Why Being in the Room Matters:
ICANN, Internet Policy & the Value of Participation

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Hello!

I'm Michele Neylon

Tech, travel, food and music are my thing

- Founder & CEO Blacknight
- http://ceo.hosting
- https://michele.blog
- @mneylon

- Winner IIA Net Visionary 2013
- Irish Internet Hall of Fame
- International Man of Mystery?

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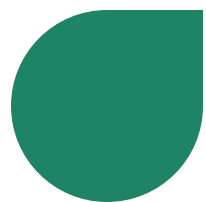
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ICANN

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and <u>NUMBERS</u>

ICANN What is it?

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is a **non-profit, international organization** that plays a critical role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet..

And it's coming to Dublin!!!!

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Coordinating with our partners, we help make the Internet work.

ICANN What is it?

It does this by coordinating:

- **Domain Names**: ICANN oversees the global Domain Name System (DNS) — making sure every website address is unique and works everywhere in the world.
- **IP Addresses**: ICANN works with the **Address Supporting Organization (ASO)** and the **Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)** to allocate and manage IP addresses (both IPv4 and IPv6).
- **Protocol Parameters**: ICANN, in collaboration with the IETF, helps maintain the standards that allow different networks to "speak the same language."
- **Root Zone Management**: ICANN manages the top of the DNS tree (the root servers and top-level domains like .com, .org, .ie, etc.).

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ICANN Why Should you care?

ICANN follows a bottom-up, **multistakeholder model** in which individuals, non-commercial organizations, industry, and governments play important roles in its community-based, consensus-driven, policymaking approach.

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ICANN Why Should you care?

- The global internet runs on policies shaped by the **people who show up**.

- **Participation** means **influence**. Absence means others decide for you.

**Policy is shaped in the room.
Be in the room.**

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ICANN Why Should you care?

- **Representation:** Irish operators' voice in global internet governance.
- **Influence:** Shape policies that impact your business directly.
- **Networking:** Engage with ISPs, registries, regulators and tech leaders worldwide.
- **Learning:** Stay ahead of regulatory and technical trends.

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ICANN Topics?

- **Privacy:** Whois (now RDAP)
- **Abuse:** the "hot" topic
- **WSIS:** Global government policy around "digital".
- **Next Round:** More domain extensions (TLDs).

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ICANN How can I get involved?

- Attend ICANN meetings (in-person or remote).
- Join ASO, ISPCP and RIR policy sessions.
- Bring back knowledge and insights to your company + INEX community.

ICANN How can I get involved?

- Coordinates global IP addressing policies
- Works through the 5 Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)
- INEX members → represented via RIPE NCC → ASO → ICANN
- Trade associations
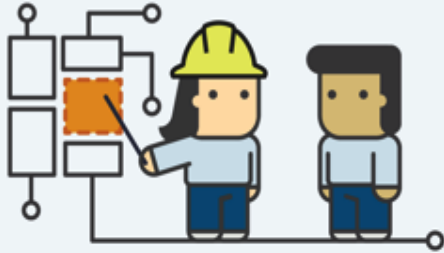- ISPCP

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

ASO Address Council (AC) is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)* — who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.

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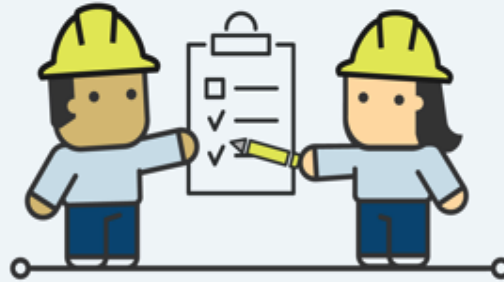# ASO Policy Development Process

IDENTIFY THE ISSUE

1
- Any individual may submit global policy proposal to ASO AC or RIR.
- RIR PDP generates global policy proposal.
- ICANN Board may also request global policy proposal.

2

- ASO AC appoints Policy Proposal Facilitator Team (PPFT).
- ASO AC or PPFT determine if global policy proposal requires specific actions or outcomes by IANA.
- ASO AC oversees global PDP.

DETERMINE REQUIREMENTS

3

REVIEW BY RIRs AND ASO AC

- Five RIRs review global policy proposal.
- Five RIRs must approve identical global policy proposal.
- Five RIRs submit approved global policy proposal to ASO AC for review.

ASO Policy Development Process

④ **REVIEW BY ICANN BOARD**

ASO AC submits ratified global policy proposal to ICANN Board.

ICANN Board may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.
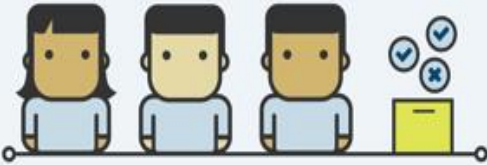
*Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)

AFRINIC	Africa
APNIC	Asia and Pacific region
ARIN	Canada, parts of the Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the U.S.
LACNIC	Latin America and parts of the Caribbean
RIPE NCC	Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia

1.3

Community Forum

Policy Forum

Annual General Meeting

TYPES OF ICANN PUBLIC MEETINGS

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The Internet's future is decided by those present. Let's be there.

ICANN84
Annual General Meeting
Dublin, Ireland| 25-30 October 2025

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Thank you,

Any questions?
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