

ICANN
POLICY FORUM

77

WASHINGTON, D.C.

12-15 June 2023

New gTLD Program Next Round

Implementation Status Recap and Q&A (90 Min)

ICANN77 Main Session

12 June 2023



Interpretation Information

- Audio streaming in Zoom will be in English.
- Interpretation will include French and Spanish.
- Click on the interpretation icon in your Zoom screen to access language interpretation.
- Joining the Zoom session allows you to follow the presentation, see the comments and questions in the chat, and use the hand-raise icon to request the floor.
- Kindly mute your audio to avoid feedback and echo during the session.

- **ICANN77 Deliverables**
- **Overview of Work Since ICANN76**
 - By ICANN Org
 - By Board and Community
- **Timeline Considerations**
- **Next Steps**
- **Question and Answer (30 Min)**

Presenters

- **Karen Lentz**, VP, Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP)
- **Bob Ochieng**, Sr. Director, New gTLD Subsequent Procedures
- **Lars Hoffmann**, Sr. Director, Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP)
- **Chris Bare**, Director, New gTLD Program Development
- **Kristy Buckley**, Director, Outreach and Digital Inclusion
- **Francisco Arias**, Sr. Director, Global Domains and Strategy (GDS), Technical Services
- **Sally Newell Cohen**, SVP, Global Communications and Language Services
- **Sebastien Ducos**, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council Chair

ICANN77 Deliverables

Overview of ICANN77 (Org, Board and Community)

ICANN77 Deliverables

Org Deliverables

- Implementation Status Report (two weeks prior to ICANN77)
- IRT Methodology, Work Plan, and Timeline (Work Stream 1: Policy Implementation)
- Overview of Work necessary to complete Program Development (Work Stream 2: Program Design, Work Stream 3: Infrastructure Development and Work Stream 4: Operationalization)

Board and Community Deliverables

- Pending recommendations timeline for resolution (Board and Community)
- GNSO Council Project Plan and Timeline for IDN EPDP (Community)
- GNSO Council Project Plan and Timeline for Closed Generics (Community)

Overview of Work Since ICANN76

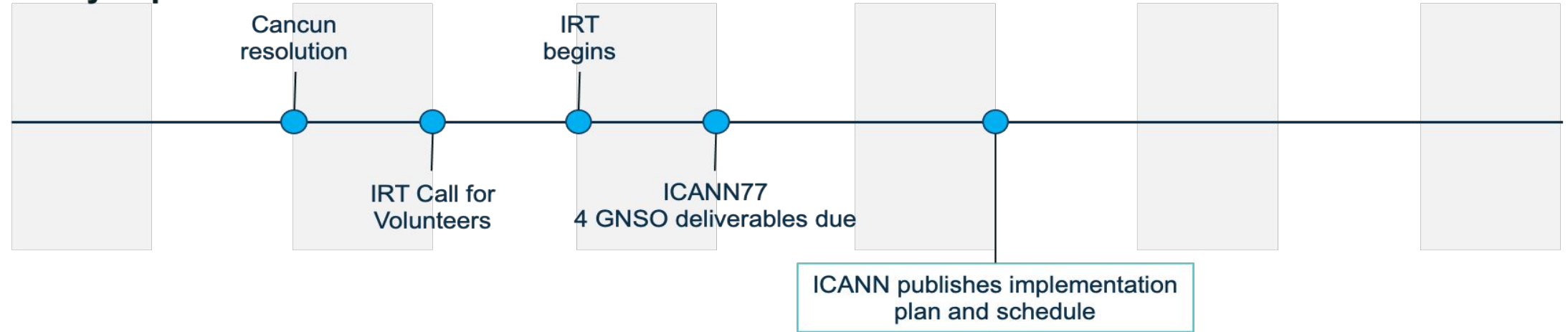
By ICANN Org

- Policy Implementation (Work Stream 1)
- Program Development (Work Streams 2-4)
- Applicant Support Program (ASP)
- Registry Service Provider (RSP) Pre-Evaluation Program
- Communications Planning

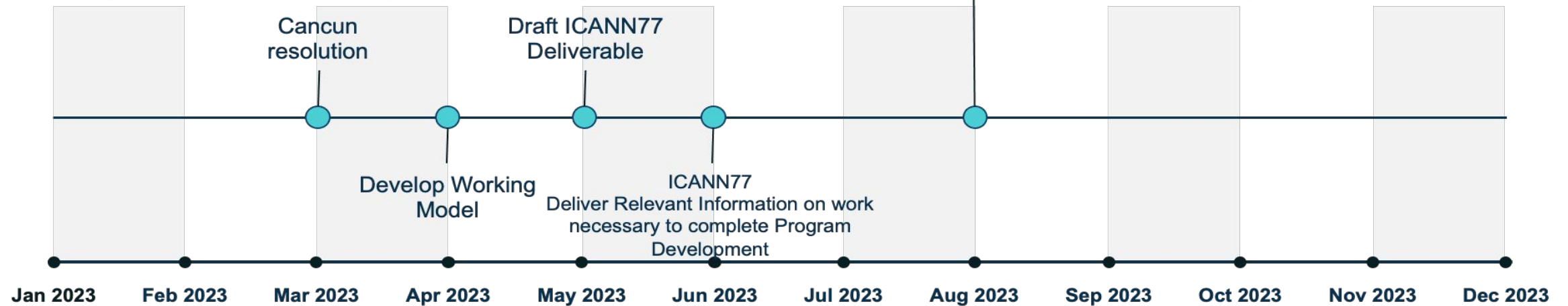
Parallel Approach to Overall Program Activities Leading to 1 August Deliverable

Parallel Activities

Policy Implementation



Program Development (Program Design, Infrastructure Development, Operationalization)



Policy Implementation: Work Stream 1

Policy Implementation Since ICANN76

- IRT work methodology and composition agreed on with the Council (see next slides).
- [IRT Statement of Participation](#) published.
- [IRT call for volunteers](#) announcement published 5 April 2023.
 - Promoted on social media and [Community Digest](#)
 - 67 members signed up as of 15 May 2023.
 - [1st IRT meeting](#) held 16 May 2023.
 - [2nd IRT meeting](#) held 23 May 2023
- [IRT mailing list](#) created.
- [IRT Wiki workspace](#) published.

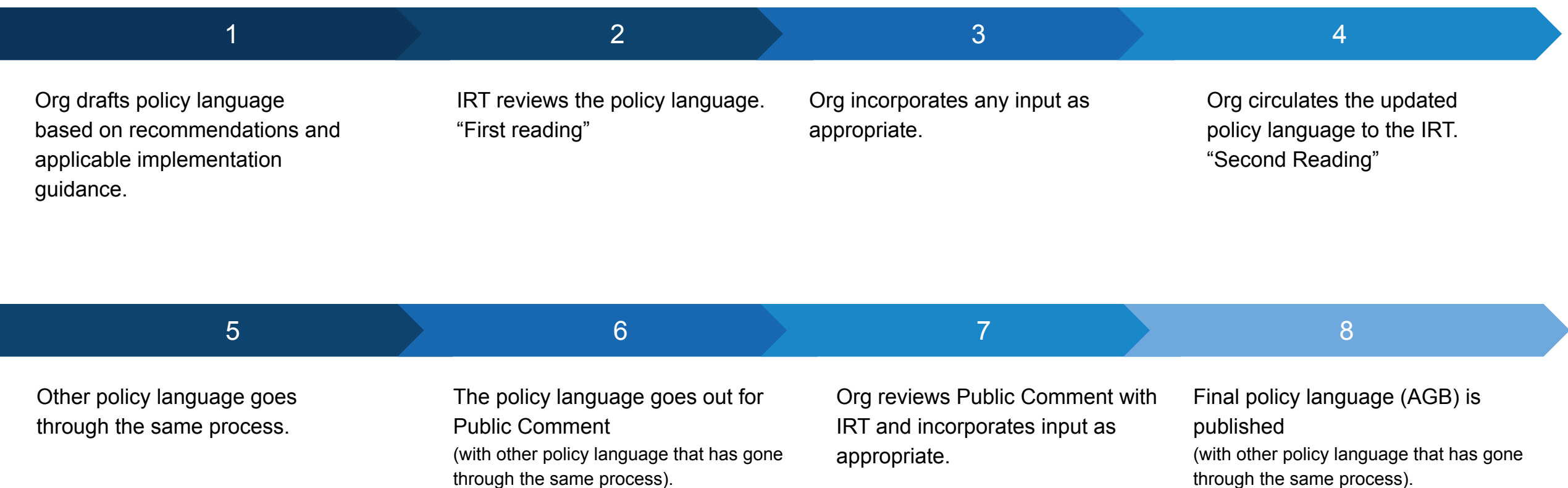
Participants:

- Self-appointed.
- Can actively participate in and attend all meetings.
- Expected to keep up with all relevant discussions.
- Encouraged to possess similar levels of expertise as representatives.
- No upper limit of participants or their affiliation.
- Statement of Participation and Statement of Interest are required.

