# 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.