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IANA Stewardship  
Transition



2016–2023

# GAC Capacity Development Workshop



# GAC Priority Topics

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1. **DNS Abuse**
2. **New gTLD Program Next Round - Background and Importance to the GAC**
3. **Applicant Support Program**

# DNS Abuse

Russ Weinstein, ICANN org

Graeme Bunton, Executive Director - DNS Abuse Institute

# The DNS Abuse Institute

2023-10 GAC Update

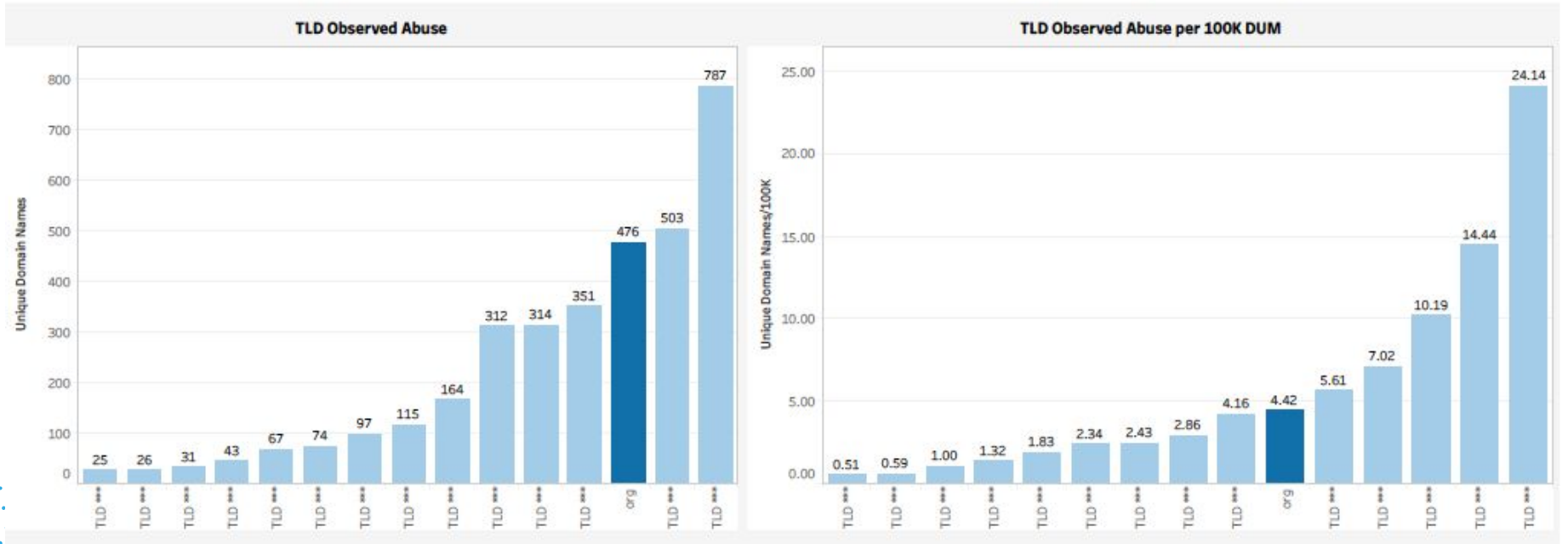
# Compass

- Robust, transparent, academically rigorous project to measure DNS Abuse
- <https://dnsabuseinstitute.org/dnsai-compass/>
- Free!
- Monthly reports
- Aggregate trends across industry

# Compass Update

- Top 10 lists for both high and low levels of observed abuse per 100,000 DUM for ccTLDs, gTLDs, registrars
- Providing dashboards to TLDs and registrars to help them understand abuse
- Already monitoring DNS abuse and are committed to helping community understand impact of contractual amendments

# Example Dashboards: .org



# NetBeacon

- Free, open, standardized, centralized abuse reporting system
- Makes it easy to report abuse to any ICANN accredited registrar
- Over 12,000 abuse reports this year
- Integrating ccTLDs, with .uk, .nz, .au, and .ch (and more!) currently participating



# Contact

- [Dnsabuseinstitute.org](https://dnsabuseinstitute.org)
- [graeme@dnsabuseinstitute.org](mailto:graeme@dnsabuseinstitute.org)

# New gTLDs Program Next Round: Importance to the GAC

Jason Merritt, GAC Topic Lead (Canada) and GAC Representative on the Implementation Review Team (IRT)



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# GAC Capacity Development Workshop



# Understanding The New gTLD Program and Next Round

**GAC Capacity Development Workshop**

Bob Ochieng  
Global Domains & Strategy

ICANN78  
21 Oct 2023 | 10:00 AM



## Opening Remarks

- 1: New gTLDs: History and Background**
- 2: Implementation Plan Overview**
- 3: Communications and Outreach**
- 4: Roles and Responsibilities**
- 5: Additional Resources**
- 6: Open Floor**

# New gTLDs: History & Framework

Agenda Item #1

# The Past Rounds

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- ◉ **2000**: Proof of concept round for possible future introductions. Seven generic top-level domains (gTLDs) were added in this round: .aero, .biz, .coop, .info, .museum, .name, .pro.
- ◉ **2003**: The round of sponsored gTLDs. Seven gTLDs were added in this round: .asia, .cat, .jobs, .mobi, .tel, .travel, .xxx, .post.
- ◉ **2005**: ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) began a Policy Development Process (PDP) to consider the introduction of new gTLDs, based on the results of rounds conducted in 2000 and 2003.
- ◉ **2007**: GNSO releases final recommendations for introducing new gTLDs. One such recommendation provided that ICANN should introduce New gTLDs in rounds until the scale of demand is clear.
- ◉ **2011**: GNSO recommendations from 2007 resulted in the ICANN Board adopting the Applicant Guidebook and authorizing the launch of the New gTLD Program.

# The New gTLD Program

- **What is the New gTLD Program?**

Community-driven Internet initiative enabling the expansion of the Domain Name System via the introduction of new gTLDs.

Managed by ICANN, which means it has taken shape through the multistakeholder model.

Among other goals, the program aims to enhance innovation, competition, and consumer choice.

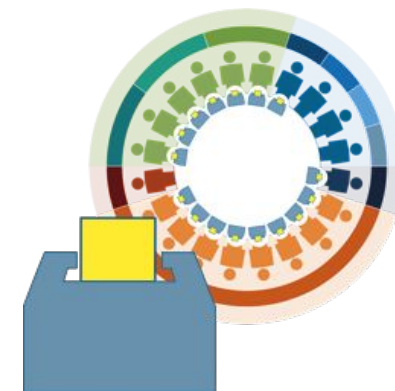


- **New gTLD Program**

GNSO policy recommendations accepted by the Board that resulted in the 2012 application round.

- **SubPro means “Subsequent Procedures”**

Became the term to describe future New gTLD Program plans beyond the 2012 round.





# The Value of New gTLDs

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## New gTLDs will:

- Enable users to access the Internet in local languages and scripts.
  - Support will accelerate Universal Acceptance.
- Create new options and choice for consumers in the domain market.
- Enable businesses to better target customers.
- Provide opportunities for investment and brand strategy.
- Present business model opportunities and a platform for innovation.

# The 2012 Round

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- ◉ **January 2012:** New gTLD Program application round opening the gTLD market for all interested applicants. A total of 1,930 applications received. The first 4 gTLDs, which were IDNs, were contracted in 2013.
- ◉ **November 2012:** GAC issued Early Warning notices on 242 applications seen as potentially sensitive or problematic by one or more governments.
- ◉ **December 2012:** ICANN held a prioritization draw to determine the order in which applications would be processed during Initial Evaluation and subsequent phases of the program.
- ◉ **March 2013:** ICANN released the first set of Initial Evaluation results to applicants and the public.
- ◉ **October 2013:** The first new gTLDs were delegated.
- ◉ **As of 31 January 2023**, a total of [1241 new gTLDs have been delegated](#). Out of 84 self-identified community applications, 56 Community-based TLDs were delegated, as well as 53 Geographic TLDs, and 97 IDNs.

