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

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN59 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) is set to meet on Tuesday, 27 June (Day 2) at 8:30-12:00 for a face-to-face working session. It expects to make progress on a number of different topics currently under discussion within the WG's four sub teams, including reviewing feedback from the WG's public comment on Community Comment 2 (CC2).

The WG leadership is also facilitating a set of cross-community discussions on the topic of geographic names at the top-level (session 1 on Tuesday, 27 June (Day 2) at 17:00-18:30 and session 2 on Thursday, 29 June (Day 4) at 15:15-18:30). While geographic names are one of the many topics within the PDP WG's charter, it is of wide community interest and divergent views, and subject to parallel community efforts that must be coordinated. The goal of these sessions is to help the ICANN community discuss, understand, and collaborate on the development of a consensus-driven compromise solution.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The PDP on New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures, initiated in December 2015 and chartered in January 2016, is intended 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 mechanisms for applicants to propose new top-level domains.” Essentially, this means that these recommendations would 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. Note, the [Final Issue Report](#) and the PDP WG [charter](#) identified a number of subjects that may require analysis and policy development.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The PDP WG started its work on 22 February 2016 and began deliberations on a set of six subjects that are considered overarching or foundational in nature, and sought the community's input on these six subjects. The PDP WG has established three drafting teams focused on delivering proposals related to the overarching issues. The PDP WG has also established four separate Work Tracks that are addressing the remaining subjects identified in the WG's charter – these Work Track sub teams are meeting on a bi-weekly basis and have mostly completed their preliminary review on their respective topics. The PDP WG published its CC2 for public comment, which focused on the four Work Tracks' subjects. The sub teams will take into account the comments received while working to develop their set of recommendations and outcomes.

Specific to the top-level geographic names topic, the PDP WG has yet to address the issue in a substantive way. Instead, it is seeking to facilitate collaboration with the wider ICANN Community to understand the challenges, consider the various proposals within the community to address those challenges, and to eventually reach a consensus-driven compromise solution. The PDP WG hosted a set of [webinars](#) on 25 April 2017 on the topic, where a number of interested community members shared their inputs to the subject. The cross-community discussions at ICANN59 are a continuation from the webinars.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The PDP WG will consider input and feedback received in response to CC2 and further comments received in ICANN59, continuing working toward developing a set of preliminary recommendations. The PDP WG will also take into account the work of other new gTLD related efforts within the community (e.g., the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review Team, Cross-Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names, etc.) and integrate dependencies into its work plan where applicable.

Regarding geographic names at the top-level, the PDP WG will consider the input received at ICANN59 on the proposals presented during the webinar. It will also seek to ensure that the community continues to work in a coordinated fashion on developing a solution that is able to address the divergent concerns in a reasonable manner for all interested parties.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This PDP WG is open to all participants. If you are interested in joining the WG effort, please email gnso-secs@ICANN.org.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP Webpage: gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures
- WG Workspace: community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw
- WG Charter: <https://goo.gl/chgGsk>
- Final Issue Report: goo.gl/yGRgAN
- Geographic Names Webinar Materials: <https://community.icann.org/x/p77Raw>

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 ICANN staff. 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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