

Dear Councilors:

Please find below a short summary of my latest monthly meeting with ICANN org's SSAD ODP project team from 9 December.

The project team informed me that the next SSAD ODP community webinar will take place in January 2022. Prior to the upcoming webinar, representatives from the SSAD ODP project team will be meeting with the GNSO Council on 20 December 2021 to discuss some initial findings of the Operational Design Assessment. As you may recall, when the GNSO Council approved the EPDP Phase 2 recommendations, it requested a further consultation with the ICANN Board, noting, in particular, some of the concerns expressed in the Final Report. I understand that further details of this initial meeting are forthcoming. In the meantime, pls reserve Monday, 20 December 2021 at 21:00 UTC in your calendar.

For those of you who may be interested, the project team conducted a Governmental Accreditation Authorities (AA) webinar on 3 December 2021 at 15:00 UTC, and a recording will be made available shortly on the SSAD ODP homepage: <https://www.icann.org/ssadodp>. Representatives from the project team also held a follow-up meeting with the EPDP Phase 2 GAC representatives to further discuss questions and concerns that arose during the webinar. The team explained that the proposed design approach is one way to go about it and this will serve as a starting point for when the IRT and the ICANN staff engage should the ICANN Board adopt the recommendations and direct the org to implement an SSAD. The team further explained that their proposed approach is to provide a one-stop shop to the SSAD users and minimize data transfer among multiple systems. With this design approach, nothing stops the countries/territories from contracting with ICANN's Central AA vendor to serve as their Governmental AA, which seems to alleviate the concerns over what countries/territories are potentially being asked to do from a complexity standpoint. I concluded that the proposed approach does not contradict the recommendations set within the Final Report.

Finally, having heard no objections or concerns to the questions and assumptions from my [17 November 2021 message](#) to the Council, the project team will proceed with its work on the basis of these assumptions.

I plan to meet with the project team again in January and will provide another update at that time.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,
JK