



ICANN New gTLD Dispute Resolution Procedures Administered by the International Chamber of Commerce

Alya Ladjimi
ADR Counsel

21 May 2026 - Virtual

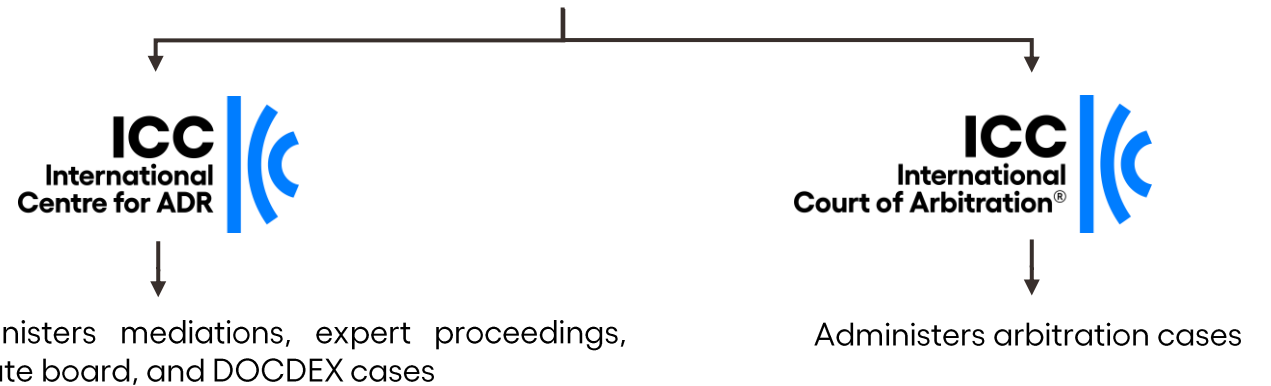
ICC and its Dispute Resolution Services



The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is a global business organisation established in **1919** and representing companies and associations in over 170 countries.



As part of ICC's mission to provide access to justice and the rule of law to everyone, every day and everywhere, ICC offers, since **1923**, a range of services helping business to avoid, manage and resolve their disputes efficiently. To date, ICC administered more than **30,000** cases through:



Administers mediations, expert proceedings, dispute board, and DOCDEX cases

In the context of ICANN's 2012 round of the New gTLD Program, the Centre administered **136** cases stemming from **Limited Public Interest** objections and **Community objections**.

Administers arbitration cases



The ICC International Centre for ADR (Centre) does **not** decide on Objections and Appeals - only administers cases. The Panelists decide on Objections and Appeals.



Conflict of interest: ICC staff linked to any specific case will be excused from said case.

Objection grounds administered by ICC



The Centre was reselected to administer objections (and subsequent appeals, if any) filed on the following grounds:

Limited Public Interest

The applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) are **contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order** recognized under principles of international law



When?

- 104 days from the String Confirmation Day (TBD, tentatively November 2026)



Who?

- Anyone



How?

- Through ICC Domain Disputes Platform (ICC DDP)

Community

There is **well-substantiated opposition** to an applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) from a **significant portion of the community** which the string may be **explicitly or implicitly targeting**



When?

- 104 days from the String Confirmation Day (TBD, tentatively November 2026)



Who?

- Established institutions associated with clearly delineated communities



How?

- Through ICC Domain Disputes Platform (ICC DDP)



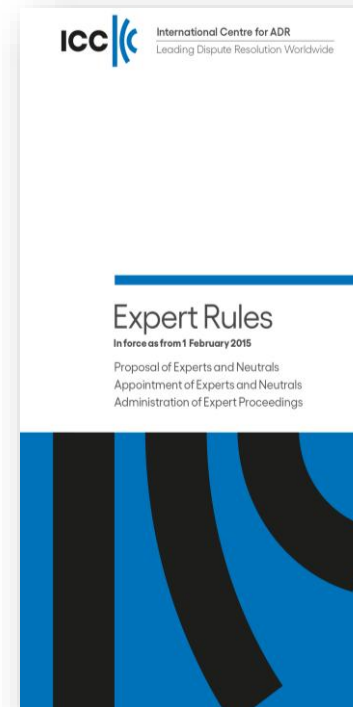
Independent Objectors are a standing panel of 3 individuals or entities selected by ICANN not acting on behalf of any particular persons or entities, but solely in the best interests of the public who use the global Internet. Independent Objectors will have 7 extra days to file Objections.

