# ICANN | GNSO

## Generic Names Supporting Organization

# Policy Briefing

# ICANN77 Edition

The GNSO Background Briefings are produced by ICANN's Policy staff supporting the GNSO. These are drafted specifically in preparation for ICANN meetings to provide the community with concise background information on all relevant GNSO policy efforts.

For more information on the GNSO @ ICANN77:

🌐 gnso.ICANN.org/ICANNmeeting   🐦 @ICANN_GNSO

# Welcome to ICANN77 from the GNSO Chair

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council and the GNSO community welcome your participation in the ICANN77 Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. As with previous hybrid meetings, at ICANN77, the GNSO will seek to equally leverage contributions of in-person and remote participants to advance policy development efforts and the work of the GNSO Council. The meeting will also devote time to stakeholder group and constituency meetings. As ICANN77 approaches, I would like to highlight a few GNSO initiatives that will be on the agenda for the Policy Forum, as well as recent and ongoing work that may interest you. Additional information about GNSO projects can be found in the following sections of this document.

During ICANN77, sessions will be held for key policy development initiatives and other GNSO projects. The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group was initiated by the GNSO Council in March 2021 to determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers. During ICANN77, the working group will hold a session to discuss charter questions and seek broader community input on draft recommendations regarding reversal of inter-registrar transfers, and specifically with respect to the Transfer Emergency Action Contact (TEAC) and Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP).

The GNSO Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) is expected to 1) determine the approach for a consistent definition of all gTLDs; and 2) develop policy recommendations that will eventually allow for the introduction of variant gTLDs at the top-level. During ICANN77, the working group will hold four sessions to advance its Phase 2 deliberations, which cover issues pertaining to second level IDN variant management. In response to the ICANN Board's request, the working group is also expected to deliver a project plan by the end of ICANN77 that identifies all charter questions that will impact the next Applicant Guidebook and provides a timeline for the delivery of relevant recommendations to the GNSO Council.

The GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) Working Group is tasked with providing additional guidance to support eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program in new gTLD subsequent procedures. During ICANN77, the group will hold a working session to continue drafting its Recommendations Guidance Report. It will provide recommendations relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success, as well as those relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds.

Participants from the GNSO, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) continue to meet as part of a facilitated dialogue to develop a framework for further GNSO policy work on the issue of Closed Generics. Should the GAC-GNSO facilitated dialogue result in an agreed framework, the agreements will be further developed through the appropriate GNSO policy process. By ICANN77, the dialogue should have produced a draft framework document to the GNSO, GAC, ALAC, and other groups for their input. The dialogue will hold two sessions during ICANN77 to move the work forward. These sessions will be open to observers.

In addition, work continues to support ICANN Board consideration of outputs from GNSO policy development efforts:

- Now that the ICANN Board has given the green light to move forward with the implementation of the Registration Data Request Service ("RDRS", formerly known as Whois Disclosure System), the EPDP Phase 2 small team has been working with the ICANN org on the implementation of the service, focusing specifically on issues such as defining the success criteria of the system, how to best promote and secure comprehensive use of the system both by potential requestors and ICANN accredited registrars, as well as a number of other topics identified in the addendum as benefiting from further consideration. The small team is expected to continue this engagement during a dedicated session on the topic at ICANN77.

- On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board adopted most of the outputs from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP and placed 38 outputs in a "pending" status. A GNSO Council small team was tasked to understand what prevented the Board from accepting the pending recommendations and to suggest the best mechanism(s) to address the pending outputs. The small team has provided its guidance to the Council, which served as the basis for discussions with the Board in late May. The GNSO Council will hold a daylong session on Sunday, 11 June, before the official start of ICANN77, to finalize the work plan and timeline to address the pending recommendations and the three other work items related to the next application round that the Board **requested** by the end of ICANN77.

During ICANN77, the GNSO Council will be holding an informal prep session on Tuesday, 13 June, and its public meeting on Wednesday, 14 June. The GNSO Council will hold a bilateral meeting with the GAC on Tuesday, 13 June. There will also be a remote bilateral meeting between the GNSO Council and the At- Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) before or after ICANN77.

I also want to highlight some additional work on DNS Abuse. Since ICANN76, the GNSO Council received responses from ICANN Compliance, the Registrar Stakeholder Group, the Registry Stakeholder Group, and the DNS Abuse Institute in response to a request from the GNSO Council on the topic of bulk registrations. The objective is to better understand whether this is an area where further policy work should be considered. The Council's small team is reviewing the received input and will report back its findings and possible next steps back to the Council. At the same time, the Council is also looking forward to receiving an update on the status of contractual negotiations to help inform potential next steps in line with the recommendations of the DNS Abuse small team.

ICANN77 will be a full meeting with ample opportunities to get involved. Whether you are attending in person in Washington, D.C. or via Zoom, I look forward to seeing you soon. I wish you all a productive meeting.

**Sebastien Ducos**
**GNSO Chair**

# ICANN77 at a Glance

The GNSO Policy Support Team has developed this briefing document to help community members prepare for ICANN77. It provides an overview of the status of the GNSO PDP working groups and teams, as well as information about other GNSO policy-related activities, including PDP Implementation Review Teams (IRTs). The document includes links for additional background reading to help you prepare for ICANN77. We hope it fosters active participation from all attendees.

Newcomers to ICANN and to the GNSO may be interested in additional online learning opportunities that will help them make the most of the upcoming meeting. We highly recommend taking the "Get to Know the GNSO" course on **ICANN Learn**. The course will make it easier to navigate the structure and content of this Policy Briefing and provide you with a better understanding of PDPs. All are encouraged to enroll.

 Please note that any reference to meeting times in this document is provisional. Please consult the ICANN meeting schedule for the latest information.

