

ICANN CEO 1:1 with NCSG Leadership

3 August 2026

ACTION ITEMS

- Andrea Glandon to remind Kurtis Lindqvist of the invitation to attend NCSG sessions, particularly the NCSG Constituency session, during ICANN87.

NOTES

The ICANN President and CEO welcomed the NCSG leadership, and the group engaged in an open discussion on community participation, policy development, the New gTLD Program: Next Round, and priorities for ICANN87.

NCSG leadership noted that Bruna Martins dos Santos is the incoming chair to start her term after ICANN87.

Strengthening the Multistakeholder Model (MSM)

The discussion began with the multistakeholder model and participation from underserved regions. NCSG leadership emphasized the importance of understanding how ICANN measures the success of its outreach and participation efforts and encouraged greater transparency around initiatives intended to strengthen stakeholder representation.

The ICANN President and CEO noted that strengthening stakeholder participation is a priority identified in ICANN's Strategic Plan. ICANN org is working to better understand participation trends and evaluate the effectiveness of outreach, education, and engagement efforts, particularly in underserved regions. Current efforts include closer coordination between the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) and Policy teams, support for newcomers and Fellowship participants, and evaluating long-term participation and retention across stakeholder groups.

NCSG leadership noted that outreach alone will not address participation challenges. NCSG leadership emphasized that the complexity, workload, and duration of Policy Development Processes (PDPs) remain significant barriers to sustained participation and suggested that making policy work more accessible would have a greater long-term impact on community engagement.

The ICANN President and CEO agreed that balancing community workload is important while noting that policy work must continue to move forward to address issues facing the DNS ecosystem.

Policy Development Lifecycle

The conversation continued with the overall policy development lifecycle and volunteer sustainability.

NCSG leadership expressed concern about volunteer sustainability resulting from lengthy policy development efforts and implementation delays. It was noted that sustained participation depends not only on meaningful opportunities to contribute but also on seeing policy recommendations implemented within a reasonable timeframe. The ICANN President and CEO acknowledged the importance of improving the policy development lifecycle. Both parties agreed that continued attention to the efficiency

and effectiveness of policy development remains important for the long-term health of the multistakeholder model.

ICANN leadership checked on how the volunteers from NCSG are doing with the current pace of DNS Abuse and SSAD PDP's and the NCSG stated that the packing of the ICANN Public Meetings with DNS Abuse and SSAD sessions affects the work that the community can do and there are concerns about the discussions themselves.

Registration Data and Policy Priorities

NCSG members asked about ICANN org's role in supporting future work on the Standardized System for Access and Disclosure (SSAD), particularly in balancing legitimate access to registration data with applicable data protection requirements.

The ICANN President and CEO reiterated that ICANN org's role is to support the community's policy development work and implement adopted policy rather than advocate for particular policy outcomes.

Looking ahead, NCSG also asked which policy topics are expected to receive the greatest community attention over the next two to three years. The ICANN President and CEO noted that policy prioritization is a responsibility of the GNSO and the broader community. He observed that DNS Abuse, root server governance, Regional Internet Registry (RIR) governance, and continued improvements to the policy development lifecycle are likely to remain areas of broad community interest.

Building Community Trust

The discussion also focused on maintaining trust as policy discussions become increasingly complex.

The ICANN President and CEO highlighted the value of regular engagement between the community, the Board, and ICANN org through constituency meetings, CEO discussions, and SO/AC roundtables. He noted that respectful dialogue and continued engagement are essential elements of ICANN's bottom-up multistakeholder model.

NCSG leadership emphasized that trust is strengthened through transparent and equitable processes in addition to personal engagement. Members observed that consistent and inclusive processes help build confidence across stakeholder groups and encouraged continued attention to ensuring broad community participation in decision-making.

New gTLD Program: Next Round

NCSG requested an update on the Applicant Support Program (ASP), including processing timelines, support available to applicants, and the effectiveness of the pro bono service provider and mentoring initiatives.

The ICANN President and CEO reported that, as of 19 July, 50 ASP applicants had been conditionally or fully approved, with approximately 20 additional applications in the final stages of evaluation. He noted that ICANN continues to engage directly with applicants throughout the process and has expanded available support by inviting additional Registry Service Providers (RSPs) to offer discounted services.

Looking Ahead to ICANN87

NCSG asked about anticipated priorities for ICANN87.

The ICANN President and CEO noted that the close of the New gTLD Program application window will help determine the meeting's primary areas of focus. He expects the Next Round to be a major topic of discussion, alongside DNS Abuse, SSAD, and the Review of Reviews.

NCSG leadership invited the ICANN President and CEO to attend NCSG sessions during ICANN87, particularly the NCSG Constituency session.

The group also discussed visa processing for ICANN87 in Bali. NCSG leadership noted that while the overall situation has improved, some participants from Africa continue to experience visa-related challenges.

Leadership Transition

The meeting concluded with recognition of the contributions of outgoing NCSG leaders Rafik Dammak and Juan Manuel Rojas. The group also welcomed Emmanuel Vitus as the incoming NPOC Chair, and the ICANN President and CEO thanked the outgoing leaders for their service to the community.