ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

Policy Briefing
ICANN56 Edition

The GNSO Background Briefings are produced by ICANN's Policy staff supporting the GNSO. These are drafted specifically in preparation for ICANN meetings to provide the Community with concise background information on all relevant GNSO policy efforts.

For more information on the GNSO @ ICANN56:

🌐 **gnso.icann.org/icannmeeting**   🐦 **@ICANN_GNSO**

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GNSO Council Chair WELCOMES YOU to ICANN56

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of myself, the Vice Chairs, and the GNSO Council, let me say "Tervetuloa"! and welcome to ICANN56 Helsinki. This week's conference represents ICANN's inaugural Policy Forum, frequently and affectionately referred to as Meeting B. The objective of this conference format is to create a shorter and more focused event that highlights policy development activities and fosters cross-community interactions.

As usual, there is no shortage of critical policy development work going on within the GNSO. Work on the Registration data services (RDS) PDP is underway, and the Working Group is engaged in community outreach to capture potential requirements for a system that could potentially replace WHOIS. Progress also continues on procedures covering subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, considering a number of issues arising from the 2012 round, such as reviewing the community application process and how to assist developing countries participate in future processes. The Review of Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP is also underway and will be continuing in its consideration of newly introduced mechanisms such as the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure. Community members are also collaborating with ICANN Staff to implement recently completed PDPs that address domain transfers, and both translated and "thick" WHOIS data.

The IANA Transition Proposal was recently approved by the NTIA, but significant projects must be completed to prepare ICANN for its new responsibilities. Among these, the GNSO must consider appointing a non-Registry Liaison to the new Customer Standing Committee (CSC), and approve the appointment of other liaisons as well. And as ICANN prepares to adopt new Bylaws that reform the organization's accountability, the GNSO is analyzing its potential role in the new Empowered Community to determine whether new procedures are required to participate effectively in a post-transition ICANN.

It's very likely that ICANN56 will look and feel very different from previous ICANN events. Years from now, we will may look back upon the Helsinki Policy Forum as an inflection point in the evolution of ICANN, or as a well-intentioned idea that didn't quite deliver. Whatever the outcome may be, I encourage all attendees to embrace these changes to allow this new format the best opportunity to succeed, and to demonstrate that the ICANN community doesn't shy away from innovation and new ideas to improve its work.

James Bladel
GNSO Chair

More information: Video from Chair and Vice-Chair:
youtube.com/watch?v=DY7d0C5NS6c

Meeting B at a Glance

As many of you will know by now, ICANN56 brings with it a new meeting format. Following the community-led review of the **meeting strategy**, Helsinki will be the first 'Meeting B'. The new format turns the forthcoming Meeting in Finland into a 'Policy Forum', skipping the traditional Public Forum and focusing on cross-community policy development instead. A more in-depth overview is provided by Nick Tomasso, VP Meetings, in his recent **blog post**.

Due to the novelty of this new meeting format, even some seasoned ICANN veterans might not be entirely sure what to expect from ICANN56 and where to find all the important information to prepare for the meeting. The GNSO Policy Support Team has, as similar to other ICANN meetings, put together these preparatory Policy Briefings to give an overview of the status of the various policy development efforts that are expected to be discussed at ICANN56. In addition, this document provides a handy overview of links to make sure community members are able to find all preparatory information they need to make ICANN56 as successful as possible:

ICANN56 MEETING INFO
- Schedule: **meetings.icann.org/en/icann56-sched**
- Register for Helsinki: **registration.icann.org/register**
- Info about remote participation: **meetings.icann.org/en/remote-participation**
- Blog on ICANN56: **icann.org/news/blog/icann56-the-new-meeting-format-and-what-that-means-to-you**
- Expected standard of behavior: **meetings.icann.org/sites/default/files/icann-behavior-jul14.pdf**

GNSO RELATED INFORMATION
- GNSO 1-stop-shop for ICANN56: **gnso.icann.org/en/icannmeeting**
- Meeting page: **meetings.icann.org/en/helsinki56**
- Project List: **gnso.icann.org/en/council/project**

If you have any further questions after reviewing the information contained in this policy briefing, please contact us at **policy-staff@icann.org**. We all wish you a fruitful Meeting B and safe travels to Helsinki.

GNSO Policy Support Team

Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Development Process

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The GNSO is not planning a specific session on this topic, since the PDP has been completed and the consensus recommendations have been sent to the ICANN Board. However, it is likely that the topic may be addressed as part of the Board-GNSO meeting currently scheduled for Monday 27 June from 10:45-12:00. In addition, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has scheduled a session on the topic, on Tuesday 28 June from 11:00-12:00 at which GNSO representatives are expected to participate.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This Policy Development Process (PDP) was initiated to develop policy recommendations guiding ICANN's implementation of an accreditation program for privacy and proxy service providers.

A privacy service allows domain name registration in the registrant's name, but all other contact details displayed in the publicly-accessible Whois system are those given by the privacy service provider, not by the registrant.

