

## **Policy & Implementation**

### **What is this about?**

Mainly as a result of discussions stemming from implementation related issues of the new gTLD program, there is increased focus on which topics call for policy and which call for implementation work, including which processes should be used, at what time and how diverging opinions should be acted upon.

Following several discussions by the GNSO Council on this topic, the GNSO Council formed a Working Group which has been tasked to provide concrete recommendations on how to address some of these issues from a GNSO perspective.

### **Why is this important?**

While developing a bright-line rule as to what is policy or implementation may not be possible, the hope is that by developing clear processes and identifying clear roles and responsibilities for the different stakeholders, it will become easier to deal with these issues going forward and allow for broad participation and involvement.

### **What is the current status of this project?**

The WG started its deliberations in August 2013 and has been tasked to provide the GNSO Council with recommendations on:

1. A set of principles that would underpin any GNSO policy and implementation related discussions, taking into account existing GNSO Operating Procedures.
2. A process for developing gTLD policy, perhaps in the form of "Policy Guidance", including criteria for when it would be appropriate to use such a process (for developing policy other than "Consensus Policy") instead of a GNSO Policy Development Process;
3. A framework for implementation related discussions associated with GNSO Policy Recommendations;
4. Criteria to be used to determine when an action should be addressed by a policy process and when it should be considered implementation, and;
5. Further guidance on how GNSO Implementation Review Teams, as defined in the PDP Manual, are expected to function and operate.

The WG developed a set of working definitions and posted a set of working principles that underpin the WG deliberations on the charter questions. The WG has now started its deliberation on the charter questions and is considering recommending additional processes for developing gTLD policy and guidance such as a GNSO Guidance Process, a GNSO Input Process and a Fast Track PDP Process. In addition, the WG is considering recommendations in relation to implementation related issues such as how Implementation Review Teams are expected to interact with staff during the implementation process as well as the GNSO Council, and what processes should the GNSO Council have at its availability to address policy and/or implementation related issues as they arise during the implementation phase.

### **Expected next steps**

The WG will continue its deliberations as outlined in its work plan (see [https://community.icann.org/x/rC\\_fAg](https://community.icann.org/x/rC_fAg)) with the aim of delivering an Initial Report for community input by the end of 2014 / early 2015.

### **Background**

In order to facilitate these discussions, ICANN Staff developed a draft framework for community discussion that identifies a number of steps and criteria that might facilitate dealing with similar questions in the future. The paper identifies a number of questions that the community may want to consider further in this context, as well as a couple of suggested improvements that could be considered in the short term. In addition, a session on this topic was held at the ICANN Meeting in Beijing, which resulted in the formation of the Working Group by the GNSO Council.

### **How can I get involved**

The Working 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:gns.secretariat@gns.icann.org>). Furthermore, public input will be sought on the Initial Report in due time (see <http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment>).

### **Where can I find more information?**

- Working Group workspace – <https://community.icann.org/x/y1V-Ag>
- Policy & Implementation Working definitions & principles - <https://community.icann.org/x/9xrRAg>
- Staff discussion paper - <http://gns.icann.org/en/correspondence/policy-implementation-framework-08jan13-en.pdf>
- Los Angeles WG F2F meeting session – scheduled for Wednesday 15 October 2014 from 16.30 – 18.30 (see <http://la51.icann.org/en/schedule/wed-policy-implementation>)

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