Board Readiness

For Council Meeting

11 Jun 2025

Team Members

- Jennifer Chung

- Justine Chew

- Prudence Malinki
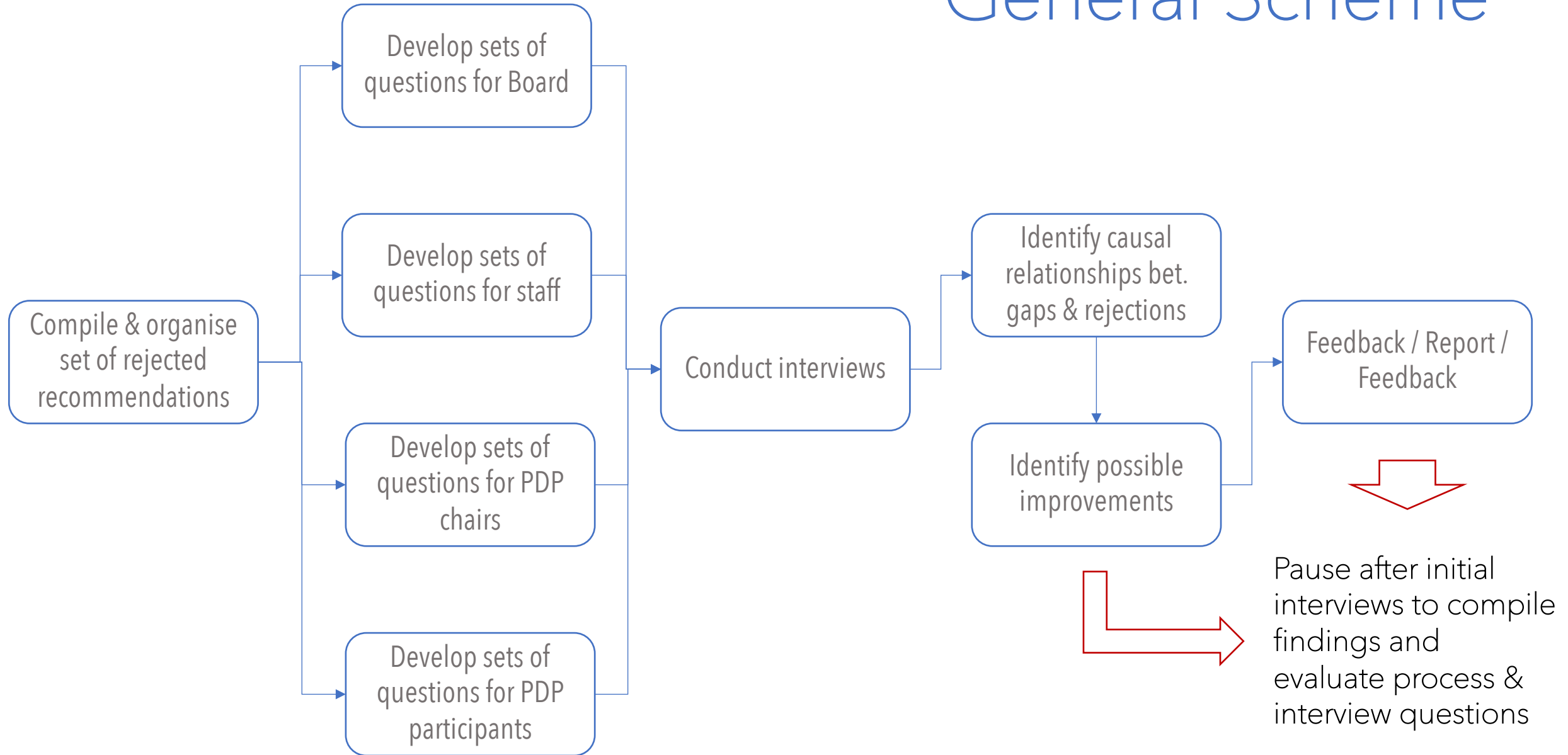
- Susan Payne

- Kurt Pritz

- Thomas Rickert

Mission / Scope

Perform a study that will inform the improvement or creation of policy development practices that will improve the Board readiness of GNSO policy recommendations,

where

Board readiness is measured by the likelihood that GNSO policy recommendations will be readily adopted by the ICANN Board.

General Scheme

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Compile & organise          Develop sets of
set of rejected  ─────────► questions for Board ──┐
recommendations            │                      │
        │                  │ Develop sets of      │
        │                  ├─► questions for staff ─┤      Conduct interviews ──► Identify causal          Feedback / Report /
        │                  │                       ├────► Conduct interviews     relationships bet.  ──►  Feedback
        │                  │ Develop sets of       │                             gaps & rejections
        │                  ├─► questions for PDP  ──┤                                    │
        │                  │   chairs              │                                    ▼
        │                  │                       │                             Identify possible ──────┘
        │                  │ Develop sets of       │                             improvements
        └──────────────────┴─► questions for PDP ──┘                                    │
                               participants
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Pause after initial interviews to compile findings and evaluate process & interview questions

Some Program Notes

- Each interviewee receives an information packet providing:
  - An introduction to the program
  - A brief, historical summary of the PDP
  - A summary of the Board's reasoning for rejecting recommendations
  - A list of question to be asked

- Interviewees are advised that,
  - with their permission, interviews are recorded so notes can be verified but then the recording is destroyed
  - additional questions may be added depending upon the responses

- Interviewees are afforded the opportunity to review and amend the meeting notes before reports are written

- There are several feedback loops incorporated into the program to verify findings and conclusions

Status

PDP	Information Packets	Invitation Sent	Interviews	Synthesis
Registration Data Phase I	completed	completed	completed	completed
Registration Data Phase II	completed	completed	completed	completed
Subsequent Procedures	completed	completed		

13 Interviews:
- 2 Board Members,
- 2 PDP Chairs,
- 6 WG Members,
- 3 ICANN Staff Members

Compiled findings

Drafted preliminary recommendations

Schedule

- June 17 – July 18: complete interviews

- July 21 – Aug 1:   report compilation

- Aug 4 – Aug 22:   feedback from participants

- Aug 22 – Sep 5:   final report

- Sep 18:   discuss at GNSO Council meeting

Discussion Points in Draft Report

- The findings recognise value in Board collaboration as part of the PDP but balance that against preserving the bottom-up nature of the process

- The Board liaison role in that process is still not certain and will vary across PDPs; which duties should be required?

- Rejections might occur because the PDP objectives (e.g., reaching consensus) differ from the Board objectives (e.g., compliance with the Bylaws, its fiduciary duty).

- The PDP team and Board often operate with different sets of information, e.g.,
  - implementation, operation & cost details
  - staff reports, GAC & ALAC inputs
  - legal advice

- Managing the responsibilities and roles of the GAC and ALAC both in the PDP *and* in giving advice to the Board

- The efficacy of the representative vs the open PDP models

Thank You