

# I C A N N | G A C

## Governmental Advisory Committee

14 December 2020

Jeff Neuman, New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP WG Co-Chair  
Cheryl Langdon-Orr, New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP WG Co-Chair

**Subject:** GAC Request for Extension to Consensus Call for New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures PDP WG Final Report

Dear Cheryl and Jeff,

On behalf of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Leadership Team, I am writing to you regarding the most recent changes to the Subsequent Procedures for New gTLDs PDP WG Final Report (Subpro PDP WG) work plan. We are also appreciative and recognize the immense work and effort performed by the PDP leadership and WG members to finalize the recommendations.

The GAC Leadership notes the following items in the updated work plan:

- The Final Report will be delivered for review by PDP WG Membership on **22 December 2020**;
- The Consensus Call will begin on the same day, **22 December 2020**.
- The Consensus Call will close on the **5th of January**.
- Designation of Levels of Support by the Working Group Leadership Team will be released on the **6th of January 2021**.
- Minority Reports are due on **8th January 2021**.

Based on the modified Work Plan, GAC leadership notes that the PDP WG Membership, and consequently GAC Members who are part of the PDP WG, will not be able to review a finalized version of the Subpro PDP WG Final Report until 22 December 2020, right before the holiday break, and that the consensus call which opens at the same time will close immediately after the holiday break.

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This timing does not allow GAC members of the PDP WG - who in turn need to consult within their Governments - sufficient time to review the final recommendations. Neither do GAC Topic Leads have adequate time to consult with the GAC as a whole in case there would need to be any GAC input at these stages. Moreover, ICANN offices are also closed from the 24th of December until the 4th of January, which means Staff Support will not be available to support any drafting or consultations.

We understand you noted that minority reports can be commenced prior to the 2-day turn around in January, however it is not possible for the GAC to work on a letter or minority report based on provisional texts released via email, i.e. without actual final recommendations in writing. Additionally, any minority statements drafted now would be written without knowledge of the designation of consensus.

The GAC Leadership team realizes the tremendous work carried out by the Subpro PDP WG in order to finalize recommendations and appreciates the great collaboration between Subpro PDP WG Leadership and the GAC throughout this process, which stemmed in multiple timely input by the GAC to the PDP WG in previous steps of the process.

However, it would be highly appreciated if the PDP WG could take into account GAC Leadership input and kindly extend the consensus call in a manner that provides sufficient time for substantial input by all interested stakeholders, including the GAC, on such an important topic. In this sense, we specifically suggest that the consensus call could finalize on or about January 11th, providing at least one week for the drafting of Minority statements once the consensus level designations are public.

We look forward to a continued collaboration with the Subpro PDP WG in the final stages of its work, and appreciate your understanding.

Best regards,



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Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)  
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