

APF WEBINAR #1

# Next Round of New gTLDs: An Overview

Justine Chew  
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APRALO  
POLICY FORUM

# Agenda

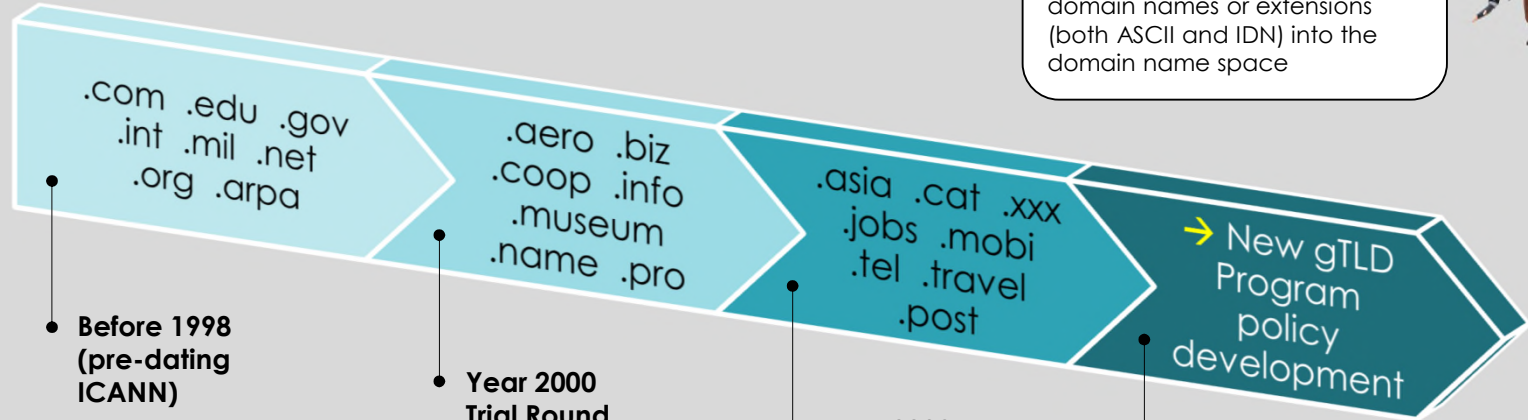
- **A bit of history on the New gTLD Program**
- **How does the New gTLD Program impact end-users?**
- **What are Subsequent Procedures (“SubPro”)?**
- **Why should SubPro matter to end-users?**
- **Moving from SubPro to the Next Round of New gTLDs**

Hi there! I'm Pixie, and I will be providing some additional commentary here and there.



# Before the New gTLD Program Launch

**New gTLD Program?**  
 An ICANN initiative to introduce unlimited generic top-level domain names or extensions (both ASCII and IDN) into the domain name space



• Before 1998 (pre-dating ICANN)

