



82 | COMMUNITY FORUM



ICANN82 GAC Discussion on New gTLD Program Next Round

Sunday, 09 March 2025
13:15 - 14:30 local time



82 | COMMUNITY
FORUM

Agenda

1. Introduction - Nigel Hickson (5 min.)
2. Implementation Review Team – (10 min).
 - a. GAC topic lead update – Nigel Hickson
3. Applicant Support Program Update (20 min.)
 - a. ICANN org (10 min.) Kristy Buckley
 - b. GAC discussion/questions
4. GAC Topics of Interest on New gTLDs (40 minutes)
 - a. Applicant Guidebook Language
 - Early Warnings and GAC advice
 - Application Fees
 - New gTLD Program: Next Round Privacy Policy
 - Legal Compliance Check
 - b. GAC discussion
5. AOB

2. Implementation Review Team Update

Nigel Hickson (UK)

Implementation Review Team (IRT) - Recent Updates

- The IRT commenced its work in May 2023 and is expected to draft the next Applicant Guidebook (AGB) in preparation for the next round of new gTLDs.
- The GAC appointed a representative and an alternate to participate in the process, provide input to the IRT and report back to the broader committee on areas of importance to the GAC.
- GAC members appointed to the IRT are:
 - ✓ Canada (Representative)
 - ✓ UK (Alternate)
- ICANN org presented an updated [Implementation Plan](#) in September 2024 for the Implementation Review Team's input
- It is expected that the AGB will be published no later than December 2025 **post Board approval** .

Implementation Review Team (IRT) - Recent Updates

- ICANN org opened the fourth and final in a series of [Public Comment proceedings](#) that will seek input from the ICANN community on proposed language for the Applicant Guidebook (AGB) for the New gTLD Program: Next Round.
 - ✓ Opened 14 February 2025, Closing 2 April 2025
- This is the fourth and last in a series of Public Comment proceedings seeking input from the ICANN community on proposed language for the AGB for the New gTLD Program: Next Round.
- Specifically, ICANN org is looking for input from the community on whether the proposed language is consistent with the relevant outputs from the Final Report on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process.
- The proposed language has been developed in collaboration with the [Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team](#).
- GAC members have consistently provided input to draft AGB language submitted for public comment, and are currently reviewing the fourth public comment proceeding to determine whether a GAC response is to be submitted.

Implementation Review Team (IRT) - Recent Updates

Specifically, ICANN org has published the following draft sections for input:

- Material Impact (related to Topic 2: Predictability)
- Topic 9: Registry Voluntary Commitments / Public Interest Commitments (RVCs/PICs)
- Applicant Journey (related to Topic 5: Application Submission Limits and Topic 16: Application Submission Period)
- Application Questions
- Topic 15: Application Fees
- Topic 18: Terms and Conditions
- Order of Application Processing and the Prioritization Draw (related to Topic 19: Application Queuing)
- Topic 20: Application Change Requests
- Topic 27: Applicant Reviews: Technical/Operational, Financial and Registry Services
 - Financial and Operational Evaluation
 - Registry Service Provider Selection
- Topic 29: Name Collision
- Topic 34: Community Applications (Community Priority Evaluation)
- Contention Set Resolution (related to Topic 35: Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort / Private Resolution of Contention Sets)
- Code of Conduct Exemption Evaluation (Specification 9)
- Brand Eligibility Evaluation (Specification 13)

3. Applicant Support Program

Tracy Hackshaw (UPU)

