

# Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs

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**I C A N N | G A C**  
Governmental Advisory Committee



# New gTLD Subsequent Procedures

**GAC LAC Capacity Development Workshop**

Karen Lentz, Chris Bare  
Global Domains & Strategy

ICANN76

11 March 2023 | 15:00-16:00 EST



# Agenda

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1. [New gTLDs: History & Framework](#)
2. [Next Steps](#)
3. [Resources](#)  
[Questions & Discussion](#)

# New gTLDs: History & Framework

Agenda Item #1

# The Past Rounds

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- **The First Round of 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.
- **The Second Round of 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.
- **August 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.
- **June 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.

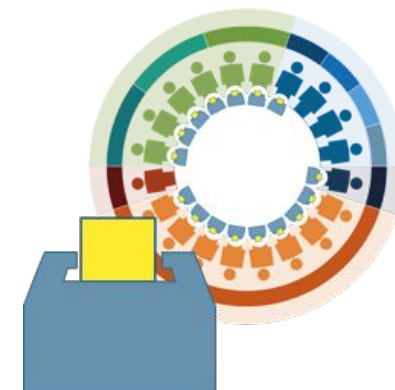


- **New gTLD Program**

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 2012 Round

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- ◉ **January 2012:** Third round opening the gTLD market for all interested applicants. A total of 1,930 applications were submitted during the application period of the New gTLD Program. The first 4 TLDs, which were IDNs, were contracted in June/July 2012.
- ◉ **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 gTLDs were 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 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 and opened for public comment; **8 October 2018:** The GAC submitted its comments.
- ◉ **20 January 2021:** The [Final Report](#) was published.
- ◉ **18 February 2021:** The GNSO Council approved policy recommendations for SubPro and transmitted them to the Board for consideration as required by the Bylaws.
- ◉ **12 September 2021:** ICANN Board [directed](#) the ICANN President and CEO to organize the resources required to begin work on the SubPro Operational Design Phase (ODP).
- ◉ **12 December 2022:** ICANN org delivered the [Operational Design Assessment](#) (ODA).
- ◉ **Now:** As [indicated](#) by ICANN Board Chair “The Board anticipates making incremental decisions [...], and we expect to vote on many of the GNSO's recommendations during [...] ICANN76 [...]”. A “subset of the recommendations” will be deferred “for future consideration”.



# Overview of some Key GAC Outputs re: SubPro

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- **11 April 2013:** the GAC issued its [ICANN46 communiqué](#), including GAC Advice on New gTLDs, also known as the Beijing Communiqué.
- **18 November 2019,** the [GAC Chair wrote to the Co-Chairs of the New gTLD PDP WG](#), urging the latter to include all of the PDP WG Final Recommendations within the then-upcoming public comment proceeding, rather than focusing on a narrow scope for that proceeding
- **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

# Next Steps

Agenda Item #2

# Next Steps

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The Board [anticipates](#) making incremental decisions leading up to the final decision on opening a new application window for new gTLDs:

- The Board expects to **vote on many** of the GNSO's **recommendations** during **ICANN76**, and to **defer a small subset of the recommendations for future consideration**.
- It is anticipated that the Board will request org to **begin implementation** following the Board resolution at ICANN76.
- The **pending recommendations** not resolved at ICANN76 will continue to be a Board priority and will be addressed in a timely manner.
  - The Board has already [started its dialogue](#) with the GNSO Council on how to resolve them and to ensure that they do not hold up the progress of the Policy Implementation, which would have repercussions on the other Implementation Stages.
  - A joint ICANN Board and GNSO Council call specifically dedicated to this matter was held on 28 February 2023.

# The Implementation Phase

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- ◉ Should the Board direct ICANN org to proceed, the Implementation Phase will start.
- ◉ Per the [ODA](#) (p. 69), the Implementation Phase is divided into 4 implementation streams:
  - **Policy Implementation**
  - Program Design
  - Infrastructure Development
  - Operationalization
- ◉ The stages are **interdependent**, i.e., progress in the other implementation streams requires - for a number of issues - finalized policy language.
- ◉ **Guidelines** for the Policy Implementation are found in these documents:
  - [Consensus Policy Implementation Framework](#),
  - [IRT Principles & Guidelines](#),
  - [Policy Development Process Manual](#).

# Roles and Responsibilities

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- **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**

- “[W]ill serve as a resource to implementation staff on policy and technical questions”.
- “[W]ill typically consist of, but will not be limited to, volunteers who were also involved in the development of the policy recommendations” and “[w]here relevant, [...] technical or subject-matter experts and contracted parties who can assist staff in the planning for the technical implementation of a policy change.”
- “[Will] return to the GNSO Council for additional guidance as required.”
- “[I]s not a forum for opening or revisiting policy discussions.”

# Roles and Responsibilities (cont'd)

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- **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.
- A GAC liaison to the IRT could be appointed - suggest discussing with GNSO Council.

