

25 July 2022

RE: Closed Generics

Philippe Fouquart, Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)  
Manal Ismail, Chair, Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

Dear Philippe and Manal,

Following the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council's [correspondence from 29 June 2022](#), for which the Board is thankful, I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Board to align on next steps for the facilitated dialogue on closed generics. As you know, the aim of this process is to reach a mutual agreement on a high-level framework that, if agreed on, would subsequently be considered through an appropriate GNSO policy development process. The foundation for this dialogue has already been set out in the [Framing Paper](#) from 8 March, with adjustments and points of emphasis provided in the [Report](#) of the GNSO Council Small Team on Closed Generics and [the GAC's letter](#) from 22 April 2022.

The Board would like to propose that Ms. Melissa Peters Allgood, the Conflict Resolution Specialist on ICANN org's Policy Development Support team, serve as neutral facilitator for the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and GNSO Council dialogue. We are of the view that Ms. Allgood's experience, qualifications, and neutrality in the matter meets the suggested criteria from the GAC and the GNSO Council. We understand that the GAC and GNSO Council leadership have no objections to Ms. Allgood serving in the facilitator role. The Board will work with ICANN org and Ms. Allgood to assure the GAC and the GNSO Council of the neutrality of all staff, including Ms. Allgood, in supporting the dialogue.

Upon your confirmation that the GAC and GNSO Council are agreeable to Ms. Allgood's serving as the facilitator, ICANN org will work with Ms. Allgood to draft a Problem Statement and Briefing Paper for the GAC's and GNSO Council's review and agreement.

We believe that one remaining issue for the GAC and GNSO Council to agree upon, prior to the start of the dialogue, is the size of the team that will participate. As the Council and the GAC work out the details for participation, the Board suggests considering how the group can be right-sized to ensure that its members are able to work efficiently and have effective discussions. In this context, the Board expresses its support for the GNSO Council Small Team's and the GAC's endorsement to add a member of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) to the facilitated dialogue.

(continued...)

The Board looks forward to the commencement of the facilitated dialogue and its outcomes. We stand ready to provide the GAC and GNSO Council with any additional support or input that you may require from the Board.

Best regards,



Maarten Botterman