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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN60 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) is set to meet on Saturday, 28 October, from 12:15-15:00 and Wednesday, 1 November, from 8:30-12:00 for face-to-face working sessions. It expects to make progress on a number of different topics currently under discussion within the WG's four subteams.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The PDP on New Generic Top-Level Domain (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 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.” It means 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. 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. Note, the [Final Issue Report](#) and the PDP WG [charter](#) identified a number of subjects that may require analysis and 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, and sought the community's input on those subjects. The PDP WG has recently focused its deliberations on refining proposals related to three of these overarching issues. The PDP WG has also established four separate work tracks that are addressing the remaining subjects identified in the WG's charter. After completing preliminary discussion on their respective topics, they are working to complete their review of input received through public comment on more than 30 subjects. Next, the subteams will work to develop consensus on their set of recommendations and outcomes.

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and GNSO Councils have adopted the [Final Report](#) of the Cross-Community Working Group (CWG) on the Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs. The PDP WG co-chairs have taken into account the CWG recommendations to consolidate policy efforts related to geographic names and facilitate all-inclusive dialogue. They also note that the topic of geographic names falls within the PDP charter. As a result, a fifth work track in the PDP has been formed, devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top-level. Work Track 5 will have a shared leadership model among the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the ccNSO, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the GNSO. The WG co-chairs have asked all these groups to each identify a co-leader for this effort and plan to begin work once the co-leaders have been put forward.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The PDP WG will consider input and feedback received in ICANN60 and work toward developing a set of preliminary recommendations. The PDP WG will also take into account the work of other new gTLD-related efforts within the community (e.g., the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review Team, CWG on the Use of Country and Territory Names) and integrate dependencies into its work plan where applicable. The WG is aiming to complete and publish its Initial Report for public comment in early 2018.

Regarding Work Track 5 on geographic names at the top-level, the call for membership will be opened once the co-leaders have been identified.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP Webpage: gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures
- WG Workspace: community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw
- WG Charter: goo.gl/chgGSk
- Final Issue Report: goo.gl/yGRgAN

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 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.

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