# Resources

Agenda Item #3

# Resources

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- Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process:  
<https://gns0.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/final-report-newgtld-subsequent-procedures-pdp-02feb21-en.pdf>
- New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures Operational Design Assessment (ODA):  
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/subpro-oda-12dec22-en.pdf>
- SubPro ODA Community Webinar recordings:  
<https://community.icann.org/x/0lo-DQ>



# Questions & Discussion

# Importance to the GAC & GAC Positions

Jorge Cancio, Switzerland

# New gTLDs - Why is this important to governments?

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## Looking ahead at the next round of new gTLDs

### Importance to Governments -

*Before reviewing the GAC efforts in this important public policy area, it is important to highlight why there is so much interest in them from governments around the world*

- Top Level domains (TLDs) can serve as an element for developing a country or region's economy and society (business development as Internet economy grows, taxation, communications, government services, etc.) e.g., ICANN community (e.g., GNSO Guidance process working to fashion Applicant Support capabilities)
- As “names”, TLDs are closely linked to the promotion and protection of intellectual property (prompting need for rights protection mechanisms of various forms (e.g., UDRP, etc))
- TLDs have substantial public safety implications: measures that aim at an appropriate level of DNS security in new and existing gTLDs, Internet can be a source of substantial good but also criminal activity that must be addressed)
- TLDs can have substantial geographic connections
- Participation in ICANN by governments is important to develop mechanisms that preserve or protect important public policy interests (e.g., early warning and GAC Consensus Advice)

# New gTLDs - Why is this important to governments?

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## Looking ahead at the next round of new gTLDs

### Importance to the GAC

- ICANN Community discussions regarding the next round of new gTLDs (often referred to as “subsequent rounds”, or “SubPro”) are primarily focused on determining the application rules for the next round of new gTLDs
- The outcome of the current Operational Design Assessment will be the basis for policy/rules governing the next phase of gTLD expansion.
- To date, the GAC has been closely involved in every step of the PDP process.
- The GAC formed a Subsequent Procedures Focal Group (evolved into small group of interested Members and Observers).
- Many GAC representatives participated directly in GNSO Policy Development effort.
- Many GAC Members contributed thoughts, language and text for GAC Public Comments.

# Overarching Comments From GAC Comment

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- The GAC supports the multistakeholder process, and does not object to the introduction of new gTLDs .
- The GAC asks the Board to **ensure that all the necessary steps and reviews take place before a new round of gTLDs**, inter alia, the CCT-RT review and SSR2 recommendations.
- The GAC continues to **harbour serious concerns regarding the absence of policy recommendations on DNS Abuse Mitigation** in the SubPro PDP WG Final Report, and notes that the WG deemed that such future effort should be holistic and must apply to both **existing** and **new gTLDs**.

# Overarching Comments from GAC Comment

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- The GAC expects swift action from the GNSO Council in triggering such **holistic effort**, to meet ICANN66 Communique language.
- GAC ICANN70 Communique:

*“DNS Abuse should be addressed in collaboration with the ICANN community and ICANN org prior to the launch of a second round of New gTLDs. The GAC supports the development of proposed contract provisions applicable to all gTLDs to improve responses to DNS Abuse. The GAC also emphasized the importance of taking measures to ensure that Registries, Registrars and Privacy/Proxy Services providers comply with the provisions in the contracts with ICANN, including audits. The GAC welcomes the recently-launched DNS Abuse Institute and encourages community efforts to cooperatively tackle DNS Abuse in a holistic manner.”*

# Overarching Comments from GAC Comment

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- The GAC does not intend nor wish to unnecessarily delay the process to prepare for a future round of new domain names.
- GAC considers that DNS abuse needs to be addressed and sees value in the SSAC's comment on SubPro that:

*“waiting until efforts to mitigate DNS abuse can be equally applied to all existing and new gTLDs, effectively cedes the ground to malicious actors who can depend upon a long policy development process to hinder meaningful anti-abuse measures.”*

- The GAC urges the Board and the ICANN community to collectively and meaningfully address this situation.

# Overarching Comments from GAC Comment

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- The GAC is looking forward to receiving an “*objective and independent analysis of costs and benefits [...], drawing on experience with and outcomes from the*” 2012 round of new gTLDs
- Such objective and independent analysis would allow the GAC to offer further advice ahead of a launch of a new round of gTLDs.
- GAC calls upon the ICANN Board to provide a comprehensive overview and periodic updates of all issues that need to be addressed before the next round of new gTLDs.



# New gTLDs - Why is this important to governments?

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## Looking ahead at the next round of new gTLDs

### Importance to the GAC

- Current areas of GAC Engagement/Activity:
  - Closed Generics: GAC Members are working with GNSO and At-Large members to attempt to agree on a framework on closed generics, as part of the GAC/GNSO facilitated dialogue on closed generics.
  - Applicant Support: GAC Members are participating in the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on applicant support
- Several substantive policy issues remain unresolved or “open” & were raised in the ODA to the ICANN Board for review prior to the approval of the SubPro PDP WG Final Report.
- “Open”/unresolved issues raised to the Board align with GAC priority topics (per collective comment from 1 June 2021)
- GAC members are reviewing potential engagement on potential GAC Advice re SubPro recommendations on “open”/unresolved issues which match GAC priority topics.

# New gTLDs - Why is this important to governments?

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## Looking ahead at the next round of new gTLDs

### Key GAC Priority Topics/Issues -

- Clarity and Predictability of Application Process
- Public Interest Commitments (PICs) & Global Public Interest
- Applicant Support and Participation of Underserved Regions
- Closed Generic TLDs
- GAC Early Warnings and GAC Advice
- Community Based Applications
- Auctions Procedures



## Applicant Support:

- June 2021 GAC comment: *“GAC members note the importance of fostering gTLD applications from a diverse array of applicants, which could, inter alia, include regional and local authorities, from all regions and that every effort be made to increase the number of applications from underrepresented regions [... ] The GAC reiterates its support for proposals to reduce or eliminate ongoing ICANN registry fees to expand financial support.”*
- GAC members are engaging in the GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support, which will be discussed later in this presentation.

## Closed Generics:

- GAC Members are currently engaging in a facilitated dialogue with GNSO and At-Large members on closed generics. This will be further discussed later in this presentation.

## Useful Background Reading

- GAC Policy Background - Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs (with accompanying GAC scorecard of Key Issues) - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vyPq5ve6DX0MHWWhXBRU0lwBUwYTst-LsD0TAxyd7\\_I0/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vyPq5ve6DX0MHWWhXBRU0lwBUwYTst-LsD0TAxyd7_I0/edit#)
- Governmental Advisory Committee Comment on Subsequent Rounds for New gTLDs Draft Final Report Public Comment Proceeding - 1 June 2021 - <https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/comments-gnso-gtld-subsequent-procedures-final-outputs-22apr21/attachments/20210601/6e13bf77/GACCCommentFINAL-SubproFinalOutputsforICANNBoardConsideration-0001.pdf>

# GNSO Guidance Process - Applicant Support

Rosalind KennyBirch, UK

## 4. 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](#).
- GAC Members appointed to the GGP on Applicant Support effort include:
  - ✓ Argentina
  - ✓ United Kingdom
  - ✓ Universal Postal Union
- 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.

## 4. GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support

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- Once the working group completes all of its tasks, as referenced in the [Initiation Request](#), it is expected to produce a GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report, which will be subject to Public Comment.
- GGP Working Group completed tasks 1-2 (Review the 2011 Final Report of the Joint Applicant Support Working Group & the 2012 implementation of the Applicant Support program in detail, and working with ICANN org staff as appropriate, to identify experts to aid in tasks 3, 4, and 5.)
- Following the review of Public Comment submissions and, if required, 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.
- During ICANN76, the GGP Working Group will hold a working session, aiming to finish consideration of Tasks 3-5 related to metrics and begin discussions of Task 6 related to financing the program.

# Closed Generics

Jason Merritt, Canada



## GAC/GNSO Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

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- As part of the ODP work, ICANN org identified several policy issues for the ICANN Board to address, including **Closed Generics** - due to lack of agreement and recommendations on the SubPro PDP WG Final Report on this topic;
- GAC and GNSO Council agreed to take part in a **facilitated dialogue** between GNSO/GAC to develop a framework on Closed Generics (including one representative from the ALAC);
- GAC Advice from ICANN46 Beijing serves as a basis for this dialogue, noting that *“exclusive registry access must serve a public interest goal”*.
- Dialogue includes 6 participants from the GNSO Council, 6 from the GAC and 1 participant from the ALAC (including an alternate).
- GAC Confirmed Participants for Closed Generics Dialogue:
  - Manal Ismail, GAC Chair
  - Jorge Cancio, Switzerland and GAC Topic Lead
  - Jason Merritt, Canada and GAC Topic Lead
  - Nigel Hickson, UK
  - Ronke Sola- Ogunsola, Nigeria
  - Ian Sheldon, Australia

## GAC/GNSO Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

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- The GAC/GNSO group has been meeting since November 2022, and held a 2-day hybrid meeting in Washington D.C in January 2023.
- The group agreed to abide by Chatham House Rules and shares regular updates with community publicly via summary reports.
- The group is currently reviewing potential elements to include in a framework on closed generic gTLDs, including:
  - Application process;
  - Evaluation; and
  - Contracting & Post-delegation
- Should the GAC and GNSO reach agreement on a framework on closed generics, the broader community will be invited to provide feedback.
- Following community input, the proposed framework – if agreed upon – can be considered through the appropriate GNSO policy development process.
- If the dialogue does not result in a mutually agreed framework, the Board will need to consider appropriate next steps.