

GNSO PDP 3.0

*How to increase the effectiveness and efficiency
of the GNSO Policy Development Process*



20 May 2019

The Past – GNSO Task Force Model

- ⦿ Each Constituency and/or Stakeholder Groups of the GNSO invited to appoint one individual
 - ⦿ Additionally, the Council could appoint up to three outside advisors to sit on the task force.
 - ⦿ The Council could increase the number of Representatives per Constituency or Stakeholder Group that may sit on a task force in its discretion in circumstances that it deems necessary or appropriate.
- ▶ TF Model considered too limiting and not allowing for input from non-GNSO members / communities. GNSO Review recommends Open WG Model.

The Present – Open Working Group Model

- ⦿ Introduced following the GNSO Review of 2008-2012: “A working group model should become the focal point for policy development and enhance the policy development process by making it more inclusive and representative, and – ultimately – more effective and efficient”.
- ⦿ Anyone interest can join a GNSO Working Group – only requirement is completing a Statement of Interest (SOI)
- ⦿ Call for volunteers are broadly circulated and publicized which has resulted in gradual increase in membership e.g. 13 for IRTP Part A in 2009 to 195 for RDS PDP WG in 2017.
- ⦿ At the same time, overall duration of delivering an Initial Report for public comment has increased from 245 days to over 661 (and counting!)

Challenges encountered

1

Inclusive and effective - a contradiction in terms?

4

Consensus by exhaustion?

2

Quantity over quality?

5

Negotiations instead of consensus policy development

3

Who is accountable to whom?

6

Legitimacy of MSM and ICANN

Background

- ⦿ [Staff discussion paper](#) published in January 2018 discussing optimizing increased engagement and participation while ensuring efficient and effective policy development. Paper flags a number of challenges for bottom-up participation in ICANN's policy making processes (see previous slide).
- ⦿ [Paper](#) distributed on 12 May 2018 which aims to synthesize challenges as well as possible improvements related to the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Policy Development Process (PDP). These were identified as the result of a number of discussions over the recent months, including the Council Strategic Planning Session (January 2018) and a Community session at ICANN61 (March 2018).
- ⦿ Paper identifies a number of immediate and longer term possible improvements that the Council and PDP Working Groups could consider implementing to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of GNSO policy development activities.
- ⦿ GNSO Council approved a set of improvements for implementation in October 2018. Small team of Council members formed to carry out implementation plan.

Improvement Areas

1

Working Group
Members

2

Council tools to
facilitate its role
as manager of
the PDP

3

PDP Leadership
Tools

4

Council liaison
tools

Working Group Members

Incremental Improvements

- #1 Terms of participation for WG members
- #3 Limitations to joining of new members after a certain time

Implementation

- Further develop the [EPDP Team Statement of Participation](#) in consultation with ICANN Ombudsman to produce a template for seeking affirmative commitment from WG members before they can participate in a WG.
- Document a set of basic template of requirements for upskilling new members newly joining after the PDP's formation with a view to preventing disruption of PDP progress and re-opening settled issues.

Council Tools to facilitate its role as manager

Incremental Improvements

- #11 Enforce deadlines and ensure bite size pieces

Implementation

- At the outset of the PDP, the Council or Council leadership meets with the PDP WG to brief the PDP WG on the charter and its expectations. This would allow for any clarifications and/or confirmations at the outset of the process.
- Council to review PDP WG charters and determine what works well and what doesn't. This could include discussions with current PDP leadership teams to establish what helped PDP WGs in their efforts and what did not.
- PDP WG leadership should engage with GNSO Council in post-PDP evaluation for lessons learnt and sharing experiences.
- Staff should develop a standardized summary template to provide GNSO Council with relevant data regarding the effectiveness and efficiency against the scope and work plan
- Staff will investigate set of project management tools to help WG leadership and council for managing PDPs

Council Tools to facilitate its role as manager (cont'd)

Incremental Improvements

- #12 Notification to Council of changes in work plan
- #13 Review of Chair(s)

Implementation

- GNSO Council to review all current PDP WG work plans and advise PDP leadership teams that any changes to timeline for deliverables are expected to be communicated to the GNSO Council for approval, including a rationale for these changes.
- Make better use of project management skills and expertise when developing the work plan
- Council to provide additional guidance and/or timeframe with regards to the expected delivery of milestones. The council or drafting team should add clear milestones that can be measured and assess progress.
- Commence a practice of appointing WG leadership for a 12 month period, and require reconfirmation by the WG to continue for subsequent 12 month period/s.

