ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
July 2017 Newsletter

**Note: all upcoming meetings are subject to change. For current scheduling information, please see the GNSO Master Calendar, Working Group scheduling document, and list of upcoming Work Track topics.

CURRENT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

Overall Working Group

Current Status:

A face-to face working session was held on Tuesday 27 June at ICANN59 in Johannesburg. The session included a review of the current status of Working Group discussions on overarching issues. The group deliberated on whether, from a policy perspective, it would make sense to limit the number of new gTLDs launched per year and discussed any technical work that should be completed related to this topic. Participants also provided input on the issue of whether subsequent procedures should be organized in rounds or using a different mechanism, such as first-come first-serve.

The Working Group leadership team organized cross-community discussions at ICANN59 focused on the treatment of geographic names at the top level. These sessions, which were open to the entire community, took place on Tuesday 27 June from 17:00 to 18:30 and Thursday 29 June from 15:15 to 18:30. With the assistance of independent facilitators from the Consensus Building Institute, the Co-Chairs encouraged substantive discussion using a "strawperson" document that incorporated elements of several proposals from community members presented in the 25 April webinar sessions on the same topic. In the cross-community discussions, participants also raised procedural issues and concerns related to the addressing geographic names at the top level. The Co-Chairs proposed devoting a fifth Work Track in the Subsequent Procedures PDP to this topic using a shared leadership model with representation from the relevant SOs and ACs.

The Work Tracks have now completed an initial review and discussion of the more than 30 topic areas included in the PDP. With this first pass complete, the Work Tracks will leverage Community Comment 2 (CC2) input to do a deeper dive into each subject to determine what action, if any, the group should take on each topic.

The Working Group is continuing to prepare preliminary outcomes for the overarching subjects in the WG's Charter, incorporating input received through Community Comment 1 (CC1). Three

drafting teams are supporting this work, each with a specific focus: different TLD types, predictability/community engagement, and "rounds" for application assessment. These drafting groups are still open for those with interest and knowledge on the topics.

Next Steps:

The full Working Group will be considering input from a number of sources in its upcoming meetings, with continued focus on comments received through Community Comment 2 (CC2).

Work Track 1

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on Systems, Communications, Application Fees, Applicant Support, and Registry Service Provider Accreditation/Certification. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT1 working document.

13 June meeting highlights:
- Reviewed status of deliberations and anticipated outcomes on three topics: Systems, Communications, and Application Fees.
- Discussed CC2 comments on Application Fees, including feedback on the appropriate cost of applying and use of potential surplus funds from application fees.

ICANN59 working session highlights:
- Considered developing a set of policy principles guiding the implementation of a potential Applicant Support Program. Suggestions included focusing on long-term sustainability of the TLD, ensuring that requirements for technical capacity remain in place, and improving mentoring and publicity components of the program.
- Discussed draft principles developed by the Registry Stakeholder Group to find efficiencies when switching RSPs.
- Solicited feedback on the applicability of these principles to Work Track discussions on a potential RSP Program for application processes in subsequent procedures.

WT1 had a meeting on 11 July in which it began to review input received through CC2. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT1 has a meeting scheduled for 25 July (topic: continued review of CC2 comments).

Work Track 2

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on Global Public Interest, Registrar Non-Discrimination & Registry/Registrar Separation, and Closed Generics. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT2 working document.

[1 June](#) meeting highlights:
- Went over an [introduction](#) on the topic [Global Public Interest](#), with a focus on the history and scope of Public Interest Commitments (PICs).
- Formulated a series of questions for the ICANN organization on complaints received regarding PIC violations. Responses received from ICANN Compliance will inform future discussions on this topic.

[15 June](#) meeting highlights:
- Deliberated on [data provided](#) by the ICANN organization in response to questions from the WT on vertical integration and considered potential follow-up questions.
- Reviewed input received on the topic of vertical integration through [CC2](#) and discussed approach for reviewing and integrating feedback obtained through public comment.

[ICANN59 working session](#) highlights:
- Reviewed [potential pros and cons](#) of closed generics, and solicited community input on solutions that maximize potential benefits and minimize potential harms.
- Discussed possible compromise proposals, including a recommendation to lift the prohibition on closed generics and address concerns about specific strings through existing objection procedures.

