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

In this meeting, Closed Generic (CG) Dialogue Participants discussed the inputs shared in Asynchronous Work #7: Definitions. Participants discussed the different perspectives that a generic string may be interpreted from, and whether the current definitions of "generic string" and "Affiliates" in the Base gTLD Registry Agreement are sufficient for a framework on closed generic gTLDs.

Participants discussed the following:

● When considering from whose perspective a "generic string" should be interpreted, participants presented different ideas. Some participants proposed that the genericness of a string should be viewed from the perspective of the relevant public that the string is intended to benefit or that constitutes the purchasing public of the applicant's goods or services, while others proposed that it should be viewed from the perspective of the general public or end users. Another suggestion for determining genericness considered the perspective of the applicant and its intended use of the closed generic gTLD stated in the application.
● Considering that one word may have different interpretations depending on the language and context within which it is used, one suggestion of a potential way to determine if a string is generic is to check whether there is a dictionary in the world that lists that term. The evaluation panel may then consider the nexus between the generic string and its intended use, as well as objections.
● Participants discussed whether to add language to the current definition of "generic string" in Specification 11 of the Base gTLD Registry Agreement, and where this additional language may be best placed: for example, as part of a new Specification or as specific language to be included in the Applicant Guidebook.
● Participants discussed whether to broaden the current definition of "Affiliates" in Section 2.9(c) of the Base gTLD Registry Agreement to potentially include national chapters, member organizations, and other nonprofit-oriented entities associated with an applicant for a closed generic gTLD.

ACTION ITEMS:

● Staff to share a draft Summary Report document with the group on 1 March.
● Participants to review the draft Summary Report document once it is shared, and note any concerns on the mailing list before the group's next meeting on 6 March.
● Staff to share a strawman of a preliminary CG framework with the group before its next meeting on 6 March.