-GNSO Council Activities (of Interest to At-Large)
-Progress of Next Round Implementation

Update to the LACRALO

Justine Chew
ALAC Liaison to the GNSO
ALAC Rep to the Subsequent Procedures IRT

20 May 2024

Agenda

- **gTLD Policy Development & Implementation**

  - GNSO / GNSO Council
  - ICANN Org

- **GNSO Council Activities List as at 16 May 2024**

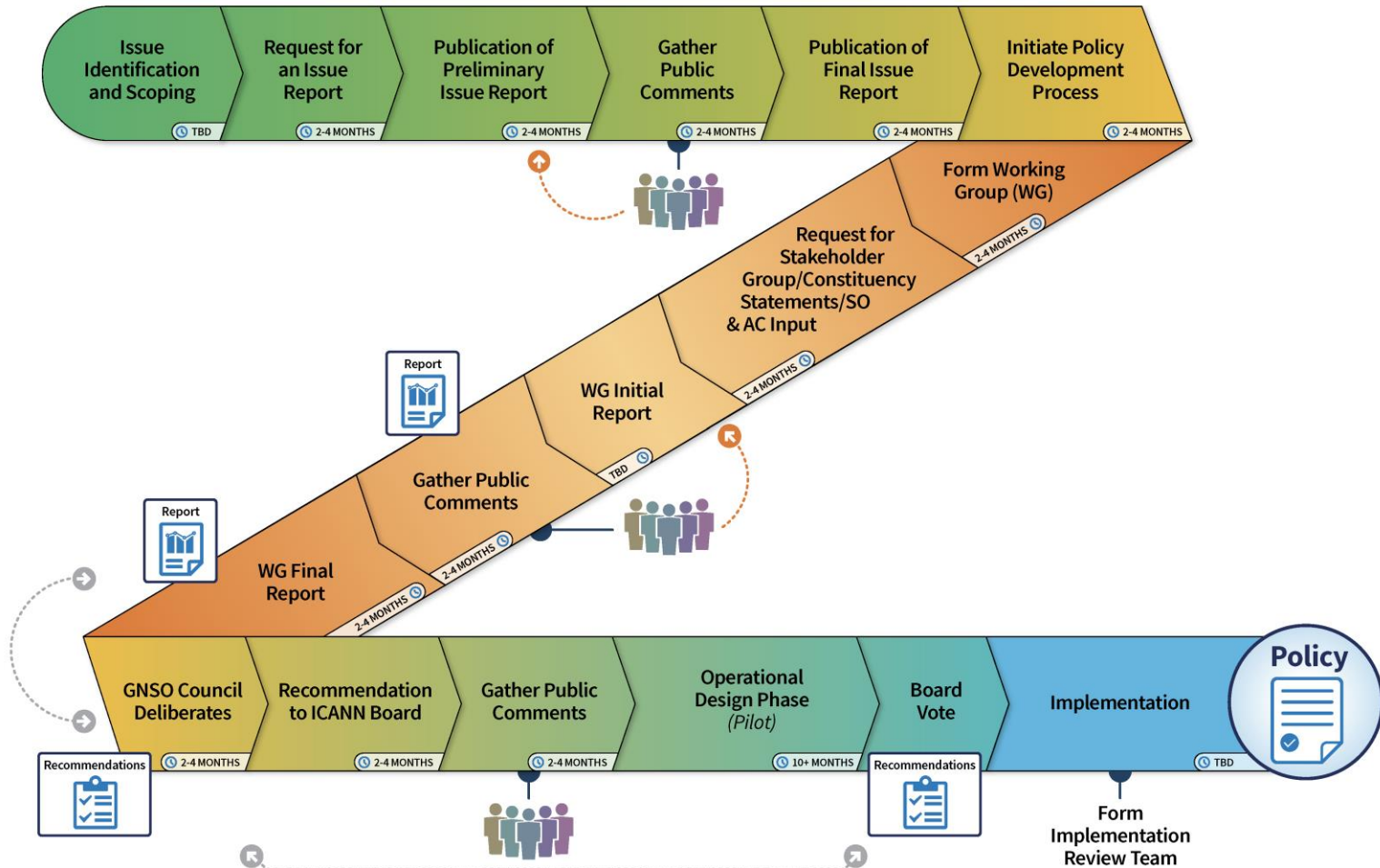 - Selected activities, priorities of interest to ALAC/At-Large

