20 August 2020

Re: New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG Draft Final Report

Theresa Swinehart
Senior Vice President, Global Domains and Strategy

Dear Theresa,

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 draft Final Report for public comment on 20 August 2020.

The purpose of this public comment period is to obtain input on recommendations that have changed substantively since publication of the Initial Report and Supplemental Initial Report, as well as a limited number of specific questions. We would like to strongly encourage ICANN org to review the draft Final Report and provide feedback on the draft recommendations, implementation guidance, and limited number of questions on select topics.

As has been the case throughout the lifecycle for this Working Group, it is actively seeking engagement with ICANN org to ensure that the Working Group takes into account the perspectives and concerns about the implementation of the draft recommendations and implementation guidance. 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 ICANN staff resulted in forcing the Board to make decisions outside the PDP process. By engaging with and providing ongoing opportunities for input from the ICANN Board, ICANN org, as well as to the Supporting Organizations, Constituencies and Advisory Committees, the GNSO community will be better positioned to resolve any known issues within the PDP process.

One of our other goals in soliciting your input on the draft Final Report is to ensure that recommendations are implementable and that we provide enough information for ICANN org to implement the Working Group's recommendations. Therefore, comments from ICANN org indicating where additional guidance is needed, or where we may have recommended a solution which may either not be feasible or is too complex, will also be most helpful to the Working Group.

ICANN org's input is therefore invaluable at this stage. If possible, please submit comments and input by 30 September 2020. If you have questions about the report or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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