crowell moring

Attachment 3.

From:	Petillion, Flip
Sent:	jeudi 21 mars 2013 17:59
To:	Piet Desmet
Cc:	Janssen, Jan
Subject:	request
Attachments:	guidebook-full-04jun12-en[1]-c.pdf; 1-1016-75482.String Similarity Results-c.pdf

To the attention of Prof. Dr. Piet Desmet
Full Professor at KU Leuven
By email

Dear Professor Desmet,

I am writing to you as counsel to Booking.com B.V. I am contacting you in your capacity of specialist in Linguistics and Computer-Assisted Language Learning.

With my team, I have assisted Booking.com B.V. in the preparation of its application for the proprietary generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) ".hotels". You can read more about the gTLDs and the conditions to apply for a TLD on the website of ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers): www.icann.org.

ICANN is the organization that is presently managing the evaluations of applications.

ICANN has received an application by Booking.com for ".hotels" and by a third party (Despegar Online SRL) for ".hoteis", which is Portuguese for 'hotels'.

ICANN has also informed Booking.com that it was of the opinion that the applications for the strings ".hotels" and ".hoteis" were confusingly similar.

The motivation that Booking.com has received was the following:

> *"After careful consideration and extensive review performed against criteria in Section 2.2.1.1. of the Applicant Guidebook, the String Similarity Panel has found the applied-for string (.hotels) is visually similarly to another applied-for string (.hoteis), creating a probability of user confusion.*
>
> *Due to this finding, the following two strings have been placed in a contention set"*

Attached is a copy of the Applicant Guidebook. I also attach the letter that ICANN has communicated to the application representative of Booking.com on February 26, 2013.

Should this finding be maintained, than only one of the applied-for strings can be delegated. The parties concerned can do either of the following: or they negotiate with a view to finding an agreement on who of them can continue the application process, or, if they do not reach an agreement, they can enter into an auction process in which case the highest bidder for the application (i.e., the applicant paying the highest amount of money to ICANN) will be invited by ICANN to conduct the final negotiations with ICANN, provided that that highest bidder will have successfully passed the application process.

The ICANN framework that is applicable for this kind of situation and that may have served as the basis for ICANN's decision can be found on page "Module 2-5 to Module 2-9" of ICANN's Applicant Guidebook, where the following is mentioned under Section 2.2.1.1:

> "***Standard for String Confusion*** – *String confusion exists where a string so nearly resembles another visually that it is likely to deceive or cause confusion. For the likelihood of confusion to exist, it must be probable, not merely possible that confusion will arise in the mind of the average, reasonable Internet user. Mere association, in the sense that the string brings another string to mind, is insufficient to find a likelihood of confusion.*"

Booking.com has asked me to represent it with a view to advising it on the possibility have the ICANN decision reviewed and to initiate the appropriate procedures to that purpose.

Therefore, I hereby ask you to confirm whether or not you are able to send me your expert opinion on the following questions:

1) Regardless of the ICANN framework, would you consider both strings to be confusing?

2) Given the ICANN framework, would you consider both strings visually similar to each other creating a probability of user confusion?

If you are in a position to provide the requested expert opinion, would you be able to prepare a substantiated answer in the coming days?

I have been asked to initiate appropriate procedures by next Monday, March 25, 2013, at the latest.

Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could confirm me your availability to meet the deadline of next Monday at which day I would like to receive your expert opinion.

I apologize for the short timeframe and notice and I thank you in advance.

Best regards,

Flip Petillion

Flip Petillion
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FPetillion@crowell.com
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B - 1000 Brussels - Belgium

Attachment 4.

Janssen, Jan

To the attention of Mr Flip Petillion
By email

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed my reply to your request.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

Piet Desmet

Van: Petillion, Flip [mailto:FPetillion@crowell.com]
Verzonden: donderdag 21 maart 2013 17:59
Aan: Piet Desmet
CC: Janssen, Jan
Onderwerp: request

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Full Professor at KU Leuven
By email

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1

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Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could confirm me your availability to meet the deadline of next Monday at which day I would like to receive your expert opinion.

I apologize for the short timeframe and notice and I thank you in advance.

Best regards,

Flip Petillion

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Mr Flip Petillion
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ONS KENMERK

UW KENMERK

LEUVEN   22 March 2013

Dear Sir,

I hereby send you my answer to your question whether string confusion may occur in the word pair hotels and hoteis.

From a linguistic point of view, the difference between hotels and hoteis can be reduced to the difference between l and i, which distinguishes both words.

As a linguistic expert having expertise in corpus analyses, I can inform you that the analysis of an English corpus of highly frequent words reveals that the opposition between l and i is clearly distinctive. We find a considerable number of minimal pairs in which the l and i alternate, i.e. pairs of words which differ from each other only in the alternation of l and i. These are minimal pairs like candies/candles, eider/elder, fails/falls, mail/mall or wail/wall. So the alternation of l and i in English is distinctive enough to keep words apart solely on the basis of this opposition.

This implies that words that only differ in the alternation of l and i do not confuse the language users visually, as they perfectly distinguish both characters. If this were not the case, the alternation would already have evolved to an alternative that speakers find more distinctive.

I would also like to point out that every language consists of a fixed set of phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (letters) that can be combined without limitations. This linguistic reality poses no problems for the language user, who is used to being confronted with words that differ from each other in only one character. This does not prevent the language user from visually distinguishing these words so as to see them as different meaningful entities.

I consider the elements mentioned above reason enough to dismiss the idea of string confusion in dealing with minimal pairs that only differ in the alternation of l and i.

I trust that this answers your question.

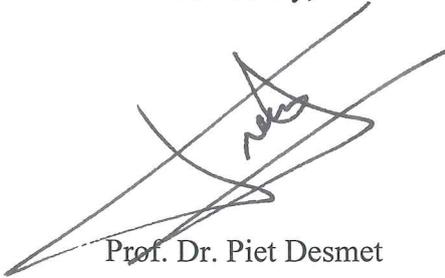**PROF. DR. PIET DESMET**, FULL PROFESSOR OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS
TEL. + 32 16 32 47 93   FAX + 32 16 32 47 67
piet.desmet@arts.kuleuven.be
http://wwwling.arts.kuleuven.be/franling/pdesmet

22 March 2013

Should you require more information, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Piet Desmet

Attachment 5.

String Similarity new gTLD Evaluation Panel – Process Description

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
1	Application Receipt and Verification Checks	• Incoming applications from ICANN automatically generate new tickets in internal tracking system – one record per applied for string • Incoming strings are sorted in Unicode order prior to entering into internal tracking system • Each ticket is automatically assigned an identifying ticket number in internal tracking system • The number of tickets generated is checked against the number of tickets sent by ICANN • For each ticket, a check is done to ensure that the string, slot and applicant is correctly entered into the system • For each record the SWORD algorithm result where the score is greater or equal to 70 is recorded • When this step is complete the record is changed from "INITIAL VERIFICATION" to "INITIAL ASSESSMENT" state	• Records each have the following information (string, slot ID, applicant) • Records initially set to "INITIAL VERIFICATION" state • Due date set to "time of entry into system" plus two working days • Internal records are initially assigned to Operations Manager	• String Similarity Operations Manager does all of these tasks
2	Initial Assessment	• Operations manager posts a copy of notice/agreement of non-conflict for the string in internal tracking system – in the case of conflict, notice is provided to ICANN • Visual assessment of each string is done by operations manager to provide an initial assessment – first, ASCII or IDN (recorded in internal tracking system as string type); second, easy/possibly contentious/hard/IDN (recorded in internal tracking system as string difficulty)? • Internal records for each string are set to "AWAITING INITIAL EVALUATION" state	• Internal records enter this step in "INITIAL ASSESSMENT" state • Initial assessment is completed by the Operations Manager • Due date set to two working days in the future • Records leave this step in "AWAITING INITIAL EVALUATION" state	• Operations manager completes initial assessment of all strings entered into internal tracking system in step one. • When this step is complete the internal records for each string are returned to the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
3a	Initial Assignment for ASCII Strings	• Operations Manager assigns each record with a string type of ASCII to an ICC evaluator • Operations Manager places current copy of TLD list (by reference) in the evaluation workbook • Operations Manager places current copy of reserved strings in the evaluation workbook • Operations Manager puts all pairwise comparison strings in the evaluation workbook • Tickets are put in "INITIAL EVALUATION IN PROGRESS" state	• Records enter this step in "AWAITING INITIAL EVALUATION" state • Internal records are given to ICC/UCL evaluators • Due date is set to three working days • Internal tracking system notifies evaluator	• Operations Manager assigns tickets to ICC/UCL evaluators
3b	Initial Assignment for IDN Strings	• Operations Manager identifies languages needed for initial evaluation of IDN strings based on list provided by ICANN • Operations Manager identifies number of strings in each language based on list provided by ICANN • Operations Manager coordinates with UCL Liaison to identify evaluators for IDN strings • UCL Liaison establishes evaluators for specific IDN strings and places nominations in each record for IDN applications • UCL Liaison uses nomination list to assign each ticket with a string type of IDN to a UCL nominated evaluator • Operations Manager places current copy of TLD list (by reference) in the workbook • Operations Manager places current copy of reserved strings (by reference) in the workbook • Operations Manager places current copy of Declared Variants list (by reference) in the workbook • Operations Manager places current copy of all IDN fast track strings (by reference) in the workbook • Operations Manager puts all pairwise comparison strings in the evaluation workbook • Internal records are put in "INITIAL EVALUATION IN PROGRESS" state	• Records enter this step in "AWAITING INITIAL EVALUATION" state • Workbooks are given to UCL evaluators • Due date is set to three working days • Internal tracking system notifies evaluator – notice in internal tracking system and by email • Records leave this step in "INITIAL EVALUATION IN PROGRESS"	• Operations Manager identifies IDN language and scope requirements based on initial material from ICANN • Operations Manager coordinates with UCL Liaison to state needs and get recommended UCL evaluators • UCL Liaison assigns evaluation workbooks to UCL evaluators

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
4	Initial Evaluation	• Evaluator posts a copy of notice/agreement of non-conflict for the string in internal tracking system – in the case of a conflict, the Operations Manager selects a new assessor using the mechanism in 3a or 3b as appropriate • Evaluator checks the string against the current copy of the TLD list • Evaluator checks the string against the current copy of the reserved string list • Evaluator checks against the current list of IDN fast track strings • Evaluator checks against the current Declared Variants List • For any string that does not meet one of the three tests above: the record for the string is put into the "FAILED INITIAL EVALUATION" state; string in conflict is recorded in internal tracking system; the record is given to the Operations Manager; the process moves to step 7a, below. • Evaluator optionally adds relevant details, if needed, explaining any failure in free form in the workbook. • For all other strings: the record is put into the "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state; the process moves to step 5 below.	• Records enter this step in "INITIAL EVALUATION IN PROGRESS" state • Evaluators have three working days to make the initial evaluation • Records are owned by the evaluators • Records leave this step in either "FAILED INITIAL EVALUATION" or "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state • At the end of this step either the Operations Manager owns the record for the individual string (in the event that the string did not pass); or, the Evaluator continues to own the record.	• Evaluators – ICC and UCL – process the initial evaluation • Evaluators continue to own the record throughout this step unless the Initial Evaluation fails (then, the Operations Manager is the owner of the record)

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
5a	Detailed Evaluation for ASCII Strings	• Evaluator completes a pairwise comparison of the applied for string and all other applied for strings • Evaluator considers SWORD pair scores as documented in the string evaluation workbook • The results of these two evaluations are documented in the string evaluation workbook • If the string is found to resemble another visually that it is likely to deceive or cause confusion: the tracking record for the string is put into "IN CONTENTION SET – AWAITING CONFIRMATION" state; the string, ticket number and slot ID of the strings in the contention set are documented; the record is assigned to the Operations Manager. • If the string is not found to be similar to any other string: the record is put into "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state; the tracking record is assigned to the Operations Manager.	• Tracking records enter this step in "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state • Records are set with a due date of ten working days • At the end of this step the record is either in the "IN CONTENTION SET – AWAITING CONFIRMATION" state or the "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state • At the end of this step, the record is always owned by the Operations Manager	• Strings are evaluated by ICC/UCL evaluators • Results are returned to the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
5b	Detailed Evaluation for IDN Strings	• Evaluator completes a pairwise comparison of the applied for string and all other applied for strings • Evaluator considers SWORD pair scores as documented in the string evaluation workbook • If the IDN is two characters in length, the evaluator completes the review against any one-character label (in any script), and any possible two-character ASCII combination. • The results of these four evaluations are documented in the string evaluation workbook • If the string is found to resemble another visually that it is likely to deceive or cause confusion: the tracking record is put into "IN CONTENTION SET – AWAITING CONFIRMATION" state; the string, ticket number and slot ID of the strings in the contention set are documented; the record is assigned to the Operations Manager. • If the string is not found to be similar to any other string: the ticket is put into "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state; the tracking record is assigned to the Operations Manager.	• Tracking records enter this step in "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state • Records are set with a due date of fifteen working days • At the end of this step the record is either in the "IN CONTENTION SET – AWAITING CONFIRMATION" state or the "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state • At the end of this step, the tracking record is always owned by the Operations Manager	• Strings are evaluated by UCL evaluators • Results are returned to the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
6a	Independent Contention Set Processing for ASCII Strings	• The Operations Manager requests that the Core Team execute an independent contention set assessment of the ASCII string in the tracking record. • The record and result is presented to the Core Team for quality assurance • If the result of the independent assessment results in a confirmation of the results in step 5a above, the record is placed in the "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" state and the record is reassigned to the Operations Manager • If the result of the independent assessment results in a confirmation of the contention set, an automatic re-review of the string is completed using the process documented in steps 3, 4 and 5 • If the result of the independent assessment results in no confirmation or a question about the contention set, the ticket is placed in "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state; the ticket is reassigned to the Operations Manager who then moves the process back to Step 5a for re-evaluation by another evaluator	• Tracking records enter this step in "IN CONTENTION SET – AWAITING CONFIRMATION" state with a String Type of ASCII • Tracking records are assigned for a confirmation assessment to a member of the Core Team • Review by the Core Team results in either a confirmation of the Contention Set analysts or a need for re-evaluation of the string • Records leave this step in either the "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" state or the "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state	• Operations Manager assigns the Contention Set assessment the Core Team • Core Team executes the assessment • Reporting by the Core Team results in actions by the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
6b	Independent Contention Set Processing for IDN Strings	• The Operations Manager consults with the UCL Liaison to identify a second analyst for string similarity • The UCL Liaison nominates a new string similarity assessor for the string in the tracking record • The UCL Liaison assigns the record to the nominated assessor • The UCL Evaluator executes an independent assessment of the IDN string in the evaluation workbook • If the result of the independent assessment results in a confirmation of the results in step 5b above, the record is placed in the "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" state and the ticket is reassigned to the Operations Manager • If the result of the independent assessment results in a confirmation of the contention set, an automatic re-review of the string is completed using the process documented in steps 3, 4 and 5 • If the result of the independent evaluation results in no confirmation or a question about the contention set, the ticket is placed in "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state; the record is reassigned to the Operations Manager who then moves the process back to Step 5b for re-evaluation by another evaluator – the very few (if any) cases where this loop takes place are monitored by the Operations Manager	• Tracking records enter this step in "IN CONTENTION SET – AWAITING CONFIRMATION" state with a String Type of ASCII • Records are assigned for a confirmation assessment to a member of the UCL team as nominated by the UCL Liaison • Review by the UCL Evaluator results in either a confirmation of the Contention Set analysts or a need for re-evaluation of the string • Tracking records leave this step in either the "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" state or the "PASSED INITIAL EVALUATION" state	• Operations Manager works with the UCL Liaison to assign the Contention Set analysis to an independent, different member of the UCL team • UCL Evaluator executes the assessment • Reporting by the Core Team results in actions by the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
7a	Quality Review for Strings That Pass the Initial Evaluation	• For all tracking records in "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state, the Operations Manager requests the full Core Team to lead a quality review against a standard checklist to ensure consistency in processing. The Operations Manager assigns the tracking record to the Core Team and facilitates the Core Team review. • For strings that have received more than one review with conflicting evaluations, the Core Team may determine to a) send the string for another evaluation, b) defer the decision on the String or c) resolve the conflict so that the string may move to the "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" or "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" state. • When the Core Team chooses to re-evaluate a string with a conflicting evaluation, the string is placed into step 6a or 6b appropriately. As with the initial re-review, another independent evaluator is assigned the string without knowledge of the initial evaluations. • At the end of the quality review for tickets in "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state, the tracking records are put into either "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – NO CONCERNS NOTED" or the "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – CONCERNS NOTED" state and reassigned to the Operations Manager for re-evaluation	• Tracking records are in one of three states: "FAILED INITIAL EVALUATION," "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION," or "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" • Records are initially owned by the Operations Manager • Tracking records are set with a due date of five working days • Records are assigned to the Core Team for Quality Review • Records change state based on the result of the Quality Review • Records are eventually reassigned to the Operations Manager	• Operations Manager assigns Quality Review to the Core Team • The Operations Manager facilitates the Core Team's Quality Review • The results are documented in the tracking record by the assigned Core Team member and the record is reassigned to the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
7b	Quality Review for Strings That Do Not Pass the Evaluation	• For all tracking records in "FAILED INITIAL EVALUATION" or "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" states, the Operations Manager requests the full Core Team to lead a quality review against a standard checklist to ensure consistency in processing. The Operations Manager assigns the tracking record to the Core Team and facilitates the Core Team review. • For strings that have received more than one review with conflicting evaluations, the Core Team may determine to a) send the string for another evaluation, b) defer the decision on the String or c) resolve the conflict so that the string may move to the "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" or "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" state. • When the Core Team chooses to re-evaluate a string with a conflicting evaluation, the string is placed into step 6a or 6b appropriately. As with the initial re-review, another independent evaluator is assigned the string without knowledge of the initial evaluations. • At the end of the quality review for records in "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION" state, the records are put into either "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – NO CONCERNS NOTED" or the "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – CONCERNS NOTED" state and reassigned to the Operations Manager	• Tracking records are in one of three states: "FAILED INITIAL EVALUATION," "PASSED DETAILED EVALUATION," or "IN CONTENTION SET – CONFIRMED" • Records are initially owned by the Operations Manager • Tracking records are assigned to the full Core Team (and, possibly, the UCL Liaison) for Quality Review • Records change state based on the result of the Quality Review • Records are eventually reassigned to the Operations Manager	• Operations Manager assigns Quality Review to the full Core Team • The Operations Manager facilitates the Core Team's Quality Review • If IDNs are involved in the ticket, the UCL Liaison participates in the Quality Review • The results are documented in the tracking record by the assigned Core Team member and the record is reassigned to the Operations Manager

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
8	Quality Concerns Resolution	• For records in the state "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – CONCERNS NOTED" the concerns must be addressed and resolved before reporting to ICANN • Operations Manager assigns the record to the full Core Team to resolve the issue • Follow up dialogue between the Core Team and the participants in both the review and the evaluation. • All actions taken to resolve Quality Concerns are documented in the tracking record • The Core Team, facilitated by the Operations Manager, can set the state of the record to "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – NO CONCERNS NOTED" as a resolution of the concerns or recommend that the record be fully re-evaluated. This is for Quality Control issues only. • The record is then reassigned to the Operations Manager	• Tracking records come to this step in the "QUALITY REVIEW COMPLETED – CONCERNS NOTED" state • Records are initially owned by the Operations Manager • Records are assigned to the full Core Team, facilitated by the Operations Manager to resolve the Quality or Process Issue • The record is returned to the Operations Manager in a resolved state or with a recommendation of full re-review.	• Tickets are passed to an independent Core Team member for assessment and resolution of the Quality Concerns • The ticket is then acted upon by the assigned Core Team Member and returned to the Operations Manager
9	Variant Analysis and Reporting	• Operations Manager makes any required, standardized additions to the tracking record • Operations Manager works with the UCL Liaison to perform the analysis against the IDN Variant Tables for all required strings • Operations Manager sets record state to "INTERNAL EVALUATION AND REPORTING COMPLETE" • Tracking records are closed and unavailable for further addition of material (text, tracking or attached files) • Operations Manager transfers the result of the evaluation in the ticket to ICANN's TAS • Operations Manager sets record state to "REPOINTERNAL TRACKING SYSTEMING TO ICANN COMPLETED" • Operations Manager puts the record into "EVALUATION CLOSED" state	• Internal reporting and findings are documented • IDN Variant Analysis is completed as necessary • Reporting to ICANN is completed • Tracking record is closed	• Operations Manager completes the reporting on the tracking record

Step	Name	Actions	Tracking	Who
10	Advice to ICANN	• Operations Manager transfers the result of the evaluation to ICANN's TAS • Operations Manager sets tracking record state to "REPORTING TO ICANN COMPLETED" • Operations Manager reports on contention sets in ICANN's TAS • Operations Manager puts the record into "EVALUATION CLOSED" state	• Reporting to ICANN is completed • Tracking record is closed	

Attachment 6.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

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Board & Chair Self-Appraisal
(/en/groups/board/documents/appraisals)

Board Compensation Election
(/en/groups/board/documents/ce)

Procedure Manual
(/en/groups/board/documents/draft
-procedure-
manual-
09oct12-en)

Resolutions Wiki
(https://community.icann.org/display/tap/ICANN+Board+Resolutions)

Statements of Interest
(/en/groups/board/documents/sois)

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Approved Resolution | Meeting of the New gTLD Program Committee

6

4 June 2013

1. **Main Agenda**

   a. Consideration of Non-Safeguard Advice in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s Beijing Communiqué

      Rationale for Resolution 2013.06.04.NG01

Main Agenda:

a.

