

2 July 2021

Monte Cahn  
President / Founder  
Right of the Dot, LLC

Dear Monte,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for your [letter dated 28 May 2021](#) and to express our appreciation for the input you provided to the work of the Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group (SubPro PDP WG).

We note with interest your input on the recommendations of Topic 35: Auctions: Mechanisms of Last Resort/Private Resolution of Contention Sets. As you state, Recommendations 35.2 and 35.4 did not receive consensus-level support from the SubPro PDP WG. Subsequently, the GNSO Council did not adopt these two recommendations in its [18 February 2021 resolution](#). The GNSO Council also resolved that “while not seeking to affirm that the status quo prevails in any particular instance, the GNSO Council notes that the Working Group operated under the assumption that, in the event the Working Group was unable to reach consensus in recommending an alternate course of action, the ‘status quo’ should remain in place as a detailed position, with the status quo consisting of the 2007 policy, the final Applicant Guidebook, and any implementation elements that were put into practice in the 2012 application round.” We are aware of the SubPro PDP WG’s working assumption, as detailed in the GNSO Council’s resolution, and will take this into account when deliberating on the [Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process](#).

The ICANN Board is in the process of reviewing the Final Report of the SubPro PDP WG and is considering launching an [Operational Design Phase](#) (ODP). The outcome of the ODP, together with other relevant input, such as the [Public Comment](#) on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs, would inform the Board’s decision on how to proceed with the Final Report. We note and appreciate that you also [submitted your letter as a public comment](#). It will be considered as input when deliberating the recommendations contained in the SubPro Final Report.

Kind regards,



Maarten Botterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors