ICANN 81 | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Welcome to Istanbul and **ICANN81**

Greetings from the BC Chair and welcome to ICANN81!

It is a pleasure to join you in the historic city of Istanbul for ICANN's 2024 Annual General Meeting. With this picturesque city as our host, the BC looks to build on its successes over the course of the year and on our previous in-person collaborations in San Juan and Kigali. We look forward to working 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 expects to weigh 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.

ICANN81 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

BUSINESS CONSTITUENCY

constituencies.

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 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.
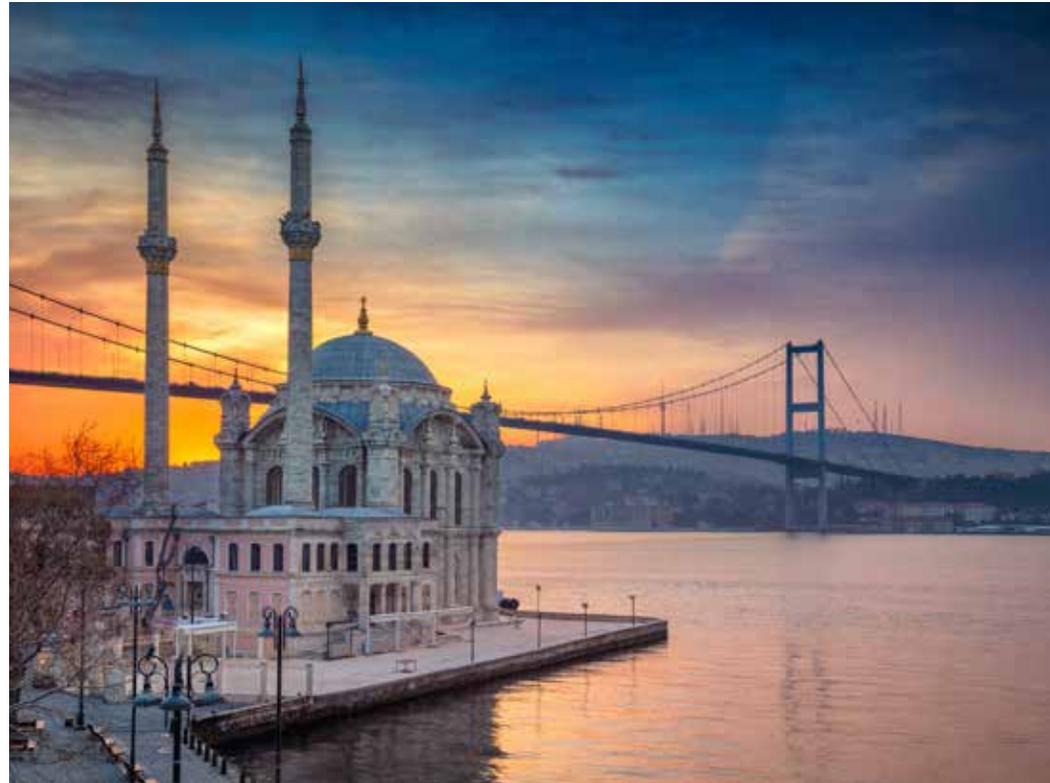
Again, on behalf of your colleagues in the BC, welcome to ICANN81. All best for a productive time in Istanbul.

Sincerely,

Mason Cole
BC Chair

ICANN81 At-a-Glance

Throughout the week of ICANN81, 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. Times listed are local Istanbul time.

Sunday, November 10 • 13:15–14:30
GNSO: CSG Membership Work Session – Room: Emirgan 2

Sunday, November 10 • 16:30–17:30
Joint Session: GNSO CPH & CSG Work Session – Room: Emirgan 2

Monday, November 11 • 09:00–10:15
Welcome Ceremony – Room: Uskudar (Primary Ballroom)

Monday, November 11 • 13:30–14:30
Joint Session: ICANN Board and CSG - Room: Uskudar (Primary Ballroom)

Tuesday, November 12 • 10:30–12:00
GNSO: BC Membership Work Session – Open to public – Room: Hamidiye

Tuesday, November 12 • 13:15–14:30
GNSO: NCPH Work Session - Room: Hamidiye

Wednesday, November 13 • 10:30– 12:00 Shifting Paradigms: Multistakeholderism, Geopolitics, International Law, and New Internet Infrastructures - Room: Uskudar (Primary Ballroom)

Wednesday, November 13 • 13:15– 14:30 DNS Abuse Update – Room: 3B01

Thursday, November 14 • 10:30 –12:00 ICANN Public Forum - Room: Uskudar (Primary Ballroom)

ICANN-BC Outreach Event in Kigali, Rwanda
Business Constituency Members meet with ICT leaders in Kigali   By Tim Smith | Vice Chair, Finance and Operations

On June 11, 2024, during ICANN80 in Kigali, the BC held a successful outreach event at Norrsken House thanks for the invaluable support of the Rwanda ICT Chamber and the Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA).

