

NARALO Post ICANN78 Readout SubPro IRT Sessions Overview

Agenda Item #3c

Michael Karakash

GDS | Policy Research & Stakeholder Programs



28 November 2023, 20:00 UTC

Overview & Timeline

Overview

- In March 2023, the Board [resolved](#) to instruct ICANN org to begin the implementation of all Final Report Outputs detailed in Section A of the ["Scorecard on Subsequent Procedures PDP"](#) (March Scorecard) and to make available resources required for the successful and timely opening of the next round of new gTLDs.
- The ICANN Board approved ninety-eight (98) recommendations and marked the remaining thirty-eight (38) recommendations as “pending”.
- ICANN org delivered the [Implementation Plan](#) for opening the next round of applications for new generic top-level domains (gTLDs)
- The Board engaged with the GNSO Council on items marked as “pending”
- The GNSO Council transmitted to the Board the [New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Pending Recommendations - GNSO Council Clarifying Statement](#) on 5 September 2023 to address the Board's concerns on the pending Outputs.

Overview

- On 10 September 2023, the ICANN Board adopted the [September 2023 Scorecard: Subsequent Procedures PDP](#), i.e. an updated Board Scorecard on the SubPro PDP WG recommendations marked as “pending” in the Board Resolution on 16 March 2023.
 - 20 Outputs were adopted by the Board.
 - 7 Outputs were not adopted
 - 13 Outputs are still “Pending”

IRT Information & Status

IRT Info, Stats & Resources

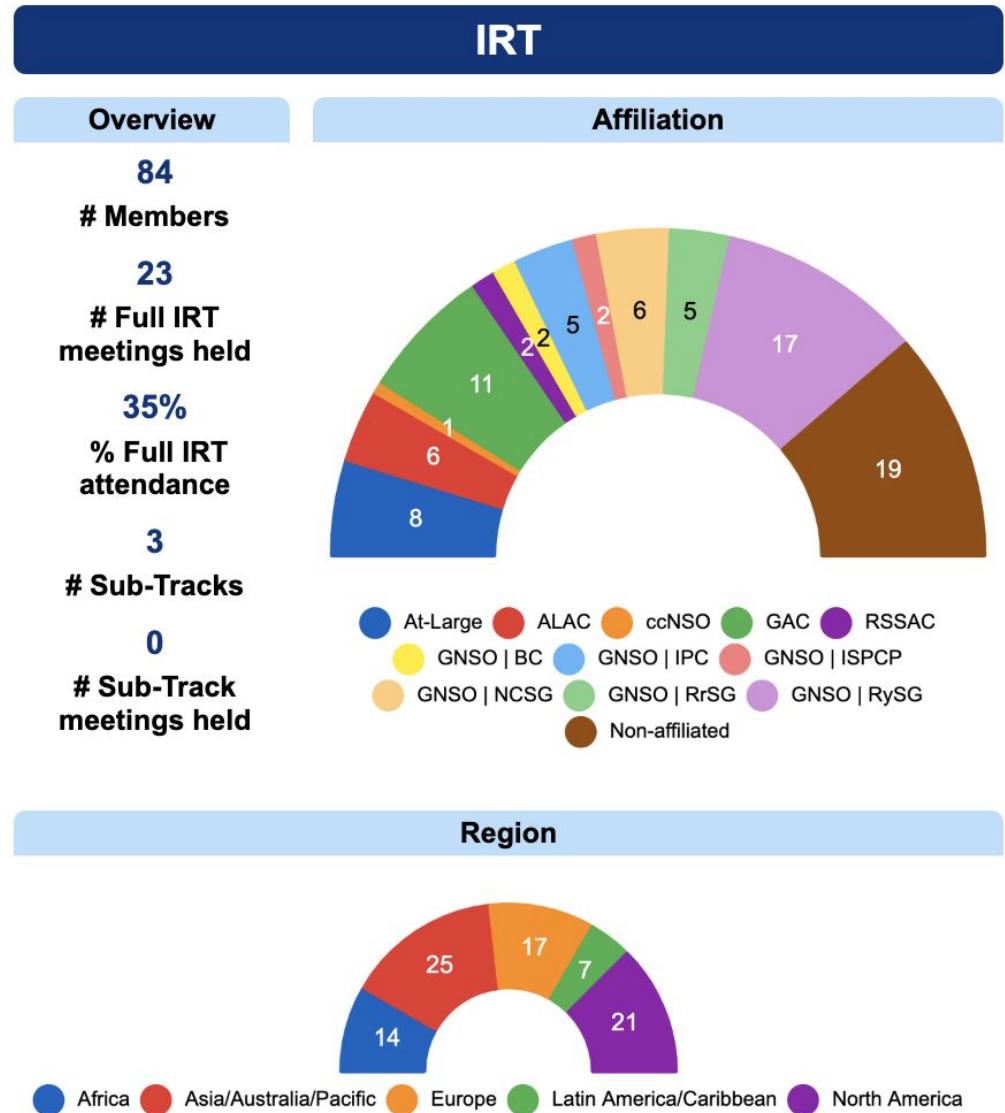
The SubPro Implementation Review Team (IRT) is assisting ICANN org with the implementation of the the Board-approved outputs from the [Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process](#). The outcome of this process will be an updated Applicant Guidebook.

