

pre-ICANN84 ccNSO Newcomers Info Package

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1. Welcome

1.1. What is the ccNSO and why participate?

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) is a body within ICANN created for and by country code top-level domain (ccTLD) managers. A ccTLD manager is the organization or entity responsible for managing a ccTLD, as listed in the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Root Zone Database.

Since its creation in 2003, the ccNSO has provided a forum for ccTLD managers to meet and discuss issues of concern from a global perspective. In line with the ICANN Bylaws, the ccNSO provides a global platform for ccTLD managers to:

- Recommend global policies relating to ccTLDs to the ICANN Board
- Nurture consensus, cooperate, and share best practices
- Engage with other Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and ICANN community groups
- Nominate two individuals to the ICANN Board
- Serve as one of the Decisional Participants of the Empowered Community

It is important to note that domain name registration policies and governance models are defined locally and not through ICANN processes and therefore vary significantly across ccTLDs. The ccNSO develops policies for a very limited set of issues relating to ccTLDs, such as the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs, or the introduction of IDN ccTLDs.

Learn more

- [ICANN for beginners](#)
- Participate in the ccNSO ICANN Learn Course 150.1. Log in to your [ICANN Account](#) to use ICANN Learn.

1.2. ccNSO Purpose and Goal Statement

In July 2020, the ccNSO Council agreed that from their perspective, the value and purpose of the ccNSO for the ccTLD Community and other stakeholders is as presented in [this document](#), which was approved by the ccNSO Council in April 2024.

2. Quick guide to ccNSO Council and ccNSO Working Groups

2.1. ccNSO Council

The ccNSO consists of:

- ccTLD managers that have agreed in writing to be [members of the ccNSO](#)
- A ccNSO Council that administers and coordinates the affairs of the ccNSO and manages the development of ccNSO policy recommendations

ccNSO councilors are actively involved in setting the course of the ccNSO by leading and participating in various ccNSO working groups, engaging the ccTLD community in topical issues, and developing positions based on community input.

The ccNSO members for each geographic region elect three councilors per region. All councilors are appointed for a three-year term and can be re-appointed. Each year, the ccNSO Council elects its chair and two vice chairs.

Learn more

- Current [ccNSO members](#)
- [Become a ccNSO member](#)
- Meet the [ccNSO Council](#)

2.2. ccNSO Working Groups and Committees

ccNSO working groups and committees address a broad range of topics—from internal governance to technical, operational, legal, and policy issues relevant to ccTLD managers. These include security and stability, Internet governance, legislation affecting ccTLDs, and best practices, to name a few.

Participation is open to all individuals associated with ccTLD managers, regardless of ccNSO membership, and all groups operate transparently. Depending on the group's scope, individuals from other ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees may also join as observers.

Learn more

- [List of current working groups and committees](#)
- [Monthly written updates](#): Stay informed about the latest updates from ccNSO working groups, committees, and relevant ICANN initiatives involving the ccNSO.

3. ICANN84: What to Expect

3.1. Key dates and times

The ICANN84 Annual General Meeting will be held 25-30 October 2025 in Dublin, IE. [Find out more](#) about the ccNSO schedule, including Tech Day and key ccNSO session highlights. Prep Week sessions will be held online only, 13, 14, and 15 October 2025. [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

3.2. ccNSO Session highlights

At ICANN84, the ccNSO will host a series of sessions focused on key issues relevant to the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community. Select sessions will feature simultaneous interpretation to support broader participation and deeper information-sharing.

Over the weekend, a series of ccNSO working sessions will take place, open to all with an interest.

On Saturday, 25 October, the day will begin with a Birds of a Feather (BoF) discussion on IANA data accuracy, where participants will consider the scope of a study and next steps for future ccNSO work in this area. The ccNSO Domain Name Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) will then focus on reviewing priorities and defining objectives to guide its upcoming activities. The Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) will hold a session to advance its work plan, including ongoing projects and future priorities for ccTLD engagement in Internet Governance. The Study Group on Disaster Recovery will consider IANA's potential role in ccTLD disaster recovery. To close the day, the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) and the GAC UA-IDN Working Group will hold a joint session to explore opportunities for collaboration in strengthening Universal Acceptance readiness.

On Sunday, 26 October, the ccNSO Council will meet in preparation for its 222nd meeting. The TLD-OPS Standing Committee will first hold a closed session to review ongoing operational matters, followed by an open working session aimed at supporting ccTLD operators in strengthening their ability to detect and mitigate security incidents. The Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) will meet with ICANN's Finance and Planning team to provide input into ICANN and PTI's strategic, operational, and budgetary processes from a ccTLD perspective. Finally, the Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) will hold a two-part workshop on how the ccNSO should implement the Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) recommended by the ATRT3 Review, focusing on expectations, approaches, and possible next steps for the community.

Tech Day – a workshop open to all ICANN community members with an interest in technical, operational, and security topics – will take place on Monday, 27 October.

The ccNSO schedule on Tuesday, 28 October will start with a welcome session for ccTLDs and others with an interest. Next, during the ccTLD News Session, ccTLD managers from different regions will share the latest developments relevant to their respective ccTLDs. The ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) session at ICANN84 explores the specific ways in which ccTLDs will shape the future beyond WSIS+20. Next, the ccNSO appointees to the ICANN Review of Reviews Cross-Community Group will solicit the views and expectations of

the ccTLDs on the topic. During the final session on Tuesday, the ccNSO and the ICANN Board will hold a joint session to discuss issues of common interest.

On Wednesday, 29 October, the ccNSO schedule will kick off with a casual meet-up for ccNSO Newcomers. The ccNSO schedule will continue with a joint session by the ccNSO and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). This joint session will explore approaches and challenges in addressing domain name-related abuse, recognizing the diverse methods employed across regions while emphasizing the shared goal of ccTLDs and governments to reduce abuse. Part of a series that began at ICANN83, this ICANN84 session aims to deepen the discussion and foster greater cooperation among ccTLD operators, law enforcement, industry experts, and other stakeholders to mitigate DNS abuse. The role of IANA in ccTLD disaster recovery remains uncharted territory. During the next session, the ccTLD community will explore and discuss different perspectives on IANA's potential role. Outcomes from the discussion will inform the ongoing work of the ccNSO Study Group on this topic. During a question-and-answer session, the ccNSO Membership will have an opportunity to engage with candidates for the upcoming ccNSO Council elections. Participants may ask questions to all Council candidates, and the candidate for ICANN Board Seat 11. During the final session on Wednesday, the ccNSO and RSSAC will provide an opportunity for both communities to exchange updates, share perspectives, and discuss topics of mutual interest related to the operation, stability, and security of the DNS root and ccTLDs. The session aims to strengthen collaboration and foster ongoing coordination between ccTLD operators and the root server community.

On Thursday, 30 October, the ccNSO Council will meet.

[Find out more](#) about the ccNSO program at ICANN84 and the session highlights

Is this your first ICANN Meeting? These ccNSO sessions might be of interest to you!

- (Monday) [Tech Day](#)
- ccNSO Members Meeting, day 1 (Tuesday): [Welcome Session](#)
- ccNSO Members Meeting, day 1 (Tuesday): [ccTLD News Session](#)
- ccNSO Members Meeting, day 2 (Wednesday): [A casual meet-up for ccNSO newcomers](#)