PRSP Pre-ICANN75 Briefing

Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP)

Global Domains and Strategy (GDS)
6 September 2022
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1 Introduction

Thank you for reading the first iteration of the pre-ICANN meeting briefing by the Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP) team. PRSP is part of ICANN’s Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) function. Our scope includes enabling informed participation in the ICANN multistakeholder model and helping to foster secure, stable, and universal operation of multilingual domain names and email addresses for Internet users around the world. We support the implementation of consensus policy recommendations for generic top-level domains (gTLDs) which includes the ongoing New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Operational Design Phase (ODP).

This PRSP briefing provides status updates and progress reporting on the various community-facing projects that we support, all in preparation for discussions during the upcoming ICANN75 meeting. Our hope is that these pre-ICANN meeting briefings will become a valuable resource for the community, and increase visibility and accountability for the many projects we support and lead on.

As this is the first iteration of a PRSP briefing, we encourage you to provide feedback so that we can improve the document for future meetings. Do not hesitate to reach out to any of the PRSP team members either in person in Kuala Lumpur or via email at prsp-team@icann.org. We look forward to engaging with the community and hope to see you at ICANN75.

Karen Lentz
VP, Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs
2 Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Operational Design Phase

Session details for ICANN75:
New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Operational Design Phase Q&A
09:00 - 10:00 MYT (UTC+8)
Wednesday, 21 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/eknEHQ7RRudJMoyQF

Project activities during ICANN75

Members of ICANN org’s SubPro ODP team will be traveling to Kuala Lumpur and hold a session on Wednesday, 21 September at 09:00 local time (1:00 UTC) in the Banquet Hall. The session will present key points from the draft Business Process Design of the Operational Design Assessment (ODA) while also providing an opportunity for the community to engage with the SubPro ODP team and ask questions. As a reminder, the SubPro ODP team also remains available for questions via the publicly archived mailing list: subpro-odp@icann.org.

In addition, the SubPro ODP team will be available to meet with any interested community groups to provide an in-person update at ICANN75. Please contact subpro-odp@icann.org in case your Supporting Organization, Advisory Committee, stakeholder group, or constituency would like to meet with us.

Current status of project - updates since ICANN74

Since ICANN74, the SubPro ODP team has continued to identify assumptions and has shared two additional question sets with the GNSO Council. ICANN org continues to share these assumptions and questions with the GNSO Council and post them on the publicly archived mailing list. The SubPro ODP team has also begun work on the high-level business process design for application processing, using the processes in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook (AGB) as a resource. Operational assessments of the proposed design are in progress and will continue as many of these are dependent on the policy output analysis and business process development work noted earlier.

Project timeline - upcoming milestones and completion date

Due to competing priorities and reliance on several ICANN org resources for work on both the SubPro ODP and the WHOIS Disclosure System design paper, the SubPro ODP team updated the estimated timeline for delivery of the SubPro ODA. The target delivery date of the SubPro ODA is now 12 December 2022 at the latest. While the ICANN Board is the formal recipient of the SubPro ODA, we expect to share it with the wider community simultaneously.

1 Question Set #4:
https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/197264113/SubPro%20ODP_Question%20Set%204.pdf?api=v2
Question Set #5:
https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/208208499/SubPro%20ODP_Question%20Set%205?api=v2
Background

The ODP is a period in which ICANN org develops and provides the ICANN Board with relevant information to facilitate the Board's determination of whether the Policy Development Process recommendations are in the best interest of the ICANN community or ICANN. The ODP will provide the Board with an understanding of the operational impacts of accepting the recommendations, including potential obstacles, expected costs, and the timeline to implementation. This includes testing and aligning on foundational assumptions and identifying issues that could be roadblocks to implementation. One of the primary benefits of this upfront work is to streamline the overall implementation timeframe by addressing critical requirements and interdependencies early on.

Since the commencement of the SubPro ODP in January 2022, ICANN org has continued to assign additional resources to the project. The SubPro ODP team has developed a methodology for analyzing the outputs from the Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process.

To learn more about the ODP process, please visit the ODP webpage here.

Relevant links

- SubPro ODP Mailing List Archive
- SubPro ODP Community Wiki
- New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Operational Design Phase ICANN Org page
- Community Status Update – 16 May 2022
- Community Status Update – 28 March 2022
- Community Status Update – 15 August 2022
3 EPDP Phase 1 Implementation

Session details for ICANN75:
GNSO Registration Data Policy IRT
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM MYT (UTC+8)
Wednesday, 21 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/xhdEqKT6eEcifAiem

What to expect on this project during ICANN75?

On 21 September 2022, the Implementation Review Team will conduct a session at ICANN75. The goal of the session is to provide an overview of the proposed ICANN Registration Data Policy based on the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Phase 1 and Phase 2 Priority 2 recommendations. The policy documentation describes the requirements for processing registration data for ICANN-accredited registrars and gTLD registry operators (ROs) that have an agreement with ICANN.

What is the current status of this project? What has happened since the last ICANN meeting?

ICANN org has worked with the volunteer Implementation Review Team (IRT) to formulate an implementation plan and completed drafting the gTLD Registration Data Policy. A Public Comment period for the Registration Data Policy Implementation Plan was opened on 24 August 2022 for a duration of 69 days, encompassing 34 policy recommendations from three ICANN Board Resolutions over three years:

- EPDP Phase 1: Board Resolution in May 2019 (29 recommendations)
- EPDP Phase 2: Board Resolution in June 2021 (4 recommendations)
- Supplemental Recommendation 12: Board Resolution in February 2022 (1 recommendation)

The implementation plan includes:

- Draft policy language for Registration Data Policy
- Revisions to 20 impacted policies and procedures
- A new policy advisory to replace the existing advisory
- An updated RDAP Profile

This policy will replace the Interim Registration Data Policy that has been in effect since 20 May 2019 and requires contracted parties to continue to implement measures consistent with the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data (TempSpec) as a result of GDPR.

Project timeline - upcoming milestones and completion date

Upon completion of the Public Comment period, ICANN org will prepare and publish a Public Comment summary report. ICANN org will consider those comments and then work with the IRT to discuss any updates. Once the policy language and implementation plan has been finalized, ICANN's contracted parties will be notified of the implementation and compliance deadlines.
Subject to the outcomes of the comment period and subsequent discussion, the publication of the policy with effective date is estimated for 2023 Q1 with an effective date of 2024 Q4.

What is the topic/background?

The Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data (TempSpec), which modified existing requirements in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and Registry Agreement (RA) to comply with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), was adopted by the ICANN Board on 17 May 2018. Following Board adoption, an EPDP was initiated on the Temp Spec to determine if it could become an ICANN consensus policy as is, or with modifications.

In advance of the 15 May 2019 Board resolution on the Final Report submitted by the EPDP Team, ICANN org designed the following three stages of the policy implementation:

- **Stage 1**: Effective 20 May 2019, ICANN org published Interim Registration Data Policy for gTLDs which requires the contracted parties to continue to implement measures consistent with the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, as adopted by the Board on 17 May 2018.
- **Stage 2**: This stage will begin after ICANN org publishes a Registration Data Policy as a Consensus Policy and formally notifies the contracted parties. During this stage, contracted parties may implement the Interim Policy, the Registration Data Policy, or elements of both, as they prepare for the effective date of the Registration Data Policy. The timing of this milestone is to be determined.
- **Stage 3**: Contracted parties must comply with the Registration Data Policy as of its effective date, which the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data recommended to be 29 February 2020.

The Interim Policy effective as of 20 May 2019 requires contracted parties to continue to implement measures consistent with the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, which expired on 25 May 2019.

Further information

For further information, please consult the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework page on ICANN.org or contact dennis.chang@icann.org or globalsupport@icann.org. You can also read a blog by Theresa Swinehart for more insight, here.
4 Root Zone Label Generation Rules
Version 5 (RZ-LGR-5)

Session details for ICANN75:
Celebrating the Multistakeholder Model in the Development of RZ-LGR
16:30 - 18:15 MYT (UTC+8)
Wednesday, 21 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/nLKaQCBfqc6Gwn7qQ

What to expect on this project during ICANN75?

At ICANN75, ICANN org will celebrate the community’s efforts and years of hard work in developing Root Zone Label Generation Rules Version 5 (RZ-LGR-5), which was published in May 2022. RZ-LGR determines valid IDN labels and their variant labels for TLDs.

RZ-LGR-5 integrates the following scripts: Arabic, Armenian, Bangla, Chinese (Han), Cyrillic, Devanagari, Ethiopic, Georgian, Greek, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Hebrew, Japanese (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji [Han]), Kannada, Khmer, Korean (Hangul and Hanja [Han]), Lao, Latin, Malayalam, Myanmar, Oriya, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu, and Thai.

The GNSO’s Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process recommends that RZ-LGR be used to determine valid gTLD and variant TLD labels in the next gTLD application process. RZ-LGR is also being considered in the ongoing policy development efforts by both the GNSO and Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). These policies will promote both the security and usability of TLDs by the communities using these scripts. The working groups will be meeting at ICANN75.

What is the current status of this project?

RZ-LGR development follows the Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels. A total of 28 scripts have been identified in the Maximal Starting Repertoire for inclusion in RZ-LGR. The remaining scripts will be included in future versions as proposals become available from the relevant Generation Panels (GPs). Script communities around the world developed RZ-LGR proposals for different scripts or writing systems through the work of GPs. These proposals, which cover 26 scripts, were integrated into the fifth version of RZ-LGR by the Integration Panel (IP) following a Public Comment period. This concludes the work of all active GPs.

To learn more about how community work is helping to build a more multilingual Internet, read this blog.
5 UA Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems

Session details for ICANN75:
Tech Day (4 of 4)
16:30 - 17:30 MYT (UTC+8)
Monday, 19 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/DnHz3HM8nDcwqe3TR

What to expect on this project during ICANN75?

ICANN org has recently published a Universal Acceptance (UA) Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems for Public Comment. The roadmap explores a methodology to address the UA-readiness of the systems used by domain name registry and registrar operators, registry back-end providers, developers, and technical managers.

The roadmap defines gates within these applications to apply UA and to test UA-readiness for both gTLD and ccTLD registry and registrar systems. Protocols and interfaces to the protocols involved in the registration ecosystem, such as Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP), WHOIS, and Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) are also addressed. Finally, considerations for properly testing such systems are detailed, including appendices, which share testing results of actual registry and registrar systems.

An overview of this work will be presented during the Tech Day at ICANN75. ICANN org looks forward to feedback from industry experts on this report. Based on the input received, ICANN org will finalize and publish the final roadmap as a guide on how to make registry and registrar systems UA-ready.

What is the topic/background?

UA is a technical requirement that ensures all domain names and email addresses - in any language, script, or character length (e.g., .рф, .photography) - can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems. In many cases, software applications have to be built or updated to support those new capabilities. These include applications that are used in the registration of domain names, such as domain name registry and registrar software systems. To learn more about UA, visit https://www.icann.org/ua.
6 UA-Readiness Report for FY22 and UASG FY23 Action Plan

Session details for ICANN75:
Community Update on Universal Acceptance (UA)
22:00 - 23:00 MYT (UTC+8)
Thursday, 8 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/FQtXLuy2zDjSCoqyb

Driving Local Change for Universal Acceptance (UA) Adoption Globally
13:15-14:30 MYT (UTC+8)
Tuesday, 20 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/DbiAniFmbkLwitJqb

Planning for Universal Acceptance (UA) Day
15:00-16:00 MYT (UTC+8)
Thursday, 22 September 2022
https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/ruAyDgQC9jTBCAMxt

What to expect on this project during ICANN75?

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) published the FY22 Universal Acceptance (UA)-Readiness Report in August 2022. The report provides a summary of the status of UA-readiness in various tools and applications. The report also highlights the outreach, training, and remediation efforts being done by the community to address UA issues and the progress made due to these efforts. For example, data shows that only about 11% of websites globally accept email addresses in local languages. Similarly, only 20% of email servers under gTLDs are configured to receive emails from such email addresses. Gap analysis done by the UASG shows that many programming languages and email tools now provide support for Universal Acceptance which can be used to address these deployment issues.

The UASG has organized multiple sessions at ICANN75 to seek community input on the status and next steps for addressing UA-related challenges. One of the priorities the UASG is looking for input on is its plan to hold a UA Day in 2023. Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) are encouraged to provide feedback on initial plans and contribute to the day’s activities.

Current status of project - updates since ICANN74

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) previously worked with its working groups and community to develop an operating plan to address UA-related issues and to promote UA-readiness for FY23 (July 2022-June 2023). The FY23 Action Plan for Universal Acceptance of Domain Names and Email Addresses provides an overview of the UASG’s goals and priorities for the next fiscal year.

Since 2015, the community-led UASG has been working to make the Internet more inclusive for users around the world through the UA of all valid domain names and email addresses. Over the next year, the UASG will continue to focus on:
• Raising UA awareness among relevant stakeholders (technology enablers, developers, email software and service providers, email system administrators, registries and registrars, academia, and governments).
• Helping technology and email providers make their tools, systems, and services UA-ready by providing documentation and training.
• Encourage businesses and governments to ensure their developers and suppliers provide UA-ready solutions.
• Measuring progress on UA-readiness globally.
7 Implementation of GNSO Policy Recommendations

Session details for ICANN75:
GNSO Council Working Session - ICANN75
Sunday, 18 September
Time TBA (please note that this is a two-part working session and participants are kindly asked to check the final schedule to confirm timing).

