ICANN **80** | **POLICY FORUM**

Welcome to Kigali and **ICANN80**

Greetings from the BC Chair and welcome to ICANN80!

It's a pleasure to join you in Rwanda's capital city of Kigali for ICANN's 2024 Policy Forum. We follow on our successes during ICANN's proceedings in San Juan, Puerto Rico earlier this year, and are looking forward to collaborations with ICANN Org, industry colleagues and friends to bring to the community the perspectives of business users of the internet, and their customers, whom the BC represents.

As usual, the issues before the BC and the wider community are many,

varied and often urgent. The BC very much looks forward to weighing in on governance matters and, further, eagerly anticipates continuing our dialogue with colleagues from other stakeholder groups and with ICANN leadership at both the executive and board levels.

Whether you're new to the BC or are a veteran of our work, your knowledge, advocacy and opinions are important, and you are very much encouraged to join discussions, ask questions, and make your input known. As always is the case, there is much work to be

done, and the BC needs thoughtful contributions from you and others who carry forward the needs of online businesses.

ICANN80 is ICANN's Policy Forum, an abbreviated four-day affair that, while heavy on policy work, will also include constituency meetings, including that of the BC.

The BC will host two important gatherings in Kigali – first, our outreach session for local African businesses on Tuesday, 11 June at 9:00 am at Norrsken House, and our constituency meeting on Tuesday, 11 June at 3:30 pm.

ICANN Org has done its usual outstanding job of organizing a meeting schedule and venue that is sure to be as welcoming as possible, and the BC will seize upon the opportunity to collaborate with our community colleagues toward ICANN's mission of providing a stable, secure and resilient domain name system. When you get a moment, take the opportunity to say thanks to ICANN staff for the significant effort that goes into planning an inclusive set of proceedings.

There is no shortage of challenges before ICANN, and this meeting will be dense with discussions and interactions. Further, on behalf of the BC, I hope you'll raise your perspectives and thoughts as we debate the important issues of the day.

The BC very much needs your support and input. Our group represents the interests of businesses ranging from the small to multinational, and our responsibilities to our constituency have only grown over time. As challenges arise in ICANN policy work, we rely on the input of our membership in order to be most impactful.

As we embark on our work, don't hesitate to join and contribute. You'll find that your BC colleagues are open and welcoming to your input, and will help you advance your interests within the ICANN sphere.

Again, on behalf of your colleagues in the BC, welcome to ICANN80. All best for a productive time in Kigali.

**Mason Cole,
BC Chair**

ICANN80 At-a-Glance

Throughout the week of ICANN80, numerous sessions will cover issues of importance to BC members. Make sure to fully review the conference agenda for the times and topics that interest you. Here is a summary of the sessions specific to BC and CSG.

Monday, June 10 • 13:45 - 15:00
GNSO: CSG Membership Work Session – Includes RDRS experience discussion

Monday, June 10 • 15:30 - 17:00
Navigating the Multistakeholder Approach: The ICANN Community's Role in Global Internet Governance.

Tuesday, June 11 • 15:30 - 17:00
GNSO: BC Membership Work Session - This meeting is open to the public.

Wednesday, June 12 • 10:45 - 12:15
GNSO: NCPH Work Session - A collaborative session of the non-contracted party house.

Thursday, June 13 • 10:45 - 12:15
GNSO: CPH DNS Abuse Community Working Session - the CPH DNS Abuse WG will share it's work and progress on the outreach efforts with various community groups. It will include an open Q&A for input from the community.

**Monday through Thursday,
June 10-13 • 17:00 - 18:00**
Community Cocktails – End each working day networking with the ICANN community. Tuesday will feature recognition of Working Group Chairs of current working group chartered to develop policy and advice.

Making a Difference Together: Join Our Mission!

Looking to connect with like-minded professionals and contribute to the Business Side of the Internet?

The Business Constituency (BC) is a dynamic organization and the voice of commercial Internet users within ICANN, dedicated to ensuring a stable, secure, and commercially viable internet environment. We represent a wide range of businesses that rely on the Internet, including multinational corporations, medium-sized businesses and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The BC often organize Business Outreaches to stakeholders across different geographies to bridge the digital divide between the global north and south. During ICANN 80 on June 11, 2024, The ICANN—BC will be converging ICT stakeholders in Kigali for another outreach.

