

Amended Charter of the Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Mission

The Customer Standing Committee (CSC) has been established to perform the operational oversight previously performed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as it relates to the monitoring of performance of the IANA naming function. This transfer of responsibilities took effect on October 1, 2016.

The mission of the CSC is to ensure continued satisfactory performance of the IANA function for the direct customers of the naming services. The direct customers of the naming services are top-level domain registry operators, but also include root server operators and other non-root zone functions.

The mission will be achieved through regular monitoring by the CSC of the performance of the IANA naming function against agreed service levels and through mechanisms to engage with the IANA Functions Operator to remedy identified areas of concern, including but not limited to the Remedial Action Procedures.

The CSC is not authorized to initiate a change in the IANA Functions Operator via a Special IANA Function Review, but could escalate a failure to correct an identified deficiency to the ccNSO and GNSO Councils, who might then decide to take further action using agreed consultation and escalation processes, which may include a Special IANA Function Review.

The CSC will be the primary interface between the IANA Naming Functions Operator, currently PTI, and its customers. Should PTI cease to be the IANA Naming Functions Operator, the CSC will continue to perform its role to ensure satisfactory performance of the replacement operator.

Scope of Responsibilities

The CSC monitors the performance of the IANA naming function against agreed service levels on a monthly basis.

The CSC will analyze reports provided by the IANA Functions Operator and publish their findings on a monthly basis.

Where performance issues have been identified, the CSC will work with the IANA Functions Operator to understand the reasons for the failure and agree a plan for resolution.

The CSC or the IANA Functions Operator can request a review or change to service level/s. The CSC, in consultation with the IANA Functions Operator, will develop procedures for

changing service level/s including the removal of existing service levels or the inclusion of new service levels. These procedures will be commensurate with the type of the service level change being proposed. Informing the registry operators about proposed changes shall always be required; however, the type of service level change will determine whether it is necessary to conduct a community-wide consultation. The procedures may be updated from time to time, and will only become effective after publication of the process on the CSC webpage, and after informing the ccNSO Council and RySG, the direct customers.

The CSC is authorized to undertake remedial action to address performance issues in accordance with the Remedial Action Procedures (RAP) published on the CSC website. The RAP may be updated from time to time in accordance with the change mechanism foreseen in the RAP.

Should a new IANA Functions Operator be appointed, for example through the recommendations from the Special IANA Naming Function Review Team¹, the ccNSO and GNSO Councils will require the CSC to review and revise the RAP as necessary with the new operator.

In the event performance issues are not remedied to the satisfaction of the CSC, despite good-faith attempts to do so, and following the agreed escalation processes contained in the RAP, the CSC is authorized to escalate the performance issues to the ccNSO and GNSO Councils for consideration.

The CSC may receive complaints from individual registry operators regarding the performance of the IANA Naming Function; however, the CSC will not become involved in a direct dispute between any registry operator and the IANA Functions Operator.

The CSC will review individual complaints with a view to identifying whether there are any patterns of poor performance by the IANA Functions Operator in responding to complaints of a similar nature. The CSC may invoke the RAP if necessary to resolve performance issues that may be systemic or persistent.

The CSC will, as need demands, conduct consultations with the IANA Functions Operator, meet with the direct customers of the naming services, and the ICANN community about the performance of the IANA Functions Operator.

The CSC, in consultation with registry operators, is authorized to discuss with the IANA Functions Operator ways to enhance the provision of IANA's operational services for any of the following reasons:

- to meet changing technological environments;

¹ See Section 18.12 ICANN Bylaws

- as a means to address performance issues; or
- other unforeseen circumstances.

In the event it is agreed that a material change in IANA naming services or operations would be beneficial, the CSC reserves the right to call for a community consultation and independent validation, to be convened by the IANA Functions Operator, on the proposed change. Any recommended change that does not require a change to the IANA Naming Function Contract must be approved by the ccNSO Council and RySG

The IANA Functions Operator would be responsible for implementing any recommended changes and must ensure that sufficient testing is undertaken to ensure smooth transition and no disruption to service levels.

The CSC will provide a liaison to the CSC Charter Review Team, the CSC Effectiveness Review Team, the IANA Function Review Team and to any Separation Cross Community Working Group.

Conflict of Interest

The ICANN Bylaws make clear that it must apply policies consistently, neutrally, objectively and fairly, without singling any party out for discriminatory treatment; which would require transparent fairness in its dispute resolution processes. Members of the CSC should accordingly disclose any conflicts of interest with a specific complaint or issue under review. The CSC may exclude from the discussion of a specific complaint or issue any member deemed by the majority of CSC members and liaisons to have a conflict of interest.

Membership Composition

The CSC should be kept small and comprise representatives with direct experience and knowledge of IANA naming functions. At a minimum the CSC will comprise:

- Two individuals representing gTLD Registry Operators appointed by the Registries Stakeholder Group
- Two individuals representing ccTLD Registry Operators appointed by the ccNSO
- One liaison from the IANA Functions Operator (PTI).

An individual representing a TLD that is not considered to be a ccTLD or gTLD registry, for example from the Internet Architecture Board for .ARPA, may also be included as a member of the CSC. The individual would seek appointment by either the ccNSO or GNSO Council.

Liaisons can also be appointed from the following organisations; however, providing a Liaison is not mandatory for any group:

- One liaison each from other ICANN SOs and ACs:

- GNSO (non-registry)
- ALAC
- NRO (or ASO)
- GAC
- RSSAC
- SSAC

Liaisons shall not be members of or entitled to vote on the CSC, but otherwise liaisons shall be entitled to participate on equal footing with members of the CSC.

The Chair of the CSC will be elected on an annual basis by the CSC. Ideally the Chair will be a direct customer of the IANA naming function, and cannot be the IANA Functions Operator Liaison.

