ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

SC Name:	Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT)

Section I: Standing Committee Identification

Chartering Organization(s):	Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council	
Charter Approval Date:	08 August 2024	
Name of SC Leadership:		
Name(s) of Appointed Liaison(s):		
SC Workspace URL:	TBD	
SC Mailing List:	Mailing list archives: TBD	
GNSO Council Resolution:	Title:	Adoption of the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT) Charter
	Ref # & Link:	https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/resolutions/2020-current#202408
Important Document Links:	**Procedural Documents:** ● Predictability Framework ● Annex E in the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Report ● GNSO Working Group Guidelines ● Expectations for Working Group Leaders & Skills Checklist ● GNSO Operating Procedures	

Section II: Mission, Purpose, and Deliverables[1]

Mission & Scope:

Mission

The Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT)[2] is convened by the GNSO Council. The primary purpose of the SPIRT is to utilize the Predictability Framework when issues arise during the course of the New gTLD Program that may need to be addressed. The GNSO Council shall be responsible for oversight of the SPIRT.

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[1] Disclaimer: In the event of a conflict between the methodology described in this Charter and the procedures set forth in the Predictability Framework, the Predictability Framework will govern.

[2] Pronounced "spirit"

The [Predictability Framework](#) was developed through the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (PDP) and implemented by ICANN org, in coordination with the Implementation Review Team (IRT). The effective start date for both the SPIRT and the Predictability Framework is the date on which the Applicant Guidebook (AGB) is adopted by the ICANN Board for the next round of new gTLDs.

Scope

As a standing implementation review team, the SPIRT will, in coordination with the GNSO Council, collaborate with ICANN org on all non-minor changes to the Program (including policy changes).

The SPIRT shall be a subscriber of the Change Log where ICANN org publicly documents all changes to the Program. For the type of changes[3] that are determined to be minor operational changes (Type 1), the SPIRT shall be expected to regularly monitor updates communicated through the Change Log. The SPIRT shall be notified by ICANN org of all other types of changes (Type 2 and Type 3) considered. The SPIRT shall either engage in a post-mortem process or inform ICANN org if it disagrees with the designation of the type of change.

The SPIRT shall collaborate with ICANN org on all Type 2 and Type 3 changes to the Program. With the GNSO Council being the chartering entity of the SPIRT, the SPIRT cannot directly refer an issue to itself, but it may have an issue referred to it by the GNSO Council, confer with the GNSO Council if it wishes to request change and determine the change mechanism.

1. Procedural Steps for Change Request

When the GNSO Council determines a change to the ongoing round is required, the Council will refer the issue to the SPIRT. Consistent with the Predictability Framework, the SPIRT may make an initial classification of any issue referred to it by the GNSO Council. The SPIRT will collaborate with the GNSO Council and if appropriate, inform ICANN org of a needed change to the program. ICANN org will, then, determine if a change to the ongoing round is needed. If ICANN org determines, contrary to the SPIRT, that no change is required to the ongoing round, the SPIRT confers with the GNSO Council. If the GNSO Council determines a change to the ongoing round is still required, the GNSO Council engages with the ICANN Board. The ICANN Board will ultimately decide if the change is needed to the program and for ICANN org to apply the Predictability Framework to implement the change.

For clarity, issues can be forwarded to ICANN org by the ICANN Board or the GNSO Council (via the SPIRT). ICANN org can also refer an issue to itself.[4] All issues forwarded to ICANN org should be

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[3] Description of Changes: 1) Type 1 (minor operational change) - if the required change during the ongoing round of the Program can be implemented in alignment with the existing policy recommendations, and will not have a material impact on applicants; 2) 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 3) 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.

[4] The Advisory Committee (AC) can submit guidance or advice to the ICANN Board and the ICANN Board, after its consideration, adopts the guidance or advice. Then, the ICANN Board directs ICANN org to implement the change. In short, the ICANN Board can direct ICANN org to implement the change based on its own determination or by adopting guidance or advice from the AC.

subject to thoughtful analysis and have an impact beyond a single applicant.[5] Further details on parties involved in the Framework and the procedural steps to initiate and execute a change are stipulated in the Predictability Framework.

2. Procedural Steps for Change Execution

Once the change process has been initiated, ICANN org will determine which type of change is needed.[6] ICANN org shall notify the SPIRT of the decisions made for non-minor operational changes (Type 2) and policy changes (Type 3). 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.

In the event that the SPIRT determines that it disagrees with the determination of a change as a minor operational change, it shall engage in a post-mortem process with ICANN org to determine if any procedural changes may be needed to avoid further disagreements. For all other types of changes (non-minor operational and policy changes), the SPIRT shall inform ICANN org if it disagrees with the designation. The SPIRT and ICANN org will hold standing calls to discuss changes to the Program, as well as ad hoc calls when necessary.

During the Change Execution, the SPIRT will be involved in non-minor operational changes (Type 2) and policy changes (Type 3). The SPIRT will not be involved in minor operational changes (Type 1).

Once the SPIRT is informed of an issue by ICANN org, the SPIRT shall apply the principles set forth in the Predictability Framework in collaboration with ICANN org. The first task of the SPIRT shall be to determine whether the issue can be resolved in a manner that is consistent with existing policy recommendations.

If, however, the issue cannot be resolved in a manner consistent with the existing policy recommendations, the SPIRT shall confer with the GNSO Council to identify an agreeable path forward, detailed below in the 'Deliverables & Timeframes' section.

Nothing herein is intended to serve as a substitute for, or replacement of, the mechanisms set forth in the ICANN Bylaws to develop policy or provide advice to the ICANN Board. Rather, the creation of the SPIRT is intended as an additional tool for the ICANN organization, Board, and GNSO to address issues that arise after the approval of the Applicant Guidebook.

Objectives & Goals:

To provide input to the GNSO Council, the ICANN Board, ICANN org, and the ICANN community on issues and resulting changes needed to the New gTLD Program after the approval of the Applicant Guidebook.

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[5] In a similar fashion, at no time should any single application be singled out for disparate treatment from other applications that are similarly situated.

[6] Refer to footnote 3

Deliverables & Timeframes:

The SPIRT is a standing committee that will meet on an ongoing and as-needed basis to address issues raised by a forwarding party to ICANN org regarding the new gTLD Program. Recognizing that each issue, and the mechanism(s) needed to address that issue, will be unique, the SPIRT will develop specific timelines for individual assignments, based on the nature and/or the severity of the issue.

When ICANN org notifies the SPIRT of the type of change considered by ICANN org, the SPIRT shall endeavor to provide guidance, if any, within seven (7) calendar days or as otherwise required to maintain the operation of the Program if it disagreed with the decision. For changes designated as minor operational changes (Type 1), the SPIRT shall review the decision through the Change Log and take no more than three (3) calendar days to provide guidance if it disagrees with the decision.

The Predictability Framework sets forth two types of change for SPIRT to be involved in executing change to the New gTLD Program:

- Type 2 (non-minor operational change)
- Type 3 (policy change)

For Type 2, which is considered a non-minor operational change, the SPIRT will have the opportunity to collaborate with ICANN org in developing a solution. ICANN org and the SPIRT need to agree on a solution before a change can be implemented permanently, and once they agree on a solution, ICANN org will communicate the change to the ongoing round of the program to all impacted parties, as well as capture in the Change Log.

For Type 3, which is considered a policy change, the SPIRT shall confer with the GNSO Council. If the GNSO Council determines that the proposed change can be implemented consistent with the existing policy recommendations and/or an alternative change can be found not requiring a change to the existing policies (or need for a development of new policies), the SPIRT will, again, have the opportunity to develop a solution with ICANN org, following the process in Type 2.

