Dear Colleagues

First and foremost: Happy New Year! As 2022 started, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on 2021 and what we may expect from the year ahead.

2021 has been another year under the COVID-19 pandemic, however this time we were more prepared: We have seamlessly embedded tons of zoom calls in our routines, working from home has become familiar and we still are able to manage our ccTLDs! Our journey has not been easy. We have not seen each other in person for the longest time, nonetheless throughout the year we had the joy of seeing and listening to each other through our devices in over 40 ccNSO sessions and webinars. And that is not counting preparatory calls which made them possible, nor the regular working group, committees and Council calls. This is truly outstanding!

It is evident that we are a resilient and committed community. Working together we have found creative ways to overcome obstacles and make the most out of what we have:

- All sessions and webinars have been carefully crafted to bring the best value to the ccTLD community by informing, allowing the sharing of experiences, getting feedback and meeting demands.
- Council meetings have evolved with a restructured agenda, granting more interaction in those 90 minutes per month and participation of none Councilors.
- After years of hard work, we have reached several milestones on final deliverables, such as: ccPDP3 on ccTLD retirement, Bylaw change request to include IDN ccTLDs in the ccNSO, closure of the ccNSO Review and a final draft of the new Rules of the ccNSO.

None of this would have been possible without your participation and contributions. Your time, dedication and passion was instrumental in our achievements. My most sincere thanks to all of you.

Looking forward to 2022, we have some projects already underway like: ccPDP3 on Review Mechanisms and ccPDP4 on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings. There are others that are in their initial stages, such as the ccNSO & DNS Abuse, the update of the ccNSO ICANN Learn course and the kick off planning of the new ccNSO website and the standing committees and working groups (Tech WG, IGLC, SOPC, MPC, GRC, TLD-Ops, OISC and Triage) of course will continue with their usual activities.

I deeply miss being able to be with you together in the same place on the planet. Time will tell when this will be possible again. However, in the meantime, let’s be grateful for everything that we do have and are able to do together!

Warm regards,
Alejandra Reynoso
ccNSO Council Chair
# Index

## Major Milestones

## Working Groups

- Monthly written updates from the ccNSO Working Groups and Committees

## ccNSO Webinars / Workshops

## Sessions at ICANN Meetings

## ccNSO Council

- Councillors who stepped down in March 2021
- New ccNSO Councillors who took their seat in March 2021
- Council March 2021
  - Changes since March 2021
- ccNSO Councillors who will take their seat in March 2022
- Council March 2022

## New ICANN Board representative

## Keep in touch with ccNSO activities

- ccNSO in Twitter - https://twitter.com/ccNSO
- ccNSO in Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/ccnso
- ccNSO Google Calendar - ccnso.agenda@gmail.com
- ccNSO website - https://ccnso.icann.org/en
- ccNSO wiki - https://community.icann.org/category/ccnso
- ccNSO Newsletter - https://community.icann.org/display/ccnsowkspc/ccNSO+Newsletter
- ccNSO Secretariat - ccnsosecretariat@icann.org
Major Milestones

1. Submission of Bylaw change request to include IDN ccTLDs in the ccNSO
   a. Botterman to ccNSO: ccNSO Proposed Changes to Article 10 and Annex B of ICANN Bylaws – 27 October 2021
   b. Letter: Request to change Article 10 and Annex B of the ICANN Bylaws – 9 September 2021

2. Submission of ccPDP3 - Retirement.
   a. ccPDP3 Retirement Working Group + Final Report
   b. ccNSO Proposed Policy on the Retirement of ccTLDs - Public Comment


4. ccNSO Rules final draft.

"During this past year, the GRC Rules Subgroup has worked on the important task of drafting revisions to the ccNSO Rules.

Leading this effort has been a pleasure thanks to the thoughtful contributions of the Subgroup members, observers, and ICANN staff support team: Irina Danelia, Stephen Deerhake, Chris Disspain, Atsushi Endo, Ann-Cathrin Marcussen, Alejandra Reynoso, Katrina Sataki (Observer), Sean Copeland (Observer), Bart Boswinkel (ICANN), Kim Carlson (ICANN) and Joke Braeken (ICANN).

We recognized that our task was not wholesale revision of the Rules but rather a modest update. Having taken into account ccNSO community input and the practices of ccNSO over the 18 years since the Rules were adopted, we are about to forward a draft recommendation for the ccNSO members that, in our view, maintain the cogency of the original Rules.

The Subgroup has added context to the Rules by creating an introduction and a restatement of the ccNSO Principles (both of which are intended as context - not as Rules themselves); we added a glossary; a clear indication of which decisions are for Council and which for members, and which of Council’s decisions are subject to member veto; we call for periodic review of the Rules; and, in an important change we suggest adjusting the quorum for membership votes, reducing it to a more realistic number in view of the growth of ccNSO membership. Of course, the final vote on the new Rules will be subject to the currently existing quorum requirements.

