19 December 2024

Final GNSO Council Review of Istanbul GAC Communiqué

TO: Tripti Sinha

Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

CC: Nicolas Caballero, GAC Chair

Dear Tripti,

On behalf of the GNSO Council, we are hereby transmitting to you the GNSO Council's *final* review of the Istanbul GAC Communiqué Issues of Importance as adopted by the GNSO Council on 19 December 2024.

The GNSO Council's review of each GAC Communiqué is an effort to provide feedback to you, in your capacity as members of the ICANN Board, as you consider issues referenced in the Communiqué that we believe relate to policies governing generic Top-Level Domains. Our intent is to inform you and the broader community of gTLD policy activities, either existing or planned, that may directly or indirectly relate to advice provided by the GAC. The GNSO Council hopes that the input provided through its review of the GAC Communiqué will enhance co-ordination and promote the sharing of information on gTLD related policy activities between the GAC, Board and the GNSO.

Kindly,

Greg DiBiase, GNSO Chair

GNSO COUNCIL REVIEW OF <mark>ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE</mark> CONTAINED IN THE ICANN81 GAC COMMUNIQUE

Topic	Details	To which group(s) is the GAC text directed?	Does the issue of importance concern an issue that can be considered within the remit[1] of the GNSO (yes/no)	If yes, is it subject to existing policy recommendations, implementation action or ongoing GNSO policy development work? Please specify.	How has this issue been/is being/will be dealt with by the GNSO?	Does the GNSO want to provide additional feedback to the Board, the GAC, and/or another group? Please specify the response, target audience, and suggested method of communication or engagement (for example via this template, correspondence, and/or dialogue).
Next Round of New gTLDs: Applicant Support Program: Outreach, Engagement and Communications; Applicant Support Program: Application and Evaluation Fees	GAC recommends that ICANN org engages fully with GAC to identify and engage with target countries (and sectors), keeping with the regional approach for selection in the next phase of the outreach.	ICANN Org	No	N/A	Applicant Support Program (ASP) outreach falls under responsibility of ICANN Org.	The GNSO remains attentive to the topic and supports ICANN Org's choices thus far.

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[1] As per the ICANN Bylaws: 'There shall be a policy-development body known as the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), which shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains.

	GAC continues to urge ICANN org to build awareness of the new gTLD Program and the ASP among financial institutions and the investment community in all targeted countries, to promote awareness of the benefits of the New gTLD Program, and facilitate "matchmaking" between financing or funding entities and potential applicants with a view to providing financial assistance for ASP supported applicants.					
Next Round of New gTLDs: Latin Script Diacritics	The GAC expresses its support for this initiative, particularly in light of the strong community response during the public comment period, which	GNSO	yes	Future policy work	The Charter is being finalized for discussion and vote at the next Council meeting, following which the PDP will get underway in near future.	

	garnered wide support favoring the initiation of this PDP. The GAC looks forward to the progress of this significant initiative as it seeks to foster a more inclusive and multilingual Internet.				The completion of this PDP is not a dependency for the launch of the application process for new gTLDs.	
General Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct on Statements of Interest	GAC intends to continue reviewing the proposal, and engaging with the community on the matter, and looks forward to making a submission under the public comment process	ICANN Board, Org and community	Yes	The issue of SOIs is a subject of discussion at GNSO and the GNSO Council.	The GNSO Council recognizes the important role that SOIs play in the ICANN Community and the work the Community undertakes. Now that the public comment period on the Code of Conduct on SOIs and General Ethics Policy has closed, the Council will follow the next steps on this document closely and discuss whether and how the finalized Policy should be	

					incorporated into GNSO processes and procedures.	
DNS Abuse	The GAC highlights the importance of regular reporting from ICANN Compliance, including on statistics about the ratio between the number of reports and actions undertaken, and more specific information about the types of disruption or mitigation actions taken. The GAC would also welcome information about practices stemming from the interpretation of the Advisory guidance, for example in relation to "actionable evidence." The GAC intends to continue reviewing measurements and	Org: ICANN Compliance; ICANN community particularly contracted parties	Yes	No, but the new DNS abuse provisions are contractual obligations between ICANN and the registries and registrars respectively. The CPH regularly conducts outreach with other stakeholders. See the next column.	The Contracted Parties House (CPH) holds periodic outreach meetings to discuss how the community measures the success of contractual amendments.	

