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
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.
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.
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.
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?
Thank You and Questions

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