**ICANN77 Meeting Information**

**Meeting Page, including registration and schedule**

**General Remote Participation Information**

**GNSO Session Remote Participation Details**

**Expected Standards of Behavior**

**GNSO-Related Information**

**GNSO Council Policy Update Webinar during Prep Week**

**GNSO One-Stop Shop for ICANN Meetings**

**Project List**

If you have any questions about, or suggestions for, this Policy Briefing or GNSO policy activities, please contact us at **policy-staff@ICANN.org**. We look forward to a productive meeting.

**Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP) Briefing**
ICANN org's Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP) team has a similar, publicly available, briefing. Its goal is to provide status updates and progress reports on the various community-facing projects that the PRSP team supports, all in preparation for discussions during the upcoming ICANN77 meeting. The pre-ICANN meeting briefings are a valuable resource for the community and help to increase visibility and accountability for the multiple projects the PRSP team supports and leads. You can read the PRSP Pre-ICANN77 Briefing **here**.

# GNSO Policy Development Process Infographic

The GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) governs the way in which the GNSO develops consensus policies related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs). As shown in the standard and summarized graph below, a GNSO PDP lifecycle consists of different steps, including issue identification and scoping; PDP initiation; working group; GNSO Council deliberation; ICANN Board vote; and policy implementation. Note: The Operational Design Phase (ODP) shown in the graphic does not apply to all PDPs. Some steps are omitted for brevity. Timing notations are estimates.



* Some steps omitted for brevity and timing notations are estimates.
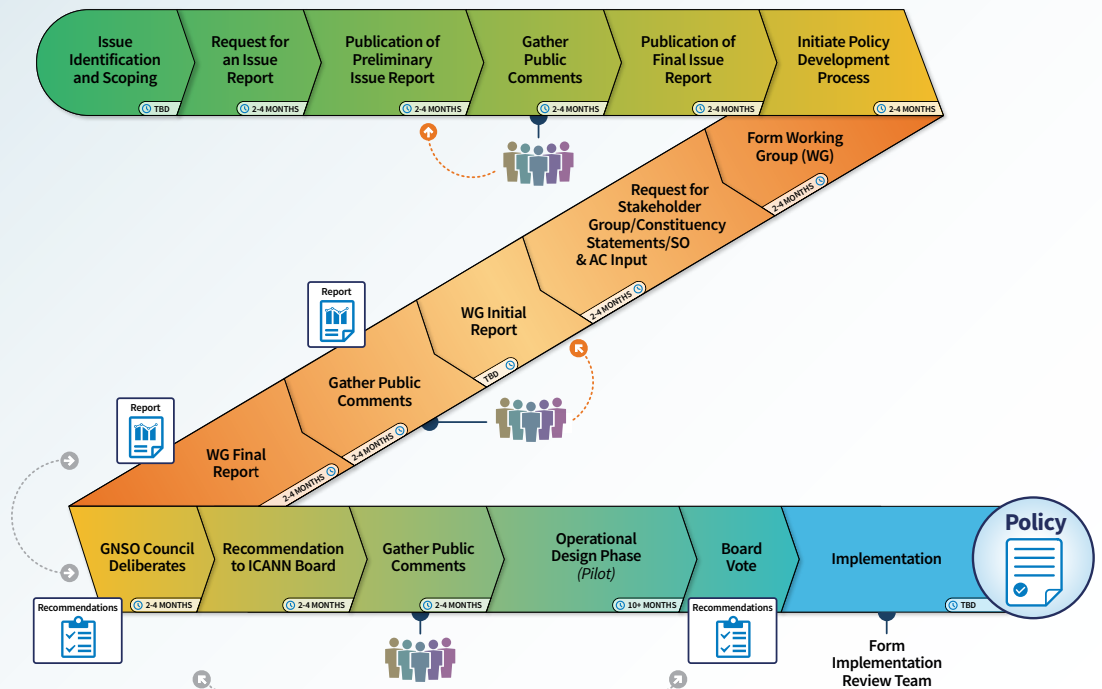
The respective steps reached by the PDP working groups and Implementation Review Teams (IRTs) are detailed in the following sections.

For more details about the steps in the PDPs, consult the information below:

- **ICANN Bylaws, Annex A**
- **Detailed Infographic of the GNSO PDP**
- **PDP Manual**

# Policy Development Process:
## Transfer Policy Review

### WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN77 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The working group will conduct one working session on Thursday, 15 June 2023 from 10:45–12:15 EDT. Please check the ICANN77 meeting schedule for the confirmed times. During the sessions, the working group will discuss charter questions and seek broader community input on draft recommendations regarding reversal of inter-registrar transfers, and specifically with respect to the Transfer Emergency Action Contact (TEAC) and Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP).

### WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 18 February 2021, the GNSO Council **initiated** a policy development process (PDP) to review the Transfer Policy. This PDP is tasked to determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers. As recommended in the **Final Issue Report**, this PDP addresses the following topics:

- **The Gaining and Losing Forms of Authorization (FOA), AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers, change of registrant requirements, the TEAC and reversing inter-registrar transfers, the TDRP, and ICANN-approved transfers (Learn More).**

The working group began meeting in May 2021. On 21 June 2022, it published an Initial Report for Public Comment covering the FOA, AuthInfo Codes, and NACKing transfers. The working group has reviewed Public Comments and incorporated changes into the preliminary recommendations where appropriate. The working group also conducted preliminary deliberations on change of registrant requirements contained in the Transfer Policy. During deliberations, the working group identified the need to make progress on charter questions related to the TEAC, reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the TDRP before finalizing work on other charter topics. Therefore, it decided to focus on these topics.

### WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The working group is developing preliminary agreements and recommendations on the TEAC, reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the TDRP.

