Dear Colleagues

Let me start by wishing that you all have had a wonderful start of 2024 and may this year bring positive things everyone!

As is customary by now, I want to share with you the achievements of the ccNSO over 2023 and look at what this new year has in store for us.

2023 was a very dynamic year in lots of ways. Unfortunate natural disasters happening around the world (earthquakes, fires, floods, droughts, cyclones) and the recording of highest and lowest temperatures ever. On the geopolitical front we saw the undesirable continuation of various armed conflicts in multiple parts of the planet and witnessed several governmental changes. On the other side there were many advances in medicine and science, the World Health Organization announced the official end of the COVID-19 pandemic and chat GPT had its first birthday, however that also marked a general uneasiness towards AI. What a year!

Focusing on the ccNSO, we were able to build on past achievements, and continue our work in various areas.

We have welcomed two IDN ccTLD as members of the ccNSO, the DNS Abuse Standing Committee kicked off in full force with the analysis and presentation of the results of their survey, the Universal Acceptance Committee was created and, with your support, the proposed review mechanism policy for ccTLDs was accepted and then submitted to the ICANN Board.

It was our 20th anniversary! A full year of celebrations taking us on a journey which started with the exploration of the roots of the ccNSO, then continued with the reflection of the current situation and true admiration of what we have achieved so far, ending with the exploration of where we want to take the ccNSO in the following years. Thank you all for your participation in these activities! As I’ve said before, we are celebrating those who were before us (considering many are still around) and everyone who joined later.

I am very proud of the hard work you all put into the ccNSO, either through the working groups and committees or by participating [in-person or remotely] at the sessions we organize. I invite you to read the essence of this report: the achievements of the working groups and committees and what they expect to do in the near future. It’s an honor to work with all of you.

Warm regards,
Alejandra Reynoso
ccNSO Council Chair
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ICANN78 | ccNSO Session Highlights | Hamburg, DE. 21-26 October 2023
ICANN77 | ccNSO Session Highlights | Washington, DC. US. 12-15 June 2023
ICANN76 | ccNSO Session Highlights | Cancun. MX. 11-16 March 2023

ccNSO Council

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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

Previous reports

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Major Milestones

1. 20th Anniversary
   a. Community Video Compilations:
      i. 20th Anniversary - ICANN76.mp4
      ii. 20th Anniversary - ICANN77.mp4
      iii. 20th Anniversary - ICANN78.mp4
   b. Sessions:
      i. ICANN76. Recap with ccNSO Chairs.
         Recording, Slides & Transcript
         ICANN Flickr
      ii. ICANN77. Trivia Time.
         Recording, Slides & Transcript
      iii. ICANN78. Shaping the ccNSO for 2030.
         14.Dec.2024 - Virtual
What is most important to you in shaping the future of the ccNSO?

2. 20 Apr - For the very first time, an IDN ccTLD joins the ccNSO as a member

3. 11 May - The ccNSO membership supports the ccNSO Council’s recommendation to adopt the proposed review mechanism policy for ccTLDs

4. 20 Jul - The Terms of Reference for the Universal Acceptance Committee were adopted by Council

   Adoption of Internal Procedure: General Statement of Interest & ccNSO [Council] Conflict of Interest

5. New ccNSO members:
   20 Apr - The ccTLD manager for .مصر, .Egypt in Arabic, joins the ccNSO!
   18 May - The ccTLD manager for .ec joins the ccNSO!
   20 Jul - The ccTLD manager for .qa joins the ccNSO!
   26 Oct - The ccTLD Manager for .ישראל, joins the ccNSO!
Working Groups

- **ccPDP4 Working Group on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings (ccPDP4-IDN)**

  “The ccPDP4 work group made tremendous progress in 2023. The group successfully completed all tasks related to confusing similarity evaluation, variant management, review mechanisms for the retirement of IDN ccTLDs, and de-selection policy. This included finalizing design criteria for IDN ccTLDs, encompassing processes for selection, validation, delegation, and deselection.

  The work group updated the basic policy document, reflecting on the results of stress testing. Additionally, the ccPDP4 work group collaborated with the gNSO EPDP work group to ensure policy consistency across both groups.

  The work group drafted the initial report, which was subsequently published for public comments. The received comments and feedback were carefully reviewed, leading to updates in the policy document.

  Looking ahead, ccPDP4 will present policy recommendations and advice to ccTLDs during ICANN79. The policy document will follow the ccNSO policy development process to formalize these recommendations.” – Kenny Huang (.tw) - ccPDP4 Chair

- **Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC)**

  “The ccNSO Universal Acceptance (UA) Committee (UAC) was created in June 2023 having a very diverse group of ccNSO community members as members of the committee. One of its tasks is to maintain a dedicated forum for (ASCII & IDN) ccTLD managers to share information with respect to the Universal Acceptance of domain names, their management and to provide the ccTLD community a platform to interact and share information at a global level and with other groups under the ICANN umbrella on topics related to UA and acceptance of IDNs.

