

10 July 2018

Dear Cherine,

We write to you as the Co-Chairs of the GNSO's New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Working Group (WG), which is tasked with calling upon the community's collective experiences from the 2012 New gTLD Program round to consider potential changes that may be needed to the existing 2007 Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations and implementation. We are pleased to share that the Working Group has reached an important milestone by publishing its [Initial Report for Public Comment](#).

We would like to strongly encourage the Board to review this report and provide feedback on the draft preliminary recommendations, options, and questions included in this document. The Working Group is actively seeking this early and ongoing engagement with the Board to ensure that the Working Group takes into account the perspectives and concerns of Board members during the multi-stakeholder Policy Development Process. One of the lessons learned from the 2012 round of new gTLDs was that waiting until after the completion of the policy development process to get feedback from the ICANN Board resulted in forcing the Board to make decisions outside the PDP process. By providing this opportunity to the ICANN Board and staff as well as to the Supporting Organizations, Constituencies and Advisory Committees at this early juncture, this will enable the GNSO community to resolve any known issues within the PDP process.

The objective of this Initial Report is to document the Working Group's deliberations on charter issues and preliminary recommendations, potential options for recommendations, as well as specific questions for which the Working Group is seeking input. Given the large number of issues, and the thousands of hours spent on addressing the 2012 New gTLD Program and improvements that can be made to the program moving forward, unlike other Initial Reports, this one does not contain a "Statement of level of consensus for the recommendations presented in the Initial Report." The Co-Chairs not only believed that it was premature to measure the level of consensus of the Working Group members of dozens of recommendations contained within the Initial Report, but that doing so could have the unintended consequence of locking Working Group members into positions of support or opposition prior to soliciting public comment from the community on those recommendations.

After a comprehensive review of public comments received on this report, the Working Group will deliberate further on the preliminary recommendations contained within the Initial Report. It is possible that as a result of the deliberations, there may be supplemental reports released by the Working Group seeking additional public comments. Once all of that is completed, the Co-Chairs will conduct any formal consensus call(s) at the plenary level, on all recommendations before the Working Group issues its Final Report.

Given the approach that the leadership team has taken to this Initial Report, there is still ample opportunity to provide feedback on the issues included in this PDP. The Board's input is therefore invaluable at this stage. If possible, please submit comments and input by 5 September 2018. If the Board has questions about the report or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us. In addition, if you believe it would be helpful for the leadership to present this report to the ICANN Board, we would make ourselves available to do so.

Best regards,  
Cheryl Langdon-Orr and Jeff Neuman (WG Co-Chairs)