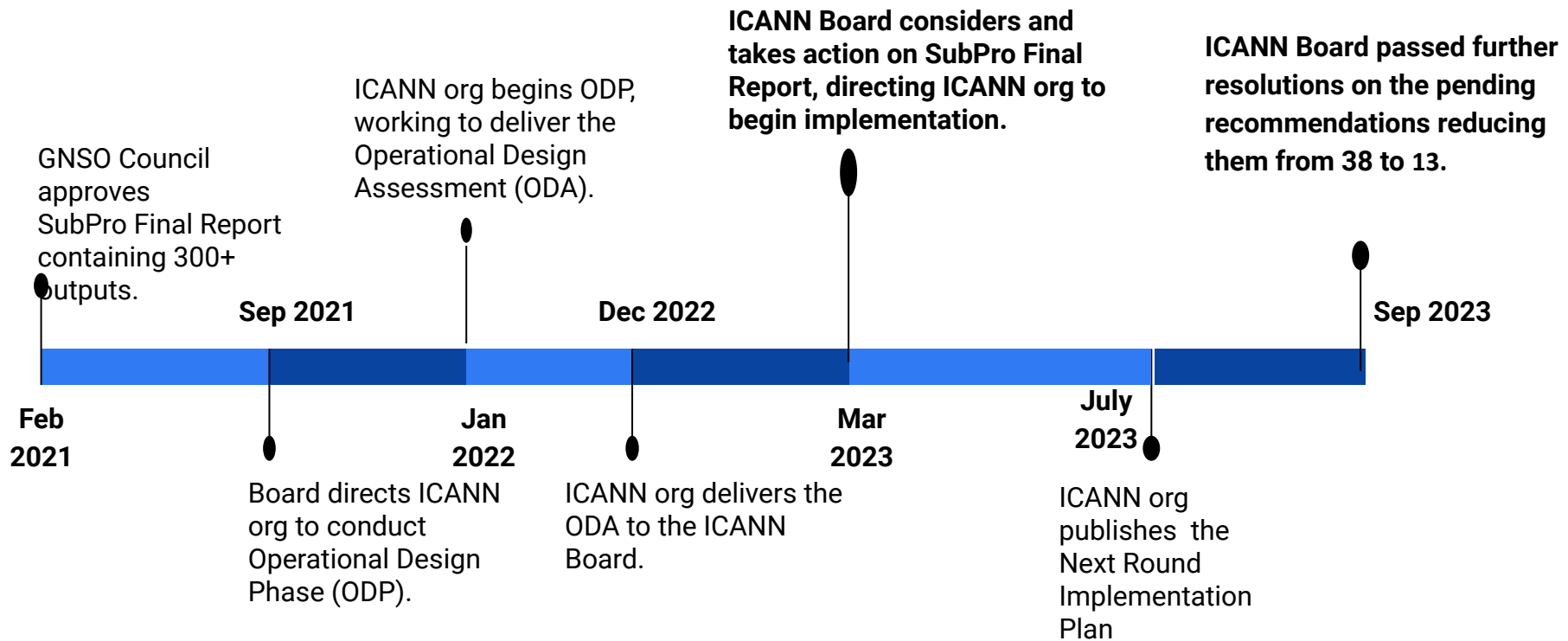
*Please note: Delegated gTLD totals are not adjusted for TLDs that subsequently terminated their Registry Agreements and/or were removed from the root zone. For more details, please see the [Registry Agreement Termination Information Page](#).*

# The Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process

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- ◉ **17 December 2015:** The GNSO Council initiated the PDP Working Group.
- ◉ **3 July 2018:** The Initial Report (Overarching Issues & Work Tracks 1-4) was published for public comment; **8 October 2018:** The GAC submitted its comments.
- ◉ **20 January 2021:** The [Final Report](#) was published.
  - Affirmation 1.1: ...recommends that a “systematized manner of applying for gTLDs be developed in the long term” and be maintained.
  - Affirmation 1.2: ...affirms that the New gTLD Program must be administered “in an ongoing, orderly, timely and predictable way.”
  - Affirmation 1.3: ...affirms that the primary purposes of new gTLDs are to foster diversity, encourage competition, and enhance the utility of the DNS.
- ◉ **18 February 2021:** The GNSO Council approved policy recommendations for SubPro and transmitted them to the Board for consideration as required by the Bylaws.
- ◉ **On 16 March 2023,** ICANN Board of Directors passed resolutions regarding the Final Report on the New gTLD SubPro Policy Development Process adopting 98 of the 136 Recommendations and slating 38 as pending.

