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| GNSO COUNCIL SMALL TEAM – WORK ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW |
| **Subject** | **ICANN org Discussion Draft - Modifying gTLD Consensus Policies** |
| **Background** | On 23 October 2021, Theresa Swinehart [shared](https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/council/2021-October/025106.html) a discussion draft of the paper “Modifying Consensus Policies”. The ICANN organization has developed this paper as a thought exercise to share with the community for information and input on existing processes. As mentioned in some of the previous interactions, the paper has been developed within the org, considering what procedures are in place for modifying consensus policies, and where there may be gaps, ambiguities, or opportunities for additional collaboration.  |
| **Assignment** | In its message to the Council, Theresa Swinehart notes: “The Board has expressed interest in understanding these processes and discussing possible mechanisms to address where there are identified and agreed needs for greater clarity or elaboration.  As the GNSO’s processes are interwoven with those of the Board and org in the consensus policy lifecycle, the org is seeking input from GNSO stakeholders before taking this paper to the Board.” The small team will review the discussion draft and prepare proposed input that will be reviewed by the GNSO Council before it is submitted to ICANN org.  |
| **Timing** | The message notes that ICANN org looks “forward to engaging on this in due course”. A follow up question on the topic of timing indicated that ideally input is received in 6 weeks’ time following which the paper would be submitted to the ICANN Board.  |
| **Members** | John McElwaine (IPC)Maxim Alzoba (RySG)Stephanie Perrin (NCSG)Thomas Rickert (ISPCP)Antonia Chu (RrSG)The Council noted that as this topic is far reaching and has the potential to affect the whole GNSO community, SG/C Chairs will be approached to ensure that each SG/C is able to assign a subject matter expert to the small team.  |
| **Documents** | [Discussion Draft – Modifying Consensus Policies](https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/council/attachments/20211025/d6317a45/DiscussionDraft-ModifyingConsensusPolicies-22oct21-0001.pdf)Important background info:* [The GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) Manual](https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/annex-2-pdp-manual-24oct19-en.pdf)
* [The IRT Principles and Guidelines](https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/irt-principles-guidelines-23aug16-en.pdf)
* [The Consensus Policy Implementation Framework](https://www.icann.org/uploads/ckeditor/CPIF_v2.0_2019CLEAN.pdf) (CPIF)
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| **Notes** | The Council discussed the paper and initial reactions during its [wrap up session](https://72.schedule.icann.org/meetings/yvDRGzX6LWNhRXmw3?openNativeApp=true#/?limit=10&sortByFields[0]=isPinned&sortByFields[1]=lastActivityAt&sortByOrders[0]=-1&sortByOrders[1]=-1&uid=ir3eFeyEWMcBcKcyR) at ICANN72:* It was pointed out that this is a topic that has potential ramifications that go beyond the Council. As such it is important that there is representation on the small team from all GNSO SG/C. It was agreed to reach out to the GNSO SG/Cs to confirm whether additional subject matter experts should join the small team, in addition to the Council members who volunteered.
* It was pointed out that a 6-week timeframe is likely not sufficient for the small team to develop proposed input and for the Council to review & approve this. The GNSO Chair will respond to Theresa Swinehart to indicate that the Council has formed a small team to work on this but that it is likely that additional time will be needed, also noting that from a Council’s perspective there does not appear to be a specific urgency that would warrant such a short timeframe.
* It was also noted that this paper could also be an opportunity to review and discuss the desire that has been expressed by a number of Council members as well as SG/Cs for the Council to have a more active role in the oversight of the implementation of adopted policy recommendations.
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| **Next Steps** | 1. Reach out to SG/C Chairs to seek additional subject matter experts (Council Leadership)
2. Notify ICANN org that work has commenced but that additional time will be needed (Council Leadership)
3. Schedule meeting for small team to commence its review.
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