

*March 11, 2014*

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Dear Sirs

**SUBJECT: Public interest concerns regarding .health**

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) advised the ICANN Board that “in those cases where a community, which is clearly impacted by a set of new gTLD applications in contention, has expressed a collective and clear opinion on those applications, such opinion should be duly taken into account, together with all other relevant information (Beijing Communiqué).”

By now the ICANN Board is aware that .health is one of the ten most opposed new gTLDs. Concerns have been expressed through public comments, early warnings, and objections by the Independent Objector as well as the At-Large Advisory Committee. These concerns are further highlighted by the Journal of Medical Internet Research this week (<http://www.jmir.org/2014/3/e73/>, <http://www.jmir.org/2014/3/e62/>).

Regulated industries and professions raise inherent public interest and consumer protection concerns recognized at all levels of government and by intergovernmental entities. The concerns about .health remain a subject of community and government discussion. Effective measures to protect the public interest in regulated string such as .health are critical. The proposed safeguards are insufficient and the Public Interest Commitments cannot be monitored or enforced by the national public health and other regulatory bodies expected to do so. We, the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH) and NGO in official relations with WHO, add our voice to those demanding that the auction of the .health gTLD not go forward.

Sincerely,



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