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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN67 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group is set to meet on Saturday, 7 March 2020 and Monday, 9 March 2020. The working group will continue reviewing draft final recommendations and seek resolution for outstanding topics.

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.
- Supplementing or developing new implementation guidance.

It should be noted that the existing policy recommendations adopted by the GNSO Council and ICANN Board have "been designed to produce a systemized and ongoing mechanism for applicants to propose new top-level domains."[1] Essentially, this means that these recommendations will remain in place unless the working group 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 future gTLD launches. The **Final Issue Report** and the working group **charter** identified a number of subjects that require analysis and potential policy development.

[1] GNSO Summary of Policy Recommendations: http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/summary-principles-recommendations-implementation-guidelines-22oct08.doc.pdf

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT?

The working group started its work on 22 February 2016 and began deliberations on a set of six overarching or foundational subjects. It established four work tracks to address the remaining subjects identified in the 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 working group and work tracks developed preliminary recommendations and outcomes and identified areas where they are specifically seeking community input. On 3 July 2018, the working group published its **Initial Report** for Public Comment. In October 2018, the working group published a **Supplemental Initial Report**, which considers topics additional to those found in its Initial Report. The working group completed the process of reviewing and considering public input for both its Initial Report and Supplemental Initial Report and is developing its final recommendations, integrating that input where applicable.

The PDP's Work Track 5, devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top-level, delivered its **Final Report** to the full working group in October 2019 after completing its review of public comments for its Supplemental Initial Report.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The working group is in the midst of working to complete two tracks. The first track focuses on reviewing the draft final recommendations for inclusion in the Final Report. The second track focuses on seeking resolution on topics where open issues remain, such as closed generics, string contention resolution mechanisms, and a predictability framework. Once those open issues are resolved, then those topics too will have draft final recommendations prepared and reviewed. The working group is expected to devote its ICANN67 sessions on these two tracks of work.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This working group is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining, please email **gnso-secs@icann.org**. As the working group has already been in operation for a substantial amount of time and is transitioning toward drafting final recommendations, 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

- Working Group Initial Report: **https://go.icann.org/2Q2pnjd**

- Working Group Supplemental Initial Report: **https://go.icann.org/2BsFcuH**

- Work Track 5 Final Report: **https://go.icann.org/399nef1**

- Work Track 5 Supplemental Initial Report: **https://go.icann.org/2SxaXgA**

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

- Working Group workspace: **https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw**

- Working Group 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 for changes to subsequent rounds, if necessary. A **discussion group** was created to begin the evaluation process and 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 comments on its Preliminary Issue Report, staff prepared and delivered the Final Issue Report. Subsequently, the GNSO Council initiated the PDP and adopted the working group charter.

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