We hope that our suggestions will be accepted, and the team members are prepared to help encourage active membership participation in a vote.

It has been a privilege to chair this Subgroup."

David McAuley (.cc)
GRC Rules Subgroup Chair
5. ccNSO & DNS Abuse discussions
   a. 18 Nov 2021. DNS Abuse Workshop. Recording & Materials
   b. 27 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: DNS Abuse - What's the role of the ccNSO? Part 1 | Part 2

6. Initial review of ccNSO ICANN Learn course before translation.

7. Kick off of New ccNSO website planning.

Working Groups

- ccPDP3 Review Mechanism Working Group (ccPDP3-RM)
- ccPDP4 Working Group on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings (ccPDP4-IDN)
- Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

“I still remember how we started this Committee: so full of hopes to complete the work within two years. Our main task was to review the current guidelines, identify potential gaps, and propose updates. “How hard could it be?”, we reasoned. Somehow, this simple little task grew bigger and bigger almost by day. Now, six years later, it feels that the amount of work hasn’t shrunk a bit. Partly it can be explained by the need to prepare the ccNSO as a Decisional Participant to all the processes that are envisioned in the Bylaws with respect to the Empowered Community, partly – by the fact that the ccNSO grows and evolves and, thus, the existing documents need to be periodically reviewed and updated.

One of the hardest challenges for the GRC is to strike the right balance between the need to keep documents reasonably short and yet provide a sufficient level of detail. Another aspect that the GRC is paying a lot of attention to is to the structure of the guidelines and the language used in the documents. One of the first things we agreed upon was the uniform structure of the documents to make it easier for the reader. We also keep in mind that the majority of the participants in the ccNSO are not native English speakers, therefore, guidelines must be written in plain English.

Today, the GRC is on the path of transforming into a better version of itself. The work of the GRC will form the core of the continuous improvement of the ccNSO. The recent success of the GRC sub-group tasked with the update of the Rules of the ccNSO, paves the path towards a new approach to the way the ccNSO is governed to serve the ccTLDs around the globe.” (Katrina Sataki – Outgoing GRC Chair)

- Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC)
- Meetings Programme Committee (MPC)
- Outreach and Involvement Standing Committee (OISC)
The ccNSO Strategic and Operating Committee (SOPC) has proven to ICANN how much ccTLDs can contribute to improving and refining the ICANN processes. It all started with a small group of folks who met in Cairo in late 2008 to form a working group to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN’s strategic and operational, planning and budgetary processes. It was the time when ICANN started to work more on their planning and to introduce regular consultations with the various community constituencies. It was the dawn of the adult era of ICANN.

The SOPC definitely contributed to the way the current Plans are designed and structured, with timelines, deliverables, Key Performance Indicators and an overall more streamlined comment process.

As SOPC Chair for several years, I am happy to have been one of the drivers of the transformation of the SOP working group into a permanent Committee, to have received so many acknowledgements of SOPC’s work by other constituencies, to see the SOPC modus operandi become best practice.

I leave a more mature Committee with great members who have a sound expertise in looking after strategies at their own ccTLD level and, thanks to that, have the capacity to be pillars for the ICANN planning process. I did not use the word “pillar” by chance as now the ICANN Plans are quite monumental documents! I leave a Committee that should look into ways of engaging the next generation in the process and work harder at keeping its reputation high. Ad maiora!” (Giovanni Seppia – Outgoing SOPC Chair)

- **Tech Working Group**

- **TLD-OPS Standing Committee**

- **Triage Committee**

  In 2021, the role of the Triage committee started to evolve from focusing on advice to the Council whether or not to act upon on incoming requests (for comments, participation, share information etc.) to overseeing the workload of the ccNSO and - if needed - providing the Council advise on priorities and setting priorities. Over time, this will help make sure that the work of the ccNSO is focused on those things that are most important to the community we serve.

  To help identify the priorities in the longer term sense, the Committee is leading the development of a high level Strategic Plan for the ccNSO in 2022. Member engagement on this will happen at the ICANN meetings during this year.

  Jordan Carter (.nz)

  Triage Committee Leader
Empowered Community Administration (ECA)
In March 2021 Stephen Deerhake stepped down as ccNSO appointed representative on the Empowered Community Administration and was replaced by Alejandra Reynoso. Stephen has served on the ECA since its creation in 2016, and was instrumental in making it work effectively and efficiently.

