

15 February 2023

GNSO Council Strategic Planning Session Report

To: the ICANN Board

Dear Tripti,

On behalf of the GNSO Council, I would hereby like to share the Council's December 2022 Strategic Planning Session (SPS) Report with the ICANN Board. As you may be aware, the GNSO Council met last December in Los Angeles for this recurring meeting which focused on the following themes:

1. Building personal relationships and ensuring a common understanding of the role of a Council member as well as relationships with SG/Cs.
2. Identifying pain points and possible solutions with the goal to facilitate Council work but also relationships and engagement with the broader GNSO community.
3. Common understanding of the work ahead and agreement areas of focus for the year

The attached report captures at a high level our discussions as well as the following strategic objectives the Council identified and related action items:

- Develop and implement improvements that ensure that policy recommendations are “Board ready” when these are considered for adoption by the GNSO Council.
- Ensure timely input into the Board's consideration of the SubPro ODP and related policy recommendations, as well as keeping a close eye on dependencies that are within the Council's remit to address with the aim of getting the Board into a position to be able to agree and announce a next round date before the end of this Council session / year.
- Engage in further conversations with the ICANN Board as well as the GNSO community concerning how ODP type input and assessment can be developed prior to GNSO Council consideration of policy recommendations.
- Consider how to create further transparency in small team deliberations.
- Consider how to ensure enhanced uptake and use of the techniques of the Consensus Playbook with a specific focus on scoping and chartering, learning from approaches applied in efforts such as the facilitated dialogue on Closed Generics.
- Exploring incentives for compromising and promoting opportunities for mutual gain.

As part of an action item from a previous SPS and the Council's desire to be more proactive about policy recommendations after Council approval, I also want to take this opportunity to draw the Board's attention to the Council's work in progress. These are the current anticipated dates by which the Council will consider the Final Reports of ongoing policy development initiatives:

- Internationalized Domain Names EPDP – Council consideration of Final Report for Phase 1 anticipated for January 2024, for Phase 2 – January 2026.
- Transfer Policy Review PDP – Council consideration of Final Report anticipated for February 2025.

Our hope is that this will help inform the Board’s forward planning. For further information on these and other Council activities, please see <https://community.icann.org/x/1YvzC>. Similarly, we would appreciate if the Board could provide the Council with an update on when it anticipates considering policy recommendations that have been submitted to the ICANN Board and whether there is anything further the Council can do to help inform the Board’s consideration.

Last but not least, I wanted to extend the Council’s appreciation for the participation of the GNSO appointed Board members to the ICANN Board, Becky and Matthew. The Council greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage with them during this meeting and benefit from their input and suggestions. As you will note, one recurring theme of the report is how the Council can continue improving on the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy development process. We hope to continue our engagement and conversation on this topic with the ICANN Board because we strongly believe that through open and constructive dialogue, we will be able to identify further opportunities for continuous improvement.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspects of the report further, please do not hesitate to let me know. I anticipate that the Council may want to discuss some of the topics identified in the report further during our bilateral session at ICANN76.

Sincerely,

Sebastien Ducos
GNSO Chair