

18 February 2021

Philippe Fouquart
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

RE: EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2

Dear Philippe,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your [letter dated 22 January 2021](#) and extend our appreciation for the constructive nature with which the GNSO Council has proposed aspects to be considered during the anticipated Operational Design Phase (ODP).

Noting the importance of the EPDP Phase 2 policy recommendations, the Board proposes conducting the consultation process through two activities:

- On 22 February 2021, we will hold a joint Board-GNSO Council discussion, where the Board will address the questions raised by the Council and discuss its plans for the ODP, including scope and timing. This meeting will be open to all Board members and Councilors who would like to participate. It will also be open to the public as a listening-only session and recorded for transparency.
- Shortly prior to or after the ODP is completed, a second session will be scheduled to revisit the Council's questions and discuss overall findings.

The Board will consider the questions raised in the Council's [22 January 2021](#) letter as it establishes the scope of the ODP on the SSAD-related policy recommendations. Noting that the Council's questions are complex in nature, some questions may only be addressed after the ODP is completed and, should the policy recommendations be adopted, when implementation of the SSAD has begun.

The Board also would like to remind the Council that the purpose of the ODP is to assess the operational impact of the SSAD-related policy recommendations on ICANN org and to inform the Board of these impacts prior to the Board's consideration of the policy recommendations. The ODP is not intended to determine whether the concept of the SSAD accounts for the cost and effort required to implement the proposed system. We believe this specific question has been addressed by the Council in approving the recommendations and forwarding them to the Board.

The Board looks forward to the 22 February discussion with the GNSO Council on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maarten Boterman".

Maarten Boterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors