

GNSO Review: Forming GNSO Review Working Party

Background and Purpose

The objective of the GNSO Review¹ is to examine organizational effectiveness of the GNSO, including its structure components (GNSO Council, GNSO Working Groups, GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies). The review scheduled to begin on or about 1 July 2014 will be tightly scoped based on objective and quantifiable criteria provided to the independent examiner.

Involvement of the GNSO community as well as input and participation from the broader community are important components of this review process. As discussed in GNSO Council meetings, the Structural Improvements Committee of the Board (SIC) has requested that a GNSO Review Working Party be assembled to function as a liaison between the GNSO, the independent examiner and the SIC, to provide input on review criteria and the 360 Assessment, coordinate interviews and objectively supply clarification and responses to the draft findings and recommendations. Once a final report is issued and the Board takes action on it, as appropriate, the GNSO Review Working Party is expected to coordinate with the GNSO community to prepare an Implementation Plan and champion implementation of improvement activities.

Please see the recent [announcement](#) about the GNSO Review for additional information and background.

Responsibilities and Scope of Work

Given the changing environment, including changes in participating stakeholders, and the lessons gleaned from the last review of the GNSO, the SIC considers the planning of the review to be of paramount importance in order to ensure that the recommendations for improvement are useful and implementable. An important component of the GNSO Review process, the GNSO Review Working Group Party will be assembled to:

1. Function as a liaison between the GNSO, the independent examiner and the SIC;
2. Provide input on review criteria and the 360 Assessment²;
3. Serve as additional conduit for input from, and requests to, GNSO constituencies/stakeholder groups, Council;
4. Act as sounding board: offer objective guidance, reactions and comments to any preliminary conclusions and assessment and helping to ensure the draft report issued by the independent examiner accurately reflects the GNSO structure, scope and dynamics;
5. Coordinate with the GNSO community to prepare an Implementation Plan and champion implementation of improvement activities;
6. Perform support communication/awareness activities to encourage participation;

¹ GNSO Review is mandated by ICANN's [Bylaws](#).

² 360 Assessment is an online mechanism to collect and summarize feedback from members of the GNSO community — a "self-review" relative to objective and quantifiable criteria. Interested members of other ICANN organizations, Board and staff also may offer feedback.

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Membership and Desired Skills

The membership of the GNSO Review Working Party is proposed to include members representing the diversity of the GNSO community. The activities of the GNSO Review Working Party will be conducted in an open and fully transparent manner.

The role of the GNSO Review Working Party will be as a liaison and to coordinate the various activities outlined in the scope. Members of the GNSO groups interested in the GNSO Review are encouraged to get involved in a variety of ways – by joining the GNSO Review Working Party; providing direct input to the GNSO Review Working Party; providing input to the Structural Improvements Committee and participating in the 360 Assessment.

Knowledge of the GNSO structure and operations as well as experience in evaluating performance and processes based on a set of objective criteria would be useful. Members are expected to participate actively and to devote sufficient time to the process. Time commitment is expected to be 50 – 80 hours within the next 9 months. Commitment to and compliance with ICANN’s bottom-up, multistakeholder model, and accountability and transparency ethics are a requirement.

Timeline and Milestones

The GNSO Review Working Party is invited to plan its activities to conform with the following schedule and GNSO review milestones.

Activities And Milestones	Expected Time Commitment	Tentative Completion Date
GNSO to identify GNSO Review Working Party		14 May
Assist with refining examination criteria	6 – 8 hours	30 May
Contribute to the development of the 360 assessment and coordinate the self-review component	4 – 8 hours	15 June
Review Kick-Off and ongoing participation as needed	12 – 20 hours	1 July – 31 October
Summary results from 360 Assessment	4 – 6 hours	30 July
Draft Report 1		30 September
Clarification and rebuttal from GNSO	4 – 8 hours	11-12 October (ICANN 51)
Draft Report 2		31 October
Public Comment period	4 – 6 hours	1 November – 5 January 2015

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Final Report		15 January
Implementation plan in coordination with the GNSO	16 – 24 hours	16 January – 20 February
Implement Recommendations	TBD	By end of May 2014
	50 – 80 hours	

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