Policy Development Process: New Generic Top-Level Domain Subsequent Procedures

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN62 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) is set to meet on Monday, 25 June 2018, from 09:00-12:00 local time and Thursday, 28 June 2018, from 13:30-15:00 local time for face-to-face working sessions. It expects to provide updates and seek feedback on preliminary recommendations/outcomes on a number of different topics currently under discussion within the WG's Work Tracks (WTs) 1-4. In addition, the WG's Work Track 5 (WT5), dedicated to geographic names at the top-level, will seek to advance its work during a pair of cross-community sessions, one on Monday, 25 June 2018, from 15:15-16:45 local time and the other on Thursday, 28 June 2018, also from 15:15-16:45 local time.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The PDP on New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures was initiated in December 2015 and chartered in January 2016. It aims 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 Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council and ICANN Board have "been designed to produce a systemized and ongoing mechanisms for applicants to propose new top-level domains." Essentially, this means that these recommendations will 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. In spite of great interest and over 1,000 successful TLD delegations, changes to existing policies and implementation guidance might be needed for subsequent procedures of new gTLD launches. The **Final Issue Report** and the PDP WG **charter** identified a number of subjects that require analysis and potential policy development.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The PDP WG started its work on 22 February 2016 and began deliberations on a set of six overarching or foundational subjects. It established four WTs to address the remaining subjects identified in the WG's charter. After completing preliminary discussions on their respective topics and considering input received through public consultations (e.g., face-to-face meetings, Public Comment), the WG and the WTs developed preliminary recommendations/outcomes, as well as identified areas where they are specifically seeking community input.

The PDP's WT5 is devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top-level. WT5 has a shared leadership model amongst the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the GNSO. WT5 has agreed to its **Terms of Reference** and begun its substantive deliberations, including reviewing the existing geographic terms and their respective rules in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook (AGB). It is also considering geographic terms that were not identified in the AGB.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The WG aims to complete and publish its Initial Report for Public Comment prior to ICANN62 or shortly thereafter. The Initial Report is expected to include the WG's and its WT1-4's preliminary recommendations/outcomes, options and questions where community input is specifically needed, as well as a record of the substantive deliberations.

The WT5 will continue its deliberations, particularly around determining what is a geographic name in the context of the New gTLD Program, as well as the corresponding treatment of those names. WT5 will publish its own Initial Report, separate from that published around the ICANN62 timeframe.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This PDP WG is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining the WG effort, please email **gnso-secs@ICANN.org**. As the WG has already been in operation for a substantial amount of time and has progressed in its deliberations, newcomers are expected to catch up on the discussions to date and to not reopen previously closed topics, unless new information is presented.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP Webpage: **http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures**

- WG Workspace: **community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw**

- WG Charter: **https://go.icann.org/2G7BdUf**

- Final Issue Report: **https://go.icann.org/2Eoutkv**

BACKGROUND

While the application submission period for the initial new gTLD round closed in June 2012, the GNSO Council continues to play a role in evaluating the first round and proposing policy recommendations, if necessary, for changes to subsequent rounds. A **discussion group** was created to begin the 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 the ICANN organization. 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, Emily Barabas, Julie Hedlund