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Monthly written updates from the ccNSO Working Groups and Committees

- January 2022
- December 2021
- October 2021
- September 2021
- July 2021
- June 2021

ccNSO Webinars / Workshops

1. 09 Dec 2021. Webinar on the new ccNSO Rules. Recording & Materials
2. 18 Nov 2021. DNS Abuse Workshop. Recording & Materials
3. 16 Sep 2021. ccNSO Council Election Webinar. Zoom recording | Chat | Slides
5. 15 Apr 2021. ccPDP3 & ccPDP4 Update to the Community Webinars. Zoom recordings | Chat recordings | Slides
6. 04 Mar 2021. OISC Webinar. Zoom Recording | Chat recording | Slides
8. 27 Jan 2021. IGLC Webinar. Zoom recording | Chat | Slides
9. 20 Jan 2021. MPC Webinar. Zoom recording | Slides

More information: https://community.icann.org/display/ccnsowkspc/ccNSO+Webinars
Sessions at ICANN Meetings

1. 28 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: TLD Ops Standing Committee. Recording, Slides & Transcript
2. 28 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: Council Meeting. Recording, Slides & Transcript
4. 27 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: DNS Abuse - What's the role of the ccNSO? Part 1 | Part 2
5. 26 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: Strategic & Operational Planning Committee. Recording, Slides & Transcript
6. 26 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: Governance Session. Recording, Slides & Transcript
7. 26 Oct 2021. ICANN 72. ccNSO: Q & A Session with Council Candidates. Recording, Slides & Transcript
9. 20 Oct 2021. pre-ICANN 72. ccNSO Newcomer Webinar #2. Zoom recording | Chat | Slides
10. 18 Oct 2021. pre-ICANN 72. ccNSO Newcomer Webinar #1. Zoom recording
14. 17 Jun 2021. ICANN 71. ccNSO: Council meeting. Recording, Slides & Transcript
15. 17 Jun 2021. ICANN 71. ccNSO: Strategic & Operational Planning Committee. Recording, Slides & Transcript
17. 15 Jun 2021. ICANN 71. ccNSO: ccTLD-related Board Members Q & A. Recording, Slides & Transcript
18. 15 Jun 2021. ICANN 71. ccNSO: Members Meeting Governance Session. Recording, Slides & Transcript
20. 9 Jun 2021. pre-ICANN 71. ccTLD Community Webinar. Zoom Recording | Chat Recording | Slides
21. 8 Jun 2021. pre-ICANN 71. ccTLD Community Webinar. Zoom Recording | Slides
22. 27 May 2021. pre-ICANN 71. ccTLD News Session #2. DNS Abuse. Zoom recording | Chat
24. 25 Mar 2021. ICANN 70. ccNSO: Council meeting. Recording, Slides & Transcript
25. 25 Mar 2021. ICANN 70. ccNSO: IGLC. Recording, Slides & Transcript
27. 23 Mar 2021. ICANN 70. ccNSO: Q&A with ccTLD-related ICANN Board Members. Rec., Slides & Transcript
28. 23 Mar 2021. ICANN 70. ccNSO: Members Meeting Governance. Recording, Slides & Transcript
30. 18 Mar 2021. pre-ICANN 70. ccTLD Community Webinar #2. Zoom recording | Slides
31. 17 Mar 2021. pre-ICANN 70. ccTLD Community Webinar #1. Zoom recording | Slides
32. 11 Mar 2021. pre-ICANN 70. ccTLD News Session #2. Zoom recording | Chat recording | Slides
33. 09 Mar 2021. pre-ICANN 70. ccTLD News Session #1. Zoom Recording | Chat recording | Slides
ccNSO Council

Councillors who stepped down in March 2021

"The ccNSO Council is a collective of highly motivated people united and driven by a desire to make the ccNSO better, stronger, more agile, and, most importantly, as useful for ccTLDs as possible. At the end of the day, it is always about ccTLDs regardless of their membership status within the ccNSO. It is an honour and a great responsibility to serve the global ccTLD community!

I cannot say that the road had no bumps. On the contrary, there was a plethora of bumps and each unexpected turn seemed to zoom out the end of the journey. But nothing is impossible when you are a part of a great team. I am happy to see the ccNSO Council in good and capable hands, willing and ready to push it forward!

As for me, the ccNSO and the Council have been a huge part of my life for the past several years. I have to confess that during the first two weeks after stepping down from the Council I went through a process of "withdrawal". Contributing to working groups, participation in discussions, serving on the ccNSO Council – it is a very rewarding experience that turned out to be also so addictive. If you haven't experienced this feeling yet, hesitate no longer: become an active member of the ccNSO!" (Katrina Sataki - Outgoing ccNSO Council Chair)
New ccNSO Councillors who took their seat in March 2021

- (AF) Ali Hadji Mmadi (.km)
- (AP) Jiankang Yao (.cn)
- (EU) Irina Danelia (.ru)
- (LAC) Jenifer López (.pa)
- (NA) Sean Copeland (.vi)

Council March 2021

Changes since March 2021

- In October 2021, after ICANN 73, Laura Margolis was replaced by Tatiana Tropina.
- In December 2021 Giovanni Seppia stepped down and was replaced by Chris Disspain on 1 January 2022.

