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Generic Names Supporting Organization

2 March 2026

**GNSO Council Dialogue with ICANN Board re: SSAD Recommendations**

TO: Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Dear Tripti,

On behalf of the GNSO Council, I am writing to thank ICANN Board members from the Data Privacy/Protection Caucus for joining the 12 February 2026 GNSO Council meeting to discuss next steps for the GNSO policy recommendations related to a Standardized System for Access/Disclosure (the "SSAD recommendations").

During this discussion, the GNSO Council noted the Registration Data Request Service ("RDRS") Standing Committee's recommendation that the GNSO Council request that the ICANN Board not adopt the 18 SSAD recommendations in order to trigger the Supplemental Recommendation process outlined in Annex A, Section 9 of the ICANN Bylaws. Specifically, the RDRS Standing Committee recommends, "when the GNSO Council and ICANN Board engage in a dialogue, the Council should recommend that the ICANN board reject the SSAD recommendations (as a package) and send them back to the GNSO Council for further action and Supplemental Recommendation."

The GNSO Council discussed the ramifications of following this recommendation during the dialogue with the Board Data Privacy/Protection Caucus members and noted the following:

- The RDRS Standing Committee was comprised of members from across the ICANN Community and discussed the potential benefits and drawbacks of all available procedural paths before making the recommendation to not adopt the SSAD recommendations;
- Non-adoption and the subsequent steps in Annex A, Section 9 of the Bylaws would initiate a dialogue between the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board;
- The GNSO Council would have an opportunity to provide Supplemental Recommendations, which would allow for important and necessary improvements to the existing SSAD recommendations; and,
- This would provide a procedurally efficient path that recognizes the ICANN Community's desire for this work to be completed in a timely manner.

Importantly, in discussing the path of not adopting the recommendations, the GNSO Council agreed that such a path would NOT:

- Constitute discarding any SSAD recommendation, as the EPDP Team emphasized the interdependence of the 18 recommendations and noted that the package of 18 recommendations was a carefully-designed compromise;
- Result in undoing years of community work and relitigating carefully-crafted compromises;
- Indicate that the Board will never adopt recommendations for a system to handle requests for disclosure of registration data.

While the GNSO Council understands the sensitivities inherent in Board non-adoption, the GNSO Council believes the Supplemental Recommendations path is the most efficient way to make important and necessary improvements to the SSAD recommendations. The GNSO Council also notes this path

was recently used for the non-adopted SubPro recommendations and allowed for important input from the ICANN Community and the Board.

Lastly, in discussing this path, both the GNSO Council and present Board members noted the importance of completing work on Supplemental Recommendations, if this is the path the Board ultimately takes, in a timely manner. The GNSO Council believes the comprehensive work done by the RDRS Standing Committee contained within its Findings Report, which includes suggestions to keep or modify each of the 18 SSAD recommendations, provides important insights and guidance that will allow for the development of Supplemental Recommendations to be completed efficiently. While the GNSO Council has not agreed to a specific timeline yet, in our recent discussions, GNSO Councilors agreed that Supplemental Recommendations should be delivered to the ICANN Board within months, not years.

Thank you again to the ICANN Board for its active participation to date in discussions around this sensitive but important topic. The GNSO Council stands available should the Board have additional questions or concerns.

Kindly,

Susan Payne
Chair, GNSO