Glossary

See also https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/glossary-2014-02-03-en

Advisory Committee (AC)	An Advisory Committee (AC) is a formal advisory body made up of representatives from the Internet community to advise ICANN on a particular issue or policy area. Several are mandated by the ICANN Bylaws and others may be created as needed. Advisory Committees have no legal authority to act for ICANN, but report their findings and make recommendations to the ICANN Board. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#XI.
Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) Reviews	The Affirmation of Commitments contains specific provisions for periodic review of four key ICANN objectives. These reviews provide a mechanism to assess and report on ICANN's progress toward fundamental organizational objectives.
ALAC — At-Large Advisory Committee	The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) is a body with the ICANN structure responsible for considering and providing advice on the activities of ICANN, as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users (the "At-Large" community.) ICANN, as a private, nonprofit corporation with technical management responsibilities for the Internet's domain name and address system, will rely on the ALAC and its supporting infrastructure to involve and represent in ICANN a broad set of individual user interests. See also: http://www.atlarge.icann.org/.
ASO — Address Supporting Organization	The ASO advises the ICANN Board of Directors on policy issues relating to the allocation and management of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. The ASO selects two Directors for the ICANN Board. See also: https://aso.icann.org/.
Bottom-up Processes	A fundamental principle of ICANN's decision-making processes is that policy analysis and decisions progress from a stakeholder level (made up of directly affected parties, Internet users, companies and anyone else who wishes to participate in the process) to the ICANN Board level. The process provides the opportunity for open and equal participation at all levels, as practical and possible.
ccNSO — The Country-Code Names Supporting Organization	The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) is a body within the ICANN structure created for and by ccTLD managers. The ccNSO provides a forum for country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers to meet and discuss topical issues of concern to ccTLDs from a global perspective. The ccNSO provides a platform to nurture consensus, technical cooperation and skill building among ccTLDs and facilitates the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. It is also responsible for developing and recommending global policies to the ICANN Board for a limited set of issues relating to ccTLDs, such as the introduction of

	Internationalised Domain Name ccTLDs (IDN ccTLDs). Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers responsible for managing an ISO 3166 country- code top-level domain. See also: http://ccnso.icann.org/.
ccTLD — Country Code Top Level Domain	Two letter domains, such as .uk (United Kingdom), .de (Germany) and .jp (Japan) (for example), are called country code top level domains (ccTLDs) and correspond to a country, territory, or other geographic location. The rules and policies for registering domain names in the ccTLDs vary significantly and ccTLD registries limit use of the ccTLD to citizens of the corresponding country. Some ICANN-accredited registrars provide registration services in the ccTLDs in addition to registering names in .biz, .com, .info, .name, .net and .org, however, ICANN does not specifically accredit registrars to provide ccTLD registration services. See also: http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld.htm.
CCWG-Accountab-ility	The Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) was convened to design a proposal that ensures that ICANN's accountability and transparency commitments to the global Internet community are maintained and enhanced upon transition from the historical the U.S. Government. See also: https://community.icann.org/display/acctcrosscomm/CCWG+on+Enhancing+ICANN+Accountability.
Cooperative Engagement Process (CEP)	As specified in Article IV, Section 3 of the ICANN Bylaws, prior to initiating an Independent Review Process (IRP), the complainant is urged to enter into a period of cooperative engagement with ICANN for the purpose of resolving or narrowing the issues that are contemplated to be brought before the IRP Panel. It is contemplated that this cooperative engagement process will be initiated prior to the requesting party incurring any costs in the preparation of a request for independent review. Cooperative engagement is expected to be among ICANN and the requesting party, without reference to outside counsel. See Also: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/cep-11apr13-en.pdf.
Consensus	Consensus is a form of decision-making employed by various supporting organizations within ICANN. The method to establish whether one has reached consensus differs per supporting organization, for example, the following method is used in the GNSO: Full consensus - when no one in the group speaks against the recommendation in its last readings. This is also sometimes referred to as Unanimous Consensus.

	Consensus - a position where only a small minority disagrees, but most agree.[1]
Consolidated RIR IANA Stewardship Proposal (CRISP) Team	The Consolidated RIR IANA Stewardship Proposal Team (CRISP Team) was established by the Internet Number Community through the Regional Internet Registries to produce a proposal for IANA activities related to the allocation of blocks of Internet Number Resources, the IANA Number Registries, administration of the special-purpose "IN-ADDR.ARPA" and "IP6.ARPA" DNS zones, and other related registry management tasks. See also: https://www.nro.net/nro-and-internet-governance/iana-oversight/consolidated-rir-iana-stewardship-proposal-team-crisp-team.
CWG-Stewardship	The Cross Community Working Group to Develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions (CWG-Stewardship) whose main goal is to produce a consolidated transition proposal for the elements of the IANA Functions related to the Domain Name System. See also: https://community.icann.org/x/37fhAg
Designator	A "legal person" who is given the power in the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws to fill one or more seats on the Board of Directors. Generally, a designator also has the right to remove the directors it designated with or without cause. Designated directors cannot be removed by the Board or Members without the designator's consent. Designators may also be given the right through the Articles or Bylaws to consent to any changes in those governing documents. California corporate law is unclear whether a designator must be a legal person (an individual or entity that is recognized under law such as a corporation or an unincorporated association); however, unless a designator is a legal person, it will not be able to enforce any rights in court.
Directors	Natural persons who direct the activities and affairs of ICANN as a non-profit corporation and have fiduciary duties with respect to exercise of corporate power. Directors are distinguished from observers and liasons, who can attend Board meetings but cannot vote. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#VI.
Documentary	ICANN's Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP) is

[1] For those that are unfamiliar with ICANN usage, you may associate the definition of "Consensus" with other definitions and terms of art such as rough consensus or near consensus. It should be noted, however, that in the case of a GNSO PDP originated Working Group, all reports, especially Final Reports, must restrict themselves to the term "Consensus" as this may have legal implications.

Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP)	intended to ensure that information contained in documents concerning ICANN's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or control, is made available to the public unless there is a compelling reason for confidentiality. A principal element of ICANN's approach to transparency and information disclosure is the identification of a comprehensive set of materials that ICANN makes available on its website as a matter of course.
DNS — Domain Name System	The Domain Name System (DNS) helps users to find their way around the Internet. Every computer on the Internet has a unique address – just like a telephone number – which is a rather complicated string of numbers. It is called its "IP address" (IP stands for "Internet Protocol"). IP Addresses are hard to remember. The DNS makes using the Internet easier by allowing a familiar string of letters (the "domain name") to be used instead of the arcane IP address. So instead of typing 207.151.159.3, you can type www.internic.net. It is a "mnemonic" device that makes addresses easier to remember.
Five-Year Operating Plan	Five-Year Operating Plan is a means of planning and executing portfolios of ICANN work in alignment withthe strategic objectives and goals articulated in the Strategic Plan. This plan serves as a link between strategy and the one year operating plan and budget, setting out planned outcomes (key success factors), means of measuring progress (key performance indicators), operational risks, dependencies and resources needed to accomplish goals.
Fundamental Bylaw	A Fundamental Bylaw is a Bylaw provision that requires a higher standard of community approval and ICANN Board voting threshold as described in Section 3B before it can be amended or removed.
GAC — Governmental Advisory Committee	The GAC is an Advisory Committee comprising appointed representatives of national governments, multi-national governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and distinct economies. Its function is to advise the ICANN Board on matters of concern to governments. The GAC operates as a forum for the discussion of government interests and concerns, including consumer interests. As an Advisory Committee, the GAC has no legal authority to act for ICANN, but reports its findings and recommendations to the ICANN Board. See also: https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee
GNSO — Generic Names Supporting Organiza-tion	The GNSO is the successor to the responsibilities of the Domain Name Supporting Organization (DNSO) that relate to the generic top-level domains.The GNSO is the body of six constituencies, as follows: the Commercial and Business constituency, the gTLD Registry constituency, the ISP constituency, the non-commercial constituency, the registrar's constituency, and the IP constituency. See also: http://gnso.icann.org/en/.
gTLD — Generic Top Level Domain	Most TLDs with three or more characters are referred to as "generic" TLDs, or "gTLDs". They can be subdivided into two types, "sponsored" TLDs (sTLDs) and "unsponsored TLDs (uTLDs), as

