82 | COMMUNITY FORUM

Welcome to Seattle and **ICANN82**

Greetings from the BC Chair and **welcome to ICANN82!**

It's a pleasure to join you in the Pacific Northwest for ICANN's 2025 Community Forum. As we open the 2025 meeting year, the BC seeks to build on its successes over the course of the previous year and, as always, looks forward to joining friends and colleagues in the community to bring business user perspectives to ICANN proceedings.

The issues before the BC and the wider community are many, varied and often

urgent. The BC very much expects to weigh in on governance matters and, further, eagerly anticipates continuing our dialogue with collaborators 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.

ICANN82 is one of the two longer ICANN meetings of the year, with substantial opportunities for dialogue. We hope you'll make time to join the BC's constituency meeting, as well as that of the Commercial Stakeholder Group, where BC matters are heard alongside those of our sister constituencies.

ICANN Org has done its usual

BUSINESS CONSTITUENCY

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 partner 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 real 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 ICANN82. All best for a productive time in Seattle.

Sincerely,

Mason Cole
BC Chair

ICANN82 At-a-Glance

Throughout the week of ICANN82, numerous sessions will cover issues of importance to BC members. Make sure to fully review the conference schedule for the times and topics that interest you. Here is a summary of the sessions specific to BC and CSG. Times listed are local Seattle time.

Saturday, 8 March | 13:15-14:30
GNSO NCPH Work Session – Room: 502

Saturday, 8 March | 15:00-16:00
Get to Know ICANN Community: CSG/BC and ccNSO – Room: Columbia A

Saturday, 8 March | 16:30-17:30
GNSO: CSG Membership Work Session – Room: Elwha B

Sunday, 9 March | 16:30-17:30
Join Session: CPH and CSG Work Session – Room: Elwha B

Monday, 10 March | 9:00-10:00
Welcome Ceremony – Room: Regency B (Primary Ballroom)

Monday, 10 March | 13:15-14:30 Q&A with ICANN org Executive Team – Room: Regency B (Primary Ballroom)

Tuesday, 11 March | 10:30–12:00
GNSO: BC Membership Work Session – Open to public – Room: 502

Tuesday, 11 March | 16:30–17:30
Joint Session: ICANN Board and CSG - CSG Work Session – Room: Elwha B

Wednesday, 12 March | 13:15-15:15
GNSO Council Meeting - Room: Room: Room: Elwha B

Thursday, 13 March | 10:30-12:00
ICANN Public Forum - Room: Regency B (Primary Ballroom)

Shaping the Digital Future of African Businesses:
The AfIGF at Africa's Political Capital

By Asteway Negash | CEO, Enable Et Consulting PLC.

Hosted by the Economic Commission for Africa and Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia, the 13th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) from the 20th to the 22nd of November, 2024. The forum which was held under the theme "Building our Multi-Stakeholder Digital Future for Africa", was officially launched on the 21st of November by the opening remarks from his excellency Dr. Belete Molla – Minister of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia. Dr. Belete Molla noted in his opening remarks that the forum presents a valuable opportunity for learning from one another and forging partnership to accelerate Africa's digital progress.

Being the seat of the African Union Headquarters and many UN offices, Addis Ababa is referred by many as the political center of Africa. This AfIGF event saw the participation of many delegates from Africa, making Addis Ababa an international stage for the IGF once again after the debut of the annual IGF back in December 2022. Cybersecurity, data governance, digital rights, the New gTLD, Universal Acceptance and African Women in AI were among the topics discussed through the sessions held on this AfIGF.

Business Constituency (BC) Participation

Businesses ranging from startups to large technology firms were among the participants. A number of sessions addressed to the business community as agents of change within the Internet governance ecosystem of Africa. I was honored to represent the BC on the forum, where I introduced the BC's role within ICANN and the business community and encouraged business leaders to join the BC to become key players in the digital and domain name agenda of their regions. The importance of participating in ICANN and the BC was discussed in terms of how African businesses can benefit from the growing domain name marketplace, both as business users and domain name providers. The expansion of new gTLDs, Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names were mentioned as few potential areas for participation from which African businesses can take immense advantage.