Representatives/Alternates/Liaisons:

- Nominated by respective SO/AC or SG/C.
- Expected to participate over the course of the IRT.
- Expected to represent the view of their appointing organization, and may be called on to provide consolidated feedback of their appointed organization.
- Required to have a level of expertise.
- Statement of Participation is required.

Efficiency-Oriented Implementation Process



SubPro IRT Implementation Work Plan

- Plan shared with IRT members prior to second IRT session (23 May 2023).

Structure:

- The plan includes 98 recommendations from the Final Report and incorporates a phased approach that considers factors including internal resource and SME availability and interdependencies with the work streams.

Timeline:

- 15-24-Month Timeline for drafting the AGB with the support of the IRT.
 - Estimation based on other policy implementation work and pending Board approval on number of topics.

Dependencies:

- Board Resolution on all recommendations currently in “pending” status.
- Completion of GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) for Applicant Support.
- Completion of community discussion relating to Topic 23: Closed Generics.
- Completion of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP).
- Completion of the Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 Report (NCAP2).
- Implementation of review recommendations, advice, and Work Stream 2 items pertaining to the Next Round.

Methodology:

- After topic-specific draft policy language is finalized, org will provide text to IRT for initial review (**First Reading**), to confirm the draft text is in alignment with recommendations from the Final Report. Feedback received will be incorporated into new version of the draft policy language, which will go back to the IRT for a second review (**Second Reading**).
- Review and confirmation of draft language should be focused on overall intent and purpose of the recommendations, not on wordsmithing.

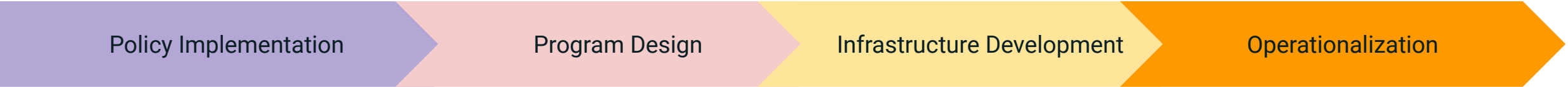
Program Development

Work Streams 2-4:

- Program Design
- Infrastructure Development
- Operationalization

Service Development Life Cycle

Every process must be developed from Final Report recommendations and incorporated into operational service. The following represents the service development methodology.



Service Development Life Cycle Steps

1. Document process requirements from Final Report outputs.	3. Identify business requirements.	5. Draft technical specifications for development.	7. Create process procedures.
2. Clarify any ambiguity or confusion on requirements.	4. Develop and document processes.	6. Develop and test systems and tools.	8. Organize and establish business services.
			9. Integrate services into the overall process flow and test.
			10. Hire and train staff.

Deliverables

1. Preliminary process assessment.	3. Business service architecture.	5. Technical specifications for development.	7. Procedures documents and training materials.
2. High-level process draft (for Applicant Guidebook).	4. Detailed process blueprint.	6. Roll-out of system functionality.	8. Program operations governance documents.
			9. Program testing and sign-off.
			10. Assigned operations staff.

Program Development Since ICANN76

Program Design

- Developed work stream procedures.
- Created inventory and initial assessment of program processes.
- Completed mapping of Final Report topics, program processes, and systems.
- Identified resource needs for Business Process Development.
 - Working to fill open staff positions
 - Working with vendors to provide augmented staff
- Worked with E&IT in proof-of-concept workshops with E&IT vendor.

Infrastructure Development

- Developed work stream procedures.
- GDS and E&IT created a mapping document of processes and systems to serve as planning baseline.
- E&IT is evaluating platform technologies and possible professional service vendors for future engagements.

Operationalization consists of creation of process procedures; hiring resources to operate the program, train staff, and vendors; and perform operational program test. Work stream procedures have been developed but the bulk of this work will occur after development of processes and systems.

Spotlight on ASP, RSP, and Communications Planning

Progress on Applicant Support Program (ASP)

Announced [Expression of Interest Survey](#) for pro bono service providers to:

- Raise awareness that pro bono service volunteers are needed.
- Gain intelligence about latent interest among potential pro bono service providers.
- Analyze survey results to identify gaps and inform future communications, outreach, and engagement.