• Year 2000 Trial Round for TLDs

• Year 2003 Round for Sponsored TLDs

• Dec 2005 – Sep 2007

**The Anatomy of a Domain Name?**

First or Top-Level (TLD) ———→  
 Second-Level (SLD) ———→  
 Third-Level ———→

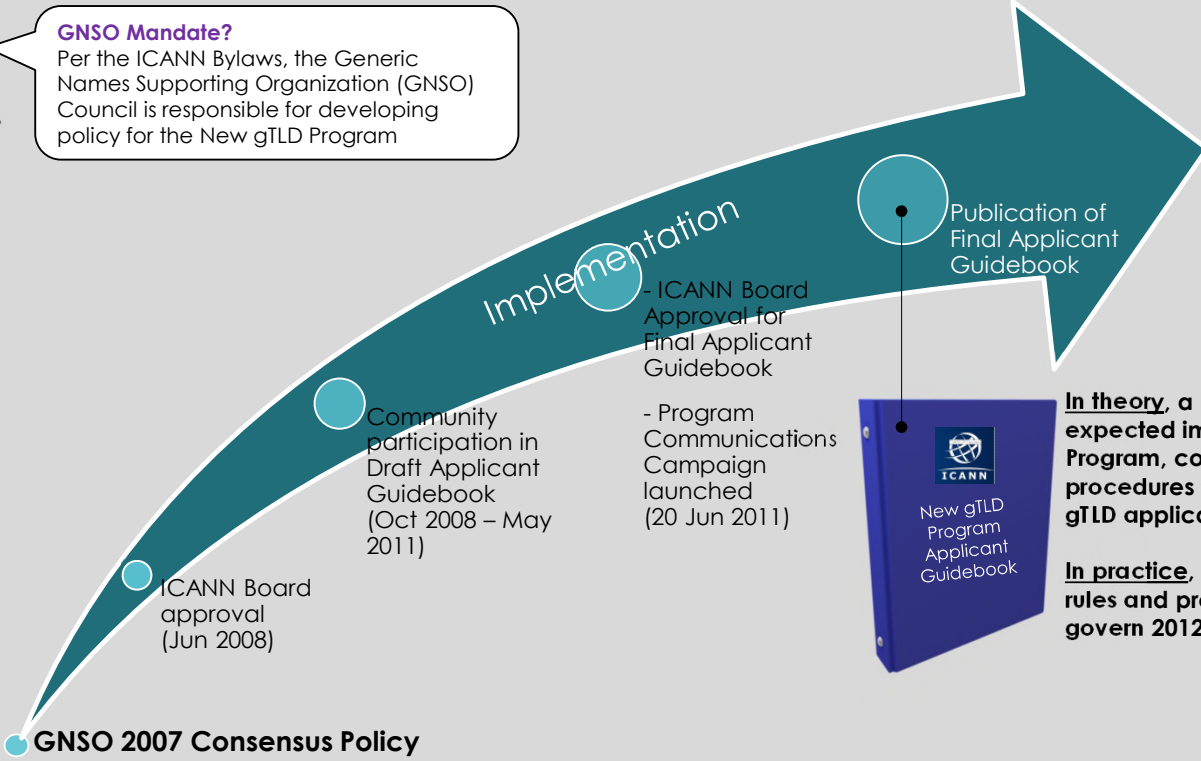
**www.atlarge.icann.org**



# New gTLD Program - the 2012 Round



**GNSO Mandate?**  
 Per the ICANN Bylaws, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council is responsible for developing policy for the New gTLD Program



**PROGRAM LAUNCH**  
 12 Jan – 12 Apr 2012  
 Round 1 Application Window



**In theory**, a manifestation of the expected implementation of Program, containing rules and procedures for 2012 Round of New gTLD applications

**In practice**, did not cover ALL the rules and procedures NEEDED to govern 2012 Round applications



## How does the New gTLD Program impact end-users?

- **Much use of the Internet still depend on utilizing domain names**
  - websites, email, web applications, online media, online communities, e-commerce platforms, etc
- **'Core business' of ICANN is managing the Domain Name System**
- **New gTLD Program aims at enabling expansion of the Domain Name System...**
  - ...to enhance innovation, competition and consumer choice...
  - ...with safeguards to help support a secure, stable and resilient Domain Name System.
- **Framework for who gets which applied-for string to operate as a TLD**
  - ...under applicable terms & conditions for such operation & use (including at SL, if any)...
  - ...which in turn impacts on end-users' access, trust of domain names - service providers – services, medium etc



## What are Subsequent Procedures (“SubPro”)?

### *“New generic Top-Level Domain Program Subsequent Procedures”*

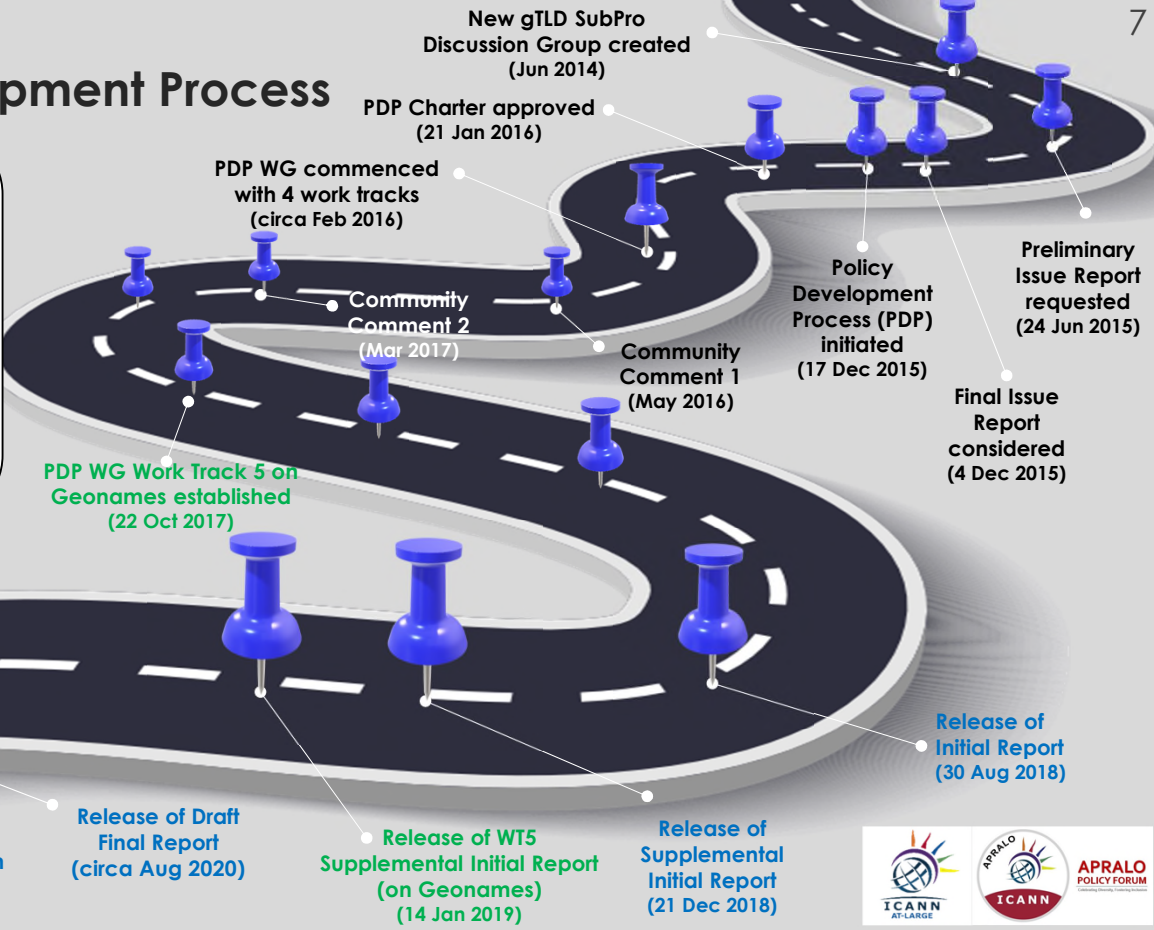
- **Rules & procedures governing next round of New gTLD applications**
  - Determine what string can be applied for, who can apply, how to apply, what fees are payable/refundable, terms & conditions, additional requirements for certain types of TLDs etc
  - An update which ‘attempts at’ addressing issues, policy goal achievement deficiencies, lacunae, unintended consequences, etc, identified from the 2012 Round
  - Captured predominantly within an Applicant Guidebook (AGB)
- **DO NOT apply to legacy TLDs or ccTLDs or delegated New gTLDs or those still unresolved from the 2012 Round**



# SubPro Policy Development Process



- **SubPro PDP WG**  
Chartered in early 2016, ran for about 5+ years. Yes-sir-ree!
- **A GNSO PDP?**  
Yes! Because GNSO Council is responsible for developing and recommending substantive policies relating to gTLDs per the Bylaws.
- **What about ccNSO?**  
Only responsible for ccTLDs.
- **What about Work Track 5 on Geonames?**  
Work Track 5 is a sub-team of SubPro PDP WG, although it has co-leads from ALAC, ccNSO, GAC & GNSO.





