

December 16, 2020

REGISTRAR STAKEHOLDER GROUP RESPONSE TO MARTEEN BOTTERMAN 12 OCTOBER 2020 LETTER

Dear Maarten,

On behalf of the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG), I am writing in response to your 12 October 2020 letter enquiring into our views on the upcoming Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) 3 Review. We recognize that the GNSO3 review was slated to start in June 2021, per the ICANN Bylaws Section 4.4, and that preplanning would have needed to start in earnest to meet that start date.

As noted in your October letter, there are a number of interdependencies and uncertainties regarding the GNSO3 and other reviews. Since receipt of your letter, the Board resolved on 30 November 2020 to approve the recommendations of the ATRT3 Report, including the initiation of a holistic review as a pilot. The RrSG agrees with the Board that the ATRT3's recommended timeline of 12 months from Board approval does not appear feasible and should be subject to prioritization and available resources.

In addition, the RrSG notes that several priority work items are underway or slated to begin in 2021. This includes the continuation of the EPDP on Registration Data and the Transfer Policy Review. These are areas that will require significant resources and attention by the RrSG.

Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a strain on the way we as registrars and the broader community work. This includes an additional burden on many of our workloads. The pandemic has complicated how we conduct our business, including our engagement within ICANN. It is unclear how this unique situation would impact a review.

All this being said, it is the view of the RrSG that the GNSO3 Review be postponed to allow for the Holistic Review, permit resources to be directed at other pressing priorities, and take into consideration the unique circumstances provided by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RrSG stands ready and willing to further engage with the Board and the community on the timing of the GNSO3 Review and other matters.

Thanks and Regards,

Ashley Heineman, RRSB Chair
On behalf of the RRSB