

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: **APPLICANT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

ASP

Evaluating the ASP as a Policy Instrument for Enhancing Nigeria's Participation in the Global DNS Economy

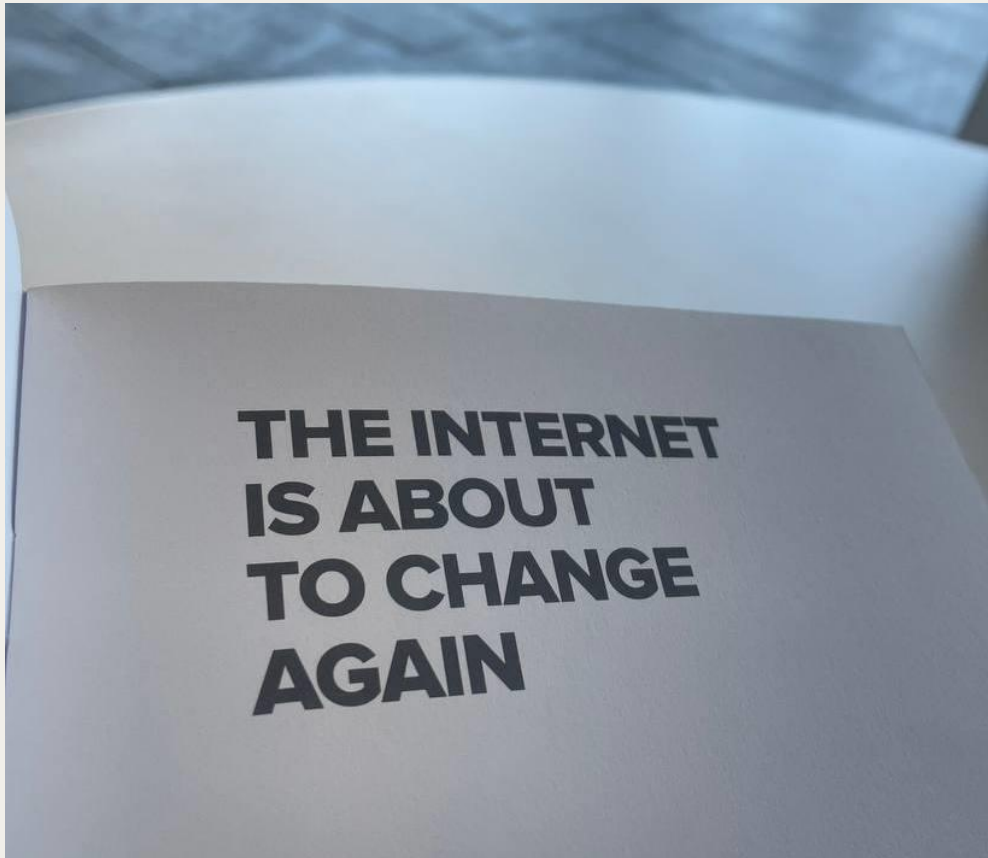
Presented By:

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Council Member-elect, ICANN GNSO





What role is Nigeria playing in the evolution of the Internet?

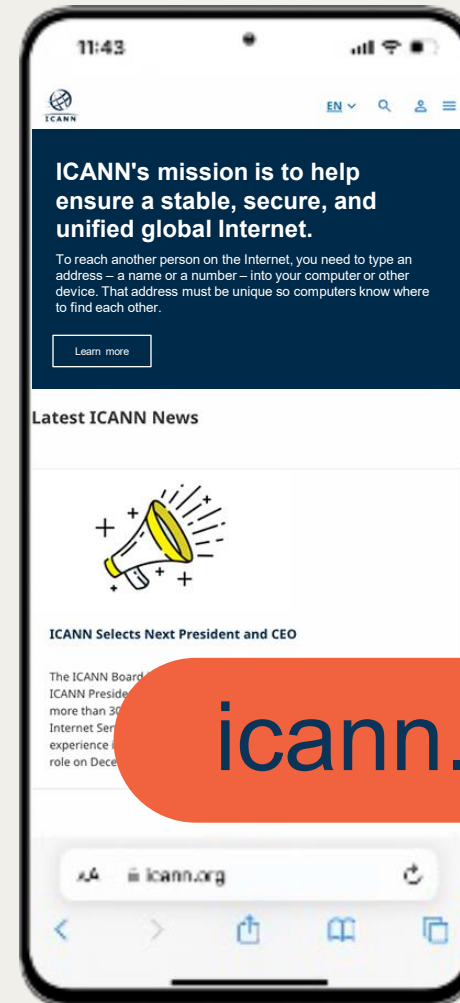
For the fourth time since the creation of the Internet, a massive evolution is about to occur. What role in this do we play?

What is a gTLD?

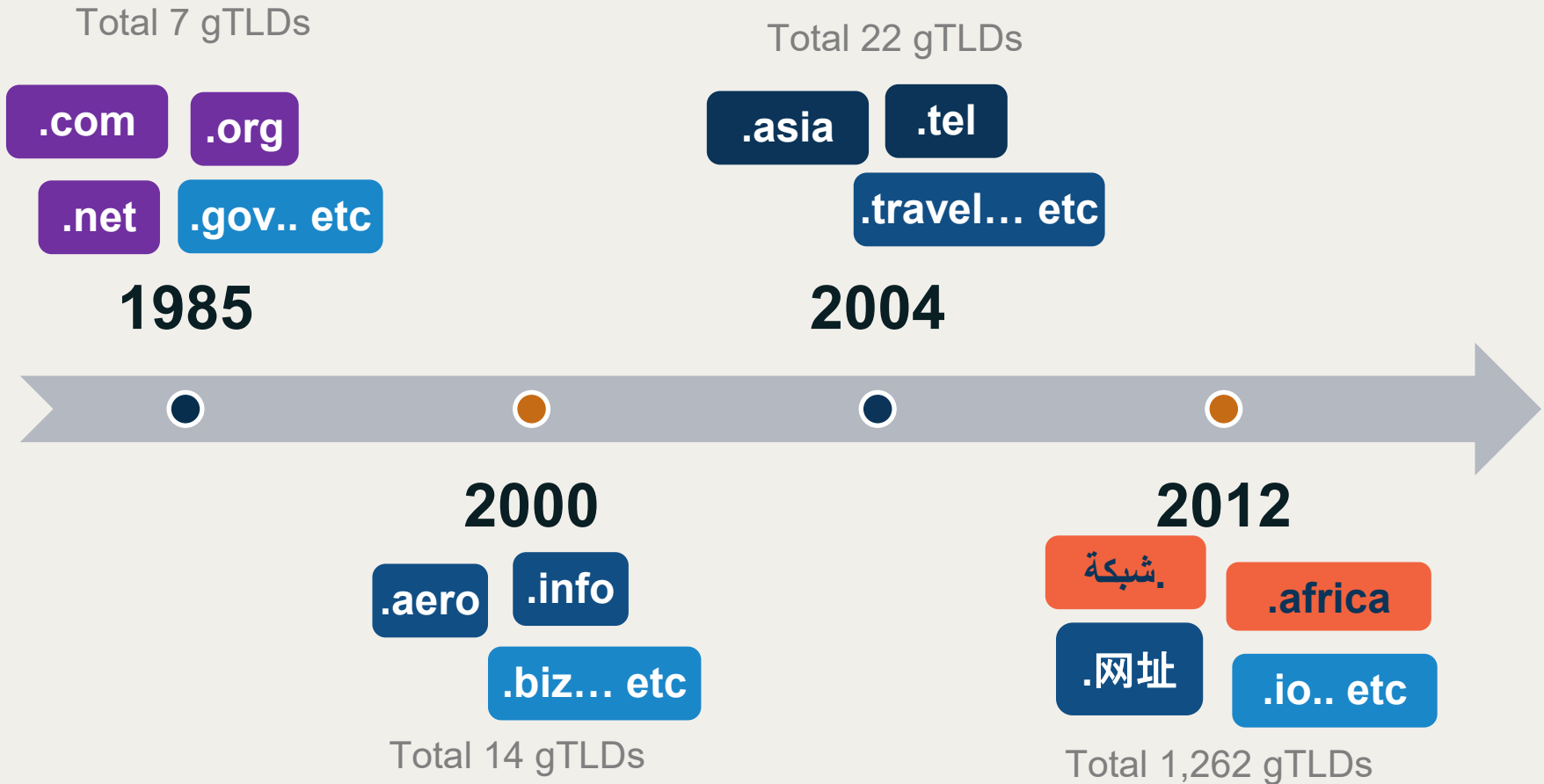
Generic top-level domains form the last part of a domain name, appearing after the dot*. For example, in the domain name **icann.org**, the characters 'org' identify the TLD.