Hear about priorities of the BC, about new opportunities in the domain space and the next round of gTLDs, and hear first hand from African business leaders who have benefited from involvement with ICANN and the BC, details of which are in the e-flyer above.

BC membership benefits include access to:

• The development of best practices for domain name registration and management.

• Have a direct say in shaping ICANN policies that affect your online operations.

• Gain access to exclusive resources and information about ICANN activities.

• Network with other businesses and stakeholders involved in the Internet governance ecosystem.

Empowering African Businesses Through BC Membership:
A Transformative Journey

By Segunfunmi Olajide
Software Consultant | Internet Governance & Policy Expert

As a proud member of the Business Constituency (BC) and the CEO/CTO of Heritech Consulting in Nigeria, I've experienced firsthand the transformative power of engaging with the ICANN community. With ICANN hosting its regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, it's an opportune moment to highlight how BC membership has propelled my local business forward and why African businesses, both small and large, should seize the opportunity to join the BC.

Through active participation in ICANN meetings, working groups, and policy discussions, Heritech Consulting has gained invaluable insights into global internet policies, regulations, and emerging trends. This knowledge has empowered us to navigate regulatory challenges more effectively and advocate for policies that support our business interests.

The collaborative platform provided by the BC has facilitated meaningful connections with industry leaders, policymakers, and fellow entrepreneurs from around the world. These connections have opened doors to new partnerships, business opportunities, and cross-border collaborations, strengthening Heritech Consulting's position in the global marketplace.

Furthermore, BC membership has empowered me to advocate for the interests of African businesses on a global stage. By voicing concerns, contributing to policy discussions,

> **BC Membership has empowered me** to advocate for African businesses on global stage

and shaping the future of internet governance, we can better serve the needs of businesses in Africa.

I encourage African businesses that rely on the internet for their operations to consider joining the BC and actively engaging with the ICANN community. Whether you're a startup looking to expand your reach or an established enterprise seeking to influence internet policies, the BC provides a platform for businesses to amplify their voices, shape global internet governance agendas, and thrive in the digital age.

By becoming part of the BC community, African businesses can gain access to invaluable resources, expertise, and networking opportunities that can drive growth, innovation, and resilience in today's digital economy. By joining the BC, African businesses can unlock their potential on the global stage.

Together, let's empower businesses, spur innovation, and create a more inclusive digital future for all Africans harnessing the power of collective action to empower businesses and shape the future of the internet for generations to come.

Get Involved in Shaping ICANN's Next Strategic Plan

The ICANN Board of Directors is in the process of developing the ICANN Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2026–2030, and input from the community is a key part of this important undertaking. The Board invites the community to participate in the ICANN80 session at the Policy Forum:

Board-Led Community Engagement on the Draft FY26–30 ICANN Strategic Plan

Thursday, 13 June 2024, 13:30–15:00 UTC

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Building a Secure Online Presence:
Your Domain and Beyond!

By Adetola Sogbesan, PhD, Management & IT Consultant | Internet Governance and Policy

A robust online presence is essential for any business in today's digital world. But with great online visibility comes great responsibility, especially regarding cybersecurity. By joining the BC and interacting with other stakeholders, businesses can understand the importance of both – building a successful online presence and protecting it from cyber threats.

Your Domain: The Cornerstone of Your Business Online Identity
Your business domain name is your unique address on the Internet. It's the first impression your business makes online, and it should be memorable, relevant to your business, and easy to type. Several BC members offer domain registration and management services to help you secure the perfect domain name for your business.

Building a Secure Online Fortress
Once you have your domain, the next step is to secure it. Here are some key aspects to focus on to ensure your online safety:
- **Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC):** This technology helps prevent domain name hijacking and ensures users are directed to your legitimate website.
- **Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Certificates:** These encrypt communication between your website and visitors, protecting sensitive information like credit card details.
- **Regular Backups:** Regular backups ensure you can quickly restore your website and data even in a cyberattack.

- **Cybersecurity Awareness Training:** Educating your team about common online threats and best security practices is crucial for a robust defense.

