ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
October 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 Working Group is continuing to refine preliminary outcomes for the overarching subjects in the WG's Charter, leveraging input received through Community Comment 1 (CC1). Three streams of work are currently underway, each with a specific focus: different TLD types, predictability/community engagement, and "rounds" for application assessment. In September, the WG concentrated on progressing deliberations on different TLD types.

The co-chairs are forming a fifth Work Track in the PDP devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top level. Work Track 5 will have a shared leadership model between the GAC, ALAC, ccNSO, and GNSO. The co-chairs have asked the GAC, ALAC, ccNSO, and GNSO to each identify a co-leader for this effort. To date, the following people have been nominated: Annabeth Lange (ccNSO), Christopher Wilkinson (ALAC), and Martin Sutton (GNSO). The GAC has not yet released the name of its appointee. The Working Group is hoping to issue a formal call for volunteers prior to ICANN60.

The Work Tracks are wrapping up discussion of issues identified in Community Comment 2 (CC2).

Next Steps:

The full Working Group will continue to refine documentation reflecting deliberations on the overarching issues, taking into account input from a number of sources. The WG plans to complete a first reading on the overarching issues in the next months. The Work Tracks seek to complete discussion of Community Comment 2 (CC2) on most topics by ICANN60. The next step for the Work Tracks will be to develop draft recommendations for changes, if any, to the existing policy or implementation, which will then be reviewed by the full Working Group before publication of Draft Recommendations for public comment.

The Working Group has two working sessions scheduled for ICANN60. The first will be on Saturday 28 October from 12:15 to 15:00. The second will be on Wednesday 1 November from 8:30 to 12:00. Agendas for the sessions will soon be available here.

Work Track 1

Current Status:

In September, the WT focused on Applicant Support, Communications, and Registry Service Provider Programs. A record of deliberations is available in the WT1 working document.

5 September meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 comments on Applicant Support, which included suggestions for improving communications, outreach, and the use of metrics to measure success of the program. Many of the CC2 comments supported continuing to provide applicant support in some form, but responses varied in terms of the recommended focus of the program. Some comments suggested expanding the program beyond financial support to include, for example, technical support and training.
- Considered CC2 comments on Communications, including input on potential channels for sharing information and methods for measuring the impact of the communications strategy.

19 September meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 comments on Registry Service Provider Programs, including feedback on anticipated benefits and risks of creating such a program, as well as specific program elements such as the potential evaluation of an RSP's ability to scale.
- Revisited underlying goals of establishing an RSP program and discussed the standards that might be appropriate in setting benchmarks for evaluation.

WT1 had a meeting on 3 October, which focused on Registry Service Provider Programs. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT1 has a meeting scheduled for 17 October (topics: Clarity of the Application Process, Application Fees, and Variable Fees).

Work Track 2

Current Status:

In September, the WT focused on Registrant Protections and Closed Generics. A record of deliberations is available in the WT2 working document.

7 September meeting highlights:
- Continued to review CC2 responses on Registrant Protections, with a focus on applicant background checks.

- Discussed potential categories of applicants for which background checks may not be necessary as part of the application process.
- Considered that it may be appropriate to have multiple approaches to meeting the underlying goals of background checks based on business norms in different regions.

14 September meeting highlights:
- Began to discuss feedback received through CC2 on the topic of closed generics, including input on the definition of the term "generic."
- Discussed arguments provided in the CC2 comments that supported allowing closed generic TLDs and those that favored restricting closed generic TLDs.

28 September meeting highlights:
- Reviewed discussions within the WT so far on the topic of closed generics and revisited key arguments on both sides of the debate.
- Discussed the need to develop clear definitions for "public interest" and "harms" in the context of discussions regarding closed generics.

WT2 had a meeting on 5 October, which focused on Closed Generics. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT2 has meetings scheduled for 12 October and 19 October.

Work Track 3

Current Status:

In September, the WT focused on Objections and String Similarity. A record of deliberations is available in the WT3 working document.

12 September meeting highlights:
- Continued to review CC2 input on Objections, with a focus on comments received regarding GAC Advice.
- Reviewed suggestions for improving the GAC Early Warning mechanism to increase predictability for applicants. Discussed the relationship between GAC Early Warning and GAC Advice and discussed data on the use of GAC Early Warning and GAC Advice from the 2012 round.

26 September meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 comments on String Similarity, including examples of issues with consistency and suggestions for changes to policy and implementation.
- Discussed recommendations provided in CC2 comments on the issue of singles and plurals and reviewed an analysis of TLDs from the 2012 round that represent singles and plurals of the same string.

WT3 had a meeting on 10 October, which covered Community Applications and Community Priority Evaluation. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT3 has meetings scheduled for 17 October (topic: Accountability Mechanisms).

Work Track 4

Current Status:

In September, the WT focused on Financial Evaluation in Applicant Reviews. A record of deliberations is available in the WT4 working document.

14 September meeting highlights:
- Discussed Applicant Reviews with a focus on Financial Evaluation, and received feedback from the ICANN Organization about the process used for Financial Evaluation in the 2012 round.
- Deliberated on a strawman proposal regarding Financial Evaluations: "No need to do any financial evaluation as part of the application process. ICANN Org would be allowed to evaluate any financial information deemed appropriate as required by usual corporate governance before contract signing (like OFAC regulations and credit reports). Applicants will be provided in AGB a non-exhaustive list of likely documents to be required as part of the contracting process, if they succeed in their applications."

WT4 had a meeting on 5 October, which covered Name Collisions and questions in the application regarding Registry Services. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT4 has meetings scheduled for 12 October and 24 October.

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