A proxy service allows the registered name holder to license the use of the domain to a customer who actually uses the domain; the contact information displayed in the WHOIS system is that of the proxy service provider.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The 2013 RAA contains a temporary specification that governs registrars' obligations in respect of privacy and proxy services that will expire on 1 January 2017 or when ICANN implements a privacy and proxy accreditation program, whichever first occurs.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The PDP Working Group (WG) completed and submitted its Final Report to the GNSO Council in December 2015. In January 2016, the GNSO Council adopted the WG's final recommendations, all of which received full consensus within the WG. Following the close of public comments on the recommendations, the ICANN Board **acknowledged receipt** of the GNSO's recommendations and requested more time to consider them, which would also allow the GAC to provide any timely advice on any public policy concerns that may be raised by the recommendations.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The ICANN Board plans to take up the matter again at its first meeting following ICANN56. If the Board adopts the GNSO-recommended policies, an Implementation Review Team will be formed to assist ICANN staff with implementing the recommendations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you wish to join the Implementation Review Team, you should follow the Board's consideration of this topic and, if the Board adopts the GNSO's recommendations, look out for an announcement about formation of the Implementation Review Team.

MORE INFORMATION

- The WG's Final Report containing background and all the final policy recommendations: **gnso.icann.org/en/issues/raa/ppsai-final-07dec15**

- WG webpage with links to background information: **gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/ppsa**

- Board resolution acknowledging receipt of the GNSO's recommendations: **icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-05-15-en#2.a**

BACKGROUND

In October 2011, the ICANN Board initiated negotiations with the Registrars Stakeholder Group to update the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), and simultaneously requested an Issue Report from the GNSO on issues not covered by the negotiations but suited for a PDP. The Final Issue Report was published in March 2012, and recommended that the GNSO commence its PDP on any issues not covered by the RAA as soon as possible after the negotiations were concluded.

In June 2013, the ICANN Board formally approved the new 2013 RAA. In September 2013, ICANN staff published a paper for the GNSO, reporting on the conclusion of the RAA negotiations and highlighting issues relating to privacy and proxy services, including their accreditation and relay/reveal procedures. In October 2013, the GNSO Council formally approved the charter for the PDP WG on Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI).

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Mary Wong and Marika Konings

IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms Policy Development Process

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This PDP was initiated in June 2014 by the GNSO Council to consider whether existing curative rights protection mechanisms (namely, the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) and Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) procedure) should be modified to address the needs of International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) to protect their names and acronyms at the second level in both existing and new gTLDs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Protecting the names and acronyms of IGOs and INGOs at the top and second levels has been a long-standing issue over the course of the New gTLD Program. The GNSO had previously recommended certain protective measures to the ICANN Board, but those that pertained to IGO acronyms differed from the advice provided by the Government Advisory Committee's (GAC) to the Board. In early 2014, the Board tasked its New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC) to develop a proposal that would take into account both the GNSO's recommendations and GAC advice, while adopting those GNSO recommendations that are consistent with GAC advice received. In addition, the NGPC and the GNSO Council have discussed the possibility of the GNSO amending its remaining recommendations so as to reconcile them with GAC advice, in accordance with the prescribed procedure in the GNSO's PDP Manual.

However, this new PDP is not dependent on the outcome of those discussions, which focus on the issue of preventive (i.e. before a third party registers a domain name) rather than on curative (i.e. following a third party domain name registration) protections.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The Charter directs the WG to consider whether the UDRP and URS should be amended to resolve the problems faced by IGOs and/or INGOs and if so in what way; or if a separate, narrowly tailored dispute resolution procedure should be developed to apply only to IGOs and/or INGOs. The WG has reached preliminary agreement on a number of points, including on an IGO's standing to file a complaint under the UDRP and URS.

The WG is currently discussing the issue of IGO immunity from the jurisdiction of national courts for purposes of an appeal from a UDRP or URS decision. An external subject matter expert has provided the WG with a legal opinion, which the WG will consider as it begins to develop its preliminary recommendations.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The WG hopes to complete its Initial Report shortly after ICANN56 and to put its preliminary recommendations out for public comments before ICANN57.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The Working Group is open to anyone; please contact the GNSO Secretariat to be added to the mailing list **gnso.secretariat@gnso.icann.org**.

You can also attend the WG's meeting in Marrakech on Wednesday 9 March 2016 from 09:00-10:15am local time (please see the final Meeting Schedule for confirmation).

MORE INFORMATION

- GNSO project page with relevant dates and background:
  gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/igo-ingo-crp-access

- IGO-INGO Curative Rights Protection WG collaborative wiki space with meeting records and draft documents: **community.icann.org/x/37rhAg**

BACKGROUND

IGOs and INGOs are currently unable to fully use either the UDRP or URS for a number of reasons. For IGOs, the requirement that a complainant submit to the jurisdiction of a national court is alleged to jeopardize an IGO's jurisdictional immunity status. For both IGOs and INGOs, the fact that the UDRP and URS were designed as protective mechanisms for trademark owners currently means that they cannot utilize these procedures unless they also own trademarks in their names and/or acronyms. Both types of organizations are also concerned about the cost involved in using these procedures, which would mean diverting resources and funds from their primary missions.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Mary Wong and Steve Chan

Next Generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) to Replace WHOIS Policy Development Process

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

In addition to a face-to-face **Working Group meeting**, there is a **cross-community discussion** planned on this topic. During this session, WG members will draw from their own experiences to share examples and invite attendees to join in a lively conversation about possible requirements they believe should be supported by a gTLD Registration Directory Service. Input gathered during this cross-community session are essential to inform this PDP WG's phase 1 recommendations on whether a next-generation RDS is needed to replace WHOIS and why.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

In April 2015, the ICANN Board reaffirmed 'its request for a Board-initiated GNSO policy development process to define the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data, and consider safeguards for protecting data, using the recommendations in the Expert Working Group (EWG) Final Report as an input to, and, if appropriate, as the foundation for a new gTLD policy'.