  As part of this remit, a subgroup was formed and mandated to create and maintain an information/content repository, and eventually a dedicated mailing list.

  The goal of the online library is to provide an information source created for and made available to ccTLD Managers, as defined in Acceptable content, containing links to information relevant to the topic of Universal Acceptance that would be useful for such managers to identify, understand, and/or plan to take action with respect to such that they may encounter.

  UAC welcomes more members to join the committee that currently has 11 members.”

Regina Fuchsova (.eu) Vice Chair & C. Abdalmonem Galila (مصر.ENG) Chair
● **Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC)**

“SOPC activities by nature are concentrated around New Year’s time. The major effort is reviewing and commenting on behalf of ccNSO the Draft ICANN Operating Plan and Budget for the upcoming financial year.

Therefore, 2023 started with submitting comments on Draft FY24 Plans and ended with reviewing Draft FY25 Plans. One of the new developments was creating a follow-up process to keep track of issues that remain ‘open’ as a result of the previous Public Comment period. SOPC wants to keep eyes on whether ICANN org makes progress on such issues in the next budgeting process. During the summer hypothetical break SOPC reviewed and supported PTI / IANA Governance Proposal.

The proposal aligned PTI and ICANN planning and budgeting processes, but also increased concentration of SOPC work.

Another new development of 2023 was the kick off of the Strategic Planning Process for Fiscal Year 2026-2030. SOPC members participated in Trend Fiscal Year 2023, the proposal and forward to being involved in the next steps.”

Irina Danelia (.ru) Vice-Chair & Andreas Musielak (.de) Chair

● **Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)**

“In 2023, the GRC witnessed a significant evolution with two converging paths: the development of GRC 2.0 and a focused drive towards continuous improvement.

The GRC has actively participated in several key activities and has benefited greatly from insights shared by ICANN Org guests who have attended both our in-person and virtual meetings and events throughout 2023. These activities include developing SOI/COI processes, enhancing policy implementation process assistance, and addressing concerns related to WS2 implementation. Our efforts underscore the commitment to establishing guidelines that are fair, easy to understand and designed to facilitate unimpeded progress.

A pivotal moment was at ICANN 78 in Hamburg, where the GRC conducted an Open Space Technology (OST) session. This participant-driven format spurred creative thinking and brought diverse ideas and strengths to the forefront, aligning perfectly with continuous improvement principles, fostering active participation and collective problem-solving essential for our organizational evolution.

I want to extend my personal gratitude to my vice-chair, Segun, and our secretariat and staff, who worked diligently to support our activities. Of course, I want to give heartfelt thanks to the dedicated members of this committee whose diligence is a cornerstone of our contributions to the community. I would also like to invite community members interested in gaining a better understanding of the ccNSO to step forward and volunteer. “ - Sean Copeland (.vi) - GRC Chair
Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC)

“The IGLC meets monthly via webinar to share information and experiences about a wide range of Internet-related policy and regulatory issues and discuss the impact of these on ccTLDs. It’s an active and growing committee, welcoming 7 new members in 2023.

Our 2023 highlights included opportunities to share perspectives on topical issues with the broader ccNSO community. During ICANN76 we held a session on the digital divide between those who have affordable and reliable access to the Internet and digital devices and those who do not, and heard what this means for five ccTLDs. At ICANN77, ccTLDs shared information about national or regional cybersecurity legislative initiatives, and at ICANN78 we invited some external experts to share information on the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society and perspectives on what this might mean for ccTLDs.

These sessions provided opportunities to hear a diverse range of ccTLD views, with presenters from Brazil, France, Rwanda, India, Canada, Vanuatu, Mozambique, Costa Rica, Slovenia, Japan and Germany.

2024 is shaping up to be a big year in Internet governance. We extend an invitation to all ccNSO members to join the IGLC as we explore issues such as Internet fragmentation, capacity building, the Global Digital Compact, improving multistakeholder Internet governance and many more.” – Annaliese Williams (.au) - IGLC Chair

Meetings Programme Committee (MPC)

“The ccTLDs landscape is a rich tapestry, a gift that the ccNSO leverages to bring diversity to our sessions. Playing a crucial role in coordinating and managing the high-level schedule of ccNSO-related sessions during both in-person and remote ICANN meetings, the Meetings Programme Committee (MPC) ensures our time is well-spent on ICANN meetings, by bringing the most pressing issues, current challenges, and providing various perspectives and solutions from and for ccTLDs all over the globe.

The MPC offers a unique opportunity for a hands-on, deep-dive into planning, fostering learning and positive change for ccTLDs. With 21 members and 7 observers worldwide, our growing membership, open to all ccTLD managers, concluded 2023 with significant contributions. In that year, the MPC conducted 16 working sessions, showcasing more than 20 solutions, experiences, and best practices for ccTLDs on ccNSO Members Meetings. Presentation topics varied from digital divide, cybersecurity, the use of Artificial Intelligence by ccTLDs, marketing strategies and many others. It was only possible to achieve those results because of the hard work developed by ccTLDs and the commitment of the MPC to find the greatest stories to share with our audience.

Continuous improvement is paramount for maintaining a strong and healthy community, and that's one of our current focuses beyond the meetings logistics and organization. All ccTLD-related persons who want to deal with the most relevant ccTLD issues are welcome to join us!” – Everton Rodrigues (.br) - MPC Chair
Triage Committee

“During 2023, the Triage Committee developed its work as forecast in this report last year, and I am pleased to report progress was made according to plan. Highlights of the year included being able to meet in person during ICANN meetings in Cancun, Washington DC and Hamburg.

Building on the one-page strategy and work prioritization system developed during 2022, the Committee developed its status update reports that show progress against what is in the Plan. These are available on the internet at https://ccnso.icann.org/en/about/council/triage

With the excellent support of our talented ccNSO Secretariat staff, this means that the Committee’s work is now fairly ‘plain sailing’ and happens to a known timetable. It is pleasing to see that the work portfolio of the ccNSO is now more clearly visible and more easily managed than ever before.

I would like to thank the Committee members and the ccNSO staff supporting us, for the work during the year. The flexibility to work at different ends of the day - early mornings or late evenings - should not be taken for granted and on behalf of the whole community, I thank all the members for their work. “ - Jordan Carter (.au) - Triage Committee Chair

Tech Working Group

“The ccNSO’s Technical Information Gathering/Sharing Working Group, in short “TechWg” conducted a Technical Day meeting, also known as “TechDay” during every ICANN Meeting since the meeting in Sao Paulo (52 up to now).

During the Pandemic the meetings were conducted virtually, which proved so successful that all subsequent TechDays were held as hybrid meetings.

TechDays cover a variety of topics of a technical nature and/or for a predominantly technical audience from inside and outside of the ccNSO and are very well attended, in person and via Zoom.

It is the intention to continue the hybrid format as it allows for participants and speakers alike to present topics of interest even if they can not make it to the meeting themselves.

The presentations are all (to be) published as PDF on the ccNSO web site as is the agenda, which contains the email addresses of the presenters for ease of reference.” - Eberhard Lisse - Tech WG Chair
“As the chair of the ccNSO TLD-OPS committee, I am delighted to reflect on the fruitful year of 2023. Our team expanded with the warm welcome of three new members - Angela, Nicklas, and Josh, each bringing their unique strengths to our collective. We revitalized our operations by reintroducing the planning of the Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity Planning (DR/BCP) workshops for 2024, a critical component of our mission. In our pursuit of efficiency and organization, we adopted NextCloud as our new platform for our contact repository and a dedicated Mailman server to streamline our communications.

Indeed, 2023 was a year of significant strides and accomplishments for the TLD-OPS Standing Committee. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the future.” - Jacques Latour - TLD-OPS Chair

- **TLD-OPS Standing Committee**
- **DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC)**
- **Outreach and Involvement Standing Committee (OISC)**
- **Empowered Community Administration (ECA)**
- **Customer Standing Committee (CSC)**

Monthly written updates from the ccNSO Working Groups and Committees

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- [February 2023](#)
- [April 2023](#)
- [May 2023](#)
- [July 2023](#)
- [September 2023](#)
- [November 2023](#)
- [December 2023](#)
ccNSO Webinars / Workshops

1. 12 Oct 2023. pre-ICANN78 Newcomer Webinar. [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides]
2. 28 Sep 2023. Webinar: Survey Webinar, part 3 (by DASC). [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides]
3. 05 Sep 2023. Webinar: ccNSO Council Elections. [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides]
4. 09 Sep 2023. Webinar: call volunteers ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides]
5. 26 Apr 2023. Webinar: call volunteers ccNSO Liaison to GNSO Council. [Invite] | [Slides] (no recording, due to quorum)
6. 18 Apr 2023. ccPDP3-RM Webinar. [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides]
7. 12 Apr 2023. 2nd IANA Naming Function Review Team Webinar. [Invite] | [webinar #1] and [webinar #2]
8. 20 Feb 2023. pre-ICANN76 Newcomer Webinar. [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides] & [Zoom Chat]
9. 25 Jan 2023. ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee Webinar. [Invite] | [Recording]
10. 19 Jan 2023. ccNSO Meetings Programme Committee Webinar. [Invite] | [Recording]
11. 18 Jan 2023. ccNSO & Universal Acceptance Workshop (part 2). [Invite] | [Recording]

