

27 April 2022

Facilitated dialogue to formulate a workable framework to handle closed generic applications

To: Maarten Botterman, Chair, ICANN Board

Dear Maarten,

Thank you for your 6 March 2022 [letter](#), which invited the GNSO Council to participate in a facilitated dialogue to formulate a workable framework to handle closed generic applications.

The Council has considered the proposed approach as described in greater detail in the ICANN org developed Framing Paper (now attached to the Board's letter). The Council recognizes that the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group considered and deliberated extensively on the topic of closed generics, including whether (1) to make them available without restrictions, (2) ban them entirely, or (3) make them available with restrictions, including, for example, that they serve a public interest goal. The Working Group was unable to reach consensus on any changes to the current new gTLD policy.

In the absence of recommendations to change the current policy, the Council appreciates that the approach for closed generics for the immediate next round of new gTLDs may be out of harmony with GAC advice on the subject, namely that closed generics serve a public interest goal. The Board has asked that facilitated dialogue be limited to only option 3 above. It is on that basis that the Council is happy to pursue next steps for the facilitated dialogue, subject to mutual agreement with the GAC on the conditions for that dialogue. The Council will be preparing for these conditions with the help of its dedicated small team.

While the Council is willing to pursue these next steps, it is important to note that Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group [expressed its opposition](#) to the conversation between the Council and the GAC.

The Council is appreciative of the ICANN Board's attention to GNSO related matters and is looking forward to engaging in this dialogue.

Best regards,

Philippe Fouquart
GNSO Chair