Empowering African Businesses through UA Readiness

The Universal Acceptance session hosted by the UASG team of ICANN was one session that saw active participation from business leaders. It was reported that businesses can drive the UA agenda forward by bridging the gap between policy frameworks and real-world application. As discussed on the session, migrating software and applications towards UA readiness creates an enormous opportunity for software businesses. It was assessed that UA readiness by itself is a $9.8+ billion opportunity for businesses to take advantage, and African businesses should tap into this huge market while helping maintain the safety and stability of the Internet.

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The New gTLD Applicant Support Program

Another session that saw active participation from business leaders was the new gTLD Applicant Support Program (ASP) hosted by the ICANN African stakeholder engagement team. According to the presentation of the stakeholder engagement team, there is immense opportunity for small and large businesses to partner with a government agency to apply for the ASP. As discussed on this session, applicants can enjoy not only financial assistance such as reduced application and evaluation fees, but also access to pro bono legal and consultancy services.

Meeting the demands of Multilingual Internet

The Ethiopic/Ge'ez script is used as a writing system for more than 20 languages spoken in Ethiopia and the neighboring country, Eritrea. It is believed to be used by more than 65 million people worldwide. Due to the support from ICANN through the IDN Program, the Ethiopic script has been integrated in to the Root Zone

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Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) since 2016. So far, efforts to register an IDN ccTLD in the Ethiopic script have not yield any result. Likewise, there currently are no IDN gTLD domain names in the Ethiopic IDNs at the top and the second level. This AfIGF saw a discussion on policy and implementation milestones that would allow the Ethiopic script IDNs to be registered and used by the script user community. While this has been on the top of the agendas of the ICANN African Stakeholder Engagement team, it was put forward that the issue ultimately requires a concerted effort between ICANN, national policy makers and the script user community.

FOLLOW ICANN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

ICANN values a variety of perspectives and your voice is important. Connect and start a conversation with us across our social media platforms in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Join the conversation today!

𝕏 English: **@icann**

Arabic: **@icann_ar**

French: **@icann_fr**

Portuguese: **@icann_pt**

Russian: **@icann_ru**

Spanish: **@icann_es**

President: **@icann_president**

For Techies: **@ICANNTech**

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youtube.com/ICANNnews

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soundcloud.com/icann

slideshare.net/ icannpresentations

Unlocking the Power of the Internet:
Why North American Businesses Need ICANN
By Adetola Sogbesan, PhD | Vice Chair Finance & Ops, ICANN BC

As a business leader in North America, you recognise the importance of the Internet in fostering growth, innovation, and success.

However, have you ever taken a moment to consider who governs the Internet and how it impacts your business? Enter ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. ICANN is a non-profit organisation responsible for coordinating the global domain name system (DNS) and ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet.

For a business, maintaining a strong online presence is essential for success. However, with increasing cyber threats, data breaches, and online scams, it is now more vital than ever to have a say in internet governance. This is where the ICANN Business Constituency plays a crucial role. By joining the Business Constituency, your company gains a voice in influencing internet policies and governance. You will connect with a global network of businesses collaborating to ensure a safe, secure, and stable internet.

By joining the ICANN Business Constituency, your company will benefit from:

- A stronger voice in Internet governance

- Access to exclusive networking opportunities with global business leaders

- Insights into emerging internet trends and technologies

- Opportunities to shape Internet policies and standards

Seize this opportunity to harness the internet's potential for your business. Join the ICANN Business Constituency now and contribute to a global initiative that is shaping the future of the Internet.

