

ICANN | GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

13 December 2024

Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Subject: GAC Response on the Board’s Proposed Path Forward on Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets in New gTLDs

Dear Tripti,

The GAC thanks the Board for the constructive and swift GAC/Board dialogue following the Advice issued on “Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets in New gTLDs” in the ICANN80 Kigali Communiqué and ICANN77 Washington D.C. Communiqué, as well as the [Community Wide dialogue](#) held by the Board at the request of the GAC since the Kigali Meeting.

The GAC appreciates the Board’s decision to prohibit the private resolution of contention sets, including private auctions. As envisioned in the GAC Chair [letter](#) to the ICANN Board, the GAC held discussions at the ICANN81 Istanbul meeting on the proposed path set forward by the ICANN Board.

As noted in the ICANN81 Communiqué, the GAC generally welcomes the Board’s proposal including to provide applicants with an opportunity to submit an alternate string which can be selected by the applicant in order to potentially avoid string contention. The GAC recognizes that the use of a replacement string was brought forward by the Board in an attempt to find a mutually acceptable compromise following GAC advice. As such, the GAC finds this a mutually acceptable solution, while noting that further dialogue with and efforts from ICANN org involving interested community participants should take place regarding the implementation details of this proposal.

The GAC looks forward to continued collaboration with the Board on matters pertaining to new gTLDs and encourages the Board to resolve the matter of contention sets in the forthcoming application round as set forth above, and for relevant language to be included in the Applicant Guidebook to this effect.

Sincerely,

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Nicolas G. Caballero

Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)