Wiki workspace:

<https://community.icann.org/x/pQM5Dq>

Mailing List Archive:

<https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/subpro-irt/>



Policy Implementation Status

Overview

Project Description

The SubPro IRT assists ICANN org in the implementation of the policy outputs in the Final Report in the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process.

The outcome of this process will be an updated Applicant Guidebook.

The SubPro IRT has the form of an 'Open + Representative Model' based on the GNSO's PDP 3.0 model.

The SubPro IRT is part of Work Stream 1 of the Next Round of the New gTLDs Program.

Project Information

05/16/23

1st IRT Meeting

05/31/25

Expected AGB Completion

195

Days Since 1st IRT Meeting

551

Days to Expected AGB Completion

20.1%

% Completion

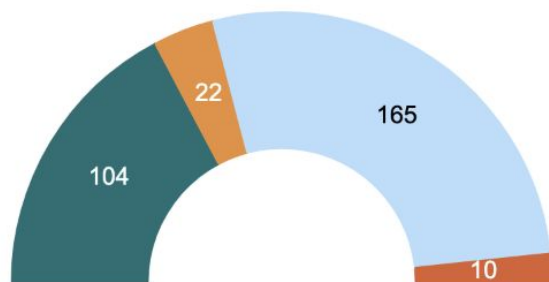


Project Health

'Weighted % Completion'

represents an estimation of the work that has been completed weighted against the estimated level of effort for each topic. Given the many factors involved, this percentage should only be seen as an approximation and not an accurate depiction.

Board Decision on Outputs



● Adopted ● Adopted with Clarifying Statement
● Acknowledged ● Not Adopted

Project Contacts

Lars Hoffmann

Work Stream Lead

Anne Aikman-Scalese

Susan Payne

Council Liaisons

The section '**Board Decision on Outputs**' was updated to reflect the most recent

[Scorecard](#), following the [Board Resolutions](#) approved on 10 September 2023.

Topics Presented During ICANN78

Topic 28 | Role of Application Comment

ICANN78 Subsequent Procedures IRT Session (1 of 3)

08:30 UTC, 21 October 2023

Topic Overview (Final Report Recommendations)

Highlights from the [Final Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP](#):

- **Affirmation 28.1:**

- Section 1.1.2.3 of the 2012 Applicant Guidebook states “ICANN will open a comment period (the Application Comment Period) at the time applications are publicly posted on ICANN’s website...This period will allow time for the community to review and submit comments on posted application materials.” The Working Group affirms that as was the case in the 2012 round, community members must have the opportunity to comment during the Application Comment Period on applications submitted. Comments must be published online as they were in the 2012 round so that they are available for all interested parties to review.

- **Recommendation 28.9:**

- The New gTLD Program must be clear and transparent about the role of application comment in the evaluation of applications.

- **Implementation Guidance 28.10:**

- The Implementation Review Team should develop guidelines about how public comments are to be utilized or taken into account by the relevant evaluators and panels, and these guidelines should be included in the Applicant Guidebook. The Applicant Guidebook should also be clear to what extent different types of comments will or will not impact scoring.

AGB Draft Topic Highlights

Comment Action Period:

- The Community Action Period (CAP) takes place in the 90 calendar days *[exact timeline tbd]*, which is expected to be on *[add date]*. During this time, the public has the opportunity to take the following actions related to submitted applications: submit comments and file objections. Additionally, during this time, GAC members may issue GAC Early Warnings. ICANN org reserves the right to extend the CAP for a determined period of time, for one, more, or all applications, should the volume of applications or other circumstances require it.
 - Note: The 90 day figure was taken from the [Operational Design Assessment \(ODA\)](#) that ICANN staff produced 12 Dec. 2022.
- **The AGB section is broken down into the following sections:**
 - 1.1 Application Comments Overview
 - 1.2 How to Submit Application Comments
 - “ICANN org will open an application comment period at the time applications are publicly posted on the *[Next Round’s website]*. Comments will be posted on the [Community Action Forum] (CAF), and all interested parties, including applicants, will be able to review and comment on them.”
 - Note: Correspondence is still available, though ICANN staff will encourage all comments to be funneled through the Community Action Forum (CAF).
 - 1.3 Application Comments Timeline
 - “Should applicants wish to respond to comments relating to their application and have their response made available to evaluation panels, they will be able to do so through the CAF until 30 calendar days following the end of the CAP.” (Implementation Guidance 28.12)
 - 1.4 Application Comments in the Evaluation Process
 - 1.5 Application Comments in the Dispute Resolution Process
 - “It should be noted that the Independent Objector (IO) may consider application comments when making an independent assessment whether an objection is warranted. The IO will be able to file an objection only if at least one comment in opposition to the relevant application was submitted.”