Registry Operators operate internet namespaces defined by gTLDs. For example, **.com** is operated by **Verisign**

**gTLDs are separate from ccTLDs which are country code top level domains*



New gTLDs Over Time



The New gTLD Program

The **New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program** is an initiative of ICANN to enable the continued expansion of the Domain Name System.

Beginning in 2026, businesses, communities, governments, and other organizations can apply for new gTLDs tailored to fit their needs. **IDNs** and **.BRAND** TLDs are also introduced.



Benefits of the new gTLDs

A Brand TLD transforms a company's online presence **from occupying** space on the Internet **to owning** a piece of the Internet's namespace.

✓ Reduced Fraud Risk

✓ Digital Asset Ownership

✓ Platform Expansion

A geographic TLD becomes a digital gateway for an entire city or region

✓ Promote investment, trade and tourism

✓ Create a unified digital identity

IDNs are a tool for economic and socio-cultural inclusion.

✓ Reduced Fraud Risk

✓ Digital Asset Ownership

✓ Platform Expansion

For Context

Verisign:

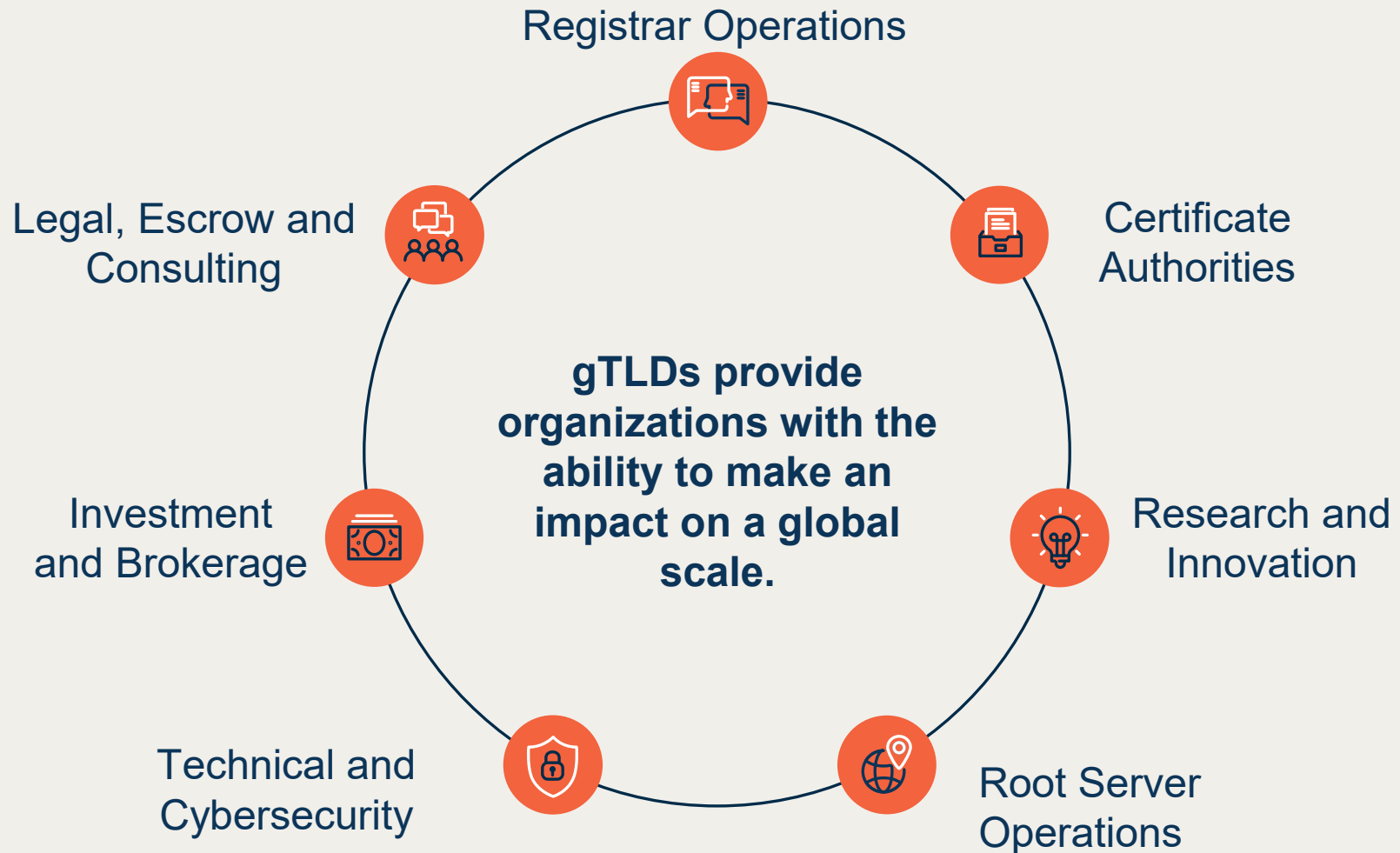
- Registry Operator for **.com** and **.net**
- Operates over 173million Domains Under Management (DUM) based on 2026 reports.
- Annual revenue: approximately US\$1.6 billion

PIR:

- Registry Operator for **.org**
- Operates over 11million Domains Under Management (DUM) based on 2026 reports..
- Annual revenue: approximately US\$100 million

Registry Operations are largely distributed between North America, Europe, and Asia - Pacific. There is very poor representation from Africa and even poorer from Nigeria.

Registry Operations brings economic opportunities across:



Nigeria in the global Registry Operation Industry

Since the Inception of the Internet, ICANN has rolled out over a thousand TLDs, Nigerian operators have been poorly involved.



Nigeria has only a handful of ICANN-accredited Registrars – WhoGoHost, Upperlink, Qservers



There are over 1,200 delegated gTLDs run by over 250 Registry Operators – **none of which are Nigerian.**

Source: Analysis of ICANN's New gTLD Registry Operator CSV Report (2026),
<https://www.icann.org/en/contracted-parties/registry-operators/resources>

Financial and Technical Considerations

New gTLD Program: Next Round
expected evaluation fee: **US
\$227,000**

- + Standard operational fees included in the Registry Agreement signed with ICANN
- + Ongoing financial and technical obligations

