GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

<u>ISSUE</u>
Policy Development Process on gTLD Registration Data Services (or the Next Generation Registration Directory Services to Replace WHOIS)

<u>UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES</u>: Publication of Initial Report for public comment (target date: June), input through GAC Quick Look Mechanism.

<u>SUMMARY</u>
In 2012, in response to the recommendations of the first WHOIS Review Team, the Board adopted a two-prong approach that simultaneously directed ICANN to (1) implement improvements to the current WHOIS system based on the Action Plan that was based on the recommendations of the WHOIS Review Team, and (2) launch a new effort, achieved through the creation of the Expert Working Group (EWG), to focus on the purpose and provision of gTLD directory services, to serve as the foundation of a Board-initiated GNSO policy development process (PDP).

The Expert Working Group's Final Report contains a proposed model and detailed principles to serve as the foundation for a PDP to support the creation of the next generation registration directory services to replace WHOIS. This Final Report contains over 160 pages of complex principles and recommendations to be considered in the GNSO PDP. In order to effectively manage the PDP on such a large scale, an informal group of Board members and GNSO councilors collaborated to develop the framework that was approved by the ICANN Board on 26 April 2015. As a result, the Board reconfirmed 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 EWG Final Report as an input to, and, if appropriate, as the foundation for a new gTLD policy. The next step is now the publication of a Preliminary Issue Report for public comment (target date: June 2015)

<u>GAC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY STATUS</u>

As per the GAC-GNSO Consultation Group recommendations concerning issue scoping, notification has been sent to the GAC to allow the GAC to provide input on the Preliminary Issue Report through the GAC quick look mechanism as well as any other input that may be submitted in response to the public comment forum.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u>
Board Resolution: https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2015-04-26-en#1.f