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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN64 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) is set to meet on Saturday, 09 March 2019 and Wednesday, 13 March 2019. The WG will conduct substantive deliberations on comments received to the WG Supplemental Initial Report, which considers topics additional to those found in its Initial Report. From 09:00-12:00 (local time) on Saturday, the WG will discuss its Work Track 5 (WT5) dedicated to the topic of geographic names at the top-level. WT5 expects to also conduct substantive deliberations on comments received to the WT5 Supplemental Initial Report.

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; 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 mechanism for applicants to propose new top-level domains."[2] Essentially, this means that these recommendations will remain in place unless the 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 future gTLD launches. The **Final Issue Report** and the WG **charter** identified a number of subjects that require analysis and potential policy development.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The WG started its work on 22 February 2016 and began deliberations on a set of six overarching or foundational subjects. It established four work tracks (WTs) to address

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

the remaining subjects identified in the WG's 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 WG and the WTs developed preliminary recommendations/outcomes, as well as identified areas where they are specifically seeking community input. On 3 July 2018, the WG published its **Initial Report** for Public Comment, receiving a number of comments by the 26 September 2018 deadline. In October 2018, the WG published a **Supplemental Initial Report**, which considers topics additional to those found in its Initial Report. Now the WG has nearly completed its initial review of public comments for its Initial Report and expects to begin substantive deliberations as early as at ICANN64. Initial review of public comments received on its Supplemental Initial Report is currently underway.

The PDP's WT5 is devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top-level. WT5 has a shared leadership model amongst the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the GNSO. WT5 has focused on reviewing the existing geographic terms and their respective rules in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook (AGB), and considering whether they require modification. It is also assessing geographic terms that were not identified in the AGB and, if applicable, determining what the corresponding treatment should be. WT5 published its **Supplemental Initial Report** in December 2018 and began its initial review of public comments received in late February 2019.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

After completing the initial reviews of public comments on the Initial Report and Supplemental Initial Report, the WG will begin determining what resulting changes may be needed. The WG will consider summary reports from the three subgroups it convened, which were tasked with compiling, reviewing, and tabulating the public comments for further analysis. The WG will then determine if and how the public comments will affect final recommendations in the Final Report.

WT5 will seek to complete the review of public comments on the WT5 Supplemental Initial Report. Similar to the full WG, WT5 will determine if and how the public comments will affect final recommendations in its Final Report.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This WG is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining the WG, please email **gnso-secs@icann.org**. As the WG has already been in operation for a substantial amount of time and has progressed in its deliberations, 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

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

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

- WT5 Supplemental Initial Report: **https://go.icann.org/2SxaXgA**

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

- WG Workspace: **https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw**

- WG 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 (ICANN org). 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.

Staff Responsible: Steve Chan, Emily Barabas, Julie Hedlund