*Fees subject to change

**Exceptions may apply for eligible applicants



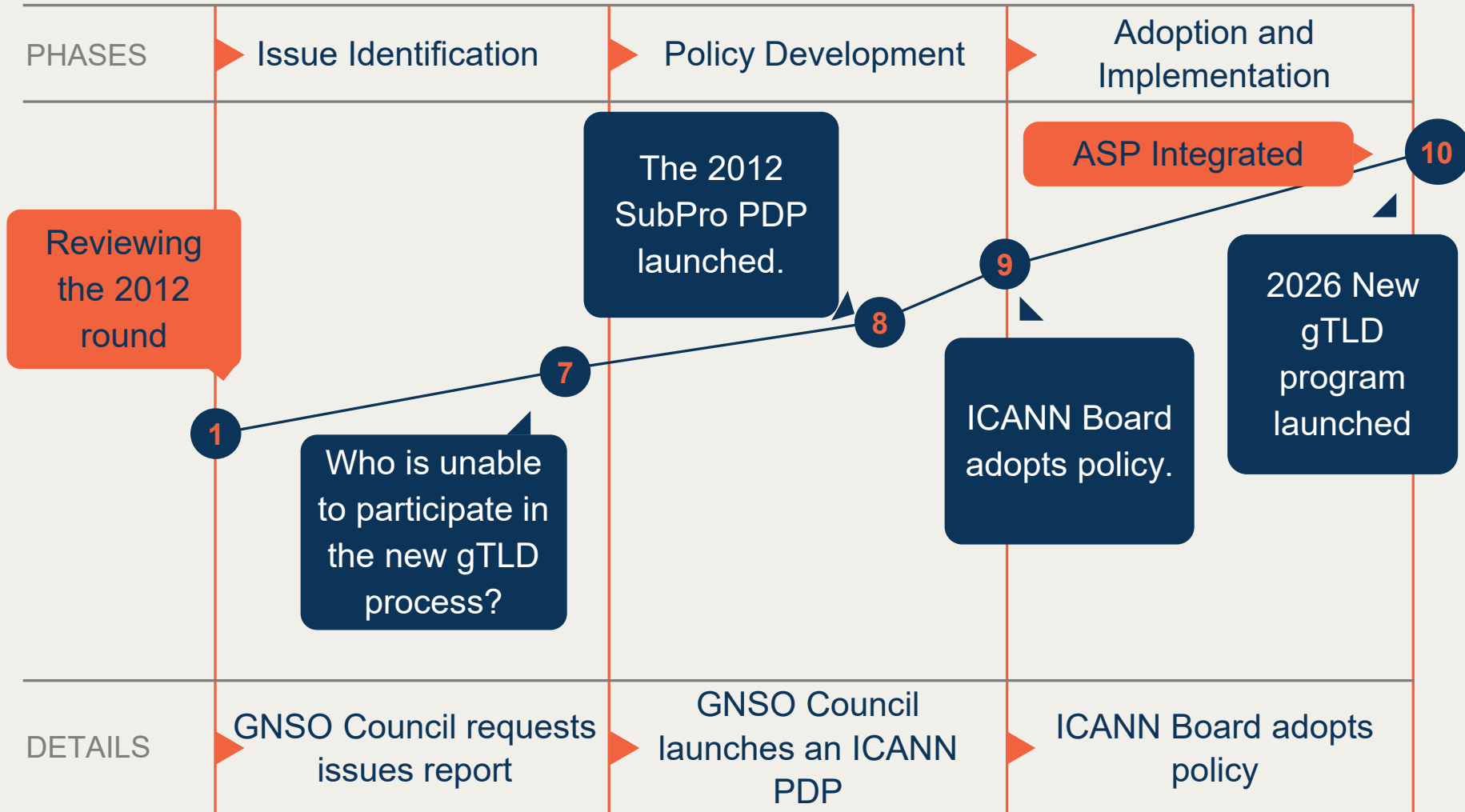
Applying for a new gTLD requires significant financial and technical resources.



All new gTLD applicants must be able to demonstrate the operational, technical, and financial capacities necessary to operate a registry and comply with contractual requirements.

Policy Development in ICANN

10+ years of policy development work leading to the Applicant Support Program



Applicant Support Portfolio

The Applicant Support Program provides a range of financial and nonfinancial assistance to qualified, eligible entities.



