

Project Change Request Form

Severity: [HIGH]

Project name:

Review of All RPMs PDP Working Group

Requested by:

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John McElwaine (GNSO Council Liaison to the WG)

Date:

10 February 2020

Change description:

The 8th and most recent (April 2019) work plan/timeline since the inception (March 2016) of this PDP forecast as a best-case scenario, submission of the Phase 1 Final Report to the GNSO Council in mid-to-late April 2020. The WG has determined that this is not feasible.

The WG is requesting approval of a revised 9th work plan/timeline that projects submitting the Phase 1 Final Report by mid-October 2020.

Change reason:

1. Revisit Initial Review of Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS)

At ICANN66, the WG agreed to: a) conclude its initial review of the URS procedure; b) consolidate and finalize 34 Sub Team recommendations; c) ascertain more specific support levels for inclusions of 31 individual members' proposals in the Initial Report; and d) complete the 24 action items deferred from the URS initial review. This effort was done between November 2019 and mid-January 2020.

The more comprehensive review of individual URS proposals took longer than originally expected, but the elimination of 19 (of 36) proposals that received substantial opposition will ease the burden on the community as it reviews and comments upon the Initial Report.

2. Extend Review Period for Draft Initial Report & Public Comment

Given the number of recommendations (25) and questions (16) at present that the WG plans to request community input on – not to mention the possibility of public comments on other matters, the WG leadership team has concluded that the most recent 8th work plan did not allow sufficient time for review of public comments that they expect will be submitted on the draft Initial Report – let alone time to seek compromise/amendments to the 23 URS proposals with a view to becoming a consensus recommendation. To further ensure that it will adhere to the new deadline proposed in this Project Change Request, the WG may consider adding more meetings from the close of the public comment period to prepare its Phase One Final Report. The new work plan, which reflects the worst-case scenario, foresees a period of five (5) full months (May, June, July, August and September) to review public comments to the Initial Report. However,

the WG will work according to a best-case scenario timeline to submit the Final Report to the GNSO Council by mid-September.

Impact of change (complete for relevant categories):

- **Scope:** The Scope of Phase 1 of the RPMs PDP has not changed.
- **Budget:** There will not be a direct impact to the budget; however, while the mid-October delivery date of a Final Report is more realistic than the previous target, minimal slack remains and the WG leadership team will have to agree on an appropriate methodology and decision-making process in order to meet the new date.
- **Timeline:** Additional five-and-a-half (5.5)-month delay to baseline delivery date from the 8th work plan.
- **Resourcing:** Additional community volunteer time and GNSO Policy staff commitment. The WG's working method (owing in no small part to malformed "charter questions") has contributed to volunteer fatigue with only a small subset of active members doing the regular work; moreover, some members refuse to concede or compromise and the co-chairs having sought to lead by unanimity has further complicated these and other aspects of the work.
- **Communications:** Council leadership was informally notified on 13 January 2020 and the full Council notified on 17 January 2020. An initial revised work plan and Project Change Request had been submitted in January. This 10 February 2020 version supersedes and replaces the January document.
- **Other:** The Council may need to consider the impact on potential new work to be launched in 2020. In addition, the Council should consider how to charter Phase 2 of the RPMs PDP to produce better and more timely results.

Proposed action:

Working Group co-chairs will adjust the project plan and work plan with a new and more realistic target delivery date of October 2020 for submission of the Phase One Final Report (still a best case scenario).

Working Group co-chairs (1) will commit to work together (**practically, this may mean allowing a decision to be made by two of the three as opposed to all three co-chairs**), with the common goal to complete Phase One on time, understanding that there may be consequences for the work (e.g., suspension of the PDP) if this is not done; and (2) are willing to be firm with the Working Group, and do whatever needs to be done, in order to deliver the Final Report in a timely manner; and (3) will develop a detailed plan to produce the Initial Report, review comments and produce a Final Report and clearly communicate this process to working group members.

Working Group co-chairs hereby submit a Project Change Request that reflects a more realistic proposed timeline for (1) publication of the Initial Report for public comment; and (2) submission of the Final Report on Phase One to the GNSO Council. The timeline takes into account a further increased workload on staff, the co-chairs, and the WG members and the fact that the review of public comments on the Draft Report will take place over summertime in the Northern Hemisphere.

Working Group co-chairs will invite the GNSO Council leadership to address the Working Group at the group's first ICANN67 session, to stress the need to complete Phase One according to the agreed timeline.

Depending on the volume and complexity of the public comments received to the Phase One Initial report, WG co-chairs will consider whether a second meeting per week in May, June, July, August and September

for reviewing public comments to the Draft Initial Report can be avoided.

Estimated Associated cost, if applicable:

Direct cost impacts cannot be calculated at this time (being the second formal Project Change Request of its kind).

If a total burden rate is calculated in the future as part of PDP3.0 efforts, it can perhaps be backward-calculated to account for this six (6)-month extension.

Outcome of the request (to be completed AFTER the GNSO Council completes its deliberation on the request):