Report of Public Comments

GNSO Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Working Group Initial Report	
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Comment Period:		**Important Information Links**
		Announcement
Comment Open Date:	5 May 2015	**Public Comment Proceeding**
Comment Close Date:	7 July 2015	**View Comments Submitted**

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Section I: General Overview and Next Steps

The Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Working Group was chartered by the GNSO Council to conduct a Policy Development Process on the topic in October 2013. Accreditation of privacy and proxy service providers had been identified previously as the remaining issue not covered by the negotiations over the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA). ICANN had already committed to creating an accreditation program, and the GNSO requested by the ICANN Board to conduct a PDP to develop policy guidelines for such a program.

As required by the ICANN Bylaws governing GNSO PDPs, the Working Group's Initial Report was published for community input. The report contains twenty preliminary recommendations and several open questions for which the Working Group sought public feedback.

As outlined in the GNSO's PDP Manual, the Working Group will review all public comments received and prepare a Final Report containing its final recommendations (including any changes or additions made as a result of public comments) for submission to the GNSO Council. The GNSO Council will review the Working Group's recommendations and vote on whether or not to adopt them. Any and all recommendations adopted by the GNSO Council will then be forwarded to the ICANN Board for consideration and a vote on their adoption.

Section II: Contributors

At the time this report was prepared, well over 11,000 community submissions had been posted to the Forum. Where ICANN's usual practice is to list all contributors in this Report of Public Comments, the number of submissions received rendered this an impractical task. Nevertheless, the Working Group will review all submissions received.

Commenters included several GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies, ICANN's At Large Advisory Committee, a number of industry associations, individual ICANN-accredited registrars, Working Group members, a number of corporations and individual members of the public. In addition, over a hundred individuals responded to the Working Group's online template that listed all of the Working Group's preliminary recommendations and open questions for input.

All comments received in the public forum up to the close of the public comment period as well as all

Section III: Summary of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to broadly and comprehensively summarize the comments submitted to this Forum, but not to address every specific position stated by each contributor. Staff recommends that readers interested in specific aspects of any of the summarized comments, or the full context of others, refer directly to the specific contributions at the link referenced above (View Comments Submitted).

The Working Group received well over 11,000 comments in the official public comment forum in response to its Initial Report. These included a petition from the organizers of the Save Domain Privacy initiative, which was signed by 10,042 persons. Many of these signatories also added specific comments, which the organizers of the initiative sent in along with the main petition. In addition, a separate initiative to Respect Our Privacy developed an online template that was sent in by approximately 11,000 individuals, many of who also added their personal comments and concerns. Individual comments were also received from several GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies (viz. the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, the Internet Service Providers & Connectivity Providers Constituency, and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group) as well as ICANN's At Large Advisory Committee.

In addition to the comments sent directly to the public comment forum, 352 responses were received to the Working Group's online template (developed using the Survey Monkey tool) setting out all twenty of the Working Group's Preliminary Recommendations and its various remaining open questions. The format of the online template allowed responders to comment on each of the recommendations and questions individually. In total, 144 responders provided either partial or complete responses to the recommendations and questions. These were included in the tools and charts compiled for the Working Group to review as part of the public comments received.

Hundreds of individual emails were also sent directly to ICANN via the Policy Staff email address, and a number of telephone messages left for individual staff members in ICANN's offices. The authors and callers were notified that their messages could only be posted to the public comment forum (and therefore considered published for public view) only if they redirected them accordingly, as ICANN policy requires that each submitter individually verify that he/she consents to their contribution being published on a publicly-visible website. As a result, many senders redirected their messages to the public comment forum, and these were added to and compiled into the various tools and charts that will be used by the Working Group in reviewing all public comments received.

Section IV: Analysis of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to provide an analysis and evaluation of the comments received along with explanations regarding the basis for any recommendations provided within the analysis.

As the specific tools, tables, charts and documents comprising a collation and compilation of all the public comments received demonstrate (see https://community.icann.org/x/KIFCAw), the Working Group received responses to all twenty of its Preliminary Recommendations and the various open questions in its Initial Report. In addition to specific responses that addressed one or more of the Working Group's recommendations and questions, a significant number of individual commenters also highlighted specific concerns with some of the proposals under consideration by the Working Group (these proposals relate to the Working Group's open questions, which were published as such due to the fact that the Working Group had yet to reach consensus on them). Many of these commenters were concerned about the potential effect on individual privacy if the proposals were to be adopted as consensus recommendations by the Working Group.

On 5 August 2015, the co-chairs of the Working Group published a post on ICANN's official blog page that noted the overwhelming response from the public to the work of the Working Group, including the fact that "among the over 11,000 comments and 350 survey responses we received, many were from individuals who hitherto had not participated in an ICANN policy development process or attended an ICANN Public Meeting. Comments also were received from commentators based in various different countries located in a variety of global regions." The co-chairs' blog post also clarified that all comments would be taken into consideration by the Working Group in the preparation of its Final Report, which will contain not just all the policy recommendations on which the Working Group achieved consensus, but also all proposals that did not achieve consensus among the Working Group and minority statements (if any).