Discussion Group: New gTLD Subsequent Procedures

What is this about?
This Discussion Group was created to begin evaluating the first round of the new gTLD program and to discuss and reflect upon experiences gained. The Discussion Group is expected to report its findings to the GNSO Council, which may include a list of recommended subjects for future GNSO issue reports that may lead to changes or adjustments for subsequent new gTLD application procedures.

Why is this important?
The Discussion Group plays an important role in identifying issues that arose from the first round of the new gTLD program. The findings of the group, which are expected to be presented to the GNSO Council in the form of a report, will likely include a number of points and concerns that in turn will be recommended to feed into future GNSO Issue Reports. The resultant actions from the GNSO Council review will be pivotal to the development of the subsequent procedures for the new gTLD program. As such the Discussion Group's outcome will mark the beginning of a process of substantive policy development work on the issue of subsequence new gTLD procedures.

What is the current status of the project?
The Discussion Group was created on 25 June 2014. The group has conducted several calls and met for a face-to-face session Los Angeles, where it set a baseline for issues identified by the group. The group has categorized the issues in order to facilitate and focus possible future policy development activities.

Expected next steps
The Discussion Group will seek to complete organizing the issues into logical categories, including, amongst others, further details for each issue such as scope, possible mechanisms for resolution, identifying affected parties, establishing priorities, and recognizing interdependencies with other issues.

Background Information on the Issue
In June 2008, the ICANN Board adopted the GNSO's policy recommendations for the introduction of new gTLDs and directed staff to develop an implementation plan for a new gTLD introduction process. In June 2011 the ICANN Board approved an Application Guidebook ("AGB") for new gTLDs and authorized the launch of the New gTLD Program. The AGB provided that it was intended to govern "the first round of what is to be an ongoing process for the introduction of new gTLDs" and that "ICANN's goal [was] to launch subsequent gTLD application rounds as quickly as possible" and promised to base the timing of the subsequent rounds on "experiences gained and changes required after this round is completed" with a "goal…for the new application round to begin within one year of the close of the application submission period for the initial round."

With the application submission period for the initial round closing in June 2012, the GNSO Council believes that it has a continuing interest and role to play in evaluating the experiences of the first round and proposing policy recommendations, if necessary, for changes to subsequent rounds. This Discussion Group was created to begin that evaluation process and possibly identify areas for future GNSO policy development.

The Discussion Group is to review the first round of the new gTLD program and discuss and reflect upon experiences gained. The Discussion Group is expected to report its findings to the GNSO Council, which may include a list of recommended subjects for future GNSO issue reports that may lead to changes or adjustments for subsequent new gTLD application procedures. Issue reports are a required first step in developing new policies.

How can I get involved?
The Discussion Group is open to anyone interested. If you want to join the Working Group please contact the GNSO Secretariat to be added to the mailing list (mailto:gnso.secretariat@gnso.icann.org).

Further Information:
- Discussion Group – New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Web page - http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/non-pdp-new-gtld
- Group Wiki - https://community.icann.org/display/DGNGSR/Discussion+Group+%28DG%29+-+New+gTLD+Subsequent+Rounds+Home
- Mailing List Archive - http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/gnso-newgtld-dg/

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