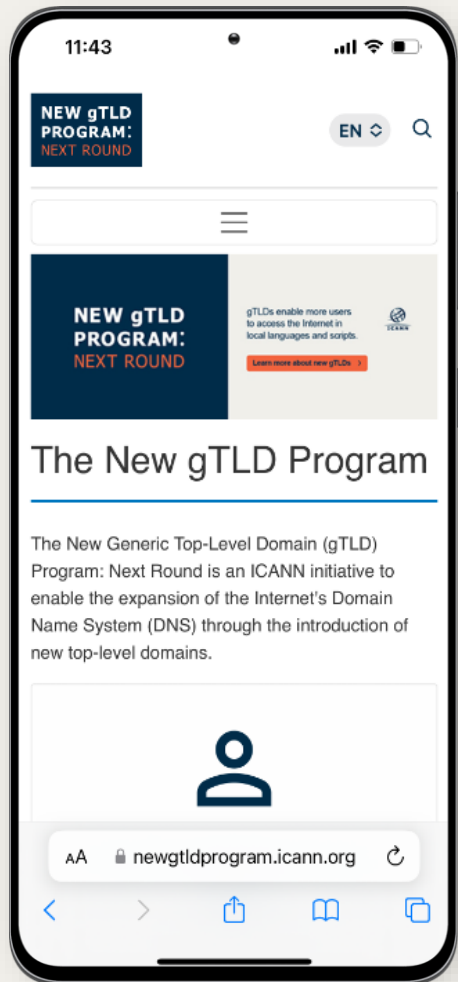
Financial Support

- ▶ A 75-85% reduction in applicable gTLD evaluation fees
- ▶ Bid credit
- ▶ Reduced/waived base registry operator fees



Nonfinancial Support

- ▶ Training materials: applying for a gTLD, becoming a Registry Operator
- ▶ Capacity Development/ Mentorship Program
- ▶ Access to an Applicant Counselor
- ▶ List of volunteer professional service providers



Stay Informed.

Join the **Mailing List**:

nextroundinfo@icann.org

General inquiries:

globalsupport@icann.org

Updates and news:

<https://newgtldprogram.icann.org>

Upcoming Events



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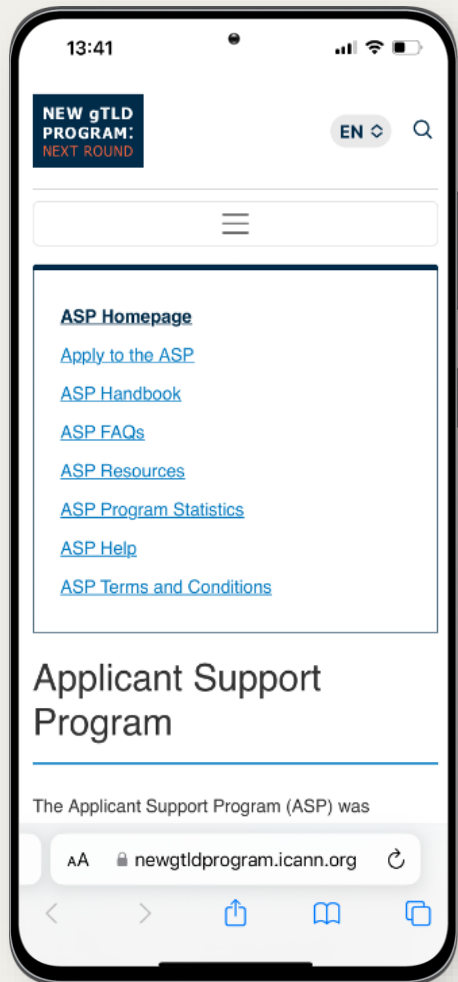
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

BALI



Stay up to date on all ICANN and Next Round events through the ICANN Engagement Calendar:

<https://www.icann.org/en/engagement-calendar>



Helpful Resources for Support Applicants

- ▶ <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/asp>
- ▶ <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/asp/handbook>
- ▶ <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/asp/resources>

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THANK YOU!

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Q&A

The graphic features two overlapping speech bubbles. The front bubble is dark blue and contains the text 'Q&A' in white. The back bubble is purple and is partially obscured by the blue one. At the bottom of the slide, there is a large orange semi-circle.