

5 July 2022

RE: Status Update EPDP Phase 2 and Review of the Operational Design Assessment (ODA)

Maarten Botterman, Chair, ICANN Board

Dear Maarten,

We appreciate the ongoing dialogue between the Council and the ICANN Board concerning the development of feasible SSAD-light models. This engagement includes [our letter](#) of 27 April and the Board's [response](#) of 9 June.

At ICANN org's request, the GNSO Council has considered the staff-reported impact of the development of an SSAD Light Design Paper on other ongoing work, specifically that the SSAD work will delay work on the Subsequent Procedures Operational Design Phase for at least six weeks (and also delay CZDS and EBERO modifications).

While Council members might differ on which project should take precedence, there is unanimous agreement that the Subsequent Procedures ODP and SSAD development are among the most important tasks before ICANN. Therefore, we urge that every effort should be undertaken by ICANN Org to complete the work in parallel and to meet currently published milestones.

Other than requesting that the Board not accept delays to current schedules, we choose to not provide more detailed advice. The Council does not view itself in a position, nor does it consider it the role of the Council, to prescribe the allocation of ICANN org resources now that these policy recommendations have been approved and submitted to the ICANN Board for consideration.

We have monitored the considerable community discussions devoted to this prioritisation topic. In their analysis of the issue, community members were heard to ask specific operations questions to aid in their consideration such as: "what are the risks of exceeding the six-week delay," "what alternative resources could be applied," "can the work be organized more efficiently," and "what follow-on work might cause additional delays", all of which are matters within ICANN Org's knowledge and remit. While it was natural for such questions to arise, given the request to the Council, they inappropriately include the broad community in the minutiae of ICANN operations planning. We think this is not the best use of the community's time, nor does the topic fall within its knowledge and expertise.

Again, the Council greatly appreciates the ongoing engagement with the ICANN Board, and looks forward to continued discussion of these initiatives. We believe these increased instances of interaction have become an effective new tool for facilitating progress on future issues. The Council also looks forward to updates from the Board and staff with regards to the formulation of the SSAD framework and the Subsequent Procedures ODP schedule.

Sincerely,

Philippe Fouquart
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)