

I C A N N
POLICY FORUM

65

MARRAKECH

24-27 June 2019



New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP Discussion

24 June 2019

ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee



ICANN65 GAC Plenary Meeting - Agenda Item 4.1

- **New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP Discussion** - Agenda Item 4.1 (this session)
- **GAC Focal Group on Subsequent Round of new gTLDs (Tuesday 15:15 - 16:45)**
- **CCT Review** - Agenda Item 11.1 (Thursday 8:30-10:15)
- **Next Steps for GAC on New gTLDs Subsequent Rounds** - Agenda Item 15.1 (Thursday 14:00 - 15:00)

- 1. Presentation on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Work by Co-Chairs (Updates since ICANN64 Kobe)**
- 2. Presentation on ICANN Org Assumptions: Preliminary Planning Work to Support Future Rounds of New gTLDs (Cyrus Namazi)**
- 3. Timing and process for initiating a new round of New gTLD applications (GAC Kobe Communiqué Follow Up Advice)**
- 4. Assess Progress of PDP WG Deliberations on Public policy concerns identified previously by the GAC**
- 5. Formation and Operation of the GAC Focal Group on Subsequent Rounds of new gTLDs**

New gTLD Subsequent Procedures

ICANN Org Assumptions: Preliminary Planning Work to Support Future Rounds of New gTLDs



ICANN 65 Policy Forum (Presentation by: Cyrus Namazi)

Assumptions:

1. Introduction of information document & Timeline to next round
2. Expected volumes of applications and processing time
3. Policy implementation
4. Readiness activities
5. Systems & tools
6. Operational processes
7. People
8. Costs

- This informational paper is intended to document the current working assumptions used by ICANN org in planning for policy implementation and operational readiness for a subsequent round of new gTLDs.
- The goal in making these assumptions explicit is to surface any areas of misalignment and allow an informed discussion on any assumptions that should be added or adjusted to drive the work going forward.
- It is important to note that these planning assumptions were informed by the work of the PDP WG and are not solely based on their work as the outcome of the PDP WG have yet to be finalized.
- ICANN org has shared these assumptions with the Board and incorporated the Board's input. ICANN org now seeks to share these assumptions with community and provide an opportunity for feedback.

1. Timeline to Next Round

- 1.1 Board adoption of the policy recommendations from the Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group's final report is a dependency for the opening of the next application window.
- 1.2 Policy implementation, readiness activities and operational processes will be completed prior to the opening of the next round.

2. Expected Volumes of Applications and Processing Time

- 2.1 Guidance from the Board regarding assumptions for subsequent procedures is critical to ICANN org's planning for the next and subsequent rounds.
- 2.2 The application volume, in the next round, will be roughly the same number of applications as in the 2012 round: ~2,000 applications.
- 2.3 Ongoing application volume for subsequent procedures will be significantly lower.
- 2.4 Application prioritization will be required to effectively sequence application processing.
- 2.5 There will be no changes to the 1,000 TLDs/year maximum delegation rate.
- 2.6 For ongoing subsequent procedures, ICANN org assumes an annual application window of one to three months in duration, with subsequent application windows opening during the same timeframe, once per calendar year.

3. Policy Implementation

- 3.1 There will be changes to the program implementation, based on the preliminary recommendations of the three (3) initial reports published by the Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group.
- 3.2 Policy implementation materials are anticipated to include significant documentation, and be detailed and comprehensive, which were not included in the scope of the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.
- 3.3 Policy implementation materials will be developed with appropriate consideration of community input.
- 3.4 Policy implementation materials will be completed prior to the opening of the next round.

4. Readiness Activities

- 4.1 Operational infrastructure (people, processes, systems) will be established to support subsequent application rounds for the long-term introduction of new gTLDs, not just a single round.

- 4.2 Program readiness activities, including staffing, process design, systems development, and vendor procurement will be completed prior to the opening of the next round.

5. Systems & Tools

- 5.1 Systems and tools planning and design should be based on a clear understanding of program processes and requirements.
- 5.2 Systems and tools development will be completed prior to opening the next application round.
- 5.3 Technology investments are planned to be limited to only those capabilities needed to ensure the security, stability and consistency of application submission, processing and communications.
- 5.4 System testing, security testing and operational pilot testing to ensure systems and tools are fit for purpose will be completed prior to the opening of the next round.

5. Systems & Tools, Continued

- 5.5 Development of process and workflow management tools will be focused on solving for data-intensive activities and critical program functions in order to balance automation vs. manual tools.

- 5.6 Existing materials, systems, and tools will be leveraged as much as possible. Internal knowledge and expertise will be prioritized, and as little as possible will be outsourced.

- 5.7 All new systems and tools will be developed on one of the 3 principal ICANN org platforms: Oracle, Alfresco, or Salesforce.

6. Operational Processes

- 6.1 Well-defined operational processes are critical to smooth program operations and satisfactory applicant experiences.
- 6.2 Design and documentation of program processes will be completed prior to the opening of the next round.
- 6.3 Staff training on program processes and tools will be completed prior to the opening of the next round.

