

ICANN Announcement

Title: New gTLD Program Next Round Implementation Review Team Call for Volunteers (Participants)

Intended Publish Date: Wednesday, 5 April

Metadata Description:

Announcement Content:

ICANN is seeking participants for the Implementation Review Team (IRT) to assist in the implementation of the [policy recommendations](#) in the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (Final Report).

On 16 March 2023, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Board passed a [resolution](#) on a set of [recommendations](#) from the [Final Report](#) calling for “A *working methodology and Implementation Review Team (IRT) work plan and timeline as agreed upon by ICANN org and the GNSO Council.*”

Work Description:

Per the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework ([CPIF](#)) and the IRT [Principles & Guidelines](#), the IRT will:

- Serve as a resource to implementation staff on policy and technical questions that arise with regard to the Board-approved recommendations of the Final Report.
- Serve as a resource to ICANN org staff on the background and rationale of the policy recommendations in the Final Report and seek additional guidance from the GNSO Council, as required.
- Assist ICANN org staff in developing the policy implementation details to ensure that the implementation conforms to the intent of the policy recommendations as detailed in the Final Report.

During the GNSO Council [working session](#) at ICANN76, ICANN org proposed that the New gTLD Program Next Round IRT take the form of a “Representative + Open Model” based on the [GNSO’s PDP 3.0](#) model of an ‘open + representative’ PDP Working Group (WG).

Who Should Join:

The New gTLD Program Next Round IRT is open to all interested participants, particularly current or former SubPro WG team members who participated in the team's deliberations and who deeply understand the Final Report's policy recommendations and accompanying rationale. All volunteers responding to this call are expected to understand the role and remit of the IRT for the project as described in the New gTLD Program Next Round [IRT Statement of Participation](#) (SOP), which all members must commit to.

Pilot: Open + Representative Model

The implementation process is an ICANN org-driven exercise; in alignment with the Board resolution and subsequent [GNSO Council consultation](#), ICANN org will pilot a “Representative + Open Model” based on the [GNSO’s PDP 3.0](#) model (see also today’s blog post on this matter). The goal is to provide a structure that allows for more efficient resolution of issues that may arise. Therefore, in addition to this call for volunteers for IRT participants, ICANN org has reached out to ICANN’s stakeholder groups and representatives, and GNSO stakeholder groups and constituencies, to nominate up to one IRT representative and up to one alternate each.

To be clear, the model will not change the ability of any IRT member to raise concerns about the implementation approach taken by ICANN org, as detailed in the IRT [Principles & Guidelines](#). Participants and representatives will be equal members of the IRT, with the same ability to take the floor and post to the mailing list, working constructively with ICANN org to assist in the implementation of the recommendations, as detailed above. Both will also be expected to understand the role and remit of the IRT for the implementation project as described in the New gTLD Program Next Round [IRT Statement of Participation](#) (SOP), which **all IRT members** must commit to.

In addition, when determining the level of consensus in the circumstance described in Section V.E. of the IRT Principles & Guidelines, the GNSO Liaison, in the Open + Representative model, must take into consideration that members who are representatives are expected to express the viewpoint of their respective community groups and participants to express their own views. This does not impact each members’ ability to raise any concern they may have, nor does it absolve ICANN org or the GNSO Council liaison from “exercis[ing] all reasonable efforts to resolve disagreements” within the IRT.

Required Skills

- Knowledge and understanding of the Final Report of the new gTLDs Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process and its recommendations.
- Ability to work constructively in a diverse group.
- Willingness to join calls outside of standard office hours (due to the anticipated global nature of the IRT, call times will likely rotate).

Desired Skills

- Former member of the New gTLDs Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group.
- Knowledge of the 2012 round of new gTLDs.

Time Commitment:

Our primary goal is to have an efficient implementation process, as the opening of the next round of new gTLDs is a high priority for the Board, org, and community. Therefore, the goal is to complete the implementation work within 24 months. However, the exact duration will depend on delivery of key information from external sources, not least the deliverables for ICANN77, as noted in the Board resolution as well as the pace of the org's discussions with the IRT.

The group is expected to meet via teleconference no less often than every other week, and likely weekly calls. If IRT subgroups are formed, multiple calls per week could be possible.

IRT members are expected to have consulted all materials provided prior to each call. Overall, we expect a time commitment of between three (3) and eight (8) hours per week over the course of 24 months.

What is ICANN org's Role?

What it will not change is the role of ICANN org to implement "the community's recommendations at the direction of the Board and under the supervision of the CEO" (see CPIF). When implementing recommendations, ICANN org is "responsible for the entire implementation lifecycle, from creating an implementation plan, engaging the IRT (if there is one), consulting with relevant ICANN org staff and any outside parties that are required, and conducting outreach surrounding the implementation, including communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders regarding the progress of implementation." See CPIF.

IRT Start date

ICANN org plans for the first IRT meeting to take place no later than the week of 14 May 2023.

How to apply

To join the IRT as a Participant or Observer, please complete [this form](#).

Background:

On 16 March 2023, the ICANN Board passed a resolution on a set of recommendations from the [Final Report](#) on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (SubPro) Working Group which directed the org to begin implementation, calling for "A *working methodology and Implementation Review Team (IRT) work plan and timeline as agreed upon by*

ICANN org and the GNSO Council, “and encouraging “all parties to work together efficiently and constructively to meet relevant timelines.”

For additional background information, please consult [icann.org/subpro-odp](https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw) and <https://community.icann.org/x/RgV1Aw>.