GAC Early Engagement Opportunities in a GNSO Policy Development Process – 4 January 2016

This document provides an overview of the early engagement opportunities that are being implemented on a pilot basis or are being recommended by the GAC-GNSO Consultation Group to facilitate early engagement of the GAC in the GNSO Policy Development Process. These engagement opportunities are in addition to those that are already part of the existing GNSO PDP.

PDP WG Phase	Early Engagement Mechanism	Current Status	CG Recommendation
Issue Scoping	Quick Look Mechanism (QLM)	Implemented on pilot basis	CG has recommended streamlining the current mechanism. If the streamlining has the desired effect, the QLM should be incorporated as a standard step of the GNSO process.
Initiation	PDP Charter DT Participation	Recommended to be implemented on a pilot basis	CG recommends that in those cases in which the GAC has indicated through the QLM that there are public policy implications and/or the Issue Report was requested by the GAC, the GAC is invited to join the drafting team tasked to develop a charter for the PDP WG should such a drafting team be created by the GNSO Council. Note, a draft charter is included as part of the Preliminary Issue Report which allows the GAC also to comment on the draft charter as part of the public comment period on the Preliminary Issue Report. Based on its review of the draft charter included in the Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council may decide to form a drafting team to finalize the charter or consider the charter as is.
Working Group	GAC Early Input	Recommended to be implemented on a pilot basis	CG recommends that in those cases where a positive response was received through the QLM, the GAC prepares accordingly in order to be able to provide early input to the PDP Working Group

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			following the request for early input which will be circulated to all ICANN SO/ACs and GNSO SG/Cs shortly after formation of the PDP Working Group. The GNSO Liaison to the GAC will follow up with the GAC to make sure that all necessary information is available and answer any questions that may exist concerning the request for early input. Should additional time be needed beyond the deadline stipulated by the PDP WG, the GAC Secretariat will inform the PDP WG accordingly, including the estimated submission date.
	PDP WG review of GAC Early Input	Part of existing PDP	The PDP WG will review and analyze all early input received and clearly document in its Initial Report how this input was considered and factored in.
	GAC Input as part of the public comment period on the Initial Report	Recommended to be implemented on a pilot basis	The CG recommends that the GNSO Liaison to the GAC informs the GAC Secretariat upon publication of the Initial Report for Public Comment. The GAC is invited to review the Initial Report and provide its comments on the proposed recommendations. Should additional time be needed beyond the deadline stipulated by the PDP WG, the GAC Secretariat will inform the GNSO Liaison to the GAC accordingly, including the estimated submission date of its input.
	PDP WG review of GAC Input on Initial Report	Part of existing PDP	The PDP WG will review and analyze all input received in response to the pubic comment forum and clearly document in its Final Report how the input was considered and factored in.

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Council Deliberations	Communication of GAC Concerns	To be discussed by CG	[Should there be remaining concerns by the GAC following the review of the Final Report, the GAC could communicate those concerns directly to the GNSO Council via the GAC Chair. If such concerns are raised, the GNSO Council is expected to review these concerns and provide feedback to the GAC on how these concerns will be / have been addressed]
Board Vote	Notification of the GAC prior to ICANN Board consideration	Part of existing PDP	Prior to Board consideration of GNSO PDP recommendations, the ICANN Board notifies the GAC and requests input on whether there are any public policy recommendations associated with the PDP recommendations.
	GAC Advice that differs or contradicts the PDP Recommendations	To be discussed CG	[Contemplate a conciliation mechanism that brings the GNSO and GAC together to work out differences before Board consideration?]
Implementation	GAC participation in implementation review team	Part of existing PDP	An Implementation review team (IRT) is formed following the adoption of the PDP recommendations by the ICANN Board to assist staff in the implementation of the recommendations. The IRT is open to anyone interested to participate, although volunteers with operational expertise are specifically sought.