Consideration of Non-Safeguard Advice in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s Beijing Communiqué

Whereas, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) met during the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) 46 meeting in Beijing and issued a Communiqué on 11 April 2013 ("Beijing Communiqué");

Whereas, on 18 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) posted the Beijing Communiqué and officially notified applicants of the advice, http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en) triggering the 21-day applicant response period pursuant to the Applicant Guidebook Module 3.1;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 8 May 2013 to consider a plan for responding to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program, transmitted to the Board through its Beijing Communiqué;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 18 May 2013 to further discuss and consider its plan for responding the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice in the Beijing Communiqué on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program;

Whereas, the NGPC has considered the applicant responses submitted during the 21-day applicant response period, and the NGPC has identified nine (9) items of advice in the attached scorecard where its position is consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice in the Beijing Communiqué.

ICANN Network   Acronym Helper   Help

Whereas, the NGPC developed a scorecard to respond to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice in the Beijing Communiqué similar to the one used during the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and Board meetings in Brussels on 28 February and 1 March 2011, and has identified where the NGPC's position is consistent with GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, noting those as "1A" items.

Whereas, the NGPC is undertaking this action pursuant to the authority granted to it by the Board on 10 April 2012, to exercise the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board's authority for any and all issues that may arise relating to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

Resolved (2013.06.04.NG01), the NGPC adopts the "NGPC Scorecard of 1As Regarding Non-Safeguard Advice in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Beijing Communiqué" (4 June 2013), attached as Annex 1 (/en/groups/board/documents/new-gtld-resolution-annex-1-04jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 564 KB] to this Resolution, in response to the items of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice in the Beijing Communiqué as presented in the scorecard.

Rationale for Resolution 2013.06.04.NG01

Why the NGPC is addressing the issue?

Article XI, Section 2.1 of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws http://www.icann.org/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI (/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI) permit the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) to "put issues to the Board directly, either by way of comment or prior advice, or by way of specifically recommending action or new policy development or revision to existing policies." The GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) issued advice to the Board on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program through its Beijing Communiqué dated 11 April 2013. The ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws require the Board to take into account the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on public policy matters in the formulation and adoption of the polices. If the Board decides to take an action that is not consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, it must inform the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and state the reasons why it decided not to follow the advice. The Board and the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) will then try in good faith to find a mutually acceptable solution. If no solution can be found, the Board will state in its final decision why the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice was not followed.

What is the proposal being considered?

The NGPC is being asked to consider accepting a discrete grouping of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice as described in the attached NGPC Scorecard of 1As Regarding Non-Safeguard Advice in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Beijing Communiqué (4 June 2013), which includes nine (9) items of non- safeguard advice from the Beijing Communiqué as listed in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Register of Advice. These items are those for which the NGPC has a position that is consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice.

Which stakeholders or others were consulted?

On 18 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) posted the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice and officially notified applicants of the advice, http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements

and-media/announcement-18apr13-en (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and
-media/announcement-18apr13-en) triggering the 21-day applicant response period
pursuant to the Applicant Guidebook Module 3.1
http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses
(http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses). The NGPC has
considered the applicant responses in formulating its response to the GAC
(Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice as
applicable.

To note, on 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public
comment forum to solicit input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental
Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards
applicable to broad categories of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top
Level Domain) strings http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-
advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-
en.htm). The public comment forum on how the NGPC should address GAC
(Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice
regarding safeguards is open through 4 June 2013. These comments will serve as
important inputs to the NGPC's future consideration of the other elements of GAC
(Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice not
being considered at this time in the attached scorecard.

What concerns or issues were raised by the community?

As part of the 21-day applicant response period, ICANN (Internet Corporation for
Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers) received 383 applicant response documents representing 745 unique
applications. Twenty-three responses were withdrawn and eleven were submitted after
the deadline. Applicants appear to generally support the spirit of the GAC (Governmental
Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice. The responses
expressed concerns that the advice was too broad in its reach and did not take into
account individual applications. Some applicant responses expressed concern that some
elements of the advice seem to circumvent the bottom-up, multi-stakeholder model,
while others proposed that the NGPC reject specific elements of the advice. A review of
the comments has been provided to the NGPC under separate cover. The complete set
of applicant responses can be reviewed at: http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-
advice-responses (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses).

What significant materials did the Board review?

As part of its deliberations, the NGPC reviewed the following materials and documents:

- GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)
  Beijing Communiqué:
  http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf
  (/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf) [PDF, 156 KB]

- Applicant responses to GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental
  Advisory Committee) advice:
  http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses
  (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses)

- Applicant Guidebook, Module 3:
  http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb/objection-procedures-04jun12-en.pdf
  (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb/objection-procedures-04jun12-en.pdf)
  [PDF, 261 KB]

What factors did the Board find to be significant?

The Beijing Communiqué generated significant interest from applicants and resulted in
many comments. The NGPC considered the applicant comments, the GAC
(Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice
transmitted in the Beijing Communiqué, and the procedures established in the AGB.

Are there positive or negative community impacts?

The adoption of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice as provided in the attached scorecard will assist with resolving the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice in manner that permits the greatest number of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applications to continue to move forward as soon as possible.

Are there fiscal impacts or ramifications on ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (strategic plan, operating plan, budget); the community; and/or the public?

There are no foreseen fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution.

Are there any security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System)?

Approval of the proposed resolution will not impact security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System).

Is this either a defined policy process within ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Supporting Organizations or ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Organizational Administrative Function decision requiring public comment or not requiring public comment?

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) posted the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice and officially notified applicants of the advice on 18 April 2013 http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en). This triggered the 21-day applicant response period pursuant to the Applicant Guidebook Module 3.1.

Published on 6 June 2013

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ANNEX 1 to NGPC Resolution No. 2013.06.04.NG01

NGPC Scorecard of 1As Regarding Non-Safeguard Advice in the GAC Beijing Communiqué

4 June 2013

This document contains the NGPC's response to the GAC Beijing Communiqué issued 11 April 2013 <http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-11apr13-en> for the non-safeguard advice items in the GAC Register of Advice where the NGPC has adopted a score of "1A" to indicate that its position is consistent with the GAC advice as described in the Scorecard. Refer to the GAC Register of Advice for the full text of each item of advice in the GAC Beijing Communiqué <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/GACADV/GAC+Register+of+Advice>.

GAC Register #	Summary of GAC Advice		NGPC Response
1. 2013-04-11-Obj-Africa (Communiqué §1.a.i.1)	The GAC Advises the ICANN Board that the GAC has reached consensus on GAC Objection Advice according to Module 3.1 part I of the Applicant Guidebook on the following application: .africa (Application number 1-1165-42560)	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. The AGB provides that if "GAC advises ICANN that it is the consensus of the GAC that a particular application should not proceed. This will create a strong presumption for the ICANN Board that the application should not be approved." (AGB § 3.1) The NGPC directs staff that pursuant to the GAC advice and Section 3.1 of the Applicant Guidebook, Application number 1-1165-42560 for .africa will not be approved. In accordance with the AGB the applicant may withdraw (pursuant to AGB § 1.5.1) or seek relief according to ICANN's accountability mechanisms (see ICANN Bylaws, Articles IV and V) subject to the appropriate standing and procedural requirements.
2. 2013-04-11-Obj-GCC (Communiqué §1.a.i.2)	The GAC Advises the ICANN Board that the GAC has reached consensus on GAC Objection Advice according to Module 3.1 part I of the Applicant Guidebook on the following application: .gcc (application number: 1-1936-2101)	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. The AGB provides that if "GAC advises ICANN that it is the consensus of the GAC that a particular application should not proceed. This will create a strong presumption for the ICANN Board that the application should not be approved." (AGB § 3.1) The NGPC directs staff that pursuant to the GAC advice and Section 3.1 of the Applicant Guidebook, Application number 1-1936-2101 for .gcc will not be approved. In accordance with the AGB the applicant may withdraw (pursuant to AGB § 1.5.1) or seek relief according to ICANN's accountability mechanisms (see ICANN Bylaws, Articles IV and V) subject to the appropriate standing and procedural requirements.

GAC Register #	Summary of GAC Advice		NGPC Response
3. 2103-04-11-Religious Terms (Communiqué §1.a.ii)	The GAC Advises the Board that with regard to Module 3.1 part II of the Applicant Guidebook, the GAC recognizes that Religious terms are sensitive issues. Some GAC members have raised sensitivities on the applications that relate to Islamic terms, specifically .islam and .halal. The GAC members concerned have noted that the applications for .islam and .halal lack community involvement and support. It is the view of these GAC members that these applications should not proceed.	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. The AGB provides that if "GAC advises ICANN that there are concerns about a particular application 'dot-example,' the ICANN Board is expected to enter into dialogue with the GAC to understand the scope of concerns." Pursuant to Section 3.1.ii of the AGB, the NGPC stands ready to enter into dialogue with the GAC on this matter. We look forward to liaising with the GAC as to how such dialogue should be conducted.

(Note a community objection has been filed with the International Centre for Expertise of the ICC against .ISLAM and .HALAL. Because formal objections have been filed, these applications cannot move to the contracting phase until the objections are resolved.) |

GAC Register #	Summary of GAC Advice		NGPC Response
4. 2013-04-11-gTLDStrings (Communiqué §1.c)	In addition to this safeguard advice, the GAC has identified certain gTLD strings where further GAC consideration may be warranted, including at the GAC meetings to be held in Durban. Consequently, the GAC advises the ICANN Board to not proceed beyond Initial Evaluation with the following strings : .shenzhen (IDN in Chinese), .persiangulf, .guangzhou (IDN in Chinese), .amazon (and IDNs in Japanese and Chinese), .patagonia, .date, .spa, . yun, .thai, .zulu, .wine, .vin	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. The AGB provides that "GAC advice will not toll the processing of any application (i.e., an application will not be suspended but will continue through the stages of the application process)" (AGB § 3.1). At this time, ICANN will not proceed beyond initial evaluation of these identified strings. In other words, ICANN will allow evaluation and dispute resolution processes to go forward, but will not enter into registry agreements with applicants for the identified strings for now. (Note: community objections have been filed with the International Centre for Expertise of the ICC against .PERSIANGULF, .AMAZON, and .PATAGONIA. The application for .ZULU was withdrawn.)
5. 2013-04-11-CommunitySupport (Communiqué §1.e)	The GAC advises the Board that in those cases where a community, which is clearly impacted by a set of new gTLD applications in contention, has expressed a collective and clear opinion on those applications, such opinion should be duly taken into account, together with all other relevant information.	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. Criterion 4 for the Community Priority Evaluation process takes into account "community support and/or opposition to the application" in determining whether to award priority to a community application in a contention set. (Note however that if a contention set is not resolved by the applicants or through a community priority evaluation then ICANN will utilize an auction as the objective method for resolving the contention.)