Council Tools to facilitate its role as manager (cont'd)

Incremental Improvements

- #14 Make better use of existing flexibility in PDP to allow for data gathering, chartering and termination when it is clear that no consensus can be achieved
- #15 Independent conflict resolution
- #16 Criteria for PDP WG Updates

Implementation

- Council with support from staff should develop set of criteria to evaluate request for data gathering, and document this as a checklist to be used by a PDP WG.
- Drafting teams should indicate in the charter if there is a possibility that data gathering may be required in order to respond to the charter questions
- Council liaison to be proactive in identifying potential issues / challenges at early stage that may need mitigation and Council attention.
- Council should consider the establishment of panel of volunteer mediators that can be called upon when appropriate.
- Staff should develop a template for reporting with criteria and information to be shared in PDP WG updates such as issues, risks, progress against work plan

Council Tools to facilitate its role as manager (cont'd)

Incremental Improvements

- #2 Consider alternatives to the open WG model
- #17 Resource reporting for PDP WGs

Implementation

- Council to identify and consider the various model options documented when commencing new PDP to determine which best fits a particular PDP effort.
- Staff should collect information regarding budget and resources to be allocated for PDP.
- Charter drafting team should identify the resources and needs during the chartering process
- GNSO Council to work with ICANN Staff to adapt fact sheets used for review teams and EPDP to monitor and report on progress as well as resources for PDP WGs.

Incremental Improvements

- #4 Capture vs. Consensus Playbook
- #6 Document expectations for WG leaders that outline role & responsibilities as well as minimum skills / expertise required

Implementation

- Drafting team (include current and former PDP WG leadership) to review existing provisions of the GNSO WG Guidelines for gap analysis and develop amendments to WG Guidelines or a standalone playbook for future PDPs.
- Review GNSO Operating Procedures to evaluate and amend, where appropriate, the role and responsibilities descriptions of PDP Chair.
- Develop a briefing document and/or training for newly appointed PDP Chairs highlighting relevant provisions of GNSO Procedures on the role and responsibilities of WG Chairs that can be tailored for working groups.

PDP Leadership Tools (continued)

Incremental Improvements

- #9 Provide further guidance for section 3.6 (Standard Methodology for Decision Making)

Implementation

- Staff should develop material for familiarizing members of PDP WG regarding the “consensus” in the PDP at the beginning of the process.
- Add clarification to GNSO OP to indicate a 3.7 appeal does not stop ongoing work

Incremental Improvements

- #5 Active role for and clear description of Council liaison to PDP WGs

Implementation

- Develop clear role description
- Council to evaluate whether this updated role description is fit for purpose in light of concerns around Chair neutrality and multi-phase PDP structures.
- Develop a briefing document for new Council liaisons including the role description and highlighting relevant provisions of GNSO Procedures on the role and responsibilities of the liaison.
- Build into PDP timeline milestones at which the WG leadership team should consider how to best utilize the Council liaison.
- Support staff to include liaison in scheduling PDP WG leadership team meetings
- Exiting Council liaisons to conduct handover with incoming Council liaisons, and report to Council that this has taken place before the next Council meeting.

Next Steps

- ⦿ Small team working on rolling out implementation of these different improvements
- ⦿ Council will review and confirm proposed implementation
- ⦿ Updated implementation plan distributed prior to every ICANN meeting, followed by Council review and discussion
- ⦿ Aim to complete effort by ICANN66 (AGM 2019)

Questions?