The three hour event stressed the importance and benefits of involvement in the BC, ICANN and AfICTA with presentations from GNSO counsellor Lawrence Olawale-Roberts; Axiom Consulting's Adetola Sogbesan; ICANN's Director Stakeholder Engagement & Operations for Africa Yaovi Atohoun; AfICTA's Segun Omolosho; and Robert Ford, President of the Rwanda Software Testing Qualification Board.

Over 60 people responded to the RSVP sent out by the Rwanda ICT Chamber for the event, and final attendance was about 45. Opening remarks were provided by BC Chair Mason Cole and Emceed by Segunfunmi Olajide with several BC members attending including Steve DelBianco, Marie Pattullo, Arinola Akinyemi, Zak Muscovitch, David Snead, Imran Hossen, Nenad Orlik and Tess Diaz.

At the conclusion of the event, just

> The three hour event stressed the importance and benefits of involvement in the BC

before enjoying lunch on the grounds at Norrsken House, we conducted a membership sign-up demonstration and the BC is pleased that several new businesses agreed to join our ranks.

ICANN Outreach Dhaka 2024: Empowering Business Stakeholders in Bangladesh's Digital Future

By Imran Hossen | Managing Director EyHost Ltd.

As part of ICANN's ongoing global engagement, the ICANN Outreach Dhaka 2024 program served as a critical platform to enhance the visibility and participation of Bangladesh's business stakeholders in the global domain name ecosystem. Held at the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Auditorium on the 11th and 14th of July 2024, the event was co-hosted by ICANN and EyHost Ltd., with the support of the Bangladeshi hosting community and key partners like APTLD and ISOC Bangladesh.

Unlocking Business Growth Through ccTLD and gTLD Expansion

One of the most significant outcomes of this event was the decision by the Honorable State Minister of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, to direct the ccTLD authority to deploy a fully automated system for .bd and .বাংলা domain registrations. This pivotal change will allow private sector businesses in Bangladesh to become registrars, enabling both local and global registrations for these ccTLDs, akin to gTLDs.

For business stakeholders, this shift unlocks tremendous growth potential. Local domain and hosting companies now have the opportunity to retain both the registry fees and business revenue within the country, strengthening their market presence and boosting the national economy. In turn, these businesses are better

BANGLADESH

166 million Population
8th most populous country on earth

7 Provinces
Capital : Dhaka
Currency : Taka (BDT)
Languages : Bengali, English

ASIA

Dhaka

positioned to expand globally, bringing in foreign revenue and contributing to Bangladesh's growing influence in the global domain industry.

Business Constituency (BC) Participation: A Key Highlight

The event also saw active participation from Mr. Mason Cole, Chair of ICANN's Business Constituency (BC), who played a pivotal role in engaging with Bangladeshi business leaders. During the roundtable discussions with local business stakeholders and academia, Mr. Cole provided valuable insights into the BC's role within ICANN and how businesses can leverage the DNS for growth. His presentations focused on the importance of engaging with ICANN and the opportunities available to
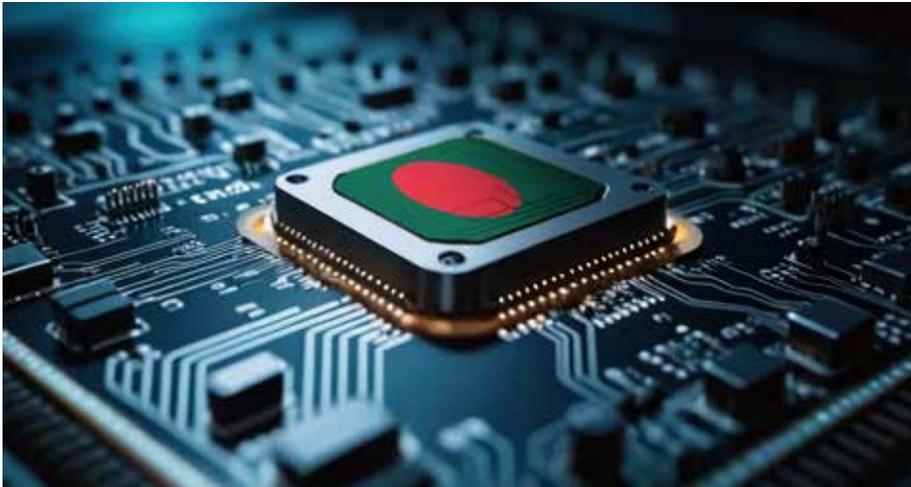
businesses in the digital economy. BC members and local stakeholders had the chance to discuss crucial topics, including the expansion of new gTLDs, Universal Acceptance (UA), and the evolving role of domain businesses in the global marketplace. These discussions underscored the importance of strong local participation in global internet governance to ensure that businesses from Bangladesh can compete on equal footing with international players.