The CSC and the IANA Functions Operator will nominate primary and secondary points of contact to facilitate formal lines of communication.

The CSC as a whole will decide who will serve as the Liaison to the IANA Function Review Team. Preference should be given to the Liaison being a registry representative given that technical expertise is anticipated to be valuable in the role.

Membership Selection Process

Members and Liaisons to the CSC will be appointed by their respective communities in accordance with internal processes. However, all candidates will be required to submit an Expression of Interest that includes a response addressing the following matters:

- Why they are interested in becoming involved in the CSC.
- What particular skills they would bring to the CSC.
- Their knowledge of the IANA Functions.
- Their understanding of the purpose of the CSC.
- That they understand the time necessary required to participate in the CSC and can commit to this role.

Interested candidates should also include a resume or curriculum vitae or biography in support of their Expression of Interest.

While the ccTLD and gTLD members will be appointed by the ccNSO and RySG respectively and liaisons by their applicable groups, ccTLD or gTLD registry operators that are not members of these groups will be eligible to participate in the CSC as members or liaisons. The ccNSO Council and RySG should consult prior to finalizing their selections with a view to providing a slate of members and liaisons that has, to the extent possible, diversity in terms of geography and skill set.

A representative for a TLD registry operator not associated with a ccTLD or gTLD registry, will

be required to submit an Expression of Interest to either the ccNSO and GNSO Councils. The Expression of Interest must include a letter of support from the registry operator. This provision is intended to ensure orderly formal arrangements, and is not intended to imply those other registries are subordinate to either the ccNSO or the GNSO.

The full membership of the CSC must be approved by the ccNSO and the GNSO Councils. While it will not be the role of the ccNSO and GNSO to question the validity of any recommended appointments to the CSC, in approving the full slate the ccNSO and GNSO Councils will take into account the overall composition of the proposed CSC in terms of geographic diversity and skill sets.

Terms

CSC appointments, regardless of whether members or liaisons, will be for a two-year period with the option to renew for up to two additional two-year terms. The intention is to stagger appointments to provide for continuity and knowledge retention.

To facilitate this, at least half of the inaugural CSC appointees will be appointed for an initial term of three years. Subsequent terms will be for two years.

CSC appointees must attend a minimum of nine meetings in a one-year period, and must not be absent for more than two consecutive meetings. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the Chair of the CSC requesting a replacement from the respective organisation.

A vacancy on the CSC shall be deemed to exist in the case of the death, resignation, or removal of a CSC member or liaison. This vacancy shall be filled by the appointing organization or advisory committee for the unexpired term.

Changing circumstances of appointed CSC member

In the event that a member appointed to the CSC by either the ccNSO or RySG has a change in circumstances that may affect the basis upon which the member was appointed to the CSC, they are required to notify their appointing organization of their changing circumstances. If the member is willing to remain a member of the CSC, they will be required to seek re-confirmation of their appointment. The appointing organization will be responsible for considering the request in accordance with internal procedures.

The appointing organization will be responsible for notifying the Chair of the CSC of its decision and should also notify the other appointing organisation.

In the event that the appointing organization is not willing to re-confirm the appointment, the member will be required to resign from the CSC and the appointing organization will be

required to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. A temporary replacement may be appointed while attempts are made to fill the vacancy.

If a member wishes to resign from the CSC because of a change in circumstances, or for any other reason, they must notify their appointing organization.

Any new appointment will need to be approved by both the ccNSO Council and the RySG. The GNSO Council should be notified of any new appointment.

Recall of members or liaisons

Any CSC appointee can be recalled at the discretion of their appointing community.

In the event that a ccTLD or gTLD registry representative is recalled, a temporary replacement may be appointed by the designating group while attempts are made to fill the vacancy. As the CSC meets on a monthly basis best efforts should be made to fill a vacancy within one month of the recall date.

The CSC may also request the recall of a member of the CSC in the event they have not met the minimum attendance requirements. The appointing community will be responsible for finding a suitable replacement.

Meetings

The CSC shall meet at least once every month via teleconference at a time and date agreed upon by members of the CSC.

The CSC will provide regular updates, at least twice per year, to the direct customers of the IANA naming function. These updates may be provided to the RySG and the ccNSO during ICANN meetings.

To allow the CSC to carry out the work identified above and, in particular, to help develop a cooperative relationship with the IANA Functions Operator, the CSC is also required to meet with the Board of the IANA Functions Operator at least twice a year. These meetings should, wherever possible, be held at ICANN meetings.

The CSC will also consider requests from other groups, including the ICANN Board and ICANN org, to provide updates regarding the IANA Functions Operator's performance.

Record of Proceedings

Minutes of all CSC teleconferences will be made public within five business days of the

meeting.

In the event that the CSC invokes the RAP, it will be required to inform the RySG, ccNSO and GNSO Councils and provide regular status updates.

Information sessions conducted during ICANN meetings will be open and posting of transcripts and presentations will be done in accordance with ICANN's meeting requirements.

Secretariat

ICANN will provide secretariat support for the CSC and will also be expected to provide and facilitate remote participation in all meetings of the CSC.

Review

The Charter may be reviewed at the request of the CSC, ccNSO Council, RySG or GNSO Council or in connection with an IANA Function Review. The review will be conducted by a committee of representatives from the ccNSO and the RySG in accordance with a method determined by the ccNSO Council and RySG. Each review is to include the opportunity for input from other ICANN stakeholders, via a Public Comment process. Any recommended changes are to be ratified by the ccNSO and the GNSO Councils.

The effectiveness of the CSC will initially be reviewed two years after the first meeting of the CSC; and then every three years thereafter. The method of review will be determined by the ccNSO and GNSO.