Collaborating with GNSO Guidance Process on its six tasks. Org has worked with the GGP as it drafted metrics for:

- Outreach and awareness.
- Applicant understanding of gTLD application process.
- ICANN org setup of ASP for success.
- Application submission and evaluation.
- Contracting and delegation.
- Ongoing operations of the gTLD.
- Determining a method for allocating financial support where demand exceeds available resources.

Conducting Interviews for vendors that could develop a framework for:

- Assessing applicants' financial need and work in global public interest, per the Global Public Interest Framework.
- The stepwise process for ASP applicants in the ASP handbook (i.e., Financial Assistance Handbook).

Progress on Registry Service Provider (RSP) Pre-Evaluation

The first version of requirements of the RSP Pre-Evaluation portal and criteria for pre-evaluating RSPs are in final stages of development.

Draft timeline of the RSP Pre-Evaluation program:



Phase 1

12- to 15-month campaign comprised of 3-month long mini campaigns

- Launched with UA Day in March 2023.
- Create awareness of Universal Acceptance, Internationalized Domain Names, and the New gTLD Program.
- Targeting several countries in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin and South America, and Middle East.
- Audience-specific.
- Multichannel approach including public relations, social media, local events, and targeted engagement.

Overview of Communications Planning - Two Phase Approach

Phase 2

18-month campaign focused on creating awareness of the timing of the next round, Applicant Support Program, RSP Pre-Evaluation and Program submission information.

- Global coverage with location-based and audience-specific focus.

Both phases are a combined effort by:

- Global Communications
- Global Stakeholder Engagement
- Government and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement

Community involvement will be encouraged, and materials made available.

Board and Community Deliverables

- Pending Recommendations
- Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP)
- Closed Generics

Pending Recommendations Work Plan/Timeline

Progress so far:

- GNSO Council Small Team convened at ICANN76, tasked with “triage” of 38 pending recs
 - “Triage” = Understanding reasons for pending status and suggesting a path for resolution.
- Extraordinary Council meeting 4 May to review and agree on “triage” outcome.
 - Assigned new task for Small Team: To provide background, context, relevant recs, rationale, to alleviate Board concerns.
- Small Team output was shared with the Board; basis of joint Board/Council meeting 22 May.
- Further Small Team work to determine “landing spot” for each and every recommendation
 - Could mean issue can be resolved in implementation, Council providing a clarifying statement to the Board, non-adoption, exploring Bylaws amendment.
- Extraordinary Council meeting 6 June to review draft work plans and timelines (for all three deliverables).
- Full day Council working sessions on 11 June to finalize work plans and timelines (for all 3 deliverables).

Work Plan/Timeline Expectations:

- To develop meaningful work plan/timeline, there needs to be mutual understanding between the Council and Board on how to resolve concerns (e.g., resolve in implementation, Council clarifying statement to Board, non-adoption, etc.).
- Deliverable for ICANN77: Because of the of the full day session and importantly, participation from the Board, Council in a position to deliver a work plan/timeline by 15 June 2023.

IDN EPDP Work Plan/Timeline

Board Ask:

- Work plan/timeline for Phase 2 (i.e., second-level) charter questions that will impact the next Applicant Guidebook (AGB).

Work Plan/Timeline:

- EPDP Team considered splitting Phase 2 sub-phases (2a and 2b), but most questions could impact AGB.
 - EPDP Team recommendation is to keep Phase 2 together.
- The timeline has not changed:
 - **Phase 2 Initial Report published for public comment in Apr 2025.**
 - **Phase 2 Final Report delivered to Council in Nov 2025 (i.e., the deliverable for ICANN77).**
- EPDP Team recognizes potential impact on Next Round. In effort to pull in completion date:
 - Phase 2 deliberations started while Phase 1 Initial Report is out for Public Comment (per work plan, it would start in Nov 2023).
 - Allocating extended time for Phase 2 deliberations at ICANN77 (four sessions).
 - Seeking dedicated face-to-face time outside of an ICANN Meeting.
- EPDP Team may revisit work plan prior to 1 Aug 2023 (i.e., ICANN org delivery date for Implementation Plan) if more clarity gained on things like: Phase 2 progress, public comment received for Phase 1, likelihood of F2F approval.

Closed Generics EPDP (or alternate path) - Work Plan/Timeline

Board Ask:

- Work plan/timeline for policy work, or an alternate path, on how to handle closed generics for the Next Round.

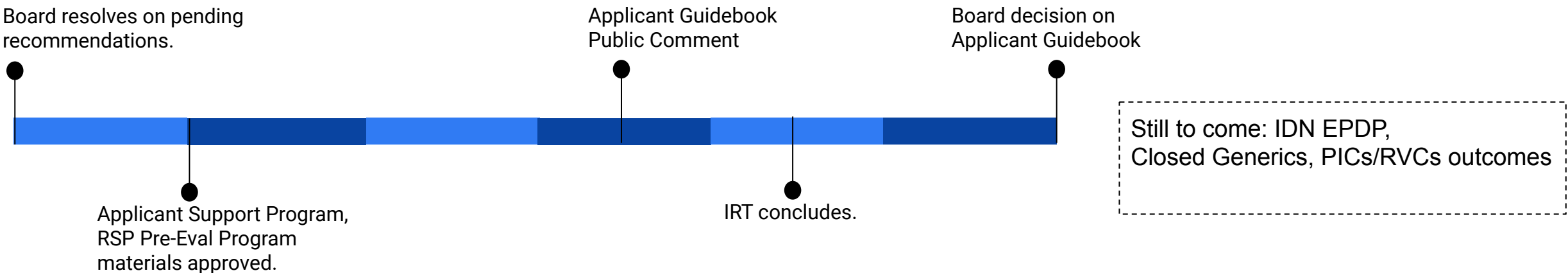
Work Plan/Timeline: Provisional in Nature

- Uncertainty requires these assumptions:
 - Framework is incomplete; but next steps are dependent on a framework being agreed upon.
 - Rough estimate on length of time for deliberations (limited time to review framework; a charter, which establishes scope of work, does not exist).
 - Standard procedure steps (e.g., chartering, call for volunteers, Public Comment periods, finalizing report).
- **Deliverable for ICANN77:** Rough estimate is that an EPDP on closed generics will take **96 weeks**, inclusive of elements such as: chartering, call for volunteers and chair, Council consideration, and Board consideration.
 - 36 of 96 weeks are for substantive deliberations. The Council is exploring ways to shorten the timeline/pursue work in parallel.
 - *Note: If and when EPDP is initiated and chartered, rough estimate will be replaced with a complete work plan.*

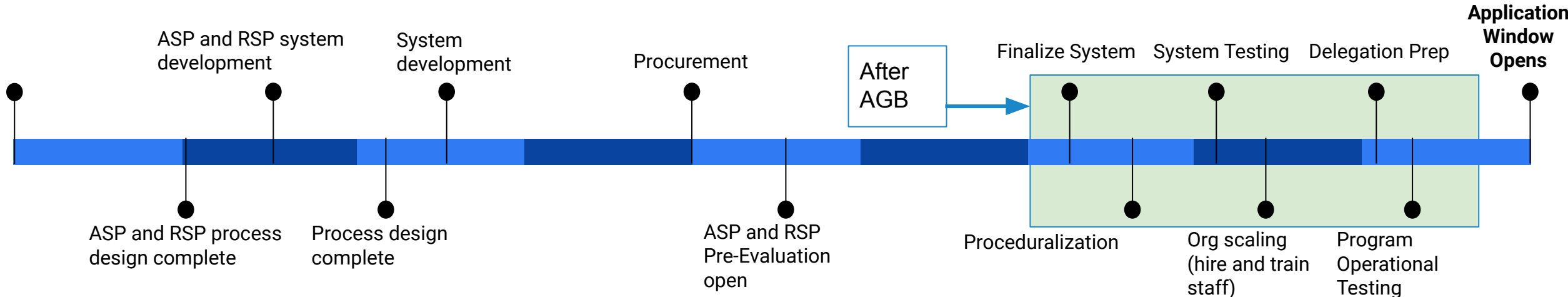
Timeline Considerations

Parallel Activities: Key Milestones After 1 August 2023

Policy Implementation



Program Development (Program Design, Infrastructure Development, Operationalization)



Question and Answer

New gTLD Program Next Round Resources

- New gTLD Program Next Round [landing page](#)
- SubPro ODP Community Workspace [wiki page](#)
 - IRT Meetings and Recordings
- ICANN77 Prep Week [session](#)
- ICANN News Subscription [link](#)



Thank You and Questions

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