ICANN 77
POLICY FORUM | 77
WASHINGTON, D.C.
12-15 June 2023

Joint Session: GAC, GNSO, and ALAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

12 June 2023

Agenda

1. **Introduction to GAC/GNSO/ALAC Facilitated Dialogue** - Mary Wong

2. **Participant Introduction** - Melissa Peters Allgood

3. **Overview of the Process** - Melissa Peters Allgood

4. **Review of Draft Framework on Closed Generic gTLDs** - Melissa Peters Allgood, Dialogue Participants

5. **SO/AC Community Group Input/Discussion**

6. **Next Steps** - Melissa Peters Allgood

Introduction to the Facilitated Dialogue

- The 2012 Applicant Guidebook did not contain specific guidance regarding applications for closed generic gTLDs, thus implicitly allowing them.
  - The GAC identified 61 strings covering 186 applications proposing exclusive registry access

- The GAC's 2013 Beijing Advice:
  - *"For strings representing generic terms, exclusive registry access should serve a public interest goal"*

- The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group discussed several options, but was ultimately unable to reach consensus on policy recommendations for closed generic gTLDs.

- In March 2022, the Board invited the GAC and GNSO Council to participate in a Board-facilitated dialogue to explore a mutually agreeable way forward on closed generic gTLDs.

- The GAC and GNSO accepted the Board's invitation and jointly invited the ALAC to participate.

The Facilitated Dialogue Process

Membership:

GAC Participants

- Aderonke Adeniyi (Sola-Ogunsola), Nigeria
- Jorge Cancio, Switzerland
- Nigel Hickson, United Kingdom
- Manal Ismail, Egypt
- Jason Merritt, Canada
- Ian Sheldon, Australia

ALAC Participants

- Greg Shatan
- Alan Greenberg (Alternate)

GNSO Participants

- Philippe Fouquart, CSG
- Arnaud Franquinet, RrSG
- Sophie Hey, RySG
- Kathy Kleiman, NCSG
- John McElwaine, GNSO Council
- Jeff Neuman, SubPro PDP

Board Liaisons

- Patricio Poblete
- Alan Barrett (Alternate)

The Facilitated Dialogue Process

Approach to the topic

- Brainstorming: group working from a high-level inward to framework detail, identifying common ground at each stage and building upon it

Timeline
- November - December 2023
  - Participant Commitments
    - Chatham House rule
    - Emphasis on asynchronous work between weekly 90-minute meetings

- December 2022 - January 2023
  - Identified needs - desires, concerns, questions & fears around closed generic gTLDs
  - Shared where & how closed generic gTLDs may & may not be appropriate
  - Identified unique opportunities, challenges & characteristics of closed generic gTLDs for end users, registrants and/or businesses
  - Brainstormed and discussed use cases
  - Began discussions of how to apply use cases to the Public Interest, keeping with GAC Beijing advice
  - Established high-level framework assumptions
  - Identified the unique characteristics of closed generic gTLDs that differentiate them from existing gTLD models

The Facilitated Dialogue Process

Timeline (cont.)

- January 26-27, 2023 - Met in Washington, D.C
  - 3 distinct areas of work emerged - Application, Evaluation, Contracting/Post-Delegation
  - Significant time was spent working on the Public Interest
  - Utilized small breakout groups for brainstorming

- February - March 2023
  - Further discussion of definitions and threats and risks

- ICANN76 - Cancun, Mexico
  - Continued threat and risk analysis and discussion of the Public Interest

- April-May 2023
  - Began meeting twice per week for 90 minutes
  - Reacted to a strawman document that encapsulated all framework inputs to date
  - Shared significant (aka "red line") concerns about specific framework elements
  - Engaged in focused discussions on specific red line issues

Draft Framework for
Community Q&A and Discussion

Next Steps

- The Facilitated Dialogue group is currently seeking community feedback on the [Draft Framework for Closed Generic gTLDs](#).

- This feedback will be considered by the group as it continues to work toward a Final Framework, to underpin expected policy work on closed generic gTLDs.

- Please send your feedback to:
  - Your support staff within ICANN org or
  - Directly to **closed-generics-feedback@icann.org**

Please review the Draft Framework and submit any feedback by **15 July 2023**.

Engage with ICANN – Thank You

One World, One Internet

Visit us at icann.org

@icann

facebook.com/icannorg

youtube.com/icannnews

flickr.com/icann

linkedin/company/icann

soundcloud/icann

instagram.com/icannorg