Notes on Natural vs Legal vs Unspecified

Steve Crocker, 5 August 2021

With respect to collecting whether the registrant is a Natural Person, a Legal Person, or is Unspecified, an individual registrar will have one of three possible rules:

* Collect (C), i.e. the registrar requires this determination
* Optional (O), i.e. the registrar makes it available to the registrant whether to supply this value but does not require it
* Don’t Collect (N), i.e. the registrar does not collect this distinction and does not make it possible for the registrant to supply it.

There are eight possible GNSO Consensus Policies regarding this data element:

1. C, i.e. every registrar is required require this determination
2. O, i.e. every registrar is required to make this optional
3. N, i.e. every registrar is prohibited from collecting this data
4. {C, O}, a registrar must either require it or make it optional, but may not prohibit it
5. {C, N}, a registrar must either require it or prohibit it but may not make it optional
6. {O, N}, a registrar must make it optional or prohibit it but may not make it required
7. {C, O, N}, a registrar may have whichever rule it wishes,
8. {}, the GNSO has no consensus and hence there is no way for any registrar to conform to the GNSO policy.

Two additional questions is whether the same criteria is used to make the determination and what level of validation is required whenever the determination is made.