Session 1 of 2:
https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/GNSO+Council+Working+Session+1+of+2+-+ICANN75

Session 2 of 2:
https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/GNSO+Council+Working+Session+2+of+2+-+ICANN75

What to expect on this project during ICANN75?

The PRSP team will meet with the GNSO Council during its weekend prep session to discuss upcoming plans around implementing Board-approved policy recommendations.

What is the current status of this project? What has happened since the last ICANN meeting?

Currently, one significant implementation process is progressing towards its conclusion (EPDP Phase 1) and another, arguably an even more complex implementation project, SubPro, is being prepared. Both of these projects do and will require significant resources including time from both staff and community volunteers to conduct this important work. Additionally, there are a number of other PDP recommendations that await implementation or that have been paused due to ongoing dependencies that have to be met before implementation work can continue. The PRSP team is currently planning on how to best tackle this important work, while ensuring resources are used efficiently and effectively.

Project timeline - upcoming milestones and completion date

The goal of this planning is to identify and allocate sufficient resources to launch at least one new implementation project, supported by an IRT, before ICANN76. Such implementation work would be conducted in parallel with the ongoing EPDP Phase 1 and preparation for SubPro implementation, subject to Board approval.

What is the topic/background?

Implementation of community-developed policy recommendations is one of ICANN’s core functions. Most of the policy implementation work is coordinated within ICANN org’s Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) function and the process is documented in the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF).
Further information

For further information, please consult the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework page on ICANN.org or contact lars.hoffmann@icann.org.
8 Guidelines for GDS Liaisons to GNSO PDPs

Session details for ICANN75:
GNSO Council Working Session - ICANN75
Sunday, 18 September
Time TBA (please note that this is a two-part working session and participants are kindly asked to check the final schedule to confirm timing).

Session 1 of 2:
https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/GNSO+Council+Working+Session+1+of+2+-+ICANN75

Session 2 of 2:
https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/GNSO+Council+Working+Session+2+of+2+-+ICANN75

What to expect on this project during ICANN75?

A draft of Guidelines for ICANN Org Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) Liaisons to the GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) ("the Guidelines") will be discussed at the working session of the GNSO Council at ICANN75 on Sunday, 18 September 2022.

What is the current status of this project? What has happened since the last ICANN meeting?

Since the last ICANN meeting, ICANN org has drafted the Guidelines in preparation for discussion at the working session of the GNSO Council at ICANN75.

Project timeline - upcoming milestones and completion date

Once reviewed by the GNSO Council, and subject to any feedback, ICANN org will publish the Guidelines on the CPIF page as reference for ICANN and PDP Working Group members to support alignment on expectations around roles and responsibilities of the GDS Liaison role.

What is the topic/background?

The GNSO’s Policy Development Process (PDP) Manual encourages PDP Working Groups “to establish communication in the early stages of the PDP with other departments, outside the policy department, within ICANN that may have an interest, expertise, or information regarding the implementability of the issue.” This communication typically occurs via ICANN org’s GDS function. Accordingly, GDS often tasks a liaison to develop an understanding of and expertise in community discussions and, where appropriate, provides input to PDP Working Groups. ICANN

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ICANN has developed guidelines for participation for these GDS Liaisons, which follows on the set of guidelines for Board Members serving as Liaisons to ICANN Community Groups.

These guidelines describe the expectations, requirements, and procedures for GDS team members serving as liaisons to a GNSO policy development process. The goal of these guidelines is to both provide GDS Liaisons with the foundational knowledge and tools required to carry out the liaison function effectively as well as provide transparency and clarity to the ICANN community on the expectations for the role. These guidelines document part of the process for implementing policies described in the CPIF, specifically the “Prepare” phase of the process in which ICANN org provides input in a specific PDP.

Finally, these guidelines support ongoing work related to improvement of the policy development and implementation processes as well as the review of procedures to modify existing consensus policies.

