

Position: Generic Names Supporting Organization Council

Number of Seats: Two members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council – one representing the Contracted Parties House and one representing the Non-Contracted Parties House

Start of Term: After conclusion of Annual Meeting 2023

End of Term: Conclusion of Annual Meeting 2025

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is a body responsible for developing and recommending substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains to the ICANN Board. The GNSO Council is responsible for managing the policy development process in the GNSO.

[Read more](#) about the work of the GNSO Council.

Job Description: The NomCom is seeking accomplished persons of integrity, objectivity, and intelligence with a working knowledge of the multistakeholder policymaking process and the work of the GNSO. While GNSO Council members should have a deep understanding of the GNSO structure, existing ICANN consensus policies, and contracts between ICANN and registries and registrars, preference will be given to candidates with a demonstrable ability to manage the policy development process towards the best interests of the entire GNSO community rather than solely for a specific GNSO Stakeholder Group or Constituency. NomCom appointed members are expected to act with integrity and independently. Voting NomCom appointed members are encouraged to engage with the Council representatives of their appointed House and all NomCom appointed member are encouraged to engage with the GNSO and global Internet community more broadly, to understand their concerns and views, so that the NomCom appointee may have a balanced understanding of varying interests and be an informed and effective councilor.

NomCom appointed members who are affiliated with an ICANN community group at the time of application are not meant to represent their current or previously affiliated group and are expected to observe the principles and intent of the ICANN's Conflicts of Interest Policy.

Responsibilities

- Attend monthly GNSO Council meetings in person and remotely.
- Attend face-to-face or virtual GNSO Council meetings at ICANN's three Public Meetings, and all other associated GNSO Council meetings.
- Attend the GNSO Council's strategic planning sessions in person or remotely.
- Review preparatory materials in a timely manner and engage in discussion where applicable, both on the email list and during meetings.
- Where applicable, consult with the Council representatives of their appointed house, as the appointee deems appropriate.

The NomCom appointee can participate in GNSO and Council activities including, but not limited to:

- GNSO working groups.
- Support GNSO Council efforts, including drafting, scoping, and other ad hoc small team efforts.
- Serving as a GNSO Council liaison to GNSO efforts.
- Serve in any GNSO leadership position, including chair.

Qualifications

- Good understanding of, and ideally experience in, the GNSO policy development process.
- Good understanding of the ICANN environment, including the different Supporting Organizations (SO) and Advisory Committees (AC), interactions between them, and knowledge about the multistakeholder model and its processes.
- Good understanding of the GNSO structure, existing ICANN consensus policies, and contracts between ICANN and registries and registrars.
- Committed to ICANN's mission and understand the potential impact of ICANN decisions on the global Internet community.
- Understand the Domain Name System (DNS) and the industry structure of the domain name market.
- Willingness, ability, and commitment to travel to and actively participate in ICANN's three Public Meetings per year (or participate virtually if applicable), as well as attend all monthly Council meetings (including remote), and serve as a volunteer on the Council throughout the term.
- Good understanding of the possible impacts, including costs, benefits, and practical implications, of new policies relating to gTLDs on stakeholders such as commercial and non-commercial users, Internet infrastructure providers, and ICANN contracted parties.
- Ability to work and communicate in written and spoken English (although there is no requirement that English be the candidate's first language).

Additional Qualifications

- A demonstrated capacity for thoughtful group decision-making and sound judgment.
- Meeting the criteria and possessing the skillset above are of more importance than where the candidate is from (e.g., within versus outside the ICANN community, from a particular Supporting Organization or Advisory Committee, etc.). However, in filling this position, the NomCom will be seeking to select a Council member who reflects the diversity of the global Internet community and the wide range of policy, technical, commercial, and non-commercial activities that are impacted by the DNS.

Participation and Terms

- **Compensation:** GNSO Council members, like members of other ICANN Supporting Organizations, receive no compensation for their services as members. The Board may authorize the reimbursement of documented and necessary expenses incurred by Supporting Organization members while performing their duties. ICANN has traditionally reimbursed documented expenses incurred by GNSO Council members for attending ICANN meetings.
- **Time Commitment:** The successful candidate(s) will be appointed to the GNSO Council at the end of the ICANN Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of 2 years.
 - Council members spend on average between two to ten hours per week on Council work. This increases around each of ICANN's three annual Public Meetings.
 - Council members are expected to prepare in advance for any motions to be considered at a Council meeting by reading the reports submitted by working groups and consulting with constituent house, as appropriate.
 - Members work, on average, an additional two to four hours per week for each GNSO working group they choose to join.
 - GNSO Council liaisons and GNSO leadership positions may require significant additional hours.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be able to commit the requisite time and attention to serving as an effective GNSO councilor.
- Applicants, when serving in their role as a NomCom appointed Councilor, must commit to act independently and not act as a representative of, nor lobby or advance the interest of any ICANN community group, client, employer, organization, group, or committee.
- No person who serves on the [NomCom](#) in any capacity is eligible for selection for any position on the GNSO Council until the conclusion of an ICANN Annual Meeting that coincides with, or is after, the conclusion of that person's service on the NomCom.
- The Bylaws do not state a limit on the number of terms GNSO Council members may serve.

You can find more information about the ICANN GNSO Council application process [here](#).