Issue Identification and Scoping → Request for an Issue Report → Publication of Preliminary Issue Report → Gather Public Comments → Publication of Final Issue Report → Initiate Policy Development Process → Form Working Group (WG) → Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input → WG Initial Report

POLICY ← Implementation ← Board Vote ← Operational Design Phase (Pilot) ← Gather Public Comments ← Recommendation to ICANN Board ← GNSO Council Deliberates ← WG Final Report ← Gather Public Comments

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

The working group charter initially anticipated that the PDP would be conducted in phases, but the approach has since been changed due to dependencies identified between charter topics. The work is now structured as a single phase. The working group is expected to deliver a second Initial Report covering all charter topics, including revisions to the recommendations contained in the first Initial Report, in August 2024. The working group will deliver a single Final Report covering all charter topics.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

Parties interested in the Transfer Policy Review PDP should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee and communicate any input they believe may be useful to the Transfer Policy Review PDP's deliberations. Interested parties can also follow the working group's progress by signing up as an observer. A Public Comment period will be held on the second Initial Report. All are welcome to contribute to this Public Comment period.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- **PDP webpage**

- **PDP workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Emily Barabas, Julie Hedlund, Caitlin Tubergen, Berry Cobb

# Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

**WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN77 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?**

The EPDP Team will conduct four working sessions total (one working session each day): 1) Monday, 12 June from 13:45–15:00 EDT, 2) Tuesday, 13 June from 15:30–17:00 EDT, 3) Wednesday, 14 June from 10:45–12:15 EDT, and 4) Thursday, 15 June from 9:00–10:15 EDT. Please check the ICANN77 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the sessions, the working group will discuss topics within Phase 2 of its charter, covering issues pertaining to second level IDN variant management.

**WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?**

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the **initiation request** for the EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and adopted its **charter**. The EPDP Team is expected to:

- Determine the approach for a consistent definition of all gTLDs; and

- Develop policy recommendations that will eventually allow for the introduction of variant gTLDs at the top level

The charter includes 48 questions under seven broader topics, ranging from the "same entity" requirement at the top and second levels, to adjustments to ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs. The EPDP Team has been conducting its deliberations by building on the existing body of policy work, research, and analysis on the IDN subject, specifically the Outputs produced by the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. (**Learn More**)

**WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?**

The EPDP Team began meeting in August 2021. During the course of its deliberation, the EPDP Team has taken into account the **early written input** on topics in its charter from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), GNSO's Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).

In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the **project change request** from the EPDP Team. It will complete its work in two phases, with Phase 1 focusing on topics related to top level IDN gTLD definition and variant management, and Phase 2 focusing on topics related to second level IDN variant management. The EPDP Team believes that this two-phased approach will help prioritize the current



| Issue Identification and Scoping | Request for an Issue Report | Publication of Preliminary Issue Report | Gather Public Comments | Publication of Final Issue Report | Initiate Policy Development Process | Form Working Group (WG) | Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input | WG Initial Report |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| POLICY | Implementation | Board Vote | Operational Design Phase *(Pilot)* | Gather Public Comments | Recommendation to ICANN Board | GNSO Council Deliberates | WG Final Report | Gather Public Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

implementation planning of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP Outputs that are focused primarily on the top-level.

On 24 April 2023, the EPDP Team published its Phase 1 Initial Report for **Public Comment**. The Initial Report includes 68 preliminary recommendations covering issues pertaining to gTLD variant definition and management at the top level. Most of the preliminary recommendations aim to operationalize SubPro PDP Outputs to allow for future applications of gTLD variant labels through the New gTLD Program. On 17 May 2023, the EPDP Team held a **webinar** to help the community learn more about the key recommendations and facilitate their participation in the Public Comment. In addition, the EPDP Team met with the IDN subject matter experts from the SSAC in May 2023 to discuss selected preliminary recommendations that may be of interest and sought targeted input.

To ensure a consistent solution for variant TLDs is being developed, the EPDP Team monitors the activities in the ccNSO's ccPDP4 on the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD Strings. The EPDP Team and the ccPDP4 periodically hold joint sessions to discuss their preliminary recommendations, compare similarities, and understand the differences. A section in the Phase 1 Initial Report includes the EPDP Team's analysis of preliminary recommendations under four topics covered by both EPDP-IDNs and ccPDP4 about differences between them.

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board requested the EPDP Team to deliver an updated project plan by the end of ICANN77 that identifies all charter questions that will impact the next Applicant Guidebook, as well as a timeline for the EPDP Team's delivery of relevant recommendations to the GNSO Council. While the Public Comment proceeding is ongoing, the EPDP Team started discussion of its Phase 2 work. It focuses on issues pertaining to second level IDN variant management and the review of its project plan in accordance with the Board request. During the 25 May GNSO Council meeting, the EPDP leadership team presented this analysis. Final discussions on the EPDP Team's project plan are expected during the special working session on Sunday, 11 June, before the start of ICANN77. There, the Council will be finalizing deliverables on the four work items related to the next application round that have been requested by the end of ICANN77.

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

The Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment is scheduled to close on 5 June 2023. The EPDP Team plans to pause its Phase 2 work and conduct analysis of public comments received on this Initial Report. Once the EPDP Team has considered all the public comments received, it will conduct a formal consensus call on all the proposed Phase 1 final recommendations before their inclusion in the Phase 1 Final Report.