Fostering Business Growth and Global Opportunities

For Bangladeshi businesses, particularly those in the domain and hosting sectors, the event highlighted the vast opportunities that lie ahead.

BUSINESS CONSTITUENCY

ICANN Outreach Dhaka 2024: Empowering Business Stakeholders in Bangladesh's Digital Future

By building a robust local domain infrastructure and engaging actively with ICANN, businesses can ensure sustained growth both domestically and internationally. The ability to register .bd and .বাংলা domains globally presents a unique branding opportunity that will further enhance the visibility and credibility of Bangladeshi companies.

The potential for Bangladesh to host future ICANN public meetings was also discussed, further reinforcing the country's growing role in the global digital economy. This, combined with the increased opportunities for business stakeholders to influence policy through the BC, signals a new era of business empowerment for Bangladeshi companies within the ICANN community.

Looking Forward: The Path Ahead
As a BC member and convenor of this event, I am optimistic about the future of Bangladesh's domain and internet industry. The ICANN Outreach Dhaka 2024 marked a significant milestone in the engagement of local business stakeholders with ICANN's global

> **The ability to register .bd and .বাংলা domains** globally presents a unique branding opportunity that will further enhance the visibility and credibility of Bangladeshi companies

mission. Special thanks to Mr. Mason Cole for his active participation and to Dr. Shamsuzzoha, Deputy Director of BTRC, for his tireless support in making this program a success. By continuing to strengthen our business community's involvement in global internet governance, we can unlock further growth and opportunities for Bangladeshi companies. I encourage all BC members to remain engaged and explore how they can leverage ICANN's global platform for greater business impact.

Membership elects Executive Team of Officers to Lead BC for 2025

The elections for 2025 BC Officers closed at 23:59 UTC on 24 October 2024. We are pleased to announce your representatives for the coming year who will take their seats on 1 January 2025.

- BC Chair – Mason Cole (returning)
- BC Vice-Chair of Finance and Operations – Adetola Sogbesan
- BC Vice-Chair of Policy Coordination – Segunfunmi Olajide
- CSG Representative - Marie Pattullo (returning)

Congratulations to all!

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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!

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The Role of the Business Constituency in Advancing Business Interests: Aligning with Heritech Consulting's Vision in Nigeria and Africa

By Segunfunmi Olajide | CEO & Policy Expert at Heritech Consulting

The Business Constituency (BC) within ICANN plays a vital role in advocating for the interests of the business community in internet governance. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the BC's efforts to shape policies that benefit businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, are more crucial than ever. This aligns closely with the mission of Heritech Consulting, which is dedicated to fostering growth in Nigeria and across Africa through effective internet governance and policy advocacy.

Advocating for Business Interests

The BC represents a diverse range of stakeholders, providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration on critical issues affecting the business community. Its initiatives aim to ensure that policy decisions made at ICANN are conducive to a thriving digital economy.

Key areas of focus include domain name management, cybersecurity, and the protection of intellectual property. By engaging in these discussions, the BC helps to create an environment where businesses can innovate and grow.

For instance, the BC's support for the continuation of WHOIS services, as discussed in recent ICANN meetings, highlights its commitment to maintaining transparency in domain registration. This is essential for businesses that rely on accurate data for protecting their brands and addressing cyber threats.

Heritech Consulting's Commitment

Heritech Consulting mirrors the BC's dedication to advancing business interests, particularly in the Nigerian and African markets. Our focus on internet governance and policy development seeks to empower local businesses by providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape. Through initiatives such as capacity building, training, and advocacy, Heritech is committed to ensuring that businesses can thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Moreover, our involvement with ICANN's BC provides us with a unique vantage point to influence policy discussions that impact African businesses. By leveraging our expertise in internet governance, we can help shape policies that not only benefit local enterprises but also position Africa as a key player in the global digital economy.

Conclusion

The partnership between the Business Constituency and Heritech Consulting is a powerful alliance that underscores the importance of collaboration in advancing business interests. As we continue to engage with ICANN and its various stakeholders, we remain committed to advocating for policies that foster a robust digital economy in Nigeria and across Africa. Together, we can create an environment where businesses can flourish, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth in the region.

As we move forward, it is imperative that we continue to align our efforts with the BC's initiatives, ensuring that the voices of businesses are heard and represented in global discussions on internet governance.

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)
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)

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
Hong-Fu Meng (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)
Jeff Neuman (V. Chair, Administration)
Karen Day (Treasurer)
Sue Schuler (Secretariat)

Registrar Stakeholders Group
Ashley Heineman (Chair)
Jothan Frakes (V. Chair, Technical Operations)
Owen Smigelski (V.Chair, Policy)
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
Mia Brickhouse

Small Business Seat
Vivek Goyal

BC Finance Sub Committee:
Tim Smith (Chair), 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