

ICANN69 PLENARY SESSION TOPIC PROPOSALS

last updated: 12 Aug 20

Group/Affiliation	GNSO RySG
Contact Name	Jonathan Robinson
Proposed Session Title	The Domain Name Services Marketplace (Market dynamics, business models and commercial drivers)
Brief Description	An education, outreach and engagement session from the ICANN Contracted Parties (Registries & Registrars). The session aims to improving broader community understanding of the key dynamics of the industry sector on which the finances of ICANN and the ICANN community are based. Generic Top Level Domain Registries and Registrars occupy a unique position within the ICANN community in that they are directly contracted with ICANN. Moreover, ICANN's current funding model depends on the commercial success these domain name businesses. This session will provide insights into the current marketplace for domain names and related services as well as the dynamics driving change within that market place. Second, it will provide insight into the various business models of service providers within the marketplace and the key drivers of these business models. Third, it will create the opportunity for questions, answers and discussions around key business and economic aspects of the businesses and how these may need to be considered within the broader ICANN Community and policy making functions. In addition to the development of the market, topics such as the secondary market for domain names, approaches to abuse and issues with resellers will be covered by Registrars. From Registries, consideration will be given to the different approaches generic (open) TLDs, brand TLDs and geographic TLDs, as well as key contractual requirements. This session was originally proposed and accepted for ICANN 67
Rationale/Desired Outcomes	A recent session targeted at ensuring that ICANN Board members have a robust understanding of the variety of Registrar and Registry approaches to the marketplace was very well-received. Following on from the session with the ICANN Board it was proposed that a similar, expanded and interactive session with the broader community could provide good value to all. Policy making that is well-informed by fact is clearly optimal. Such policy making includes having the best access to all data including an understanding of the commercial drivers of the protagonists. The domain name services sector has seen far reaching changes take place over a number of years including the development of a range a diversity of business models within both Registry and Registrar business. Extensive competition has developed in some areas and substantial consolidation and corporate transactions continue to take place. The broader ICANN community will benefit from an understanding of the key marketplace drivers and dynamics when considering all future policy, including high-profile current issues such as future rounds of new gTLDs.
Session Format	Given the outreach and informative nature of the session, it is expected that it will be biased towards presentation of material. But, additional emphasis will be placed on question, answer and discussion. Further, organisers will be receptive to any other techniques to drive levels of interactivity.
Session Leaders/Facilitators	To be confirmed
Community Interest	Broad. As above, the business and commercial drivers of the registry and registrar businesses underpin their own finances as well as those of the ICANN Organisation as a whole. This is a crucial pillar of understanding for the broad community and so interest is expected to be high and broad.

Group/Affiliation	GNSO BC
Contact Name	Chantelle Doerksen (on behalf of the BC)
Proposed Session Title	Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model: A Way Forward
Brief Description	A session aimed at updating and aligning the community in relation to the project to enhance the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model. Due to the unique circumstances surrounding 2020, there has been little opportunity to discuss this important initiative, in spite of it continuing to be moved forward by the Org during a recent Public Comment and it being mentioned in discussions surrounding better processes at ICANN whenever those are brought up.
Rationale/Desired Outcomes	After several consultations, there is now a plan to start implementing actions and attributing tasks, but without the participation and commitment of all involved stakeholders, the initiative risks fizzling out, particularly under the strain of the current pandemic. It is necessary to establish a dialogue that will pave the way to a sustainable maintenance of this initiative, which is not currently attached to any broader process. Getting impressions from the ICANN Board and staff is equally important, so that efforts are directed towards goals that are considered feasible and viable of execution, avoiding grievances mentioned during the consultation phase of this project. The session's outcome should be forwarded to become a part of the documents that compose the structure of the project.
Session Format	Members of different SO/ACs, one ICANN Board member, and a member of the Policy team, should be able to bring forward their impressions during an initial panel, but at least half of the session should be directed at interacting with those present to find ways in which the current approach is sufficient or insufficient.
Session Leaders/Facilitators	To be determined.
Community Interest	The themes that currently integrate the scope of the project were considered to be the most important to the ICANN community, meaning that it literally carries the most important topics available within it.

Group/Affiliation	GNSO BC
Contact Name	Chantelle Doerksen (on behalf of the BC)
Proposed Session Title	Domain Name System Abuse: Practical Solutions
Brief Description	This session is meant to be a substantive discussion regarding what specifically can be done at the contracted party level and also between ICANN and contracted parties to mitigate Domain Name System (DNS) abuse. This is a growing problem that has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic – a problem that needs assertive solutions.
Rationale/Desired Outcomes	The desired outcome of the session is to have the community agree to 2-3 specific actions that can be taken to combat DNS abuse over the long term. The community has had substantial discussions about the existence and extent of DNS abuse – now is the time to move toward solutions. We would like to have the ICANN Board deliver to ICANN org a directive to undertake specific action to combat abuse.
Session Format	Led with presentations from the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG), Contracted Parties, ICANN org, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC). Each presenter should contribute at least one idea toward specific actions that can be taken to mitigate DNS abuse. Q&A to follow.
Session Leaders/Facilitators	To be determined.
Community Interest	Community interest in DNS abuse is widely documented. It has been the subject of cross-community discussions during ICANN66 and ICANN68, and is further the subject of ongoing community dialogue.