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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN63 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) is set to meet on Saturday, 20 October 2018, from 09:00-18:30 (CEST). From 09:00-13:15 that day, the PDP WG will discuss Work Track 5 (WT5), dedicated to the topic of geographic names at the top-level. WT5 expects to provide updates and seek feedback on preliminary recommendations/outcomes that it may include in its Initial Report, as well as discuss key open issues. From 13:30-18:30 that day, the full PDP WG will discuss a supplemental Initial Report which reviews topics additional to those found in its Initial Report already published for public comment. The full WG will also kickoff sub groups that will be tasked with reviewing public comment received on its 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.” Essentially, this means that these recommendations will remain in place unless the PDP 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 subsequent procedures of new gTLD launches. The **Final Issue Report** and the PDP WG **charter** identified a number of subjects that require analysis and potential policy development.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT?

The PDP WG started its work on 22 February 2016 and began deliberations on a set of six overarching or foundational subjects. It established four WTs to address 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 PDP WG published its **Initial Report** for **public comment**, receiving a number of comments by the 26 September 2018 deadline.

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), considering whether they require modification. It is also considering geographic terms that were not identified in the AGB and if applicable, what the corresponding treatment should be.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The PDP WG will spend time reviewing public comment received to its Initial Report and determine what resulting changes may be needed. To accomplish this task, the PDP WG is convening three sub groups to compile, review, and tabulate the public comments for further analysis by the full PDP WG, which will be tasked with formulating final recommendations for inclusion in its Final Report. The PDP WG will also need to review public comment received to its supplemental Initial Report, once that public comment period closes.

WT5 will seek to incorporate feedback received at ICANN63, complete preliminary discussions, and publish its own Initial Report shortly after ICANN63. Similar to the full WG's Initial Report, it may contain preliminary recommendations, options, and questions for community feedback.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This PDP WG is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining the WG effort, please email gns0-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>
- PDP Webpage: <http://gns0.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, if necessary, for changes to subsequent rounds. A **discussion group** was created to begin the evaluation process and possibly 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 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.

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