Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

Buenos Aires, 3 August, 2012.

Ms.
Heather Dryden
Chair of the Governmental Advisor Committee of ICANN
Cc: GAC of ICANN

Reference: The use of Patagonia´s Region name for a closed brand New gTLD.

Dear Ms Heather Dryden,

As you already know, during the last ICANN meeting in June held in Prague, Argentina has expressed its concern about a requested TLD that uses the name of a vast region located in the southern area of our country named Patagonia.

Patagonia is a region of Argentina that comprises the provinces of the south of the country. It is a vast and beautiful region, it is well known by the beauty of its landscapes, it is a relevant region for our economy because it has oil, fishing, mining and agriculture resources. It is also a region with a vibrant local community.

Argentina believes that the ICANN Board must ensure that the panel judging new gTLDs application should not allow the use of Patagonia as a closed brand TLD, as it has been requested.

In this sense, Argentina wants to raise the .patagonia case as part of the "Early Warning" process in the GAC.

Argentina wants also that the case of .patagonia will be included in to the "GAC advice" about new gTLDs, asking the Board not to allow the request for the TLD .patagonia.

Argentina believes that if the TLD .patagonia is granted to a private company as a closed brand TLD without the corresponding authorization of the relevant government of the provinces that comprise Patagonia and of the national goverment, this will be a precedent for future rounds of new gTLD requests and then other regional names could be captured by brands.

If you have any doubts or questions, please contact us or contact directly our GAC representative Dr. Olga Cavalli (olgacavalli@gmail.com).

Yours Sincerely,

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