Following the publication of the PDP Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council adopted the charter for the PDP Working Group, which commenced its deliberations at the end of January 2016. During the first phase its work, the Working Group has been tasked with providing the GNSO Council with recommendations on the following two questions: What are the fundamental requirements for gTLD registration data and is a new policy framework and next-generation RDS needed to address these requirements?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Comprehensive 'WHOIS' policy reform remains the source of long-running discussions within ICANN. Any discussion of 'Whois' — hereafter called gTLD registration directory services – typically includes topics such as purpose, accuracy, availability, privacy, anonymity, cost, policing, intellectual property protection, security and malicious use and abuse. Although ICANN's requirements for domain name registration data collection have undergone some important changes, after almost 15 years of GNSO task forces, working groups, workshops, surveys, and studies the policy is still in need of comprehensive reforms that address the significant number of contentious issues attached to it.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The PDP Working Group convened at the end of January 2016. Following the completion of the work of three small teams of volunteers to identify and summarize **key input documents** that are relevant to the charter questions pertaining to gTLD registration directory services purpose, privacy and data elements, the PDP Working Group finalized its work plan for tackling the fundamental questions outlined in its charter (Work Plan task #6). Furthermore, the PDP WG sent out a request for early input from GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies, as well as other ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, to help inform its discussions. Input received to date can be found here. The Working Group is now in the process of compiling a list of possible requirements for gTLD registration directory services, providing a foundation upon which to recommend answers to these two questions: What are the fundamental requirements for gTLD registration data and directory services, and is a new policy framework and next-generation RDS needed to address these requirements?

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

After the WG confirms that this list of possible requirements is sufficiently complete to serve as the foundation for WG deliberation, the WG plans to continue through its work plan to Task 12 where it will systematically consider each possible requirement individually with the goal of trying to reach as strong a consensus as possible as to whether the WG supports the possible requirement, including how it is worded. Due to interdependencies, WG deliberation will likely be iterative, especially on fundamental questions pertaining to purpose, data, and privacy. As part of this process, the WG is expected to review the input received from GNSO SG/Cs as well as ICANN SO/ACs — a second outreach message is being sent to ask for input on the list of possible requirements. Noting that the first six Work Plan tasks are completed, the table below shows the status of the next six Work Plan tasks as of the end of May 2016:

#	TASK	STATUS
7	**Outreach #1 (request for additional resources that the WG should consider)**	**Input is due by 16 June (1 response received from the SSAC)**
8	**Develop initial possible requirements list**	**Ongoing**
9	**Outreach #2 (request additional possible requirements)**	**To be done in early June**
10	**Finalize base list of possible requirements**	**Targeted for Helsinki meeting**
11	**Decide how to reach consensus when deliberating possible requirements**	**Targeted for June 14 & 21**
12	**Deliberate on possible requirements**	**Targeted to start in late June**

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Anyone interested can join this effort. Please complete the registration form at **goo.gl/forms/bb65iIznLv** or contact the GNSO Secretariat **gnso-secs@icann.org**.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP Working Group Workspace, including Charter, Work plan, relevant motions, and background documents and information: **community.icann.org/x/rjJ-Ag**

- Final Issue Report on Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service (RDS) to replace WHOIS: **whois.icann.org/sites/default/files/files/final-issue-report-next-generation-rds-07oct15-en.pdf**

- Board-GNSO Process Framework for this PDP: **community.icann.org/download/**

- Link to RDS PDP: **gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/rds**

- Meeting time: Tuesday 28 June, 08:00-12:00

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to its Resolution on 8 November 2012, the ICANN Board directed the ICANN CEO to launch a new effort to redefine the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data, and consider safeguards for protecting data, as a foundation for new gTLD policy and contractual negotiations. Moreover, the Board directed the preparation of an Issue Report on the purpose of collecting and maintaining gTLD registration data, and on solutions to improve accuracy and access to gTLD registration data, as part of a Board-initiated GNSO policy development process. The Board then went on to pass a resolution that led to the creation of the Expert Working Group; the Board referred to this as a 'two-pronged approach' that is based on 'broad and responsive action' in relation to the reform of gTLD Registration Data.

To enable effective consideration of the many significant and interdependent policy areas that the GNSO must address, the Board approved a Process Framework, collaboratively developed by GNSO Councilors and Board members, to structure this complex and challenging PDP for success.

This phased process includes:

- Phase 1: Establishing requirements to determine if/why a next-generation gTLD registration directory service (RDS) is needed to replace today's WHOIS system;

- Phase 2: If so, designing a new policy framework that details functions that must be provided by a next- generation RDS to support those requirements; and

- Phase 3: Providing guidance for how a next-generation RDS should implement those policies, coexisting with and eventually replacing the legacy WHOIS system.

Throughout this three-phase process, the many inter-related questions that must (at minimum) be addressed by the PDP include:

- Users/Purposes: Who should have access to gTLD registration data and why (i.e., for what purposes)?

- Gated Access: What steps should be taken to control data access for each user/purpose?

- Data Accuracy: What steps should be taken to improve data accuracy?

- Data Elements: What data should be collected, stored, and disclosed?

