Policy Development Process Work Team (PDP-WT)

Updated Final Report

What is the GNSO Council expected to consider?

The PDP-WT has submitted its Updated Final Report to the GNSO Council on 28 September 2011. The Report includes 48 recommendations, a new Annex A of the ICANN Bylaws and a proposed PDP Manual. Following the submission of the Final Report in May 2011, the GNSO Council decided to open a public comment forum on the Final Report. Based on the comments received, the GNSO Council requested the PDP-WT to review the comments received and update the report if deemed appropriate. The PDP-WT reviewed the public comments received (see public comment review tool) and updated the report accordingly. An overview of the main differences between the Final Report and Updated Final Report can be found here. The GNSO Council will now consider the adoption of the Updated Final Report and its recommendations. If/once adopted, those elements requiring ICANN Board approval (such as new Annex A) will be forwarded to the ICANN Board for consideration.

Why is this important?

The Policy Development Process Work Team (PDP-WT) is responsible for developing a new GNSO policy development process that incorporates a working group approach and makes it more effective and responsive to ICANN's policy development needs. ICANN's policies have wide-ranging impact on how domain names are handled in the gTLD environment, so the method of developing the policies matters. This effort is part of the Board mandated GNSO Improvements.

How did the PDP-WT get to its recommendations?

The PDP-WT has arrived at these recommendations based on extensive WG deliberations (see Initial Report, Proposed Final Report, Final Report and Updated Final Report) and review of comments received on the Initial Report, proposed Final Report and Final Report (see Annex A, B and C of the Updated Final Report).

The Main Recommendations:

- Recommending the use of a standardized "Request for an Issue Report Template"

- The introduction of a "Preliminary Issues Report" which shall be published for public comment prior to the creation of a Final Issues Report to be acted upon by the GNSO Council

- A Requirement that each PDP Working Group operate under a Charter

- Dialogue between the GNSO Council and an Advisory Committee in the event that an the GNSO Council decides not to initiate a PDP following an Issues Report requested by such Advisory Committee

- Changing the existing Bylaws requiring a mandatory public comment period upon initiation of a PDP to optional at the discretion of the PDP Working Group

- Clarification of 'in scope of ICANN policy process or the GNSO'

- Changing the timeframes of public comment periods including (i) a required public comment period of no less than 30 days on a PDP Working Group's Initial Report and (ii) a minimum of 21 days for any non-required public comment periods the PDP WG might choose to initiate at its discretion

- Maintaining the existing requirement of PDP Working Groups producing both an Initial Report and Final Report, but giving PDP Working Groups the discretion to produce additional outputs

- A recommendation allowing for the termination of a PDP prior to delivery of the Final Report

- Guidance to the GNSO Council on the treatment of PDP WG recommendations

- New procedures on the delivery of recommendations to the Board including a requirement that all reports presented to the Board are reviewed by either the PDP Working Group or the GNSO Council and made publicly available

- The use of Implementation Review Teams

Further details and background on the different recommendations, the proposed Annex A and PDP Manual can be found in the PDP-WT Updated Final Report.

Background

On 26 June 2008 the ICANN Board approved a set of recommendations designed to improve the effectiveness of the GNSO, including its policy activities, structure, operations, and communications. The following pertains to the PDP-WT's mission:

Revising the PDP: The Policy Development Process (PDP) needs to be revised to make it more effective and responsive to ICANN's needs. It should be brought in-line with the time and effort actually required to develop policy and made consistent with ICANN's existing contracts (including, but not limited to, clarifying the appropriate scope of GNSO "consensus policy" development). While the procedure for developing "consensus policies" will need to continue to be established by the Bylaws as long as required by ICANN's contracts, the GNSO Council and Staff should propose new PDP rules for the Board's consideration and approval that contain more flexibility. The new rules should emphasize the importance of the preparation that must be done before launch of a working group or other activity, such as public discussion, fact-finding, and expert research in order to properly define the scope, objective, and schedule for a specific policy development goal and the development of metrics for measuring success. The revised PDP, after review and approval by the GNSO Council and ICANN Board, would replace the current PDP defined in Annex A of the ICANN bylaws.

Where can I find more information?

- PDP-WT Updated Final Report
- Final Report Public Comment Review Tool
- Comparison of PDP-WT Final and Updated Final Report
- PDP-WT Final Report
- Proposed Final Report Public Comment Review Tool
- PDP-WT Proposed Final Report
- PDP-WT Initial Report
- PDP-WT Workspace
- GNSO Improvements

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