



## FY20 COMMUNITY REQUEST FORM

The deadline for FY20 Budget consideration is **25 January 2019**. All questions and completed forms should be sent to [planning@icann.org](mailto:planning@icann.org).

### REQUEST INFORMATION

**Title of Proposed Activity**

GNSO Consensus Building Training Manual / Guidebook

**Community Requestor Name**

GNSO

**Chair**

Keith Drazek

**ICANN Staff Community Liaison**

Steve Chan

### REQUEST DESCRIPTION

**1. Activity: Please describe your proposed activity in detail**

In January 2018, the GNSO Council held an inaugural three-day Strategic Planning Session where the GNSO Council discussed the PDPs under way at the time, to reflect upon their respective progress and challenges. A number of issues were surfaced, including numbers of members/observers, onboarding new participants, divergent motivations and desired outcomes, and difficulties in reaching consensus. In order to try and address the issues raised impacting the effectiveness of PDPs, the GNSO Council initiated PDP 3.0, intended to make incremental improvements to the Policy Development Process (PDP).

Stemming from the PDP 3.0 implementation plan, this Additional Budget Request focuses on a singular but central issue - challenges in consensus building. Consensus building requires a skill-set and potentially mind-set that is not necessarily innate, but is something that generally needs to be learned and developed. The GNSO Working Group Guidelines provide guidance to WG Chairs on the process to determine whether or not consensus has been achieved, but there is significant room for interpretation as to how this is applied in practice. In order to build consensus, WG members need to be willing and able to compromise on previously established positions. Recently, WGs have seen a significant increase in individual members who do not represent anyone but themselves and individuals who have been engaged to represent the interests of a third party. There appears to be a fear of giving in and giving up ground at the expense of others. This leads at times to an apparent difficulty (sometimes unwillingness) to listen and meaningfully consider others' viewpoints.

The GNSO Council would like to develop structured guidance that helps PDP leadership carry out this consensus building process. There are many experts in the field of consensus building and the intention is to contract with a relevant expert to leverage that expertise and develop a consensus building training manual / guidebook for use within the GNSO's processes. This playbook is intended to help PDP leadership navigate the various interests of



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the stakeholders and help them to reach an outcome where they may not get everything they asked for, but they are able to accept the outcome, and believe that their interests were heard.

The consensus building training manual / guidebook should primarily focus on providing PDP leadership with a more structured approach by defining steps to follow (e.g., problem identification, interests identification, identification and evaluation of alternative solutions, etc.), but should also provide more behavioral insight and tools and techniques to bridge differences, break deadlocks, serve as a neutral facilitator and ultimately help the PDP find compromise solutions.

**2. Type of Activity: e.g. Outreach - Education/training - Travel support - Research/Study - Meetings - Other**

Consulting expertise to develop a consensus building playbook.

**3. Proposed Timeline/Schedule: e.g. one time activity, recurring activity**

One time activity with an estimated timeframe of approximately 2-3 weeks of work that may be spread out over a period of 1-2 months.

## REQUEST OBJECTIVES

**1. Strategic Alignment. Which area of ICANN's Strategic Plan does this request support?**

This request strategically aligns with:

- 1. Evolve and further globalize ICANN
  - 1.3 Evolve policy development and governance processes, structures and meetings to be more accountable, inclusive, efficient, effective and responsive.
- 4. Promote ICANN's role and multistakeholder approach
  - 4.1 Encourage engagement

**2. Demographics. What audience(s), in which geographies, does your request target?**

The target audience is GNSO PDP leadership, in the sense that they would utilize the consensus building training manual / guidebook in their role as leadership, but the overall impact should include that of the PDP and the GNSO overall if reaching consensus is able to be reached in a more constructive and direct manner. There are no geographic requirements, though the PDP leadership and membership spans ICANN's five geographic regions.

**3. Deliverables. What are the desired outcomes of your proposed activity?**

A consensus building training manual / guidebook that empowers PDP leadership to be able to work towards consensus recommendations in a more constructive and expeditious fashion.

**4. Metrics. What measurements will you use to determine whether your activity achieves its desired outcomes?**



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- Evidence that PDP leadership better understands techniques and methodology for consensus building.

## RESOURCE PLANNING – INCREMENTAL TO ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST

### Staff Support Needed (not including subject matter expertise):

Description	Timeline	Assumptions	Costs basis or parameters	Additional Comments
None				

### Subject Matter Expert Support:

Consultant with expertise on consensus building. Estimated time allotment is 80 hours.

### Technology Support: (telephone, Adobe Connect, web streaming, etc.)

None

### Language Services Support:

None

### Other:

None

### Travel Support:

None

### Potential/planned Sponsorship Contribution:



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None