

New Generic Top-Level Domains Auction Proceeds Cross-Community Working Group

This Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) is not a GNSO PDP working group. The GNSO is one of its chartering organizations; GNSO members are actively involved in this CCWG.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN69 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) delivered its Final Report to the Chartering Organizations and the ICANN Board and will not be meeting during ICANN69.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

All ICANN SOs and ACs chartered the CCWG to propose a mechanism to allocate the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Auction Proceeds, which have been derived from auctions to resolve the competition sets between identical or similar terms (strings) for new gTLDs, an issue known as string contention. [Learn More](#)

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

On 29 May 2020, the CCWG submitted its [Final Report](#) to the Chartering Organizations. Following adoption of the Final Report by all of the Chartering Organizations, the CCWG submitted the Final Report to the ICANN Board for its consideration on 14 September 2020. The Final Report sets out the core issues that the CCWG addressed in carrying out its charter since its inception in January 2017. It includes responses to questions posed in the CCWG's charter and a series of recommendations, as well as guidance to be considered in the implementation phase. The Final Report also records the CCWG's discussions regarding options around a mechanism(s) to allocate the new gTLD Auction Proceeds in accordance with ICANN's mission and Bylaws.

The Final Report discusses three possible mechanisms that the CCWG considered for allocation of auction proceeds:

- Mechanism A: An internal department dedicated to the allocation of auction proceeds is created within the ICANN organization.
- Mechanism B: An internal department dedicated to the allocation of auction proceeds is created within the ICANN organization which collaborates with an existing non-profit.

- Mechanism C: A new charitable structure (ICANN Foundation) is created which is functionally separate from ICANN org, which would be responsible for the allocation of auction proceeds.

The Final Report includes the following recommendation regarding the mechanisms:

“The CCWG recommends that the Board select either mechanism A or mechanism B for the allocation of auction proceeds, taking into account the preference expressed by CCWG members for mechanism A.

As part of its selection process, the ICANN Board is expected to apply the criteria outlined by the CCWG [...] for which additional internal and/or external input may be required (such as providing a reliable cost estimate). The ICANN Board is expected to share the outcome of its consideration with the CCWG Chartering Organizations and, if deemed necessary, involve the Chartering Organizations and/or CCWG implementation team in any deliberations that would benefit from Chartering Organization and/or CCWG implementation team input.”

Other recommendations in the report focus on the following subjects:

- The establishment of an Independent Projects Evaluation Panel to consider and select projects to receive funding, regardless of the mechanism chosen.
- Objectives of fund allocation.
- Safeguards, conflict of interest provisions, and auditing requirements.
- Existing ICANN accountability mechanisms cannot be used to challenge decisions on individual applications.
- Timeframe for the disbursement of funds and the staging of disbursement in “tranches.”
- Review of the mechanism.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The ICANN Board will consider the CCWG’s Final Report and recommendations.

MORE INFORMATION

- [CCWG background](#)
- [CCWG workspace](#)

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