

16 March 2021

RE: Summary of discussions on the Standardized System for Access/Disclosure (SSAD)  
from 22 February 2021

Mr. Philippe Fouquart  
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council

Dear Philippe:

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to extend our appreciation for the productive and open dialogue that took place on 22 February 2021 with regard to the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD). The Board agrees with your comment about the importance of having a shared understanding, and would like to share the Board's summary of the discussion:

- The Board stands ready to engage further with the GNSO Council on the policy recommendations, as appropriate.
- The role of the GNSO is to make policy recommendations through the multistakeholder process, while the role of the Board is to consider whether to adopt and direct ICANN org to implement the recommendations. Although the Board may ask questions of the Council regarding the policy recommendations, the responsibility for managing development of policy recommendations and determining whether to provide them to the Board as consensus policy recommendations lies with the Council.
- The Operational Design Phase ("ODP") is a tool intended to help the Board make decisions on GNSO Council-approved policy recommendations, while providing transparency to the community throughout the process.
- The Council is aware and intends to make use of the opportunity it has within the ODP to provide its feedback on the Operational Design Assessment.
- The Board is in receipt of the Council's SSAD-related [letter](#) dated 22 January 2021, which the Board [responded](#) to on 18 February 2021. The Board considers many of the issues identified in the letter as important areas to explore and, as such, they are currently contemplated as in-scope for the SSAD ODP.

The Board looks forward to our further engagement with the Council on this matter.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors