

ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

Board Readiness

For Council Meeting
9 Jan 2025

Last Update

- Identified team members
- Reviewed mission, objective and methodology
- Substance:
 - Summarised rejected Board recommendations
 - Reviewed list of interview questions
 - Reported status
 - Published aspirational schedule

Team Members

- Jennifer Chung
- Justine Chew
- Prudence Malinki
- Susan Payne
- Kurt Pritz
- Thomas Rickert
- Nacho Amadoz

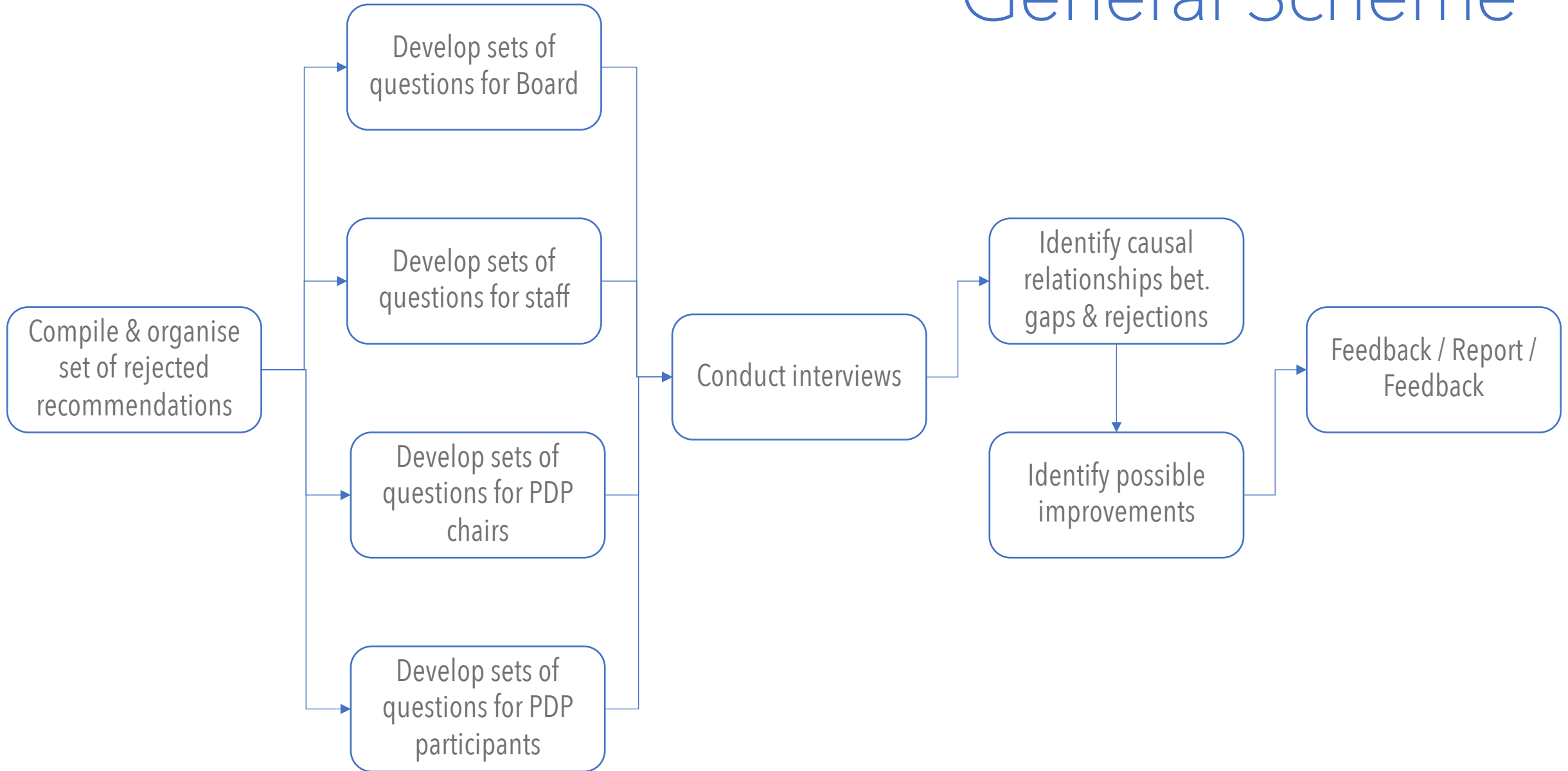
Mission / Scope

Perform a study that will inform the improvement or creation of policy development practices that will improve the Board readiness of GNSO policy recommendations,

where

Board readiness is measured by the likelihood that GNSO policy recommendations will be readily adopted by the ICANN Board.

General Scheme



Some Program Notes

- Each interviewee receives an information packet providing:
 - An introduction to the program
 - A brief, historical summary of the PDP
 - A summary of the Board's reasoning for rejecting recommendations
 - A list of question to be asked
- Interviewees are advised that,
 - with their permission, interviews are recorded so notes can be verified but then the recording is destroyed
 - additional questions may be added depending upon the responses
- Interviewees are afforded the opportunity to review and amend the meeting notes before reports are written
- There are several feedback loops incorporated into the program to verify findings and conclusions

Status

PDP	Information Packets	Invitation Sent	Interviews	Synthesis
Registration Data Phase I	done	done	done	in work
Registration Data Phase II	done	done	starting	
Subsequent Procedures	75%			
IGO / INGO Identifiers				



Identify causal relationships bet. gaps & rejections



Recommendations

Aspirational Schedule (v2)

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
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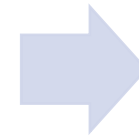
Prep (Create Questions, select interviewees, test interviews, adjustments)



Interviews (16-20)



Analysis, synthesis & hypothesis



Obtain feedback



Synthesis, recommendations

Conclusions to date (based on one EPDP)

- Board rejection of recommendation is somewhat novel and therefore was a surprise to PDP participants: indicating that this is a timely study. the findings
- There appears to be a great deal of respect for the Board's opinions and a willingness to find compromises between the Board and the community
- Regarding availability of appropriate expertise
 - the team developed expertise as it became GDPR experts
 - independent legal expertise is available and valuable
- The Board liaison role is also novel and interaction varied significantly among liaisons. It is clearly an evolving role (therefore, also a timely topic).
- "Implementability" generally was not a concern during EPDP Phase I discussions:
 - going forward the teams should pay close attention to recommendation wording, and
 - have access to cost & other information
- This first "representative model":
 - Helped the team arrive at conclusions more quickly
 - Facilitated compromise

Board Participation

- We received a verbal communication from the Board that the Board would take our questions and provide a single, consensus-based set of answers

"The Board has requested that they receive the questions for the interviews ahead of time so that the Board may get consensus on any answers so that a consensus Board view is presented."
- The program methodology is based on individual experiences of PDP participants, including Board Liaisons and the Board members that considered the PDP recommendations after Council approval.
- We think the Board response is based on a reading of the sample questions that were provided to them, which sort of lend themselves to process, rather than experiential considerations.
- We passed this communication back through staff:

Thank you for this input from the Board. Our team believes that our request has been misinterpreted to a certain extent. This misinterpretation might well be due to vagueness in the wording in our initial request or in the wording of the sample questions provided.

The intent and methodology of our team is to gain knowledge of the PDP effectiveness by leaning of the individual experiences of the participants. From those individual perspectives, we plan to understand how to better create policy recommendations that will be approved by the Board. The Board (and the Council) can then take our recommendations, derived though the compilations and analysis of the individual perspectives. and create consensus positions on changes to the PDP.

For example, the Phase 1 PDP on Registration Data Processing had two Board liaisons during its tenure. The interviews already conducted indicate each liaison took a different approach to the role. In addition, one of the liaisons is no longer a Board members. A Board consensus position would lose the individual perspectives and obviate the opportunity to test the individual approaches against their effects on policy outcomes. The perspective of the past Board member would be lost.

Put another way, our small team is not looking for positions and opinions of how PDPs (and the Board liaison roles) should be executed; we are looking for how they *were* executed from the viewpoint of a diverse set of participants. To be valuable in this effort, Board member input should be individual and independent.

Our intent, with the Board's acknowledgment, is to contact Board members who acted as liaisons or participated in Board PDP discussions and ask them to meet individually with the team. This is the same as the case with PDP participants and Chairs we have contacted to date.

We have started more slowly than anticipated but are well into our interviewing process. Past and present Board member participation will still be timely and, we think, of critical importance to the project.

Please relate this to the Board in a manner you see for and let us now if this addition information is helpful to the Board's thinking on participation and if we can answer any questions.

Thank You