

Policy & Implementation Recommendations: Policy Status Report

Presentation to the GNSO Council

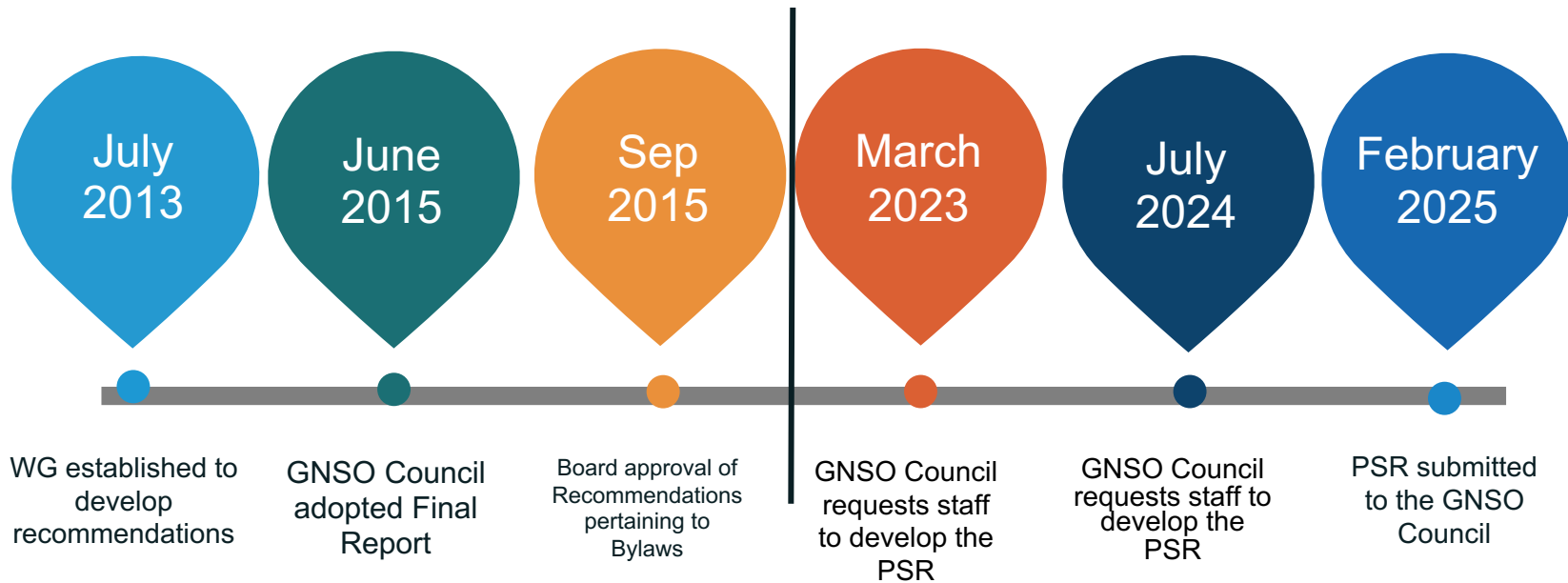


GNSO Council Meeting
13 February 2025

Agenda

- 1. Background on the Policy and Implementation Recommendations**
- 1. Summary of Policy Status Report Findings**
- 1. Proposed Actions for Council Consideration**
- 1. 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.**

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)

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, comments also focused on how to improve the efficiency of policy and implementation and ensuring continuous community involvement in the process.
- An overview of the public comment was presented to the GNSO Council in September 2024, with an updated PSR submitted for consideration by the Council in February 2025.

Overview - Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP)

On the **EPDP**, the PSR:

- finds that the EPDP has contributed to a shorter overall timeframe for the delivery of an Initial/Final Report to the GNSO Council.
- identifies some misunderstanding in the community over the true nature of the 'expedited' policy development process.
- questions whether additional guidelines are necessary to clarify when policy recommendations are intended to impact pre-existing policies and contract requirements and ensure that critical issues are not deferred to the implementation phase.
- notes potential ways of streamlining and/or expediting the process, including:
 - eliminating the requirement for early input when appropriate,
 - improved working practices, e.g. lessons learned activities
 - enhanced preparatory activities, e.g. chartering and scoping

Overview - GNSO Guidance Process (GGP)

On the **GGP**, the PSR:

- finds that the first GGP was effective in providing clarification and advice on policy recommendations, but suggests that setting more comprehensive targets and ensuring better communication between the WG, Council and ICANN org may have helped align expectations on the GGP's role and goals.
- proposes that when a GGP is initiated to provide additional guidance on existing policy recommendations, a process step could be considered to coordinate on the expected timing with any active or planned implementation work and manage expectations around the GGP's scope and outputs.
- discusses whether the GNSO Council might consider providing more direction on the level of detail and guidance appropriate for the GGP, as well as encouraging more direct community involvement in the GGP process to help refine the GGP process in the future.

Overview - GNSO Input Process (GIP)

On the **GIP**, the PSR:

- could not assess the effectiveness of the GIP, given that it has not been used as envisaged, but noted that the use of the GNSO ‘small teams’ was similar to that anticipated for the GIP.
- notes that public comments were divided on the continued relevance of the GIP, with some advocating its retirement, while others supporting its theoretical value.
- describes some support in public comments for replacing the GIP manual with the guidance developed for GNSO small teams; conversely, other comments suggested the GIP manual could be revised to include practices and learnings derived from small teams.

On the **IRT Principles & Guidelines**, the PSR:

- finds that IRTs have been demonstrated to fulfill an essential role within the implementation process, helping to ensure that policy recommendations are implemented in line with the original intent.
- identifies potential additions to the IRT guidelines, e.g. providing more clarity on roles and responsibilities when resolving disagreements over implementation issues.
- proposes conducting research and gathering data on the conduct of the IRT process to help address areas of concern, such as extended timelines, and identify ways to increase the overall efficiency of the policy implementation process.

Overview - Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF)

On the **CPIF**, the PSR:

- finds that the CPIF has been effective in providing a readily comprehensible evaluation of the status and progress of an implementation project against defined timescales and goals.
- notes that the CPIF has not been updated since 2018 and lacks reference to the additional implementation steps developed subsequently. It also identifies a number of gaps in the CPIF concerning aspects of the implementation process.
- proposes research into the level of adherence to the CPIF during implementation, which could be undertaken as part of an ICANN org review of its current structure and effectiveness.
- recommends incorporating the existing IRT guidelines into the CPIF to avoid duplicative guidance.

Proposed Actions for Council Consideration

Refer to separate table