GAC Register #	Summary of GAC Advice		NGPC Response
6. 2013-04-11-PluralStrings (Communiqué §1.f)	The GAC believes that singular and plural versions of the string as a TLD could lead to potential consumer confusion. Therefore the GAC advises the Board to reconsider its decision to allow singular and plural versions of the same strings.	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice and will consider whether to allow singular and plural versions of the same string.
7. 2013-04-11-RAA (Communiqué §2)	The GAC advises the ICANN Board that the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement should be finalized before any new gTLD contracts are approved.	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. The final draft of the RAA was posted for public comment on 22 April 2013. The new gTLD Registry Agreement was posted for public comment on 29 April 2013, and it requires all new gTLD registries to only use 2013 RAA registrars. The public comment reply period for the 2013 RAA closes on 4 June 2013. The NGPC intends to consider the 2013 RAA shortly thereafter.
8. 2013-04-11-WHOIS (Communiqué §3)	The GAC urges the ICANN Board to ensure that the GAC Principles Regarding gTLD WHOIS Services, approved in 2007, are duly taken into account by the recently established Directory Services Expert Working Group.	1A	The NGPC accepts this advice. The NGPC notes that staff has confirmed that the GAC Principles have been shared with the Expert Working Group.

GAC Register #	Summary of GAC Advice		NGPC Response
9. 2013-04-11-IOCRC (Communiqué §4)	The GAC advises the ICANN Board to amend the provisions in the new gTLD Registry Agreement pertaining to the IOC/RCRC names to confirm that the protections will be made permanent prior to the delegation of any new gTLDs.	1A	The NGPC accepts the GAC advice. The proposed final version of the Registry Agreement posted for public comment on 29 April 2013 includes protection for an indefinite duration for IOC/RCRC names. Specification 5 of this version of the Registry Agreement includes a list of names (provided by the IOC and RCRC Movement) that "shall be withheld from registration or allocated to Registry Operator at the second level within the TLD."
			This protection was added pursuant to a NGPC resolution to maintain these protections "until such time as a policy is adopted that may require further action" (204.11.26.NG03). The resolution recognized the GNSO's initiation of an expedited PDP. Until such time as the GNSO approves recommendations in the PDP and the Board adopts them, the NGPC's resolutions protecting IOC/RCRC names will remain in place. Should the GNSO submit any recommendations on this topic, the NGPC will confer with the GAC prior to taking action on any such recommendations.

Attachment 7.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Approved Resolutions | Meeting of the New gTLD Program Committee

25 June 2013

1. **Consent Agenda**

   a. Approval of NGPC Meeting Minutes

2. **Main Agenda**

   a. ALAC (At-Large Advisory Committee) (At-Large Advisory Committee) Statement on TMCH/Variants

   b. Safeguards Applicable to all New gTLDs

      Rationale for Resolutions 2013.06.25.NG02 – 2013.06.25.NG03

   c. Category 2 Safeguard Advice re Restricted and Exclusive Registry Access

      Rationale for Resolutions 2013.06.25.NG04 – 2013.06.25.06

   d. Singular & Plural Versions of the Same String as a TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain)

      Rationale for Resolution 2013.06.25.NG07

   e. IGO (Intergovernmental Organization) (Intergovernmental Organization) Protection

   f. AOB

8

1.

   Consent Agenda:

   a.

   Approval of NGPC Meeting Minutes

   Resolved (2013.06.25.NG01), the Board approves the minutes of the 4 June 2013 New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program Committee Meeting.

2.

   Main Agenda:

   a.

ALAC (At-Large Advisory Committee) (At-Large Advisory Committee) Statement on TMCH/Variants

No resolution taken.

b.

Safeguards Applicable to all New gTLDs

Whereas, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) met during the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) 46 meeting in Beijing and issued a Communiqué on 11 April 2013 ("Beijing Communiqué");

Whereas, the Beijing Communiqué included six (6) elements of safeguard advice applicable to all new gTLDs, which are identified in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Register of Advice as: (a) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-1, (b) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-2, (c) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-3, (d) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-4, (e) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-5, and (f) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-6 (collectively, the "Safeguards Applicable to All Strings");

Whereas, on 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public comment forum to solicit the community's input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards applicable to broad categories of New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings <http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm)>;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 8 and 18 May and 4, 11 and 18 June 2013 to consider a plan for responding to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program, including the Safeguards Applicable to All Strings;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 25 June 2013 to further discuss and consider its plan for responding the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice in the Beijing Communiqué on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program;

Whereas, the NGPC has considered the public comments submitted during the public comment forum, and has determined that its position, as presented in Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2b-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 72 KB] attached to this Resolution, is consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice regarding Safeguards Applicable to All Strings;

Whereas, the NGPC proposes revisions to the final draft of the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement <http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/base-agreement-29apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/base-agreement-29apr13-en.htm)> as presented in Annex II (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-ii-agenda-2b-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 64 KB] attached to this Resolution to implement certain elements of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding Safeguards Applicable to All Strings; and

Whereas, the NGPC is undertaking this action pursuant to the authority granted to it by the Board on 10 April 2012, to exercise the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board's authority for any and all issues that may arise relating to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

Resolved (2013.06.25.NG02), the NGPC adopts the "NGPC Proposal for Implementation of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Safeguards Applicable to All New gTLDs" (19 June 2013), attached as Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2b-25jun13-

en.pdf) [PDF, 72 KB] to this Resolution, to accept the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice regarding Safeguards Applicable to All Strings.

Resolved (2013.06.25.NG03), the NGPC directs staff to make appropriate changes to the final draft of the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement, as presented in Annex II (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-ii-agenda-2b-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 64 KB] attached to this Resolution, to implement certain elements of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding Safeguards Applicable to All Strings.

Rationale for Resolutions 2013.06.25.NG02 – 2013.06.25.NG03

Why the NGPC is addressing the issue?

Article XI, Section 2.1 of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws http://www.icann.org/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI (/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI) permit the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) to "put issues to the Board directly, either by way of comment or prior advice, or by way of specifically recommending action or new policy development or revision to existing policies." The GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) issued advice to the Board on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program through its Beijing Communiqué dated 11 April 2013. The ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws require the Board to take into account the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on public policy matters in the formulation and adoption of the polices. If the Board decides to take an action that is not consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, it must inform the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and state the reasons why it decided not to follow the advice. The Board and the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) will then try in good faith to find a mutually acceptable solution. If no solution can be found, the Board will state in its final decision why the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice was not followed.

What is the proposal being considered?

The NGPC is being asked to consider accepting a discrete grouping of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice as described in the attached "NGPC Proposal for Implementation of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Safeguards Applicable to All New gTLDs" (Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2b-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 72 KB]; 19 June 2013), which includes the six (6) items of safeguard advice from the Beijing Communiqué applicable to all new gTLDs. This advice is identified in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Register of Advice as: (a) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-1, (b) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-2, (c) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-3, (d) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-4, (e) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-5, and (f) 2013-04-11-Safeguards-6 (collectively, the "Safeguards Applicable to All Strings").

Which stakeholders or others were consulted?

On 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public comment forum to solicit input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards applicable to broad categories of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm). The public comment forum closed on 4 June 2013. The NGPC has considered the community's comments in formulating its response to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding Safeguards

Applicable to All Strings. These comments also will serve as important inputs to the NGPC's future consideration of the other elements of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice not being considered at this time in the attached annexes.

What concerns or issues were raised by the community?

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) received several responses from the community during the course of the public comment forum on broad categories of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) safeguard advice. Of comments regarding safeguards applicable to all new gTLDs, approximately 29% of unique commenters expressed opposition whereas approximately 71% expressed support.

Regarding support, commenters expressed general agreement with the safeguards. Those expressing support also expressed concern over the method of implementation and that the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) should not dictate the specific procedures for implementation. Supporters also indicated that some of these safeguards are already inherent in the 2013 RAA (Registrar Accreditation Agreement) (Registrar Accreditation Agreement).

In adopting this Resolution, the NGPC specifically acknowledges comments from the community opposed to the NGPC accepting the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice. The NGPC takes note of comments asserting that adopting the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice threatens the multi-stakeholder policy development process. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Bylaws permit the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) to "consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) as they relate to concerns of governments, particularly matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues." (Art. XI, § 2.1.a) The GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) issued advice to the Board on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program through its Beijing Communiqué dated 11 April 2013. The ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws require the Board (and the NGPC) to take into account the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on public policy matters in the formulation and adoption of the polices, and if the Board (and the NGPC) takes an action that is not consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, it must inform the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and state the reasons why it decided not to follow the advice. The parties must then try in good faith to find a mutually acceptable solution. Thus, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice is part of the multi-stakeholder process.

The posting of the Beijing Communiqué to solicit public comment on the broad categories of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s safeguard advice demonstrates ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s commitment to a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder model, and provided stakeholders with approximately six weeks (including the public comment and reply periods) to analyze, review and respond to the proposed recommendations. The NGPC views finding a workable solution to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice as a step forward as the community continues to respond to the needs of registrants, the community and all stakeholders.

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The NGPC also took note of the comments from the community in opposition to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) implementing the safeguard advice concerning WHOIS verification checks to be performed by registry operators. The NGPC acknowledges the ongoing work in the community on WHOIS verification. In response to these comments in opposition, the NGPC accepted the spirit and intent of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on the WHOIS verification checks by having ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), instead of registry operators, implement the checks. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is concluding its development of a WHOIS tool that gives it the ability to check false, incomplete or inaccurate WHOIS data, as the Board previously directed staff in Board Resolutions 2012.11.08.01 - 2012.11.08.02 to begin to "proactively identify potentially inaccurate gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) data registration in gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) registry and registrar services, explore using automated tools, and forward potentially inaccurate records to gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) registrars for action; and 2) publicly report on the resulting actions to encourage improved accuracy." <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-08nov12-en.htm (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-08nov12-en.htm)>. Given these ongoing activities, the NGPC determined that ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (instead of Registry Operators) is well positioned to implement the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice.

With respect to mitigating abusive activity, the NGPC acknowledges the comments noting that registries do not have relationships with registrants and should not be required to determine whether a registrant is in compliance with applicable laws. To address this concern, the NGPC included language in the PIC Specification that would obligate registry operators to include a provision in their Registry-Registrar Agreements that requires registrars to include in their Registration Agreements a provision prohibiting registered name holders from distributing malware, abusively operating botnets, phishing, piracy, trademark or copyright infringement, fraudulent or deceptive practices, counterfeiting or otherwise engaging in activity contrary to applicable law, and providing (consistent with applicable law and any related procedures) consequences for such activities including suspension of the domain name.

With respect to the safeguards regarding security checks, the NGPC considered that the comments in opposition raise important questions about the costs and timing of implementing this measure, and the scope and framework of the security checks. The NGPC is mindful that there are various ways a registry operator could implement the required security checks, and has taken these concerns into consideration in its response to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice. The NGPC's response directs ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) to solicit community participation (including conferring with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)) in a task force or through a policy development process in the GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) (Generic Names Supporting Organization), as appropriate, to develop the framework for Registry Operators to respond to identified security risks that pose an actual risk of harm, notification procedures, and appropriate consequences, including a process for suspending domain names until the matter is resolved, while respecting privacy and confidentiality. The proposed implementation of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice is phased to account for the commenters' concerns. The proposed language in the PIC Specification will provide the general guidelines for what registry operators must do, but omits the specific details from the contractual language to allow for the future development and evolution of the parameters for conducting security checks.

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With respect to consequences in the safeguards applicable to all strings, the NGPC took note of the commenters' concerns that this item of safeguard advice is already addressed in the 2013 RAA (Registrar Accreditation Agreement) (Registrar Accreditation Agreement) and by the WHOIS Data Problem Report system. The GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s concerns are addressed in the existing framework and the NGPC is not proposing to duplicate the existing enforcement models.

The NGPC also takes note of the comments requesting that the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice be rejected as "last-minute" or "untimely." The commenters asserted that this introduces uncertainty into the Program and the makes material changes to the AGB. As an alternative to accepting the advice, the NGPC considered the timing consequences if the NGPC rejected the advice. The NGPC took note of the procedure for any consultations that might be needed if the Board (and the NGPC) determines to take an action that is not consistent with GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, which was developed by the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board-GAC Recommendation Implementation Working Group (BGRI-WG). The procedure was approved by the BGRI-WG in Beijing and would be used for any consultation on this GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice. The procedure says that the consultation process should conclude within six months, but that the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and the Board can agree to a different timetable. On balance, the NGPC determined that entering into a consultation process on this particular section of the safeguard advice would introduce greater uncertainty into the Program than if the NGPC found a workable solution to accept and implement the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s safeguard advice applicable to all strings.

The complete set of comments can be reviewed at: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm).

What significant materials did the NGPC review?

As part of its deliberations, the NGPC reviewed the following significant materials and documents:

GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Beijing Communiqué: http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf (/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf) [PDF, 156 KB]

Public comments in response to broad categories of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) safeguard advice: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm)

Report of Public Comments, New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Board Committee Consideration of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Safeguard Advice dated 18 June 2013: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/report-comments-gac-safeguard-advice-19jun13-en (/en/news/public-comment/report-comments-gac-safeguard-advice-19jun13-en)

What factors did the NGPC find to be significant?

The Beijing Communiqué generated significant interest from the community and resulted in many comments. The NGPC considered the community comments, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice transmitted in the Beijing Communiqué, and the procedures established in the AGB for addressing GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

Are there positive or negative community impacts?

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The adoption of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice as provided in the attached annexes will assist with resolving the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice in manner that permits the greatest number of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applications to continue to move forward as soon as possible.

Are there fiscal impacts or ramifications on ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (strategic plan, operating plan, budget); the community; and/or the public?

There are no foreseen fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution.

Are there any security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System)?

Approval of the proposed resolution will not impact security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System).

Is this either a defined policy process within ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Supporting Organizations or ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Organizational Administrative Function decision requiring public comment or not requiring public comment?

On 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public comment forum to solicit input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards applicable to broad categories of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm). The public comment forum closed on 4 June 2013.

c.

Category 2 Safeguard Advice re Restricted and Exclusive Registry Access

Whereas, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) met during the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) 46 meeting in Beijing and issued a Communiqué on 11 April 2013 ("Beijing Communiqué");

Whereas, the Beijing Communiqué included Category 2 safeguard advice, which is identified in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Register of Advice as 2013-04-11-Safeguards-Categories-2 (the "Category 2 Safeguard Advice");

Whereas, on 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public comment forum to solicit the community's input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards applicable to broad categories of New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings <http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm)>;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 8 and 18 May and 4, 11 and 18 June 2013 to consider a plan for responding to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program, including the Category 2 Safeguard Advice;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 25 June 2013 to further discuss and consider its plan for responding the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice in the Beijing Communiqué on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program;

Whereas, the NGPC has considered the public comments submitted during the public comment forum, and proposes revisions to the final draft of the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement <http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/base-agreement-29apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/base-agreement-29apr13-en.htm)> as presented in Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2c-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 52 KB] attached to this Resolution to implement the Category 2 Safeguard Advice for applicants not seeking to impose exclusive registry access; and

Whereas, the NGPC is undertaking this action pursuant to the authority granted to it by the Board on 10 April 2012, to exercise the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board's authority for any and all issues that may arise relating to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

Resolved (2013.06.25.NG04), the NGPC adopts the "Proposed PIC Spec Implementation of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Category 2 Safeguards" (20 June 2013), attached as Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2c-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 52 KB] to this Resolution, to accept and implement the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s Category 2 Safeguard Advice for applicants not seeking to impose exclusive registry access.

Resolved (2013.06.25.NG05), the NGPC directs staff to make appropriate changes to the final draft of the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement, as presented in Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2c-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 52 KB] attached to this Resolution, to implement the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s Category 2 Safeguard Advice for applicants not seeking to impose exclusive registry access.

Resolved (2013.06.25.NG06), the NGPC directs staff to defer moving forward with the contracting process for applicants seeking to impose exclusive registry access for "generic strings" to a single person or entity and/or that person's or entity's Affiliates (as defined in Section 2.9(c) of the Registry Agreement), pending a dialogue with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee).

Rationale for Resolutions 2013.06.25.NG04 – 2013.06.25.06

Why the NGPC is addressing the issue?

Article XI, Section 2.1 of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws http://www.icann.org/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI (/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI) permit the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) to "put issues to the Board directly, either by way of comment or prior advice, or by way of specifically recommending action or new policy development or revision to existing policies." The GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) issued advice to the Board on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program through its Beijing Communiqué dated 11 April 2013. The ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws require the Board to take into account the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on public policy matters in the formulation and adoption of the polices. If the Board decides to take an action that is not consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, it must inform the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and state the reasons why it decided not to follow the advice. The Board and the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) will then try in good faith to find a mutually acceptable solution. If no solution can be found, the Board will state in its final decision why the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice was not followed.

What is the proposal being considered?

The NGPC is being asked to consider accepting Category 2 safeguard advice identified in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Register of Advice as 2013-04-11-Safeguards-Categories-2. For applicants not seeking to impose exclusive registry access, the NGPC is being asked to consider including a provision in the PIC Specification in the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement that would require TLDs to operate in a transparent manner consistent with general principles of openness and non-discrimination. Additionally, the proposed PIC Specification would include a provision to preclude registry operators from imposing eligibility criteria that limit registration of a generic string exclusively to a single person or entity and their "affiliates." The term "affiliate" is defined to mean a person or entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person or entity specified, and "control" (including the terms "controlled by" and "under common control with") means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a person or entity, whether through the ownership of securities, as trustee or executor, by serving as an employee or a member of a board of directors or equivalent governing body, by contract, by credit arrangement or otherwise. [New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement § 2.9(c) http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb/base-agreement-specs-29apr13-en.pdf (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb/base-agreement-specs-29apr13-en.pdf) [PDF, 600 KB]]

For applicants seeking to impose exclusive registry access for "generic strings", the NGPC is being asked to defer moving forward with the contracting process for these applicants, pending a dialogue with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee). The term "generic string" is defined in the PIC Specification to mean "a string consisting of a word or term that denominates or describes a general class of goods, services, groups, organizations or things, as opposed to distinguishing a specific brand of goods, services, groups, organizations or things from those of others."

To implement the advice in this way, the PIC Specification will define exclusive registry access as limiting registration of a generic string exclusively to a single person or entity and their affiliates (as defined above). All applicants would be required to respond by a specified date indicating whether (a) the applicant is prepared to accept the proposed PIC Specification that precludes exclusive registry access or (b) the applicant is unwilling to accept the proposed PIC Specification because the applicant intends to implement exclusive registry access.

Which stakeholders or others were consulted?

On 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public comment forum to solicit input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards applicable to broad categories of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm). The public comment forum closed on 4 June 2013. The NGPC has considered the community comments in formulating its response to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s Category 2 Safeguard Advice.

What concerns or issues were raised by the community?

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) received several responses from the community during the course of the public comment forum on broad categories of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) safeguard advice. Of the limited number of comments specific to the Category 2, Restricted Access safeguards, approximately 60% expressed support versus approximately 40% expressing concern or opposition. Supporting comments generally agreed that, for certain strings, restricted access is warranted. Opposing comments generally indicated that this is unanticipated and wholly new policy without justification and that these strings would be unfairly prejudiced in the consumer marketplace. Of the comments specific to

the Category 2, Exclusive Access safeguards, approximately 86% expressed support versus approximately 14% expressing concern or opposition. Supporting comments indicated that exclusive registry access should "serve a public purpose." Others indicated that "closed generics" should not be allowed at all.

In adopting this Resolution, the NGPC specifically acknowledges comments from the community opposed to the NGPC accepting the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice. Opposing commenters generally expressed concern that this is new and unanticipated policy, contrary to the bottom-up process. They also indicated that the concept of public interest is vague and not adequately defined. The NGPC notes that the Beijing Communiqué was published to solicit public comment on the broad categories of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s safeguard advice. This demonstrates ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s commitment to a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder model, and provided stakeholders with approximately six weeks (including the public comment and reply periods) to analyze, review and respond to the proposed recommendations. The NGPC views finding a workable solution to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice as a step forward as the community continues to respond to the needs of registrants, the community and all stakeholders.

For the comments specifically concerning restricted registry access (i.e. Paragraph 1 of the Category 2 Advice), the NGPC takes note of the concerns expressed in the comments regarding the "general rule" that a TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain) should be operated in an open manner. The NGPC understands the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice for TLDs for which registration is restricted to generally be operated in an open manner to be a call for transparency, which is fundamental to providing consumers choice in the marketplace, and a goal that ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) supports. In light of the comments raised, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) included new language in the PIC Specification to accept and respond to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding restricted access in a way that balances the concerns raised in the public comments with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice for restricted TLDs. The revised PIC Specification establishes what it means for a TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain) to be operated consistent with principals of openness and non-discrimination. Specifically, by establishing, publishing and adhering to clear registration policies, the TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain) would fulfill its obligation to be operated in a "transparent manner consistent with general principles of openness and non-discrimination."

