

TRAINING SESSION

Meaningful Participation in ICANN Policy

Shaping the future of non-commercial and civil society values in Public Comments and Policy Development Processes (PDP).

Presenters

Yao Amevi A. Sossou, Policy Chair, NPOC



UPCOMING DEADLINE
23 June 2026 at 23:59 UTC

Core Objective

Transition from a passive observer to an active participant shaping core domain policies.

Session Focus

Practical homework overview focused on Additional Reference Label Generation Rules (LGR).

Understanding the ICANN Process

Core Process Channels

ICANN's Multi-stakeholder model works through sequential layers of open-door policy development:

- **Public Comments:** Direct mechanism for the public and organizations to evaluate and comment on draft protocols, policies, and changes.
- **Policy Development Processes (PDPs):** develop and refine policies within ICANN's mission and scope.
- **Working Groups:** Where community discussions happen.
- **Implementation Review:** Ensuring approved policies are deployed exactly as requested by the community.

Andrea Glandon, Policy Operations Sr. Coordinator, ICANN

Feeding the Policy Loop

To write comments that count, members must understand exactly how physical feedback flows into the global registry pipeline:

- **Official Logging:** All comments are officially cataloged and answered by ICANN staff in formal summary documents.
- **Impact on Board Decisions:** Summaries of comments directly direct the Board on whether to approve a PDP output.
- **NCSG/NPOC Representation:** Combining small, aligned civil-society viewpoints into a powerful, consolidated collective segment.

Why Your **Voice Matters**



Beyond Attendance

Active participation ensures we don't just sit at the table—it directly shapes systemic architecture from a public-interest and end-user perspective.

Public Interest

End-User Voice



Diverse Perspectives

Public comments value many forms of expertise. You do not need deep technical protocols or policy degrees to write a meaningful objection or recommendation.

Non-Technical

Accessible



Key Contributions

A broad array of civil viewpoints are required to offset dense corporate lobbying, protect users online, and advance regional development goals.

Legal

Human Rights

Linguistic

From Presence to Influence

To move from simple seat allocation to real strategic influence within ICANN working groups, we measure input against five core pillars of meaningful advocacy:

Informed

We completely understand the central question being asked.

Focused

We isolate and concentrate only on the most critical key issues.

Grounded

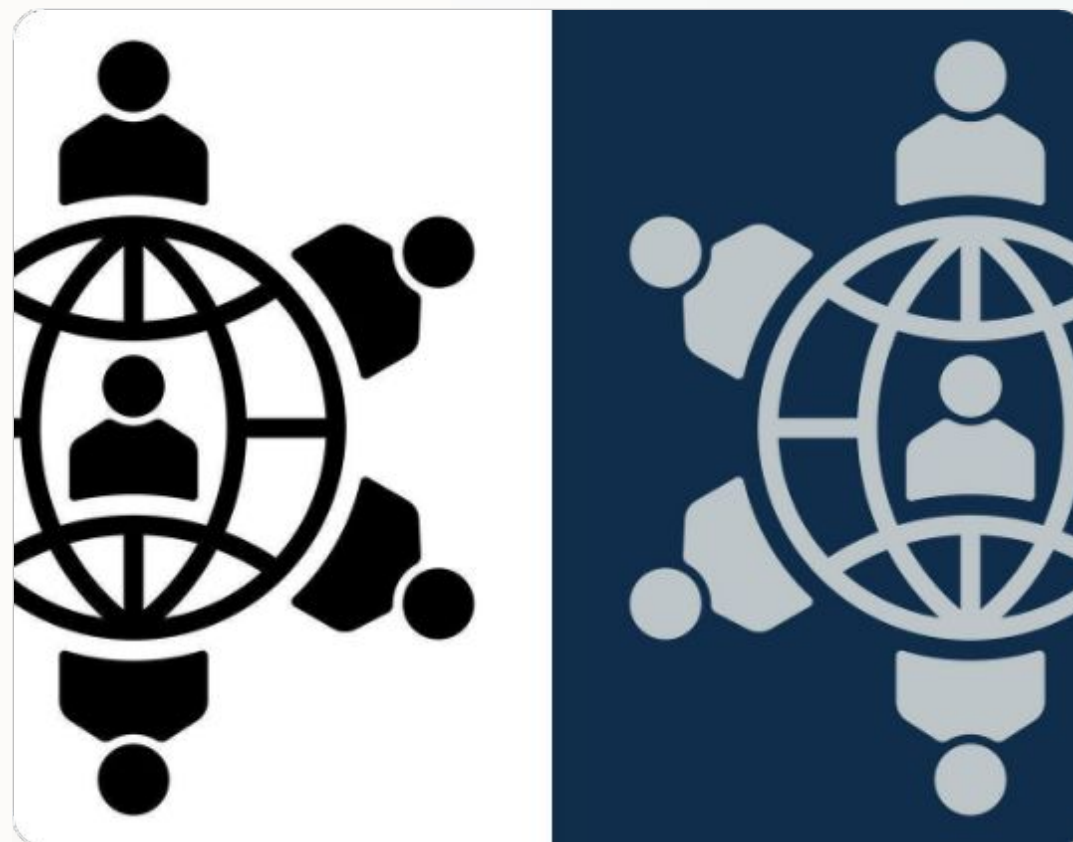
Aligned with existing NCSG/NPOC policy positions.