If the GNSO Council determines that the proposed change cannot be implemented in alignment with existing policy recommendations and/or an alternative change cannot be found without requiring change to the existing policies (or development of new policies), the ICANN Board, ICANN org, and the GNSO Council, in consultation with the SPIRT, will identify an appropriate solution to secure the continuation of the program as well as an appropriate process to implement it. In this scenario, ICANN org will communicate the change to the ongoing round of the program to all impacted parties and the GNSO Council will decide which mechanism to use to apply for future rounds (amend existing or develop new policies).

In the aforementioned scenarios, it may be the case that certain aspects of the Program cannot move forward until an implementation path is identified and executed. As such, the SPIRT shall endeavor to reach an agreement with ICANN org on the appropriate implementation path in the timeframe required to maintain the operation of the Program, within 30 calendar days. However, some issues may be more difficult to resolve and additional time may be needed for the SPIRT and ICANN org to reach agreement. Until a permanent solution is agreed, ICANN org will develop a temporary solution; the SPIRT has the opportunity to collaborate with ICANN org in doing so. Where agreement cannot be

reached, the SPIRT may need to consult with the GNSO Council to help identify a mutually agreeable path forward.

Section III: Formation, Staffing, and Organization

Membership Model and Criteria

Membership Model
The SPIRT is **open** to all interested parties.

Specifically, the SPIRT is not subject to a representative membership model and as such, may not necessarily be representative of the ICANN community, as actual participation may depend on interest and relevance of the new gTLD Process. It is the responsibility of a SPIRT member to speak and express oneself in a way that represents the best solution for the issues that may rise during the course of the New gTLD Program.

Membership Structure and Formation
The **initial SPIRT** should, at a minimum, include at least one participant from the original PDP Working Group (WG) and PDP IRT who can provide insight into the original reasoning behind consensus policy recommendations and implementation decisions.

As such, at least half of the inaugural SPIRT members shall join for an initial term of three years. Subsequent members shall serve a two-year term with the option to renew for up to two additional two-year terms (i.e., a maximum of six (6) consecutive years). A member who has served three consecutive terms must remain out of office for one full term prior to serving any subsequent term as a SPIRT member. The intention is to stagger member terms to provide for continuity and knowledge retention.

A **'Call for Volunteers'** shall be carried out once per year. It is important to circulate the request as widely as possible in order to ensure broad participation and expertise in the subject matter. On an exceptional basis, the Council may determine that a Call for Volunteers must be carried out sooner than a year (e.g., detrimentally low membership and/or participation).

- **Expert Contributors**
  Participation during specific instances may also be impacted by the specific topic under consideration, as a result of varying levels of interest and experience. In some instances, additional outreach may be necessary to ensure that appropriate expertise and directly affected parties are involved in the deliberations of the SPIRT.

  The SPIRT may also determine that additional subject matter expertise, beyond members (i.e., external resources such as contractors or vendors), is needed to inform discussions on matters that fall within the remit of the SPIRT. If there are budget implications related to the participation of such external resources, the SPIRT must coordinate with the GNSO Council, to seek its agreement to pursue additional resources, then as well as with ICANN org to determine if funds are available and if so, for procurement of the resources.

For those expert contributors participating during specific instances (i.e., additional expertise), the length of term will not apply.

Membership Criteria

The SPIRT members shall review the full text of the Working Group Member Skills Guide to understand the responsibilities and skills that they are expected to have in order to fully participate in the SPIRT activities.

Participation on the SPIRT is not subject to a conflicts of interest policy, but shall require a Statement of Participation (SOP), which is above and beyond the Statement of Interest (SOI) that is always required for participation in GNSO activities, including the SPIRT. The SOP is captured in Section IV. Rules of Engagement.

Leadership Structure and Criteria:

Leadership Structure and Formation

One (1) Chair + Two (2) Vice-Chairs

The Chair of the SPIRT is a volunteer position, filled and selected by the SPIRT from amongst its members and confirmed by the GNSO Council. The SPIRT may also select up to two Vice-Chairs, also from amongst its members, which does not require GNSO Council confirmation. The leadership team shall serve a two-year term, with the role being reviewed by the GNSO Council every two years. As part of this review, the GNSO Council is expected to request the SPIRT and/or GNSO Council Liaison to the SPIRT for input on the role and functioning of the SPIRT leadership.

The Chair serves as a neutral facilitator who calls meetings, presides over SPIRT deliberations, and manages the process so that all participants have the opportunity to contribute. The Chair also represents the SPIRT to the public. The Chair and Vice-Chair(s) are also contributing members to the SPIRT deliberations and participate in consensus calls. As members of the leadership team are serving in two roles, they are expected to make clear when they are providing input as a member as opposed to speaking in a leadership capacity.

While the Chair is intended to serve as a neutral facilitator, the SPIRT may elect to account for the diversity within the ICANN community (e.g., avoid all leadership positions coming from the same geographic region or SO/AC/SG/C, avoid extensive overlap of skillset, etc.).

Leadership Criteria

The SPIRT leadership is expected to carry out the roles and responsibilities and meet the qualification as detailed in the Expectations for Working Group Leaders & Skills Checklist. As noted in the document, the leadership team must lead with neutrality and impartiality, while seeking to build consensus.

GNSO Council Liaison

The GNSO Council shall appoint one (1) Liaison to the SPIRT who is accountable to the GNSO. The Liaison must be a member of the GNSO Council to ensure a direct link to the GNSO Council if/when needed and be able to commit the necessary time to support the SPIRT.

The complete description of role & responsibilities for a GNSO Council Liaison is described in the GNSO Council Liaison Supplemental Guidance.

Support Staff:

The ICANN Staff assigned to the SPIRT will fully support the work of the SPIRT as needed by the Chair including meeting support, document drafting, editing and distribution, and other substantive contributions when deemed appropriate.

Staff assignments to the SPIRT:
- ICANN policy staff members
- GNSO Secretariat

In addition, regular participation of and consultation with other ICANN org departments will be required. As such, the ICANN org shall appoint at least one (1) Liaison to the SPIRT from the function that is in charge of operating the New gTLD Program.

Section IV: Rules of Engagement

Statements of Interest (SOI) and Transparency:

Each member of the SPIRT is required to submit an SOI in accordance with Section 6 of the GNSO Operating Procedures.

In addition, all members shall disclose whether they are in any way associated with an application for a new gTLD string in the current round. This includes being an employee, consultant, outside advisor (including legal), or any other association with the applicant, a back-end operator and/or any other service provider in the new gTLD Program. Prior to applications being revealed, the member must only disclose that it is working with one or more applications; provided, however, that after all applications are revealed to the public, the member must specify which applications it is associated with.

The SPIRT will operate with full transparency that at a minimum includes a publicly archived mailing list and recording of all SPIRT calls. In the extraordinary event that the SPIRT should require confidentiality, the SPIRT is normally encouraged to conduct its meeting(s) in accordance with the Chatham House Rule as the preferred option. In such instances, transparency requirements will be achieved in another matter (e.g., capturing high-level notes and outcomes, producing a summary output, adding any/all to be included in the wiki page in lieu of recordings).

Statement of Participation (SOP):

Each member and participant of the SPIRT must acknowledge and accept the SOP (as provided below), including ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior, before they can participate in the SPIRT. The SOP should be kept current and is subject to periodic review.

Accordingly, each member of the SPIRT should disclose in their SOPs any financial interests and, possibly, incentives as they pertain to a specific complaint or issue under review. Disclosures shall take place at the beginning of every SPIRT meeting and will be captured on the recording of the meeting.

While the SPIRT is not subject to conflict of interest policy, SPIRT members may feel the need to abstain from a specific SPIRT decision. When appropriate, the SPIRT member may recuse himself/herself, but required disclosure of a direct involvement in an application with an issue before the SPIRT does not, in and of itself, require recusal. Further, at no time should any single application be singled out for disparate treatment from other applications that are similarly situated.

