

# The Registries Stakeholder Group's Takeaways

## ICANN 78 Annual General Meeting

21 - 26 October 2023



The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) shares these observations and takeaways of the ICANN Annual General Meeting to provide quick feedback and highlight issues of importance to the Registries. This is not a summary of ICANN 78, 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 78

- **DNS Abuse Contract Obligations**

**The RySG is committed to embracing the contractual changes proposed in the DNS Abuse Amendments and is looking forward to community engagement to prepare the next steps, up to and including both establishing best practices and policy development work, to further our industry's strong response to DNS Abuse.** The DNS Abuse Amendments are a strong step forward in enhancing the expectations on ICANN contracted parties to disrupt and mitigate DNS Abuse and will provide a clear path for enforcement by ICANN Compliance. During ICANN 78 the RySG continued to drive support for the Amendments by members, non members and registrar colleagues alike. An outreach session, organised together with our registrar colleagues, shed light on practical implications of the amendments to the day to day operations of the contracted parties, and clarified concepts such as 'actionable evidence', 'readily available' and 'Disruption'.

- **Next Round: Firm date and timeline**

**The RySG advocates for a firm date for the next round of gTLDs and a timeline that allows for sufficient notice to potential applicants to gain support from their companies and clients.** The timeline should, for example, include sufficient time for resource and technical allocation. The RySG noted these and other concerns in its exchange with the ICANN Board and resolved to continue to work together to coordinate as implementation of the plan proceeds.

The RySG identified the following issues that may impact the ongoing work in preparation of the next round:

- We note that the string similarity review is pivotal in gTLD and ccTLD application processes, focusing on visually similar character's impact on domain names.
- The RySG acknowledges and commends the notable progress made in the development of the Applicant Support Program (ASP) and Registry Service Provider

(RSP) pre-approval, however it is imperative to maintain momentum to avoid delays in upcoming rounds.

- Regarding name collisions, the SubPro policy accommodates both the 2012 solution (controlled interruption) and the NCAP framework, ensuring flexibility and contingency. So if for some reason the Board ends up finding the NCAP framework not fit for purpose, controlled interruption worked well and is a viable option.

- **Enhancing Transparency in Policy Work**

**The RySG strongly supports efforts to increase transparency as a key trust building factor in ICANN policy work. Therefore, contracted parties voted against the GNSO motion to adopt the recommendations of the CCOICl in relation to the review of the GNSO Statement of Interest (SOI) requirement.** This motion did not address the foundational challenge with limited transparency requirements regarding participation in GNSO policy processes as representatives of individuals or entities. The Contracted Parties House (CPH) is committed to continuing to engage with the Board and stakeholders across the SO/ACs to tackle this issue. The CPH had a fruitful exchange with the ICANN Board and looks forward to the Board sharing their interpretation of the ICANN Bylaws Section 3.1, requiring that “ICANN and its constituent bodies shall operate to the maximum extent feasible in an open and transparent manner (...)”.

## Updates on Community work

- **GeoTLD and Brand TLD community sessions**

The geoTLD.group held a session with community stakeholders to look into various concepts and methods that are being used to report on geoTLDs. From the discussion emerged a need for a more unified approach and representation. Participants committed to further address this topic in their ongoing work.

The .BRAND TLD group's (BRG) public session showcased the successful adoption of .BRAND TLDs in Europe and drew insightful comparisons with their counterparts in the Americas. Additionally, participants had an exchange on how the BRG can support next round brand applicants who may be new to the ICANN space.

- **IDN EPDP**

During ICANN78 the IDN EPDP reached full consensus on the Phase 1 recommendations. The RySG welcomes this important milestone and its representatives continue their involvement in the work on the remaining charter questions - the discussion of source domain (D4), identifying the same registrant (C3, C3a), and variant domain transaction fees (D5) - with the aim to finalise any open issues at the EPDP face-to-face meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- **IDN Table Update Process**

The RySG appreciated the session that was held to kick off a conversation on the IDN table update process and is looking forward to further dialogue to resolve the various issues including the Atomic nature of IDN updates, which means that a small change triggers a complete review of the table. This effectively blocks updates, makes incremental updates impossible, decreases stability and security, and causes issues on SRS.

---

gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group - [www.RySG.info](http://www.RySG.info)

RySG Takeaways [ICANN 76](#) - [ICANN 77](#)