Timely

Submitted proactively well before the deadline.

Useful

Provides clear, actionable paths forward.



Why Non-Commercials Should Care

We analyze every policy proposal through five distinct, non-commercial dimensions of civil society and end-user values:

1

Linguistic Inclusion

Enabling regional script support so diverse communities use their native languages.

2

Digital Identity

Ensuring correct, cultural, and native representation without barriers in global scripts.

3

Security & Trust

Constructing rigid protection boundaries to minimize scam, spoofing, and spoof domains.

4

Transparency

Simplifying complex rules so that the non-technical global majority can understand them.

5

Consultation

Advocating for direct, early-stage outreach within the actual script communities.

The 5-Question Method

01

What is ICANN asking for?

Uncover the baseline context and core objectives of the request.

02

Who may be affected?

Trace who gets impacted—which local communities or end-users.

03

What is the public-interest concern?

Locate the underlying social, linguistic, or security implications.

04

What should NCSG/NPOC support or question?

Determine alignment, critique weaknesses, and build our policy stance.

05

What concrete recommendation can we propose?

Produce actual actionable recommendations for policy change.



Keep it simple: Use this clean grid to skip confusing jargon. Your goal is to pinpoint the public interest angle early on.

Interactive Exercise: Build a Comment

Your Task (5 Minutes)

Using the 5-Question Method, draft one concise comment point on the Additional Reference LGRs. Frame your feedback around three pillars:

- **Support:** What aspect of the initiative should we endorse? (e.g., script inclusion, linguistic growth)
- **Concern:** What gaps, risks, or potential issues should we point out? (e.g., outreach gaps, jargon)
- **Recommendation:** What actionable fix should we offer?

Model Answer Example

"NCSG/NPOC strongly supports these new Reference LGRs as they represent critical steps for a multilingual, inclusive DNS.

However, ICANN must guarantee that regional script communities have been consulted directly and meaningfully.

Our Recommendation: *We recommend that ICANN publish simplified, accessible explanatory content so local non-technical communities can understand risks associated with domain variants and user trust."*

Case Study: Reference LGRs

IDN Label Generation Rules

This proceeding addresses scripts on the DNS second level, defining safe ways to handle Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in diverse writing systems.

