

Policy & Implementation Recommendations: Policy Status Report

Presentation to the GNSO Council



GNSO Council Meeting
18 September 2024

Agenda

- 1. Background on the Policy and Implementation Recommendations**
- 2. Policy and Implementation Policy Status Report and Public Comment Overview**
- 3. Anticipated Next Steps**

Background on the Policy and Implementation Recommendations



The Policy & Implementation Working Group was tasked to provide the GNSO Council with a set of recommendations on:

- **A framework for implementation related discussions associated with GNSO Policy Recommendations;**
- **Criteria to be used to determine when an action should be addressed by a policy process and when it should be considered implementation; and**
- **Further guidance on how GNSO Implementation Review Teams are expected to function and operate.**

Background on the Policy and Implementation WG Recommendations

Adoption of the Policy and Implementation Final Report resulted in:

- A set of principles applying to policy and implementation to guide any future policy- and implementation-related work;
- The introduction and updating of a number of GNSO processes, building on the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework developed by ICANN org:
 - GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP)
 - GNSO Guidance Process (GGP)
 - GNSO Input Process (GIP)
 - Implementation Review Team (IRT) Principles & Guidelines (including requirement to form an IRT following the adoption by the ICANN Board of GNSO Policy recommendations)
 - Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF)
- The GNSO Council recommended that “a review of these recommendations is carried out at the latest five years following their implementation to assess whether the recommendations have achieved what they set out to do and/or whether any further enhancements or changes are needed”.

Overview of the Policy Status Report

- The purpose of the Policy and Implementation Recommendations PSR is to provide an overview of the Recommendations and to support an assessment of their effectiveness, based on readily available data, staff observations, and analysis.
- The PSR discusses the contents of the Policy and Implementation Recommendations and the use and performance of the following GNSO policy development and implementation processes/guidelines introduced as a result of the Policy and Implementation Recommendations:
 - The GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP)
 - The GNSO Guidance Process (GGP)
 - The GNSO Input Process (GIP)
 - The Implementation Review Team (IRT) Principles & Guidelines
 - The Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF)
- Overall, the PSR concludes that the Recommendations have proved effective in supporting and enhancing GNSO Policy and Implementation efforts, but also identifies a number of caveats and possible improvements.

Public Comments on the Policy Status Report

- The Policy Status Report was posted for Public Comment from 16 May 2024 – 2 July 2024.
- The Public Comment summary report was published on 18 July 2024.
- 5 comments were received, including 4 submissions from organizations and community groups as well as 1 submission from an individual.
- Overall, commentators supported the conclusions of the PSR, with consensus on proposals for further research, improvements, and modifications.
- However, areas for action were noted, with comments focusing on how to improve the efficiency of policy and implementation and ensuring continuous community involvement in the process.

Overview of PSR & Public Comment - EPDP

The **EPDP** section of the PSR discussed:

- Impact on timelines
- Need for improved messaging
- Potential improvements and/or enhancements

Public Comments suggested measures to expedite the EPDP process, including:

- enhanced working practices, such as robust chartering and estimated timelines;
 - capturing ‘lessons learned’ from EPDP working groups to improve future policy development.
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- Another comment proposed that ICANN org also explore mechanisms to assess continued ‘fitness for purpose’ of consensus policies throughout the policy and implementation process.

Overview of PSR & Public Comment - GGP

The **GGP** section of the PSR discussed:

- Effectiveness in meeting requirements and expectations
- Issues around scope
- Timelines

Public Comments focused on:

- implementing more rigorous and flexible scoping
- increasing community involvement in the process
- adding more context to the GGP section, discussing the particular issues around the experience with the Applicant Support GGP.

Overview of PSR & Public Comment - GIP

The **GIP** section of the PSR discussed:

- Function and relevance of the GIP
- Status of the GIP Manual

Public Comments exhibited contrasting views:

- Some comments proposed discontinuing the GIP and instituting a process to formalize the creation and operation of GNSO Small Teams.
- Alternatively, other comments supported the GIP, with some suggestions to revise the GIP manual to incorporate working practices and lessons learned from GNSO Small Teams.

The **IRT** section of the PSR discussed:

- Effectiveness
- Potential areas of improvement

Public Comments

- A comment suggested that the IRT could monitor of the outcomes of minority viewpoints that were not incorporated into a final policy, to provide benchmarks and data for future policy development.
- Other comments also noted that future research into the role and conduct of IRTs should focus on the effectiveness of current guidelines and improving stakeholder engagement.

Overview of PSR & Public Comment - CPIF

The **CPIF** section of the PSR discussed:

- Use and effectiveness
- Potential updates

Public Comments

- Comments included a reminder for the GNSO Council to consider impact of efforts to modify CPIF on other ongoing work.
- Comments also stressed that updates to the CPIF should be undertaken with transparency, a clear rationale and due consultation to maintain community buy-in.

Policy & Implementation PSR: Anticipated Next Steps

- ICANN org to submit the finalised PSR (including relevant updates from the Public Comment) to the Council.
- GNSO Policy Team and GDS PRSP Team to consult and develop a plan for Council Review on how to address the issues and action points raised in the PSR, where applicable.
 - PRSP Team to develop a research proposal for Council approval to scope a research project to gather and analyze data on IRT time utilization to inform further options for streamlining.
 - PRSP Team to provide proposed CPIF updates for Council input.