Topic 3 | Applications Assessed in Rounds

ICANN78 Subsequent Procedures IRT Session (1 of 3)

08:30 UTC, 21 October 2023

Topic Overview (Final Report Recommendations)

From the [Final Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP](#):

- **Recommendation 3.2:** Upon the commencement of the next application submission period, there must be clarity around the timing and/or criteria for initiating subsequent procedures from that point forth. More specifically, prior to the commencement of the next application submission period, ICANN must publish either (a) the date in which the next subsequent round of new gTLDs will take place or (b) the specific set of criteria and/or events that must occur prior to the opening up of the next subsequent round.
- **Recommendation 3.5:** Absent extraordinary circumstances application procedures must take place at predictable, regularly occurring intervals without indeterminable periods of review unless the GNSO Council recommends pausing the program and such recommendation is approved by the Board. Such extraordinary circumstances must be subject to the Predictability Framework under Topic 2 of this Report. Unless and until other procedures are recommended by the GNSO Council and approved by the ICANN Board, ICANN must only use “rounds” to administer the New gTLD Program.
- **Recommendation 3.6:** Absent extraordinary circumstances, future reviews and/or policy development processes, including the next Competition, Consumer Choice & Consumer Trust (CCT) Review, should take place concurrently with subsequent application rounds. In other words, future reviews and/or policy development processes must not stop or delay subsequent new gTLD rounds.
- **Recommendation 3.7:** If the outputs of any reviews and/or policy development processes has, or could reasonably have, a material impact on the manner in which application procedures are conducted, such changes must only apply to the opening of the application procedure subsequent to the adoption of the relevant recommendations by the ICANN Board.

Draft AGB Language

ICANN is committed to subsequent rounds of new gTLDs taking place at regular and predictable intervals.

- *Note: This takes into account Recommendation 3.2 from Final Report*

The ICANN Board will determine the specific timing of future rounds and will start discussing to identify the timing as soon as the the following criteria have been met:

1. The list of applied-for strings for the ongoing round has been confirmed and the window for string change requests has closed. This will provide applicants in a subsequent round with an understanding of which strings can be applied for.
2. ICANN org is operationally prepared to receive and process a new batch of applications. In making its decision to instruct ICANN org to open a subsequent round, the Board may also take into account the timing and scope of any ongoing policy development processes related to generic top-level domains.

Note:

- **Feedback was received during this session, Staff made updates to the language, and a new version was circulated to the IRT and will be discussed during our next session.**

Topic 39 | Registry System Testing (RST)

ICANN78 Subsequent Procedures IRT Session (2 of 3)

14:00 UTC, 25 October 2023

Topic Overview (Final Report Recommendations)

- From the [Final Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP](#):
 - **Recommendation 39.1:**
 - ICANN must develop a set of Registry System tests designed to demonstrate the technical capabilities of the registry operator.
 - **Recommendation 39.4:**
 - Registry System Testing (RST) must be efficient.

Registry System Testing (RST) Program

- RST may be used to verify that:
 - a. An RSP applicant can operate in a stable and secure manner.
 - b. A gTLD has been correctly configured in the Registry Service Provider system before delegation.
- The new RST (RST v2.0) will contain only automated evaluation components.
- RST v2.0 design will be used for new and existing gTLDs when changing RSP, adding IDNs, or registry services.
- RSP and gTLD applicants will be tested on a pass/fail basis according to RST requirements.
- An Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) Environment will be provided.

