

ICANN82 Readout

Highlights & Take-Aways from the Community Forum in Seattle

On 27 March 2025, **eco – Association of the Internet Industry** and **ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers** hosted a joint [ICANN82 Readout webinar](#) to summarise and discuss selected topics from the [ICANN82 Community Forum](#), held in Seattle, USA, from 2–7 March 2025.

The session was moderated by **Lars Steffen**, Head of Digital Infrastructures and Resilience at eco, and hosted by **Christopher Mondini**, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director, Europe, ICANN, and **Thomas Rickert**, Director Names & Numbers at the eco Association.

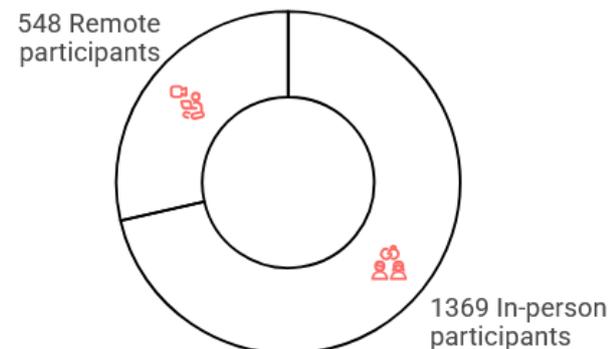
Reports from the ICANN community were provided by:

- **Nicolas Caballero**, Chair of the GAC
- **Greg DiBiase**, Chair of the GNSO Council
- **Chris Disspain**, Council Member of the ccNSO
- **Philippe Fouquart**, Chair of the ISPCP (CSG)
- **Joanna Kulesza**, ALAC Liaison to the GAC
- **Hervé Clément**, Chair of the ASO
- **Ram Mohan**, Chair of the SSAC

- GAC** - Governmental Advisory Committee
- GNSO** - Generic Names Supporting Organization
- ccNSO** - Country Code Names Supporting Organization
- CSG** - Commercial Stakeholder Group
- ISPCP** - Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers
- ALAC** - At-Large Advisory Committee
- ASO** - Address Supporting Organization
- SSAC** - Security and Stability Advisory Committee

ICANN82 Overview

Christopher Mondini welcomed participants and shared key figures from the meeting: 1,369 in-person attendees and 548 remote participants. Approximately 20% of attendees were from Europe. Highlights included the [Community Excellence Award](#) given to **Stephen Deerhake (.as)**, sessions on the evolution of ICANN meeting formats, geopolitical updates on ongoing negotiations and diplomatic processes, and a widely praised technical update by **Kim Davies** on time zone database management.



Thomas Rickert outlined the format of this Readout, noting a new thematic rather than constituency-by-constituency approach.

Board Updates

Chris Disspain, Council Member of the ccNSO, announced that **Greg DiBiase**, current Chair of the ccNSO, will join the ICANN Board for the Contracting Parties House in the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) following **Becky Burr's** term conclusion at the AGM in Oman. He also reported that **Byron Holland** had replaced **Katrina Sasaki** mid-term on the Board for the ccNSO.

Philippe Fouquart, Chair of the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP), discussed the question posed to constituencies by the ICANN Board: *"How can we work more closely together to ensure governments are encouraged not to legislate around the multi-stakeholder model?"*. The Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) response was basically the community should focus on delivering policy work to discourage external legislative intervention, or as Philippe put it, *"doing our job first, rather than complaining that others may try and do things that we would consider within our remit."*

Pilot Holistic Review

Chris Disspain, Council Member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), provided a detailed overview of challenges surrounding the [Pilot Holistic Review](#). A lack of consensus in the review team regarding the scope and intended outcomes led to engagement with ICANN's Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC).

Parallel discussions raised the possibility of a "review of reviews" – reconsidering the purpose and design of all ICANN reviews. A proposal co-authored by **Chris Disspain** and **Sophie Hay** suggests splitting the review into two parts: one stream would focus on continuous improvement within SOs and ACs, while the other would consider structural reforms to ICANN's governance. Disspain noted that such a split would allow more meaningful outcomes, as improvement efforts are still taking shape and cannot be reviewed until they have matured.

Philippe Fouquart expressed the support of the GNSO Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) support for this forward-looking, bifurcated approach and encouraged the community to maintain a focus on long-term improvements rather than piecemeal adjustments.

WSIS+20 and Multistakeholder Governance

Joanna Kulesza, Liaison to the GAC for the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), introduced the relevance of the **WSIS+20** process for the ICANN community. She emphasised that the At-Large and GAC communities are prioritising structured engagement in this process, which could significantly affect global internet governance. Their efforts include dedicated bilateral sessions focused on sharing perspectives and coordinating strategy. The WSIS+20 process is expected to culminate in 2025 with a UN General Assembly review.

Chris Disspain warned of new and uncertain variables, such as the EU's increasing tendency to legislate in internet matters and the unclear direction of U.S. support for the multistakeholder model. He noted that advocacy at the national level has become more important than ever, encouraging all ICANN stakeholders to engage with their governments in support of ICANN's role.

Nicolas Caballero, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), affirmed that the GAC will continue to support dialogue and exchange with all parts of the community. He also noted that the GAC prefers the term *"multi-stakeholder approach"* to *"multi-stakeholder model"* as it reflects more diverse realities.

New gTLDs and the Applicant Support Program

Nicolas Caballero summarised the GAC’s inputs on the next round of new gTLDs, which is tentatively scheduled for 2026. The ICANN.org team had shared updates on policy implementation progress, specifically targeting delivery of a new Applicant Guidebook by May 2025.

