

6 January 2020

Ms. Manal Ismail  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee  
ICANN

Re: EPDP Phase 1 Implementation Schedule

Dear Manal,

We note the GAC Advice on [06 November 2019](#) advising the Board regarding the EPDP Phase 1 Implementation:

*i. Take all possible steps to ensure that the ICANN org and the EPDP Phase 1 Implementation Review team generate a detailed work plan identifying an updated realistic schedule to complete its work and provide and inform the GAC on the status of its progress by January 3, 2020;*

While the Board is considering the GAC advice, the Board has requested that ICANN org provide the GAC an update regarding the implementation of the EPDP Phase 1.

The ICANN org and community volunteers of the Implementation Review Team (IRT) are working diligently and collaboratively to implement the GNSO Consensus Policy Recommendation on the Temporary Specification for the gTLD Registration Data (EPDP Phase 1 Recommendations). ICANN org and the IRT (collectively, the implementation team) recognize the need for an implementation timeline and expect to propose an implementation period and corresponding policy effective date as part of the items that will be published for public comment with the draft Consensus Policy.

The implementation team is well-supported with 12 core members from ICANN org and the 38 IRT members representing a diverse affiliations including RySG, RrSG, IPC, NCSG, BC, AFRALO, NCUC, ccNSO, APRALO, ISPCP, and GAC.

Many of the implementation team members have been working together since April 2019 when ICANN org began its work with an informal “pre-IRT.” ICANN org convened this team, which was composed of some of the members of the EPDP Phase 1 Team, based on Recommendation #28, which provides that, “as a matter of urgency, the GNSO Council and ICANN Org, informally convene the Implementation Review Team to allow for the necessary planning to take place before ICANN Board consideration of this Final Report, following which the IRT would be formally convened.”

The implementation team immediately determined that the most urgent matter at hand was the impending expiration of the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#) on 25 May 2019. On 17 May 2019, two days after the Board resolution adopting 27 of the 29 EPDP Phase 1 Recommendations, the team published a new Consensus Policy called “[Interim Registration Data Policy for gTLDs](#)” that went into effect on 20 May 2019. This Interim Policy directed the contracted parties to continue to implement measures consistent with the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#), pending the implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 recommendations that were adopted by the Board (the Registration Data Policy).

On 21 May 2019, six days after the Board resolution, ICANN org issued the [call for volunteers](#) to assemble the IRT in accordance with the guidelines established in the [Consensus Policy Implementation Framework \(v2018\)](#) (CPIF). On 29 May 2019, the implementation team conducted its [kick-off meeting](#).

The IRT began its work following the CPIF process. The CPIF steps include: 1) Recommendations Review, 2) Requirements Analysis, 3) Implementation Task List, 4) Task Estimates, 5) Task Sequencing/Critical Path Analysis, 6) Implementation Schedule, 7) Completion of the Implementation Plan including the Draft Consensus Policy Language with the proposed Policy Effective Date, 8) Public Comment Preceding, 9) Public Comment Analysis 10) Public Comment Report, 11) Finalization of the Consensus Policy Language, 12) Announcement and Publication of the Consensus Policy with formal notice to the contracted parties, and 13) Preparations by ICANN org and contracted parties to conform to the requirements of the published Consensus Policy.

The implementation team’s goal was to produce a plan to meet the policy effective date of 29 February 2020 per the EPDP Recommendation #28. Upon completion of the review of the recommendations, the implementation team concluded that the recommended policy effective date would not be feasible. On 2 October 2019, the GNSO Council Liaison to the IRT [communicated](#) this finding to the GNSO Council. Also, on 18 December, ICANN org sent [a letter to the GNSO Council](#) to ensure alignment on the current timeline in light of this recommendation.

To date, the implementation team has completed steps 1-5 mentioned above. Currently the team is focusing its time on steps 6 and 7 for the completion of the Implementation Plan. Included in these steps are drafting the complete gTLD Registration Data Policy and agreeing on a timeline that can be shared for public comment, including the anticipated implementation time for contracted parties. This effort includes deliberation to resolve conflicting interpretation of some of the recommendations, evaluation the requirements set by the policy language for technical feasibility, projection of the scope and time for the tasks to be implemented, and the assessment of the critical path to define a realistic implementation timeline.

ICANN org's recommendation is to continue the implementation work and continue to keep the community informed of progress.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation for the IRT member representing the GAC. The team is receiving valuable inputs that are balanced and well represented.

Best Regards,



Göran Marby  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)