Further information

- Link to information on the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF) process: https://www.icann.org/policy/implementation
9 Other Ongoing Work

9.1 Operating Model Study

ICANN org published a Request for Proposals in March 2022 to perform a global study focused on operating models, user requirements, and other factors related to running a TLD in the Internet’s DNS. The goal of the study is to provide evidence-based information related to possible operating models, opportunities, and partnerships for TLDs that may benefit diversity and innovation in the gTLD space. The results of the study should help the ICANN org and community understand what information is most important to consider in developing rules and procedures for the next gTLD round in order to support diversity and innovation in the DNS while maintaining DNS security, stability, and resilience. The PRSP Team expects that the project will start in Q3 2022.

The Request for Proposal: Top-Level Domain Operating Model Study page provides more details about the scope and methods of the study.

9.2 IDN Implementation Guidelines

The ICANN Board is considering the approval of IDN Guidelines Version 4.1 for implementation at ICANN75. The IDN Guidelines relate to IDN registration policies and practices designed to minimize the risks of cybersquatting and consumer confusion.

All gTLD registries and registrars offering IDN registrations are contractually required to implement the IDN Guidelines. In addition, IDN country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) are also expected to use the IDN Guidelines for registrations as suggested in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process. The current IDN Guidelines 3.0 were last updated in 2011. Since then, there has been significant experience gained based on the work of the community in implementing IDNs and identification of technical and linguistic requirements for multiple scripts, e.g. through the RZ-LGR project.

To update the guidelines based on this knowledge, the IDN Guidelines Working Group (IDNGWG) was formed following a call for nominations for experts from the ccNSO, GNSO, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), and Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) on 20 July 2015. The IDNGWG published the final proposed draft of the Guidelines for the Implementation of Internationalized Domain Names version 4.0 on 10 May 2018, following multiple public consultations. IDN Guidelines version 4.1 includes all the guidelines in version 4.0 except the guidelines 6a, 11, 12, 13, and 18, which have been deferred by the ICANN Board at the request of the GNSO Council.

9.3 Global IDN Table Update – Phase 3

On 4 August 2022, ICANN org launched the Update and Publish service for Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Tables. This service provides registry operators with a mechanism to update previously approved IDN tables and reflect those tables within the IANA repository as required in RA Specification 6, Section 1.4. ICANN org also initiated outreach to the relevant registry operators and registry service providers to inform them about potential security and
stability issues found in IDN tables previously approved and published in the IANA Repository of IDN Practices. ICANN org is requesting that they address these issues and submit updated IDN tables for review. The outreach is expected to continue through the end of 2022 and ICANN org will continue to work with them to address these issues based on the timelines they provide.

Beginning in September 2020, ICANN org took steps to ensure the IANA repository accurately reflects all of the contractually approved IDN tables for gTLDs. ICANN org is thankful to the registry operators and registry service providers who supported this effort quickly and efficiently. In 2021, ICANN org reviewed these IDN tables and identified those which may need to be updated based on the latest guidance from the script and technical communities.

These efforts are a part of the IDN table update project initiated by ICANN org in response to the issues raised by the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) in 2019 and its request for ICANN org to provide more transparency in the IDN table review process. ICANN org has been updating its processes to review and update IDN tables while improving the security and stability of IDN implementation. These steps leverage Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) with the IDN Table Review Tool to make the IDN table review process consistent, transparent, and efficient for registry operators.

### 9.4 UDRP Policy Status Report

In March 2016, the GNSO Council launched a PDP to review all the Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) that have been developed at ICANN in two phases. Phase 1, which has been completed, focused on a review of all the RPMs that were developed for the 2012 New gTLD Program. When launched, Phase 2 will focus on a review of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which has been an ICANN consensus policy since 1999.

Prior to initiating Phase 2, the GNSO Council is expected to conduct a review of the PDP Charter. To ensure that the re-chartering process focuses on specific issues and topics that could benefit from a comprehensive policy review, the GNSO Council requested that ICANN org provide the GNSO Council with a Policy Status Report.

On 3 March 2022, ICANN org published for Public Comment the draft UDRP Status Report, which provides an overview of the UDRP to support the GNSO’s assessment of the effectiveness of the UDRP in meeting its intended purposes. It includes background on the UDRP processes and procedures, publicly available and general data on UDRP complaints and decisions, and brief analyses. By collating this data, the UDRP Status Report is intended to serve as input to UDRP-related review efforts and to support data-driven policymaking, such as the Review of all RPMs in all of the gTLDs PDPs. ICANN org delivered the Revised Policy Status Report, incorporating the feedback received, to the GNSO Council on 18 July 2022.

The GNSO Council is expected to consider the UDRP Status Report as part of its scoping exercise for Phase 2 of the planned RPMs PDP, including for its determination on recommended next steps.