

Request for input on “Impact new gTLD’s on ICANN’s Structure

Draft points for input

1. The Impact of new gTLDs on the structure of ICANN is first and foremost a matter for the GNSO. In the view of the ccNSO, the introduction of new gTLDs should not be used to change the structure and make-up of ICANN generally, including the Board and other SO and AC’s.
2. The ccNSO Council is aware that some organisations that operate a ccTLD are also engaged in a new gTLD. At the same time, the ccNSO Council notes that some organisations that currently operate a gTLD also operate a ccTLD and are member of the ccNSO, or at least participate in the ccNSO. The ccNSO believes that the new gTLD process and its impact should not be used to as a means to blur the distinction between ccTLD’s and gTLD’s. Neither should it necessitate special additional requirements for organisations who currently operate a ccTLD and will be involved in a new gTLD, or vice-versa. To date, experience in the ccNSO has shown that organisations can successfully participate in both supporting organisations, without causing an adverse impact.
3. The ccNSO Council anticipates that, as a result of the new gTLD process, the overall workload of the ICANN community will increase. At the very least, this will result from the need to co-ordinate participation of new members. In order to avoid an imbalance between capacity and workload, either at the level of individual SO or AC, ICANN staff or overall ICANN as a whole, we advise that appropriate measures be put in place. These may include the adjustment of current processes and prioritization mechanisms and participation methods. The GNSO and other ICANN communities should be involved in developing these measures.

Background

On 3 August 2012 the Chair of the ccNSO received a request for input on the impact of the new gTLDs on ICANN’s structure from Bertrand de La Chapelle, ICANN Board member. This request for input is a follow-up from the Board interaction with the ccNSO during the Prague meeting (the request included in Annex). The ICANN Board Structural Improvements Committee (SIC), will use the input, if any, during the Board Workshop mid-September 2012.

Annex A

From: Bertrand de La Chapelle

Date: Friday, 3 August 2012 11:24

Subject: Call for input on: "Impact of new gTLDs on ICANN's structure"

Dear all,

The new gTLD program will have a significant impact on the functioning of ICANN and its structure. An in-depth community discussion is needed to identify early the corresponding challenges and possible evolutions. It should be conducted while the gTLD program itself is being implemented, without waiting for the completion of this round. This should in particular be taken into account in the upcoming gNSO review, planned in 2013.

As you probably remember, this issue was therefore put on the agenda of the various Board interactions with SOs, ACs and constituencies during the Prague meeting. Several issues were identified during these discussions, pertaining both to scalability factors (due to the number of applications) and qualitative impact (including the diversity of the new gTLDs and the potential overlapping of the constituencies they could belong to).

At the end of each such session, **Steve Crocker invited participants to share a one-pager on this topic** to gather preliminary views and help prepare a dedicated session in Toronto.

I am writing to you as Chairs of the respective SOs, ACs, Stakeholder Groups or Constituencies to renew this call for input. The Board Structural Improvements Committee (SIC), chaired by Ray Plzak, will discuss the topic during the Board Workshop mid-September and your perspective is eagerly sought after. The contributions can be very synthetic at that stage, for instance merely listing bullet points of identified potential impacts. The objective is to get as complete a picture as possible of the different dimensions of the issue.

I know the summer period is not the easiest to gather views in you respective groups but I also understand that this has already been discussed before Prague and you probably are in a position to share the concerns already identified, if not the possible solutions. This is only a preliminary stage and further consultations will take place to prepare the Toronto session.

Thank you in advance for your contribution, **if possible before September 10**, and don't hesitate to share this call for input with people I might have inadvertently overlooked or you think might be good contributors from your group.

Best

Bertrand