

ICANN
POLICY FORUM

77

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GAC Discussion on the Next Round of New gTLDs

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Monday, 12 June 2023
Session #2

Session 2 Agenda - Next Round of New gTLDs

- Introduction - GAC Chair
- GAC/GNSO/ALAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

Overview of facilitated dialogue process

Presentation of work conducted - Draft Framework

Discussion with GAC members - All

- AOB

1. Overview - GAC/GNSO/ALAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

- GAC ICANN46 Beijing Communiqué (11 April 2013) noted that “*for strings representing generic terms, exclusive registry access should serve a public interest goal.*”
- Throughout the development of the SubPro Recommendations, a policy recommendations on closed generics were not able to be agreed.
- In March 2022, the ICANN Board sent a [letter and framing paper](#) to the GAC and GNSO Council proposing a Board-facilitated process for a GAC-GNSO dialogue on the topic of closed generic gTLDs.
- GAC and GNSO Council agreed to take part in a **facilitated dialogue** between GNSO/GAC to develop a framework on Closed Generics (including one representative from the ALAC).
- GAC Participants:
 - ✓ Manal Ismail, Egypt
 - ✓ Jorge Cancio, Switzerland
 - ✓ Jason Merritt, Canada
 - ✓ Aderonke (Adeniyi) Sola-Ogunsola, Nigeria
 - ✓ Nigel Hickson, UK
 - ✓ Ian Sheldon, Australia

2. Background/Overview - GAC/GNSO/ALAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

- To facilitate open and frank discussions the 14 participants decided to operate under the Chatham House Rule.
- Participants engaged in brainstorming exercises to identify the following items associated with closed generic gTLDs:
 - unique characteristics
 - opportunities
 - challenges and
 - questions
- This included numerous discussions about “the public interest”, which the group agreed must be a critical feature of closed generic gTLDs.
- The group ultimately decided that a closed generic gTLD can ultimately serve both broad and targeted public interest goals.

3. Process - GAC/GNSO/ALAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

- The group's approach was to build from establishing general principles and identify hypothetical cases of closed generic gTLDs (e.g. .donation)
- With use case examples to aid targeted discussions, participants began identifying specific elements of a draft framework on closed generic gTLDs.
- These elements were categorized into three blocks as they would impact different phases of the lifecycle of a closed generic gTLD, namely:
 - the application
 - evaluation, and
 - contracting/post-delegation.
- Within each block, participants refined the criteria they believed should be included in the framework.
- With each meeting the group refined the elements of the framework, working through "red line" positions finding compromise where appropriate.
- The group agreed to share a draft framework with the communities for review, comment and discussion.
- Initial draft framework on Closed Generic applications was shared with community on 8 June 2023.

4. Community Input - GAC/GNSO/ALAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

- GAC Members - and broader community - are invited to provide input on any of the elements in the draft framework as follows by 15 July 2023:
 - Inputs shared during the two public sessions at ICANN77; and
 - Inputs shared to closed-generics-feedback@icann.org
- The facilitated dialogue group will consider community feedback as it continues to work on a proposed Final Framework.
- The proposed Final Framework - if one were to be agreed - will set the basis for the subsequent policy work that the GNSO Council is expected to initiate to develop policy recommendations on closed generic gTLDs.
- If, however, the group does not reach agreement on a Final Framework, the issue of closed generic gTLDs will revert to the ICANN Board for a decision.
- The group expects to complete its deliberations in the third quarter of 2023.

5. GAC Discussion

- Do GAC Members have specific questions for the GAC representatives who took part in the facilitated dialogue?
- Do GAC Members have questions on the draft framework?
- Do GAC Members have thoughts/reactions to the language included in the draft framework?
- Questions?

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