Statement of Participation (SOP)

As a Member of the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT):

- I agree to genuinely cooperate with fellow members of the SPIRT to deliberate the issues identified. Where there are areas of disagreement, I will commit to work with others to reach a compromise position to the extent that I am able to do so;
- I agree that I will not pursue an outcome that is designed to discriminate against (or in favor of) any entity/applicant or group of entities/applicants;
- Where relevant, I agree to disclose, on a regular and ongoing basis, whether I am or will be employed by, under contract with, have a financial interest in, or will provide consulting, financial, legal or other services to any new gTLD applicant, objector, or commenter;.
- I acknowledge that while this is not a policy making body, I will abide by the recommended working methods and rules of engagement as outlined in the Charter, particularly as it relates to the rules in GNSO Working Group Guidelines;
- I will treat all members of the SPIRT with civility both face-to-face and online, and I will be respectful of their time and commitment to this effort. I will act in a reasonable, objective, and informed manner during my participation in the SPIRT and will not disrupt its work in bad faith;
- I commit to participation and will make best efforts to regularly attend all scheduled meetings. I will send apologies in advance when I am unable to attend. I will take assignments allocated to me during the course of the SPIRT seriously and complete these within the requested time frame;
- I agree to act in accordance with ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, particularly as they relate to:
    - o Acting in accordance with, and in the spirit of, ICANN's mission and core values as provided in ICANN's Bylaws;
    - o Listening to the views of all stakeholders and working to build consensus; and
    - o Promoting ethical and responsible behavior;
- I agree to adhere to any applicable conflict of interest policies and the Statement of Interest (SOI) Policy within the GNSO Operating Procedures, especially as it relates to the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of the initial completion and maintenance of my SOI; and

- I agree to adhere to the [ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy and Terms of Participation and Complaint Procedures](#).

As a Member of the SPIRT:
- I understand reaching consensus does not mean that I am unable to fully represent the views of myself or the organization I represent. I will abide by the recommended working methods and rules of engagement as outlined in the Charter, particularly as it relates to designating consensus in [GNSO Working Group Guidelines](#).

I acknowledge and accept that this Statement of Participation (SOP), including ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior, is enforceable and any individual serving in a Chair role (such as Chair, Co-Chair, or Acting Chair or Acting Co-Chair) of the SPIRT and GNSO Council Leadership Team have the authority to restrict my participation in the SPIRT in the event of non-compliance with any of the above.

Problem/Issue Escalation & Resolution Process:

The problem/issue escalation & resolution process within the SPIRT is provided in [Sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the Working Group Guidelines](#). Team members should also reference the [Guidelines Concerning ICANN Org Resources for Conflict Resolution and Mediation](#).

Formal Complaint Process:

The formal complaint process within the SPIRT is provided in [Section 3.7 of the Working Group Guidelines](#). Further details regarding the formal complaint process are included in the [Clarification to Complaint Process in GNSO Working Group Guidelines](#) document.

The formal complaint process may be modified by the GNSO Council at its discretion.

Section V: Decision Making Methodologies

Consensus Designation Process:

The SPIRT is intended to serve as an advisory body to provide guidance to ICANN org, the ICANN Board, and the ICANN community. Such advice and/or guidance shall not be binding on any party and does not replace any other method of providing advice or guidance under the Bylaws.

SPIRT Decision-making

- The Chair of the SPIRT, in consultation with any Vice-Chairs, will seek **non-objection** from the SPIRT members for decision-making when addressing the issues raised by a forwarding party;
- If there are any objections, the SPIRT leadership will assess the level of consensus within the SPIRT, using **standard decision-making methodology** as outlined in [Section 3.6 of the GNSO Working Group Guidelines](#). The SPIRT shall strive towards achieving Consensus on all advice and/or recommendations from the SPIRT.

