

# The Registries Stakeholder Group's Takeaways

**ICANN 79 Community Forum**  
2 - 7 March 2024



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The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) shares these observations and takeaways of the ICANN Community Forum to provide quick feedback and highlight issues of importance to the Registries. This is not a summary of ICANN 79, nor a formal position of the RySG. The points raised are intended as input for the Community to further the work between the ICANN meetings.

## Key takeaways of ICANN 79

### Next round of new gTLDs

The RySG appreciates that since ICANN 78 a date for the next round has been communicated and is of the impression that ICANN is on schedule for opening the next round of new gTLDs in April 2026. A number of sessions at ICANN79 was devoted to moving ICANN and the community closer to achieving that date.

- The GNSO Council focused on the “Small Team plus” supplemental recommendations. The Supplemental Recommendations will be voted on at the GNSO Council meeting in April and, if approved, will be forwarded to the Board.
- The Implementation Review Team for Subsequent Procedures reviewed Applicant Guidebook sections on the RSP Pre-Evaluation Program, Applicant Support, Objections, String Similarity, and Applicant Change Requests. The IRT is still on schedule to complete its work on the Applicant Guidebook by April or May 2025.
- Both ICANN Org and Board in various meetings acknowledged that they have hired an auctions expert to assist with designing an ICANN Auction of Last Resort to address ALAC and GAC input to mitigate (or prohibit) use of private auctions amongst new gTLD applicants in the next round.
- A Board led Plenary Session on the use of Registry Voluntary Commitments to address GAC Advice, Government Early Warnings, Objections, and/or public comments discussed whether future registry agreements could contain such voluntary commitments if they address content-based issues even though ICANN is prohibited from “regulating content” in its Bylaws. This clearly will remain a topic for discussion over the next couple of ICANN meetings.

## DNS Abuse Amendments

The RySG reiterates its commitment to further our industry's strong response to DNS Abuse. ICANN 79 was the first meeting following the adoption of the DNS Abuse Amendments by the Board. The amendments will come into effect on April 5th and the RySG welcomed the fruitful engagement with the community during ICANN 79 on their implementation and next steps. Registries and Registrars organized a CPH DNS Abuse Community Outreach session where key points were raised:

- The DNS Abuse definition covers Malware, Botnets, Phishing, Farming, and Spam (when it serves as a delivery mechanism for the other forms that have already been listed).
- Content complaints are outside the scope of the amendments.
- ICANN compliance must be prepared to scale up to handle a potentially much larger volume of complaints expected from third parties.
- GAC reiterated its expectation for a demonstrable reduction in the incidence of DNS abuse in generic top level domains, and mentioned "potential areas for further work" during the GNSO-GAC session.
- The US FTC presented 2023 fraud statistics at the "GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse Mitigation" but specified "that this summary does not tell you about DNS abuse. Specifically, it talks about things that relate to DNS abuse in part, but it's more a big picture of what type of frauds we're seeing across the US, some of which is facilitated by DNS abuse". This is crucial and underscores that DNS abuse is only one limited aspect of abuse, and thus it is important to apply a strict interpretation of the amendments.

## Registration Data

- During ICANN 79 the CPH negotiation team concluded its work and presented the draft **Data Processing Specification (DPS)** to the RySG. The RySG will review and discuss if further negotiations are required. Of particular focus is the negotiated liability cap included in the DPS.
- The CPH organized a coordination session between Registries and Registrars on the implementation of the **Registration Data Policy**. The session group identified the need to use the six month coordination phase to prepare for smooth technical implementation. This was an important first step to ensure CPs remain coordinated on implementation and on data protection issues in general. The organizers will share notes and next steps following ICANN79.

## SOI Transparency

The RySG reiterates its strong support for efforts to increase transparency as a key trust building factor in ICANN Policy work and its related concerns about discussions in the contexts of the review of the GNSO Statement of Interest (SOI) requirement. Although the GNSO Council does not currently have any agenda items regarding Statements of Interest, this topic remains of great interest to the Governmental Advisory Committee as well as the

At-Large Advisory Committee. In line with the view of the RySG, both believe strongly that all Statements of Interest must set forth not only complete information about the person submitting the SOI, but also must specify any other third parties or clients that are being represented by that person in the specific policy effort for which the SOI was submitted. When discussing this issue with the ICANN Board, the Contracted Parties were pleased to note that the Board are considering an Ethics Policy that would apply to all ICANN activities. The RySG will continue to engage with the Board, as well as with other SO/ACs on this matter.

## Updates on Community work

- **GeoTLD Group**

The GeoTLD Group focused its session on the challenges that may impact GeoTLDs this year, with a strong focus on the implementation of the Registration Data Policy. The potential different national regulations that may appear out of the transposition of the NIS2 Directive was also covered by the Group.

- **Brand Registry Group**

At its session, the Brand Registry Group had several members present different topics for current and future dotBrand applicants. Topics included the security benefits of using a dotBrand, the preparation and steps brands should take before the next round application window, an analysis of public dotBrand DNS statistics and an update on the Linkification Letter sent by the BRG to the ICANN Board, highlighting the ongoing issue of Universal Acceptance.

## Working towards ICANN 80

At the upcoming ICANN 80, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 10-13, 2024, the RySG will again be focusing on advancing the work on Registration Data Implementation, Transparency within the Multi-Stakeholder Model. Additionally, two new topics of interest to registries will be looked at in regard to the upcoming process to select the nominee for ICANN Board Seat 13 and preparation for the 2025 twenty year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS +20).