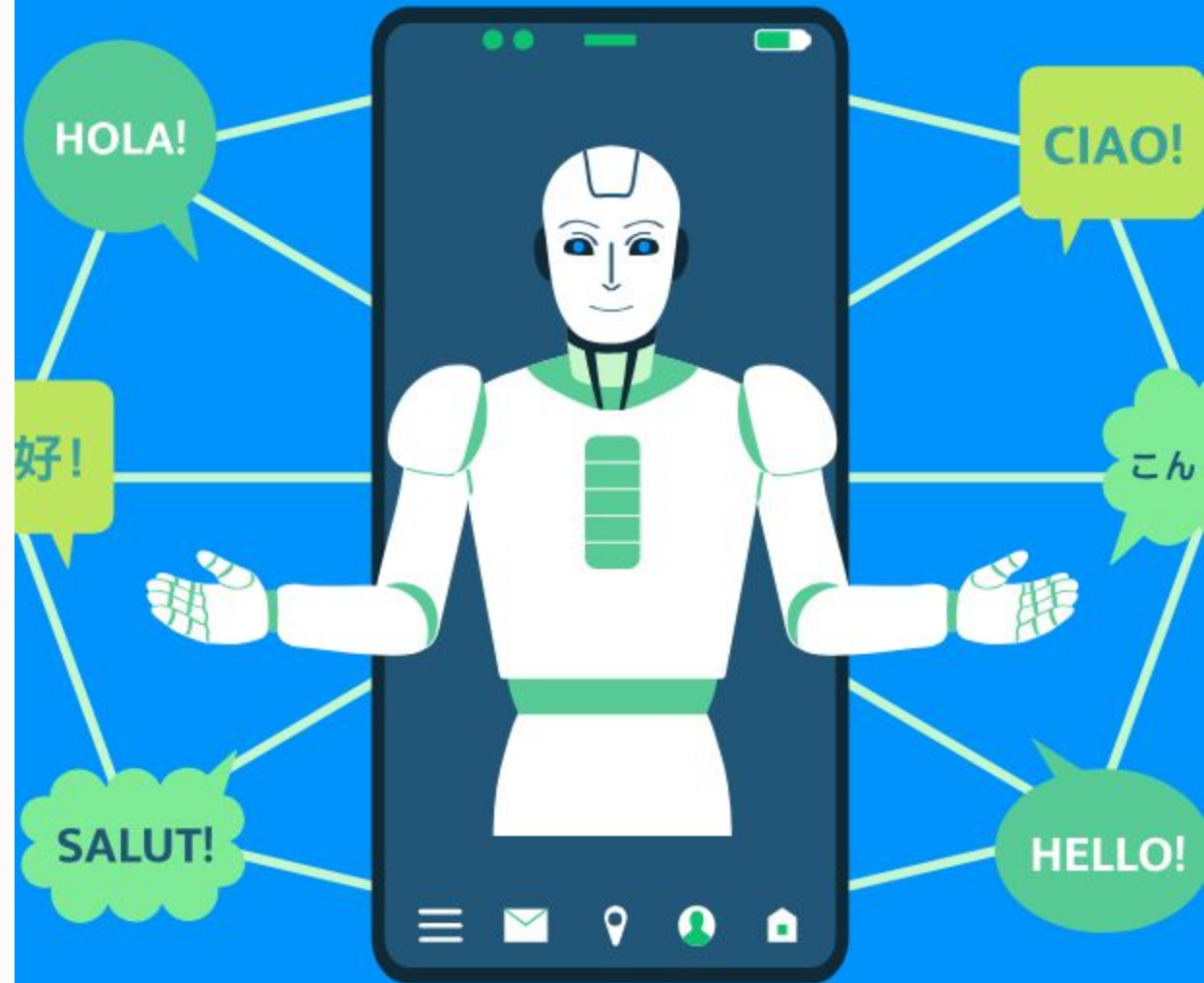
2 New LGRs:

Javanese script, Unified Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics.

6 Updated LGRs:

Arabic, Inuktitut, Japanese, Latin-related modifications.

📅 Open: 12 May 2026 | Deadline: 23 June 2026 at 23:59 UTC



Quick Check: **Are We Ready?**

Mentimeter Quiz Warmup

Join our quick quiz to warm up and test key concepts before deep-diving into our practical case study.

<https://www.menti.com/alnesqnpc8ta>



Mindset Check

This isn't a test. It's an open, interactive warmup to assess our policy baseline and prepare for the case study exercise.

Actionable Homework Task

Before the deadline on **23 June 2026 at 23:59 UTC**, complete these four analytical tasks on the LGR proceedings:

1

Core Summary

Summarize the proceeding details clearly in 2-3 simple sentences.

2

Define the Impact

Examine the value for non-commercial users (trust, inclusion, transparency).

3

Isolate a Key Concern

Identify a gap (e.g. was local script community consultation wide enough?).

4

Actionable Recommendation

Draft one clear sentence explaining what ICANN must do to resolve it.

“

"The goal of today's session is not just to understand ICANN policy development workflows—it is to practice active, impactful community participation. That is how we grow from observers to true policy leaders."

NPOC SEGMENT CLOSING STANCE

Image Sources



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