Procedural framework

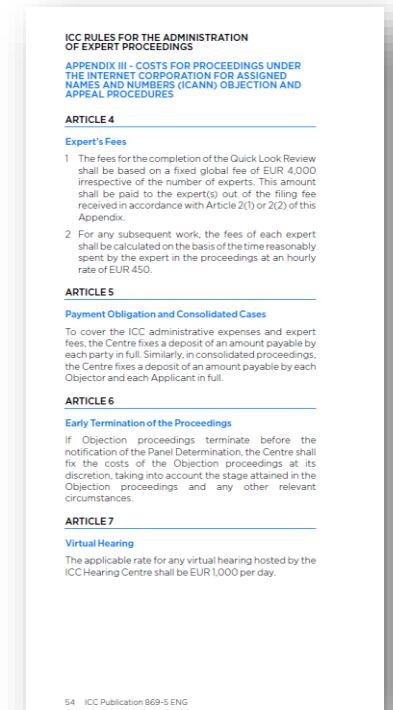
Applicant Guidebook



ICC Rules for the Administration of Expert Proceedings (“Rules”)



Appendix III to the Rules (on financial aspect)



ICC Domain Disputes Platform: Registration

Step 1. Go to [ICC's website](#) and follow the link.

Step 2. Complete the **Registration Form.** →

Step 3. Get an email to access the Objection E-Filing Form

ICC Domain Disputes Platform - Register Form

Fill your info in the form below to access the ICC Domain Disputes Platform - eFiling Form

* Required

1. First Name *

2. Last Name *

3. Email *

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)

The feedback you submit will be sent to the creator of this survey.



The design may be further revised by ICC.

ICC Domain Disputes Platform: Filing an Objection

Objection E-Filing Form

SharePoint Search this site

ICC

ICC Domain Disputes Platform (ICCDP)
ICC Domain Disputes Platform (ICCDP) - Home

Clear All Show my Drafts Show my Submissions

Objector Information

Application ID *

Application Link *

Objector First Name *

Objector Last Name *

Objector Email *

Objector Telephone Number *

ICC FAQ Contact the HelpDesk

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn



The design may be further revised by ICC.

Objection Requirements

1. Each **Objection** shall:

- (i) contain the names and contact information of the Objector, the Applicant, and their external counsel (**if any**);
- (ii) identify the Application against which it is submitted;
- (iii) specify the relevant string;
- (iv) contain ground for Objection (i.e., Limited Public Interest or Community);
- (v) contain a statement of the Objector's basis for standing;
- (vi) contain a description of the basis for the Objection, including explanation of the validity and why it should be upheld;
- (vii) be limited to **5,000 words** (substantive portion);
- (viii) be accompanied by a proof of payment of the filing fee in the amount of **EUR 10,000** (if already paid).

2. Objection and all attachments shall be in **English** (or supplied with English translation).

3. Attachments shall **not** be used to provide additional arguments or evade or circumvent the 5,000-word limit.



The Centre will conduct an administrative review to verify whether the above requirements have been complied with. If they are not, Objector will have an opportunity to **correct** the Objection but **only once**.

Objection dismissed following the administrative review by the Centre can be resubmitted through the E-filing Form if the Objection window remains open.



Best practices: (i) register on the platform in advance; (ii) identify one person who files; (iii) multiple people will have access to the case later; (iv) start uploading documents in advance.

There will be a helpdesk for technical support.

Objection Announcement



If the Objection passes the administrative review, the Centre will inform the Objector that the Objection shall be registered for processing.

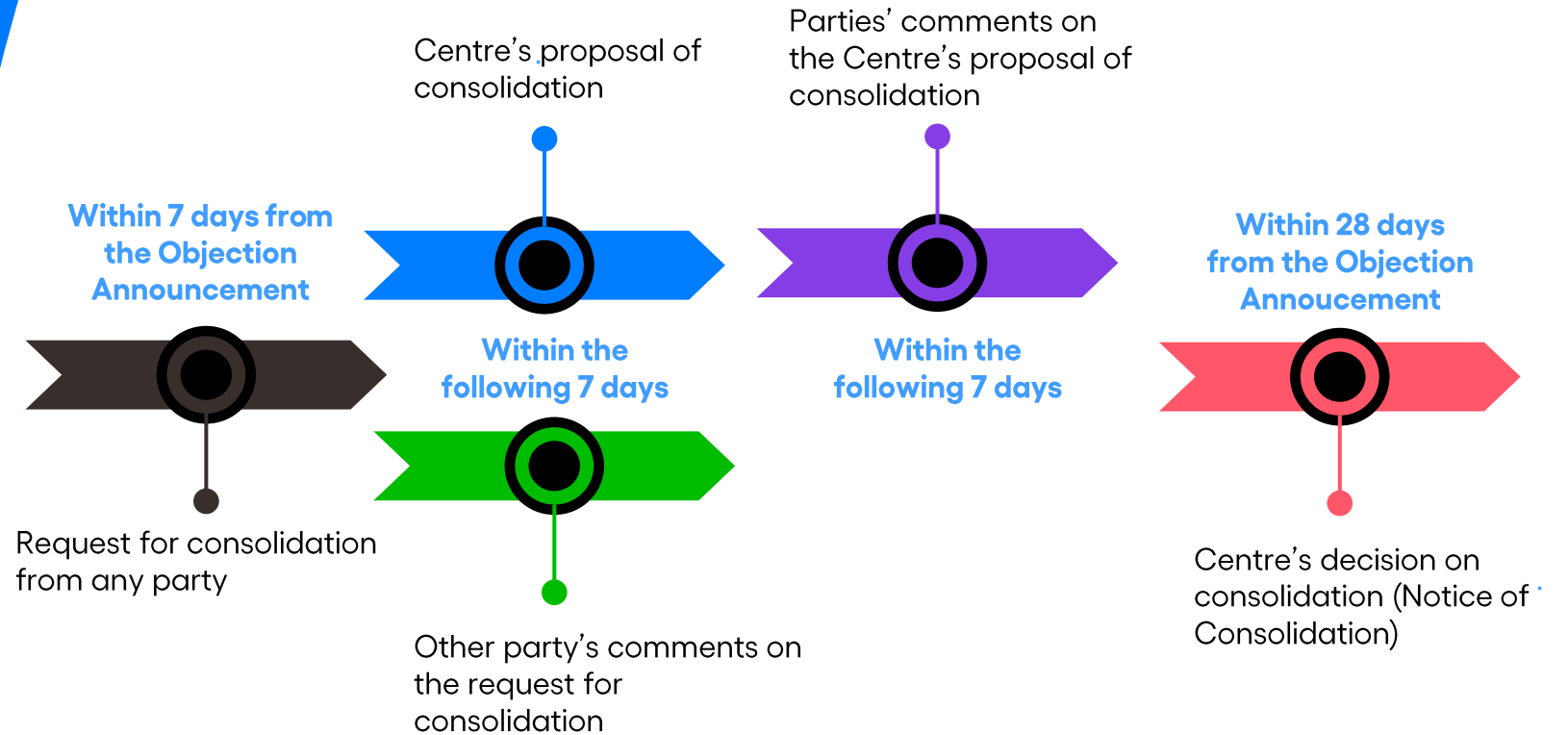


Within 30 days of the deadline for filing Objections, ICANN will publish on its website a list of all admissible Objections (i.e., those that passed the administrative review). This publication is called an “**Objection Announcement**”.