Following the submission of the Phase 1 Final Report, the EPDP Team will resume its Phase 2 deliberation.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

Parties interested in the EPDP on IDNs should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee and communicate any input they believe may be useful to the EPDP's deliberations. The EPDP's "representative + open" membership model allows interested parties to join as a participant and take part in substantive EPDP deliberations, except when an official position is needed from the relevant organization or for a consensus call. Interested parties are also able to follow the working group's progress by signing up as observers.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- **EPDP Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment**
- **EPDP webpage**
- **EPDP workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Ariel Liang, Steve Chan, Emily Barabas

# GNSO Guidance Process: Applicant Support

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN77 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

At ICANN77, the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) working group will hold a working session on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 from 15:30–17:00 EDT to continue drafting its Recommendation(s) Guidance Report. The Report will provide recommendations relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success, as well as those relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
A GGP is underway to provide additional guidance to support implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program as recommended in the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Report.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?
During its meeting on 25 August 2022, the GNSO Council **approved** the GGP Initiation Request to perform work on Applicant Support. The working group was subsequently formed and began its work in November 2022. The working group has developed a **work plan and timeline**, which has been confirmed by the GNSO Council. It has completed most of its tasks and is now focused on producing its preliminary Recommendation(s) Guidance Report for Public Comment.

## WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?
The Preliminary GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report will be posted for Public Comment after which the working group will review and consider the received Public Comments. It will update the Preliminary GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report if there are any recommendations that require modification to address comments received. Subsequently, the working group will produce a Final Report for consideration by the GNSO Council. If approved by the Council, the recommendations will be submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors.

| Issue Identification and Scoping | Request for an Issue Report | Publication of Preliminary Issue Report | Gather Public Comments | Publication of Final Issue Report | Initiate Policy Development Process | Form Working Group (WG) | Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input | WG Initial Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| POLICY | Implementation | Board Vote | Operational Design Phase *(Pilot)* | Gather Public Comments | Recommendation to ICANN Board | GNSO Council Deliberates | WG Final Report | Gather Public Comments |

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

The working group is comprised of members and observers. The invited groups have appointed their members and alternates but interested parties can participate as observers. They can sign up and receive invitations for the working group meetings and will be able attend meetings in real time, however they will only be able to listen to the conversation. Anyone interested in participating as an observer should contact the GNSO Secretariat at **gnso-secs@icann.org**.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- **GGP workspace**
- **GGP Initiation Request**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Julie Hedlund, Steve Chan

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

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN77 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group will not be meeting at ICANN77 as it has completed its work. The GNSO Council adopted its **Final Report** in February 2021 and sent the PDP outputs and **Recommendations Report** to the ICANN Board for review. On 16 March, the ICANN Board passed a resolution on a set of recommendations. See: **https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-regular-meeting-of-the-icann-board-16-03-2023-en**. In addition to the approved recommendations, the Board designated 38 outputs as "pending". By the end of ICANN77, the GNSO Council is expected to confirm the remaining actions, next steps, and timeline for completion of these outputs.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This PDP working group sought to determine if any changes needed to be made to the existing policy recommendations from the 2007 **Final Report on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains**. (**Learn More**)

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

On 16 March, the ICANN Board passed a resolution on a set of recommendations calling for, among other things, "a working methodology and Implementation Review Team (IRT) work plan and timeline as agreed upon by ICANN org and the GNSO Council." See: **https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-regular-meeting-of-the-icann-board-16-03-2023-en**. In addition to the approved recommendations, the Board designated 38 outputs as "pending". By ICANN77 the GNSO Council is expected to confirm the remaining actions and next steps and a timeline for completion. The Council was tasked with two other deliverables. They include a work plan and timeline for follow on policy work stemming from the facilitated dialogue on Closed Generics and a work plan and timeline for the IDNs EPDP charter questions that are expected to impact the next Applicant Guidebook.



Issue Identification and Scoping → Request for an Issue Report → Publication of Preliminary Issue Report → Gather Public Comments → Publication of Final Issue Report → Initiate Policy Development Process → Form Working Group (WG) → Request for SG/C Statements/SO&AC Input → WG Initial Report

POLICY ← Implementation ← Board Vote ← Operational Design Phase (Pilot) ← Gather Public Comments ← Recommendation to ICANN Board ← GNSO Council Deliberates ← WG Final Report ← Gather Public Comments

ICANN org is calling for volunteers for the IRT to support the implementation of policy recommendations for future rounds of new gTLD applications. See: **https:// www.icann.org/en/announcements/details/icann-calls-for-volunteers-for-the-new-gtld-program-next-round-implementation-review-team-05-04-2023-en**.

Participants from the GNSO, GAC, and ALAC continue to meet as part of the facilitated dialogue to develop a framework for further GNSO policy work on the issue of Closed Generics. Should the GAC-GNSO facilitated dialogue result in an agreed framework, the agreements will be further developed through the appropriate GNSO policy process. By ICANN77, the dialogue aims to have provided a draft framework document to the GNSO, GAC, ALAC, and other groups for their input. Dialogue participants will hold two sessions during ICANN77 to continue their work. These sessions will be open to observers.

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**
ICANN org plans for the first IRT meeting to take place no later than the week of 14 May 2023.

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**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**
The New gTLD Program Next Round IRT is open to all interested participants, particularly current or former SubPro WG team members who participated in the team's deliberations and who keenly understand the Final Report's policy recommendations and accompanying rationale. To join the IRT as a participant or observer, please complete this form. If you are not able to access the **form**, please send an email to **nextround_policyimplementation@icann.org**.