Even if Consensus is not reached, the SPIRT shall provide input on any particular issue received, as long as the level of Consensus/support within the SPIRT is reported using the standard decision-making methodology outlined in Section 3.6 of the GNSO Working Group Guidelines.

Section 3.6 of the GNSO Working Group Guidelines, as included below, provides the standard consensus-based methodology for decision making in GNSO WGs, which will be used by the SPIRT if the non-objection method is unsuccessful.

For consensus building purposes, the SPIRT leadership, SPIRT members, and the GNSO Council Liaison are expected to review the Consensus Playbook which provides practical tools and best practices to bridge differences, break deadlocks, and find common ground within ICANN processes; potential training related to the Consensus Playbook may be provided for the SPIRT leadership, members, and the GNSO Council Liaison.

3.6 Standard Methodology for Making Decisions

The Chair will be responsible for designating each position as having one of the following designations:

- **Full Consensus** - when no one in the group speaks against the recommendation in its last readings. This is also sometimes referred to as **Unanimous Consensus.**
- **Consensus** - a position where only a small minority disagrees, but most agree. *[Note: For those that are unfamiliar with ICANN usage, you may associate the definition of 'Consensus' with other definitions and terms of art such as rough consensus or near consensus. It should be noted, however, that in the case of a GNSO PDP originated Working Group, all reports, especially Final Reports, must restrict themselves to the term 'Consensus' as this may have legal implications.]*
- **Strong support but significant opposition** - a position where, while most of the group supports a recommendation, there are a significant number of those who do not support it.
- **Divergence** (also referred to as **No Consensus**) - a position where there isn't strong support for any particular position, but many different points of view. Sometimes this is due to irreconcilable differences of opinion and sometimes it is due to the fact that no one has a particularly strong or convincing viewpoint, but the members of the group agree that it is worth listing the issue in the report nonetheless.
- **Minority View** - refers to a proposal where a small number of people support the recommendation. This can happen in response to a **Consensus**, **Strong support but significant opposition**, and **No Consensus;** or, it can happen in cases where there is neither support nor opposition to a suggestion made by a small number of individuals.

In cases of **Consensus**, **Strong support but significant opposition**, and **No Consensus**, an effort should be made to document that variance in viewpoint and to present any **Minority View** recommendations that may have been made. Documentation of **Minority View** recommendations normally depends on text offered by the proponent(s). In all cases of **Divergence,** the SPIRT Chair should encourage the submission of minority viewpoint(s).

The recommended method for discovering the consensus level designation on recommendations should work as follows:
  i. After the group has discussed an issue long enough for all issues to have been raised, understood and discussed, the Chair, or Co-Chairs, make an evaluation of the designation and publish it for the group to review.
  ii. After the group has discussed the Chair's estimation of designation, the Chair, or Co-Chairs, should reevaluate and publish an updated evaluation.
  iii. Steps (i) and (ii) should continue until the Chair/Co-Chairs make an evaluation that is accepted by the group.
  iv. In rare cases, a Chair may decide that the use of polls is reasonable. Some of the reasons for this might be:

  o A decision needs to be made within a time frame that does not allow for the natural process of iteration and settling on a designation to occur.

  o It becomes obvious after several iterations that it is impossible to arrive at a designation. This will happen most often when trying to discriminate between **Consensus** and **Strong support but Significant Opposition** or between **Strong support but Significant Opposition** and **Divergence.**

Care should be taken in using polls that they do not become votes. A liability with the use of polls is that, in situations where there is **Divergence** or **Strong Opposition**, there are often disagreements about the meanings of the poll questions or of the poll results.

Based upon the SPIRT's needs, the Chair may direct that SPIRT members/participants do not have to have their name explicitly associated with any Full Consensus or Consensus view/position. However, in all other cases and in those cases where a group member represents the minority viewpoint, their name must be explicitly linked, especially in those cases where polls were taken.