With respect to comments specifically regarding exclusive registry access safeguards (i.e. Paragraph 2 of the Category 2 Advice), the NGPC understands that the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and other members of the community have expressed concerns regarding "closed generic" TLDs. In February 2013, the NGPC directed ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) staff to initiate a public comment period on the issue of closed generic TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain) applications so that the NGPC could understand and consider all views and potential ramifications related to closed generic TLDs. <http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-2-05feb13-en.htm (/en/news/announcements/announcement-2-05feb13-en.htm)>. In light of the comments raised in this public comment forum, the closed generics public comment forum, and the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is proposing a way for a large number of strings to move forward while the community continues to work through the issue.

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While respecting the community's comments, the NGPC revised the PIC Specification to address the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice regarding exclusive registry access. The proposed PIC Specification includes a provision to preclude registry operators from imposing eligibility criteria that limit registration of a generic string exclusively to a single person or entity and their "affiliates." The definition for "affiliates" is the definition in Section 2.9(c) of the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Registry Agreement. For applicants seeking to impose exclusive registry access for "generic strings", the NGPC agrees to defer moving forward with the contracting process for these applicants, pending a dialogue with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) to seek clarification regarding aspects of the advice, including key definitions, and its implementation. Revising the PIC Specification in this way permits the greatest number of strings to continue moving forward while recognizing the concerns raised in the community's comments, including additional policy work.

The complete set of public comments can be reviewed at: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm).

What significant materials did the NGPC review?

As part of its deliberations, the NGPC reviewed the following significant materials and documents:

GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Beijing Communiqué: http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf (/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf) [PDF, 156 KB]

Public comments in response to broad categories of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) safeguard advice: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm)

Report of Public Comments, New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Board Committee Consideration of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Safeguard Advice dated 18 June 2013: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/report-comments-gac-safeguard-advice-19jun13-en (/en/news/public-comment/report-comments-gac-safeguard-advice-19jun13-en)

What factors did the Board find to be significant?

The Beijing Communiqué generated significant interest from the community and stimulated many comments. The NGPC considered the community comments, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice transmitted in the Beijing Communiqué, and the procedures established in the AGB for addressing GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

Are there positive or negative community impacts?

The adoption of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice as provided in the attached Annex I (/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-i-agenda-2c-25jun13-en.pdf) [PDF, 52 KB] will assist with resolving the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice in a manner that permits the greatest number of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applications to continue to move forward as soon as possible. However, applicants seeking to impose exclusive registry access would not be able to progress to the contracting process at this time if the NGPC adopts the proposed Resolution. Those applicants would be on hold pending the outcome of the dialogue with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee).

Are there fiscal impacts or ramifications on ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (strategic plan, operating plan, budget); the community; and/or the public?

There are no foreseen fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution.

Are there any security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System)?

Approval of the proposed resolution will not impact security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System).

Is this either a defined policy process within ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Supporting Organizations or ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Organizational Administrative Function decision requiring public comment or not requiring public comment?

On 23 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) initiated a public comment forum to solicit input on how the NGPC should address GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice regarding safeguards applicable to broad categories of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm (/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm). The public comment forum closed on 4 June 2013.

d.

Singular & Plural Versions of the Same String as a TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain)

Whereas, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) met during the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) 46 meeting in Beijing and issued a Communiqué on 11 April 2013 ("Beijing Communiqué");

Whereas, the NGPC met on 8 and 18 May and 4 and 11 June 2013, to consider a plan for responding to the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program, transmitted to the Board through its Beijing Communiqué;

Whereas, on 4 June 2013, the NGPC took action accepting GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice identified in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Register of Advice as "2013-04-11-PluralStrings" and agreed to consider whether to allow singular and plural versions of the same string;

Whereas, the NGPC met on 11 June 2013 to consider the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Beijing advice regarding singular and plural versions of the same string; and

Whereas, after careful consideration of the issues, review of the comments raised by the community, the process documents of the expert review panels, and deliberations by the NGPC, the NGPC has determined that no changes to the ABG are needed to address potential consumer confusion specifically resulting from allowing singular and plural versions of the same strings;

Whereas, the NGPC is undertaking this action pursuant to the authority granted to it by the Board on 10 April 2012, to exercise the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board's authority for any and all issues that may arise relating to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

Resolved (2013.06.25.NG07), the NGPC has determined that no changes are needed to the existing mechanisms in the Applicant Guidebook to address potential consumer confusion resulting from allowing singular and plural versions of the same string.

Rationale for Resolution 2013.06.25.NG07

Why the NGPC is addressing the issue?

Article XI, Section 2.1 of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws (http://www.icann.org/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI (/en/about/governance/bylaws#XI)) permit the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) to "put issues to the Board directly, either by way of comment or prior advice, or by way of specifically recommending action or new policy development or revision to existing policies." The GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) issued advice to the Board on the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program through its Beijing Communiqué dated 11 April 2013. The ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Bylaws require the Board to take into account the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice on public policy matters in the formulation and adoption of the polices. If the Board decides to take an action that is not consistent with the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice, it must inform the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) and state the reasons why it decided not to follow the advice. The Board and the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) will then try in good faith to find a mutually acceptable solution. If no solution can be found, the Board will state in its final decision why the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice was not followed.

In its Beijing Communiqué, the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advised the Board that due to potential consumer confusion, the Board should "reconsider its decision to allow singular and plural version of the same strings." On 4 June 2013, the NGPC accepted the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice to consider this issue. The NGPC met on 11 June 2013 to discuss this advice, and to consider whether any changes are needed to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program to address singular and plural versions of the same string.

What is the proposal being considered?

The NGPC is considering whether any changes are needed to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program (i.e. the Applicant Guidebook) as a result of the NGPC considering whether to allow singular and plural versions of the same strings as requested by the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) in its Beijing Communiqué.

Which stakeholders or others were consulted?

On 18 April 2013, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) posted the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice and officially notified applicants of the advice, http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en) triggering the 21-day applicant response period pursuant to the Applicant Guidebook Module 3.1 <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses)>. The NGPC considered the applicant responses in considering this issue.

To note, a handful of unique applicants, representing nearly 400 application responses, addressed this piece of GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice. Most were against changing the existing policy but with one identified in support of the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s concern. The supporting applicant has filed a string confusion objection. Those not supporting the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s concern indicated this topic was agreed as part of

the AGB and is addressed in the evaluation processes. The full summary of applicant responses can be reviewed at: <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses)>.

What concerns or issues were raised by the community?

In September 2007, the GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) (Generic Names Supporting Organization) issued a set of recommendations (approved by the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board in June 2008) to implement a process to allow for the introduction of new gTLDs. These include a recommendation that new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) strings must not be confusingly similar to an existing top-level domain or a reserved name. The GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) (Generic Names Supporting Organization) constituency groups lodged comments during that time, and these comments were considered as part of the approval of the Program. The NGPC considered these community comments as part of its deliberations.

More recently, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) posted the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s Beijing Communiqué and officially notified applicants of the advice, <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en)> triggering the 21-day applicant response period pursuant to the AGB Module 3.1. Multiple members of the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applicant communities have raised concerns to the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) Board regarding the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee)'s advice regarding singular and plural versions of the same string. Some of the concerns raised by the community are as follows:

- Allowing singular and plural versions of the same string amounts to a "serious flaw" in the Program, and the Program should not rely on the self-interest of others to file objections to avoid string confusion.

- The independent panels have ruled and it would not be appropriate for either ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) or the Board to overturn these decisions. The findings of the independent string similarity review panel should not be upset, absent a finding of misconduct.

- The Board approved the evaluation process, which included independent assessment of each application against AGB criteria, appropriately away from the interests of those with stakes in the outcome.

- ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) should not change course on this issue, as it would open the door to one stakeholder group undoing independently arrived-at results because it disagrees with the outcome.

The concerns raised by the community highlight the difficulty of the issue and the tension that exists between minimizing user confusion while encouraging creativity, expression and competition. The NGPC weighed these comments during its deliberations on the issue.

What significant materials did the NGPC review?

The NGPC reviewed and considered the following significant materials as part of its consideration of the issue:

- GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) Beijing Communiqué: http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf (/en/news/correspondence/gac-to-board-18apr13-en.pdf) [PDF, 156 KB]

- Applicant responses to GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice: http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-advice-responses)
- String Similarity Contention Sets <http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-26feb13-en.htm (/en/news/announcements/announcement-26feb13-en.htm)>

What factors did the NGPC find to be significant?

The NGPC considered several significant factors during its deliberations about whether to allow singular and plural version of the same strings. The NGPC had to balance the competing interests of each factor to arrive at a decision. The following are among the factors the NGPC found to be significant:

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  The NGPC considered whether it was appropriate to reject the work of the expert review panel and apply its own judgment to a determination of what rises to the level of probable user confusion. The NGPC considered whether the evaluation process would be undermined if it were to exert its own non-expert opinion and override the determination of the expert panel. It also considered whether taking an action to make program changes would cause a ripple effect and re-open the decisions of all expert panels.

  The NGPC considered that the objective of the string similarity review in the AGB is to prevent user confusion and loss of confidence in the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) resulting from delegation of many similar strings. In the AGB, "similar" means strings so similar that they create a probability of user confusion if more than one of the strings is delegated into the root zone. During the policy development and implementation design phases of the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program, aural and conceptual string similarities were considered. These types of similarity were discussed at length, yet ultimately not agreed to be used as a basis for the analysis of the string similarity panels' consideration because on balance, this could have unanticipated results in limiting the expansion of the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) as well as the reach and utility of the Internet. However, the grounds for string confusion objections include all types of similarity, including visual, aural, or similarity of meaning. All new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applicants had standing to file a string confusion objection against another application.

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  The NGPC considered the objective function of the string similarity algorithm in the AGB (§ 2.2.1.1.2) and the results it produced. SWORD assisted ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) with the creation of an algorithm that helped automate the process for objectively assessing similarity among proposed and existing TLD (Top Level Domain) (Top Level Domain) strings. Various patent and trademark offices throughout the world use SWORD's verbal search algorithms. The String Similarity Panel was informed in part by the algorithmic score for the visual similarity between each applied-for string and each of other existing and applied-for TLDs and reserved names. The score provided one objective measure for consideration by the panel, as part of the process of identifying strings likely to result in user confusion. However, this score was only indicative and the panel's final determination was based on careful review and analysis. A full consideration of potential consumer confusion issues is built into the procedures that have been applied in the analysis of the strings.

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  The NGPC reflected on existing string similarity in the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) and considered the positive and negative impacts. The NGPC observed that numerous examples of similar strings, including singulars and

plurals exist within the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) at the second level. Many of these are not registered to or operated by the same registrant. There are thousands of examples including:

auto.com	autos.com
car.com	cars.com
new.com	news.com
store.com	stores.com

- The NGPC considered the process used by the panel of experts from InterConnect Communications working in conjunction with the University College London to perform a visual similarity review to prevent used confusion and loss of confidence in the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) resulting fro the delegation of similar strings. The panel made its assessments using the standard defined in the Applicant Guidebook: String confusion exists where a string so nearly resembles another visually that it is likely to deceive or cause confusion. For the likelihood of confusion to exist, it must be probable, not merely possible that confusion will arise in the mind of the average, reasonable Internet user. Mere association, in the sense that the string brings another string to mind, is insufficient to find a likelihood of confusion. This panel utilized its independent expertise, including in linguistics, to perform the review against the criteria in the Applicant Guidebook. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) did not provide any instructions to the panel outside of the criteria specified in the Applicant Guidebook, including any pre-judgment of whether singular or plural versions of strings should be considered visually similar.

- The NGPC considered whether there were alternative methods to address potential user confusion if singular and plural versions of the same string are allowed to proceed. The NGPC discussed the String Confusion Objection mechanism in the AGB, and noted that string confusion objections are not limited to visual similarity, but may include any type of similarity, including visual, aural, or similarity of meaning. The DRSP panels reviewing string confusion objections use the following standard for assessing string confusion, as specified in the Applicant Guidebook: String confusion exists where a string so nearly resembles another that it is likely to deceive or cause confusion. For a likelihood of confusion to exist, it must be probable, not merely possible that confusion will arise in the mind of the average, reasonable Internet user. Mere association, in the sense that *the string brings another string to mind, is insufficient to find a likelihood of confusion*. The NGPC took note of the fact that in the case of a successful string confusion objection, either the application would not proceed (for an objection by an existing gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) operator) or an existing contention set would be modified to include the application subject to the objection (for an objection by another gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applicant).

- The NGPC took note of the objections filed during the objection period, which closed on 13 March 2013. All new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applicants had standing to file a string confusion objection against another application. By the end of the objection period, a total of 67 string confusion objections were filed (see http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/odr/filings (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/odr/filings)). Based on staff analysis, there were a total of 26 singular/plural applied-for, English language strings. The strings in these pairs had a total of 21 string similarity objections filed against them.

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The string similarity review is the implementation of the GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) (Generic Names Supporting Organization)'s policy recommendation 2: "Strings must not be confusingly similar to an existing top-level domain or a Reserved Name." As noted above, the objective of the string similarity review is to prevent user confusion and loss of confidence in the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) resulting from delegation of many similar strings. A full consideration of potential consumer confusion issues is built into the procedures that have been applied in the analysis of the strings. The adoption of the proposed resolution will assist with continuing to resolve the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice in manner that permits the greatest number of new gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) applications to continue to move forward as soon as possible.

Are there fiscal impacts or ramifications on ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (strategic plan, operating plan, budget); the community; and/or the public?

There are no foreseen fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution.

Are there any security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System)?

The security, stability and resiliency issues relating to the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System) were considered when the AGB was adopted. The NGPC's decision does not propose any changes to the existing program in the AGB, and thus there are no additional foreseen issues related to the security, stability or resiliency of the DNS (Domain Name System) (Domain Name System).

Is this either a defined policy process within ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Supporting Organizations or ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)'s Organizational Administrative Function decision requiring public comment or not requiring public comment?

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) posted the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) (Governmental Advisory Committee) advice and officially notified applicants of the advice on 18 April 2013 <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-18apr13-en)>. This triggered the 21-day applicant response period pursuant to the Applicant Guidebook Module 3.1. No additional public comment is required as the NGPC's action does not propose any policy or program changes to the New gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) (generic Top Level Domain) Program.

e.

IGO (Intergovernmental Organization) (Intergovernmental Organization) Protection

No resolution taken.

f.

AOB

No resolution taken.

Published on 27 June 2013

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Attachment 8.

 Homepage

Root Zone Database

The Root Zone Database represents the delegation details of top-level domains, including gTLDs such as .com, and country-code TLDs such as .uk. As the manager of the DNS root zone, IANA is responsible for coordinating these delegations in accordance with its policies and procedures.

Much of this data is also available via the WHOIS protocol at whois.iana.org.

Domain	Type	Sponsoring Organisation
.ac	country-code	Network Information Center (AC Domain Registry) c/o Cable and Wireless (Ascension Island)
.ad	country-code	Andorra Telecom
.ae	country-code	Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA)
.aero	sponsored	Societe Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautique (SITA INC USA)
.af	country-code	Ministry of Communications and IT
.ag	country-code	UHSA School of Medicine
.ai	country-code	Government of Anguilla
.al	country-code	Electronic and Postal Communications Authority - AKEP
.am	country-code	Internet Society
.an	country-code	University of The Netherlands Antilles
.ao	country-code	Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade Agostinho Neto
.aq	country-code	Mott and Associates
.ar	country-code	Presidencia de la Nación – Secretaría Legal y Técnica
.arpa	infrastructure	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.as	country-code	AS Domain Registry
.asia	sponsored	DotAsia Organisation Ltd.
.at	country-code	nic.at GmbH
.au	country-code	.au Domain Administration (auDA)
.aw	country-code	SETAR
.ax	country-code	Ålands landskapsregering
.az	country-code	IntraNS
.ba	country-code	Universtiy Telinformatic Centre (UTIC)
.bb	country-code	Government of Barbados Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development Telecommunications Unit
.bd	country-code	Ministry of Post & Telecommunications Bangladesh Secretariat
.be	country-code	DNS BE vzw/asbl
.bf	country-code	ARCE-AutoritÈ de RÈgulation des Communications Electroniques
.bg	country-code	Register.BG
.bh	country-code	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
.bi	country-code	Centre National de l'Informatique
.biz	generic-restricted	NeuStar, Inc.
.bj	country-code	Benin Telecoms S.A.
.bl	country-code	Not assigned
.bm	country-code	Registry General Ministry of Labour and Immigration
.bn	country-code	Telekom Brunei Berhad
.bo	country-code	Agencia para el Desarrollo de la Información de la Sociedad en Bolivia
.bq	country-code	Not assigned
.br	country-code	Comite Gestor da Internet no Brasil
.bs	country-code	The College of the Bahamas
.bt	country-code	Ministry of Information and Communications
.bv	country-code	UNINETT Norid A/S
.bw	country-code	University of Botswana
.by	country-code	Reliable Software Inc.
.bz	country-code	University of Belize
.ca	country-code	Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) Autorite Canadienne pour les Enregistrements Internet (ACEI)
.cat	sponsored	Fundacio puntCAT
.cc	country-code	eNIC Cocos (Keeling) Islands Pty. Ltd. d/b/a Island Internet Services
.cd	country-code	Office Congolais des Postes et Télécommunications - OCPT
.cf	country-code	Societe Centrafricaine de Telecommunications (SOCATEL)
.cg	country-code	ONPT Congo and Interpoint Switzerland
.ch	country-code	SWITCH The Swiss Education & Research Network
.ci	country-code	INP-HB Institut National Polytechnique Felix Houphouet Boigny
.ck	country-code	Telecom Cook Islands Ltd.
.cl	country-code	NIC Chile (University of Chile)
.cm	country-code	Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMTEL)
.cn	country-code	Computer Network Information Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences
.co	country-code	.CO Internet S.A.S.
.com	generic	VeriSign Global Registry Services
.coop	sponsored	DotCooperation LLC
.cr	country-code	National Academy of Sciences Academia Nacional de Ciencias
.cu	country-code	CENIAInternet Industria y San Jose Capitolio Nacional
.cv	country-code	Agência Nacional das Comunicações (ANAC)
.cw	country-code	University of the Netherlands Antilles
.cx	country-code	Christmas Island Internet Administration Limited
.cy	country-code	University of Cyprus
.cz	country-code	CZ.NIC, z.s.p.o
.de	country-code	DENIC eG
.dj	country-code	Djibouti Telecom S.A
.dk	country-code	Dansk Internet Forum
.dm	country-code	DotDM Corporation
.do	country-code	Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra Recinto Santo Tomas de Aquino
.dz	country-code	CERIST
.ec	country-code	NIC.EC (NICEC) S.A.
.edu	sponsored	EDUCAUSE
.ee	country-code	National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics

Domain	Type	Sponsoring Organisation
.eg	country-code	Egyptian Universities Network (EUN) Supreme Council of Universities
.eh	country-code	Not assigned
.er	country-code	Eritrea Telecommunication Services Corporation (EriTel)
.es	country-code	Red.es
.et	country-code	Ethio telecom
.eu	country-code	EURid vzw/asbl
.fi	country-code	Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority
.fj	country-code	The University of the South Pacific IT Services
.fk	country-code	Falkland Islands Government
.fm	country-code	FSM Telecommunications Corporation
.fo	country-code	FO Council
.fr	country-code	AFNIC (NIC France) - Immeuble International
.ga	country-code	Agence Nationale des Infrastructures Numériques et des Fréquences (ANINF)
.gb	country-code	Reserved Domain - IANA
.gd	country-code	The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC)
.ge	country-code	Caucasus Online
.gf	country-code	Net Plus
.gg	country-code	Island Networks Ltd.
.gh	country-code	Network Computer Systems Limited
.gi	country-code	Sapphire Networks
.gl	country-code	TELE Greenland A/S
.gm	country-code	GM-NIC
.gn	country-code	Centre National des Sciences Halieutiques de Boussoura
.gov	sponsored	General Services Administration Attn: QTDC, 2E08 (.gov Domain Registration)
.gp	country-code	Networking Technologies Group
.gq	country-code	GETESA
.gr	country-code	ICS-FORTH GR
.gs	country-code	Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI)
.gt	country-code	Universidad del Valle de Guatemala
.gu	country-code	University of Guam Computer Center
.gw	country-code	Fundação IT & MEDIA Universidade de Bissao
.gy	country-code	University of Guyana
.hk	country-code	Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Ltd.
.hm	country-code	HM Domain Registry
.hn	country-code	Red de Desarrollo Sostenible Honduras
.hr	country-code	CARNet - Croatian Academic and Research Network
.ht	country-code	Consortium FDS/RDDH
.hu	country-code	Council of Hungarian Internet Providers (CHIP)
.id	country-code	IDNIC-PPAU Mikroelektronika
.ie	country-code	University College Dublin Computing Services Computer Centre
.il	country-code	Internet Society of Israel
.im	country-code	Isle of Man Government
.in	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.info	generic	Afilias Limited
.int	sponsored	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.io	country-code	IO Top Level Domain Registry Cable and Wireless
.iq	country-code	Communications and Media Commission (CMC)
.ir	country-code	Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences
.is	country-code	ISNIC - Internet Iceland ltd.
.it	country-code	IIT - CNR
.je	country-code	Island Networks (Jersey) Ltd.
.jm	country-code	University of West Indies
.jo	country-code	National Information Technology Center (NITC)
.jobs	sponsored	Employ Media LLC
.jp	country-code	Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd.
.ke	country-code	Kenya Network Information Center (KeNIC)
.kg	country-code	AsiaInfo Telecommunication Enterprise
.kh	country-code	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications
.ki	country-code	Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Tourism Development
.km	country-code	Comores Telecom
.kn	country-code	Ministry of Finance, Sustainable Development Information & Technology
.kp	country-code	Star Joint Venture Company
.kr	country-code	Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA)
.kw	country-code	Ministry of Communications
.ky	country-code	The Information and Communications Technology Authority
.kz	country-code	Association of IT Companies of Kazakhstan
.la	country-code	Lao National Internet Committee (LANIC), Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
.lb	country-code	American University of Beirut Computing and Networking Services
.lc	country-code	University of Puerto Rico
.li	country-code	Universitaet Liechtenstein
.lk	country-code	Council for Information Technology LK Domain Registrar
.lr	country-code	Data Technology Solutions, Inc.
.ls	country-code	National University of Lesotho
.lt	country-code	Kaunas University of Technology Information Technology Development Institute
.lu	country-code	RESTENA
.lv	country-code	University of Latvia Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science Department of Network Solutions (DNS)
.ly	country-code	General Post and Telecommunication Company
.ma	country-code	Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT)
.mc	country-code	Gouvernement de Monaco Direction des Communications Electroniques
.md	country-code	MoldData S.E.
.me	country-code	Government of Montenegro
.mf	country-code	Not assigned
.mg	country-code	NIC-MG (Network Information Center Madagascar)
.mh	country-code	Cabinet Office
.mil	sponsored	DoD Network Information Center
.mk	country-code	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
.ml	country-code	Agence des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication
.mm	country-code	Ministry of Communications, Posts & Telegraphs
.mn	country-code	Datacom Co., Ltd.
.mo	country-code	Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT)

Domain	Type	Sponsoring Organisation
.mobi	sponsored	Afilias Technologies Limited dba dotMobi
.mp	country-code	Saipan Datacom, Inc.
.mq	country-code	MEDIASERV
.mr	country-code	University of Nouakchott
.ms	country-code	MNI Networks Ltd.
.mt	country-code	NIC (Malta)
.mu	country-code	Internet Direct Ltd
.museum	sponsored	Museum Domain Management Association
.mv	country-code	Dhiraagu Pvt. Ltd. (DHIVEHINET)
.mw	country-code	Malawi Sustainable Development Network Programme (Malawi SDNP)
.mx	country-code	NIC-Mexico ITESM - Campus Monterrey
.my	country-code	MYNIC Berhad
.mz	country-code	Centro de Informatica de Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
.na	country-code	Namibian Network Information Center
.name	generic-restricted	VeriSign Information Services, Inc.
.nc	country-code	Office des Postes et Telecommunications
.ne	country-code	SONITEL
.net	generic	VeriSign Global Registry Services
.nf	country-code	Norfolk Island Data Services
.ng	country-code	Nigeria Internet Registration Association
.ni	country-code	Universidad Nacional del Ingernieria Centro de Computo
.nl	country-code	SIDN (Stichting Internet Domeinregistratie Nederland)
.no	country-code	UNINETT Norid A/S
.np	country-code	Mercantile Communications Pvt. Ltd.
.nr	country-code	CENPAC NET
.nu	country-code	The IUSN Foundation
.nz	country-code	InternetNZ
.om	country-code	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
.org	generic	Public Interest Registry (PIR)
.pa	country-code	Universidad Tecnologica de Panama
.pe	country-code	Red Cientifica Peruana
.pf	country-code	Gouvernement de la Polynésie française
.pg	country-code	PNG DNS Administration Vice Chancellors Office The Papua New Guinea University of Technology
.ph	country-code	PH Domain Foundation
.pk	country-code	PKNIC
.pl	country-code	Research and Academic Computer Network
.pm	country-code	AFNIC (NIC France) - Immeuble International
.pn	country-code	Pitcairn Island Administration
.post	sponsored	Universal Postal Union
.pr	country-code	Gauss Research Laboratory Inc.
.pro	generic-restricted	Registry Services Corporation dba RegistryPro
.ps	country-code	Ministry Of Telecommunications & Information Technology, Government Computer Center.
.pt	country-code	Fundação para a Computação Científica Nacional
.pw	country-code	Micronesia Investment and Development Corporation
.py	country-code	NIC-PY
.qa	country-code	The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQATAR)
.re	country-code	AFNIC (NIC France) - Immeuble International
.ro	country-code	National Institute for R&D in Informatics
.rs	country-code	Serbian National Register of Internet Domain Names (RNIDS)
.ru	country-code	Coordination Center for TLD RU
.rw	country-code	Rwanda Information Communication and Technology Association (RICTA)
.sa	country-code	Communications and Information Technology Commission
.sb	country-code	Solomon Telekom Company Limited
.sc	country-code	VCS Pty Ltd
.sd	country-code	Sudan Internet Society
.se	country-code	The Internet Infrastructure Foundation
.sg	country-code	Singapore Network Information Centre (SGNIC) Pte Ltd
.sh	country-code	Government of St. Helena
.si	country-code	Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES)
.sj	country-code	UNINETT Norid A/S
.sk	country-code	SK-NIC, a.s.
.sl	country-code	Sierratel
.sm	country-code	Telecom Italia San Marino S.p.A.
.sn	country-code	Universite Cheikh Anta Diop NIC Senegal
.so	country-code	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications
.sr	country-code	Telesur
.ss	country-code	Not assigned
.st	country-code	Tecnisys
.su	country-code	Russian Institute for Development of Public Networks (ROSNIIROS)
.sv	country-code	SVNet
.sx	country-code	SX Registry SA B.V.
.sy	country-code	National Agency for Network Services (NANS)
.sz	country-code	University of Swaziland Department of Computer Science
.tc	country-code	Melrex TC
.td	country-code	Société des télécommunications du Tchad (SOTEL TCHAD)
.tel	sponsored	Telnic Ltd.
.tf	country-code	AFNIC (NIC France) - Immeuble International
.tg	country-code	Cafe Informatique et Telecommunications
.th	country-code	Thai Network Information Center Foundation
.tj	country-code	Information Technology Center
.tk	country-code	Telecommunication Tokelau Corporation (Teletok)
.tl	country-code	Ministry of Infrastructure Information and Technology Division
.tm	country-code	TM Domain Registry Ltd
.tn	country-code	Agence Tunisienne d'Internet
.to	country-code	Government of the Kingdom of Tonga H.R.H. Crown Prince Tupouto'a c/o Consulate of Tonga
.tp	country-code	-
.tr	country-code	Middle East Technical University Department of Computer Engineering
.travel	sponsored	Tralliance Registry Management Company, LLC.
.tt	country-code	University of the West Indies Faculty of Engineering
.tv	country-code	Ministry of Finance and Tourism

Domain	Type	Sponsoring Organisation
.tw	country-code	Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC)
.tz	country-code	Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC)
.ua	country-code	Communication Systems Ltd
.ug	country-code	Uganda Online Ltd.
.uk	country-code	Nominet UK
.um	country-code	Not assigned
.us	country-code	NeuStar, Inc.
.uy	country-code	SeCIU - Universidad de la Republica
.uz	country-code	Computerization and Information Technologies Developing Center UZINFOCOM
.va	country-code	Holy See Secretariat of State Department of Telecommunications
.vc	country-code	Ministry of Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Industry
.ve	country-code	Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (CONATEL)
.vg	country-code	Pinebrook Developments Ltd
.vi	country-code	Virgin Islands Public Telcommunications System c/o COBEX Internet Services
.vn	country-code	Ministry of Information and Communications of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
.vu	country-code	Telecom Vanuatu Limited
.wf	country-code	AFNIC (NIC France) - Immeuble International
.ws	country-code	Government of Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
.测试	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.परीक्षा	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.한국	country-code	KISA (Korea Internet & Security Agency)
.ভারত	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.বাংলা	country-code	Not assigned
.испытание	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.қаз	country-code	Association of IT Companies of Kazakhstan
.срб	country-code	Serbian National Register of Internet Domain Names (RNIDS)
.테스트	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.சிங்கப்பூர்	country-code	Singapore Network Information Centre (SGNIC) Pte Ltd
.ລาວ	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.中国	country-code	China Internet Network Information Center
.中國	country-code	China Internet Network Information Center
.భారత్	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.ලංකා	country-code	LK Domain Registry
.測試	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.ભારત	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.भारत	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.آزمایشی	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.பரிட்சை	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.укр	country-code	Ukrainian Network Information Centre (UANIC), Inc.
.香港	country-code	Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Ltd.
.δοκιμή	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.إختبار	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.台湾	country-code	Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC)
.台灣	country-code	Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC)
.мон	country-code	Not assigned
.الجزائر	country-code	CERIST
.عمان	country-code	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
.ایران	country-code	Not assigned
.امارات	country-code	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
.پاکستان	country-code	Not assigned
.الاردن	country-code	National Information Technology Center (NITC)
.بھارت	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.المغرب	country-code	Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT)
.السعودية	country-code	Communications and Information Technology Commission
.سودان	country-code	Not assigned
.مليسيا	country-code	MYNIC Berhad
.ລ	country-code	Not assigned
.ไทย	country-code	Thai Network Information Center Foundation
.سورية	country-code	National Agency for Network Services (NANS)
.рф	country-code	Coordination Center for TLD RU
.تونس	country-code	Agence Tunisienne d'Internet
.ভারত	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.مصر	country-code	National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority - NTRA
.قطر	country-code	Supreme Council for Communications and Information Technology (ictQATAR)
.இலங்கை	country-code	LK Domain Registry
.இந்தியா	country-code	National Internet Exchange of India
.新加坡	country-code	Singapore Network Information Centre (SGNIC) Pte Ltd
.فلسطين	country-code	Ministry of Telecom & Information Technology (MTIT)
.テスト	test	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
.xxx	sponsored	ICM Registry LLC
.ye	country-code	TeleYemen
.yt	country-code	AFNIC (NIC France) - Immeuble International
.za	country-code	ZA Domain Name Authority
.zm	country-code	ZAMNET Communication Systems Ltd.
.zw	country-code	Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ)