

The Closed Generic Issue

Part 1:

“Closed Generic” is defined as a situation in which the gTLD registry controls registration of all second level domains of the "generic name" of its business or industry. For example, L’Oréal controlling “.makeup” & “.beauty”

You are in the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) trying to find consensus on this issue.

The CPWG is split three ways on the Closed Generic issue:

- **Public Interest Option:** About 1/3 of the working group believe in limited Closed Generics where the applicant is a non-profit entity using the domain for broad public benefit. This group believe there should be layers of oversight to ensure broad public benefit but aren’t specific on much more.
- **Public Interest Option with Support:** About 1/3 of the working group feel that a Closed Generic should only be allowed if there is support from other entities operating in the space and further believe there should be layers of oversight to ensure broad public benefit.
 - Example: If “.relief” is run by the Red Cross, support from entities such as Oxfam & UNICEF should be required.
- **Full Prohibition of Closed Generics:** About 1/3 of the working group believe in a full prohibition of Closed Generics. Most in this group feel that definitions and requirements around a Public Interest Option are too hard to create in a universally applicable manner.

At-Large Definition of Consensus:

A Consensus decision is one supported by an overwhelming percentage of the ALAC and ALS representatives within a RALO but need not be unanimous. The ALAC Chair and RALO leadership shall rule as to whether or not a Consensus has been reached. Any ALAC Member or ALS representative who does not support a Consensus position may request that his/her disagreement be noted in the records of the meeting.

Please apply the ALAC definition of consensus directly to the CPWG situation. We are not exploring the relationship between the CPWG, ALAC and RALO’s for purposes of this exercise.

Questions for consideration:

1. You are the facilitator of this CPWG group. What steps might you consider to bring these groups closer together?
2. What would it take for this group to achieve consensus as defined for At-Large? What questions might need to be answered?

Part 2:

The group has agreed upon a **Public Interest Option with Support** from the other entities operating in the same space. Further, they've agreed that oversight in the public interest is necessary but haven't decided with specificity what that oversight will look like.

Question for consideration:

1. How should this group memorialize this consensus position?