ICANN | GAC
Governmental Advisory Committee

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Governmental Advisory Committee Comments
Regarding the Second Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Next Round Applicant Guidebook
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The ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Second Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Next Round Applicant Guidebook (AGB) opened on 10 September 2024[1]. GAC members have reviewed the proposed language and herein provide general comments in that regard.[2]

The GAC thanks the Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team and ICANN org for the multiphase approach to drafting of Applicant Guidebook Language, providing the GAC and other members with multiple opportunities to review and provide input prior to the publication of the AGB. The GAC recognizes that the full Applicant Guidebook will be submitted for public comment prior to its publication, and therefore these comments do not preclude any future GAC input on the AGB as a whole.

GAC Topic Leads have found the Applicant Guidebook language on the following topics as discussed since ICANN80 by the IRT to be in accordance with SubPro PDP WG Recommendations:

- Subsequent Application Rounds (Topic 3: Applications Assessed in Rounds)
- Background Screening (Topic 22: Registrant Protections)

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[1] See public comment proceeding:
https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/proposed-fundamental-bylaws-amendments-related-to-grant-program-07-08-2024)

[2] This comment was prepared by the Committee's leadership and is made on behalf of the entire GAC. It has been subjected to review of the GAC membership and is intended to complement, but not replace, any input that may be provided on the Second Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Next Round Applicant Guidebook by individual GAC members.

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- String Similarity Review (Topic 24: String Similarity Evaluations)
- Internationalized Domain Names (Topic 25: IDNs)
- Dispute Resolution Procedures After Delegation (Topic 33: Dispute Resolution Procedures After Delegation)
- Registrar-Non-Discrimination / Registry/Registrar Standardization (Topic 37: Registrar Non-Discrimination / Registry/Registrar Standardization)
- Registrar Support for New gTLDs (Topic 38: Registrar Support for New gTLDs)
- Root Zone Label Generation Rules (Topic 25: IDNs)

Specifically, on the topic of **Closed Generics** (Topic 23: Closed Generics), the GAC wishes to convey its support for the language included in the draft Applicant Guidebook. Such language aligns with GAC Advice included in the ICANN78 Hamburg Communiqué, where the GAC expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the participants in the GAC, GNSO and ALAC in the Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics, and advised the Board to "ensure that the forthcoming Applicant Guidebook clearly states that Closed Generic gTLD applications will not be considered."

It has been a pleasure for the GAC to be represented in the Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team (IRT) and to therefore take part in the discussions of the important issues articulated above. This has been important in keeping the wider GAC informed of developments.

The GAC is grateful to ICANN org for this opportunity to share the committee's perspective on the Second Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Next Round Applicant Guidebook opened on 10 September 2024 and the committee looks forward to contributing to potential future comment opportunities as they relate to this matter at ICANN81 and in the future.

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