

21 August 2026

Mason Cole  
Chair, Business Constituency (BC)

Rafik Dammak  
Chair, Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)

Keith Drazek  
Interim Chair, Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG)

Philippe Fouquart  
Chair, Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP)

John McElwaine  
President, Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC)

Owen Smigelski  
Chair, Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG)

**RE: Implementation of GNSO-Approved Policy Recommendations: Input regarding timeline and transparency**

Dear Mason, Rafik, Keith, Philippe, John, and Owen,

Thank you for your [letter](#) of 25 May 2026 and for the subsequent conversations at ICANN86 in Seville. The discussions allowed the ICANN Board and staff supporting the community's policy projects to more fully understand the concerns outlined in your letter.

The Board agrees with the expectation that its review of community-developed policy recommendations should proceed with expediency. To that end, in recent years the Board has explored ways to facilitate timeliness of our work while ensuring that we have the information necessary to carry out the review of the recommendations in accordance with the Bylaws. These ideas have included defining and refining the role of Board liaisons, engaging in proactive dialogue with the GNSO Council when appropriate, and using Board Caucus Groups to streamline and organize the Board's discussion of the recommendations. We are hopeful that these initiatives, and our continuing efforts to refine and learn from them, will result in shorter timelines for expedient Board action.

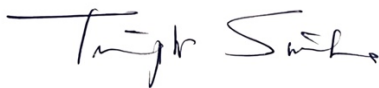
The Board takes note of your suggestions to establish a standard timeframe within which it should aim to complete its review of GNSO policy recommendations, and to provide more consistent and transparent status updates. We understand the attraction of a standardized target; however, the nature and complexity of recommendations vary, and the Board should not establish a fixed outer deadline that could interfere with the review required under the Bylaws. Instead, we will work toward greater predictability through expected timing and status reporting.

To this end, the Board intends to provide a status update to the community ahead of each ICANN Public Meeting, and continue to explore additional, practical mechanisms that will enable us to follow policy development activities in the community and prepare for Board review of the outcomes. Following the ICANN organization's recent move to publish regular [Consolidated Policy Scorecards](#) that track the progress of community work at all stages of the policy lifecycle, the Board will include a review of the status of policy work as a standing item on its workshop agendas ahead of each ICANN Public Meeting. At ICANN86, the Board also committed to review the status of such work at each stage with the GNSO Council and relevant GNSO stakeholder groups.

We also wish to thank you for supporting increased Board interaction with the GNSO Council and the relevant Working Group leadership teams during the Board's deliberations on GNSO policy recommendations. The Board believes that these discussions, such as those that resulted in the current work on Supplemental Recommendations relating to a Standardized System for Access and Disclosure, facilitated clarification of the record and the surfacing of questions without altering the respective roles of the Board and GNSO Council under the Bylaws. These interactions led to stronger mutual understanding and demonstrated a shared commitment to explore ways to ensure that concerns and questions are surfaced at as early a stage in the policy lifecycle as possible.

The Board appreciates the thoughtful input reflected in your letter, and we understand the sentiment that a lack of information and uncertainty over the timing of Board decisions can adversely impact the community's willingness to participate in policy work. We look forward to continued collaboration with the GNSO Council and community to ensure that there are robust and predictable processes for timely Board consideration of community-developed policy recommendations.

Sincerely,



Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors