

20 June 2012

Heather Dryden  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Re: Processing of applications for New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs)

Dear Heather,

On behalf of the ICANN Board of Directors, I thank you for your letter dated 17 June 2012 describing the GAC's concerns about ICANN's approach to processing applications for New gTLDs. We acknowledge receipt of the following GAC advice to the Board provided in your letter:

“In light of ICANN's decision to initiate digital archery on 8 June 2012, the GAC advises the Board to consult with the community as a matter of urgency to consider ways to improve its assessment and delegation processes in order to minimize the downside risks and uncertainty for applicants. In line with the concerns raised by the community, this should include a focus on competition and fairness with delegation timing.”

Consistent with the GAC's advice, the Board will hold multiple discussions in Prague with the ICANN community regarding the processing of new gTLD applications. It will be a topic of discussion between the Board and interested Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. As you are aware, the Board New gTLD Committee will also meet with the GAC to discuss these issues on Sunday and the full Board will be happy to discuss them during our meeting on Tuesday. In addition, the processing of the applications will also be a topic of discussion during the Public Forum on Thursday. The Board looks forward to the many opportunities that we will have to consult with the community during the ICANN meeting in Prague.

Thank you again for providing advice and input to the Board. We look forward to seeing you in Prague.

Sincerely,

Steve Crocker,  
Chair, ICANN Board