

GNSO/GAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

09 January 2023 Meeting Notes

Closed Generic (CG) Dialogue Participants discussed the remaining Closed Generic use cases from Asynchronous Work #2 and their categorization. Participants then discussed participant commitments and the sharing of CG Dialogue working documents.

Participants discussed the following:

- .UNI: The applicant is an international association of universities. The closed gTLD benefits members of the association, who would receive second level domains as part of their membership. The registry owns the domain names on behalf of its members and being a domain name licensee is conditional on membership to the applicant's association.
- Standard-based TLD: The closed gTLD is for a standard or standards developing organization (SDO). Standards or their working groups occasionally take on generic names. It may be used by those who use or develop a particular standard/technology, or if that standard requires a common namespace.
- Sector-focused TLD: The applicant would be a globally recognized institution with chartered membership across the business/industry sector. In its application, the applicant would provide a detailed statement of purpose, governance plan on behalf of the sector, and letters of support from the sector. Beneficiaries would be members of the sector and the general public. Competitors would not be disadvantaged; they may be included in the applicant organization's membership, or they may partner to operate the closed TLD. Useful guidelines may be found in U.S. trademark law and community objection decisions from the 2012 new gTLD round (e.g. SportAccord and .sport/.sports).
- .FLOWERSHOPS: The applicant is a society of flower shops and offers second level domains to accredited flower shops and/or those who meet a "global recognition mark" for flower shops. This TLD could operate similarly to the .UNI example, but could also potentially operate as a restricted open TLD.
- Participants began discussing categorization of the use cases presented, such as differentiating between closed gTLDs serving a general/global public interest goal and those serving a public interest goal for a specific set of users/members. Consideration may also be given to geographic indicators and closed gTLDs targeting only a particular company's products/services.
- It was noted whether there should be distinction between serving the public interest and not harming the public interest, and whether there should be clearer distinction between closed gTLDs and restricted open TLDs.

- Participants next discussed the sharing of CG Dialogue working documents with parties outside the immediate group. Concerns were expressed regarding the circulation of brainstorming documents without prior approval by the group.

Participants generally came to agreement that:

- Prior to any work document or draft document being shared outside the group, the participant(s) seeking to share documents should post their intent and the document via the mailing list for group approval. All personally identifying information must be removed from such shared documents. Participant Commitments should be updated accordingly.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Participants to review the draft of Participant Commitments, which has been updated based on the 9 January discussion.
- Participants to review and add inputs to Asynchronous Work #5 and #6.
- Participants to review and add inputs to Asynchronous Work #3 and #4 if they have not done so already.