

GNSO Work Prioritization Model: Project Lists

The following list of Projects in Table 1 are recommended by the WPM Drafting Team (WPM-DT) for inclusion in the Work Prioritization Model effort to be undertaken by the GNSO Council. Projects that were removed from this exercise appear below in Table 2 along with the team’s rationale for exclusion.

Note 1: for a [brief description](#) of each project, please click the Name which is linked to an embedded bookmark in this document. External links, where available, can be found in the descriptions.

Note 2: the abbreviations shown in Table 1 and 2 were selected by the WPM-DT for special use in this prioritization effort. They are not meant to replace commonly used acronyms within the GNSO community.

Note 3: sequence numbers in the table are for reference only and imply no hierarchy or order of importance.

Table 1. Prioritized Projects

Seq No.	Name	Abbreviation
1	Communications & Coordination Work Team (OSC)	CCT
2	Constituency & Stakeholder Operations Team (OSC)	CSG
3	Fast Flux	FF
4	Geo Regions Review Communitywide WG	GEO
5	GNSO Council Operations Team (OSC)	GCOT
6	IDN Fast Track Implementation Plan	IDNF
7	IRTP – Part B PDP	IRTB
8	Joint ccNSO-GNSO IDN WG	JIG
9	Policy Development Process Work Team (PPSC)	PDP
10	Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery	PED
11	Registrar Accreditation Agreement	RAA
12	Registration Abuse Policy WG	ABUS
13	Special Trademark Issues-New gTLDs	STI
14	SSAC Internationalized Registration Data WG	IRD
15	Travel Policy	TRAV
16	Working Group Work Team (PPSC)	WG

The following projects were transferred to Table 2-Non-Prioritized Projects by the Drafting Team for one of four reasons (ref. “Category” column), but will be maintained so that the team does not lose track of them:

- 1) Community Pending (“Pending”): the work effort has been put on hold status and is waiting on or pending another action (e.g. Staff report) or decision (e.g. Council motion) and is not currently consuming community resources.
- 2) Monitor Only (“Monitor”): the work effort is not fundamentally prioritized by the Council, but it does maintain an interest from an informational perspective (Note: also includes liaison activities).
- 3) Not a GNSO Project (“Inactive”): the work effort is not or not yet a GNSO initiative and cannot be properly evaluated (ranked/rated) and prioritized by the Council.
- 4) Implementation Phase (“Implem”): the work effort has completed the recommendation phase, has been approved, and is ready to begin or has already started implementation. While it is not consuming large amounts of community resources, the Council needs to understand the impact on Staff as it considers the adoption of new project work within the GNSO.

Table 2. Non-Prioritized Projects

Category	Name	Abbreviation
Monitor	GNSO Constituency Reconfirmations	GCR
Implem	New gTLDs	GTLD
Inactive	Registry/Registrar Vertical Integration	RRVI
Pending	Synthesis of WHOIS Service Requirements	WHO2
Implem	Toolkit of GNSO Services	TK
Pending	WHOIS Studies	WHO1
Monitor	Work Prioritization Model Drafting Team	WPM

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Glossary of Short Descriptions for GNSO Projects and Working Groups

Note: this glossary is organized alphabetically by title. Each project is linked/bookmarked to either Table 1-Prioritized Projects or Table 2-Non-Prioritized Projects above.

Communications and Coordination Team (OSC)	CCT	Chartered: April 2009
<p>This Work Team was chartered to develop recommendations to the OSC to (a) enhance the GNSO's ability to solicit meaningful community feedback, (b) improve the GNSO's coordination with other ICANN structures, and (c) find ways to make the GNSO's website more usable and effective.</p>		
Constituency & Stakeholder Group Operations Work Team (OSC)	CSG	Chartered: April 2009
<p>For ICANN, the words "Constituency" and "Stakeholder Group" have technical definitions, referring to representative groups officially recognized by the GNSO. Currently, the Constituencies within the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) are: Internet Service Providers (ISPC), Intellectual Property (IPC), and Businesses (BC). The one Constituency in the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group is: Non-Commercial Users (NCUC). The other two Stakeholder Groups (no Constituencies) are: Registries (RySG) and Registrars (RrSG). This Work Team focuses on enhancing the existing structure by developing outreach programs to broaden participation, developing well-founded participation guidelines, and recommending Staff services that will streamline and improve operations.</p>		
Fast Flux Policy Development Process	FF	Chartered: May 2008, Final Report complete September 2009
<p>This Working Group considered the implications of <i>fast flux hosting</i>, a technique that utilizes short Time-To-Live (TTL) settings and frequent updates of DNS records to rapidly rotate what specific IP address a domain name resolves to. Botmasters use this technique to evade lawful authorities and increase the uptime of illegal websites, but fast flux has legitimate uses, too. The group explored who benefits from fast flux, and who is harmed, how Internet users are affected by fast flux hosting, and whether technical and policy changes to DNS reduce the negative effects of fast flux hosting. Next step is for the GNSO Council to form a team to consider the recommendations contained in the report.</p>		

Geographic Regions Working Group	GEO	Initiated: November 2007
<p>Geographic diversity is a fundamental component of ICANN. The ICANN Bylaws currently define five geographic regions: Africa, North America, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia/Australia/Pacific and Europe. Due to the nature of geopolitics, categorizing a territory or country into one of these regions is not always straightforward. This Working Group focuses on making sure that the criteria for assigning geopolitical entities to an ICANN Geographic Region results in fair, consistent, yet appropriately diverse representation in ICANN groups. Altering the definition of a Geographic Region could have broad impact, so this Working Group is a cross-team effort with representation of all Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations.</p>		

GNSO Constituency Reconfirmations	GCR	
<p>The newly restructured GNSO Council was seated in October 2009 (Seoul), but there are several remaining tasks for the GNSO Constituencies including charter modifications designed to reflect the new Stakeholder Group structure and to make them more transparent, fair, and representative. The Board has set the upcoming ICANN public meeting in Nairobi for submissions of existing Constituency reconfirmations.</p>		

GNSO Council Operations Work Team OSC	GCOT	Chartered: April 2009
<p>The GNSO Council is changing its decision-making style from that of a legislative body into that of a “strategic manager of the policy process.” This Work Team is chartered to define what that means including considering and making suggestions about operational issues. Examples: How should Council members disclose any possible conflicts of interest? How does the Council define the scope and responsibilities of standing committees? What kind of training should new Council members receive so they can participate effectively?</p>		

GNSO Improvements		Initiated: March 2008
<p>Several teams focus on improving specific aspects of how the GNSO develops policy, and how it operates. To coordinate these multi-team efforts, the GNSO created the Policy Process Steering Committee (PPSC) and the Operations Steering Committee (OSC). These steering committees guide the efforts of the following work groups and sub-teams.</p>		

IDN Fast Track Implementation Plan	IDNF	Initiated: July 2008
<p>IDN stands for <i>Internationalized Domain Names</i>, the ability to use web domains in localized non-ASCII characters. In ICANN’s technical definition of “policy development,” this Working Group has completed its tasks, and IDNs have moved into the implementation phase. This group is discussing issues surrounding the possible introduction of a limited number of IDN gTLDs for Council/Board consideration (http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/).</p>		

Inter-Registrar Transfers Policy PDP “Part B”	IRTB	Initiated: April 2009
<p>As part of a broader review of the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy, the first in a set of five distinct policy development processes (PDPs) has now been completed and a second one, IRTB Part B, has begun. The IRTB Part B Working Group is addressing five issues focusing on issues related to domain hijacking and “lock status”, and specified further in their Charter, and will make recommendations to the GNSO Council.</p>		

Joint ccNSO-GNSO IDN Working Group	JIG	Initiated: July 2009
<p>This group is charged with identifying IDN issues of common interest to both the ccTLD and gTLD communities and propose methodology to both Councils to resolve them. Issues of common interest may include aspects of variant management for the root zone, submission and publication of IDN tables and the updating of IDN Guidelines related to both ccTLD and gTLD implementation processes.</p>		

New gTLDs	GTLD	Initiated:
<p></p>		

Policy Development Process Work Team (PPSC)	PDP	Chartered: March 2009
<p>This Work Team seeks to improve ICANN’s Policy Development Process (PDP). ICANN’s policies have wide-ranging impact on how domain names, IP addresses, and port numbers function across the global Internet, so the method of developing the policies matters. The team considers questions such as, Who has the right to introduce a new issue into the PDP? How much background data should participants have before deciding policy? When a PDP is completed, what should the final result be?</p>		

Post Expiration Domain Name Recovery	PED	Initiated: May 2009
<p>This Working Group grapples with issues related to how registrars handle expired domain names. After reviewing current registrar and ICANN practices regarding domain name expiration, renewal, and post-expiration recovery, the group will recommend best practices to questions such as: Are expiration-related provisions in registration agreements clear and conspicuous enough? Does adequate notice exist to alert registrants of upcoming expirations? Do registrants have adequate opportunity to redeem their expired domain names?</p>		

