ICANN-African Group

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Update

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- GNSO is one of ICANN's supporting Org (SO) as a **consultative and policy development body** responsible for polices relating to generic top-level domains.

- The GNSO consists of **6 constituencies** designed to represent the interest of different groups of stakeholders in generic names: gTLD Registries Registrars, Business and Commercial users, Intellectual Property interests, Internet Service and connectivity Providers, and Non-Commercial Users.

- The **views of the GNSO goes to ICANN board** and where the GNSO can achieve a consensus, the stakeholders view will has special force in guiding and shaping Board policy.

gTLDs:

- Agreement is reached in ICANN must implement a **_process that allows the intro of new top-level_** **domains**

- San Paulo meeting, then **f-t-f meeting in LA**

- Policy **statements is more focused** on implementation issues

- **formed sub working groups to deal** with specialized areas i.e RNs, IDNs, Protecting the right of others…

Reserve Name Category:

- Categories include:
  - ICANN and IANA related names
  - Single/two character labels
  - Names with hyphens in 3rd and 4th character positions (e.g "xn--ndk061n")
- More work is needed regarding ICANN & IANA, discussion on report.
- Consensus not reached

IDNs: Intl Domain Names

- The committee supports the introduction of IDNs when technical testing completed
- Treated the same as any other new gTLD in the process
- IDNs do make implementation more complex
- GNSO IDN working group established to examine IDN issues further

Protecting Rights working group

- Established to address some of the concerns around registration processes at the second level that give some protection for legal rights especially during start-up of new gTLDs

- **<u>Focus on the Purpose for introduction gTLDs in general</u>**….

  - Support the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet by allowing globally distributed *communities* the opportunity to have their own hierarchy of names starting at the top level
  - Accept that not all communities <u>identify themselves with countries</u> or by the original broad com/net/org categories
  - Accepted outcomes of 1999 work taking into account experience with introducing new gTLDs so far
  - Focussed on lessons learnt and creating a process for introducing new gTLDs
  - ICANN mission and core values used to guide the work

Work Items covered for all these areas include:

String criteria

- ◦ **(1) Must not be "confusingly similar" to an existing top-level domain**
- ◦ **(2) Must not cause any technical instability**
- ◦ **(3) Must not infringe the existing legal rights of others that are recognized or enforceable under generally accepted and internationally recognized principles of law**
- ◦ **Must not be a reserved word**
- ◦ **Categories include:**
  - · **ICANN and IANA related names**
  - · **Single/two character labels**
  - · **Names with hyphens in 3rd and 4th character positions (e.g "xn--ndk061n")**
- **Working group established to review existing lists at second level in gTLD agreements for application at the top level**
- **Strings must not be contrary to generally accepted legal norms relating to morality and public order**

Applicant criteria

- ◦ **(1) Applicants must be able to demonstrate their technical capability to run a registry operation**
- ◦ **(2) Applicants must be able to demonstrate their financial and organizational capability to fulfill all their obligations of a TLD operator**
- ◦ **(3) There must be no substantial opposition from among significant established institutions of the economic, geographic, cultural or language community for which the TLD string is intended to support**

String contention

- Occurs when multiple valid applications for the same string or confusingly similar strings
- First encourage applicants to resolve amongst themselves
- Meetings amongst themselves
- Mediation (using a third party to help)
- Binding Arbitration
- If there are significant established institutions of the economic, geographic, cultural or language community for which the TLD string is intended to support – use a comparative evaluation process, otherwise use auction
- Additional fees from the applicants to cover costs for comparative evaluation
- If there are significant established institutions of the economic, geographic, cultural or language community for which the TLD string is intended to support – use a comparative evaluation process
- Additional fees from the applicants to cover costs

Complaint and dispute resolution

- The community will be able to raise issues associated with whether strings match the string criteria
- Technical disputes will be resolved within ICANN structure
- Where possible, issues outside of ICANN's core expertise will be referred to external dispute providers with appropriate expertise – decisions will be made with reference to internationally recognized principles of law

WHOIS:

- Define the <u>purpose</u> of the Whois service.
- Define the purpose of the <u>Registered Name Holder</u>, technical, and administrative contacts.
- Determine <u>what data should be available</u> to the public. Determine how to access the data that is not available for public access.
- Determine <u>how to improve the process of notifying registrants of inaccurate Whois data</u>, and the process of investigating and correcting inaccurate Whois data.
- Determine <u>how to resolve conflicts</u> between contractual Whois obligations and local/national privacy laws. [complete]
- Final report of the TF recently published and <u>sent to GNSO</u> council
- Council to consider policy--can vote, modify or approve further work (e.g. implementation work)

NEXT STEP:

- **Seeking to finalize recommendations by May 2007 and produce the final "Final Report"**

- **Submit "Board Report" to the Board by early June 2007**

- **Available for the Board to consider at its meeting in Puerto Rico, 29 June 07**