- Privacy: What steps are needed to protect data and privacy?

- Coexistence: What steps should be taken to enable next-generation RDS coexistence with and replacement of the legacy WHOIS system?

- Compliance: What steps are needed to enforce these policies?

- System Model: What system requirements must be satisfied by any next- generation RDS implementation?

- Cost: What costs will be incurred and how must they be covered?

- Benefits: What benefits will be achieved and how will they be measured?

- Risks: What risks do stakeholders face and how will they be reconciled?

The framework developed to guide this PDP also includes many opportunities for gathering input to inform this PDP and key decision points at which the GNSO Council will review progress made to determine next steps.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Marika Konings and Lisa Phifer (consultant)

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures
Policy Development Process

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

In addition to a face-to-face **Working Group meeting**, there is a **cross-community discussion** planned on this topic. During this session, the audience will be invited to discuss a set of topics that are of broad community interest, such as community applications, geographic names, new gTLD program reviews, amongst other topics. Inputs gathered during this cross-community session are essential to various new gTLD related efforts underway within the community.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The PDP on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures, initiated in December 2015 and chartered in January 2016, is intended to determine what, if any changes need to be made to the existing policy recommendations from the 2007 *Final Report on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains*, such as:

- Clarifying, amending, or overriding existing policy principles, recommendations, and implementation guidance;
- Developing new policy recommendations; and,
- Supplementing or developing new implementation guidance

It should be noted that the existing policy recommendations adopted by the GNSO Council and ICANN Board have "been designed to produce a systemized and ongoing mechanisms for applicants to propose new top-level domains," meaning that these recommendations would remain in place unless the PDP WG determines that changes are needed.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The new gTLD Program marked a seminal moment in ICANN's history and in spite of all its success, changes to existing policies and implementation guidance might be needed for subsequent procedures of new gTLD launches. Note, the *Final Issue Report* and the PDP Working Group (WG) *Charter* identify a number of subjects that may require analysis and policy development.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The PDP Working Group (PDP WG) started its work on 22 February 2016 and is meeting on a weekly basis. The PDP WG has begun deliberations on a set of six (6) subjects that are considered overarching or foundational in nature. The PDP WG has updated the community organizations on the status of its work and sought the community's input on these 6 subjects.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The PDP WG will consider input and feedback received from ICANN56 and other sources in coming to at least preliminary conclusions on its first 6 subjects. Shortly thereafter, the PDP WG anticipates breaking into subgroups to consider the remainder of its subjects, being sure to take into account the work of other new gTLD related efforts within the community (e.g. The Competition, Consumer Trust & Consumer Choice Review Team, Cross-Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names, etc.) and integrating dependencies into its work plan where applicable.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

As with all GNSO Working Groups, this PDP WG is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining the WG effort, please email **gnso-secs@icann.org**.

MORE INFORMATION

- Cross-Community Session during ICANN56: Tuesday, 28 June, 17:00-18:30 local time: **community.icann.org/x/ABWOAw**
- Face-to-face meeting during ICANN56: Wednesday, 29 June, 10:45-12:00 local time: **community.icann.org/x/rBCOAw**
- GNSO Active Project Page, including background information and reports: **gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures**
- WG Wiki: **community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw**
- Video from Jeff: **youtube.com/watch?v=JWE2nYQgOII**

BACKGROUND

With the application submission period for the initial new gTLD round closing in June 2012, the GNSO Council continues to have a role to play in evaluating that first round and proposing policy recommendations, if necessary, for changes to subsequent rounds. A **discussion group** was created to begin that evaluation process and possibly identify areas for future GNSO policy development. Upon considering the deliverables of the Discussion Group, the GNSO Council requested a Preliminary Issue Report to be delivered by ICANN staff. After incorporating public comment on its Preliminary Issue Report, staff prepared and delivered the Final Issue Report. Subsequently, the GNSO Council initiated the PDP and adopted the WG charter.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Steve Chan and Julie Hedlund

Review of all Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

At its open, interactive community session on Monday, the WG will present its proposed Work Plan (including milestones and timelines) to the community for feedback. It will also seek community input on the list of topics it has been requested to address concerning the rights protection mechanisms in the 2012 New gTLD Program, as well as community advice on sources and types of data that may be useful in this effort. In addition, the WG welcomes all community members to its WG meeting on Thursday morning, where it will review the community feedback received and discuss initial input it received from the appointed dispute resolution providers concerning the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure (the first RPM to be reviewed in this PDP).

WHAT IS THIS PDP ABOUT?