Registrar Accreditation Agreement Drafting Team	RAA	Initiated: May 2009
<p>The <i>Registrar Accreditation Agreement</i> (RAA) is the contract governing the relationship between ICANN and its accredited registrars. The original agreement had been in place since 2001, with each of roughly 900 accredited registrars signing the same contract. Over time, it became clear that amendments should be made to this important agreement. A first set of amendments, intended to provide clarity and certainty regarding the duties of registrars and the rights of registrants, was approved by the Board in May, 2009. A Working Group has since been convened to develop a “charter of registrants’ rights” and to consider other possible amendments to the RAA.</p>		
Registration Abuse Policies Working Group	ABUS	Initiated: February 2009
<p>Most registries and registrars reserve the right to interfere with domain activities that are illegal or abusive. However, ICANN-accredited registries and registrars have never agreed on a universal definition of “abuse,” nor developed community-wide policy on how to respond to abuse. To avoid circumstances where a registrant could claim that a domain name was deleted without due process, this Working Group is investigating whether benefits might arise from ICANN-accredited registries and registrars establishing a common definition of registration abuse.</p>		
Registry/Registrar Vertical Integration	RRVI	Initiated: September 2009
<p>In September the GNSO asked staff to prepare an Issues Report on future changes in vertical integration and cross-ownership between gTLD registrars and registries, to assist in determining whether a PDP should be initiated regarding what policies would best serve to promote competition and to protect users and registrants. The delivery of the Issues Report has been delayed until 11 December.</p>		
Special Trademark Issues-New TLDs	STI	Chartered: October 2009
<p>The ICANN Board has requested that the GNSO comment by 14 December on certain trademark protections proposed by ICANN staff, the Trademark Clearinghouse and the Uniform Rapid Suspension Process.</p>		
SSAC GNSO Internationalized Registration Data WG	IRD	Initiated: June 2009
<p>In June the Board asked the SSAC and the GNSO to jointly convene a working group to study the feasibility and suitability of introducing display specifications to deal with the internationalization of WHOIS registration data. The request emerged from concerns that currently no standard format is required for elements of a domain name registration record (Registration Data), such as contact information, host names, sponsoring registrar and domain name status. The Working Group will be soliciting input from interested constituencies including ccTLD operators and the ccNSO during its discussions to ensure broad community input.</p>		

Synthesis of WHOIS Service Requirements	WHO2	Initiated: May 2009
In May the GNSO Council requested that staff collect and organize a comprehensive list of potential WHOIS service requirements, based on current policies and previous policy discussions. Staff will be sharing a first draft of this report early in 2010.		
Toolkit of GNSO Services	TK	Initiated: 17 December 2009
Approved by Council 17 December 2009 and shared with the Board. Staff to implement next steps, including posting report, estimating costs, determining available funding, prioritizing items with Council, and developing and implementing specifics.		
Travel Policy	TRAV	Initiated: August 2008
For its three meetings per year, ICANN provides travel funds for selected community members. This practice provides support for those who might not be able to afford to attend ICANN meetings otherwise; and helps broaden participation in ICANN's processes. However, ICANN's travel budget is finite. This team writes the travel procedures, which lay out administrative aspects of traveling at ICANN's expense. They also author guidelines that clarify who should receive travel funds from ICANN each year.		
WHOIS Studies	WHO1	Current Work Initiated: March 2009
Staff is collecting costs and assessing feasibility to conduct several broad studies of WHOIS , including Misuse of WHOIS Data, Registrant Identification Information and Abuse of Proxy and Privacy Services. Staff will be providing this information to the GNSO Council and then the Council and staff will consider next steps.		
Working Group Work Team (PPSC)	WG	Chartered: March 2009
In the past, the GNSO decided policy mainly through small legislative bodies called "Task Forces." Intentionally, it is moving towards a more inclusive, representative model where key parties tackle an issue together as a "Working Group," then make recommendations to the GNSO Council. The PPSC WG Team is helping to define the new Working Group model, including guidelines, checklists, and other materials to speed the process of creating, chartering, naming, funding, staffing, and guiding a Working Group. You can think of it as the Working Group about Working Groups.		
Work Prioritization Model Drafting Team	WPM	Initiated: November 2009
The background for this effort is the growing realization that the GNSO has a very active and growing workload and a limited supply of volunteers that are available to perform the required work. This Drafting Team is developing and testing a set of models, processes, and procedures that are intended to culminate in a recommendation that, if adopted, will facilitate the GNSO Council in establishing a prioritization of the GNSO project agenda.		

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