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**MORE INFORMATION**
- **PDP webpage**
- **PDP workspace**
- **ODP webpage**

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**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Steve Chan, Emily Barabas, Julie Hedlund

# Expedited Policy Development Process: Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data - Phase 2 (SSAD)
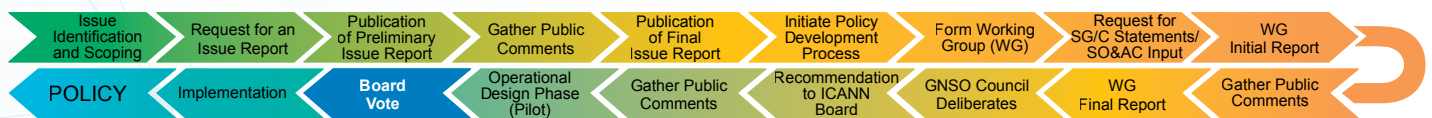
## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN77 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

During ICANN77, the EPDP Phase 2 small team is expected to engage with ICANN org on the implementation status of the Registration Data Request Service ("RDRS", formerly known as Whois Disclosure System). A session has been scheduled on Monday, 12 June 2023 from 13:45–15:00 EDT. Please check the ICANN77 meeting schedule for the confirmed times.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council approved the EPDP **Phase 2 Final Report**, which includes, et.al., recommendations for a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) to nonpublic gTLD registration data. Prior to its consideration of the SSAD recommendations, the Board **directed** ICANN org to proceed with an Operational Design Phase (ODA), to gather more information, particularly around a cost-benefit analysis of the SSAD. Following ICANN org's delivery of the **ODA**, the Council tasked a small team to assist with the Council's review of the ODA. The small team provided its ODA analysis in its **preliminary report**, and, following ICANN org's delivery of a subsequent **Whois Disclosure System design paper**, submitted an **addendum** to its preliminary report. The Council ultimately **communicated** to the ICANN Board its support for the request that the ICANN Board proceed with the Whois Disclosure System implementation, provided that the updates identified by the small team in the **addendum** are made.

Following the Board's **direction** to ICANN org to proceed with implementing a Whois Disclosure System, now referred to as the Registration Data Request Service or RDRS, the Council re-enlisted the small team to consult with ICANN org on its implementation. For more background information on the previous work of the EPDP, please refer to the additional procedural history below.

| Issue Identification and Scoping | Request for an Issue Report | Publication of Preliminary Issue Report | Gather Public Comments | Publication of Final Issue Report | Initiate Policy Development Process | Form Working Group (WG) | Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input | WG Initial Report |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| POLICY | Implementation | Board Vote | Operational Design Phase (Pilot) | Gather Public Comments | Recommendation to ICANN Board | GNSO Council Deliberates | WG Final Report | Gather Public Comments |

**WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?**

The ICANN Board **directed** ICANN org in February 2023 to develop and launch the WHOIS Disclosure System (System), now called RDRS, as requested by the GNSO Council within 11 months and continue engagement with the GNSO Council on implementation. The ICANN Board also requested the GNSO Council to consider a Policy Development Process (PDP) or other means to require registrars to use the System and to establish success criteria for the RDRS. In response, the GNSO Council updated the **assignment** of the EPDP Phase 2 small team to reflect these new work items. The small team met with the ICANN org team during ICANN76 and has been meeting regularly since to work on its new assignment.

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

Further engagement and consultation are expected to continue between the Board, ICANN org, the GNSO Council, and the GNSO Council's small team to address open issues and collaborate on the successful implementation of the system. The Council has recommended that the RDRS run for a period of up to two (2) years, at which point, if not earlier, sufficient information should be available to make a determination on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations.

**IS THERE ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO HELP ME UNDERSTAND THE PROCEDURAL HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT?**

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data to allow contracted parties to comply simultaneously with existing ICANN contractual requirements and the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This Board action triggered the GNSO Council's initiation of a PDP on 19 July 2018. The PDP was conducted in two phases: Phase 1 aimed to confirm, or not, the TempSpec by 25 May 2019; Phase 2 discussed, among other elements, a standardized access model to nonpublic registration data. Phase 2A also discussed the differentiation of legal and natural persons' registration data and the potential feasibility of unique contacts having a uniform anonymized email address. (**Learn More**)

The GNSO Council approved the **Phase 2 Final Report** during its meeting on 24 September 2020 by supermajority vote. The Final Report details the EPDP Team's recommendations for SSAD to nonpublic gTLD registration data. It also contains recommendations and conclusions for the so-called Priority 2 topics, which include data retention, city field redaction, etc. With respect to the Priority 2 topics (recommendations not related to the SSAD), the Board **adopted** the four Priority 2 recommendations during its 21 June 2021 meeting.

As part of its approval of the SSAD recommendations, the GNSO Council agreed to request a consultation with the ICANN Board. The goal is to discuss the financial sustainability of the SSAD, and concerns expressed in different minority statements. The issues in question include whether a further cost-benefit analysis should be conducted before the ICANN Board considers all SSAD-related recommendations for adoption. During ICANN70, the Board directed the ICANN org to initiate an Operational Design Phase (ODP) for the SSAD-related recommendation.

Following the approval of the Phase 2 policy recommendations by the GNSO Council, the ICANN Board asked ICANN org to conduct an ODP and produce an ODA on the SSAD recommendations. After the publication of the **ODA**, the GNSO Council formed a small team consisting of Council members as well as EPDP Team members to assist the Council with its ODA review. The small team provided input on proposed next steps for the consultation process between the Board and the Council regarding the cost-benefit analysis of the SSAD recommendations.

The small team submitted its **preliminary report** to the GNSO Council. It expressed the view that the ODA does not provide sufficient information to determine the cost and benefit of the SSAD. The small team also recommended the implementation of a proof-of-concept approach, which would allow collecting more data to better inform the decision on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations. Subsequently, the GNSO Council **requested** the ICANN Board to direct the ICANN org to design such a proof of concept. The ICANN Board sought GNSO Council input on prioritization of these projects to be transparent about resource demands and to align expectations. The GNSO Council indicated that it believes that both the design paper and one of the affected areas of work, the New gTLD SubPro ODP, are priorities and that it is ultimately for ICANN org to best determine how to plan its work effectively and minimize negative impacts. On 14 July 2022, the ICANN Board **confirmed** that it accepted the ICANN org approach of proceeding with both projects in parallel.

