GNSO/GAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics
6 March 2023 Meeting Notes

In this meeting, Closed Generic (CG) Dialogue Participants discussed the inputs shared in Asynchronous Work #8 about the potential threats/risks posed by allowing closed generic gTLDs and how they may be addressed in the CG framework.

Participants discussed the following:
- Whether there are any areas of concern that have not yet been fully addressed in the Facilitated Dialogue. One participant noted that the group has not fully discussed how a CG application will be evaluated and by whom. Another participant noted that the group has not fully explored the global public interest, and whether or how it should be included in the framework.
- Whether a CG applicant should describe in its application how its second-level domains (SLDs) will be managed and delegated, and commit to monitoring how the SLDs are used to ensure the principles they commit to continue to be met over time.
- Whether the applicant should need to demonstrate support from those in its peer/business group associated with the generic term, including competitors. The expected level of support may depend on the string and how generic it is.
- Whether an applicant may commit to comply with the principles of competitive neutrality, non-discrimination, and transparency as a substitute for representation or group support.
- Whether an applicant should provide the evaluation panel with research regarding the impacts of the CG gTLD on the market and its competitors.
- Whether an applicant should commit that the CG gTLD will not be used to harm competition, for example: exclusive dealing, preventing third parties from offering goods and services, restricting the supply of goods and services, or making false or misleading representations to consumers about competitors and consumer choice.
- Whether an evaluation should consider how many other similar terms are available, and provide a lower score for a generic string that may be the only term used to describe it.

Participants generally came to agreement that:
- Guidelines for how a CG application is evaluated and by whom are relevant for inclusion in the CG framework.
- The global public interest should be further explored in group discussion.
- The statements made by the applicant in their application must be truthful.
- The applicant should commit that the closed generic gTLD will not be used for fraud or illegal activity.

ACTION ITEMS:
- Participants to review the Summary Report document and note on the mailing list any concerns or objections before sharing it with their communities.