July 23, 2009

Dear Mr. Beckstrom,

I wish to extend my warm congratulations on your recent appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer and President of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

To address rights holder concerns about the expanding potential for trademark infringement, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and ICANN are actively collaborating in the context of ICANN's planned introduction of new generic top level domains. This concerns in particular the design of appropriate rights protection mechanisms that will encourage responsible conduct, combat cyber-squatting and enhance the security and stability of the Domain Name System (DNS). My colleagues at the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center participate in ICANN Meetings, most recently in Sydney, and are in regular contact with ICANN General Counsel and New gTLD staff.

This collaboration draws in part on our joint endeavors in the development, implementation and on-going success of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) as a viable alternative to court options. The UDRP has become an international standard in domain name dispute resolution for second level domain name registrations as applicable in existing generic top level domains and as adopted by a number of country code top level domains.

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Mr. Rod Beckstrom, Marina del Rey – July 23, 2009

    In light of these shared efforts, I would welcome an opportunity at the first mutual convenience to receive you in Geneva. Such dialogue is particularly important at this time of convergence of significant issues critical to the DNS and intellectual property systems.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Gurry
Director General