



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information

Mr Maarten Botterman
Chair of the Board of Directors of the Internet
Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
(ICANN)
Meerum Terwogtlaan 269, 3056 PP
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Ref: CI/DIT/20/11

28 February 2020

Dear Mr Botterman,

I have taken note your submission of questions on 13 February 2020 to the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Internet Society (ISOC), regarding the proposed sale of the Public Interest Registry (PIR).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which is a member of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and a registrant of .org, supports a multi-stakeholder and open Internet ecosystem. UNESCO's position is based upon the Internet Universality principles of human Rights, Openness, Accessibility and Multi-stakeholder governance (R.O.A.M principles), unanimously endorsed by Member States at the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2015.

Freedom of Expression online has benefited from the growth of online platforms coordinated mainly by civil society, and non-governmental organizations, as well as media and journalism non-profit initiatives, which use .org domains. These platforms, projects and initiatives play a central role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and a significant number of them could find difficulties in keeping their online presence if their costs are raised or if the new governance structure of .org domains won't prioritize taking decisions in accordance to the R.O.A.M principles.

While commercial interests have a valuable place online, UNESCO believes, however, that the .org domain could remain a not-for-profit space dedicated to the non-commercial community of the global Internet, while sustaining through PIR revenue the key work of the internet community in support of an open Internet.

Yours sincerely,

Moez Chakchouk