

Background Information on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process

February 2017

PROJECT SCOPE

This Policy Development Process (PDP) was initiated by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council to: (1) review and recommend possible changes or adjustments to the Principles, Recommendations, and Implementation Guidance contained in the GNSO’s 2007 Final Report on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs); or (2) possibly develop new policy recommendations.

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

Timeline

Date	Event	Description
June 2014	GNSO Council created the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Discussion Group	To review the community’s experiences gained from the 2012 New gTLD ¹ Program round and identify a recommended set of subjects that could be further analyzed in an Issue Report ²
June 2015 (ICANN53)	GNSO Council approved a motion to request that a Preliminary Issue Report be prepared by ICANN staff, based on the findings of the Discussion Group	To further analyze the issues identified and help determine if changes or adjustments are needed for subsequent new gTLD procedures
August 2015	Preliminary Issue Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures was published for public comment	Public comment period opened on 31 August 2015 and closed on 30 October 2015

1 Top-Level Domains (TLDs) are the letters found at the end of an Internet address, such as .com, .net, or .org. Any TLD that does not represent a country or territory is known as a generic TLD, or gTLD. To date, over 1,300 new names or “strings” have been introduced into the Internet’s authoritative database, known as the Root Zone. The new TLDs also include Internationalized Domain Names, which are TLDs in local languages and scripts.

2 An Issue Report scopes out the potential issues for a possible PDP and is a mandatory step preceding the GNSO Council’s decision to launch a PDP.

December 2015	Final Issue Report was submitted to the GNSO Council for its consideration on 4 December 2015	The Final Issue Report incorporates relevant public comments received as well as the summary and analysis of the comments
	GNSO Council initiated the PDP on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures on 17 December 2015	
January 2016	GNSO Council adopted the PDP WG Charter on 21 January 2016	
	A call for volunteers was issued on 27 January 2016	

It is important to note that existing policy on new gTLDs already exists in the form of the GNSO’s [2007 Final Report on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains](#), which describes its policy recommendations as having been “designed to produce a systemized and ongoing mechanism for applicants to propose new top-level domains”. The 2007 recommendations were approved by both the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board, meaning that they will remain in place for any subsequent rounds of the New gTLD Program unless the GNSO Council decides to modify them via a PDP such as the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP.

The PDP WG is aware of efforts related to New gTLDs underway within the community, including the [Competition, Consumer Trust & Consumer Choice Review Team](#) and the GNSO’s [PDP on Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs](#), which were also launched in early 2016. The WG understands that coordination with these and other community efforts is needed in order to achieve comprehensive, consistent solutions and outcomes.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

The PDP Working Group (WG) held its first meeting in late February 2016, and has since been meeting on a regular basis. As required by the [GNSO’s PDP Manual](#), the WG requested input on a series of overarching questions from ICANN’s Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, as well as the GNSO’s Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies at an early stage of its deliberations. The WG is currently drafting preliminary outcomes for the topics of the overarching questions. It is also preparing to distribute a second request for community comment, prior to ICANN58, to solicit additional input on specific topics it is considering. Some of the WG’s work items are being addressed by Sub Groups across four Work Tracks. The four Work Tracks are:

[Work Track 1: Overall Process/Support/Outreach](#)

[Work Track 2: Legal/Regulatory/Contractual Obligations](#)

[Work Track 3: String Contention/Objections & Disputes](#)

[Work Track 4: Internationalized Domain Names/Technical & Operational](#)

STAGE OF WORK AND PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES



Although the PDP WG has begun its deliberations, volunteers are welcome at any time to join the WG and to participate in one or more of the various Work Tracks.

The PDP WG is seeking to organize a session at ICANN58 to discuss and coordinate on subjects within the scope of the PDP WG that are also of interest to the GAC.

RELEVANT INFORMATION LINKS:

- Active PDP Project Page: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures>
- PDP WG Community Wiki: <https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw>
- Archived project page for the completed Discussion Group effort: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/inactive/2015/non-pdp-new-gtld>
- GNSO Council Resolution requesting Preliminary Issue Report: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/resolutions#201507>
- Preliminary Issue Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/new-gtld-subsequent-prelim-2015-08-31-en>
- Final Issue Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/subsequent-procedures-final-issue-04dec15-en.pdf>
- GNSO Council Resolution initiating PDP: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/resolutions#201512>
- GNSO Council Resolution adopting PDP Charter: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/resolutions#20160121-2>
- PDP WG Charter: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/subsequent-procedures-charter-21jan16-en.pdf>