

17 November 2022

GNSO Council decision on Whois Disclosure System Design Paper

To: ICANN Board

Dear Tripti,

On behalf of the GNSO Council, I would hereby like to transmit the outcome of the Council's consideration of the EPDP Phase 2 small team recommendations related to the Whois Disclosure System Design Paper.

The Council unanimously accepted the [addendum](#) prepared by the small team and as a result is supportive of the request that the ICANN Board proceeds with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System, provided that the updates identified under #1 in the addendum are made. Through its engagement with ICANN org, the small team indicated that it is possible to add these updates, recognizing that some additional time for development and additional resources may be needed.

Furthermore, the Council confirms to the ICANN Board that pending the implementation and subsequent running of the Whois Disclosure System for a period of up to two (2) years, the SSAD recommendations should remain paused for consideration by the ICANN Board, unless the data resulting from the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System would allow / warrant a decision at an earlier stage.

The Council does expect that before the launch of the system, the name of the system will be modified as it has been pointed out by a number of people that "Whois disclosure system" is not accurate and potentially misleading. In addition, the addendum provides a number of other topics for further discussion that, while not considered gating issues, could be implemented to create a more usable system. It was also emphasized that ICANN org should take a light touch on the system's terms and conditions to promote participation rather than discouraging requestors and registrars from signing up.

As also outlined in the addendum, the GNSO Council, GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies as well as others with an interest in the Whois Disclosure System, including ICANN org and the ICANN Board, all have a responsibility in ensuring participation in the Whois Disclosure System through development of a robust system, communication, promotion and information sharing. The Council is committed to continue its support for and engagement in this effort, with the assistance of the EPDP Phase 2 small team.

Although this letter highlights only a couple of the elements of the addendum, the Council does expect the ICANN Board, as well as ICANN org, to take the whole addendum into account as you consider how to proceed.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with the ICANN Board as well as ICANN org on this topic and hope to receive your feedback on expected next steps and timing soon.

Kindly,

Sebastien Ducos
GNSO Chair