Sessions at ICANN Meetings

ICANN78 | ccNSO Session Highlights | Hamburg, DE. 21-26 October 2023

1. 26 Oct 2023. ICANN 78. ccNSO: Council Meeting. [Recording] | [Slides] & [Transcript]
2. 26 Oct 2023. ICANN 78. ccNSO: Q&A upcoming elections. [Recording] | [Slides] & [Transcript]
5. 25 Oct 2023. ICANN 78. ccNSO: ccTLD News. [Recording] | [Slides] & [Transcript]
6. 24 Oct 2023. ICANN 78. ccNSO: 20th Anniversary Session. [Recording] | [Slides] & [Transcript]
8. 24 Oct 2023. ICANN 78. ccNSO: Corporate and Social Responsibility. [Recording] | [Slides] & [Transcript]
12. 22 Oct 2023. ICANN 78. Joint session: gNSO & ccNSO Councils. [Recording] | [Slides] & [Transcript]
13. 12 Oct 2023. pre-ICANN78 Newcomer Webinar. [Invite] | [Recording] | [Slides]
| 14. | 15 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: Council Meeting. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 15. | 15 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: Legislative Initiatives affecting ccTLDs. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 16. | 15 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: Policy Development update. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 17. | 14 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: ccTLD News. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 18. | 14 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: DNS Abuse Standing Committee Survey & Repo. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 19. | 14 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. PTI/IANA Governance Proposals. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 20. | 13 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: 20 years of the ccNSO. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 22. | 13 Jun 2023. ICANN 77. ccNSO: Pre and Post pandemic ccTLD registration trends. Recording, Slides & Transcript |

| 25. | 16 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: Meeting Program Committee. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 26. | 16 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: Council Meeting. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 27. | 15 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. Joint Session: ccNSO & ccTLD-related Board Members. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 28. | 15 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: DNS Abuse Standing Committee update. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 29. | 15 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: ccTLD News - Digital Divide. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 30. | 15 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: Universal Acceptance Roadmap. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 31. | 14 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: 20 years of the ccNSO. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 32. | 14 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: Governance Session. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 33. | 14 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: ccTLD News. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 34. | 14 Mar 2023. ICANN 76. ccNSO: Welcome & Policy Updates. Recording, Slides & Transcript |
| 36. | 20 Feb 2023. pre-ICANN76 Newcomer Webinar. Invite | Recording | Slides & Zoom Chat |
Changes since March 2023

- In October 2023, after ICANN 78, Javier Rúa-Jovet was replaced by Wafa Dahmani

“I am proud and grateful for my time as NomCom appointed ccNSO Councilor, and feel honored to have served alongside the extraordinary people that conform said Council. Firstly, I am thankful to have been allowed, early in my term, to present in a ccTLD News session focused on DNS Abuse. My ICANN experience up to that point had been primarily as an ALAC member, and the process leading up to that ccTLD News DNS Abuse presentation was instrumental for me to ‘learn the ropes’ of the cc world. There I learned that the ccNSO is a diverse, horizontal world of competent independent entities that voluntarily join to learn from each other – not a hierarchy where some are “more equal than others”. I am also proud to have served as council rapporteur of multiple sessions during several ICANN meetings, to have served in the IDN-WG, the Travel Funding Committee, the Community Excellence Award Panel and of serving and being allowed to continue serving in the IGLC. My IGLC experience was and continues to be particularly enriching: the several iterations of the IG-heat map, in process and in substance, shows the critical importance of the diverse voice of country code managers in multistakeholder Internet governance. This last experience in part inspired an article I submitted to the July 2023 ccNSO monthly newsletter on a related topic, NON-SOVEREIGN TERRITORIES IN DNS GOVERNANCE.”  

Javier Rúa-Jovet (Outgoing NomCom appointed Councilor)
ccNSO Councillors who will take their seat in March 2024

- (AF) Hadji Mmadi Ali (.km)
- (AP) Jiankang Yao (.cn)
- (EU) Peter Koch (.de)
- (LAC) Jenifer López (.pa)
- (NA) Sean Copeland (.vi)

Council March 2024

Re-Election of ICANN Board representative

Katrina Sataki (.lv)
Candidate Statement
Voting results
Keep in touch with ccNSO activities

ccNSO in Twitter - https://twitter.com/ccNSO
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ccNSO wiki - https://community.icann.org/category/ccnso
ccNSO Newsletter https://community.icann.org/display/ccnsowkspc/ccNSO+Newsletter
ccNSO Secretariat - ccnsosecretariat@icann.org

Previous reports

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- Achievements of 2021