



March 26, 2013

Heather Dryden  
Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee

Dear Heather and Members of the Governmental Advisory Committee:

The New TLD Applicant Group (NTAG) is an Interest Group of the Registries Stakeholder Group, and therefore a recognized entity within the GNSO. The NTAG is comprised of 100 member-applicants representing over 50% of all new gTLD applications.

The NTAG writes to thank the GAC for its efforts in helping the New gTLD Program reach fruition in a transparent, predictable and responsible fashion. As we approach the Beijing ICANN meeting, we particularly wanted to thank the GAC for the great effort it is currently undertaking to be in a position to provide GAC Advice on new gTLD applications in accordance with its published timeframe of April 2013.

As highlighted in ICANN CEO Fadi Chehadé's 13 February 2013 video blog, new gTLDs will provide consumers—the primary beneficiaries of the program—with opportunities for innovation, competition, choice, and growth during a time of economic uncertainty. NTAG members share Mr. Chehadé and ICANN's "sincere belief that the introduction of the new TLDs is good for the consumer, is good for innovation, and is good for competition. And at the time when the world is facing difficult economic times we need to find every possible way to give small businesses and communities the means to express themselves, to sell their goods, and to innovate and create opportunity." NTAG members are committed to bringing about these benefits as we launch and further develop new gTLDs, and we look forward to working with the GAC and other stakeholders as we do so.

NTAG members agree that governmental contributions to the ICANN model and to the new gTLD program are vital and that we, individually and as a group, take seriously the GAC's ideas and concerns. The NTAG appreciates the GAC's hard work and ongoing commitment to meeting new gTLD program implementation timelines. As we are sure the GAC knows and can appreciate, NTAG members have invested significant time, capital, and resources into the new gTLD program and delays to date have caused significant burdens on us and on the program in general. Any further delay would jeopardize our collective accomplishments thus far, and the overall momentum and success of the program. Accordingly, should there be anything the NTAG can do to assist your work prior to or during the Beijing meeting, please let us know. Together we can achieve the positive contributions the new gTLD program offers Internet users around the world.

Thank you again for your dedication, hard work, and patience as we all work collaboratively together to successfully implement the next iteration of the domain name system.

Sincere regards,

NTAG

cc: Fadi Chehadé, ICANN, CEO  
cc: Steve Crocker, ICANN Board, Chair  
cc: ICANN Board, New gTLD Program Committee  
cc: Dr. Olivier M.J. Crépin-Leblond, ICANN, ALAC Chair