



Governmental Advisory Committee

4 August 2011.

Mr. Stephen Crocker
Chairman of the Board of Directors
ICANN
cc: Mr. Olivier Crepin-LeBlond, Chair, ALAC

RE: Joint Statement of the GAC and the ALAC on the Second Milestone Report of the Joint Applicant Support Cross-Community Working Group

Dear Mr. Crocker,

At the Singapore ICANN Meeting, the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) conducted a Joint meeting on 19 June 2011, with an agenda centering mainly on support for needy applicants in the new gTLD process.

Following that meeting, both Advisory Committees have elaborated and agreed on the joint Statement enclosed, which I submit for the Board's consideration. The ALAC is also submitting the joint statement as part of the public comment process on the Second Milestone Report of the Joint Applicant Support Cross-Community Working Group (JAS-WG).

The GAC and ALAC look forward to receiving the Board's early response to the Statement's advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Dryden", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee
Senior Advisor to the Government of Canada

Attachment: Joint Statement of the GAC and ALAC

Joint Statement of the GAC and the ALAC on the Second Milestone Report of the Joint Applicant Support Cross-Community Working Group (JAS-WG)

The GAC and ALAC jointly welcome the Second Milestone Report of the Joint Applicant Support Cross-Community Working Group (JAS-WG).

The GAC and ALAC strongly believe that the Board must take all necessary steps to ensure that there are no barriers that would prevent the new gTLD round in 2012 from being fully inclusive to stakeholders and communities in all countries so that this is a truly global opportunity to contribute to the evolution of the domain name system. We are encouraged therefore by the reference to the JAS-WG in the resolution of the ICANN Board which launched the round of gTLD expansion, as demonstrating the Board's commitment to taking full account of the concerns and specific needs of individual stakeholders and communities in developing countries.

ICANN must now move forward quickly to support the JAS-WG in the finalization of the Second Milestone Report and the complete implementation of all its recommendations as soon as practicable so as to allow potential applicants sufficient time to prepare for the round. . It is therefore a matter of urgency that ICANN commits the necessary legal, authoring and logistical resources required to support this work including the early publication of a universally accessible "Needs-Assessed Applicant Guidebook".

In moving forward, the GAC and ALAC recommend consideration of the following issues as the JAS-WG and ICANN staff now convert the existing MR2 document into a final report and guidance for applicants:

- The GAC and ALAC believe that local and regional governments, as well as public-private partnerships, should remain eligible if they meet the positive criteria elements as listed in 3.1 and 3.2. The reference in Part 3.3 that disqualifies consideration of applicants who are "from a governmental or parastatal applicant" should therefore be significantly narrowed to exclude only national governments.
- The previous GAC advice recommending a reduced gTLD application fee of approximately \$47,000 should be implemented, including for applications designed to create a string in multiple IDN scripts.
- The seed funding of \$2 million should be offered to qualifying needs-assessed applicants to assist with the costs of non-ICANN-related expenses which could include startup services and technical assistance.
- ICANN needs to develop and/or collate a set of best practices that would enable qualifying needs-assessed applicants to reduce costs and time in the application process and implementation steps. Such best practices could include application templates, encouragement to applicants to collaborate where appropriate, and assistance in the definition of continuity instruments.
- Support for qualified applicants should include technical support and the transfer of capacity building skills in various key areas, including IPv6 capability.

In addition to the above recommendations from the JAS-WG work, the GAC and ALAC advise that the Board undertake the following policy initiatives, designed specifically to address the requirements of qualifying needs-assessed applicants:

- allowing an additional option to the continuity instruments that would enable pooling of resources as well as providing applicants with the option to designate their intended successor operator, thereby reducing ongoing costs;
- lowering fees for qualifying needs-assessed applicants for a string in multiple IDN scripts, particularly where simultaneous IDNs are required in countries of great linguistic diversity.