

## Comments on the proposal: GNSO Policy & Implementation Working Group initial recommendations report

March 2015

### 1. Background

Mainly as a result of discussions stemming from implementation-related issues of the new generic Top-Level Domain programme, there has been an increased focus within ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) on which topics call for policy and which call for implementation. The GNSO Council decided in July 2013 to form a working group which was tasked to provide the GNSO Council with a set of recommendations on a number of questions that specifically relate to policy and implementation. That working group published an initial report on 19 January 2015 and invited public comment with a deadline of 17 March 2015.

### 2. BRG relevance

GNSO policy may affect the registry agreements of Brand Registry Group (BRG) members. It is vital for business certainty to be clear on what is policy (and thus subject to GNSO action) and what is implementation (and thus subject to ICANN staff action).

### 3. BRG comments

The BRG supports certainty in all business related processes and especially those that may affect its members registry agreements. The BRG supports the objective of this GNSO working group.

Report section	BRG Comment
3 Definitions	The BRG supports the working definitions.
4 Principles	The BRG supports the concept of developing principles to guide policy and principles to guide implementation.
5 New processes	The BRG supports the concept of formalising the types of GNSO activities into those that are binding on the ICANN Board, and those that are non-binding on the ICANN Board. The BRG supports certainty in categorising policy that may affect registry contracts.
6 Implementation	The BRG supports the emphasis to typically form a GNSO Implementation Review Team to oversee ICANN staff implementation of GNSO policy.

The BRG looks forward to providing future comments on this topic.

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## **About Us**

The Brand Registry Group (BRG) is an independent membership organisation of owners of a top-level domain name that matches their existing brand. The turnover of the respective groups behind these domain names is some \$1290 billion. The BRG is registered by Royal Decree as an international not-for-profit under Belgian law. It represents members' common interests and offers services paid for from fees.