

Project Change Request Form

Severity: [HIGH]

Project name:

Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1 (TPR_P1)

Requested by:

Roger Carney, Working Group Chair
Osvaldo Novoa, GNSO Council Liaison to the WG

Date:

06 February 2023

Change description:

The Transfer Policy Review (TPR) Working Group is requesting approval to make substantive changes to its project plan to account for newly identified dependencies between charter topics. Instead of delivering recommendations in phases as originally anticipated, the working group is proposing to deliver all recommendations as a single package in a combined Initial Report and Final Report.

The phased delivery schedule included the following phases:

- Phase 1(a): Charter questions and recommendations focused on the core of the Transfer Policy related to inter-Registrar transfers. The working group has published an Initial Report and held a Public Comment on preliminary recommendations for Phase 1(a), but recommendations will not be finalized until the working group makes substantive progress on deliberations related to reversal of a transfer and dispute resolution, topics originally scheduled for Phase 2.
- Phase 1(b): Charter questions and recommendations focused on Change of Registrant requirements in the Transfer Policy. In conducting preliminary deliberations on Phase 1(b) charter questions, the working group again discovered that it would need to discuss reversal of a transfer and dispute resolution before it could finalize recommendations related to Change of Registrant.
- Phase 2: Charter questions and recommendations primarily focused on the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP) and Transfer Emergency Action Contact (TEAC). Substantive deliberations have not started on these charter questions.

The updated project plan includes the following key milestone dates:

- Publish Phase 1(a) Initial Report for Public Comment by June 2022 (complete).
- Publish Phase 1(a) (revised), 1(b), and 2 Initial Report for Public Comment by August 2024.
- Submit Phase 1(a), 1(b), and 2 Final Report to the GNSO Council by February 2025.

Change reason:

A. Rationale for Updated Structure of Project Plan

1. Unforeseen Phase 1(a) Interdependency

During the working group’s Phase 1(a) deliberations on enhancing the security features for the Transfer Authorization Code (TAC) (the term the working group is recommending to replace the current AuthInfo Code), the working group noted that changes to TDRP and/or TEAC could impact the proposed recommendations for transferring a domain between two Registrars. The working group understands that it is important to make substantive progress on deliberations regarding TDRP and TEAC before finalizing core recommendations on inter-Registrar transfers.

2. Unforeseen Phase 1(b) Interdependency

During the working group’s initial Phase 1(b) deliberations, some working group members suggested the removal of certain Change of Registrant features, such as the 60-day lock and the acknowledgement from the Prior Registrant, noting that in lieu of these features, the working group should consider enhancing dispute resolution mechanisms. The working group understands that it is important to make substantive progress on deliberations on TDRP and TEAC before finalizing recommendations on Change of Registrant.

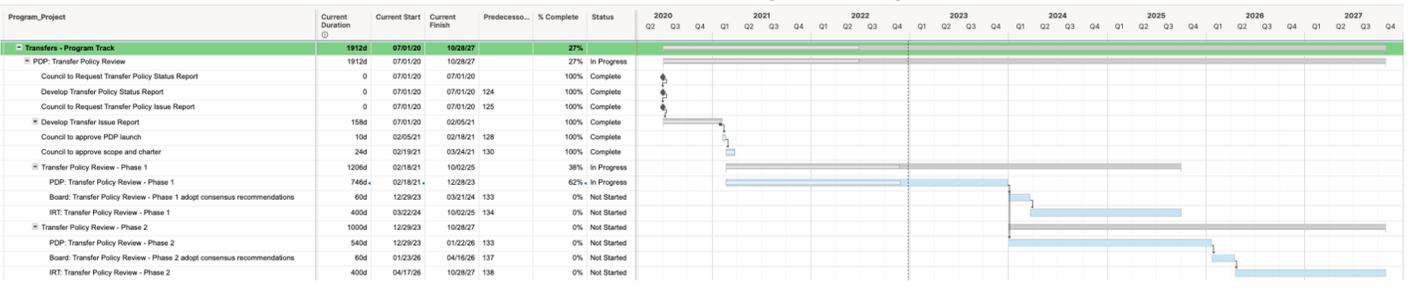
3. Revision of Phase 1(a) Recommendations

Phase 1(a) preliminary recommendations have been substantially revised following review of Public Comments and may be revised further following discussion of TDRP and/or TEAC. Additional community input through Public Comment is warranted on these revisions.

B. Rationale for Delivery Schedule Change

- Phase 1(a) is behind schedule due to a Public Comment extension and the need to consider a number of substantive comments, which has also resulted in Phase 1(b) work falling behind schedule. A work plan adjustment would be needed for this reason alone, independent of the above points.
- Fewer Public Comment periods and combination of outputs will allow the working group to reduce the overall timeline of the PDP.

Current Forecast of the Phased Approach as listed in the GNSO Program Management Tool:



Impact of change (complete for relevant categories):

- **Scope:** The scope of the Transfer Policy Review has not changed. However, all charter questions are now to be addressed in a single-phase PDP.
- **Budget:** N/A
- **Timeline:** With the consolidation of phases and the delivery of a single Final Report, the updated project plan now anticipates the delivery of the Final Report in February 2025. This is one year earlier than the original forecast for the completion of the PDP in 2026.
- **Resourcing:**
 - Community volunteer time is expected to remain roughly the same given the current commitments as defined in the TPR charter. However, it was originally anticipated that groups would “refresh” their membership in the PDP between Phase 1 and Phase 2. As there is no longer a natural break in the PDP, some community groups may consider if there is an appropriate point in time to make changes to their list of representatives in the PDP.
 - Change reduces the demand on the ICANN community to participate in a PDP and IRT simultaneously.
 - Change reduces the demand on the ICANN Board to consider Phase 1 and 2 independently.
- **Communications:** Information about the Project Change Request was communicated to the GNSO Council on 19 January 2023.
- **Other:** The GNSO Council may consider the impact on potential new work to be launched in 2023-2025.

Proposed action:

The TPR Leadership Team will:

- Submit to the GNSO Council the updated project plan that reflects the projected key milestone dates.
- Commit to work diligently to efficiently progress its deliberations.
- Pursue efficient processes for reviewing ICANN org input, producing the Initial Report, reviewing public comments received, and finalizing recommendations for the Final Report.
- Encourage the GNSO Council to provide suggestions and guidance to ensure that the working group adheres to its updated project plan and new target delivery date for the Final Report.

Estimated Associated cost, if applicable:

None.