ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
August 2017 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). Three streams of work are currently underway, each with a specific focus: different TLD types, predictability/community engagement, and "rounds" for application assessment.

Geographic names is one of the many subjects included in the PDP Charter and a topic that has broad community interest. Following a series of productive cross-community discussions on geographic names at ICANN59, the co-chairs are in the process of developing a fifth Work Track in the PDP devoted to this issue, using a shared leadership model with balanced representation from the GAC, ALAC, ccNSO, and GNSO. Additional information will soon be available.

After completing an initial review and discussion of the more than 30 topic areas included in the Charter, the Work Tracks are now reviewing responses to Community Comment 2 (CC2) to support a deeper dive into each subject and to determine what action, if any, the group should take on each subject.

Next Steps:

The full Working Group will be continuing to refine documentation reflecting deliberations on overarching issues, taking into account input from a number of sources. The Work Tracks will maintain focus on reviewing and incorporating feedback received through Community Comment 2 (CC2).

Work Track 1

Current Status:

In July, the WT focused on the Applicant Guidebook (AGB), Clarity of Application Process, Application Queuing, and Application Submission Period. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT1 working document.

11 July meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 comments on the Applicant Guidebook, which included input on making the AGB more concise, targeted, and usable for applicants and other parties interested in new gTLDs.
- Went over comments on Clarity of the Application Process, which offered examples of how clarity, transparency, and predictability could be enhanced in subsequent rounds. The WT discussed ways in which the feedback on this topic dovetails with discussions about the overarching issue of Predictability.

25 July meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 comments on Application Submission Period, which included input on the appropriate length of an application window and the potential impact of the submission period on Applicant Support. The WT considered intersections between deliberations on this topic and ongoing conversations on the overarching issue of Applications Assessed in Rounds/Alternate Mechanisms.
- Went over CC2 comments on Application Queuing, which included feedback on the "prioritization draw" model used to establish application processing order in 2012 round, as well as input on types of applications that could potentially receive priority in subsequent rounds. The WT discussed potential legal implications of continuing to use the "prioritization draw" model in the future.

Next Steps:

WT1 has meetings scheduled for 8 August (topic: review CC2 comments on Application Fees and Systems) and 25 August (topic: review CC2 comments on Variable Fees and Communications).

Work Track 2

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on the Base Registry Agreement and Reserved Names. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT2 working document.

13 July meeting highlights:
- Reviewed CC2 input on the Base Registry Agreement, including comments supporting the approach of a single Base Registry Agreement with exemptions and others favoring a model with different Registry Agreements for different business models, in particular Brand TLDs.
- Discussed the potential financial, operational, and administrative impact of these different models on the ICANN organization during implementation.

27 July meeting highlights:

- Reviewed the status of deliberations on the Base Registry Agreement. The group appears to be converging on the view that a single Base Registry Agreement with exemptions may be the most appropriate model.
- Began review of CC2 input on Reserved Names with a focus on any proposed changes to the String Requirents at the top level, defined in Section 2.2.1.3.2 of the Applicant Guidebook.

Next Steps:

WT2 has meetings scheduled for 10 August (topic: review CC2 comments on Reserved Names and Registrant Protections) and 24 August (topic: review CC2 comments on Registrant Protections and Closed Generics).

Work Track 3

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on Objections. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT3 working document.

18 July meeting highlights:
- Began to review CC2 comments on Objections, including feedback on the relevant policies, their implementation, and AGB requirements, as well as any evidence of inconsistencies in decisions made by objection dispute panels or 'gaming' of objection procedures in the 2012 round.
- Agreed to develop draft language on the treatment of singular and plural versions of words, which will be considered further in subsequent meetings. This language is envisioned to be applicable to both objections and the string similarity review.

WT3 had a meeting on 1 August, which covered CC2 comments on Objections. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT3 has meetings scheduled for 15 August (topic: review CC2 comments on Applicant Freedom of Expression and Accountability Mechanisms) and 29 August (topic: review CC2 comments on Community Applications and Community Priority Evaluations).

Work Track 4

Current Status:

In June, the WT focused on IDNs. A full record of deliberations is available in the WT4 working document.

20 July meeting highlights:

- Reviewed CC2 comments on IDNs, including feedback on the possibility of allowing certain single character IDN TLDs, delegation and operation of IDN variant TLDs, and potential harmonization of related gTLD policies with policies governing ccTLDs.
- Reviewed draft recommendations developed by the WT on the topic of IDNs in light of CC2 comments on this topic.

WT4 had a meeting on 3 August, which covered CC2 comments on Universal Acceptance. The discussion will be summarized in the following edition of the newsletter.

Next Steps:

WT4 has meetings scheduled for 17 August and 31 August, in which it will continue to review responses to CC2.

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