3 a. Applicant Support Program Update

Kristy Buckley - ICANN org

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

gTLD

ICANN82 Applicant Support Program Status Update

Kristy Buckley | 9 March 2025



Agenda

01

ASP Status Update

- ✓ Application Statistics
- ✓ Geographic Distribution
- ✓ Timeline

02

ASP Capacity Development Program

03

Program Monitoring and Evaluation

04

Q&A

05

Annex

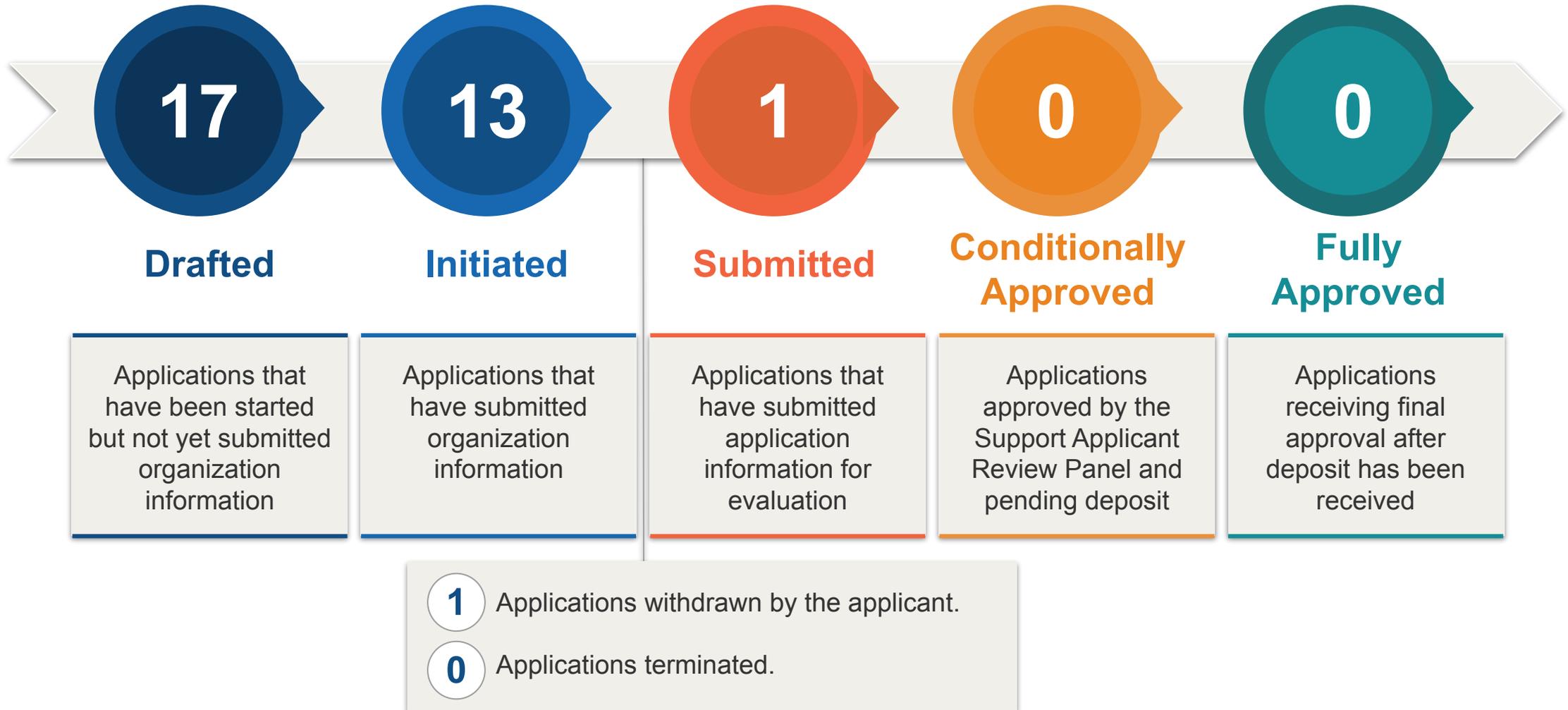
01

ASP Status Update

- [ASP-IRT Update Meeting on 6 Feb](#) covered:
 - Applicant Readiness Materials
 - Capacity Development
 - New gTLDs in Your Language
 - Pro Bono Service Providers Update
 - Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation
- Input received from ASP-IRT informed an internal workshop (held 10–12 February) on ASP capacity development and how this relates to gTLD applicant readiness efforts.

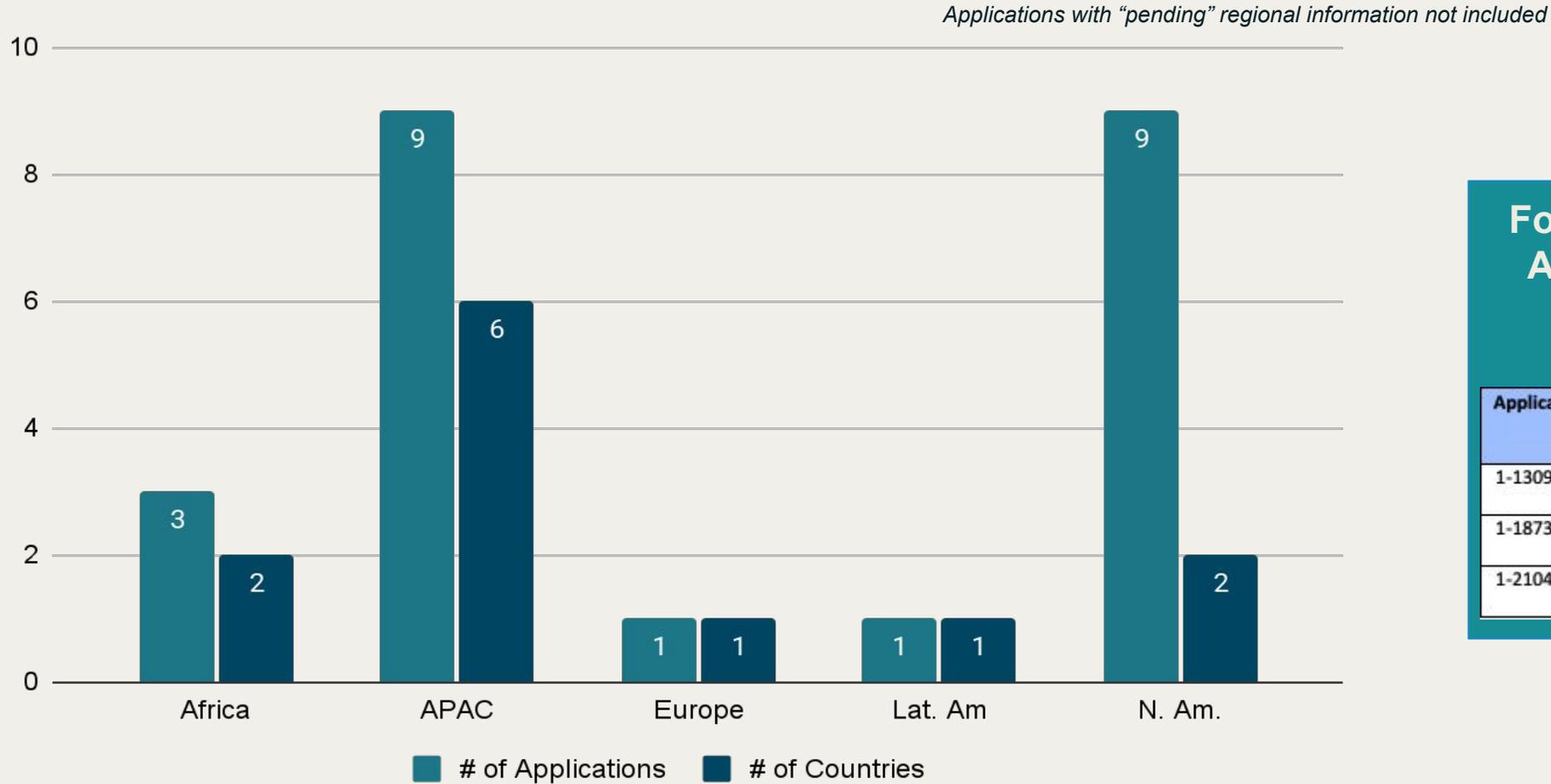
ASP Application Statistics





Regional Breakdown and # of Countries/Territories per Region

Link to ICANN region definition: <https://meetings.icann.org/en/regions>



For reference: 2012 ASP Applications (Total: 3)

| Application ID | Applied-for String | Applicant Name |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1-1309-46695 | .KIDS | DotKids Foundation Ltd |
| 1-1873-71868 | .IDN | Nameshop |
| 1-2104-81541 | .UMMAH | Ummah Digital Ltd |

Visit the [ASP Program Statistics](#) page for additional application metrics updated monthly on the 19th.

ASP Timeline



ASP Timeline and Package of Support

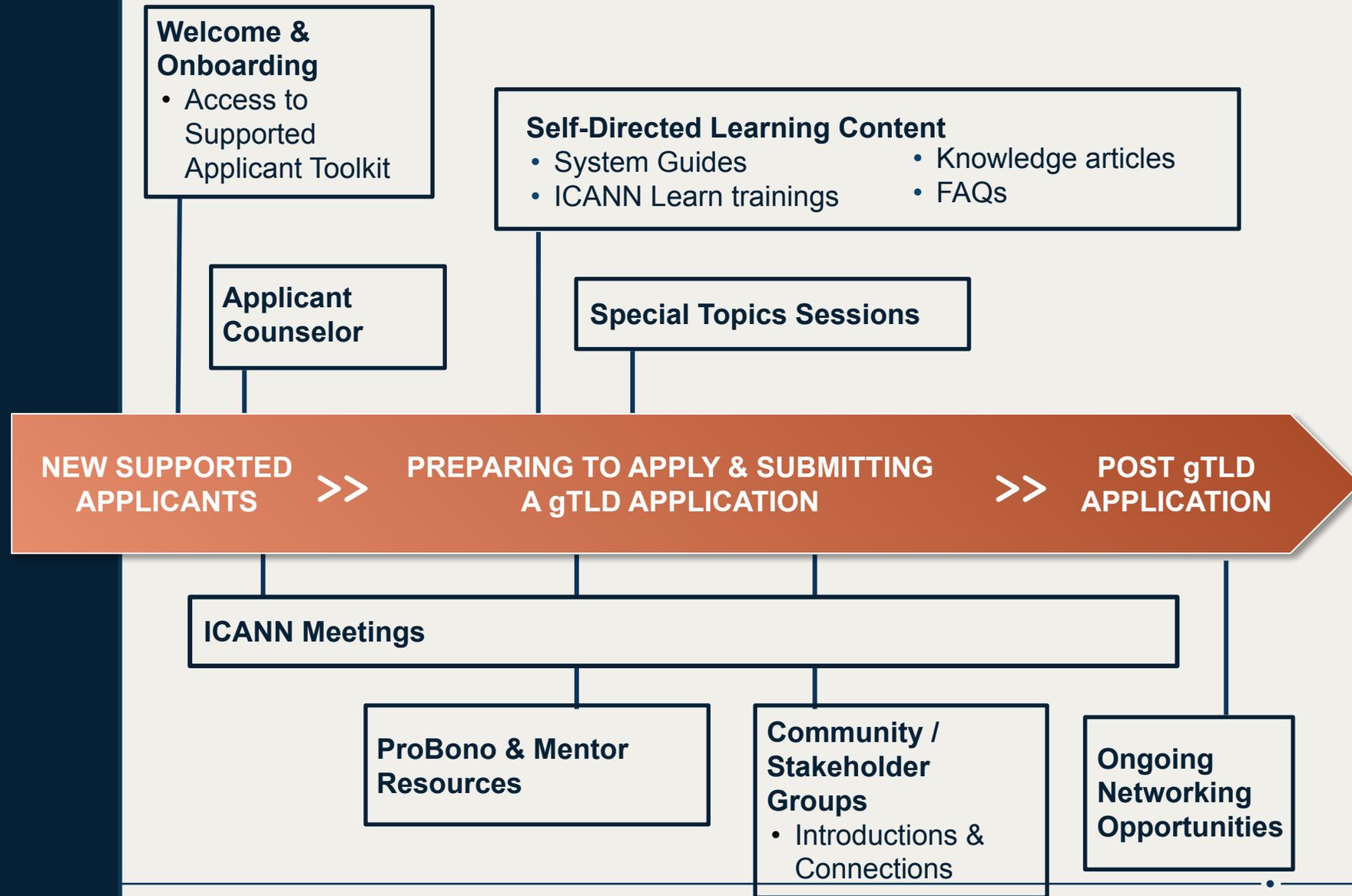


02

**ASP Capacity
Development
Program**

The ASP Capacity Development Framework...

- provides a **variety of tools and resources**
- recognizes **varied learning styles and preferences**
- informs the **broader gTLD applicant readiness efforts**
- while **protecting business confidentiality** for supported applicants



Established **Learning Objectives** serve as a baseline for the ASP Capacity Development Plan to guide our work and establish a framework to build upon.

- 1 Identify, locate, and navigate the New gTLD Program** information, Applicant Guidebook, and other resources.
- 2 Understand the requirements of the New gTLD Program** application and evaluation processes to apply for a gTLD, and be able to explain this information to others.
- 3 Make informed decisions** about how to obtain and allocate resources to prepare a gTLD application.
- 4 Find opportunities to follow and participate in ICANN's multistakeholder processes** involved in the New gTLD Program: Next Round.
- 5 Understand what it takes to serve as a gTLD Registry Operator** and how to connect with and learn from existing Registry Operators, as appropriate.

Applicant Counselor Role

The Applicant Counselor will provide **guidance to ASP potential applicants, applicants in progress, and supported applicants** through touch-points, publications, and communications.



IN-SCOPE



OUT-OF-SCOPE*

- ✓ **Guidance on understanding the ASP application materials**, such as: ASP Handbook, application criteria, eligible entity categories, how to apply to ASP
- ✓ **Responding to ASP Applicant questions**
- ✓ Manage **Supported Applicant Toolkit content** outlining contacts, resources, training, and materials available
- ✓ **Information about existing published materials and resources** on topics such as: DNS/TLD business model, operations, marketing, branding, sustainability planning, Grant program, Community Priority Evaluation (CPE), case studies on sustainable business models, bid credits, Extended Evaluations, Objections, Contention Sets
- ✓ **RSP Resources** for finding service providers and how to connect with them
- ✓ **Guidance on understanding costs involved**
- ✓ **Reinforce understanding of contracting requirements**, such as: Registry Customer Support, reservation and use of names, participation in Registry Stakeholder Group, etc.

- × Consulting on Community-based TLDs & CPE
- × Consulting on DNSSEC or IPv6 Compatibility
- × Application Writing
- × Legal advice
- × Translation
- × IDN Implementation or Variant Management
- × Correspondence with ICANN evaluators
- × Legal support for on Challenges and Appeals
- × Counseling on preparing and writing business, legal, or technical parts of the gTLD application
- × Review of application drafts
- × Compare, evaluate, or recommend back-end services providers for appropriate fit
- × Understand DNS Abuse requirements under the Registry Agreement

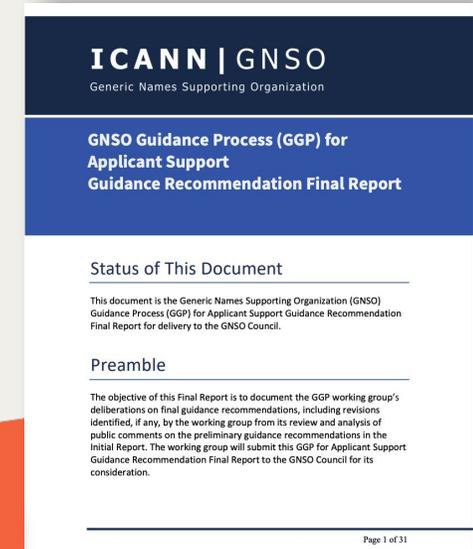
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Program

Monitoring and

Evaluation

- The [GNSO Guidance Process](#) (GGP) for ASP, initiated in August 2022, was tasked, among other things, with articulating success for ASP, including what data and metrics should be collected and analyzed.
- The GNSO Council's GGP Initiation Request references [SubPro Final Report](#) Implementation Guidance 17.9 – a nonexhaustive list of potential data and metrics.
- The [GGP Final Report](#) recommends tracking metrics including click-throughs, inquiries, registrations to get more information, as well as surveying ASP applicants, including those who ultimately chose not to apply (Guidance Rec 1).



- In support of this effort, ICANN org procured a researcher, developed a draft evaluation framework, and will provide programmatic data for analysis.
- In alignment with [GGP Final Report](#) recommendations, this effort will explore various aspects of the program:
 - Communications and outreach
 - ASP program development
 - the ASP application system
 - capacity development resources, pro bono services, and the Applicant Counselor
- This continuous monitoring and evaluation will also provide insights into supported applicants' journey throughout the ASP and gTLD application lifecycle.

