ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
June 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:

The public comment period has closed on Community Comment 2 (CC2), a list of questions from the Working Group on specific topics within its Charter. The Working Group invited input from Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies, and community members, including applicants for the 2012 round of new gTLDs. As of 31 May 2017, 25 responses were received. The Working Group is now organizing and analyzing these responses, which will support deliberations in the four Work Tracks.

The Working Group leadership team is making preparations for cross-community sessions at ICANN59 focused on the treatment of geographic names at the top level. These sessions, which will be open to the entire community, will be held on Tuesday 27 June from 17:00 to 18:30 local time and Thursday 29 June from 15:15 to 18:30 local time. Remote participation and language interpretation will be available. The face-to-face sessions follow two webinars, which provided background on the history of these issues as well an opportunity to hear the variety of positions held by different members of the ICANN community. At ICANN59, participants will seek to work through substantive proposals from the community and a path forward for policy development with respect to the use of geographic terms at the top level.

The Working Group submitted a public comment in response to the CCT Review Team report on the 2012 round of new gTLDs and the recommendations contained therein. The purpose of the comment is to pose clarifying questions and make suggestions about the language of the Draft Recommendations to help the CCT-RT refine the text for the Final Report. A number of the recommendations, if finalized, will require additional work for the WG on a variety of issues.

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 particular focus on comments received through Community Comment 2 (CC2).

Work Track 1

Current Status:

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

16 May meeting highlights:
- Continued to discuss and develop draft principles and requirements for a potential registry service provider accreditation/certification or pre-approval program.
- Discussed the intersection of this work with issues in scope for Work Track 4, noting that developing a process for accreditation/certification is within the scope of Work Track 1, while Work Track 4 is addressing the issue of evaluation standards.

30 May meeting highlights:
- Reviewed status of WT deliberations on Applicant Support, Applicant Guidebook, and Clarity of Application Process and discussed the path forward on these topics.
- Went over draft principles and requirements document for a potential registry service provider accreditation/certification program, and will be looking to CC2 responses for additional guidance.

Next Steps:

WT1 has a meeting scheduled for 13 June (topic: Applicant Support).

Work Track 2

Current Status:

In May, the WT focused on Registrar Non-Discrimination & Registry/Registrar Separation, TLD Rollout, and Contractual Compliance. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT2 working document.

18 May meeting highlights:
- Received an overview on the topic of Vertical Integration, including history of the issue, key developments, and current status.
- Discussed anticipated benefits and harms of Vertical Integration and the extent to which benefits and harms were observed in practice.

- Reflected on additional questions: Do we need to reopen VI issue? Have the potential harms been effectively mitigated? If not, what do we need to do to change that? If we didn't realize the potential benefits, what do we need to do?
- Currently waiting on key data points in order to continue the discussion further.

25 May meeting highlights:
- Introduced the topic of Contractual Compliance and discussed whether there were compliance issues that needed to be addressed by the Working Group.
- Introduced the topic of TLD Rollout and identified additional data points that would help the group determine if additional work is needed on this topic.

WT2 had a meeting on 2 June on the topic of Global Public Interest. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT2 has a meeting scheduled for 15 June (topic: Vertical Integration).

Work Track 3

Current Status:

In May, the WT focused on Community Applications, Applicant Freedom of Expression, and Accountability Mechanisms. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT3 working document.

2 May meeting highlights:
- Reviewed current policy related to Applicant Freedom of Expression and key historical developments on this topic within ICANN.
- Offered different perspectives in response to discussion questions: Are applicants' freedom of expression rights adequately protected in GTLD program? Should applicants' use of words considered sensitive, problematic, or generic be exempt from freedom of expression rights? How do ICANN Bylaws require handling of competing policy preferences between GAC and GNSO on gTLD policy?
- Noted the importance of coordinating with other groups working on these issues within ICANN.

23 May meeting highlights:
- Reviewed history of the discussion around Community Applications prior to the 2012 round.
- Deliberated on whether communities should receive different treatment in subsequent procedures, and if so how this distinction should be reflected in policy and implementation.
- Introduced the topic of Accountability Mechanisms.
- Subsequently published to the WT3 list a proposal to define "Community" for discussion and refinement by the WT.

WT3 had a meeting on 6 June on the topic of Accountability Mechanisms. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT3 has a meeting scheduled for 20 June (topics: CC2 responses, priorities for ICANN59 face-to-face meeting, topics needing plenary input).

Work Track 4

Current Status:

In May, the WT focused on Name Collisions. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT4 working document.

4 May meeting highlights:
- Reviewed history of the issue of Name Collisions within ICANN.
- Revisited possible policy options expressed in Community Comment 2 questions.
- Noting that Patrik Fältström would join as a guest speaker in the following meeting, discussed questions regarding SSAC's work related to name collisions to raise with Patrik.

25 May meeting highlights:
- Guest speaker Patrik Fältström, Chair of the SSAC, presented information about name collisions and Internationalized Domain Names.
- Focused on reviewing recommendations included in SAC090: SSAC Advisory on the Stability of the Domain Namespace and SAC084: SSAC Comments on Guidelines for the Extended Process Similarity Review Panel for the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.
- Discussed SAC094: SSAC Response to the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Community Comment 2.
- Reviewed the newly published SAC095: SSAC Advisory on the Use of Emoji in Domain Names, which recommends that the ICANN Board reject any TLD (root zone label) that includes emoji and discourages the registration of any domain name that includes emoji in any of its labels.

Next Steps:

WT4 has meetings scheduled for 8 June (topic: Name Collisions, including a detailed review of the existing Name Collision Occurrence Framework) and 20 June (topic: Taking stock of progress of WT tasks and review of CC2 responses to WT4 questions).

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 on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures 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