	described in more detail below. In the 1980s, seven gTLDs (.com, .edu, .gov, .int, .mil, .net, and .org) were created. Domain names may be registered in three of these (.com, .net, and .org) without restriction; the other four have limited purposes. Over the next twelve years, various discussions occurred concerning additional gTLDs, leading to the selection in November 2000 of seven new TLDs for introduction. These were introduced in 2001 and 2002. Four of the new TLDs (.biz, .info, .name, and .pro) are unsponsored. The other three new TLDs (.aero, .coop, and .museum) are sponsored. Generally speaking, an unsponsored TLD operates under policies established by the global Internet community directly through the ICANN process, while a sponsored TLD is a specialized TLD that has a Sponsor representing the narrower community that is most affected by the TLD. The Sponsor thus carries out delegated policy-formulation responsibilities over many matters concerning the TLD. A Sponsor is an organization to which is delegated some defined ongoing policy-formulation authority regarding the manner in which a particular sponsored TLD is operated. The sponsored TLD has a Charter, which defines the purpose for which the sponsored TLD has been created and will be operated. The Sponsor is responsible for developing policies on the delegated topics so that the TLD is operated for the benefit of a defined group of stakeholders, known as the Sponsored TLD Community, that are most directly interested in the operation of the TLD. The Sponsor also is responsible for selecting the registry operator and to varying degrees for establishing the roles played by registrars and their relationship with the registry operator. The Sponsor must exercise its delegated authority according to fairness standards and in a manner that is representative of the Sponsored TLD Community.
IANA — Internet Assigned Numbers Authority	ICANN has performed the IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) functions on behalf of the global Internet community since 1998. The IANA functions include: the maintenance of the registry of technical Internet protocol parameters; the administration of certain responsibilities associated with Internet DNS root zone and the allocation of Internet numbering resources. See also: http://www.iana.org/.
IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG)	The IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) was formed to coordinate the development of a proposal among the communities affected by the IANA functions. The creation of the ICG was initiated and facilitated by ICANN, and the membership of the ICG has been defined by the Internet communities participating in it. The groups' sole deliverable is a proposal to the NTIA recommending a transition plan of NTIA's stewardship of IANA functions to the

	Internet community, consistent with the key principles outlined in the NTIA announcement on March 14, 2014. See also: https://www.icann.org/en/stewardship/.
IANAPLAN Working Group	The IETF established the IANAPLAN Working Group (IANAPLAN WG) to produce a proposal for the transition of IANA functions related to the maintaining of the codes and numbers contained in a variety of Internet protocols developed by the IETF. See also: http://www.ietf.org/iana-transition.html.
ICANN — The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers	The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is an internationally organized, non-profit corporation that has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. Originally, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities performed these services under U.S. Government contract. ICANN now performs the IANA function. As a private-public partnership, ICANN is dedicated to preserving the operational stability of the Internet; to promoting competition; to achieving broad representation of global Internet communities; and to developing policy appropriate to its Mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes. See also: https://www.icann.org/.
IETF — Internet Engineering Task Force	The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is a large open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet. It is open to any interested individual. The IETF develops Internet Standards and in particular the standards related to the Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP).
Independent Review Process (IRP) Panel (IRP Panel)	Independent Review Process Panel (IRP Panel) is an independent panel charged with reviewing contested actions of the ICANN Board to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and with declaring whether the Board has acted consistently with the provisions of those Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (each such process an Independent Review Process (IRP). See also: https://www.ietf.org/.
Internet Protocol (IP)	The communications protocol underlying the Internet, IP allows networks of devices to communicate over a variety of physical links. Each device or service on the Internet has at least one IP address that uniquely identifies it from other devices or services on the Internet. An IP address is the numerical address and DNS naming uses user-friendly names to locate the devices and services.
Member	A "legal person" who under the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws of a nonprofit corporation has the right to vote to elect one or more directors and also has additional rights and protections of a member under California corporate law, including the collective rights

	to amend the Bylaws, approve any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, and approve the disposition of substantially all the corporation's assets or any merger or dissolution; the class right to remove directors they elected; and the individual right to inspect certain corporate records. In addition, the law permits the Articles and Bylaws to specify additional rights that may or must be exercised by the members. A public benefit corporation such as ICANN may have a single member. (See definition of Sole Member in this Glossary.) Members must be legal persons and have standing to enforce their rights.
Multistakeholder Approach	The Multistakeholder Approach is an organizational framework or structure for governance and policymaking which aims to bring together all stakeholders to collaborate and participate in the dialogue, decision-making and implementation of solutions to identified problems or goals. The Multistakeholder Approach at ICANN is comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders with an interest in Internet numbering, naming and protocols from around the world who have organized into various Supporting Organizations, Constituencies and Advisory Committees, and agree to operate in an open, bottom-up, consensus-driven, and transparent manner.
NETmundial Principles	The NETmundial meeting, which took place in Sao Paolo, Brazil on 23-24 April 2014, was the first multistakeholder-designed event to focus on the future of Internet governance. NETmundial identified a set of common principles and important values that contribute to an inclusive, multistakeholder, effective, legitimate, and evolving Internet governance framework, and recognized that the Internet is a global resource which should be managed in the public interest. See also: http://netmundial.br/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NETmundial-Multistakeholder-Document.pdf.
Nominating Committee (NomCom)	The Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee tasked with selecting eight members of the ICANN Board of Directors, five members of the At-Large Advisory Committee, three members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), and three members of the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/nomcom-2013-12-13-en.
NTIA	The U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is the Executive Branch agency that is principally responsible for advising the President of the United States on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA maintains a contract with ICANN for the technical coordination of the Internet's domain name and addressing system. In _____, NTIA announced its intent to transition out of its contractual role, with respect to the IANA Functions, and requested proposals from the ICANN multistakeholder community for that transition. See also: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/.