The review of all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all generic top-level domains (gTLDs) is being conducted in two phases. Phase One will review all RPMs applicable to gTLDs launched under the 2012 New gTLD Program, namely the Uniform Rapid Suspension Procedure (URS), the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedures (PDDRP), and the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH), verified data of which supports additional protection mechanisms available during the Sunrise and Trademark Claims service periods. Phase Two will review the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which has been an ICANN Consensus Policy since 1999.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The UDRP is a long-standing Consensus Policy that has never undergone any substantial review and some community feedback indicates that, although in principle a functioning Policy, it might have some procedural and substantive shortcomings. In addition, a review of the RPMs applicable to the New gTLD program might improve their applicability and use further, in particular if there is to be a further expansion of the gTLD space. This review is also intended to create a coherent and uniform mechanism for future reviews of RPMs.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The GNSO Council initiated the Policy Development Process on 18 February 2016 and chartered the Working Group in March 2016. The Working Group began meeting in April, and is commencing its Phase One review with looking at the Trademark PDDRP and gathering data for the upcoming TMCH review.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The PDP Working Group will coordinate its timelines and work with other ongoing, related efforts, such as the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, the Competition, Consumer Choice and Consumer Trust Review, and the TMCH Independent Review. It expects to complete Phase 1 by end-2017, when it will publish a Preliminary Report for public comment. It is currently soliciting input on Phase 1 from all ICANN Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The PDP Working Group is open to all, who may join as either a Member (with full posting rights to the mailing list and the ability to participate in all Working Group meetings) or as an Observer (with read-only status for the mailing list). Please email the GNSO Secretariat at **gnso-secs@icann.org** if you wish to join the group. The group is also conducting two sessions at ICANN56. The first is an open cross-community session intended to solicit feedback on the Working Group's methodology, scope of work and data gathering efforts. This will be held on Monday 27 June from 16:30-18:00. The second session will be a WG meeting that will be open to everyone to attend — this will take place on Thursday 30 June from 08:00-10:30.

MORE INFORMATION

- Final Issue Report: **gnso.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/rpm-final-issue-11jan16-en.pdf**
- Working Group Charter: **community.icann.org/x/2CWAAw**
- Working Group Collaborative Wiki Space: **community.icann.org/x/wCWAAw**
- Link to RPM PDP: **gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/rpm**
- Meeting time: Thursday 30 June, 8:00-10:30am

BACKGROUND

Prior to the launch of the New gTLD Program, on 3 October 2011 ICANN staff had published a Final Issue Report on the current state of the UDRP. The recommended course of action in that UDRP Report was not to initiate a Policy Development Process (PDP) at the time, but to hold off launching any such PDP until after the new URS had been in operation for at least eighteen (18) months. The Council followed this recommended course and, following an additional timeline extension of 6 months in February 2015, Staff published a new Preliminary Issue Report in September 2015 that covered all existing RPMs. The Final Issue Report was published in January 2016, and outlined the two-phased approach that was eventually adopted by the GNSO Council.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Mary Wong and David Taitn

Cross-Community Working Groups on the Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

In addition to a brief update during the cross-community session on **New gTLD Subsequent Procedures**, there is a **cross-community discussion** planned on this topic. During this cross-community session, which is intended to be moderated and led by representatives from the ALAC, ccNSO, and GNSO, the audience will be invited to take part in a lively debate regarding the need for and attributes of a framework for country and other geographic names, amongst other topics.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Following in the footsteps of the Study Group on the Use of Names for Countries and Territories as TLDs, the purpose of this CWG is to further review the issues pertaining to the use of country and territory names as top-level domains (TLDs) and develop a policy framework.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The Cross-Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names as top-level domains (CWG-UCTN) has divided its work into three sections: 2-character TLDs; 3-character TLDs; and full name country and territory name TLDs. The CWG has tentatively concluded to maintain the status quo of 2-character codes as exclusively reserved for country code TLDs (ccTLDs). A survey on questions surrounding 3-character codes was sent to all of ICANN's Supporting Organization and Advisory Committees solicited valuable feedback and the CWG-UCTN has prepared a Straw Man proposal on 3-character codes that it continues to consider and expects to discuss at ICANN56.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The deliberation on full names will commence following the conclusion of the Group's discussion on 3-character codes and an Initial Report is currently envisaged in time for ICANN57.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in joining the CWG-UCTN as a GNSO participant, please email the GNSO Secretariat at **gnso-secs@icann.org**.

MORE INFORMATION

- Face-to-face meeting during ICANN56: Wednesday, 29 June 2016, 15:15-16:45 local time: **icann562016.sched.org/event/7NWU**

- More information on the CWG, including its charter can be found at: **icann.org/workinggroups/ccwg-unct**

BACKGROUND

The treatment of country and territory names as TLDs is a topic that has been discussed by the ccNSO, GAC, GNSO, ALAC and the ICANN Board for a number of years. So far, issues regarding the treatment of representations of country and territory names have arisen in a wide range of ICANN policy processes, including the IDN fast track, IDN ccPDP, and the development of the new gTLD Applicant Guidebook (AGB). Creating a uniform policy framework on this important issues that can be applied across all TLDs will be a very helpful step forward in the continuous development of the DNS.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Steve Chan (GNSO) and Bart Boswinkel (ccNSO)

Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) on Framework of Principles for Future Cross-Community Working Groups

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The CCWG invites all interested community members to its open session on Wednesday 29 June, where it will engage the community on the major topics that it identified as most of concern to the community as a result of the public comments it received on its draft set of principles and recommendations. These topics are: ensuring diversity; budget and resource allocation concerns; defining consensus; and the role of a CCWG in implementation of its recommendations.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

There has been an increasing reliance on Cross-Community Working Groups (CCWGs) as the ICANN community has recognized that there are a rising number of issues that cut across and affect more than just one of ICANN's Supporting Organizations (SOs) or Advisory Committees (ACs). Despite the number of past and current CCWGs, there are no agreed community-wide guidelines on their creation, scope or functioning. This CCWG was chartered jointly by the ccNSO and GNSO Councils to develop a framework of uniform operating principles that would allow for the effective and efficient functioning of future CCWGs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Each SO and AC within ICANN is responsible for different aspects of policy and advice development, operates under different mandates, and has separate remits. Yet, there are issues that affect or interest more than one SO/AC that may require a cross-community working group. Up to now, CCWGs have been formed on an ad-hoc basis, without a consistent framework of underlying operating principles that take into account the different working methods of the various SOs and ACs. The ccNSO and GNSO Councils chartered this group to address these shortcomings.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The CCWG published a draft framework document for public comment in February 2016. The proposed framework identifies key principles and process steps that ought to be considered during each phase of the CCWG life cycle (i.e., initiation, formation, operation, decision-making, closure, and post-closure). It also contained several open questions for which the CCWG sought specific community input.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The CCWG is reviewing all input received and plans to publish a final proposed framework for community discussion at ICANN56. This updated framework is expected to address additional suggestions and concerns raised by the community input. Following the community discussion at ICANN56, the CCWG plans to finalize the framework and submit the final document to the ccNSO and GNSO Councils for adoption prior to ICANN57.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The CCWG is conducting an open community session at ICANN56 to present its proposed final framework and gather community feedback. This session is currently scheduled for Wednesday 29 June, from 17:00-18:30.

MORE INFORMATION

- Background information: **gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/cross-community**

- CWG Workspace: **community.icann.org/x/rQbPAQ**

- The Draft Framework as published for public comment: **icann.org/en/system/files/files/ccwg-framework-principles-draft-19feb16-en.pdf**

- The Report of Public Comments on the Draft Framework: **icann.org/en/system/files/files/report-comments-ccwg-framework-principles-draft-06may16-en.pdf**

BACKGROUND

In March 2012 the GNSO Council approved an initial set of operating principles for CCWGs that it sent to other SOs and ACs for feedback. Detailed comments and suggestions were received from the ccNSO suggesting additions and clarifications to the initial principles in June 2013. In October 2013, a Charter Drafting Team was tasked to develop a charter for a Cross-Community Working Group to build on the initial work and continue to develop a finalized framework workable across all SO/ACs by governing the formation, chartering, operation, decision-making, and termination of all future CCWGs. In March 2015 the ccNSO and GNSO Councils both approved the Charter and launched this CCWG.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Mary Wong and Steve Chan (GNSO), Bart Boswinkel (ccNSO)

New gTLD Auction Proceeds Drafting Team

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

A **cross-community session** has been scheduled at ICANN56 during which the proposed charter for a cross-community working group on this topic will be presented, including identification of key issues requiring community input before finalization of the charter. ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees interested in chartering the CCWG are encouraged to participate as well as others that may be interested in joining the CCWG once the charter has been finalized and adopted.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The new gTLD Program established auctions as a mechanism of last resort to resolve string contention. Most string contentions (approximately 90% of sets scheduled for auction) have been resolved through other means before reaching an auction conducted by ICANN's authorized auction service provider. However, it was recognized from the outset that significant funds could accrue as a result of several auctions. As such, these auction proceeds have been reserved and earmarked until the Board authorizes a plan for the appropriate use of the funds. In March 2015 that the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) started discussing a possible process for facilitating the conversation around new gTLD auction proceeds during the **ICANN meeting in Singapore**. As part of that discussion, it became clear that there was interest from the GNSO to commence formal conversations on the topic of new gTLD auction proceeds and following which, the GNSO Council reached out to other ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) to determine whether there would be interest to form a cross-community working group (CCWG) on this topic.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In relation to new gTLD Program Auction Proceeds, 14 contention sets have been resolved via ICANN Auction since June 2014. The total net proceeds to date are $105.6 million USD. Details of the proceeds can be found at **newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/proceeds**. As of 18 February 2016, 22 contention sets remain to be resolved, although it is important to keep in mind that approximately 90% of contention sets scheduled for auction are resolved prior to the auction. The total amount of funding resulting from auctions, will not be known until all relevant applications have resolved contention.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Following a number of sessions on this topic during the ICANN53 in Buenos Aires **buenosaires53.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-soac-high-interest** and **buenosaires53. icann.org/en/schedule/wed-cwg-new-gtld-auction**, a **discussion paper** was published in September 2015 to solicit further community input on this topic as well as the proposal to proceed with a CCWG on this topic. As the feedback received on the discussion paper confirmed the support for moving forward with a CCWG, James Bladel, GNSO Chair, reached out to all the ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees to ask for volunteers to participate in a drafting team to develop a charter for a CCWG on this topic. All ICANN SO/ACs, apart from the ccNSO, responded to this request and have put forward volunteers to participate in the drafting team. The GNSO Council appointed Jonathan Robinson to chair the Drafting Team ('DT'), which commenced its deliberations on Tuesday 23 February 2016. A draft charter for community discussion will be published in advance of ICANN 56.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

A cross-community session will be held at ICANN 56 to facilitate discussion of the charter by the Community, at 15:15 on Tuesday, 28 June 2016 in Helsinki Hall. The comments received will shape a further draft of the charter. Once the Drafting Team has finalized its work on the proposed charter for a CCWG, this proposed charter will be submitted to all the ICANN SO/ACs for their consideration.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Attend the cross-community session in Helsinki. Following adoption of the charter, it is the expectation that the CCWG would be open to anyone interested to participate in. Following the adoption of the charter by those ICANN SO/ACs that decide to be chartering organizations, a call for volunteers will be circulated.

