

# ICANN73 Readout – Highlights & Take-Aways from the Virtual Community Forum: A Short Summary

*On 16 March 2022, eco – Association of the Internet Industry and ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers held a joint ICANN73 readout to summarize and discuss selected topics from the ICANN73 Virtual Community Forum, which took place online from 7 to 10 March. Speakers from different constituencies of the ICANN community provided an overview of the highlights and key take-aways of the virtual ICANN73 meeting from their perspectives.*

The readout was moderated by **Lars Steffen**, Director eco International and hosted by **Christopher Mondini**, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director, Europe ICANN Org, and **Thomas Rickert**, Director Names & Numbers, eco – Association of the Internet Industry.

Reports from the constituencies were provided by: **Philippe Fouquart**, ISPCP/CSG, Chair of the GNSO Council; **Tatiana Tropina**, NomCom Appointee to the ccNSO Council; **Olivier Crepin-Leblond**, ALAC, Member of EURALO; **Samantha Demetriou**, RySG/GNSO, Chair of the RySG Executive Committee; **Elizabeth Bacon**, RySG/GNSO, Vice-Chair – Policy of the RySG Executive Committee; **Susan Mohr**, ISPCP/CSG, Vice-Chair of the ISPCP; **Manal Ismail**, GAC, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee.

In commencing the readout, Christopher Mondini provided a brief overview of the four-day [ICANN73 meeting](#), which involved 1,500 participants from 139 countries. The plenary sessions with the highest levels of attendance were those on the topics of the global public interest framework, the five-year mark since the IANA stewardship transition, DNS Abuse, and geopolitical and legislative developments. As Mondini reported, these and all other plenaries were recorded at the meeting and transcripts were made available for access.

Mondini proceeded to report that an important additional discussion that took place at the meeting concerned Ukraine. The emphasis here was on the prior important exchange of letters between the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister and ICANN's CEO and president. The letter from Ukraine contained a request for strict sanctions in terms of revoking domains and shutting down DNS servers located in Russia. ICANN's response included a condemnation of the war and an expression of solidarity, but also stated that impartiality needed to be confirmed.

Following on from this, high-level summaries were subsequently delivered by the panel regarding the following sessions:

- Blockchain domains & potential fragmentation
- DNS Abuse sessions and the GNSO small team
- Subsequent procedures and closed generic TLDs
- Operation design assessment of SSAD recommendations
- ISPCP / CSG & geopolitical, legislative & regulatory statements
- Prioritization & strategic planning session

The panel members commenced the overall discussion by providing a readout on the session on **blockchain domains & potential fragmentation**. Given that no limitations are imposed on the TLDs in the one-character blockchain domains, the outlook at ICANN73 was that something other than DNS is likely to be used for resolving domain names down the line.

In the follow-on discussion on **DNS Abuse sessions and the GNSO small team**, multiple panel members observed that this plenary had been very insightful. The focus of that plenary was cited as involving the difference between maliciously registered domain names and compromised domain names. It covered questions such as why that distinction is important and how it can be made, what the type of resolution should look like, as well as what the roadmap should be for the next steps on these issues. In this field, policy development was regarded as an important effort, as was the methodology to look at which actor has to take which action in categories of abuse. While not every relevant actor is at the ICANN table, it was considered to be important that ICANN do as much as possible in its own context.

In the readout on the topic of **Subsequent Procedures and closed generic TLDs**, it was spelt out by a readout panel member that closed generic TLDs relates to a string that defines a general category rather than a specific instance. Arising from the ICANN73 meeting, it was noted that the ICANN Board is once again to tackle the issue of what should be done to address closed generic applications.

In discussing the topic of **operation design assessment (ODA) of SSAD recommendations**, it was observed that the primary question at the ICANN73 meeting was the need to either review the voted-on recommendations or add supplementary permissible recommendations. All in all, the ODA is intended to provide background information and inform the Board before votes take place.

In the readout, panel members highlighted the fact that the topic of **ISPCP / CSG & geopolitical, legislative & regulatory statements** was covered for the first time at the ICANN73 meeting. This session was held to allow for community engagement on the growing number of legislative and new geopolitical developments and their potential impacts and is intended to be a feature of every future ICANN public meeting.

As part of the final discussion at the readout, it was agreed that a major topic of ICANN73 was the **prioritization & strategic planning session**, with a two-to-three month Prioritization Pilot emerging to accelerate the implementation of recommendations. This was categorized as a very good exercise for the multistakeholder nature of the organization.