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For Immediate Release

ICANN Board Focuses on Assistance for Developing Economies

42nd Public Meeting Concludes in Dakar, Senegal

Dakar, Senegal... The ICANN Board of Directors today passed a resolution to review a proposal from a special working group that would create a support system for deserving applicants of new gTLDs, many of whom are expected to be in developing countries. The Board further directed the President and CEO to develop a detailed plan by December 8, for the scoping and implementation of the recommendations.

“It is very important that deserving applicants, such as those from emerging economies, be included in the new gTLD program,” said Rod Beckstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer. “It is necessary to encourage diverse participation in this new program and to broaden the scope of our multi-stakeholder model.”

The ICANN Board of Directors also made clear today that it wants to enhance the organization’s policies relating to conflicts of interest, ethics, confidentiality and an overall code of conduct.

“We want to achieve a Gold Standard in terms of conflicts and ethics practices,” said Steve Crocker, Chair of the ICANN Board. “Specifically we are working on a system which will lay out how Directors interested in specific new generic Top Level Domain applications will be restricted from participation in the deliberations and decisions regarding the new gTLD Program.”

In closing ICANN’s 42nd public meeting in Dakar, Senegal, the Board passed a resolution stating that, “ICANN will treat decisions relating to approving any single new gTLD application in an ethical manner and with care to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest.”

ICANN’s next public meeting will occur March 11-16 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

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To read the resolutions passed by the ICANN Board, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/>.

To download high resolution pictures from the Dakar meeting, go here:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/sets/72157627841166127/>.

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About ICANN: *ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit: www.icann.org.*