Why join the BC?
Your company will significantly influence ICANN's policies, directly impacting how you conduct business online. By actively participating in the policy-making process, you can voice your concerns, provide feedback, and propose changes that align with your business objectives and priorities. This level of engagement allows you to shape the regulatory framework that governs the domain name system and other critical aspects of the internet, ensuring that your interests are represented and considered in decision-making processes.

Building relationships with key players in the Internet governance ecosystem can also lead to new business opportunities and collaborations. Through networking, individuals can identify potential areas for cooperation, such as joint projects, research initiatives, or advocacy efforts. By connecting with a diverse range of stakeholders, businesses can expand their reach and influence within the ecosystem, ultimately contributing to the growth and development of the industry as a whole.

Take the Next Step Towards a Secure Online Presence
Join the BC today!

Stay Updated!
Subscribe to our newsletter for tips and insights on online security and building a successful online presence.

ICANN Multistakeholder Organizational Chart

ICANN Board of Directors

From Left to Right:

Bottom row:

Edmon Chung, Sally Costerton, Tripti Sinha, Danko Jevtovic, Sarah Deutsch, León Sánchez;

2nd row:

Maarten Botterman, Nico Caballero, Christian Kaufmann, Katrina Sataki, Patricio Poblete, Catherine Adeya, Becky Burr;

3rd row:

James Galvin, Wes Hardaker, Harald Alvestrand, Sajid Rahman, Chris Buckridge; Chris Chapman.

For more information on the ICANN Board **visit here**.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Alejandra Reynoso (Chair)
Adebiyi Oladipo (V. Chair)
Jordan Carter (V. Chair)

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Oscar Robles (Chair)
John Curran (V. Chair)

Empowered Community Administration

Jonathan Zuck (ALAC)
German Valdez (ASO)
Alejandra Reynoso (ccNSO)
Nicolas Caballero (GAC)
Tomslin Samme-Nlar (GNSO)

Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

Nicolas Caballero (Chair)
Vice Chairs: Zeina Bou Harb, Christine Arinda, Thiago Dal-Toe, Nigel Hickson, Wang Lang

Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Ram Mohan (Chair)
Tara Whalen (V. Chair)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Jeff Osborn (Chair)
Ken Renard (V. Chair)

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Jonathan Zuck (Chair)
Claire Craig (V. Chair)
Justine Chew (V. Chair)

Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC)

Tim April (Chair)

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

Christian Toche (ETSI)
Howard Benn (ETSI)
Reinhard Scholl (ITU-T)
Jie Zhang (ITU-T)
Wendy Seltzer (W3C)
Shadi Abou-Zahara (W3C)
Warren Kumari (IAB)
Tim Wicinski (IAB)