BUSINESS CONSTITUENCY

To learn more about the ICANN Business Constituency and how to join, visit

https://www.icannbc.org/

ICANN Multistakeholder Organizational Chart

ICANN Board of Directors

From left to right: León Sánchez, Alan Barrett, Patricio Poblete, Amitabh Singhal, Catherine Adeya. James Galvin, Chris Chapman, Tripti Sinha, Kurtis Lindqvist, Becky Burr, Nico Caballero, Maarten Botterman, Christian Kaufmann, Sajid Rahman, Miriam Sapiro, Wes Hardaker, Sarah Deutsch, Chris Buckridge, David Lawrence. **Learn more about ICANN Board of Directors here.**

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

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

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Hans Petter Holen (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 2025

Amir Qayyum (Chair)
Thomas Barrett (Chair-Elect)
Vanda Scartezini (Associate Chair)
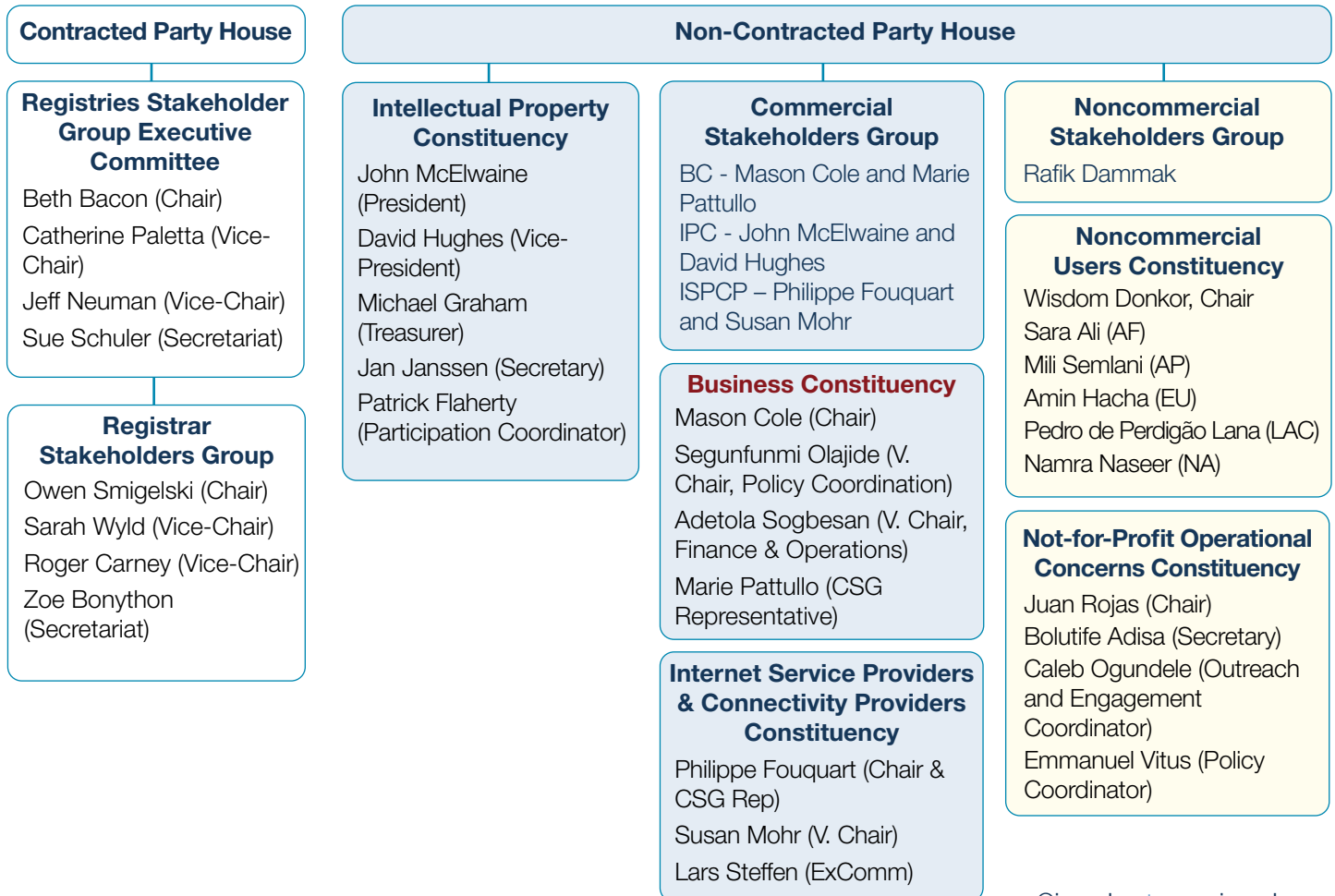
Ombuds

