and;
  + Encouraging others to practice these civil behaviors.