ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
January 2018 Newsletter

**Note: all upcoming meetings are subject to change. For current scheduling information, please see the GNSO Master Calendar, Working Group scheduling document, and list of upcoming Work Track topics.

CURRENT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

Overall Working Group

Current Status:

The Working Group is continuing to refine preliminary outcomes for the overarching subjects in the WG's Charter, leveraging input received through Community Comment 1 (CC1) and additional input received through a number of working group calls. Three streams of work are currently underway, each with a specific focus: different TLD types, predictability/community engagement, and application submission periods. In December, the Working Group focused on progressing deliberations on different TLD types.

The Work Tracks are working to develop draft recommendations for changes, if any, to the existing policy or implementation.

Next Steps:

The full Working Group will finalize documentation reflecting deliberations on the overarching issues. The Working Group plans to complete recommendations on the overarching issues in the coming months. Once the WTs have finished developing draft recommendations for changes, if any, to the existing policy or implementation, these recommendations will be reviewed by the full Working Group before publication of Draft Recommendations for public comment. The goal is to complete a Preliminary Report by April 2018.

Work Track 1

Current Status:

In December, the WT focused on Applicant Support, Applicant Guidebook, Systems, Communications and Application Queuing.

5 December meeting highlights:

- Reviewed questions and concerns regarding the Applicant Guidebook and discussed proposed recommendations for improving future versions of the AGB.
- Work Track members generally expressed support for having a single AGB with tools to promote accessibility of the document and searchability within the text.
- Reviewed proposed recommendations regarding Applicant Support, including establishing a method of transitioning applications to the "regular" application track if they do not qualify for applicant support, improving outreach and promotion of the program, and expanding forms of support beyond reduction of application fees.
- There was general support for the idea that geographic location of the applicant should be one criterion used to evaluate candidates for applicant support but that other factors should also be taken into account.

19 December meeting highlights:
- Reviewed proposed recommendations regarding Systems, including recommendations to ensure that systems are more integrated, secure, usable, and thoroughly tested, as well as recommendations to improve the experience of applicants (see slides for details).
- Discussed data on inquiries made by applicants to ICANN Organization's Customer Service Center during the 2012 application round and reviewed proposed recommendations to improve ICANN Organization's Communications systems and processes (see slides for details).
- With respect to Application Queuing, considered if it might be helpful in the Preliminary Report to request input on whether certain application types, such as IDNs or applications from the global south, should be prioritized.

WT1 had a meeting on 9 January, which focused on Clarity of Application Process and Application Fees. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT1 has a meeting scheduled for 16 January (topics: Variable Fees, Application Submission Period).

All members are encouraged to add their feedback to the working document summarizing each of the WT1 topics, including the issues raised, past discussions, consensus items, and additional areas to address. The document is available here.

Work Track 2

Current Status:

In December, the WT focused on TLD Rollout, Contractual Compliance, Base Registry Agreement, Reserved Names, and Registrant Protections.

7 December meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 comments received on the topic of Contractual Compliance.
- One of the comments mentioned "troubling operational practices" allegedly conducted by contracted parties, such as arbitrary and abusive pricing for premium domains targeting trademarks, use of reserved names to circumvent Sunrise, and operation of

launch programs that differed materially from what was approved by ICANN. The WT discussed the possibility of asking the ICANN Organization if it has data regarding these alleged practices.

- Reviewed data received from ICANN Organization's Global Domains Division (GDD) regarding the number of gTLDs that requested a delegation extension after the Registry Agreement was signed and the number of gTLDs that exceeded the delegation deadline without requesting an extension.
- Discussed CC2 comments received on the topic of TLD Rollout.

21 December meeting highlights:
- Reviewed a summary of deliberations/progress document on the Base Registry Agreement, noting preliminary consensus to maintain a single Base Registry Agreement with specific sections for different TLD types.
- Reviewed a summary of deliberations/progress document on Registrant Protections, noting high-level agreement to:
  - explore different methods for funding the Emergency Back-End Registry Operator (EBERO) process
  - retain the five critical registry functions included in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook while exploring potential exemptions
  - consider possible exemptions to background screening requirements for publicly-traded companies

Next Steps:

WT2 has a meeting scheduled for 18 January (topics: Reserved Names and Applicant Terms and Conditions).

Work Track 3

Current Status:

In December, the WT focused on Community Applications and Objections.

12 December meeting highlights:
- Completed review of CC2 comments on Community Applications and Community Priority Evaluation, including input on whether the rights of communities were infringed by the New gTLD Program and whether there are aspects of the New gTLD Program related to communities that should be considered in a more holistic fashion.
- Revisited responses to CC2 on Objections, including input on whether relevant policy recommendations require modifications, whether recommendations were implemented effectively, issues with standing requirements, and inconsistencies in decisions made by dispute resolution panels.

WT3 had a meeting on 9 January, which focused on Legal Rights Objections. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT3 has a meeting scheduled for 30 January (topics: coalesce opinions on Objections and begin deliberations on Applicant Freedom of Expression).

Work Track 4

Current Status:

WT4 had a meeting scheduled for 14 December, which was canceled.

WT4 had meeting on 11 January, which focused on Financial Evaluation. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT4 members will be sent one or more surveys in order to reduce the number of possible financial evaluation models under consideration. There are no additional WT4 calls scheduled for the month of January.

Work Track 5

Current Status:

In December, the WT focused on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the WT.

The WT5 meetings on 6 December and 20 December focused on gathering additional input on the Terms of Reference document and continuing the refine language included in the ToR.

Next Steps:

WT5 has a meeting scheduled for 17 January (topic: Terms of Reference, definition of geographic names).

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

In June 2014, the GNSO Council established a Discussion Group that was intended to evaluate the experiences of the 2012 round gTLD Program and to identify possible areas for future GNSO policy development. The Discussion Group's deliverables served as the basis for the GNSO Council's request for a Preliminary Issue Report in June of 2015.

Following the publication of the Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council adopted the charter for the PDP Working Group, which began its work in February 2016. The Working Group initially concentrated on a set of overarching issues, and has since established four separate Work Tracks to consider specific topic areas: Work Track 1 - Overall Process/Support/Outreach, Work Track 2 - Legal/Regulatory, Work Track 3: String Contention/Objections & Disputes, Work Track 4: Internationalized Domain Names/Technical & Operations.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Discussion Group identified a number of subjects that may require further analysis and possible formulation of policy language. There are existing policy recommendations adopted by the GNSO Council and ICANN Board, which will remain in place unless the PDP WG determines that changes are needed.

> **To join this effort, please email the GNSO Secretariat: gnso-secs@icann.org**
> **All are welcome!**

MORE INFORMATION
- PDP Working Group Workspace Wiki: https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw
- PDP Working Group Charter: https://community.icann.org/x/KAp1Aw
- PDP Working Group Active Project Page: https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures