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# Implementation Status: Generic Names Supporting Organization Drafting Team to Further Develop Guidelines for the GNSO's Roles and Obligations as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community

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## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN66 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?**

At ICANN66, the drafting team will meet with the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council during its working session on Sunday, 3 November. Besides presenting and providing details on the proposed guidelines, the drafting team will also conduct a Question & Answer session to help councilors get up to speed and to inform the Council's vote on the guideline approval.

## **WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?**

Following the adoption by the GNSO Council of the **revised GNSO Operating Procedures**, the ICANN Board adopted the proposed modifications to the ICANN Bylaws on 13 May 2018. There are additional proposed steps to be taken to ensure the GNSO Council is prepared, as well as to facilitate the GNSO Council to act in relation to its new roles and responsibilities outlined in the post-transition ICANN Bylaws.

## **WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT?**

In December 2018, a call for volunteers was made to reconstitute the drafting team to develop guidelines for the GNSO. Reconstituted in January 2019, the drafting team has been meeting bi-weekly.

The drafting team is tasked to develop guidelines that clarify additional details or steps related to a particular action to be completed by the GNSO that falls within its existing process or procedure. These guidelines are meant to help the GNSO effectively participate as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community (EC) in accordance with the post-transition ICANN Bylaws.

The drafting team has developed guidelines for the GNSO with respect to the following ICANN Bylaw sections:

- Article 18.12 Special IANA Naming Function Reviews (IFRs)
- Annex D, Section 1.3 Approval Action Community Forum
- Annex D, Section 2.2 Petition Process for Specified Actions and Section 2.3 Rejection Action Community Forum

- Annex D, Section 3.1 Nominating Committee Director Removal Process, Section 3.2 Supporting Organization (SO)/Advisory Committee (AC) Director Removal Process, and Section 3.3 Board Recall Process
- Annex D, Section 4.2 Community Independent Review Process (IRP) and Section 4.3 Community Reconsideration Request

#### **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

Just prior to the GNSO Council meeting in October 2019, the drafting team expects to deliver the GNSO Council the proposed guidelines for its consideration. The GNSO Council expects to discuss the proposed guidelines in detail with the drafting team during the Council working session at ICANN66 Montréal.

The GNSO Council must approve the proposed guidelines developed by the drafting team, including any new or proposed modifications to existing procedures following the applicable process.

#### **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

Noting that the work of the drafting team is nearly complete, the ICANN community is encouraged to follow the work of the drafting team. GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies may provide input via their representative members on the drafting team. Please see the list of members at: <https://community.icann.org/x/-JUWBg>.

#### **MORE INFORMATION:**

- Templates and Guidelines Depository: <https://community.icann.org/x/BYc2Bg>
- Drafting Team Workspace: <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=102143482>
- Background Document: <https://go.icann.org/2SRnZ8g>

## **BACKGROUND**

On 27 May 2016, the ICANN Board adopted a set of new ICANN Bylaws that aim to reflect changes needed to implement the IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal. Such adoption was contingent on the proposed transition away from United States Government oversight of ICANN. Per the motion adopted by the GNSO Council on 30 June 2016, the GNSO sought volunteers for a Bylaws Implementation drafting team to provide the GNSO Council with recommendations for any necessary updates to the GNSO Operating Procedures or ICANN Bylaws as they relate to the GNSO. In addition, the GNSO Council requested that the drafting team determine what, if any, existing GNSO processes can be used to address any new or additional obligations. If there are none, the drafting team should consider whether an existing process can be modified, or a new process needs to be created. The GNSO Council adopted the revised GNSO Operating Procedures resulting from the drafting team's recommendations, and on 13 May 2018 the ICANN Board adopted the proposed modifications to the ICANN Bylaws. Subsequently, ICANN staff sought guidance from the GNSO Council to ensure their preparedness and facilitate the GNSO Council to act in relation to the new roles and responsibilities outlined in the post-transition ICANN Bylaws. At ICANN63 in October 2018, the GNSO Council agreed to issue a call for volunteers to reconstitute the drafting team. The goal for this drafting team is to develop guidance for the GNSO to complete a particular action that falls within the GNSO's existing processes and procedures relating to participation of the GNSO within the Empowered Community, but where additional details and steps are deemed to be helpful.

**Staff Responsible:** Julie Hedlund, Marika Konings, Ariel Liang, Mary Wong