

The Registries Stakeholder Group's Takeaways

ICANN 77 Policy Forum

12 - 15 June 2023



The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) shares these observations and takeaways of the ICANN Policy Forum, to provide quick feedback and highlight issues of importance to the Registries. They are intended as input for the Community to further work between the meetings. This is not a formal position nor intended to be a summary of ICANN 77.

Key takeaways of ICANN 77

- **DNS Abuse Contract Obligations**

The RySG is exceptionally pleased at the **strongly positive reception to the proposed amendments to the Registry Agreements, as well as the Registrar Accreditation Agreement to modify DNS Abuse Contract Obligations**. We believe these amendments represent a clear and strong step forward in enhancing not only the expectations on ICANN contracted parties to disrupt and mitigate DNS Abuse, but provides a clear path for enforcement by ICANN Compliance. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate both with our registrar colleagues and with ICANN, and we believe these proposed amendments represent a truly impactful step in our efforts to mitigate and disrupt DNS Abuse, and in ensuring all contracted parties fulfil their contractual obligations in this effort. The amendments are out for public comment and the voting process is scheduled to take place at a later date. The possibility of change hinges upon its outcome, we however maintain our confidence that our collective efforts will yield a positive result.

- **new gTLD SubPro Implementation**

The RySG appreciates the continued **coordination between the GNSO and ICANN Board to address outstanding issues of the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Implementation**. The GNSO had a session dedicated to the remaining SubPro Work. The different landing spots for the pending 38 recommendations were identified and discussed with the Board members in charge of liaising with the small team. The RySG, through its representative on the Small Team, is committed to continue working on the clarifying statements needed to provide context to the Board.

- **ICANN Community Excellence Award**

The RySG joins the Community in honoring **Donna Austin as recipient of the 2023 ICANN Community Excellence Award**, an acknowledgement of her long-standing commitment to building and strengthening relationships between community groups and making the multistakeholder model work in practice.

Updates on Community work

- **Enhancing Transparency in Policy Work**

The RySG strongly supports efforts to increase transparency as a key trust building factor in ICANN policy work. The RySG continues to note that calls for transparency in participation in the work of the GNSO is in line with existing requirements of other global policy organizations and lobbying regulation. Discussions at ICANN 77 focused on compromise proposals, which did not effectively remove the loophole that supports exemptions from transparency requirements. The RySG and others continue to work on additional constructive input to the CCOICI to increase transparency in policy making and within the ICANN Community broadly.

- **A Firm Date for the Next Round**

The RySG took note of the diverse signals and forecasts shared in recent weeks about a possible date for the Launch of a Next Round. We strongly feel that **it is in everyone's interest that a firm date is announced prior to ICANN 78.** Without wanting to impose a date, which is to the Board and Org Leadership to announce and commit to, the RySG is favorable of a scenario in which, provided the IDN EPDP is indeed able to confirm the October 2024 timelines it suggested by end of this month (June 2023), the ICANN org is ready to commit to completing its Implementation work by January 2026 allowing for an Application Window to start immediately after the Lunar New Year break (late Feb 2026).

- **IDN lifecycle variant management**

The IDN EPDP deliberated the charter questions related to lifecycle variant management at the second level vis-a-vis the same entity principle i.e., the same registrant. Whereas, SubPro already recommended that second level variant domain names (of new gTLDs) be allocated to the same registrant, the IDN EPDP deliberated whether existing gTLD operators must adopt the same practice. The working group is supportive of extending the same registrant requirement to existing gTLD operators but to grandfather existing second level domain names registrations i.e., allow renewals, do not require transfers. The IDN EPDP also deliberated on the implications of the same registrant requirement over the lifecycle of a variant domain name set; the preliminary thought is that individual variant domain names may have independent behavior, but a variant domain name set must remain with the same registrant, which notably affects how transfer would be handled for a domain name in a variant set. The **RySG is looking forward to the white paper currently being prepared by the IDN CPH Tech Ops support team to consider these operational implications.**

Working towards ICANN 78

While the RySG always appreciates the essential focused work of the Policy Meeting, we look forward to continuing to engage across the Community during ICANN 78.