"I have loved my role as ccNSO Councillor, the always constructive discussions, the richness that comes from the members’ diversity, the true spirit of cooperation that is at the basis of any action, the acknowledgement that united we can achieve higher objectives.

Being a Councillor is not a line in the CV. It is a role that comes with duties and responsibilities. It is a role that implies a regular commitment to following the various discussion threads on many topics, to read the long and not-so-long documents that are shared on the Council list in preparation of the meetings. It is a role that needs some devotion so as to remain awake late in the evening to attend meetings (now that..."
we are all Zoom-addicted) or to stay late in the meeting room when others are getting ready for the gala or music night. I played this role with honesty, passion and modesty because I know that I want to continue to learn.

I still remember when ICANN first began organising the ccNSO meetings. The Italian registry, .it, was the one of the two organisers of the ICANN Rome meeting, back in 2004. The ccNSO convened its first large meeting there. Internet cables were all over the room as wifi was the exception at that time, not the rule. 17 years have passed since the ICANN Rome meeting. The ccNSO is alive and kicking as never before because the ccTLDs are one of the most vibrant and authentic communities of the DNS industry." (Giovanni Seppia – Outgoing Councillor)

“I had the invaluable opportunity to be a ccNSO Councilor elected by the NomCom and it has been a great experience for the last 3 years. I have had the opportunity to work and interact with people from all over the world, which is priceless. My colleagues and the staff were always there for me and willing to help me and introduce me to any of the topics that were being discussed.

This work required me to familiarize myself with topics while adapting to different working methods used at the ccNSO. It was really very interesting to have the opportunity to participate in different working groups and at the same time work with people who are experts in ccTLDs in their respective countries.

One of the committees I participated in is the IGLC (Internet Governance Liaison Committee), where we discussed the latest Internet Governance issues from the ccTLD perspective and created a heat map of the most important Internet Governance topics in the world, divided by the different regions. This gives us an overview of what's happening in the world and also allows us to provide the ccTLD world with the latest news.

There is also a lot of work going on behind the scenes to prepare for the ICANN meetings, which requires a lot of effort from the various working groups, and the result is something the ccNSO can be proud of. If you belong to the ccTLD world and have the opportunity, I strongly recommend you to join the ccNSO, as a Councilor, or just by attending the different working groups or committees, believe me, it will be one of your best experiences.” (Laura Margolis – Outgoing Councillor)
ccNSO Councillors who will take their seat in March 2022

- (AF) Adebiyi Oladipo (.ng)
- (AP) Jordan Carter (.nz)
- (EU) Nick Wenban-Smith (.uk)
- (LAC) Demi Getschko (.br)
- (NA) Pablo Rodríguez (.pr)
New ICANN Board representative

Katrina Sataki (.lv)
Started her term after ICANN 73

Nigel Roberts looks back on his term as ccNSO appointed members on the ICANN Board of Directors:

“Towards the end of 2021 I completed a three-year term as your ICANN Board Member. During that time I served on the Audit Committee, the Technical Committee, Risk Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and Chair of the Board Accountability Mechanisms Committee.

Serving as your Board Member was a privilege and a joy. It also comes as a cost - whilst the time commitment is not overly onerous, it is nonetheless fairly significant. Increasing responsibilities elsewhere (both work and personal) sometimes have to take priority no matter how much one is having fun. I'm 100% confident that we will be well-served with Patricio and Katrina, going forward.

The role of an ICANN Board Member has changed over the last 20 years. There is a creative tension between appointing professional NEDs (non-executive directors) without industry specific knowledge (and they then learning about ICANN and the multi-stakeholder model on-the-job), and appointing senior people from within the community and supporting them with the necessary skills and training to be effective NEDs. ICANN is remarkable at giving the opportunities it gives for training to its Directors. It probably has the balance about right, but there will be challenges for the Board going forward.

I’m incredibly proud to have been one of the people who helped build ICANN and the Multistakeholder Model after the International Forum on the White Paper in 1998, and to have been a long-term contributor in various roles, including serving on the ccNSO Council for a number of years prior to joining the Board.

I shall be taking a step back for a few months, but I am sure we will meet again at some future event, once the world situation permits. Oh, and one more thing, I wish you all a successful and happy 2022.” (Nigel Roberts - Outgoing ICANN Board representative)
Keep in touch with ccNSO activities

ccNSO in Twitter - https://twitter.com/ccNSO

ccNSO in Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/ccnso

ccNSO Google Calendar - ccnso.agenda@gmail.com

ccNSO website - https://ccnso.icann.org/en

ccNSO wiki - https://community.icann.org/category/ccnso

ccNSO Newsletter - https://community.icann.org/display/ccnsowkspc/ccNSO+Newsletter

ccNSO Secretariat - ccnosecretariat@icann.org