MORE INFORMATION

- Review the updated discussion paper published to reflect public comments: **gnso.icann.org/en/drafts/new-gtld-auction-proceeds-07dec15-en.pdf**
- Draft Uniform Framework for a Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) Life Cycle - Principles and Recommendations: **gnso.icann.org/en/drafts/ draft-principles-for-ccwg-22feb16-en.pdf**
- Draft Charter **community.icann.org/x/mRuOAw**
- DT Mailing List Archives **icann.org/pipermail/dt-cwg-auctionproceeds**

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Marika Konings and David Tait

Implementation Status: Protection of IGO-INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs Policy Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team is scheduled to meet in Helsinki to discuss next steps in the **development of the implementation plan**.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This Policy Development Process (PDP) was initiated to develop policy recommendations for the provision of protection for identifiers (e.g. names or acronyms) of certain International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), including the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement (RCRC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The PDP Working Group completed its work in November 2013 and all its consensus recommendations were **approved** by the GNSO Council. In April 2014, the ICANN Board **adopted** those of the PDP recommendations that were consistent with GAC advice received on the topic, and requested more time to consider the remaining, inconsistent recommendations. The adopted recommendations relate to protection at the top and second level for specific RCRC, IOC and IGO names (with an Exception Procedure to be designed for the affected organizations), and a 90-days Claims Notification process at the second level for certain INGO acronyms.

This update concerns the implementation status of the recommendations that were adopted by the Board in April 2014. The implementation project is not concerned with the ongoing resolution process for the remaining, inconsistent recommendations or the deliberations of the ongoing PDP Working Group on IGO-INGO Curative Rights Protections.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Issues related to whether certain international organizations such as IGOs, the RCRC and the IOC should receive special protection for their names at the top level and second level in the domain name system have been raised throughout the development of the 2012 New gTLD program. In the PDP launched by the GNSO Council, the scope of organizations was expanded to also consider International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) other than the RCRC and IOC. All these organizations perform important public interest or humanitarian work and have reported that cyber-squatting and related abuse of domain names identical or confusingly similar to their names and acronyms could significantly impact their missions and resources.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Following the Board's adoption of the GNSO policy recommendations that were consistent with GAC advice, ICANN staff under the leadership of the Global Domains Division (GDD) began developing an Implementation Plan. An Implementation Review Team (IRT) comprising community members and led by GDD was formed and is meeting regularly to discuss and agree on timelines and steps for implementation. Most recently, the IRT discussed completion of the Draft Consensus Policy language, the proposed process for updating the list of IGO and INGO names, and needed features for the 90-days Claims Notification system that would apply to INGO identifiers (other than the RCRC and IOC).

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The IRT and GDD expect to publish the Draft Implementation Plan for public comment following ICANN56, and prior to ICANN57.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you wish to join the Implementation Review Team, contact the **GNSO Secretariat**. The IRT will also meet at ICANN56, on Tuesday 28 June from 09:15-10:30. Please join the IRT to provide feedback on their work and find out more about their progress.

MORE INFORMATION

- Webpage for the PDP WG containing background information, the WG's Final Report with Minority Positions, the GNSO Council's resolutions and the ICANN Board's actions in relation to the PDP recommendations: **hgnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/igo-ingo**

- Online wiki space for the IRT containing membership information and progress updates: **community.icann.org/x/RJFCAw**

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Dennis Chang (GDD)

Implementation Status: Thick WHOIS Policy Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN56 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

Two working sessions have been scheduled geared toward members of the Thick WHOIS Implementation Review Team and other interested parties, such as registries and registrars. Participants will discuss the latest updates to the draft policy implementation plan. These discussions will include topics of particular interest to all gTLD registries and registrars including future requirements for all contracted parties, implementation mechanisms, timeline and coordination with implementation of the Registry Data Access Protocol (RDAP).

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

ICANN specifies WHOIS service requirements through Registry Agreements (RAs) and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) for the generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries. Registries have historically satisfied their WHOIS obligations under two different models. The two models are often characterized as "thin" and "thick" WHOIS registries. This distinction is based on how two distinct sets of data are maintained.

In a thin registration model the Registry only collects the information associated with the domain name from the Registrar. The Registry in turn publishes that information along with maintaining certain status information at the Registry level. Registrars maintain data associated with the registrant of the domain and provide it via their own WHOIS services, as required by Section 3.3 of the RAA for those domains they sponsor. In a thick registration model the Registry collects both sets of data (domain name and registrant) from the Registrar and in turn publishes that data via WHOIS.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The ICANN Board approved the GNSO recommendations on Thick WHOIS in February 2014 and an Implementation Review Team (IRT) has been formed. Various impact assessments and implementation proposals have been discussed with the IRT in the two decoupled work streams: transition from thin to thick for .COM, .NET and .JOBS; and the consistent labeling and display of Whois output for all gTLDs as per Specification 3 of the 2013 RAA. In June 2015, ICANN's General Counsel's Office, released to the IRT a Legal Review Memorandum per the GNSO Council's recommendation. In December 2015, a Proposed Implementation of GNSO Thick WHOIS Consensus Policy Requiring Consistent Labeling and Display of RDDS (WHOIS) Output for All gTLDs was released for Public Comment.

This public comment period will closed on 18 March 2016. In the meantime, ICANN Staff has continuously been engaging with experts from affected parties to define an implementation path for the transition from thin to thick of .COM, .NET and .JOBS. The IRT will meet during ICANN56.

