**GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TEAM**

**I. TEAM CHARTER/GOALS:**

The GNSO Council’s responsibility in recommending substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains is a critical part of ICANN’s function. The mechanism by which the GNSO makes such recommendations to the ICANN Board of Directors is through the GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) set forth in the ICANN Bylaws.

The GNSO Improvements Report (Report) recommended that the current PDP defined in the ICANN Bylaws should be revised to incorporate a working group approach and to make it more effective and responsive to ICANN’s policy development needs. It is particularly important that steps be taken to ensure that the PDP is more flexible and helpful for successful policy development.

More specifically, the Report recommended that a new PDP:

1. emphasize the importance of the work that must be done before launching a working group or other policy development activity, including fact-finding specific policy development goal;
2. specify certain policy activities that should be done (“including research, consultation with constituencies, periods for public comment”), timelines consistent with the complexity of the task; regular reporting to the Council as established in the scoping phase; and a final report and public comment period as in the current PDP;
3. be more flexible than the current model containing with timelines that are consistent with the task;
4. is better aligned with ICANN’s consensus policies as defined in its contracts with registries and registrars and clearly distinguishes the development of “consensus policies” from general policy advice the GNSO Council may wish to provide to the Board;
5. provides for periodic assessment to determine the effectiveness of revised rules, processes, procedures and Is better aligned with ICANN’s strategic plan and operations plan; and
6. contains rules, processes and procedures that are more effective and efficient as detailed further in the Report.

The PDP Team shall work independently from, but in close consultation with, the Work Group Work Team of the Policy Process Steering Committee (PPSC). The Policy Development Process Team shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning the development and implementation of a new PDP for Board review.

**II. POTENTIAL TEAM PARTICIPANTS:**

Team participation will be composed of participants drawn from the GNSO Council, GNSO constituencies and the larger ICANN community.

It is recommended that:

1. There be a minimum of one PPSC member and preferably two PPSC members to serve as liaisons between this team and the PPSC;
2. The number of GNSO Councilors on the PPSC should be limited to maintain separation between the team’s work and the GNSO Council’s oversight role.
3. There be at least one representative from each Constituency.
4. Each Advisory Committee be given the opportunity to have a representative (or representatives)
5. There be members from the community who are not associated with a Constituency or Advisory Committee (other than NomCom appointed Councilors)
6. Participation by team members on other work teams (including the Working Group Team) should be minimized if not totally avoided so as to:
	1. Spread the total GNSO Improvements Project workload across a wider group of people;
	2. Minimize scheduling conflicts that are more likely to occur when team members are involved in multiple groups at the same time; and
	3. Encourage involvement by new community members.
7. The chair of the PDP Team should be someone from the PPSC.