
IGO-INGO Curative Rights Policy Implementation Project Plan

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Status of This Document

This document is a Policy Implementation Plan (“the Plan”) for the four recommendations from the PDP on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms and the five recommendations from the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs approved by the GNSO Council and adopted by the ICANN Board on 30 April 2023.

Policy Implementation Overview

Background

In April 2014, following an initial Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Policy Development Process (PDP) on Protection of International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) Identifiers in All gTLDs conducted between October 2012 and November 2013, the Board voted to adopt several GNSO PDP recommendations concerning top and second level protections for the full names of IGOs on a list prepared by the GAC. Those recommendations are now the subject of an ICANN Consensus [Policy](#) (effective 1 August 2018).

On 5 June 2014, and based on a recommendation from the original IGO-INGO PDP, the GNSO Council [resolved](#) to initiate a PDP to evaluate whether ICANN's second-level dispute resolution mechanisms, the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) and the Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS), should be amended to enable their access and use by IGOs and INGOs, or if a separate, narrowly-tailored procedure modeled on these curative rights protection measures should be developed to apply only to protected IGO and INGO identifiers. On 17 July 2018, the GNSO IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP Working Group completed its work and submitted its Final [Report](#) to the GNSO Council.

On 18 April 2019, the GNSO Council [approved](#) the first four recommendations from the PDP Working Group and directed that additional policy work be conducted on the subject of the fifth recommendation that it decided not to approve. With respect to this Recommendation #5, the GNSO Council directed the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) PDP Working Group to consider, as part of its Phase 2 work, whether an appropriate policy solution can be developed that is generally consistent with the four recommendations that the GNSO Council approved and in line with specific considerations laid out by the GNSO Council, including recognizing the possibility that an IGO may have jurisdictional immunity in some circumstances. This resulted in the GNSO Council's [chartering](#) of an Expedited PDP (EPDP) on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs in August 2021.

On 4 April 2022, the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs completed its work and submitted its Final [Report](#) to the GNSO Council.

On 30 April 2023, the ICANN Board passed a resolution on nine GNSO Council approved policy recommendations relating to curative rights protections for the names and acronyms associated with international governmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and INGOs), encompassing:

- four recommendations from the [PDP on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms](#), and
- five recommendations from the [EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs](#).

In its [resolution](#), the Board directed ICANN org to “proceed with the implementation of these recommendations as soon as feasible.” In Q1 2024, ICANN org produced a Project Charter, including estimates on staffing, resources and timelines, for approval. Work on establishing an Implementation Review Team (IRT) composed of community volunteers with extensive knowledge of the PDP and EPDP policy recommendations and background began in Q3 2024. The IRT was formally established in Q1 2025 to assist staff in ensuring that policy implementation activities conform to the intent of the policy recommendations from the PDP and EPDP.

Purpose

The Board adopted GNSO recommendations to strengthen existing gTLD rights protection mechanisms to accommodate IGOs and INGOs, whose names may not be subject to trademark protections. As such organizations are not usually subject to courts’ jurisdiction, the ICANN community has recommended that existing rights protection mechanisms be supplemented to permit these entities to bring claims under the UDRP/URS and to provide a mechanism for the appeal of decisions involving these entities.

Implementation of these recommendations will facilitate amendments by ICANN org to the UDRP and URS Rules to provide additional measures for IGOs and INGOs with respect to these curative rights protection mechanisms. IGOs and INGOs that meet the criteria in the updated URS and UDRP Rules will be able to use these second-level dispute resolution mechanisms to address abusive registrations and use of domain names relating to their missions. Implementation of these policy recommendations is also a dependency for next steps relating to IGO acronyms that are currently withheld from registration.

The Implementation Review Team

Role

The role of the IRT is to assist ICANN org in this Policy Implementation project. As stated in the [Consensus Policy Implementation Framework \(CPIF\)](#) and the [IRT Principles & Guidelines](#), the IRT members:

- Serve as a resource to ICANN org staff on policy and technical questions that arise with regard to the Board-approved recommendations of the PDP and EPDP.
- Serve as a resource to ICANN org staff on the background and rationale of the PDP and EPDP policy recommendations and return to the GNSO Council for additional guidance as required.
- Assist ICANN org staff in developing the implementation details for the policy to ensure that the implementation conforms to the intent of the policy recommendations as detailed in the PDP and EPDP Final Reports.¹

Given the complexity of the legal issues involved in this implementation project, ICANN org, with the agreement of the GNSO Council, convened a small number of community volunteers identified as possessing the specialized knowledge of the policy recommendations and background required to support this work. These individuals included former members of the PDP on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms and/or EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs, and community members with expertise in the substantive and procedural rules governing arbitration proceedings and experience in the UDRP, URS and online arbitration processes.

Participation

A full list of IRT participants can be found [here](#).

The IRT will be consulted via calls and a public email list, and will provide feedback regarding the implementation of the recommendations, in accordance with the IRT Principles & Guidelines and the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF). The implementation plan along with the deliverables and timelines are a starting assumption and will be shared with the IRT to reach a common understanding of the projected work schedule.

Participants are reminded that the IRT is not a forum for opening or revisiting policy discussions. Should policy questions arise, the GNSO liaison is expected to inform the GNSO Council in accordance with existing guidelines; it is not the responsibility of the IRT to resolve such issues.² Should there be disagreement on the intent and purpose of any of the outputs between ICANN and the IRT, the GNSO Council Liaison, “in consultation with the IRT, is expected to make an assessment as to the level of consensus within the IRT on whether to raise the issue with the

¹ For more information on the IRT’s role, please refer to the [IRT Principles and Guidelines](#) and the [CPIF](#).

² [IRT Principles & Guidelines](#).

GNSO Council [...].”³ Should any disagreement prove irreconcilable, the GNSO Council liaison in consultation with representatives from the IRT is expected to make an assessment as to the level of consensus within the IRT on whether to raise the issue with the GNSO Council for consideration, using the standard decision-making methodology outlined in the GNSO Working Group Guidelines. This process also applies to cases in which there is agreement between the IRT and GDS staff concerning the need for further guidance from the GNSO Council and/or when issues arise that may require possible policy discussion.

Any IRT member that believes that his/her contributions are being systematically ignored or discounted or wants to appeal a decision of the IRT or GDS Staff should first discuss the circumstances with the GNSO Council liaison to the IRT. In the event that the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the IRT member should request an opportunity to discuss the situation with the Chair of the GNSO Council or their designated representative. In addition, an IRT member always has the option to involve the ombudsman (see <https://www.icann.org/ombuds> for further details).

Deliverables

The IGO Curative Rights Implementation project will implement all Final Recommendations approved by the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board.

Specific deliverables resulting from the IRT phase of the Implementation Project include but are not limited to:

- Drafting and publication of revised URS/UDRP documentation and draft policy guidance for public comment.
- Summary and analysis of public comment.
- Publication of updated policy and guidance documents

The project is complete when:

- ICANN org and IRT agree that the deliverables have been completed.
- The policy effective date has been announced, with relevant notices delivered.
- The outreach and communications plans related to the new policy have been completed.

High-Level Timeline

Due to the specialized nature of the IRT and the focused content and scope of the Recommendations in question, ICANN org intend to proceed with implementation in a

³ [IRT Principles & Guidelines](#).

straightforward and timely manner in order to meet the stated objective of publishing all proposed updates to the URS/UDRP Rules and Policy, and other required Policy Guidance, by the end of Q3 2025.

Milestones:

- Draft Implementation Plan
- Establish IRT Mailing List
- Convene IRT
- Agree Implementation Plan
- Public comment for drafts and final versions of URS/UDRP documentation and Policy Guidance
- Policy Effective Date

2024 Q3	ICANN org begins internal preparations for implementation project
2025 Q1	Draft implementation Plan Establish IRT Mailing List Convene first meeting of the IRT and agree Implementation Plan
2025 Q3	Complete and publish the proposed draft updates to the URS/UDRP Rules and Policy for Public Comment. Complete and publish the draft Policy Guidance on Complaint Procedures for IGOs for Public Comment; bring to the attention of the GAC.
2025 Q4/ 2026 Q1	Publish the revised URS/UDRP Rules and Policy Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announce effective date of the URS/UDRP Rules and Policy to the community, ● Send required notices to relevant parties regarding when the new rules and policy changes take effect, ● Create outreach and educational materials needed for socializing the rules, policy changes and policy guidance, and ● Conduct targeted outreach to relevant parties.
2026.Q2	Estimated Policy Effective Date. Implementation work outlined above is completed and enforcement of the updated URS/UDRP Rules and Policy is turned over to compliance.

IRT Meetings will be held at a regular cadence, with the possibility of adding additional meetings or sessions at the request of IRT.

Although the implementation of the PDP and EPDP Recommendations is an ICANN org priority, changes to the IRT timeline can occur due to a variety of unforeseen factors including, among others, the need for more time to propose draft updates and materials, misalignment between IRT members on whether proposed policy language aligns with the intent/purpose of an output, a dependency not delivered on time, and other external factors. The timeline set out above should therefore be understood to represent a best case scenario.

If changes do occur, ICANN org will work with the IRT on the above timeline as necessary and update the work plan as required. The timeline set out above should therefore be understood to represent a best case scenario for implementation.

ICANN org Resources / Functions Impacted by the Implementation of IGO-INGO Curative Rights Policy Recommendations

Global Domains & Strategy (GDS):

- *Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs:*
To manage/ oversee the progress of implementation including coordination with IRT for input on items as needed; manage relationships with external experts as required, coordinate/ manage public comment period; provide internal reporting; communicate with GAC on proposed policy guidance, produce public comment report and publish policy as needed.
- *GDS Accounts and Services*
Assist in socializing the revised rules, policy changes and policy guidance.

Policy Development Support

- *GNSO Policy Development Support Team*
Policy support liaison to provide input and clarification on working group deliberations and intent of policy recommendations.

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- *ICANN GAC Staff Support Team*
Assist circulation and socialization of updated policy guidance with the GAC.

Legal

Legal team to review any updated policy language and guidance; liaise with outside counsel as required on IGO-related law, precedents and arbitration procedures.

Contractual Compliance Team

Supporting drafting with a view to enforcement; socialization of the updated URS/UDRP Rules and Policy.

Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations of the PDP and EPDP involve making additions to existing UDRP and URS Policies and Rules and have potential impact on contracted parties.

A total of nine recommendations are being implemented in this project: 4 PDP recommendations and 5 EPDP recommendations. The recommendations relate to separate yet interdependent issues and can be seen to request work on two main deliverables

- Specific Policy Guidance on the following issues:
 - IGOs eligibility to use Article 6ter of the Paris Convention to demonstrate standing to file complaints (PDP Recommendation 2)
 - IGO filing options and IGOs contacting registrar of records to address harms for which they are seeking redress before filing a complaint under the UDRP/URS (Recommendation 3)
- Modification of UDRP/URS Policy and Rules to create a new path for binding arbitration in cases in which legal immunity prevents a registrant from pursuing court action (EPDP Recommendations 2-5, in particular 3-5).

Summary of Adopted Recommendations and Proposed ICANN org approach

1. Recommendation from Final Report on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms Policy Policy Development Process (PDP)

PDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
1a	INGO	N/A	For INGOs no substantive changes to the UDRP and URS are to be made, and no specific dispute resolution procedures are to be created.
1b	IGO	N/A	For IGOs, no specific new dispute resolution procedures are to be created.

Proposed ICANN org Action: Confirm with the IRT that no action is required.

PDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
2	IGO	UDRP URS	ICANN shall create policy guidance to show that a IGO that has the requisite standing to file a complaint under the

			UDRP or URS by showing that it has complied with the requisite communication and notification procedure in accordance with Article 6ter of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
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Proposed ICANN org actions:

Draft Policy Guidance for IRT review.

PDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Impacted Policies/Procedures
3	IGO INGO	UDRP URS	ICANN shall create policy guidance on IGO filing options and how IGOs can contact a registrar of record to address harms before filing a complaint under the UDRP/URS. ICANN shall bring this policy guidance to the GAC for its information, and publish this guidance on ICANN's website.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

Draft text for IRT review. Publish the specified policy guidance and circulate to the GAC.

PDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
4	IGO INGO	UDRP URS	In the absence of a recommendation to provide subsidies for UDRP/URS use; ICANN acknowledgement of the need for Board-GAC-IGO discussion on this issue.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

Confirm with IRT that this recommendation does not require action by the IRT.

2. Recommendations from Final Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Specific Curative Rights Protection for International Governmental Organizations (IGOs)

EPDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
1	IGO	UDRP URS	Draft proposed definition of "IGO Complainant" based on EPDP recommendation for IRT review. The recommendation provides exact wording.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

Draft text for proposed definition for discussion with IRT.

EPDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
2	IGO	UDRP URS	Exempt IGO Complainants from agreeing to Mutual Jurisdiction and require providers to notify respondents of their rights and potential immunity issues.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

Draft proposed updates to UDRP and URS procedures and discuss with IRT, including any potential impacts or additional requirements.

EPDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
3	IGO	UDRP	Arbitral Review following a UDRP Proceeding: add provisions to UDRP for voluntary arbitration following a UDRP proceeding.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

Discuss scope and administration of the arbitration process with IRT. Research precedents of international arbitration procedures for IGOs. Consult outside experts if required. Modify UDRP and URS procedures to incorporate the arbitration option.

EPDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
4	IGO	URS	Arbitral Review Following an URS Proceeding: Add provisions to URS for voluntary arbitration following a URS proceeding.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

As per EPDP Recommendation 3.

EPDP Recommendation	Impacted Parties	Impacted Policies/Procedures	Summary of Recommendation
5	IGO	URDP URS	Specify “applicable law” for the arbitration process and update UDRP and URS to identify procedures and responsibilities for determining this.

Proposed ICANN org actions:

Research and identify ‘applicable law’ for discussion with IRT, including procedures for those instances where the arbitral tribunal must make a determination. Seek additional legal advice if necessary. Incorporate agreed provisions into the arbitration process for both UDRP and URS.

Resources

[IGO-INGO Curative Rights Implementation Review Team Community Wiki](#)

[Final Report on the IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms Policy Development Process](#)

[Final Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process on Specific Curative Rights Protections for International Governmental Organizations \(IGOs\)](#)