Consensus calls should always involve the entire SPIRT team and, for this reason, should take place on the designated mailing list to ensure that all SPIRT members have the opportunity to fully participate in the consensus process. It is the role of the Chair to designate which level of consensus is reached and announce this designation to the SPIRT. The SPIRT member(s) should be able to challenge the designation of the Chair as part of the SPIRT discussion. However, if disagreement persists, members of the SPIRT may use the process set forth below to challenge the designation.

If several participants[7] in the SPIRT disagree with the designation given to a position by the Chair or any other consensus call, they may follow these steps sequentially:

1. Send email to the Chair, copying the SPIRT explaining why the decision is believed to be in error.
2. If the Chair still disagrees with the complainants, the Chair will forward the appeal to the CO liaison(s). The Chair must explain his or her reasoning in the response to the complainants and in the submission to the liaison. If the liaison(s) supports the Chair's position, the liaison(s) will provide their response to the complainants. The liaison(s) must explain their reasoning in the response. If the CO liaison disagrees with the Chair, the liaison will forward the appeal to the CO. Should the complainants disagree with the liaison support of the Chair's determination, the complainants may appeal to the Chair of the CO or their designated representative. If the CO agrees with the complainants' position, the CO should recommend remedial action to the Chair.
3. In the event of any appeal, the CO will attach a statement of the appeal to the SPIRT and/or Board report. This statement should include all of the documentation from all steps in the appeals process and should include a statement from the CO[8].

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[7] Any SPIRT member may raise an issue for reconsideration; however, a formal appeal will require that a single member demonstrates a sufficient amount of support before a formal appeal process can be invoked. In those cases where a single SPIRT member is seeking reconsideration, the member will advise the Chair and/or liaison of their issue and the Chair and/or liaison will work with the dissenting member to investigate the issue and to determine if there is sufficient support for the reconsideration to initial a formal appeal process.

[8] It should be noted that ICANN also has other conflict resolution mechanisms available that could be considered in case any of the parties are dissatisfied with the outcome of this process.

Who Can Participate in Consensus Designation:

Consensus calls or decisions are open to all members.

The SPIRT Chair shall ensure that all perspectives are appropriately taken into account in assessing consensus designations on the final recommendations.

Though the SPIRT leadership will initially follow the non-objection process, if any objections are raised from the SPIRT members, the GNSO Working Group Guidelines apply in full and consensus designations are therefore the responsibility of the SPIRT Chair and are to be made in accordance with the consensus levels described in Section 3.6 of the Working Group Guidelines.

Amendments to the Charter

Authority to Propose Changes
Leadership of the SPIRT may propose changes to this charter. Proposed changes must be documented and shared with all members for review and discussion.

Consensus Process
Changes to the charter require a consensus call among all members. The SPIRT Chair is responsible for ensuring that all perspectives are appropriately taken into account as listed above and in Section 3.6 of the GNSO Working Group Guidelines. The Chair must facilitate discussions to ensure that every member has the opportunity to express their views and contribute to the decision-making process.

Role of the SPIRT Chair in Amending the Charter
The SPIRT Chair shall:
• Ensure that all members are informed of proposed changes.
• Facilitate discussions to achieve a consensus.
• Assess consensus designations on the final change recommendations.
• Ensure that all perspectives are considered before making a final recommendation.
• Approval Process

Once a consensus is reached within the SPIRT, the final change recommendations shall be submitted to the GNSO Council. The GNSO Council must validate all suggestions and changes proposed by the SPIRT. The Council will then approve or disapprove the proposed changes to the charter.

Final Validation
No changes to the charter shall take effect without the approval of the GNSO Council. The GNSO Council's decision on the proposed changes shall be final and binding.

Termination or Closure of SPIRT

At any time the GNSO Council may decide to dissolve the SPIRT should there no longer be a need for such an advisory body.

Section VI: Charter Document History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	08 August 2024	The SPIRT charter approved by the GNSO Council.

Staff Contact:	Steve Chan, Julie Hedlund, Saewon Lee	**Email:**	Policy-Staff@icann.org

Translations: If translations will be provided please indicate the languages below:											