

**Introduction of New gTLDs: GNSO/Staff Discussion
Los Angeles
10-11 April 2008**

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the GNSO and the public of progress made by ICANN staff on potential implementation of the GNSO's new gTLD policy recommendations, and discuss key implementation issues with the GNSO Council. Implementation of the policy recommendations is a complex process, and staff is working through a number of challenging technical, operational, legal, economic, and political questions to arrive at a viable process. Since the GNSO Council submitted its policy recommendations to the Board, staff has designed a proposed new gTLD program plan for implementing the recommendations as written. Staff will describe the work in progress and how it maps to the GNSO's recommendations, as well as discuss the outstanding implementation issues.

Staff provided a similar briefing to the GNSO at the ICANN meeting in New Delhi in February. The upcoming discussion will feature updated information and provide more detailed background about the work done by staff to reach the current proposed implementation plans.

Agenda

Thursday, 10 April

Time: 6:00 PM

Welcome, Introductory Remarks, Agenda Review, Information Sharing, Brief Discussion of Pertinent Issues

Friday, 11 April

Time: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

The complete set of 19 recommendations will be reviewed according to the Terms of Reference used by the GNSO during the PDP. Each section will focus on the goals and deliverables resulting from the relevant set of recommendations.

Term of Reference I – Whether to introduce new gTLDs (9:00 – 10:00)

Staff will present a high-level view of the envisioned process map and the work that has gone into its design.

1	ICANN must implement a process that allows the introduction of new top-level domains. The evaluation and selection procedure for new gTLD registries should respect the principles of fairness, transparency and non-discrimination.
9	There must be a clear and pre-published application process using objective and measurable criteria.

- Implementation Vision
- Planning
- Work Accomplished
- Results
 - RFP
 - Evaluation Process Map
 - Communications Plan

Term of Reference III – Allocation methods (10:15 – 11:15)

Staff will describe the development of the RFP for new gTLDs, including the criteria and the evaluation process.

7	Applicants must be able to demonstrate their technical capability to run a registry operation for the purpose that the applicant sets out.
8	Applicants must be able to demonstrate their financial and organisational operational capability.
13	Applications must initially be assessed in rounds until the scale of demand is clear.

- Implementation Vision
- Planning
- Work Accomplished
- Results
 - Technical Capability
 - Business/Operational/Financial Capability

Term of Reference IV – Contractual conditions (11:15 – 12:15)

Staff will describe the construction of the base contract.

10	There must be a base contract provided to applicants at the beginning of the application process.
14	The initial registry agreement term must be of a commercially reasonable length.
15	There must be renewal expectancy.
16	Registries must apply existing Consensus Policies and adopt new Consensus Policies as they are approved.
17	A clear compliance and sanctions process must be set out in the base contract which could lead to contract termination.
18	If an applicant offers an IDN service, then ICANN's IDN guidelines must be followed.
19	Registries must use only ICANN accredited registrars in registering domain names and may not discriminate among such accredited registrars.

- Implementation Vision
- Planning
- Work Accomplished
- Results
 - Contractual terms for discussion

Lunch (12:15 – 1:30)

Term of Reference II – Selection Criteria (1:30 – 3:30)

Staff will provide a review of the respective approaches proposed for technical stability and reserved names, as well as a discussion of progress on creating objection and dispute resolution procedures.

2	Strings must not be confusingly similar to an existing top-level domain or a Reserved Name.
3	Strings must not infringe the existing legal rights of others that are recognized or enforceable under generally accepted and internationally recognized principles of law.
4	Strings must not cause any technical instability.
5	Strings must not be a Reserved Word.
6	Strings must not be contrary to generally accepted legal norms relating to morality and public order that are recognized under international principles of law.
12	Dispute resolution and challenge processes must be established prior to the start of the process.
20	An application will be rejected if an expert panel determines that there is substantial opposition to it from a significant portion of the community to which the string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted.

- Implementation Vision
- Planning
- Work Accomplished
- Results
 - Dispute Resolution Procedure
 - Dispute Resolution Standards
 - Implementation Issues

Conclusion and Follow-Up Actions (4:00 – 5:30)

The meeting will close with an overview of the anticipated way forward, noting the dependencies and parallel activities that will have an impact on implementation.