# Why did SubPro PDP WG take 5+ years to complete its work?

OVERARCHING	FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES	PRE-LAUNCH ACTIVITIES	APPLICATION SUBMISSION	APPLICATION PROCESSING	APPLICATION EVALUATION	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	STRING CONTENTION RESOLUTION	CONTRACTING, PRE-DELEGATION & POST-DELEGATION
Continuing Subsequent Pro.	Registry Commitments	AGB - Applicant Guidebook	Applicant Support Program	App. Change Request	Reserved Names	GAC Advice & Early Warning	Community Applications	Base Registry Agreement
Predictability	Universal Acceptance	Communications	Fees	Application Queueing	Geographic Names	Objections	Auctions, Private Resolutions	Registrar Non-Discrimination
App's Assessed in Rounds	Applicant Freedom of Exp.	Systems	Application Submission Period		Closed Generics	Limited Challenge / Appeal Mech.		Registrar Support
Different TLD Types			Terms & Conditions		String Similarity	Dispute Resolution post Delegation		Registry System Testing
Application Submission Limits					IDNs - Int. Domain Names			TLD Rollout
RSP Pre-Evaluation					Security & Stability			Second Level RPMs
					Name Collisions			Contractual Compliance
					Registrant Protections			
					Applicant Reviews			
					Role of App. Comment			

- SubPro PDP WG had to discuss 40+ topics across 9 Program areas ranging from pre-application, during application right through to contracting, pre-delegation and post-delegation.
- Plus consideration of input from 2 Community Comment and 3 Public Comment processes





## Why did/do Subsequent Procedures matter to end-users?

Because they facilitate further expansion of the Program – next round(s) of applications – more New gTLDs

### Want

- Competition, consumer choice – new entrants, single/niche/Community TLD applicants
- Trustworthy TLDs & operators, registrars & registrants
- More IDNs - TLDs in non ASCII scripts
- Registry Commitments as contractual obligations
- Accessible preventive/curative protections
- Protection for registrants against RO failure
- Regard to strings with geographic meaning, preferably
- Metrics to understand impact

### Don't Want

- Concentration of players
- TLDs that are against public interest or facilitate abuse
- TLDs that are confusingly similar
- TLDs that don't resolve in expected manner
- Highly sensitive TLDs without safeguards
- Gaming of system
- Negative impact to stability & security of DNS
- Unfair/open-ended ways to resolve contention sets

## Where end-user Wants and Don't Wants arose mostly in SubPro

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Predictability	Universal Acceptance	Communications		Application Queueing	Geographic Names	Objections	Auctions, Private Resolutions	
App's Assessed in Rounds					Closed Generics	Limited Challenge / Appeal Mech.		
Different TLD Types					String Similarity	Dispute Resolution post Delegation		
					IDNs - Int. Domain Names			Contractual Compliance
					Security & Stability			
					Name Collisions			
					Registrant Protections			
					Applicant Reviews			
					Role of App. Comment			

Did we consider all these topics? When??

**YES, we did !**

If you had followed the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) calls from Jul 2019 to Apr 2021, you will recall **MANY** consultations led to:

