Dear Maarten,

I am following up on [my message](#) of 4 March 2022 and our subsequent conversation during ICANN73. Although the small team has made a lot of progress, as you can see in the attached preliminary report, it is the view of the small team, which is also shared by the Council that:

> "*the ODA does not provide enough information to confidently determine the cost / benefit of the SSAD recommendations. Some point to the inability to predict costs based on usage, the high variability and range of costs and lack of information on the specific costs of the different components of the system. As a result, the Small Team considered what further information may be needed and how this information can be obtained, to allow the GNSO Council as well as the ICANN Board to confidently determine the cost / benefit and/or determine if modifications need to be made to the SSAD recommendations to achieve a better cost / benefit balance.*"

As a result, the small team has recommended that consideration of the SSAD recommendations be paused for now while a 'proof of concept' approach is implemented. The small team outlined its initial thinking about what such a 'proof of concept' approach should look like and what it is expected to do in the preliminary report. Based on this thinking and conversations with ICANN org, the ICANN org team provided the small team with a proposed [SSAD Light Design Concept](#).

The GNSO Council discussed the small team's preliminary report and recommendation during its meeting on 14 April. Based on that conversation I would like to share the following with the ICANN Board:

- The GNSO Council is supportive of the small team's recommendation to further explore the proof of concept approach. As a result, the GNSO Council would like to request the ICANN Board to direct ICANN org to proceed with further developing the SSAD Light Design.
- The GNSO Council does expect the small team to further engage with ICANN org on the development of the SSAD Light Design, especially a review of the completed design, to make sure it meets the expectations as outlined in the small team's preliminary report. Furthermore, a number of Council members have indicated that further details on the expected costs (and who would pay those costs) and time to implement SSAD Light will further inform a Council decision on whether to proceed with implementing SSAD Light.
- It is the expectation that data and experience resulting from implementing SSAD Light will help inform how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations. This could result in: 1) adoption of the SSAD recommendations, or part thereof by the ICANN Board, 2) modification of the SSAD recommendations by the GNSO Council, or; 3) a determination that adoption of the SSAD recommendations is not in the best interest of the ICANN community by the ICANN Board.
- The small team will continue its deliberations to review feedback that was received during the Council meeting and may share further perspectives with the Council and/or ICANN org as appropriate. If/when the SSAD Light Design is

completed, the small team will finalize its report and recommendations for GNSO Council review.

As a result, following the advice from the small team, the GNSO Council would request that while this work on the proof of concept / SSAD Light continues, the ICANN Board pause consideration of the SSAD recommendations.

Of course, this additional step does mean that additional time will be needed before the GNSO Council can provide a definite response to the ICANN Board's letter of 24 January, but we hope that the ICANN Board is supportive of this diligent approach which is intended to ensure that a final determination of the cost/benefit of SSAD can be made on the basis of factual information.

Lastly, the Council wants to express its appreciation to both the ICANN Board as well as ICANN org for engaging in an informal as well as constructive manner in this process.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.