



Maarten Botterman  
ICANN Board Chair

7 December 2020

Dear Maarten,

Thank you for your 12 October letter regarding the upcoming Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO3) Review, which is due to start in June 2021. The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) has considered the points raised in your letter and would like to offer our views about the timing of this review, as per your request. Simply put, for the reasons explained below, the RySG believes the initiation of the GNSO3 Review warrants a deferral.

The RySG recognizes that both Organizational and Specific Reviews, as envisioned in the ICANN Bylaws, are important mechanisms to ensure accountability and promote the effective functioning of the multistakeholder model. That said, we have expressed support for the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team's (ATRT3) recommendations to streamline the entire Reviews cycle in our public comments on that Team's Initial and Final Reports. Specifically, we support the ATRT3's suggestion that the Board implement a moratorium on launching any new Organizational or Specific Reviews until it has reached a decision on the ATRT3's recommendation on Reviews. The RySG believes it does not make sense to initiate additional Organizational Reviews like the GNSO3 Review until it is known how this recommendation will be implemented.

Furthermore, the RySG recognizes that while June 2021 marks five years since the Board's receipt and action on the last (GNSO2) review, the implementation of the recommendations from that review has taken substantially longer. We therefore believe it would be prudent to allow for additional time and experience with the recently implemented recommendations before embarking on another review.

Finally, to your inquiry regarding the timing of the GNSO3 Review in the context of our other work plans, the RySG would like to acknowledge the large volume of work that is currently underway and waiting to be initiated within the GNSO. RySG members are actively involved in all of the ongoing policy development processes (PDPs), as well as scoping and chartering teams for upcoming PDP and numerous other efforts within the ICANN community or in coordination with ICANN Org. So, while we understand the importance of the GNSO3 Review, we believe the important work already in progress should take priority at this time and that the Review should be deferred.

We appreciate the Board's consideration of the RySG's input on this matter and would be happy to participate if the OEC wishes to convene a meeting with GNSO leaders in the future.

Thank you and best wishes,

Samantha Demetriou  
RySG Chair