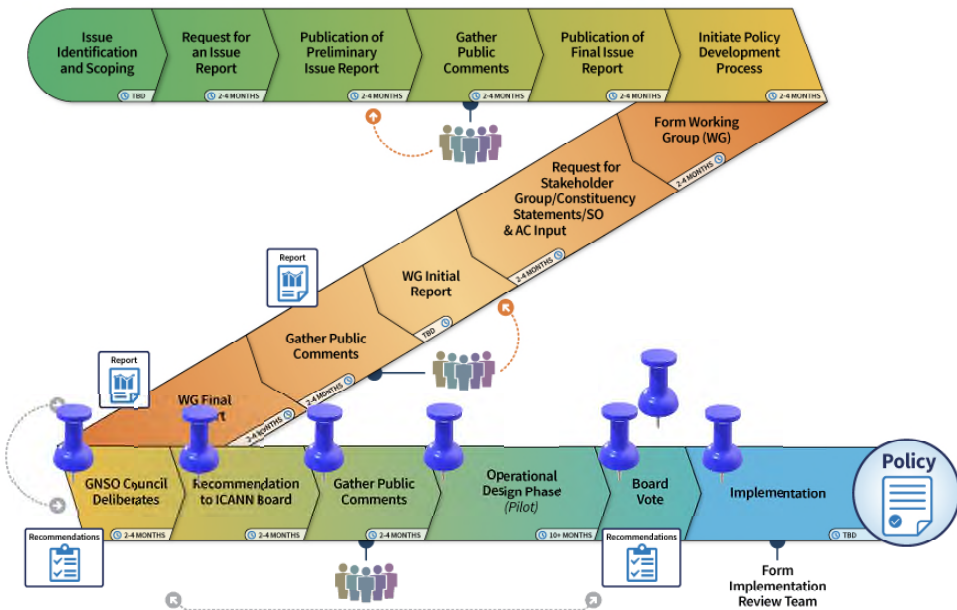
- 1-ALAC Statement** on SubPro, Jan 2021
- 2-ALAC Advice** on SubPro, Apr 2021
- 3-ALAC Supplementary Advice** on SubPro, Oct 2021



# How does SubPro get to the Next Round of New gTLDs?

## GNSO Policy Development Process

\*Summarized



\* Some steps omitted, for brevity and timing notations are estimates.

Since the Final SubPro PDP Report was finalized in Jan 2021....

- GNSO Council approval, Feb 2021
- Submitted to ICANN Board for adoption, Mar 2021
- ICANN Board called for public comments, Apr-Jun 2021
- ICANN Board directed ICANN org to do Operational Design Phase (ODP), Sep 2021
- ICANN org conducts ODP, Jan-Nov 2022; released Operational Design Assessment (ODA), Dec 2022
- ICANN Board adopted 98 recommendations, @ ICANN 76 Mar 2023
  - **But 38 recommendations still pending**
- SubPro Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT) commenced, May 2023



# How does SubPro get to the Next Round of New gTLDs?

## REMAINING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Recall that Policy development is driven by **GNSO**
- Still 38 recommendations pending due to ICANN Board concerns
- Since ICANN76, GNSO Council SubPro 38 Pending Recs Small Team working with ICANN Board SubPro Caucus to resolve Board concerns

## Parallel Processes

- gTLD & SL Variant Management (in addition to SubPro)
- GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support (GGP on ASP)
- Tripartite Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue
- SSAC Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)



## IMPLEMENTATION TO LAUNCH

- In the meantime, implementation work on the 98 approved recommendations has begun
- Implementation is driven by **ICANN org**, with community input through SubPro IRT
- Implementation expected to take up to 18-24 months
  - Finalize AGB by May 2025
  - Launch in Apr 2026
- Subject to “dependencies” out of:
  - EPDP on IDNs: gTLD & SL Variant Mgt
  - Closed Generics Dialogue
  - Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)



# What Community work is left to be done for the Next Round?

## NOW COMPLETED OR NEAR COMPLETION

- **12 of 38 SubPro pending recommendations** expected to be adopted by ICANN Board with GNSO Council First Clarifying Statement
- **Another 10 of 38 SubPro pending recommendations** expected to be adopted by ICANN Board with GNSO Council Clarification
- **Closed Generics** Dialogue – no ensuing policy work
- **Initial Implementation Guidance recommendations on Applicant Support** [GGP on ASP]

## COMPLETION BY END 2023?

- **Balance 16 of 38 SubPro pending recommendations** still to be resolved by GNSO Council via its Small Team
  - Community input sought, esp. for **Rec. 17.2 on Applicant Support**
- **Final Implementation Guidance recommendations on Applicant Support** [GGP on ASP]
- **Final Policy recommendations on gTLD Variant Management at Top-Level (Phase 1)** [EPDP on IDNs]
- **Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 - Revised Name Collision Framework** [NCAP DG]

## ONGOING UP TO APR 2026

- **Policy recommendations on Variant Management at Second-Level (Phase 2)** [EPDP on IDNs]
- Implementation of 98 Board adopted SubPro Outputs ++
- Implementation of various other Board adopted recommendations
- **Next Round Applicant Guidebook** targeted for May 2025
- **Program Communications**, esp. Applicant Support Program

## What's left to be done by At-Large/ALAC towards the Next Round?

### NOW COMPLETED OR NEAR COMPLETION

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- **Final Implementation Guidance recommendations on Applicant Support** [GGP on ASP] – *implementation via IRT*
- **Final policy recommendations on gTLD Variant Management at Top-Level (Phase 1)** [EPDP on IDNs] – *implementation via IRT*
- **Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 - Revised Name Collision Framework** [NCAP DG] – *public comment*

### ONGOING UP TO APR 2026

- **Policy recommendations on Variant Management at Second-Level (Phase 2)** [EPDP on IDNs] – *public comment; implementation via IRT*
- Implementation of 98 Board adopted SubPro Outputs ++ - *via IRT*
- Implementation of various other Board adopted recommendations
- **Next Round Applicant Guidebook** targeted for May 2025 - *via IRT*
- **Program Communications**, esp. Applicant Support Program, Community Applications – *via IRT; then disseminate*
- Increase adoption of **Universal Acceptance (UA) and Email Address Internationalization (EAI)**

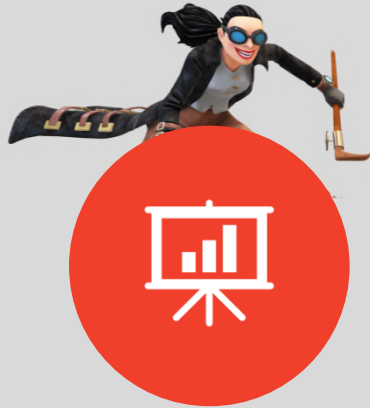
## Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT)

- **Implementation of New gTLD Program is by ICANN org**
- **Community participation is via SubPro IRT;** in other words:
  - Community acts as a **resource to ICANN org implementation staff**
  - Community ensures **ICANN org's implementation conforms to the intent of community-developed policies** (bottom-up, multistakeholder approach) i.e. the SubPro Outputs
- **SubPro IRT takes an Open + Representative Model**
  - Participants need to be familiar with SubPro Outputs and preferably, the deliberations leading to those Outputs
- **SubPro IRT Outputs will be:**
  - **Revised Applicant Guidebook** (i.e. the "new" New gTLD Program AGB")
  - **Applicant Support Program**
  - **Registry Service Provider Pre-Evaluation Process**





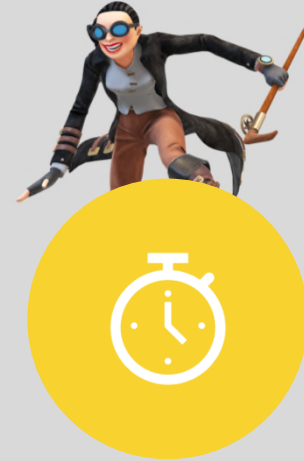
# Thank you



HOPE YOU ENJOYED  
THE PRESENTATION



ALSO HOPE YOU  
FOUND IT USEFUL



AND NOW...



Do you have a question?

Tell me ... which topics would you like to know more about, as input to this Webinar Series?



## Which topics would you like covered in this Webinar series?

OVERARCHING	FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES	PRE-LAUNCH ACTIVITIES	APPLICATION SUBMISSION	APPLICATION PROCESSING	APPLICATION EVALUATION	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	STRING CONTENTION RESOLUTION	CONTRACTING, PRE-DELEGATION & POST-DELEGATION
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					Applicant Reviews			
					Role of App. Comment			

POLL TIME !!



**Thank you very much for your  
participation and feedback.**

**Please join Webinar #2 in the  
series, in due course.**