# High-Level Timeline: New gTLD Program, Next round



# Overview of some Key GAC Outputs re: SubPro

- ◉ **29 September 2020:** the GAC provided [Comment on Subsequent Rounds for New gTLDs Draft Final Report Public Comment Proceeding](#)
- ◉ **1 June 2021:** the GAC provided [further comments on the Public Comment Proceeding](#)
- ◉ **4 June 2021:** the [GAC Chair wrote to the Board Chair](#) to bring to their attention the agreed GAC collective comment (see above bullet), and noted that future GAC advice may follow on the topic of the outputs of the Final Report
- ◉ **20 June 2023:** GAC [ICANN77 Washington DC Communique](#)
  - Advice on SubPro
    - Predictability (Topic 2), PICs/RVCs (Topic 9), Applicant Support (Topic 17).
  - Issues of Concern on SubPro
    - GAC Advice and GAC Early Warning (Topic 30), specifically recommendations 30.2, 30.4, 30.6

# Overview of The Implementation Plan

# Implementation Plan - What does it cover?

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ICANN org delivered the Implementation Plan for opening the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program: Next Round to the ICANN Board on 27 July 2023.

## The [Implementation Plan](#)

- Builds on [Program Development Overview](#) (ICANN77 Deliverable).
- Takes into account other Board-requested deliverables:
  - [plan](#) for the remaining pending recommendations;
  - [methodology and work plan](#) for IRT;
  - [plan and timeline](#) for policy work on closed generics;
  - [project plan](#) for IDN EPDP WG charter questions with an impact on the Applicant Guidebook.
- Provides estimated timeline to opening the New gTLD Program: Next Round.
- Provides overview of dependencies (e.g., pending recommendations, ongoing community work).
- Provides implementation financials.
- Provides overview of and timelines for key elements and projects that make up the plan (e.g., work and timeline required for development of processes for application submission and processing).

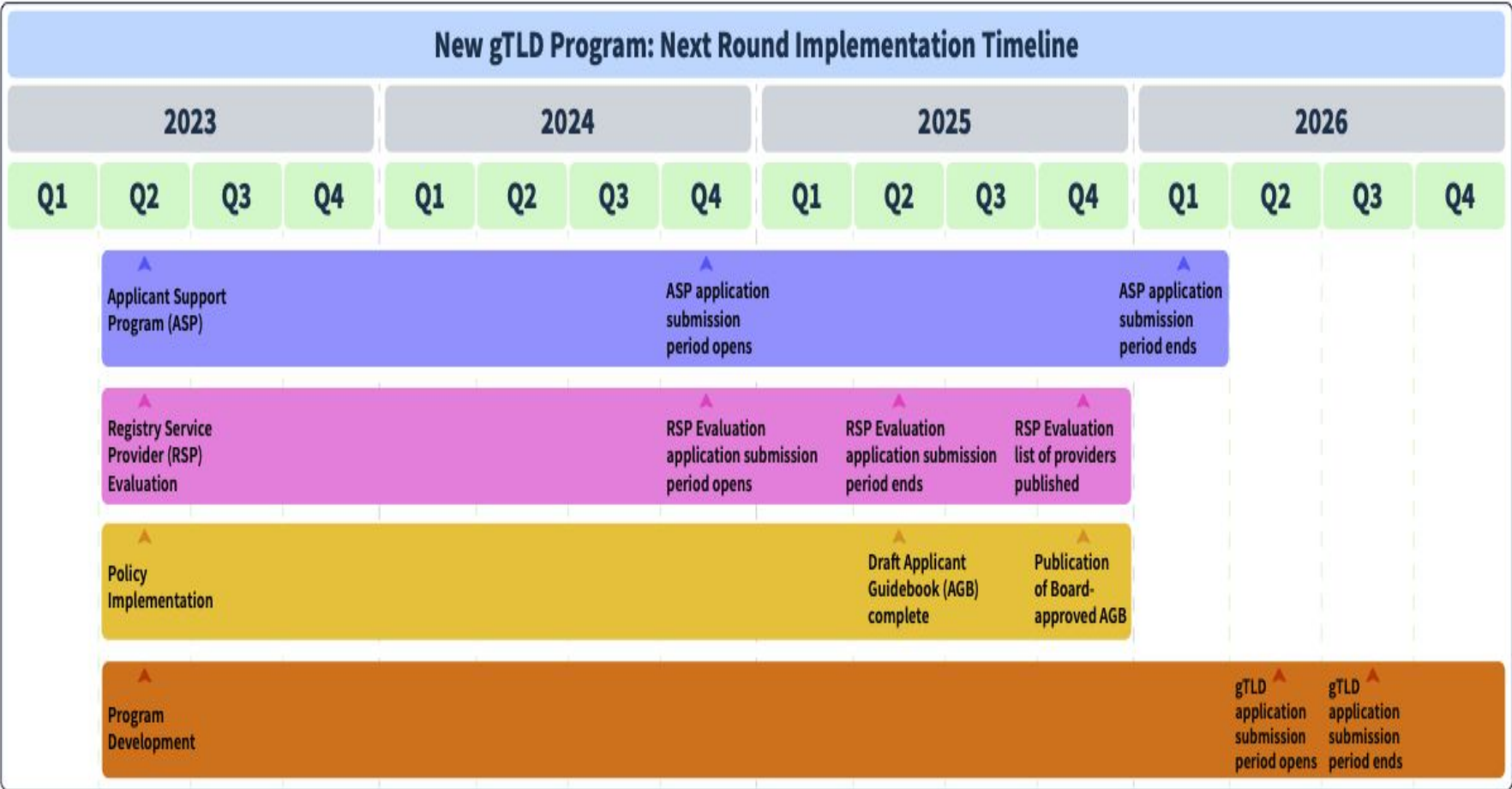
# Implementation Plan: Timeline (2+1)

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- A crucial driver of the overall timeline is the **Policy Implementation work stream**, which will culminate in completion of the Applicant Guidebook (AGB). This work is estimated to require two years, concluding in **May 2025**.
- ICANN org expects the **operational work** to open the Next Round to take **three years overall**. Two years of this work can be **conducted in parallel with Policy Implementation** work. After completion of the AGB, ICANN org expects it will take **one year to complete this work**.
- With this timing in mind, we anticipate that the AGB will be finalized in **May 2025**, which enables the application round to **open in Q2 2026 (with the goal of April 2026)**.



# Implementation Plan: High-Level Timeline



# Communications and Outreach

# Communications

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**ICANN org has developed a multiphased, multi-channel communications campaign to support the New gTLD Program: Next Round.**

- **The first phase** launched in March 2023 and leveraged global UA Day events and focuses on raising awareness of the importance of UA and IDNs within developing countries and among target audiences.
- **The second phase** will generate local and global awareness of the next round, including reasons to apply, and set expectations for the application process. This phase is scheduled to begin 18 months before the application submission period opens.

**High-level timeline and milestones:**

- **March 2023:** Phase 1 kicked off in conjunction with UA Day.
- **April–July 2023:** Coordination between teams to develop stakeholder mapping and mini-campaign timelines and activities.
- **August 2023:** First campaign to launch. Evaluation and assessment will lead to improvements in future campaigns.
- **September 2023–November 2024:** Campaigns continue.
- **June–July 2024:** Introduce ASP and RSP evaluation into messaging six months prior to launching.
- **January 2025 – June 2026:** Phase 2, new gTLD program global awareness campaign.

# Outreach

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- The objectives are to work proactively with potential applicants to foster understanding and build knowledge about the New gTLD Program: Next Round, its relevance to their own work, and the requirements of submitting an application.
- Recognizing that ICANN org has limited time and resources to conduct engagement and capacity development for the program, the stakeholder/audience approach is two-pronged and based upon the Communications Strategy.
- Working in collaboration with the Communications Team to ensure alignment with the Communication Strategy, ICANN org engagement functions (GSE, GE, GDS, and OCTO Technical Engagement) will identify local, national, regional, and global events that present opportunities to engage with target audiences.
- Much of the outreach and engagement strategy efforts rely on different types of information, such as enduring or “evergreen” content, time-sensitive content, and tailored content to meet specific audience needs.

# Roles and Responsibilities

# Roles and Responsibilities

## ● GNSO Council

- Is “responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to [gTLDs].”
- “Once policies are adopted by the Board, [it] serves as a resource for staff who have questions about the background or intent of the policy recommendations during its implementation.”
- “[M]ay continue to provide input on the implementation of a policy, for example, if [it] believes that the implementation is inconsistent with the policy.”

## ● IRT: Per [CPIF](#) and [IRT Principles & Guidelines](#), IRT will:

- “Serve as a resource to ICANN org on policy and technical questions that arise with regard to the Board-approved recommendations of the Final Report.”
- “Serve as a resource to ICANN org on the background and rationale of the policy recommendations in the Final Report and seek additional guidance from the GNSO Council, as required.”
- “Assist ICANN org in developing the policy implementation details to ensure that the implementation conforms to the intent of the policy recommendations as detailed in the Final Report.”
- Members must have agreed to [Statement of Participation](#)
- **Open + Representative Model**’ based on [GNSO’s PDP 3.0 model](#) which provides a structure that allows for efficient issue resolution.

# Roles and Responsibilities (cont'd)

- **ICANN org**

- Is responsible for implementing “community’s recommendations at the direction of the Board and under the supervision of the CEO.” This consists of various activities:
  - Managing the implementation lifecycle from creating an implementation plan,
  - Engaging with the IRT,
  - Consulting with relevant ICANN org staff and outside parties as required,
  - Conducting outreach surrounding implementation.

- **GNSO Council Liaison**

- Designated by the GNSO Council.
- Ensures “a direct link to the GNSO Council if/when needed”.
- Supports the org’s efforts to resolve disagreements, and “make an assessment as to the level of consensus within the IRT on whether to raise the issue with the GNSO Council for consideration”.
- Org will consult with the Council Liaison in case there is a timing concern, need for further guidance, or a misalignment between org and the IRT regarding the implementation work and methodology.

- **GAC**

- Any GAC members can join the IRT and decide to represent themselves - no need to represent GAC or country/government.
- Feel free to access the [IRT Community Workspace Wiki](#) which maintains all IRT discussions and Call recordings.

**Where can I get more information?**



# Relevant Resources and Links

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- New gTLD Program: Next Round [webpage](#)
- [Final Report](#) on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process
- SubPro [Operational Design Assessment](#) (ODA)
- [IRT Community Workspace Wiki](#)
- [Next Round Implementation Plan](#)
- [PRSP PreICANN78 Briefing](#)

# Questions & Discussion

Thank you

# GNSO Guidance Process - Applicant Support

Rosalind Kennybirch (UK)  
Tracy Hackshaw (UPU)

# GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support

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- In August 2022 the GNSO Council [approved](#) the GGP Initiation Request to provide additional guidance to support the eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program
- The working group was formed and began its work in November 2022, following its [work plan and timeline](#).
- Group's tasks include:
  - ✓ reviewing historical information about applicant support
  - ✓ identifying subject matter experts
  - ✓ developing data/metrics and measures of success, and
  - ✓ creating methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.

# GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support

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- GAC Members appointed to the GGP on Applicant Support effort include:
  - ✓ Argentina
  - ✓ United Kingdom
  - ✓ Universal Postal Union.
- Upon completion of its tasks, the working group produced a [GNSO Guidance Recommendation\(s\) Initial Report](#), which was subject to Public Comment.
- The GAC submitted a [comment](#) on 25 September 2023 on behalf of the committee
- Following the review of Public Comment submissions and additional deliberations, the working group will produce a Final Report for the consideration of the GNSO Council and subsequently for consideration by the ICANN Board.