Elizabeth Field

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Frederico Neves (Chair)

BUSINESS CONSTITUENCY

GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies & Council

GNSO Council Leadership

Nacho Amadoz Vice-Chair, CPH – EU (AGM 2025)	Gregory DiBiase Chair – NA (AGM 2025)	Tomslin Samme-Nlar Vice-Chair, NCPH – AAPAC (AGM 2025)

Contracted Party House Councilors

Registries Stakeholder Group
Samantha Demetrious (NA)
Jennifer Chung (AAPAC)
Nacho Amadoz (EU)

Registrar Stakeholder Group
Hong-Fu Meng (AAPAC)
Greg DiBiase (NA)
Prudence Malinki (EU)

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

Liaison and Observers
Antonia Chu ccNSO (AAPAC)
Sebastien Ducos GAC (EU)
Justine Chew ALAC (AAPAC)

Non-Contracted Party House Councilors

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

Noncommercial Stakeholder Group
Julf Helsingius (EU)
Farzaneh Badiei (NA)
Manju Chen (AAPAC)
Bruna Martins dos Santos (LAC)
Taiwo Peter Akinremi (AF)
Tomslin Samme-Nlar (AAPAC)

* The groups' officers are omitted here

Contracted Party House

Registries Stakeholder Group Executive Committee
Beth Bacon (Chair)
Catherine Paletta (Vice-Chair)
Jeff Neuman (Vice-Chair)
Sue Schuler (Secretariat)

Registrar Stakeholders Group
Owen Smigelski (Chair)
Sarah Wyld (Vice-Chair)
Roger Carney (Vice-Chair)
Zoe Bonython (Secretariat)

Non-Contracted Party House

Intellectual Property Constituency
John McElwaine (President)
David Hughes (Vice-President)
Michael Graham (Treasurer)
Jan Janssen (Secretary)
Patrick Flaherty (Participation Coordinator)

Commercial Stakeholders Group
BC - Mason Cole and Marie Pattullo
IPC - John McElwaine and David Hughes
ISPCP – Philippe Fouquart and Susan Mohr

Business Constituency
Mason Cole (Chair)
Segunfunmi Olajide (V. Chair, Policy Coordination)
Adetola Sogbesan (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
Rafik Dammak

Noncommercial Users Constituency
Wisdom Donkor, Chair
Sara Ali (AF)
Mili Semlani (AP)
Amin Hacha (EU)
Pedro de Perdigão Lana (LAC)
Namra Naseer (NA)

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency
Juan Rojas (Chair)
Bolutife Adisa (Secretary)
Caleb Ogundele (Outreach and Engagement Coordinator)
Emmanuel Vitus (Policy Coordinator)

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
Segunfunmi Olajide

Vice Chair, Finance & Operations
Adetola Sogbesan

CSG Representative
Marie Pattullo

GNSO Councilor
Lawrence Olawale-Roberts

GNSO Councilor
Vivek Goyal

2025 Nominating Committee Members

Large Business Seat
Ching Chiao

Small Business Seat
Arinola Akinyemi

BC Finance Sub Committee:
Dr Tola Sogbesan (Chair), Tim Smith, Jimson Olufuye, Chris Chaplow, Arinola Akinyemi, Segunfunmi Olajide

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