04

Questions?

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

gTLD

THANK YOU

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3 b. GAC Discussion/Questions

Tracy Hackshaw, UPU

4. GAC Topics of Interest on New gTLDs

Nigel Hickson, UK

GAC Topics of Interest on New gTLDs

- a. **Applicant Guidebook Language**
 - i. Early Warnings and GAC advice
 - ii. Application Fees
 - iii. New gTLD Program: Next Round Privacy Policy
 - iv. Legal Compliance Check
 - v. Public Interest Commitments (PICs)/Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs)
- b. **GAC discussion**

Early Warnings and GAC advice

- (i) A brief introduction to what all this is about;
- (ii) As noted yesterday (Capacity Building) we will specifically focus on this at ICANN83;
- (iii) Early Warnings (on a proposed string) can come from one or more GAC members; the applicant will be informed
- (iv) GAC Advice is where GAC issues advice which will object to specific strings; applicant will be informed and can make representations (i.e modifying registrations policy).

Application Fees

- (i) We heard update from ICANN Org on Saturday; application price for a string is proposed at \$227k (with some exceptions);
- (ii) A you know level is fixed to be cost neutral for ICANN; refunds would be made if application levels were above 1000;
- (iii) This part of AGB is currently out for consultation;
- (iv) There would be refunds, depending on where in process withdrawn was made, varying from 65%, to 35% and 20%.

New gTLD Program: Next Round Privacy Policy

- (i) ICANN will process personal information of applications in accordance with GDPR (where applicable) with appropriate information stored in US,
- (ii) The policy is outlined in Sections 4 and 6 in “Privacy Policy” Section of AGB; which has been out to consultation;
- (iii) The Russian Federation has raised concern on language used in this part of AGB and exclusive references to GDPR.

Legal Compliance Check

- (i) A Chapter in the AGB notes that ICANN, given their legislative basis, will apply the US economic and trade sanctions program administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC);
- (ii) This program, will in certain circumstances, prevent ICANN from providing services and goods to those countries affected and to Specially Designated Persons;
- (iii) The Russian Federation has raised concerns that such denial of services to individuals or entities is a violation of rights to participate in the new gTLD program.

Public Interest Commitments (PICs)/Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs)

- *Topic added for discussion during prep session earlier today*

4 b. GAC Discussion/Questions

Nigel Hickson, UK

Annex: New gTLD Program In Your Language





- ICANN org is aware of the ICANN community's desire to have **Next Round outreach materials** available in languages beyond the ICANN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).
- To be responsive to this request while taking into account available resources, ICANN org will launch a program that makes use of new and available technologies to allow us to translate existing materials into additional languages beyond the ICANN six, based on demand.

The New gTLD Program in Your Language will be managed by the ICANN Language Services Team, housed within the ICANN Community Wiki under the Language Services space.

Cross-functional collaboration is key for the success of the program, with clearly defined tasks and responsibilities.

Language Services will be responsible for: Prep work of terminology translations, AI/NMT translations, LS Community Wiki space maintenance, and publication of all the materials (new EN documents, documents for review, and final reviewed documents).

Outreach aimed to identify new language needs and materials to be translated into new non-ICANN supported language(s), confirmation of language(s) for translation depending on country and official language(s), and communication with volunteer reviewers, will be managed separately by a group designated by ICANN (not Language Services).

The LS Team has completed the initial prep work including:

- Extracting all relevant terms from related documents to create a terminology database.
- Translating the terminology database and uploading it into the LS AI/NMT system.
- Starting the initial translation of the selected Next Round documents (to be completed soon).

All information related to the program will be shared in the Language Services space that can be found on the ICANN Community Wiki.

Anyone can participate in the crowdsourced collaborative review process to refine outreach materials and to ensure accuracy and relevance for specific regions and the broader ICANN community.

The first iteration of this program is being implemented to translate **Next Round outreach materials** into non-ICANN languages based on community demand.

Materials that are or will be available are:

- Next Round Info Sheet
- Next Round FAQ
- ASP Info Sheet
- ASP FAQ
- ASP Applicant Quick Start Guide
- ASP Applicant Checklist
- Next Round Deck (TBD)
- ASP Deck (TBD)

