28 February 2023

Sebastien Ducos
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council

RE: GNSO Council Review and Input for the SubPro Operational Design Assessment (ODA)

Dear Sebastien,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 20 January 2023 regarding the GNSO Council's ongoing review of the SubPro Operational Design Assessment (ODA). We note the Council's priority to have the ICANN Board adopt the SubPro PDP outputs and expeditiously proceed toward implementation. The Board also thanks the Council's Small Team for its preliminary issues statement.

Recently, the Board reviewed community recommendations and ICANN org's analysis, with a focus on the risks involved and identifying dependencies between and among the policy recommendations and other efforts, such as Universal Acceptance, Internationalized Domain Names, Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse, Name Collision, Applicant Support. The Board dedicated a full day during the January Workshop to discussing the two options for the next round of new gTLDs outlined in the ODA. I invite you to read my recent blog about the session, which can be found here.
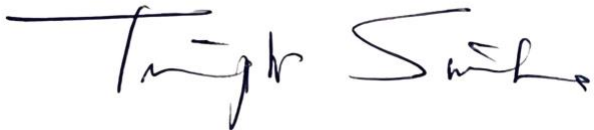
As noted, the Board anticipates making incremental decisions leading up to the final decision on opening a new application window for new gTLDs, and we expect to vote on many of the GNSO's recommendations during the upcoming ICANN76 Public Meeting. We will defer a small, but important, subset of the recommendations for future consideration. In the meantime, the Board has asked ICANN org to provide more detail on the financing of the steps envisioned in the ODA. We have also asked the org to develop a variation of the proposed Option 2 that ensures adequate time and resources to reduce the need for manual processing and takes into account the need to resolve critical policy issues, such as closed generics.

In the coming weeks, the Board will consider any additional communication or input we may receive on this matter and appreciate the Council's commitment to be a reliable partner in helping achieve this priority.

(continued…)

Again, the Board thanks the GNSO Council for its continued engagement and support in reaching this significant milestone and looks forward to future discussions regarding the ODA and the SubPro policy recommendations.

Best regards,

Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors