ICANN Principles of Continuous Improvement

Historically, ICANN Organizational Reviews have asked whether the Supporting Organizations (SOs), Advisory Committees (ACs), and the Nominating Committee (NomCom) have a continuing purpose within the ICANN community. Rather than articulating this as a single principle, ICANN org proposes it as an overarching consideration that is addressed through five separate principles that would guide the successful execution of the Continuous Improvement Program (CIP).

Principle 1: The GNSO Council is fulfilling its purpose.

Principle 2: The structure of the GNSO Council is effective.

Principle 3: The operations of the GNSO Council are efficient.

Principle 4: The GNSO Council is accountable[1] to the wider ICANN community, its organizations, committees, constituencies, and stakeholder groups.

Principle 5: The SO, AC or NomCom collaborates to further the mission of ICANN and the effectiveness of the ICANN multistakeholder model.

Please note the information provided in red in this template is extracted from the Existing Continuous Improvement Activities google sheet.

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[1] See related Work Stream 2 – Recommendations to Increase SO/AC Accountability.

Principle 1: Criteria

Principle 1: The GNSO Council is fulfilling its purpose.

Criteria 1: There is an agreement that the GNSO Council is fulfilling its purpose. This may include assessing how the GNSO Council contributes to ICANN's mission, "to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet." This includes initiatives to advance ICANN's mission; to combat domain name security threats, produce and offer capacity-building resources, and to expand and build a multilingual Internet.

> Purpose of GNSO: "There shall be a policy-development body known as the Generic Names Supporting Organization (the "**Generic Names Supporting Organization**" or "**GNSO**", and collectively with the ASO and ccNSO, the "**Supporting Organizations**")), which shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains and other responsibilities of the GNSO as set forth in these Bylaws."

Criteria 2: How the GNSO Council contributes to the global public interest, as described in the ICANN Articles of Incorporation (2016): "in recognition of the fact that the Internet is an international network of networks, owned by no single nation, individual or organization, (ICANN) shall, except as limited by Article IV hereof, pursue the charitable and public purposes of lessening the burdens of government and promoting the global public interest in the operational stability of the Internet by carrying out the mission set forth in the (ICANN Bylaws). Such global public interest may be determined from time to time. Any determination of such global public interest shall be made by the multistakeholder community through an inclusive bottom-up multistakeholder community process."

Criteria 3: How the GNSO Council contributes to the ICANN Strategic Plan (FY21-25) objectives, especially the strategic objective to "Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance."

Principle 2: Criteria

Principle 2: The structures of the GNSO Council are effective.

Criteria 1: The GNSO Council has a working group or process to address their goals and priorities each year, in line with their purpose.

Criteria 2: Process(es) in place is (are) accessible and clearly communicated.

Criteria 3: Process(es) help the GNSO Council operate to meet its purpose.

Criteria 4: Process(es) is (are) in place for planning and prioritizing work.

Criteria 5: Process(es) is (are) in place for assessing and measuring output.

Criteria 6: Output has produced the desired outcome.

Criteria 7: Output is implemented in a timely fashion.

Principle 3: Criteria

Principle 3: The operations of the GNSO Council are efficient.

- **Criteria 1:** The GNSO Council has a process for planning and setting priorities, and identifying relevant emerging issues to focus on within established timeframes.

Criteria 2: The GNSO Council assesses inputs related to their scope of responsibility.

Criteria 3: The GNSO Council develops and recommends outputs relevant to their purpose (policy development, support policies, leadership placement).

- **Criteria 4:** The GNSO Council's outputs are implemented and implementation of outputs is monitored.

Criteria 5: Workloads are managed.

Criteria 6: The GNSO Council nurtures consensus within their constituency.

Criteria 7 : The GNSO Council coordinates with ICANN SOs, ACs, Committees, and constituencies within the ICANN global multistakeholder community.

Criteria 8: There is an agreement that the structure operates efficiently overall.

Criteria 9: Appropriate level of funding support.

Principle 4: Criteria

Principle 4: The GNSO Council is accountable[2] internally to its stakeholders, and externally to the wider ICANN community.

Criteria 1: Adequate representation of the diversity of the global multistakeholder community within group membership and the GNSO Council roles (Guided by ICANN Core Value 4: Seeking and supporting broad, informed participation reflecting the functional, geographic and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision-making).

Criteria 2: The GNSO Council objectives align with planned objectives of ICANN as a whole.

Criteria 3: The GNSO Council is accountable to the wider ICANN community, its organizations, committees, constituencies, and stakeholder groups in recruiting, developing, and maintaining membership needed to achieve its purpose.

Criteria 4: Support and resources for recruiting and onboarding newcomers to the GNSO Council.

Criteria 5: Maintaining skill sets and technical expertise needed through capacity building.

Criteria 6: Maintaining levels of active participation.

Criteria 7: Each structure maintains sufficient levels of transparency of information.

Criteria 8: Each structure communicates and engages with its constituents and the broader multi-stakeholder community.

Criteria 9: The GNSO Council has implemented prior review recommendations.

Criteria 10: Processes are in place to assess, prioritize, and implement suggestions for improvement received as outputs from the Continuous Improvement Program.

Criteria 11: There is an agreement that the GNSO Council is accountable to the wider ICANN community, its organizations, committees, constituencies, and stakeholder groups.

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[2] See related Work Stream 2 – Recommendations to Increase SO/AC Accountability.

Principle 5: Criteria

Principle 5: The SO, AC or NomCom collaborates to further the mission of ICANN and the effectiveness of the ICANN multistakeholder model.

Aspirational statement in progress regarding representative voting on PDP recs.
PDP 3.0 manual

Criteria 1: The GNSO Council has a process in place for communicating and coordinating within the ICANN global multistakeholder community.

Criteria 2: The GNSO Council meets regularly with the ICANN Board.

Criteria 3: The SOAC Leadership Roundtables and meetings are organized at each ICANN Meeting, and help to improve overall communication, setting priorities, and planning.