

22 January 2024

Mr. Jonathan Zuck
Chair, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Mr. Gregory DiBiase
Chair, Generic Names Support Organization (GNSO) Council

RE: Board Action on GAC and ALAC Advice on Closed Generics

Dear Jonathan, Dear Greg,

I am reaching out to you today to provide an update on the Board's consideration of the issue of how to address "closed generic" gTLD applications for the New gTLD Program: Next Round (Program). As noted in the [21 October 2023 letter](#) from the GNSO Council to the Board providing an update on the status of the facilitated dialogue on closed generic gTLDs, the Council stated that "because the facilitated dialogue did not reach a mutually agreed upon framework, the Council believes the Board should decide how to move forward on this topic."

After a thorough discussion, considering all relevant factors, including but not limited to prior GAC advice, the Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generic gTLDs [Outcomes Report](#), and the GNSO Council's correspondence from 21 October 2023, the ICANN Board has acted on the [GAC's Consensus Advice](#) from the Hamburg Communiqué that states, "The GAC advises the Board: i. Prior to the next round of New gTLDs, to ensure that the forthcoming Applicant Guidebook clearly states that Closed Generic gTLD applications will not be considered." The [ALAC informed the Board](#) on 16 November 2023 that it "fully supports this Advice and its accompanying rationale and echoes this Advice to the Board."

The Board decision, reflected in the scorecard, notes that "the Board has considered the GAC Advice and has determined that closed generic gTLD applications will not be permitted until such time as there is an approved methodology and criteria to evaluate whether or not a proposed closed domain is in the public interest."

We will keep the community updated on next steps, working with the Implementation Review Team (IRT) as appropriate, as ICANN org explores how to implement this Board decision in the Program.

We look forward to continuing working with you towards the timely opening of the New gTLD Program: Next Round.

Sincerely,



Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors