

Advancing the Global Public Interest (GPI) at ICANN



Board and Community Interactive Session

24 February 2025

Background: GPI in Current & Historic Governance Documents

Bylaws

(June 2018)

- "[...] ensure that the bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development process is used to ascertain the **global public interest**."

Articles of Incorporation

(Aug 2016)

- "[...] promoting the **global public interest** in the operational stability of the Internet by carrying out the mission set forth in the bylaws. [...] Such **global public interest** may be determined from time to time. Any determination of such **global public interest** shall be made by the multistakeholder community through an inclusive bottom-up multistakeholder community process."

Affirmation of Commitments

(Sept 2009)

- "[...] ensure that the outcomes of its decision-making will reflect the **public interest** and be accountable to all stakeholders."

Bylaws

(Dec 2002)

- "Core values [...] Introducing and promoting competition in the registration of domain names where practicable and beneficial in the **public interest**"

Background on the GPI Framework

Community Discussions

Active since 2016

Attempts to define and operationalize GPI fell short

Status in 2019

No consensus on a GPI definition or how to apply to concept

No specific tools existed to evaluate the relevant public interest of a given issue

Board identified GPI as an operational priority

June 2020

ICANN Board, in consultation with community, developed a proposed GPI framework

Goal for Framework

Proactively and systematically demonstrate how recommendations meet the bylaws-defined GPI considerations

Links mandates in ICANN's governing documents with its bottom-up multistakeholder processes, procedures, and charters

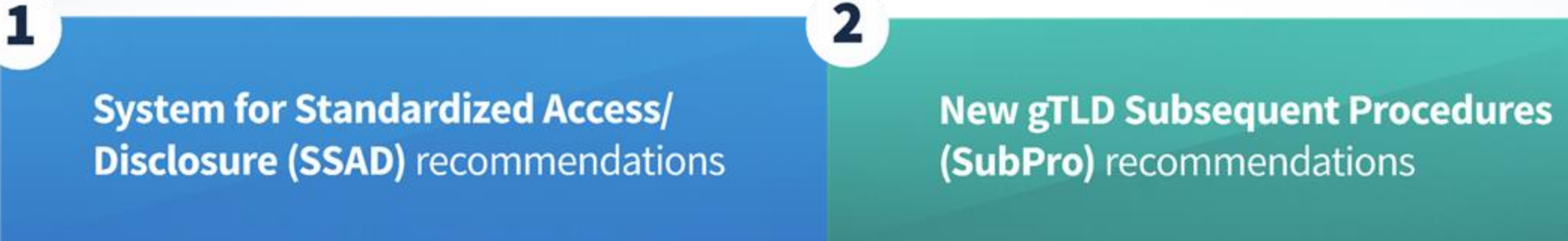
GPI Framework in Practice

Does not alter decision-making process

Facilitates a bottom-up, multistakeholder-driven understanding of GPI issues relevant to Board decisions

Piloting the GPI Framework

In 2020, the Board asked ICANN org to pilot the GPI framework with two retroactive case studies:



Goal: To see if framework useful and effective to evaluate public interest in community recommendations.

- Note: pilot was a mapping exercise, not an evaluation exercise
 - Org reviewed existing community documentation to show how the framework could have been used if the community leveraged it
- Pilot results highly encouraging, suggest that framework is valuable for various contexts

Key Findings

More effective if run
as part of
recommendation
development, rather
than post-facto

Potential community
use would allow for
proactive
consideration of GPI

GPI discussion
already occurs in
PDPs

GPI framework
offers categories
and language to
facilitate that
discussion

GPI framework is
not a means to
change the PDP

Current Status: Checklist for Community Use

Potential positive impact	Potential negative impact	Not relevant	Overall ICANN Categories	Potential positive impact	Potential negative impact	Not relevant	Public Interest Categories
☐	☐	☐	ICANN's technical coordination	☐	☐	☐	Stable
				☐	☐	☐	Secure
				☐	☐	☐	Open
				☐	☐	☐	Resilient
				☐	☐	☐	Interoperable

GPI Checklist: Current Status and Ask

GPI checklist recently finalized



Raise awareness about the existence and potential use of the tool



Seek community feedback on practicality and potential developments to tool



Note: use of the tool is entirely voluntary

Engage with ICANN – Thank You and Questions



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