WT1 had a meeting on [11 July](#) in which it began to review [input received through CC2](#) on the Registry Agreement. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT2 has a meeting scheduled for 27 July (topic: continued review of [CC2 comments](#) on the Registry Agreement).

Work Track 3

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on [Accountability Mechanisms](#), GAC Advice, and GAC Early Warning. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT3 [working document](#).
[6 June](#) meeting highlights:
- Went over an [introduction](#) to the topic of Accountability Mechanisms and reviewed the different measures currently in place to support accountability.
- Discussed standards for review of accountability mechanisms. Some WT members expressed support for additional measures that focus on the substance of decisions in the New gTLD Program.
- Deliberated on potential areas for improvement regarding transparency and conflicts of interest.

[20 June](#) meeting highlights:
- Guest speaker [David McAuley](#), Lead of the Independent Review Process Implementation Oversight Team (IRP IOT), provided an [overview](#) of the IRP's scope and applicability to the New gTLD Program.

- Guest speaker [Kiran Malancharuvil](), Policy Counselor at MarkMonitor, reflected on her experience participating in the first Public Interest Commitment Dispute Resolution Procedure (PICDRP) case to reach the Standing Panel stage.

[ICANN59 working session]() highlights:
- [Introduced]() the topic of GAC Advice and GAC Early Warning, with a focus on history of the topic and statistics regarding Advice and Early Warning in the 2012 New gTLD round.
- Discussed benefits and challenges of GAC Advice and GAC Early Warning in the 2012 round, with a focus on predictability and applicant freedom of expression.

Next Steps:

WT3 has a meeting scheduled for 18 July (topic: review of [CC2 comments]() on the topic of Objections).

Work Track 4

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on [Name Collisions]() and [IDN Variant TLDs](). A full record of deliberations is available in the WT4 [working document]().

[8 June]() meeting highlights:
- Reviewed [topics addressed]() at the [GDD Summit](), [ICANN DNS Symposium](), and [DNS OARC 26]() that are relevant to WT discussions.
- Went over input from JAS Advisors and revisited SSAC Advisories on the topic of name collisions.
- Discussed [CC2 comments]() submitted on the topic of Name Collisions.

[20 June]() meeting highlights:
- Reviewed items on which the WT has reached tentative consensus:
    - Demonstrating technical capability only after evaluation
    - Technical Evaluation to be performed as aggregated / consolidated as feasible
    - Financial Evaluation to be performed in aggregation of a registry family
    - Universal Acceptance
    - IDNs Security and stability review
    - IDNs 1-char TLDs
    - IDN Variant TLDs
    - Name collision framework for subsequent procedures
- Identified additional areas requiring further discussion related to name collisions.

[ICANN59 working session]() highlights:
- Reviewed [proposed recommendations on IDN variant TLDs](), soliciting feedback from community members and inviting questions on the proposal.
- Went over a [proposed name collision framework]() for subsequent procedures, with a particular focus on obtaining input on the appropriate length of the controlled interruption period.

Next Steps:

WT4 has a meeting scheduled for 20 July (topic: review of CC2 comments).

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

In June 2014, the GNSO Council established a Discussion Group that was intended to evaluate the experiences of the 2012 round gTLD Program and to identify possible areas for future GNSO policy development. The Discussion Group's deliverables served as the basis for the GNSO Council's request for a Preliminary Issue Report in June of 2015.

Following the publication of the Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council adopted the charter for the PDP Working Group, which began its work in February 2016. The Working Group initially concentrated on a set of overarching issues, and has since established four separate Work Tracks to consider specific topic areas: Work Track 1 - Overall Process/Support/Outreach, Work Track 2 - Legal/Regulatory, Work Track 3: String Contention/Objections & Disputes, Work Track 4: Internationalized Domain Names/Technical & Operations.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Discussion Group identified a number of subjects that may require further analysis and possible formulation of policy language. There are existing policy recommendations adopted by the GNSO Council and ICANN Board, which will remain in place unless the PDP WG determines that changes are needed.

To join this effort, please email the GNSO Secretariat: gnso-secs@icann.org
All are welcome!

MORE INFORMATION
- PDP Working Group Workspace Wiki: https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw
- PDP Working Group Charter: https://community.icann.org/x/KAp1Aw
- PDP Working Group Active Project Page: https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures