

14 November 2018

**RE: Questions regarding the status of the Expedited Policy Development Process for gTLD Registration Data.**

Keith Drazek  
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Dear Keith,

I am writing in reference to questions raised to the Board several times during ICANN63 regarding the progress of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) for gTLD Registration Data. The ICANN Board, via its two liaisons, has been closely following the EPDP. While the Board sincerely hopes that the EPDP team will conclude its work in a timely fashion, several in the ICANN community publicly raised concerns in Barcelona about progress, timing and back-up plans. Given that the GNSO Council is the manager of the EPDP, the Board is directing these queries to you as Chair of the GNSO Council.

As we come closer to the Temporary Specification's expiration date, the Board wishes to receive an update from the GNSO Council on the progress of the EPDP. In particular:

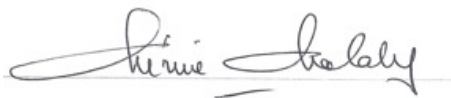
- **Deadlines** - The Board notes that the EPDP team intends to issue its initial report by 19 November 2018, with a final report to be submitted to the GNSO Council by 1 February 2019. Does the GNSO Council foresee any risks of these deadlines not being met, and if so, is there anything the Board can do to help?
- **Back-up Plans** - The Board recommends the development of back-up plans and would very much appreciate getting a better understanding of any such plans the GNSO Council may be contemplating. More specifically, what are the thoughts of the GNSO Council on next steps, consistent with the ICANN Bylaws and ICANN's contractual agreements with Contracted Parties, in the event the community has not reached agreement on a consensus policy prior to the expiration of the Temporary Specification?

The above request for an update from the Board is consistent with the [resolution](#) approving the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#), in which the Board resolved to “consult with the GNSO Council as soon as possible on the path forward to consider the development of a consensus policy on the issues within the Temporary Specification. The Board will consult with the GNSO Council about the expected scope of the PDP, timing considerations, and relevant procedural requirements.”

The Board acknowledges that these are challenging and complex issues, as this is the first time in ICANN's history that a Temporary Specification has been adopted and an EPDP has been launched. As such, the Board stands ready to engage, listen and support the GNSO Council, as appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you. I very much appreciate your expertise which is of paramount importance to guiding this process successfully.

Best regards,



Cherine Chalaby  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors