28 February 2018

RE: Proposed amendments to the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework

Dr. Heather Forrest

GNSO Council Chair

Dear Heather,

The [Consensus Policy Implementation Framework](https://www.icann.org/policy/implementation) (CPIF) represents the result of a collaborative effort between ICANN’s Global Domains Division (GDD) and the [Non-PDP Policy and Implementation Working Group](https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/inactive/2015/policy-implementation) to develop “a framework for implementation work that is predictable, consistent, efficient and timely and that includes appropriate multi-stakeholder feedback.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

In accordance with Point H of the CPIF, which directs “ICANN staff [to] continually review the implementation framework and related materials to encapsulate additional best-practices or to adjust the steps as a result of lessons learned with previous Consensus Policy projects,” a cross-functional group of representatives from ICANN’s GDD and GNSO Policy Development Support teams have reviewed the Framework, and are hereby proposing a number of amendments to it for the consideration of the GNSO Council.

In its review, the team noted an opportunity for greater specificity in the processes detailed in the “Prepare” and “Plan” stages of the Framework. For the “Prepare” stage, which provides for GDD to monitor and provide input to a Policy Development Process (PDP), the team engaged in additional analysis to draft potential guidance on how, when, and if GDD should engage in the deliberations of a PDP Working Group. As it relates to the “Plan” stage, the team determined that more detail was needed on expected administrative standards when convening and working with an Implementation Review Team (IRT).

The results of these discussions are shown in the two documents attached to this letter:

1. A redlined CPIF document, which illustrates the proposed changes.

2. A document detailing a set of guidelines for ICANN org to follow when considering engagement in a GNSO PDP.

Note the proposed amendments largely focus on providing more details on existing processes and administrative standards, with an aim to better inform community expectations as they relate to a given implementation of GNSO Consensus Policy recommendations.

GDD staff has found the CPIF a useful tool in carrying out its policy implementation work, and is working to release an updated version of the Framework that provides additional guidance in the areas noted above by the first half of 2018. With this in mind, GDD and the GNSO Policy Development Support Team kindly request the Council’s feedback on the proposals by 27 April 2018. If more time is needed, please advise accordingly.

As a reminder, the GNSO Council committed to a review of all adopted recommendations stemming from the Policy and Implementation Working Group’s [Final Report](https://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/policy-implementation/pi-wg-final-recommendations-01jun15-en.pdf) five years following their implementation to assess whether the recommendations have achieved their intended objectives and whether any further modifications are needed.

GDD staff and the GNSO Policy Development Support Team look forward to discussing the proposals detailed in the attached documents with the Council, and appreciate the Council’s time in considering them.

Sincerely,

Karen Lentz, Director, ICANN Operations and Policy Research

Brian Aitchison, Lead Researcher, ICANN Operations and Policy Research

cc: Akram Atallah, President, ICANN Global Domains Division

cc: Cyrus Namazi, Vice President, ICANN Domain Name Services and Industry Engagement, Global Domains Division

1. See the [Non-PDP Policy and Implementation Working Group](https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/inactive/2015/policy-implementation)’s [Final Report](https://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/policy-implementation/pi-wg-final-recommendations-01jun15-en.pdf), p. 32. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)