## GAC Input on GGP Recommendations Initial Report - 25 September 2023

- The GAC supports the development of a foundational applicant support program for the next round of new gTLDs that will increase the number and geographical distribution of applications from underrepresented or underserved regions in all potential future rounds.
- Such an outcome will be important for the continued global credibility of ICANN.
- The GAC further noted its support of proposals to substantially reduce or eliminate the application fees and ongoing ICANN registry fees that will sufficiently cover all such applications in the next round, noting that without a substantial reduction in, or provision of financial support for the expected application costs and ongoing operational fees, many potential applicants in underrepresented or underserved regions will simply be unable to apply - owing to the historically limited availability of capital for ICT/digital initiatives.
- The GAC asserted that non-financial support such as awareness raising, capacity development services and training is also a critical element of an applicant support program. Assisting in the provision of back-end services may also be appropriate in some cases.

# GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support

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- The committee offered a number of specific suggestions for how certain recommendations set forth in the Initial Report can be improved to more effectively establish the foundation for a robust and resilient applicant support program.

## **Recommendation 1 - Communications and Outreach/Awareness**

- The GAC supports the intent of this recommendation and welcomes the focus on underserved regions.
- The GAC agrees that an effective communication strategy is a stepping stone for increasing awareness in and implementing a successful Applicant Support Program.
- GAC Members have highlighted the importance of embedding accountability in the communication strategy, building on the indicators for success and collecting the key data and metrics to measure it.

## Recommendation 2 – Applicant Understanding – Determining Need/Opportunity and Developing Applications

- The GAC suggests modifying the recommendation as follows:

“That the Applicant Support Program has cultivated **and recruited** pro bono services **and mentoring programs and shared information about them to potential applicants in a way which facilitates matchmaking** as well as ICANN-provided information and services to be available for supported applicants to inform their gTLD applications; that ICANN will communicate the availability of pro bono services and the parameters in which they are offered to potential supported applicants; and that supported applicants report that they found the information and services offered by pro bono providers to be useful”.



## **Recommendation 3 - ICANN ORG Set Up of Applicant Support Program for Success (in Operational Terms)**

- The GAC agrees with the recommendation as it is but would suggest – as a small improvement – further clarification of the notion of resources and what it encompasses - especially with regard to the notion of operational readiness.
- The GAC would also like to stress the importance of viewing “necessary resources” as a broad term - not simply in terms of financial backing but to include, for example, human capital put towards the delivery of the program.

## **Recommendation 4 - Application Submission and Evaluation**

- The GAC supports the recommendation as written but would like to emphasize the importance of the word “timely”.
- The committee strongly supports the idea for ICANN org to develop ICANN Learn modules that detail everything applicants need to know for submitting their applications.
- These modules should also be made available in a timely manner.

## **Recommendation 5 - Contracting/Delegation**

- The target of 0.5% of successfully delegated gTLD applications is considered by many governments as not being sufficiently ambitious in keeping with the intention to increase in the next round of applications for new gTLDs the number and geographical distribution of applications from underrepresented or underserved regions.
- The GAC would be in support of setting a significantly higher target.

## **Recommendation 6 - Ongoing Operations of the gTLD**

- The GAC supports the recommendation as written

## **Recommendation 7 - Allocating Financial Support Where There is Inadequate Funding**

- The GAC supports the recommendation as written and the committee understands the choice made to follow the principle of fairness and not carry out a prioritization exercise between applicants in case of inadequate funding
- GAC notes it is important to be aware of the risks that the fairness approach implies.
- Applying equal fee reduction across candidates can lead to crowding out the “least resourced” applicants, thus affecting more, those who are already the most disadvantaged.
- Governments understand the difficulties that setting up a prioritization exercise would entail, but wonder whether it is not worth the effort to discuss this further.

## **Recommendation 8 – Minimum Level of Support**

- The GAC supports this recommendation as written.
- The GAC emphasizes the importance for ICANN to work on a plan to mitigate the risks of any support being diluted to the point of not being helpful at all. T
- The GAC would also suggest a slight amendment to the final sentence of the recommendation to change “a plan if funding drops below that level” to “a transparent plan in consultation with the community if funding drops below that level”.

## **Recommendation 9 – Flexible, Predictable and Responsive Program**

- The GAC supports the recommendation as written and wishes to highlight the importance of providing an early indication of support to applicants when this is feasible.

- **Next Steps**

The GNSO Guidance Process is currently reviewing all feedback received via the public comment proceeding.