

Cross-Community Working Groups

What is the GNSO Council expected to consider?

The GNSO Council is expected to consider Draft Principles developed by a GNSO Council Drafting Team that address the scope, permissible purposes, and relationship of Cross-Community Working Groups (CWGs) to the Policy Development Processes (PDPs). At its meeting on 14 March 2012 the GNSO Council will consider a [motion](#) to approve the Draft Principles for its own guidance. The motion also would request staff to disseminate the Draft Principles to the Chairs of the Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) asking them to provide input to the GNSO Council in 60 days on both the principles themselves and the route forward for community-wide adoption or development of a related set of principles for the operation of CWGs.

Why is this important?

Increasingly, the GNSO has participated in cross-community working groups with other SOs and ACs to address issues of common interest. However, the Council has been concerned that reports by some CWGs were not properly vetted/approved by the GNSO, and that multi-chartered groups could diverge with regard to approved mission and scope. In addition, the perceived importance of CWGs raises questions about whether special rules or guidelines are needed. Finally, there is a potential reluctance to form new CWGs until there is a framework under which they will function in future.

The Draft Principles for GNSO Council consideration address the scope, permissible purposes, and relationship of CWGs to the PDPs. The principles also suggest guidelines for the operation of CWGs, including how they should optimally be formed, how they should execute tasks, and appropriate next steps for outcomes. These principles could be adopted for use by the GNSO and the other SOs and ACs.

The Staff Recommendation

The staff has no specific recommendation concerning the Draft Principles, but notes that a set of principles agreed to by the SOs and ACs could be useful to inform CWGs and bring consistency to their operations.

Background

Last fall the GNSO Council discussed the development of a proposed framework that could form the basis of GNSO participation with other SO and ACs in developing processes and procedures for effective future functioning of CWGs. In October 2011, the GNSO Council formed a Drafting Team to define an approach for the effective chartering, functioning and utilization of CWGs. The objective and goals of the Drafting Team were to develop a GNSO-agreed perspective as a starting point for developing a common community understanding of CWGs on 1) the role; 2) the function; and 3) method of conducting joint activities for future projects. The Drafting Team was open to anyone interested in participating. The members may be found on the Drafting Team wiki at <https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocwgdraftteam/Home>.

In January 2012, the GNSO Council Drafting Team provided a set of Draft Principles to the GNSO Council for consideration. At its meeting on 14 March 2012 the GNSO Council will consider a [motion](#) to approve the Draft Principles for its own guidance.

Where can I find more information?

1. See the [Draft Principles](#);
2. See the [motion](#) to approve the Draft Principles.

Staff responsible: Julie Hedlund and Liz Gasster