

17 December 2021

Dear Maarten,

On 12 September 2021, the ICANN Board resolved that “The Board further directs the President and CEO, or his designees(s), to take the steps needed to organize the resources required to begin work on the ODP, and to advise the Board when the work of the ODP is initiated within the organization.”

I am pleased to inform you that after considerable preparation work on organizing the Operational Design Phase and allocating resources to execute the work, the org is now transitioning to launch the ODP formally as of January.

Since the Board’s resolution in September 2021, ICANN org has organized resources by assigning related work groups and leadership to manage the multiple projects required to deliver an Operational Design Assessment (ODA) in the timeframe set by the Board. Additionally, during the preparation work, the org has already begun some ODP activities including working with the GNSO Council Liaison on an initial set of questions.

ICANN org will continue to keep the Board and the community informed about our progress via announcements, blogs, and webinars.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you or any of your fellow Board members have any questions.

Many thanks and best wishes,



Theresa Swinehart
ICANN
SVP, Global Domains and Strategy