Nominating Committee 2024

Amir Qayyum (Chair)
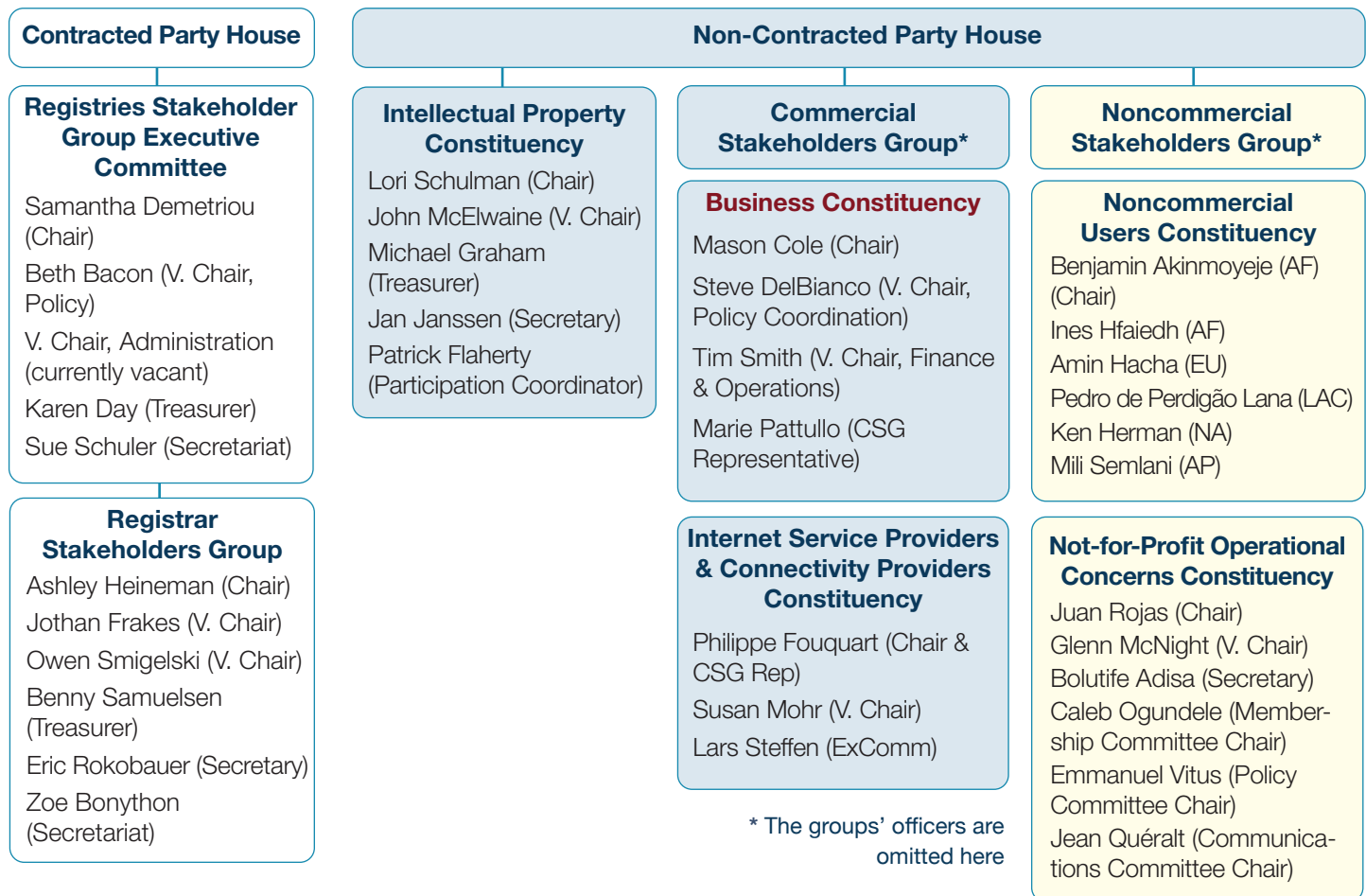Paul Diaz (Chair-Elect)
Vanda Scartezini (Associate Chair)

Ombuds

Krista Papac,
Interim Ombuds

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Frederico Neves (Chair)

GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies & Council

GNSO Council Leadership

Nacho Amadoz
Vice-Chair, CPH – EU (AGM 2024)

Gregory DiBiase
Chair – NA (AGM 2024)

Tomslin Samme-Nlar
Vice-Chair, NCPH – AAPAC (AGM 2024)

Contracted Party House Councilors

Registries Stakeholder Group
Kurt Pritz (NA)
Jennifer Chung (AAPAC)
Nacho Amadoz (EU)

Registrar Stakeholder Group
Antonia Chu (AAPAC)
Greg DiBiase (NA)
Prudence Malinki (EU)

Nominating Committee Appointees (NCAs)
Desiree Miloshevic (EU)
Anne Aikman Scalese (NA)
Paul McGrady (NA)

Liaison and Observers
Everton T. Rodrigues ccNSO (LAC)
Justine Chew ALAC (AAPAC)
Jeff Neuman GAC (NA)

Non-Contracted Party House Councilors

Commercial Stakeholder Group
Commercial and Business Users
Lawrence Olawale Roberts (AF)
Mark Datysgeld (LAC
Intellectual Property
Damon Ashcraft (NA)
Susan Payne (EU)
Internet Service and Connection Providers
Osvaldo Novoa (LAC)
Thomas Rickert (EU)

Noncommercial Stakeholder Group
Wisdom Donkor (AF)
Stephanie Perrin (NA)
Manju Chen (AAPAC)
Bruna Martins dos Santos (LAC)
Taiwo Peter Akinremi (AF)
Tomslin Samme-Nlar (AAPAC)