7. People

- 7.1 Proactive resource planning will be completed in order to adequately staff the program team to meet deadlines.
- 7.2 Org staff will be utilized to perform program management, program operations and program administration functions.
- 7.3 Org will outsource critical application functions such as application evaluation and objection processing, to expert firms with requisite subject matter expertise.
- 7.4 Org currently lacks sufficient staff to implement new policy and prepare to operate the next application round.
- 7.5 Additional staff will be hired based on needed skills and experience.
- 7.6 ICANN org will augment staff with temporary resources as needed to address peak workload for activities which are not expected to be sustained for at least 24 months.

8. Cost

- 8.1 The program will continue to operate on a cost-recovery basis; it will be funded from application fees collected.
- 8.2 Tracking of program readiness costs should begin as rapidly as possible, in order to capture development costs prior to the launch of the next round.
- 8.3 Comprehensive cost planning for program readiness and operations is critical to accurate reporting and management of costs.

- By current estimates [presented](#) to the GAC in Kobe, final recommendations are expected to be finalized by **December 2019** and **submitted to the GNSO Council by the Subsequent Procedures PDP WG**.
- Once this step is reached, the PDP Process will continue with its regular steps as per the **PDP Process**:
 - A. GNSO Council consideration and adoption of the PDP recommendations in the Final Report;
 - B. GNSO Council report to the ICANN Board & Public Comment Proceeding;
 - C. ICANN Board consideration and adoption of the PDP recommendations as adopted by GNSO Council
 - D. ICANN org (as directed by the Board) to begin implementation of the PDP recommendations (which will likely include a revised Applicant Guidebook).
- Once these steps are completed, **ICANN org should be ready to accept new applications as of 2022**, noting the timeline is subject to change throughout the various upcoming steps.

GAC Kobe Communiqué - Follow up from Previous Advice (14 March 2019)

VI. Follow-up on Previous Advice

The following items reflect matters related to previous consensus advice provided to the Board.

1. Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs

The GAC recalls its advice in the ICANN56 Helsinki Communiqué, which states that the development of policy on further releases of new gTLDs needs to fully consider all the results of the relevant reviews and analyses to determine which aspects and elements need adjustment. The GAC advised the Board to address and consider these results and concerns before proceeding with new rounds.

GAC Helsinki Communiqué Advice (30 June 2016)

1. Future gTLDs Policies and Procedures

a. The GAC advises the ICANN Board that:

I. The starting point for development of policy on further releases of new gTLDs should first take into consideration the results of all relevant reviews of the new gTLD round and determine which aspects and elements need adjustment. In addition, the following should be addressed:

- a. Requirements with regard to interoperability, security, stability and resiliency should be met.
- b. An objective and independent analysis of costs and benefits should be conducted beforehand, drawing on experience with and outcomes from the recent round; and
- c. There should be an agreed policy and administrative framework that is supported by all stakeholders.

II. All measures available to the Board should be used to ensure that a comprehensive and measured approach to further releases of new gTLDs is taken in a logical, sequential and coordinated way rather than through parallel and overlapping efforts and/or timeframes that may not be agreed by all relevant interests

Rationale

1. There is currently no public policy reason why further releases of new gTLDs should not proceed as a general principle. There are, however, valid public policy reasons for applying a range of requirements at the application and post-delegation stages. The GAC believes such requirements derive at least in part from ICANN's obligations with regard to the global public interest, as contained in existing and proposed Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
2. Data is not currently available to allow a proper assessment, both quantitative and qualitative, of the round that is now concluding. Some important data, for example with regard to consumer safety and security, may not yet be being collected. To ensure a logical and efficient process, such data should be gathered before policy development processes move too far ahead.

Please refer to Annex of Briefing for Agenda Item 4.1

Available on the GAC Website at:

<https://gac.icann.org/briefing-materials/preliminary-gac-scorecard-newgtld-subsequent-procedures-23may19.pdf>(login required)

- In Kobe, the GAC agreed to establish a Focal Group to coordinate GAC engagement in the work of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG (see [Minutes](#) the GAC plenary session during the ICANN64 Meeting in Kobe).
- GAC Support Team has circulate a call for volunteers, and the GAC Focal Group on New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures has launched its work during ICANN65.
- The focal group is open for all interested GAC members to join.
- As part of the [Action Points from ICANN64](#), GAC Support Staff is collaborating with Luisa Paez, who is assisting this effort, on creating a DRAFT [scorecard](#) **aimed at prioritizing & guiding the work of the focal group, ordered by policy areas of interest for the GAC.**

Aim of the GAC Focal Group:

- Ensuring timely GAC input into the final deliberations of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG.
- To brief GAC membership on key topics of this PDP, **not** to represent the GAC within the PDP.
- Work through the policy areas of interest to the GAC as outlined within the Initial [GAC Scorecard](#) aimed at guiding the work of the Focal Group.

GAC Focal Group is opened to everyone and **first meeting of the GAC Focal Group is on Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. local time in the Diamant Room.**