Caballero noted two major concerns from the GAC:

- Application fees may present a significant barrier to potential applicants from the Global South.
- The current refund mechanisms lack sufficient incentives or fairness for applicants who withdraw early.

He also emphasised the importance of language accessibility and ICANN’s “ICANN in Your Language” initiative. The GAC called for broader translation coverage, especially to include widely spoken languages such as Portuguese.

Joanna Kulesza reported on At-Large community discussions which expressed disappointment with the current **Applicant Support Program (ASP)**. According to feedback, the program still favours well-established players, and fails to provide adequate risk mitigation or long-term sustainability for new entrants. Issues such as insufficient pro bono support, unclear applicant eligibility, and limited market knowledge were flagged.

DNS Abuse

Joanna Kulesza noted that At-Large held multiple sessions on DNS abuse, including a roundtable exploring the role of artificial intelligence in enhancing abuse techniques. She emphasised that the issue remains a community-wide priority and praised the emergence of a more coordinated response across different ICANN structures.

Chris Disspain explained that the ccNSO **DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC)** continues its work on gathering data, disseminating best practices, and serving as a bridge between ccTLDs and global policy discussions. Although ccTLDs operate under national legal frameworks, DASC promotes voluntary cooperation.

Nicolas Caballero reported that the GAC had numerous productive exchanges on DNS abuse during ICANN82, including with the ALAC, GNSO, and SSAC. The GAC reaffirmed its commitment to stronger coordination between registrars, registries, ICANN Org, and law enforcement.

Greg DiBiase, Chair of the Council of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), said the GNSO’s **DNS Abuse Small Team** has resumed work, aiming to evaluate data from ICANN Compliance and the Informal Report to determine whether a policy development process is warranted.

Philippe Fouquart described an interactive session between the CSG and the Contracted Parties House. Several abuse scenarios were tested to identify barriers to mitigation. He provided an example where one domain was successfully suspended after the meeting.

Registration data accuracy

Greg DiBiase provided an update on the accuracy small team under the GNSO. Earlier work had stalled due to GDPR restrictions on sampling registration data. The current approach involves gathering community input through structured surveys to clarify where consensus and divergence exist.

Ram Mohan pointed out that access to registration data remains a major operational hurdle. Law enforcement is often blocked by rate-limiting mechanisms or administrative bottlenecks. Even non-personal data, like registrar identity, can be difficult to retrieve in urgent cases.

Greg DiBiase added that the **Registration Data Request Service (RDRS)**, which provides a voluntary centralised access system, is under evaluation. The review will inform the Board's decisions on formalising such a mechanism. In parallel, work is resuming on the stalled **Privacy/Proxy Services Accreditation Policy**.

Transfer Policy Review

Greg DiBiase reported that the GNSO Council approved the final report for Phase 2 of the **Transfer Policy Review**. Key improvements include:

- Shortening the domain transfer lock from 60 to 30 days
- Better-defined terminology to reduce misinterpretation
- Opening bulk transfer mechanisms to all registrars

He noted that the working group was applauded for completing the review on schedule.

Statements of Interest (SOIs)

Nicolas Caballero highlighted GAC support for enhancing the ICANN Community Code of Conduct, especially regarding SOIs. Transparency on representation is vital for trust and accountability.

Thomas Rickert elaborated on debates around whether lawyers should disclose client affiliations. While some argue confidentiality, others insist disclosure is necessary to prevent undue influence.

ASO & ICP-2 update

Hervé Clément explained that the ASO Address Council has prepared a draft revision of **ICP-2**, the document that defines how new Regional Internet Registries can be recognised. This follows an ICANN consultation and a drafting session during the APNIC meeting. Another consultation round is planned for April-May 2025.

Philippe Fouquart cautioned that the revised policy must be tested against potential misuse scenarios, referencing past governance issues within RIRs.

SSAC activities

Ram Mohan shared SSAC workstreams:

- **Open Source in DNS Infrastructure:** A study is underway to understand the use of open-source software in critical DNS components. Survey data from DNS operators is being collected.
- **DNS Blocking:** A revised report is being prepared for ICANN83, aimed at educating regulators about the risks of DNS-level blocking. The approach is more pragmatic than earlier advice.
- **DNSSEC Operations:** Early-stage assessment of operational deployment in critical infrastructure is beginning.

Nicolas Caballero strongly supported open-source strategies for resilience, cost-efficiency, and sovereignty. He cited examples from the EU, with estimates that EUR 1.3 billion could be saved annually by adopting open-source software and thus reducing reliance on proprietary vendors.

Philippe Fouquart welcomed the updated DNS blocking work, noting its non-judgemental tone and practicality.

Capacity building

Philippe Fouquart shared details on an **ISPCP capacity-building workshop** held during ICANN82. The hands-on session covered BGP routing, DNS configuration, and related topics. It was well attended and complemented an ongoing series of webinars supported by the Office of the CTO.

Future webinars will explore DNS over TLS (DoT), DNS over HTTPS (DoH), and additional security topics.

Closing remarks

Christopher Mondini concluded by thanking the speakers and echoing his appreciation for the quality of the discussions. He welcomed continued input on outreach, translations, and applicant support.

Thomas Rickert closed the session with thanks to the speakers and organisers.

The recording of the ICANN82 Readout is available to watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxmgdLxOpL4>
