

17 December 2020

Dear Mr. Dawson,

I acknowledge receipt of your [letter dated 20 November 2020](#) concerning the concept of an 'operational design phase.'

I would like to thank you and the i2Coalition for providing thoughtful feedback. I note your support for the operational design phase (ODP), acknowledging the importance of the ICANN Board receiving and reviewing all relevant information before considering GNSO Council recommendations.

You ask that the draft concept paper be 'enhanced by the establishment of clear guidelines for determining what does and does not constitute policy change.' You also ask for 'a list of concrete objectives for an ODP document that are operational in nature and do not change in any way the course of community recommendations or give another chance to groups looking to re-litigate past policy debates.'

The purpose of the ODP is to assess the recommendations as adopted by the GNSO Council for their operational impact and to help the Board decide, in accordance with Bylaws requirements, whether a recommendation is in the best interest of the ICANN community and ICANN org. The Board will scope each ODP by requesting specific information the Board believes is essential to inform its deliberation. If ICANN org believes during the course of an ODP that a recommendation's substance or intent requires further clarity to perform an objective assessment, ICANN org will consult with the GNSO Council. As the manager of the policy development process, only the GNSO Council can then determine whether such clarification requires additional policy work.

Again, thank you for your helpful input. ICANN org will review all community feedback and provide an updated ODP paper in due course. We look forward to continuing working with you and the wider ICANN community on the finalization of the ODP framework.

Sincerely,



Göran Marby
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)