6 November 2026

RE: GNSO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION REPORT

To: Samantha Demetriou
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council

cc: Susan Payne, former Chair, GNSO Council

Dear Samantha,

I am writing in response to the 16 September 2026 letter from your predecessor as GNSO Council Chair, Susan Payne, regarding the GNSO Council's report on its January 2026 Strategic Planning Session (SPS). The Council noted a number of strategic objectives and outcomes that the Council has identified for this calendar year.

The Board takes particular note of the first outcome, where the Council discussed the history of incremental improvements made to the Policy Development Process (PDP) over time and conducted a detailed review of the board readiness recommendations. The Board appreciates the GNSO Council's dedication, particularly during its Strategic Planning Session, to enhancing the quality and timeliness of its processes.

The Board welcomes these efforts, which can help identify and address potential concerns earlier in the policy development process and facilitate the Board's timely and informed consideration of GNSO policy recommendations. The Board also applauds the Council's efforts to continually evolve and enhance the PDP, which is aligned with ICANN's Strategic Plan to enhance the agility and effectiveness of the Policy Development Process.

The Board continues to recognize the importance and utility of the Council's Strategic Planning Session which, over the years, has led to improvements in the GNSO's processes and procedures, governance, and accountability as the manager of the PDP. The Board looks forward to the Council's report from its next successful SPS.

Best regards,

Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Director