

ICANN | GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

9 April 2020

Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Subsequent Procedures for New gTLDs PDP WG Co-Chair
Jeff Neuman, Subsequent Procedures for New gTLDs PDP WG Co-Chair

Subject: GAC Leadership concerns regarding changes to Subsequent Procedures for New gTLDs PDP WG Timeline

Dear Cheryl and Jeff,

I am writing to you on behalf of GAC Leadership regarding recent discussions within the Subsequent Procedures for New gTLDs PDP WG.

Specifically, the GAC wishes to note its concern for recent changes made to the [PDP WG Workplan](#) that differ from what was planned (i.e. according to the [GNSO Project Change Request](#) granted by the GNSO Council and the Workplan included in such Project Change Request) and communicated to the community, including the GAC, during ICANN67.

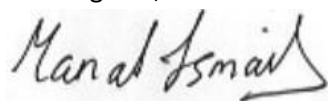
In particular, any change that would mean producing the PDP WG Final Report for public comment earlier than communicated at ICANN67, e.g. before July and before the ICANN68 Meeting, would present the community with great difficulties for preparing meaningful and timely input, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic and challenging global health crisis that we are all facing across the world.

As you know, the GAC decided at ICANN 67 to engage with the SubPro PDP WG in a step-by-step approach, based on the timeline communicated by you at ICANN67. This step-by-step approach includes a consultation and compilation of individual GAC Members views (ongoing), discussion at ICANN68, and preparation of potential GAC input regarding the Final Report (July and August as per GNSO Project Change Request Timeline).

While we understand your eagerness to finalize the PDP WG work, we wish to flag that considering the expectations created at ICANN67 in terms of timeline and bearing in mind, in particular, the current worldwide situation relative to the COVID-19 global pandemic where many in the community are under unprecedented stress/strain, including governments, it is extremely important to allow community members sufficient time for preparation, review and to provide input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



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Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
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