**PDP Improvements Committee – Task Description**

The PDP Improvements Committee was tasked to:

1. Review existing outreach efforts and determine whether there are any actions the GNSO Council should be taking to increase the pool of PDP volunteers (Item 3 – Increase pool of WG volunteers)
2. Review existing online tools & training efforts and determine whether there are any additional actions should be taken by the GNSO Council and/or provide input on how existing activities may be further improved / modified in order to contribute to the success of the PDP (Item 5 – Improved tools & online training)

**INITIAL INFORMATION REGARDING ITEM 1**

In relation to item 1, the following actions are currently undertaken by ICANN policy staff to communicate that the GNSO Council is looking for volunteers for PDP WG:

* Call for volunteers is posted on GNSO web-site and circulated to all SG/C/SO/ACs
* Information is also communicated on GNSO twitter account and GNSO Facebook page
* Call for volunteers is included in next edition of Policy Update
* Individual notices may go out to individuals and/or organisations that are known to have an interest and/or expertise in the subject area

See also the requirements in the PDP Manual:

*After a decision has been taken to form a Working Group, it is important to circulate a ‘Call For Volunteers’ as widely as possible in order to ensure broad representation and participation in the Working Group. Depending upon the scope of the Working Group and its intended subject matter, the following avenues could be explored:*

* *Publication of announcement on relevant ICANN web sites, including by not limited to the GNSO and other Supporting Organization and Advisory Committee web pages.*
* *Distribution of announcement to GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies, and/or other ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees.*
* *Circulation of announcement to organizations that are considered to have expertise/knowledge/interest in relation to the subject matter of the Working Group.*
* *One-to-one outreach from either the GNSO Chair or the Interim WG Chair to the Chair of other ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees either known to have an interest in the subject, or those where it is felt that their input into the discussions will be valuable. Individuals known to be knowledgeable or interested could be similarly approached.*

*Ideally, the ‘Call For Volunteers’ announcement should include the following types of information about the Working Group: its objective(s), expectations concerning activities and timeframes, links to relevant background information including its charter, details on how to sign up as a participant, and the* *requirement to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI). In addition, a Chartering Organization (CO) might want to include some statement as to the importance of the activity, that is, why the effort is being undertaken, its criticality, context, and perceived usefulness to the GNSO. While a WG may not "need to know" these elements in order to complete their tasks, it could help in recruitment and sense of purpose. In addition, the announcement should include a link to these Working Group Guidelines as well as any other instructions or information that might be applicable to that particular Working Group.*

Also note that in relation to briefings and subject matter experts, the GNSO WG Guidelines foresee that *‘Additionally, a WG may, at any stage throughout its deliberations, decide to seek input from self-formed groups and/or individuals with the aim of further informing WG members about matters that fall within the remit of the WG and which are of interest to the ICANN community’*.

Staff, with the support of Mikey, recently commenced a monthly GNSO WG Newcomer Open House Webinar which is intended to help prepare and guide newcomers to GNSO Working Group efforts (see <http://gnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-28jan14-en.htm>).

It may be worth noting that recent GNSO efforts have seen an increase in new participants, although it is not clear if this is the result of any specific effort.

**Possible next steps:**

* Identify which other existing outreach efforts contribute to increasing the pool of PDP volunteers
* Review recommendations from MSI Panel in relation to this topic (for example <http://thegovlab.org/proposal-9-for-icann-become-more-inclusive-by-moving-from-stakeholder-engagement-to-global-engagement/> and <http://thegovlab.org/proposal-1-for-icann-get-smart-with-expert-networks/>)
* Review existing outreach efforts and determine whether there are any actions the GNSO Council should be taking to increase the pool of PDP volunteers

**INITIAL INFORMATION REGARDING ITEM 2**

The GNSO Web-site hosts a ‘basics’ section (see <http://gnso.icann.org/en/basics>) in which information materials concerning the following topics can be found:

* What does ICANN do
  + GNSO & ccNSO Comparison Overview
* GNSO 101
  + Module 1 – Role of a GNSO Council member
  + Module 2a – Working Group Operations
  + Module 2b – Working Group Formation
  + Module 2c – Working Groups Chair’s Guide
  + Module 3 – New Policy Development Process
  + Module 4 – Communication Tools
* GNSO Policy Development Introduction
  + About Consensus Policy
  + Policy Development Process
  + Working Group Guidelines
  + Policy Update Archive
* DNS Infrastructure Basics
  + Country Code Top Level Domains
  + DNS Computer Emergency Response Team
  + Internet Protocols (IPv4 – Ipv6)
  + Redirecting and Wildcarding
* Learning on ICANN.org
* ICANN Glossary

Prior to the first meeting of a PDP WG, all relevant materials are sent to WG participants for review. Furthermore, most of the first PDP WG meeting is dedicated to reviewing these materials and answering any questions.

ICANN recently launched ICANN Learn (see <http://learn.icann.org/>) which is ‘an online learning platform built for the global community. It's designed to be an effective way to maintain institutional knowledge, connect peers, and unlock a new level of understanding’. It also provides the option for the ICANN community to develop training modules.

At the ICANN meeting in Buenos Aires, ICANN piloted an ICANN Leadership Training Program. The aim of the programme is to ensure that newly selected /elected community leaders will be more effective in their new positions in a shorter time‐frame following participation in a brief but intensive on‐boarding and facilitation skills training programme. At the same time, current leaders might also benefit by elaborating their leadership skills and knowledge about other stakeholder groups within ICANN. The programme also included a socialising aspect which is aimed at building bridges between all stakeholder groups within ICANN. See <https://community.icann.org/x/DzafAg> for further information.

**Possible next steps:**

* Identify which other existing online tools & training efforts contribute to the success of a PDP
* Review existing online tools & training efforts and determine whether there are any actions that should be taken by the GNSO Council and/or provide input on how existing activities may be further improved / modified in order to contribute to the success of the PDP