MORE INFORMATION

- GNSO PDP Page: **gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/thick-whois**

- Implementation Review Team Workspace: **community.icann.org/display/ TWCPI/Thick+Whois+Policy+Implementation**

- Proposed Implementation of GNSO Thick Whois Consensus Policy Requiring Consistent Labeling and Display of RDDS (Whois) Output for All gTLDs: **icann.org/public-comments/rdds-output-2015-12-03-en**

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Fabien Betremieux (GDD)

GNSO Schedule in Helsinki

Please confirm against **final schedule**, as changes may have occurred.

MONDAY 27 JUNE		
TIME	**MEETING**	**REQUESTS**
08:00 - 09:00		
09:00 - 09:15	TRANSITION BREAK	
09:15 - 10:30	GNSO COUNCIL SESSIONS 9:15 to 9:30 Introduction from Chair 9:30 to 10:00 GNSO IANA Transition - Implementation Issues impacting the GNSO (this should include bylaws) 10:00 to 10:30 Prep for Board meeting	
10:30 - 10:45	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45 - 12:00	GNSO Council and ICANN Board	
12:00 - 12:30	LUNCH BREAK	
12:30 - 13:30	BC Lunch	ISPCP Meeting
13:30 - 15:00	GNSO COUNCIL SESSIONS cont. Discussion of motions, GNSO Review, IANA transition discussion continued of required.	UASG
15:00 - 15:15	TRANSITION BREAK	
15:15 - 16:45	Draft framework of Principles for future CCWGs SESSION Leader GNSO	
16:45 - 17:00	TRANSITION BREAK	
17:00 - 18:30	PDP on Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service (WHOIS) SESSION LEADER: GNSO	
18:30 - 20:00	**RECEPTION** (LOCATION: CITY HALL)	

GNSO Schedule in Helsinki

Please confirm against **final schedule**, as changes may have occurred.

TUESDAY 28 JUNE		
TIME	**MEETING**	**REQUESTS**
08:00 - 09:00	Next Generation gTLD Registration Data Service PDP WG	
09:00 - 09:15	**TRANSITION BREAK**	
09:15 - 10:30	Next Generation gTLD Registration Data Service PDP WG	IGO INGO IRT
10:30 - 10:45	**COFFEE BREAK**	
10:45 - 12:00	Next Generation gTLD Registration Data Service PDP WG	
12:00 - 12:30	**LUNCH BREAK**	
12:30 - 13:30	NCSG Policy	IPC & Rysg (12:00 - 12:45) IPC & RrSG (12:45 - 13:30)
13:30 - 15:00	IGO Curative Rights PDP WG	RrSG Meeting
15:00 - 15:15	**TRANSITION BREAK**	
15:15 - 16:45	Charter for the CCWG on the use of gTLD Auction Proceeds SESSION LEADER: DT (ALAN GREENBERG / JONATHAN ROBINSON	
16:45 - 17:00	**TRANSITION BREAK**	
17:00 - 18:30	PDP New gTLD Subsequent Procedures SESSION LEADER: GNSO	
18:30 - 20:00	**PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**	

GNSO Schedule in Helsinki

Please confirm against **final schedule**, as changes may have occurred.

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE

TIME	MEETING	REQUESTS
08:00 - 09:00	CSG Open Stakeholder Meeting	RrSG Meeting
09:00 - 09:15	TRANSITION BREAK	
09:15 - 10:30	GNSO Council & GAC Meeting (0930-1030 - See GAC Room)	
10:30 - 10:45	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45 - 12:00	New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG	
12:00 - 12:30	**LUNCH BREAK**	
12:30 - 13:30	CSG - CPH Lunch	Thick WHOIS IRT
13:30 - 15:00	New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG	
15:00 - 15:15	TRANSITION BREAK	
15:15 - 16:45	PDP Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in all gTLDs SESSION LEADER: GNSO	
16:45 - 17:00	TRANSITION BREAK	
17:00 - 18:30	ccNSO Geo Names SESSION LEADER: ccNSO	
18:30 - 20:00	GNSO Council Prep Session **CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION**	

GNSO Schedule in Helsinki

Please confirm against **final schedule**, as changes may have occurred.

THURSDAY 30 JUNE

TIME	MEETING	REQUESTS
08:00 - 09:00	Rights Protection Mechanisms Review in all gTLDs PDP WG	
09:00 - 09:15	TRANSITION BREAK	
09:15 - 10:30	Rights Protection Mechanisms Review in all gTLDs PDP WG	Thick WHOIS IRT
10:30 - 10:45	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45 - 12:00	10:45 to 12:45 GNSO COUNCIL MEETING	
12:00 - 13:30	**LUNCH BREAK**	
13:30 - 15:00	GNSO Council Wrap Up	
15:00 - 15:15	TRANSITION BREAK	
15:15 - 16:45	Workload Scheduling & Management: Improving Efficiency of Silo & Cross-Community Work SESSION LEADER: GAC?	
16:45 - 17:00	TRANSITION BREAK	
17:00 - 18:30	Meeting B Wrap Up & Planning Ahead for ICANN57 (Meeting C) SESSION LEADER: ICANN STAFF (TANZANICA/ROB)	
18:30 - 20:00	**ICANN56 WRAP-UP RECEPTION**	

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Generic Names Supporting Organization