[See Wiki for ICANN78 Session Zoom Recording & Slide Deck](#)

Topic 17 | Applicant Support

ICANN78 Subsequent Procedures IRT Session (3 of 3)

07:00 UTC, 26 October 2023

Topic Overview (Final Report Recommendations)

- Recommendation 17.1: Fee reduction
- Recommendation 17.2: Expanding the scope of financial support
- Recommendation 17.3: Outreach, awareness-raising, application evaluation, and program evaluation elements, as well as usability of the Program
- Recommendation 17.11: Consider leveraging the same procedural practices used for other panels
- Recommendation 17.12: ICANN org plan for funding the ASP
- Recommendation 17.15: Bid credit, multiplier, or other similar mechanism
- Recommendation 17.18: Applicants must have the option to transfer to the standard application process & pay the fee
- Recommendation 17.19: The Financial Assistance Handbook to be incorporated into the AGB

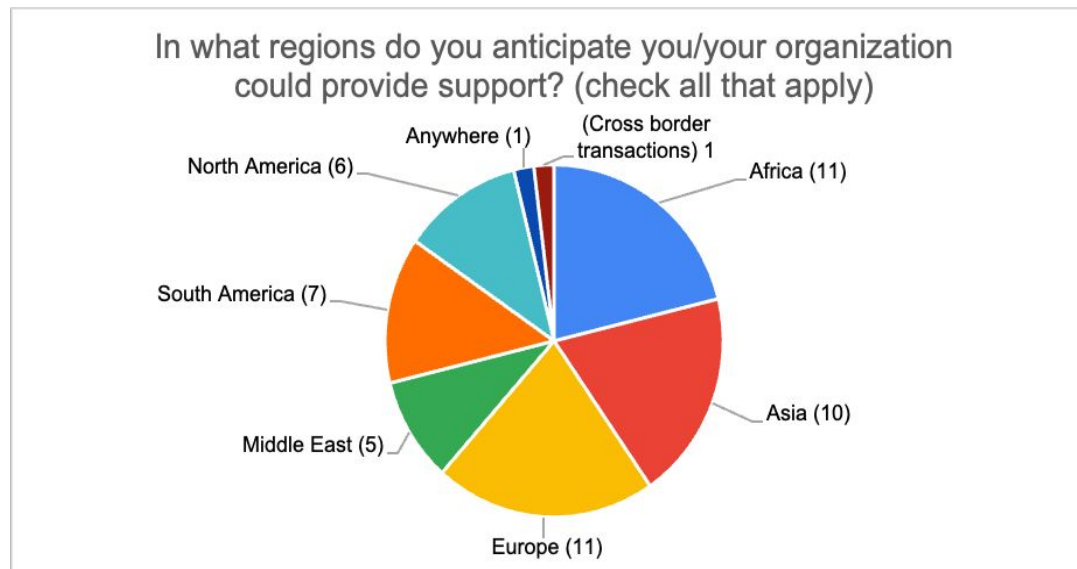
What is ASP?

- ASP is a complementary initiative of the New gTLD Program: Next Round. The program seeks to serve the global public interest by increasing global diversity, ensuring worldwide accessibility to, and competition within, the new gTLD Program: Next Round.
- The ASP evaluates potential new gTLD applicants that demonstrate financial need and intend to support the public interest. Qualifying applicants may receive:
 - A 75–85 percent reduction in application and evaluation fees
 - Access to pro bono services providers to assist with developing their gTLD application in relation to general business services, application services, and technical services
 - A bid credit/multiplier when participating in an ICANN Auction of Last Resort

See the [New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Operational Design Assessment](#) for more information about the ASP.

ASP Expression of Interest Survey

- On 1 June 2023, ICANN org published a call for [expressions of interest \(EOI\)](#) from any and all providers that may be interested to provide pro bono services for the Applicant Support Program (ASP) for the Next Round of New gTLDs.
- ICANN org is seeking support from the community to help recruit diverse pro bono services to respond to the needs of supported applicants.
- Noting the demand for pro bono services in 2012 exceeded the available resources, Org is requesting the ICANN community to help socialize this expression of interest to entities or individuals that may be interested to volunteer.



ASP Overview and Ongoing Work

[GNSO Guidance Process \(GGP\):](#)

- GNSO Council requested a GGP that would pull ASP work forward to avoid being the “tall pole” in the next round launch & provide sufficient time/resources to devise an Applicant Support Program that would expand the regional & language diversity of new gTLD Program.
- The GGP has been operating as a separate Working Group, meeting weekly since Nov 2022.
- They are currently reviewing public comments received on guidance recommendations and ICANN org is closely following GGP efforts, anticipating a final report in December.

Current Status:

- As noted in the [September 2023 Scorecard](#), Recommendation 17.2 was not adopted by the Board. “As a result, the Board is conducting ongoing work relating to expanding the scope of financial support.”
- The GNSO Small Team is also discussing options for a supplemental recommendation.
- Initial results from the Expression of Interest Survey have been analyzed. A summary of the results are included in Annex B, showing the number of respondents, how many applicants they could provide services to, in what regions, and languages.
- Topic was introduced during ICANN78 and there will be 6 more ASP IRT Sub-track sessions
- Full IRT session in the future: Wrap-up session to review proposed changes to ASP Handbook based upon meetings with ASP IRT Sub-track