Contracted Party House

Registries Stakeholder Group Executive Committee
Samantha Demetriou (Chair)
Beth Bacon (V. Chair, Policy)
V. Chair, Administration (currently vacant)
Karen Day (Treasurer)
Sue Schuler (Secretariat)

Registrar Stakeholders Group
Ashley Heineman (Chair)
Jothan Frakes (V. Chair)
Owen Smigelski (V. Chair)
Benny Samuelsen (Treasurer)
Eric Rokobauer (Secretary)
Zoe Bonython (Secretariat)

Non-Contracted Party House

Intellectual Property Constituency
Lori Schulman (Chair)
John McElwaine (V. Chair)
Michael Graham (Treasurer)
Jan Janssen (Secretary)
Patrick Flaherty (Participation Coordinator)

Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Business Constituency
Mason Cole (Chair)
Steve DelBianco (V. Chair, Policy Coordination)
Tim Smith (V. Chair, Finance & Operations)
Marie Pattullo (CSG Representative)

Internet Service Providers & Connectivity Providers Constituency
Philippe Fouquart (Chair & CSG Rep)
Susan Mohr (V. Chair)
Lars Steffen (ExComm)

Noncommercial Stakeholders Group*

Noncommercial Users Constituency
Benjamin Akinmoyeje (AF) (Chair)
Ines Hfaiedh (AF)
Amin Hacha (EU)
Pedro de Perdigão Lana (LAC)
Ken Herman (NA)
Mili Semlani (AP)

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency
Juan Rojas (Chair)
Glenn McNight (V. Chair)
Bolutife Adisa (Secretary)
Caleb Ogundele (Membership Committee Chair)
Emmanuel Vitus (Policy Committee Chair)
Jean Quéralt (Communications Committee Chair)

* The groups' officers are omitted here

The Benefits of BC Membership

The Business Constituency (BC) is the voice of commercial Internet users within ICANN – the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Business users rely on a stable and secure Internet and e-commerce experience, one that serves their users and customers on a global basis. Through your participation in ICANN, and in the Business Constituency, your company will make a difference on behalf of business.

BC members contribute as:

- participants on the BC e-mail list to learn about and debate issues
- participants on telephone conferences to reach consensus on key issues
- participants at physical meetings coincident with ICANN global meetings
- issue managers on specific topics
- bridges for information flow between other GNSO constituencies

The mission of the BC

The Constituency fully represents the views of the Internet business user community.

ICANN policy positions are consistent with the development of business via an Internet that is stable, secure and reliable while promoting consumer confidence.

ICANN policy positions derive from broad stakeholder participation in a common forum for suppliers and users.

BC Executive Committee

Chair
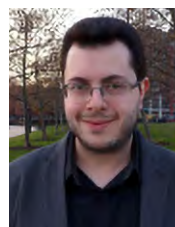Mason Cole

Vice Chair, Policy Coordination
Steve DelBianco

Vice Chair, Finance & Operations
Tim Smith

CSG Representative
Marie Pattullo

GNSO Councilor
Lawrence Olawale-Roberts

GNSO Councilor
Mark Datysgeld

2024 Nominating Committee Members

Large Business Seat	**Small Business Seat**
Mia Brickhouse	Vivek Goyal

BC Finance Sub Committee:
Tim Smith (Chair), Jimson Olufuye, Chris Chaplow, Jay Sudowski, Yusuph Kileo, Lawrence Olawale-Roberts

BC Credentials Committee:
Zak Muscovitch (Chair), Vivek Goyal, Roger Baah, John Berard, Kate Buckley

BC Communications Committee:
Vivek Goyal (Chair), Yusuph Kileo, Joseph Ambali

BC Onboarding Committee:
Roger Baah, Mark Datysgeld, Segun Omolosho, Segunfunmi Olajide

Join the conversation on X:
https://twitter.com/icannbc

BC Secretariats

Brenda Brewer   Andrea Glandon

If you would like to become a member of the BC, please contact the BC Secretariat at:

info@icannbc.org

or simply visit our website and register online:

www.icannbc.org