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1 November 2019

Keith Drazek, GNSO Council Chair
Rafik Dammak, GNSO Council Vice-Chair
Pam Little, GNSO Council Vice-Chair

Dear Mr. Drazek, Mr. Dammak, and Ms. Little,

Thank you for your letter to the Board dated 20 September 2019 requesting the Board's views "related to dependencies, if any, between the Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP) and the ongoing policy work of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP." The Board appreciates the interest in clarification and takes note that the PDP working group is currently working on a number of policy recommendations, including discussions relating to risks around name collision.

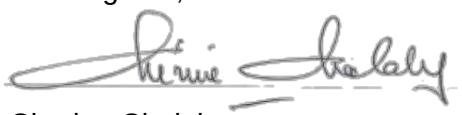
In regard to the work in progress for the NCAP, ICANN org has engaged a contractor for Study 1, with work to begin 1 November 2019. The target schedule for Study 1 provides for completion in June 2020, including two public comment periods.

The Board has not sought to establish a new dependency on completion of the PDP work based on commissioning NCAP Study 1. This first NCAP study, as proposed by SSAC, aims to examine all relevant prior work on the issue of name collisions, assess past datasets and studies on the topic, and locate any gaps in research, to determine the feasibility of continuing with Studies 2 and 3 of the project. The PDP working group could, at its option, choose to establish completion of one or more aspects of the NCAP Study as a dependency for delivering its recommendations, if this appears needed based on the content of the study. Absent such a determination, the Board would encourage the PDP working group to proceed with its work in parallel with NCAP Study 1.

In regard to dependencies on future milestones beyond the completion of the Subsequent Procedures policy recommendations, the Board anticipates that the timeline for completion of NCAP Study 1 in June 2020 will align with the Board's consideration of the SubPro PDP Final Report currently slated for no earlier than the second quarter of 2020. As noted in the NCAP Proposal submitted to the Board by SSAC, Study 1 is intended as a decision point: "an important outcome and deliverable of Study 1 is a recommendation on whether or not to proceed with Studies 2 and 3", "based on the results of the survey of prior work and the availability of data sets." Thus, upon completion of Study 1, the Board can determine in consultation with the community whether additional NCAP work is necessary and, if so, which elements should be a dependency for any of the other future milestones noted in your letter.

The Board looks forward to continued engagement with the GNSO Council and will be closely monitoring the progress of NCAP Study 1 as well as the continued work of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP.

Best regards,



Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors