

19 April 2013

Dr Steve Crocker, Chair of the Board of Directors
Mr Fadi Chehadé, President & CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536
USA

Dear Steve, Fadi,

Re: Regional Top-Level Domain Organisations

We are writing to you representing the four Regional Top-level Domain Organisations (RTLDOs), namely, AFTLD, APTLD, CENTR and LACTLD. We are the associations representing the interests of the ccTLD registries in the respective regions, and advocate the adoption of industry best practice by our ccTLD members by being the forum for exchange of experience and through active engagement with the ccTLDs and industry players in the regions.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate ICANN for having held a very successful meeting in Beijing, with a record number of participants.

We are delighted to witness the drive by you to increase engagement by ICANN with stakeholders by setting up the three regional hubs and local engagement centres. In particular, you recognised the important role of the RIR (Regional Internet Registrars) in IP address allocation and engaging the Internet industry stakeholders in the different regions. We would like to point out the RTLDOs are also performing an important role in engaging Internet industry stakeholders related to Internet domain name administration, in particular the ccTLDs.

The RTLDOs have a long history (at least ten years) of serving the needs and interests of the ccTLD registries in their respective regions. For instance, we conduct joint surveys across the regions and share the data, which leads to more meaningful results than if the surveys are conducted in one region alone. We are active participants in ICANN policy development related to ccTLDs. We believe that the wish of ICANN to proactively outreach to the regions and the mission of RTLDOs have a lot in common. Furthermore, relationship of the RTLDOs with their stakeholders may help ICANN reach out to and engage the industry stakeholders in a more effective manner.

We would therefore welcome ICANN to discuss with us where the synergies are and how we can help to achieve effective engagement with the Internet domain name industry stakeholders in the regions. Please let us know what you think and we can work out together what the next steps are if you so prefer.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paulos Nyirenda
Chairman, AFTLD

Jonathan Shea
Chair, APTLD

Peter Vergote
Chair, CENTR

Eduardo Santoyo
Chairman, LACTLD

cc. Chair and Council Members of ccNSO, ICANN