ICANN org published the **Whois Disclosure System design paper** in September 2022 and presented it to the Council and small team during ICANN75. The small team subsequently reviewed the design paper and continued its consultations with ICANN org, resulting in an **addendum** to its preliminary report. The GNSO Council accepted the addendum and **communicated** to the ICANN Board its support for the request that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System, provided that the updates identified by the small team in the addendum are made. Furthermore, the GNSO Council confirmed to the ICANN Board that, pending the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System for a period of up to two years, the SSAD recommendations from Phase 2 of the EPDP

on the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data should remain paused for consideration by the ICANN Board unless the data resulting from the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System would allow and warrant a decision at an earlier stage.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**
For more information on the SSAD ODP, please visit this **page**. For more information about the EPDP Phase 2 small team, please see **here**.

**MORE INFORMATION**
- **EPDP Phase 2 webpage**
- **EPDP workspace**
- **EPDP Phase 2 small team workspace**
- **SSAD ODP webpage**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Caitlin Tubergen and Marika Konings

# Policy Implementation Update

Implementation Review Teams (IRTs) are convened to assist ICANN org in developing the implementation details for the Board-approved policy developed in GNSO PDP working groups. This is to ensure that the implementation conforms to the intent of the policy recommendations, as per IRT Principles and Guidelines. (**Learn More**)

## Registration Data Policy for gTLDs
**(EPDP PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION)**

The IRT will conduct a working session at ICANN77 on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 from 10:45–12:15 EDT. Please check the ICANN77 meeting schedule for the confirmed time.

Three stages of the policy implementation were designed in advance of the Board resolution:

- Stage 1: Effective 20 May 2019, contracted parties must continue to implement measures consistent with the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data, as adopted by the Board on 17 May 2018.

- Stage 2: This stage will begin after the ICANN org publishes a Registration Data Policy as a consensus policy and formally notifies the contracted parties. During this stage, contracted parties may implement the Interim Policy, the Registration Data Policy, or elements of both, as they prepare for the effective date of the Registration Data Policy. The timing of this milestone is to be determined.

- Stage 3: Contracted parties must comply with the Registration Data Policy as of its effective date, which the EPDP Team on the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data recommended to be 29 February 2020.

The Stage 1 Interim Consensus Policy, **Interim Registration Data Policy for gTLDs**, was published on 17 May 2019.

In January 2021, the GNSO Council passed a **motion** to provide guidance on the interpretation of EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 7. In October 2021, the ICANN Board directed the implementation of the policy per the guidance. In June 2021, the Board **adopted Recommendations 19–22** from the EPDP Phase 2 **Final Report**. The implementation of these recommendations, referred to as Priority 2 items, was added to the implementation scope. On 24 February 2022, the Board **adopted** the GNSO Council's Supplemental Recommendation for EPDP Recommendation 12 concerning the deletion of data in the organization field as it addresses the Board's overarching concern of loss of essential data.

Thirty-four (34) recommendations were analyzed to determine the implementation tasks: from EPDP Phase 1 (29), EPDP Phase 2 (4), and a Supplemental Recommendation (1). The draft Registration Data Policy language and review and analysis of all impacted policies and procedures have been published for **Public Comment**.

Currently, the implementation team is considering Public Comments and finalizing the policy language with the support of the IRT. It is working to publish the language together with the other 20 impacted policies and procedures to begin the implementation period.

This IRT is open to all. If you believe you have the requisite expertise, you may join as either a member (with full posting rights to the mailing list and the ability to participate in all meetings), or as an observer (with read-only status for the mailing list). To join, please follow the instructions in the **Call for IRT** announcement.

**MORE INFORMATION**

– **EPDP Phase 1 background**

– **Policy Implementation Status webpage**

– **IRT workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Dennis Chang

## Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Phase 1

The IRT is expected to conduct a working session at ICANN77 on Thursday, 15 June 2023 from 09:00–10:15 EDT. During ICANN77, the team plans to work toward implementing the recommendations in the first implementation category identified below. Please check the ICANN77 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. The agenda will be published **here**.

On 24 November 2020, the PDP working group submitted its **Phase 1 Final Report**. It contains 35 recommendations. On 21 January 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously **approved** the Phase 1 Final Report and sent the **Recommendations Report** to the ICANN Board of Directors on 19 March 2021. A **Public Comment** proceeding on the Phase 1 Final Report was conducted from 7 April to 21 May 2021. The **Staff Report** was published on 4 June 2021.

On 16 January 2022, the ICANN Board **adopted** all 35 final Phase 1 PDP recommendations. The resolution includes the following Board directives to the ICANN org:

- For the 16 recommendations that call for updates to existing operational practices – proceed with implementation as soon as feasible and develop an implementation plan.

- For the nine recommendations affirming the status quo – include them for future expansions of the new gTLDs and inform the community about the plans to implement them.

- For the six recommendations that require substantial resourcing and multiple stakeholders' involvement – develop an implementation plan that includes estimated timing, staffing, and other resources required, as well as how their implementation fits into operational planning and prioritization of the anticipated implementation efforts that will require the ICANN org's resourcing and support.

- For the four recommendations that call for specific changes to the Applicant Guidebook and/or the Base Registry Agreement and coordination with the expected Subsequent Procedures IRT – incorporate the implementation of these recommendations into the work on updates to the Applicant Guidebook for subsequent new gTLD rounds.

Following the Board's vote, ICANN's Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) function began planning for implementation of the Phase 1 recommendations. On 19 October 2022, ICANN org issued a **call** for volunteers to assemble an IRT to assist in the implementation of the policy recommendations from Phase 1. On 13 December 2022, the implementation team held its kick-off meeting. The team will focus on implementing the recommendations in the first and third implementation categories identified above. Implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Phase 1 Final Report will be integrated into the implementation work related to the subsequent round of new gTLDs.

**MORE INFORMATION**

▬ **Policy Implementation Status webpage**

▬ **IRT workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Antonietta Mangiacotti

The following IRTs do not plan to meet at ICANN77.

## Registration Data Policy for gTLDs
**(EPDP PHASE 2A IMPLEMENTATION)**

The ICANN Board **approved the EPDP Phase 2A policy recommendations on 10 March 2022**. As set forth in Section 3 of the **Final Report**, the recommendations include: 1) a recommendation that a field or fields MUST be created to facilitate differentiation between legal and natural person registration data and/or if that registration data contains personal or non-personal data. ICANN org is expected to coordinate the implementation of this recommendation with the technical community. Once created, this field(s) is optional for use by contracted parties that choose to differentiate. Contracted parties that choose to differentiate are not required to use the field(s); 2) a recommendation that includes guidance developed by the EPDP team to assist contracted parties that choose to differentiate; 3) a recommendation that, should any possible future work within ICANN be undertaken in relation to the development of a GDPR Code of Conduct, the guidance developed concerning legal vs. natural differentiation should be considered; and 4) a recommendation that includes guidance for those contracted parties that choose to publish a pseudonymized registrant-based or registration-based email address in the publicly accessible Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS).

The ICANN Board has directed ICANN org to develop and execute an implementation plan for the above adopted recommendations that is consistent with the guidance provided by the GNSO Council and to continue communication with the community on such work. Implementation planning is now underway.

# Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues

The IRT for the **policy recommendations** developed by the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group began meeting in October 2016. It has reviewed the draft Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and other associated program materials in preparation for the Public Comment phase.

On **4 March 2019**, ICANN org wrote to the GNSO Council with the suggestion to wait before proceeding to Public Comment and implementation of the PPSAI recommendations until the completion of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The GNSO Council deferred the decision on this issue to ICANN org in a **message** on 30 April 2019. In its **response** on 5 September 2019, ICANN org confirmed that implementation work would remain paused pending the resolution of EPDP Phase 2.

With both phases of the EPDP complete, ICANN org provided its **draft review** of the impact of the EPDP recommendations on existing policies and procedures, including the PPSAI recommendations, per the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27. Following review by the EPDP Phase 1 IRT, the **report** was shared with the GNSO Council to help determine next steps. In its **7 July 2021 letter**, the GNSO Council indicated an expectation that implementation would continue. ICANN org is now considering next steps for the PPSAI implementation within the org's planning activities, factoring in existing and upcoming activities, as well as direction from the Board.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- **PDP background**

- **Policy Implementation Status webpage**

- **IRT workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Dennis Chang

# Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information

The ICANN Board **adopted** the recommendations of the PDP working group in September 2015. Since commencing implementation work in July 2016, the IRT and Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) have produced a **preliminary policy document**. Due to complexities emerging from the IRT's discussions and work in other areas related to Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS) – in particular the **Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP)**—the implementation's projected announcement and effective dates are to be determined.

Given the implementation's connection to the evolution of registration data policies and procedures, the PDP working group's recommendations are being assessed per Recommendation 27 of the EPDP on the TempSpec for gTLD Registration Data Phase 1 Team's **Final Report**. This is to ensure policy and implementation consistency across the many work streams in this area.

Both phases of the EPDP are now complete. The ICANN org has provided its draft review of the impact of the EPDP recommendations on existing policies and procedures, including the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information recommendations, per the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27. Following review of the EPDP Phase 1 IRT, ICANN org provided a **report** to the GNSO Council. ICANN org is considering next steps regarding the GNSO Council's consideration of the EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27, Wave 1.5 Report, per its **letter** dated 7 July 2021. This includes incorporating next steps on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information recommendations into ICANN org's planning activities, and factoring in timing and prioritization of work with other existing activities, including applicable dependencies.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- **PDP background**

- **Policy Implementation Status webpage**

- **IRT workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Isabelle Colas

## Protection of IGO and INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs

On 16 January 2018, the **implementation** of the Consensus Policy for the Protection of Certain Specific International Governmental Organization (IGO) and International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Identifiers for All gTLDs was published. As of 1 August 2018, implementation has been completed for the portion of the policy that provides protection by reserving full names for certain specific names of IGOs, the International Olympic Committee, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. For INGOs, the implementation period will be 12 months from the release of the INGO Claims Systems Specification, which is currently being developed by the ICANN org.

In January 2019, the ICANN Board **adopted** the policy recommendation proposed by the Reconvened PDP Working Group on the Protections of the Specific Red Cross Red Crescent Names in All gTLDs. After the **Public Comment phase**, the **consensus policy language** was revised and published in February 2020. The implementation was completed by 1 August 2020, which resulted in increasing the number of **reserved Domain Name System (DNS) Labels** from 700 to more than 7,000.

The INGO Claims System implementation is currently on hold due to potential additional requirements that could be combined to create this new system. ICANN org is consulting with the IRT on the timing of the restart.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- **PDP background**

- **Policy Implementation Status webpage**

- **IRT workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Dennis Chang

## IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms and Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs

In April 2019, the GNSO Council voted to adopt Recommendations 1–4 of the **Final Report** of the International Governmental Organization and International Non-Governmental Organization (IGO-INGO) Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms Policy Development Process, but elected to refer Recommendation 5 to the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group. In January 2020, the GNSO Council adopted an addendum to the RPMs charter to integrate consideration of Recommendation 5 and initiate a separate IGO Work Track. In August 2021, the GNSO Council took the procedural step of initiating an EPDP to continue the work of the IGO Work Track. The EPDP Team delivered its Final Report to the Council on 4 April 2022 and the Council approved the five (5) consensus recommendations in June 2022. During its 30 April meeting, the ICANN Board adopted the four recommendations that the GNSO Council approved from the IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP, as well as the five recommendations that the GNSO Council approved from the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs.

The Board resolution direction ICANN org to proceed with the implementation of these recommendations as soon as feasible.

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**MORE INFORMATION**

— **IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP background**

— **Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs EPDP background**

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**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Steve Chan, Mary Wong

# Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN77 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

While the Council awaits further feedback from ICANN org after its most recent **update**, the scoping team's activities are paused.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council formally adopted the **formation of and instructions** to the Accuracy Scoping Team during its meeting on 22 July 2021. The scoping team has been tasked to consider several accuracy-related aspects such as current enforcement and reporting, measurement of accuracy, and effectiveness. These considerations are expected to help inform its deliberations and the development of recommendations to the GNSO Council on whether changes are recommended to improve accuracy levels, and if so, how and by whom these changes would need to be developed (for example, if changes to existing contractual requirements are recommended, a PDP or contractual negotiations may be necessary to effect a change). Each Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, and Advisory Committee has been invited to appoint **representatives**.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The scoping team commenced its deliberations in October 2021. Following a review of proposals that may assist in the measurement of accuracy, the team submitted a **write-up** for assignments Number 1 (Enforcement & Reporting) and Number 2 (Measurement of Accuracy) to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November 2023 meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation Number 3 of the write up. This means that:

- Work is paused in relation to proposals that require access to generic top-level domain (gTLD) registration data (as recommended by the scoping team).

- The GNSO Council **encouraged** ICANN org to proceed with its outreach to the European Data Protection Board and proceed with the Data Protection Impact Assessment in connection with the scenario(s) in which the request and processing of gTLD registration data takes place as a matter of urgency.

- The GNSO Council requested that ICANN org and contracted parties finish negotiations on the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) as soon as practicable because the absence of a completed DPA may act as a roadblock for additional policy work.

Issue Identification and Scoping → Request for an Issue Report → Publication of Preliminary Issue Report → Gather Public Comments → Publication of Final Issue Report → Initiate Policy Development Process → Form Working Group (WG) → Request for SG/C Statements/ SO&AC Input → WG Initial Report

POLICY ← Implementation ← Board Vote ← Operational Design Phase (Pilot) ← Gather Public Comments ← Recommendation to ICANN Board ← GNSO Council Deliberates ← WG Final Report ← Gather Public Comments

- Consideration of recommendations Number 1 (registrar survey) and Number 2 (registrar audit) has been deferred until such time as the DPA negotiations between ICANN org and contracted parties have completed and there is feedback from ICANN org on whether and how it anticipates the requesting and processing of gTLD registration data will be undertaken in the context of measuring accuracy, or for six months, whichever is shorter.

ICANN org provided an **initial update** to the GNSO Council in March. It was considered by the GNSO Council during its April meeting.

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**
Following further feedback from ICANN org, or after six months, whichever is shorter, the GNSO Council will consider how to proceed. This will include a review of the scoping team's formation and instructions, based on the feedback gathered from scoping team members by Council leadership.

**MORE INFORMATION**
- **Scoping Team instructions**
- **Scoping Team workspace**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:** Marika Konings, Caitlin Tubergen, Berry Cobb

# GNSO Schedule for ICANN77

Please confirm against the **final schedule** as changes may occur. For remote participation details, please consult this **wiki page**, created by the GNSO Support Team. Live audio streaming, recording, and transcripts will become available after the meetings. Unless specified with the symbol [C], sessions published in this table are open to all. At the time of publishing, virtual meeting rooms have not yet been finalized. Please see the final schedule for further information.

| DATE | MEETING |
|------|---------|
| **Monday,<br>12 June 2023** | Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) Membership Meeting |
| | Joint Session: GAC, GNSO and ALAC - Facilitated dialogue on the topic of Closed Generics (1 of 2) |
| | Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) Membership Meeting |
| | Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) Policy Committee |
| | Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers (ISPCP) Membership Meeting |
| | Registrars & ICANN: Becoming accredited, and RDRS Engagement |
| | EPDP Phase 2 Small Team (SSAD) - Implementation of Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) |
| | Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Working Session (1 of 4) |
| | Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) Recap and Q&A Session - New gTLD Program, Next Round Implementation Status |
| **Tuesday,<br>13 June 2023** | Joint Meeting: Government Advisory Committee (GAC) and GNSO Council |
| | Business Constituency (BC) Membership Meeting |
| | Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) Membership Meeting |
| | Joint Session: GAC, GNSO and ALAC - Facilitated dialogue on the topic of Closed Generics (2 of 2) |
| | Contracted Party House (CPH) Domain Name System (DNS) Outreach Session |
| | EPDP on IDNs Working Session (2 of 4) |
| | GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) for Applicant Support |
| | GNSO Informal Council Session [C] |

| DATE | MEETING |
|---|---|
| **Wednesday, 14 June 2023** | GDS: Subsequent Procedures Implementation Recommendation Team (IRT) |
| | Registration Data Policy Implementation Review Team (IRT) |
| | EPDP on IDNs Working Session (3 of 4) |
| | GNSO Council Public Meeting |
| | Joint Session: Non-Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC) and Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns (NPOC) Policy Discussion |
| | Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) Membership Meeting |
| **Thursday, 15 June 2022** | EPDP on IDNs Working Session (4 of 4) |
| | GDS: Rights Protection Mechanisms IRT |
| | Transfer Policy Review (TPR) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group |
| | Joint Session: CPH and CSG Membership Meeting |

# ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization