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

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

The New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group is set to meet on Saturday, 2 November 2019 and Monday, 4 November 2019. On Saturday, the working group is expected to begin consideration of the Final Report from Work Track 5, dedicated to the topic of geographic names at the top-level. On Monday, the full working group plans to continue the work toward developing a set of final recommendations. The working group will also discuss which topics might require additional Public Comment.

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 working group 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 working group **charter** identified a number of subjects that require analysis and potential policy development.

² GNSO Summary of Policy Recommendations: <http://gns0.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/summary-principles-recommendations-implementation-guidelines-22oct08.doc.pdf>

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT?

The working group started its work on 22 February 2016 and began deliberations on a set of six overarching or foundational subjects. It established four work tracks to address the remaining subjects identified in the 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 working group and work tracks developed preliminary recommendations and outcomes, and identified areas where they are specifically seeking community input. On 3 July 2018, the working group published its **Initial Report** for Public Comment, receiving a number of comments by the 26 September 2018 deadline. In October 2018, the working group published a **Supplemental Initial Report**, which considers topics additional to those found in its Initial Report. Now the working group has completed its initial review of public comments for both its Initial Report and its Supplemental Initial Report. Since ICANN64, the working group began the process of taking into account how public input might affect its final recommendations.

The PDP's Work Track 5 is devoted solely to the issue of geographic names at the top-level. Work Track 5 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. Work Track 5 has focused on reviewing the existing geographic terms and their respective rules in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook (AGB) and considering whether they require modification. After completing the initial review of public comments for its **Supplemental Initial Report**, Work Track 5 has been deliberating on how public input might affect the proposed final recommendations it is seeking to submit to the full working group prior to ICANN66.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The working group will complete the determination on changes may be needed as a result of the public comments received. It will then concentrate on drafting the final recommendations for inclusion in the Final Report. In addition, the working group is considering whether an additional, limited Public Comment period may be needed for certain topics.

Work Track 5 is expected to have submitted its Final Report to the full working group prior to ICANN66 for its review and possible adoption. By ICANN66, Work Track 5 will have concluded its work unless the full working group refers its Final Report and draft recommendations back to it for further deliberation.

The working group hopes to coordinate timing so that a single unified Final Report, which includes the Work Track 5 Final Report, is delivered to the GNSO Council.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This working group is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining, please email gns0-secs@icann.org. As the working group 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

- Working Group Initial Report: <https://go.icann.org/2Q2pnjd>
- Working Group Supplemental Initial Report: <https://go.icann.org/2BsFcuH>
- WT5 Supplemental Initial Report: <https://go.icann.org/2SxaXgA>
- PDP Webpage: <http://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures>
- Working Group Workspace: <https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw>
- Working Group 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. After incorporating public comments on its Preliminary Issue Report, staff prepared and delivered the Final Issue Report. Subsequently, the GNSO Council initiated the PDP and adopted the working group charter.

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