



6 December 2017

**RE: Implementing ICANN Board Resolution on Refinement of Similarity Review**

Katrina Sasaki, Chair, ccNSO, and  
Patrik Fältström, Chair, SSAC

Dear Katrina and Patrik,

Following the joint ccNSO-SSAC response pertaining to the EPSRP Guidelines, the ICANN Board has directed ICANN organization to implement the proposed changes to the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process (see: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-10-29-en - 2.c>).

During the implementation ICANN organization plans to develop the guidelines to evaluate the risk mitigation measures proposed by applicants in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process as well as the selection criteria of the external panel that will conduct the evaluation.

To ensure that these guidelines align with the joint response, we request the ccNSO and SSAC to reconvene the working party to review these guidelines and provide feedback and input on our interpretation of the joint response. We anticipate sharing a draft of these guidelines with you by mid-December. The tentative schedule for the overall implementation is provided as an annex to this letter.

We thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Akram Atallah", written in a cursive style.

Akram Atallah  
President, Global Domains Division

## Annex: Tentative Plan for Implementing the Refinement of Similarity Review

No.	Tentative Milestone	Description	Tentative Date
1	Prepare Initial Draft Guidelines	Develop details of the guidelines to apply with mitigation measures to address string similarity	15 December 2017
2	Get Draft Guidelines Reviewed	Get feedback from ccNSO and SSAC work party on the initial draft of the guidelines	20 January 2018
3	Open Public Comment on the Final Draft Guidelines	Update guidelines based on input from ccNSO and SSAC and post final draft of the guidelines for public comment	15 February 2018
4	Close Public Comment for Final Draft Guidelines	Collate and incorporate community feedback on the final draft of the guidelines for the updated IDN ccTLD Fast Track process	10 April 2018
5	Post updated Final Implementation Plan and the Guidelines	Post updated IDN ccTLD Fast Track process and the guidelines for refinement of string similarity review	20 April 2018
6	Announce opening of the updated process for applications	Announce the start of the three-month period for current applications for similarity review mitigation requests, following the guidelines and the updated IDN ccTLD Fast Track process	1 May 2018