

## Background

The Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT) was established to review and address any non-minor operational changes to the New gTLD Program, including potential policy modifications, in collaboration with the ICANN org and the GNSO Council. The SPIRT officially [kicked-off](#) on 4 December 2025.

It is governed by the GNSO Council in accordance with the [SPIRT Charter](#), and while it may receive requests through the GNSO Council and the ICANN org to apply the [Predictability Framework](#), it cannot independently refer or address issues on its own. The SPIRT however is working on a process to identifying situations where its members may identify issues it wishes the SPIRT Leadership Team (LT), GNSO Council Liaison, and GNSO Council to consider. The draft outlining the process for the SPIRT Leadership Team adopting such considerations can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zITIUCB5yvV\\_Rj5Z87IjqajA5VliMSPvPb77AHaU0/e/dit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zITIUCB5yvV_Rj5Z87IjqajA5VliMSPvPb77AHaU0/e/dit?tab=t.0)

Since the GNSO Council is responsible for oversight of the SPIRT, coordination with the Council Liaison and the Council is required to ensure appropriate processes are in place when the SPIRT brings an issue forward. In order for the SPIRT to discuss an issue concerning the New gTLD Program, it must first receive approval from the GNSO Council or the issue must be brought to the SPIRT by ICANN org as the SPIRT cannot independently refer or address issues to itself

Coordination with the GNSO Council Liaison to the SPIRT and the Council is required to ensure appropriate processes are in place when the SPIRT brings an issue forward. Accordingly, the SPIRT is requesting guidance on the appropriate course of action when confirmation or direction from the GNSO Council is needed – whether it be through a Council Resolution, Correspondence, mailing list, or simply through an ad-hoc call convened by the Council Liaison. For avoidance of doubt, this request is limited to defining how issues raised by the SPIRT should be treated including in both standard and expedited cases.

Once a decision is made by the Council, a procedural document outlining how the Council should proceed and respond to issues raised by the SPIRT will be drafted. Those issues that are raised through the GNSO Council, ICANN org, or ICANN Board are already documented in the Charter and the Predictability Framework.

### Processes for Council Response to SPIRT

- Standard Process
  - For an issue that has been submitted by the SPIRT that is not time-sensitive to the New gTLD Program, the GNSO Council may consider discussing the issue at an upcoming GNSO Council meeting and making the decision in no more than two (2) Council Meetings from receipt of the SPIRT request through a Council vote and a resolution
- Expedited Process
  - In the case where the SPIRT has submitted an issue that is time-sensitive to the New gTLD Program for the GNSO Council consideration, the GNSO Council Liaison informs the GNSO Council of the potential change raised by SPIRT members through the GNSO Council mailing list, noting whether the issue is urgent and merits the Council's consideration through an expedited process. To clarify, this would only allow for the GNSO Council to approve the SPIRT's discussion of a forwarded issue.

- The Change Request is thus introduced to the GNSO Council through the mailing list and put forward for discussion.
- The GNSO Chair will seek non-objection via the Council mailing list; objections to the SPIRT discussing the issue must be raised within 72 hours.
- If there are no objections by the end of the 72-hour period, the GNSO Council informs the SPIRT through the GNSO Liaison that they may pursue discussing the issue with ICANN org.
- If there are objections by GNSO Council members, the issue may be added to the subsequent GNSO Council meeting agenda for decision.

### **Types of Changes**

- Description of Changes per the SPIRT Charter that would require GNSO Council input:
  - Type 2 (non-minor operational change) - if the change during the ongoing round of the Program can be implemented in alignment with the existing policy recommendations and will have a material impact on applicants; and
  - Type 3 (policy change) - if the required change during the ongoing round of the Program cannot be implemented in alignment with the existing policy recommendations.
  - For minor operational changes (Type 1), the SPIRT will not be notified in advance by ICANN, but rather alerted through the Change Log within two (2) business days.