Chartered objectives for the Working Group:

Preamble: The working group on vertical integration shall evaluate and propose policy recommendations for new gTLDs and existing gTLDs. The working group expects to define the range of restrictions on vertical separation that are currently in effect, to serve as a baseline to evaluate future proposals.

Objective 1: To make policy recommendations that provide clear direction to ICANN staff and new gTLD applicants on whether, and if so under what conditions, contracts for new gTLD registries can permit vertical integration or otherwise deviate from current forms of registry-registrar separation, and equivalent access and non-discriminatory access.

Objective 2: To review current and previous ICANN gTLD registry contracts and policies to identify the current and previous restrictions and practices concerning registry-registrar separation, and equivalent access and non-discriminatory access in place.

Objective 3: To identify and clearly articulate the changes to current cross-ownership arrangements contemplated by the options described in the most recent version of the DAG and supporting documents and considered by ICANN staff in connection with the planned introduction of new gTLDs.

Objective 4: To identify and clearly articulate the differences between the current restrictions and practices concerning registry-registrar separation and ~~equal~~ equivalent access, on the one hand, and the options described in the most recent version of the DAG and supporting documents[1] and changes considered by staff, on the other hand.

Objective 5: *Determine as best as possible, to the extent reasonable in the time given, the potential impacts of any recommendations on any affected parties*

Objective 6: To perform the PDP activities in a manner that does not delay the launch of the New GTLD Program.

Objective 7: WG shall examine relationship, if any, between VI and CO.

Working Definitions to be used by the Working Group[2]

"Vertical Integration" (VI) is defined as a business structure in which there is no separation between the Registry Operator and the registrar in relation to a particular gTLD. They are either owned or controlled by the same company or have another contractual affiliation that controls the specific gTLD, and the Registry Operator is not required to provide equivalent access and non-discriminatory access to non-affiliated registrars to sell names under its gTLD.

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[1] The working group understands that the DAG is a fluid document. As a result, the working group will conduct its activities based upon the version of the document available.

[2] The working definitions included in this charter are subject to further development and refinement but are included in the interests of time in order to allow the remainder of the charter to be finalized and approved by the GNSO Council.

"Cross ownership" (CO) is defined as the controlling ownership of a share of a registry by a registrar, or vice-versa.

"Minority Interest" is defined as the minority ownership of a share of a registry by a registrar, or vice-versa.

Operating procedures for the Working Group

The Working Group will operate according to the guidelines set out in the Draft Working guidelines of 5 Feb 2010

Milestones From Charter Approval Date[3]

Week	Dates	Tasks/Goals
1-2	26 Mar	Original recruitment for group members will go out to the constituencies and the ICANN community.
1-3	2 Apr	Staff begins documentation on existing approaches and practices, differentiating among Vertical Integration, Joint Marketing approaches.
2	22 Mar	Group begins work.
3-5	16 April	Collect Constituency/SG statements and community comments.
5-7	30 April	Review of existing documents and commentary.
	16 April	Publish Staff document on existing approaches and practices.
6-8	7 May	Review staff document and constituency and public comments.
9-11	28 May	Discuss conditions under which various practices are appropriate.
9-12	4 Jun	Discuss and document policy recommendations.
16	30 Jun	Final Report to Council and out for public review.

Charter DT coordinator (and Council liaison): Stephane Van Gelder

WG Chair(s): TBD

WG Wiki:

WG Members and SOI pointers

Changes to this Charter

The Chair will submit requests for substantive changes to this Charter to the GNSO Council for approval.

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[3] Assuming Council Approval on 10 Mar

The Chair may, at any time, refer questions or requests for clarification on any of the objectives or definitions contained in this charter to the GNSO council. Such requests may be relayed through the Council Liaison.