	analysis of the effectiveness of the DNS Abuse amendments.					
DNS Abuse	GAC looks forward to further engaging with the community to identify priorities which could be considered for further policy and other types of work to address DNS Abuse. The GAC recalls some topics previously identified (such as guidance on key terms or capacity building to disseminate best practices), as well as discussions on possible targeted, narrowly scoped PDPs to further address DNS Abuse.	ICANN Community, GNSO	Yes	Not yet	GNSO Council previously had a Small Team to consider potential policy work on DNS Abuse. Council has committed to reviewing compliance data from ICANN Org as it becomes available and if gaps remain, to consider whether policy development specifically is the right mechanism to address this issue.

The Small Team recommended in 2022, that while work should continue on DNS Abuse, formal policy work (PDP) would likely take too long for too little, and that the community | |

					should be encouraged to develop/share best practices. If and where these can be transposed into consensus policy, that it should be done via tightly scoped PDPs to that sole effect.	
Domain Name Registration Data - RDRS	ccTLDs inclusion in RDRS, RDRS should continue and be more visible.	ICANN org and ICANN community	Yes		The GAC via the PSWG is an active participant in the RDRS Standing Committee. The GNSO thanks the GAC for its active participation in the RDRS Standing Committee.

This input has been taken on board by the Standing Committee already, but falls outside of the limited scope of the current pilot.

The GNSO understands that | |

					ICANN org's plans are to maintain RDRS active after the conclusion of the Pilot, with budgets to finance further developments, including ccTLD (which will require for multiple reasons, a different flow aimed at the ccTLDs themselves rather than Registrars as is the case with gTLDs)	
Domain Name Registration data - RDRS	The GAC remains supportive of efforts by ICANN and the RDRS Standing Committee to promote awareness and usage of the RDRS. In particular, the GAC supports efforts to identify and implement improvements to the RDRS interface to boost users' ability to navigate and submit requests via the RDRS, and regularly	RDRS Standing Committee	Yes	No	As above, the GNSO thanks the GAC for its active participation, via the PSWG, in the RDRS Standing Committee.	

	provide usage metrics that will help inform work toward an eventual Standardized System for Access and Disclosure (SSAD). The GAC reiterates its encouragement to include information about the RDRS and a link to it within the WHOIS lookup/Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) with a view to provide timely and relevant information to increase its visibility. The GAC will continue its engagement with the RDRS Standing Committee to support the Standing Committee's work toward constructive outcomes.				
Domain Name Registration Data - PPSAI Implementation	GAC continues to encourage registrars and requestors to participate in the	ICANN-accredited registrars	Yes	Yes, PPSAI IRT	Depending on the outcome of PPSAI IRT and conclusions of RDRS Pilot, there

	RDRS and continues to encourage registrars using affiliated proxy service providers to consider making disclosure decisions in response to RDRS request for data.				could be future policy work.	
Domain Name Registration Data - Accuracy	GAC stresses the importance of resuming work on accuracy as soon as possible. GAC expects that as soon as feedback on GNSO questions is received, the community will resume efforts toward scoping policy work on accuracy.	GNSO	Yes	Yes	The GNSO Council developed a Community questionnaire to provide direction on scoping (potential) future work. The GNSO Council has shared initial questions (regulatory) with ICANN Org and, following their reply the questionnaire for the Stakeholder Groups and Advisory Bodies will be shared. The GNSO Council invited the GAC during ICANN81 to provide feedback when the questionnaire is	

					shared. Tentative deadline: ICANN Org input end of November 2024. Stakeholder Group input by the end of January 2025.	
Domain Name Registration Data - Urgent Requests for Disclosure	GAC would welcome further confirmation of Board's tentative support for the GAC proposal to pursue two work tracks in parallel: one to determine appropriate response time, one to handle authentication.	ICANN Board	Yes	EPDP on Registration Data recommend-ations on urgent requests for access to data	The GNSO Council thanks the GAC and Board for their participation in the tripartite discussion on 21 October 2024 and looks forward to further engagement on this issue. In particular, the GNSO Council acknowledges the work of the PSWG on potential authentication mechanisms for law enforcement.

The GNSO Council has included the topic of Urgent Requests on their December meeting agenda and will consider the | |

					proposal made by GAC on urgent requests.	