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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN58 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) is set to meet on Saturday, 11 March (Day 1) at 8:30-12:15 for a face-to-face working session, during which it expects to make progress on a number of different topics currently under discussion within the WG's four sub teams. The WG is also expected to meet on Wednesday, 15 March (Day 5) at 17:00-18:30, when it will have a lively and productive dialogue on a selection of topics of broad community interest.

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 subjects that are considered overarching or foundational in nature, and sought the community's input on these six subjects. The PDP WG is establishing three drafting teams that will be focused on delivering proposals related to the overarching issues. The PDP WG has also established four separate Work Tracks that are addressing the remaining subjects identified in the WG's charter – these Work Track sub teams are meeting on a bi-weekly basis and are performing preliminary analysis on their respective topics. The PDP WG expects to complete its community comment 2 (CC2), which will focus on the four Work Tracks' subjects, ahead of ICANN58. CC2 will be distributed to community leaders, as well as posted for Public Comment.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The PDP WG will consider input and feedback received from ICANN58, as well as CC2, to allow it to continue deliberations on the Work Tracks' subjects. The PDP also anticipates receiving and taking into account the work of other new gTLD related efforts within the community (e.g., the Competition, Consumer Trust and 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?

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: **gnso.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/subsequent-procedures-charter-21jan16**

- 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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