Upon publication of the Objection Announcement, the Centre will give Applicant the access to the Objection and inform the parties on the next procedural steps.

Consolidation of Objections



All time limits are calculated on the basis of **calendar days**.

Constitution of the Panel



One-person panel, unless the parties mutually agree upon a three-person Panel and notify the Centre of the agreement within 10 days of the Objection Announcement or the Notice of Consolidation, where applicable.



The conduct of the proceedings by a three-member Panel **will increase the total cost** of the proceedings.



The Centre will select and appoint the Panel within 40 days after the publication of the Objection Announcement or the Notice of Consolidation, where applicable.



The profile is described in the Applicant Guidebook. The process of the Panel's selection and appointment is described in the ICC Rules for the Administration of Expert Proceedings.

The Centre will ask the candidates to run a conflict check and will verify their availability to conduct the proceedings diligently and efficiently within the time limit established in the Applicant Guidebook. The names of the Panelists will be disclosed to the parties, together with their Statement of Acceptance, Availability, Impartiality, and Independence, as well as their ICC CV form.



Panelists are **not** ICC employees.

Quick Look Review

Quick Look Review is a determination whether an objection is manifestly unfounded, whether it constitutes an abuse of the right to object, or both, based on the following criteria:

- i. The Objection is not filed on one of the accepted Objection grounds.
- ii. The Party filing the Objection does not have standing.
- iii. Insufficient or no evidence is provided to support the Objection.
- iv. The Objection is far-fetched, clearly invented, manifestly contrary to common sense, or so ambiguous that it is objectively impossible for the DRSP to make sense of it.
- v. The Objection spreads, incites, promotes, or justifies hatred based on intolerance towards a certain group.
- vi. Multiple Objections on the same ground are filed by the same or affiliated Parties against the same Applicant in a manner that constitutes harassment of the Applicant.
- vii. Other facts that may clearly show that the Objection is manifestly unfounded and/or an abuse of the right to object.



By whom?

- The Panel



How long?

- 30 days from the Panel appointment



What outcome?

- Objection either passes or is dismissed, parties will be informed.

→ Panel's decision dismissing the Objection is issued in the form of the **Panel Determination**, which is **subject to Appeal**.



All next steps are only applicable if the Objection passes the Quick Look Review.

Cost of the proceedings



Who fixes?

- The Centre, in **EUR**.



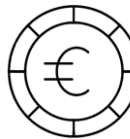
Who pays?

- Each Objector and each Applicant pays **in full** (including in consolidated cases).
- External counsel and any other third party may pay on behalf of an Objector or an Applicant, if they provide a proof of legal relationship and express authorisation to make payments to ICC of behalf of the relevant Objector or an Applicant.



How?

- **Wire transfer** to ICC's bank account.
- **Best practice:** include case reference in the payment details and provide proof of payment to the Centre.



What is the breakdown of costs?

- **Panelists' fees** based on an hourly rate (EUR 450). Fixed fee of EUR 4,000 for the work until after the Quick Look Review, regardless of the number of Panelists.
- **ICC administrative expenses** (EUR 7,000 for one-person Panel; EUR 12,000 for three-person Panel). **VAT may apply** to ICC administrative expenses in certain situations.



When?

- Within **20 days** of the notification of the outcome of the Quick Look Review.



Failure to pay the costs within the 20-day time limit by (i) both parties or by the Objector leads to the **dismissal of the Objection**; (ii) by the Applicant – leads to the **Objection being sustained**.

The decision will be issued in the form of a **Procedural Determination** that is **not** subject to Appeal.

Response Requirements

1. Each **Response** shall:

- (i) contain the names and contact information of the Applicant, the Objector and their external counsel (**if any**);
- (ii) contain a point-by-point Response to the statements made in the Objection;
- (iii) be limited to **5,000 words** (substantive portion);
- (iv) be accompanied by a proof of payment of the filing fee in the amount of **EUR 10,000** (if already paid).

2. Response and all attachments shall be in **English** (or supplied with English translation).

3. Attachments shall **not** be used to provide additional arguments or evade or circumvent the 5,000-word limit.

4. Response shall be filed by the Applicant through the Platform within **30 days** of being informed of the results of the Quick Look Review.

5. Only one Response is possible (no additional submissions unless requested by the Panel).

6. In consolidated cases, each Applicant files **its own Response**.



The Centre will conduct an administrative review to verify whether the above requirements have been complied with. If they are not, Applicant will have an opportunity to **correct** the Response but **only once**.

Should the Applicant fail to correct the Response within the time limit granted by the Centre or file the Response outside the 30-day time limit or pay the filing fee for Response within 20-day time limit of the notification of the results of the Quick Look Review, it is deemed to be in default, and the **Objection shall be sustained**. Such decision is issued in the form of **Procedural Determination** which is **not** subject to Appeal.



Best practice: start uploading documents in advance.

There will be a helpdesk for technical support.

Panel Determination



The Centre and the Panel shall make **reasonable efforts** to ensure that the Panel Determination is rendered within **45 days** of the receipt of the **Response** or **any additional written submissions** or the **hearing**, if any.

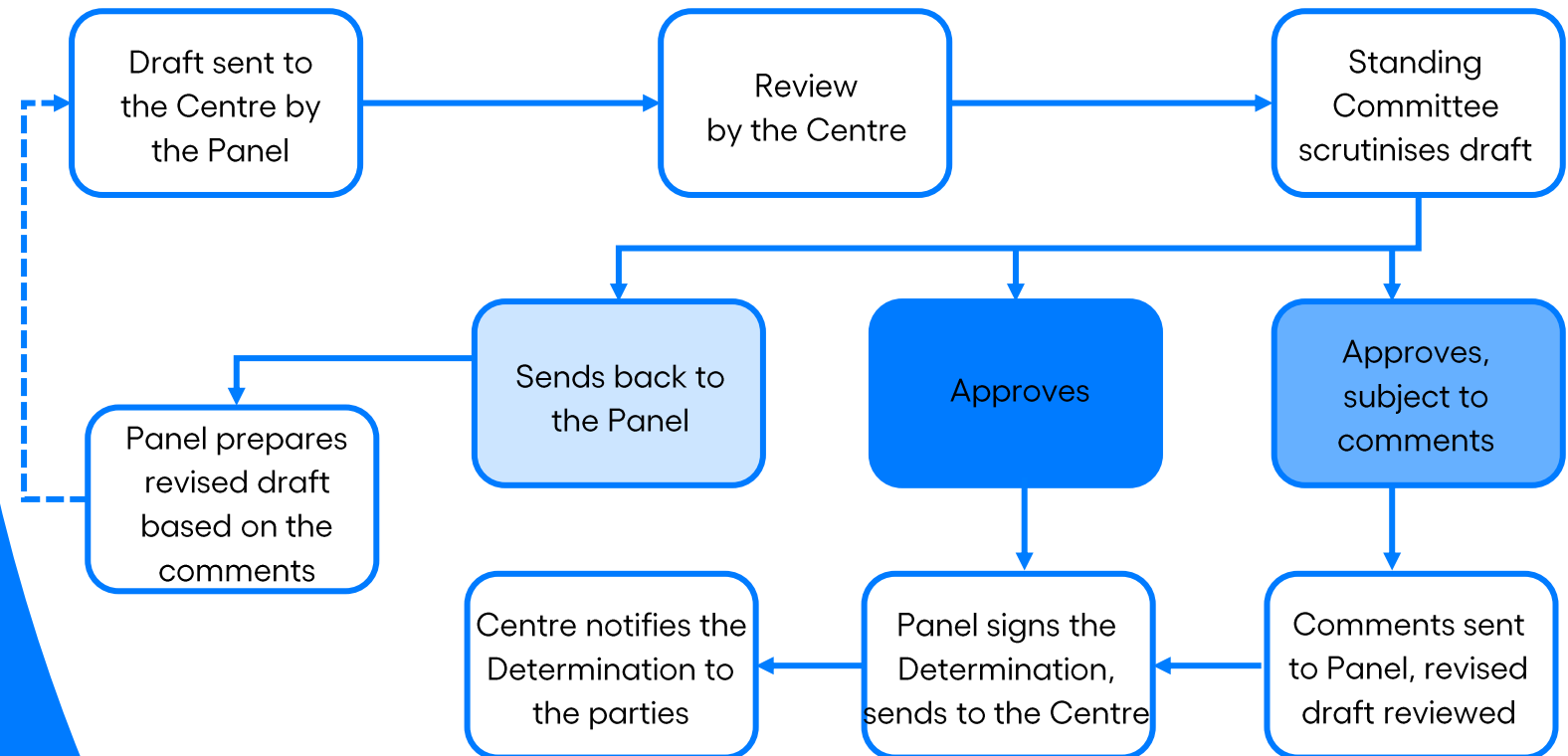


The hearing, if any is conducted remotely (ICC Hearing Centre cost is EUR 1,200 per day).



The Panel is expected to submit a **draft** Panel Determination **to the Centre for scrutiny** within **30 days** from the submission of **the Response** or **any additional written submissions** or from the **hearing**, whichever is later.

Scrutiny process



Payment to Panelists and Reimbursements



At the end of the proceedings, the Centre (i) process payment to Panelists' fees; (ii) reimburses the costs of the proceedings to the prevailing party; and (iii) reimburses any overpayment to the non-prevailing party.

To process payments, the Centre will request the parties and the Panelists to complete the **ICC Banking Instruction Form**:

ICC International Centre for ADR

CASE N° _____

BANKING INSTRUCTIONS

Information provided in this form will be kept strictly confidential.
Instructions that you provide in this form will replace any previous banking instructions provided earlier.
Please provide the information requested. Incomplete or unclear forms may delay or prevent payments by the bank.
Please see important information overleaf.

A. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____

B. ACCOUNT DETAILS

Name of account holder (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

C. BANK DETAILS

Name of bank: _____
(Indicate only the bank of the final account into which payments must be deposited and not intermediary bank.)

Address: _____

Telephone and name of the person to contact: _____

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Please fill in option 1 for bank accounts in the European Union, Albania, Andorra, Bahrain, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Iceland, Isle of Man, Israel, Jersey, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Mauritius, Montenegro, Norway, Palestine, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom. <small>(The first two boxes for the IBAN code correspond to the ISO code of the country where the account is located. ex: FR for France)</small> |
| IBAN code | _____ |
| BIC code | _____ |

2 Please fill in option 2 for bank accounts in all other countries.

Number of Account _____

BIC code _____

ABA / Routing Number / other bank codes: _____

ICC BANKING INSTRUCTIONS | 2
Case N° _____

The bank account holder must also make sure to:

- consult his/her bank if s/he does not know the IBAN and Swift codes, because without these codes, payments may be considerably delayed;
- indicate the information related to the final account into which payments are to be deposited, as we do not accept intermediary banks;
- ensure that the bank is able to receive payments from our bank, taking into consideration national and international banking legislation and practices (e.g., embargo and boycott measures); and
- notify us immediately of any change to the banking instructions, otherwise payments may be made using the prior instructions and/or could be delayed.

Bank accounts in the EEA

The PSD2 Directive which entered into force on 13 January 2018 provides that bank transfers made within the European Economic Area (EEA) are subject to shared banking fees. Therefore, banking fees generated by bank transfers made by ICC to bank accounts within the EEA will be automatically shared between the account holder and the beneficiary of the bank transfer.

Use one of the following options to sign the document:

- Copy your signature from a Word document and paste it in this form
- Draw your ink signature ([click here for further assistance](#))
- Add your electronic signature
- Print the form, sign it and scan it.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Disclaimer: Your personal data is collected by ICC as data controller, for the purpose of conducting ICC proceedings. You have the right to access, rectify, erase, the right to portability of your personal data, the right to restrict and object the processing, by sending an email to gdpr@iccadr.com or writing to the International Chamber of Commerce, ICC DPO, 33-43 avenue du Président Wilson 75116 Paris, France. For further information about this processing, please visit the [ICC Data Privacy Notice for ICC Online Resolution Proceedings](#) page.



Filing fee is **non-refundable**.

Payment sessions are held **weekly**.

Withdrawal, Mediation



Withdrawal

An Objector can withdraw its Objection **at any time** during the proceedings and prior to the issuance of the Panel Determination.

The amount of reimbursement to the Objector will be determined by the Centre based on the stage of the proceedings during which the withdrawal took place and taking into account the work done by the Centre and the Panel prior to the withdrawal.

An Applicant, as a prevailing party, will be reimbursed in full.



Mediation

Upon the parties' request, the Centre may administer mediation proceedings under the **ICC Mediation Rules**. Mediation Request form is available upon request sent to mediation@iccwbo.org.

In such case, the Centre will: (i) seek the parties' views on the procedural aspects and the attributes of a Mediator; (ii) appoint a suitable Mediator (or confirm a Mediator jointly selected by the parties) and transfer the file; (iii) provision funds to pay for the Mediator's work; (iv) review the draft Mediation Note; (v) terminate the proceedings; (vi) pay the Mediator and reimburse the parties for any extra payment.

Cost of ICC Mediation is composed of:

- Mediator's fees based on an hourly rate (EUR 450).
- ICC administrative expenses (up to EUR 5,000). VAT may apply to ICC administrative expenses in certain situations.

Differently from the cost of the Objection and Appeal proceedings, the cost of ICC Mediation is **borne by the parties in equal shares**.

Notice of Appeal vs. Appeal

Notice of Appeal

An intention to file an Appeal, specifying:

- (i) elements of the Panel Determination that are being appealed; and
- (ii) brief statement of the basis for the Appeal.

Condition precedent for filing an Appeal.



When?

- Within 15 days of the Panel Determination



Who?

- The non-prevailing party



How?

- Through the ICC Domain Dispute Platform

Appeal

A one-time basis for a non-prevailing party to challenge a Panel Determination issued in an Objection proceeding, containing:

- (i) names and contact information of the Appellant, the Respondent, and their external counsel (**if any**);
- (ii) identification of the underlying Objection being appealed;
- (iii) description of the basis for the Appeal, including a statement of the grounds upon which the Appeal is being filed, explanation of the validity of the Appeal and why the Appeal should be upheld (limited to 5,000 words).



When?

- Within 15 days of the Notice of Appeal



Who?

- The non-prevailing party that has filed a Notice of Appeal



How?

- Through the ICC Domain Dispute Platform



The Appeal process is similar to the Objection process. Notable differences are: (i) impossibility to hold a hearing; (ii) absence of cooling off period, mediation and/or settlement discussions; (iii) absence of a requirement to file a Response.

We are closer
than you think

Contact us

ICC International Centre for ADR
33-43 Avenue du Président Wilson
75116 Paris - France
Tel: +33 1 49 53 29 03

expertise@iccwbo.org

Useful links

Panel Determinations issued during the 2012 gTLD Round can be found [here](#).

More information regarding the 2026 gTLD Round will be published [here](#).