- **ICANN Org Implementation for Next Round of New gTLDs**

  - Status & what's coming up

- **Question & Answer**

GNSO Policy Development Process
*Summarized

GNSO Council Activities List as at 16 May 2024

(Selected based on interest to ALAC/At-Large)

- ⊙ **EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names**

- ⊙ **Subsequent Procedures Supplemental Recommendations**

- ⊙ EPDP on Temporary Specification on gTLD Registration Data – Phase 1: Urgent Request issue

- ⊙ Expiration Policies – (1) Expired Domain Name Deletion Policy ("EDDP") and (2) Expired Registration Recovery Policy ("ERRP")

- ⊙ GNSO Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team (SPIRT)

- ⊙ **Issue Report on IDN Latin Diacritics**

- ⊙ Transfer Policy Review

- ⊙ Registration Data Accuracy (RDA) Scoping Team

- ⊙ Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs – Phase 2: UDRP (Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution Policy)

- ⊙ DNS Abuse in gTLDs

Highlight: EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names

(Selected for highlighting)

- ◉ Phase 2 Initial Report public comment: 11 April – 21 May 2024

    - ○ "Same entity" at the second-level and IDN Table harmonization

    - ○ Adjustments in registry agreement, registry service, registry transition process, and other processes/procedures related to the domain name lifecycle

    - ○ Adjustments in registration dispute-resolution procedures and trademark protection mechanisms

    - ○ Process to update the IDN Implementation Guidelines

    Public Comment Proceeding
    https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/phase-2-initial-report-of-the-epdp-on-internationalized-domain-names-11-04-2024

    ALAC Comment
    https://community.icann.org/display/alacpolicydev/At-Large+Workspace%3A+Phase+2+Initial+Report+of+the+EPDP+on+Internationalized+Domain+Names

Subsequent Procedures Supplemental Recommendations

◉ In April 2024, GNSO Council

- ○ Approved supplemental recommendations ("Supp Recs") on 4 of 6 remaining topics
  - (i) Topic 9: Registry Voluntary Commitments / Public Interest Commitments re: Rec 9.2
  - **(ii) Topic 17: Applicant Support re: Rec 17.2**
  - (iii) Topic 18: Terms and Conditions re: Recs 18.1 & 18.3:, and
  - (iv) Topic 32: Limited Challenge/Appeal Mechanisms re: Recs 32.1, 32.3 & 32.10.

- ○ Determined that supp rec not needed for (v) Topic 22: Registrant Protections re: Rec 22.7 on Continued Operations Instrument (COI)

- ○ **Deferred approving supp recs on (vii) Topic 24: String Similarity Evaluations**

◉ Why the deferral on Topic 24 Supp Recs?

- ○ To allow SubPro Small Team Plus to consider **ICANN Org's strawman proposal on how to handle issue of Singular/Plural strings**.

- ○ Join the discussion on Singular/Plural strings at CPWG call

Diacritics in Latin Script

- ⊙ History

  - ○ In 2012 Round, applicants opted to apply for ASCII strings (without diacritics) even though allowed to apply for strings with diacritics

  - ○ No pursuit of "formal" remedy until 4 public comments re: ".québec" submitted to IDNs EPDP Phase 1 Initial Report in April 2023

  - ○ IDNs EPDP considered this as 'out of scope' since .quebec and .québec are not variant labels per RZ-LGR

  - ○ GNSO Council has considered issue since July 2023, including ALAC Chair's letter to GNSO Chair of 22 June 2023.

  - ○ Council received detailed briefing in Oct 2023 and agreed to request a study from ICANN org; ICANN org proposed alternate way

  - ○ **In April 2024, Council received and rejected ICANN Org's proposal**

  - ○ **In May 2024, Council resolved to request for an Issues Report, directing staff to create the Report**

- ⊙ Next Step: Wait for GNSO Support Staff to produce Issue Report

ICANN Org: Implementation for Next Round

- ⦿ Applicant Guide Book
    - ○ 7 topics underwent 1st public comment proceeding: 1 Feb – 19 Mar 2024
    - ○ ALAC comment: AL-ALAC-ST-0224-01-00-EN

- ⦿ **Applicant Support Program Handbook**
    - ○ Underwent public comment proceeding: 12 Feb – 15 Apr 2024
    - ○ ALAC comment: AL-ALAC-ST-0224-02-01-EN

- ⦿ Registry Service Provider Handbook
    - ○ Underwent public comment proceeding: 13 Mar – 22 Apr 2024
    - ○ ALAC did not comment

- ⦿ String Similarity Review Guidelines
    - ○ Underwent public comment proceeding: 7 Feb – 10 Apr 2024
    - ○ ALAC comment: AL-ALAC-ST-0224-02-00-EN

- ⦿ Strawman proposal regarding Singular/Plural strings
    - ○ Being discussed by GNSO SubPro Small Team Plus
    - ○ Being discussed by At-Large at CPWG calls

- ⦿ **New gTLD Program Outreach and Engagement Plan**

⊙ Program Implementation

- Applicant Support Program Handbook public comment – SubPro IRT ASP Subtrack only resuming calls on 21 May

  - Incorporation of 14 SubPro policy recommendations & implementation guidance

  - Incorporation of 9 guidance recommendations from GNSO Guidance Process on ASP

- Supplemental Recommendation 17.2 yet to be considered by ICANN Board

- Still no ICANN announcement on ASP Funding Plan

  - gTLD string application fee amount

  - ASP operations – staff, pro bono services providers, Support Application Review Panels

⊙ **Program Highlights**

- ○ Application period: 12 months from Q4 2024 – Q4 2025; preceding New gTLD string application period targeted for Q2 2026

- ○ Evaluation in 2 phases, across 5 evaluation categories:

  - Phase 1 – General Business Due Diligence

  - Phase 2 –

    - Public Responsibility Due Diligence:
    - Financial Need
    - Financial Stability
    - Eligible Entities – criterion, indicators, documentary requirements
      1. Non-profits, charities, or equivalent
      2. Intergovernmental organizations
      3. Indigenous/tribal people's organizations
      4. Social Impact or Public benefit micro or small business
      5. Micro or small sized business from a less-developed economy

⊙ **Program Highlights (Cont'd)**

○ Types of support - Both financial and non-financial

- ASP training program (subject to Supplemental Recommendation 17.2)

- Access to pro-bono services providers, independent from / not endorsed or contracted by ICANN org

- ICANN org to play facilitative role, making applicants aware of services

- ICANN org to identify service providers who have volunteered services

- Resources and info for potential applicants to understand New gTLD Program, what it means to operate a gTLD, how to participate in ICANN's multistakeholder community

- Access to Application Counselors (subject to Supplemental Recommendation 17.2)

- A 50-85% reduction in New gTLD Program application and evaluation fees for supported applicants

- A bid credit or multiplier for supported applicants participating in ICANN Auction of Last Resort to resolve contention set.

- Reduced or waived base Registry Operator fees for supported applicant that prevails and proceeds to contracting and delegation (subject to Supplemental Recommendation 17.2)

Applicant Support Program (ASP)

- ⊙ **Outreach & Engagement Plan**

  - ○ Part of [New gTLD Program Outreach & Engagement Plan dated 16 May 2024](#) released to SubPro IRT

  - ○ Limited details, more to follow as and when

  - ○ Possible ICANN80 At-Large session?

- ⊙ **ALAC – GAC Collaboration**

  - ○ [Joint Letter to ICANN Board dated 3 May 2024](#)

  - ○ Possible continued discussion at ICANN 80?

In concluding …..

- ⊙ Questions?

Thank you!