GNSO/GAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics
20 February 2023 Meeting Notes

In this meeting, Closed Generic (CG) Dialogue Participants reviewed a document which incorporated their shared understandings of, and inputs regarding, Blocks 1-3 established throughout their work thus far. The group primarily discussed the new inputs from their 15 February breakout group exercise, with the aim of alignment on these inputs for inclusion in a future framework.

Participants discussed the following:

- Several representatives were unable to attend this meeting, therefore the group acknowledged it would not make decisions on additional shared understandings until the rest of the group had an opportunity to be informed of the day's discussions.
- The group discussed three questions posed on the mailing list by the Board liaison, and whether an applicant should have to explain why a closed generic gTLD is "necessary" in order to operate in the manner it proposes. Concerns were raised regarding how such question(s) would be evaluated.
- The group discussed whether an applicant must explain the primary purpose of their closed generic gTLD, and if that purpose must not solely be the exclusion of other parties from use of the generic gTLD.
- Participants discussed whether the evaluation criteria "should" or "must" be available to prospective applicants before initiating the application process, in consideration of SubPro recommendations.
- The group discussed establishing gating criteria, and whether there is a need for a minimum standard to allow an application to proceed. Concern was noted that an applicant could potentially score low in important public interest goal criteria, but score high enough in other areas to pass the evaluation. It may be beneficial to establish an initial gate that applications must pass through before the application is evaluated with the sliding scoring system.

Participants in attendance generally came to agreement that:

- The applicant must identify their public interest goal and provide evidence that this goal is in the public interest.
- The evaluation criteria should be known to potential applicants and the public.
- The framework on closed generic gTLDs should not be contrary to the final SubPro recommendations, at least not without detailed explanation.
- All scoring criteria must be assessed in the evaluation.
- A sliding scoring system may be used to evaluate closed generic gTLD applications.
- There is general agreement on having a gate as part of the evaluation process, but not yet on what the gate should entail.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Participants to review the high-level framework questions shared on the mailing list and add inputs regarding any missing questions before 27 February.
- Participants to review and add inputs to Asynchronous Work #7 before 27 February.
- Participants to review and add inputs to Asynchronous Work #8 before 06 March.