Ombudsman	The ICANN Ombudsman investigates and addresses complaints brought by the ICANN community. The Ombudsman is independent, impartial, and neutral, a reviewer of facts and an investigator of complaints about unfairness. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/accountability/ombudsman-en.
PDP — Policy Development Process	A set of formal steps, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws, to guide the initiation, internal and external review, timing and approval of policies needed to coordinate the global Internet's system of unique identifiers.
Private Sector	Private sector includes businesses, non-profit bodies, individual persons and academic institutions.
Reconsideration Process	Reconsideration Process is a mechanism to challenge ICANN staff action taken against ICANN policies, or ICANN Board actions taken without consideration of material information or based upon false or inaccurate information.
Registrar	Domain names ending with .aero, .biz, .com, .coop, .info, .museum, .name, .net, .org, and .pro can be registered through many different companies (known as "registrars") that compete with one another. A listing of these companies that have been accredited by ICANN appears in the Accredited Registrar Directory.
Registry	The "Registry" is the authoritative, master database of all domain names registered in each Top Level Domain. The registry operator keeps the master database and also generates the "zone file" which allows computers to route Internet traffic to and from top-level domains anywhere in the world. Internet users don't interact directly with the registry operator; users can register names in TLDs including .biz, .com, .info, .net, .name, .org by using an ICANN-Accredited Registrar.
Review Mechanisms	A review mechanism is a process to assess how a decision or policy is being put in place. ICANN has a series of review mechanisms mandated in its Bylaws to ensure its accountability and transparency.
RIR — Regional Internet Registry	There are currently five RIRs: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC and RIPE NCC. These non-profit organizations are responsible for distributing and managing IP addresses on a regional level to Internet service providers and local registries.
Root Servers	The root servers contain the IP addresses of all the TLD registries – both the global registries such as .com, .org, etc. and the 244 country-specific registries such as .fr (France), .cn (China), etc. This is critical information. If the information is not 100% correct or if it is ambiguous, it might not be possible to locate a key registry on the Internet. In DNS parlance, the information must be unique and authentic.
Root Server System Advisory	The Root Server System Advisory Committee ("RSSAC") advise the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root

Committee (RSSAC)	Server System. See also: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-4c-2012-02-25-en.
Root Zone	The root zone is the central directory for the DNS, which is a key component in translating readable host names into numeric IP addresses. See Also: www.iana.org/domains/root/files.
SO — Supporting Organizations	The SOs are the three specialized policy developments bodies that provide the ICANN Board of Directors with policy recommendations on issues relating to domain names (GNSO and CCNSO) and IP addresses (ASO).
SSAC — Security and Stability Advisory Committee	The SSAC is the President's standing committee on the security and stability of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems. Their charter includes a focus on risk analysis and auditing. SSAC consists of approximately 20 technical experts from industry and academia as well as operators of Internet root servers, registrars, and TLD registries. See also: https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac.
Stakeholders	A stakeholder isany individual or group affected by the actions of ICANN. Stakeholders at ICANN include Country Code top level domain name registries; generic top-level domain registries and registrars; regional internet registries who manage the regional distribution of Internet number resources including IP address and Autonomous System Numbers; the thirteen root name server operators; commercial interests - including those representing large and small businesses, intellectual property interests and providers of Internet and other communications services; non-commercial interests – including non-commercial users and not-for-profit organizations; governmental interests – including national governments, multi-national governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and distinct economies; technical experts from industry and academia; and Internet users worldwide.
Stress Test	Stress Testing is a simulation exercise where a set of plausible, but not necessarily probable, hypothetical scenarios are used to gauge how certain events will affect a system, product, company or industry. Stress tests have been used to analyze how certain ICANN and DNS ecosystem risks or contingencies can be mitigated by applying the accountability mechanisms available to the CCWG-Accountability.
TLD — Top-level Domain	TLDs are the names at the top of the DNS naming hierarchy. They appear in domain names as the string of letters following the last (rightmost) ".", such as "net" in "www.example.net". The administrator for a TLD controls what second-level names are recognized in that TLD. The administrators of the "root domain" or "root zone" control what TLDs are recognized by the DNS. Commonly used TLDs include .com, .net, .edu, .jp, .de, etc.
Work Streams (WS)	CCWG – Accountability Work Stream 1 has focused on mechanisms to enhance ICANN accountability that must be in place or committed to within the time frame of the IANA Stewardship Transition.Work Stream 2 is focused on addressing accountability topics for which a

timeline for developing solutions and full implementation may extend beyond the IANA Stewardship Transition.