



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

3 April 2014

Mr. Jonathan Robinson
Chair, ICANN GNSO Council

Dear Jonathan,

On behalf of the ICANN Board New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC), I write to provide you with an update on the NGPC's ongoing work with regard to the New gTLD Registry Agreement.

As you know, on [26 March 2014](http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-26mar14-en.htm#1.a), the NGPC took action to approve Specification 13 to the Registry Agreement <<http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-26mar14-en.htm#1.a>>. Specification 13 provides limited accommodations to registry operators of TLDs that qualify as ".Brand TLDs." As many as one-third of all new gTLD applications might qualify as .Brand TLDs. Specification 13 reflects months of discussions on many key issues raised by the community during the public comment forum and other community outreach sessions.

At the same meeting, the NGPC also approved the incorporation of an additional clause into Specification 13, with implementation not being effective until 45 days from the publication of the resolution. This additional clause will allow a registry operator of a .Brand TLD to designate no more than three ICANN accredited registrars at any point in time to serve as the exclusive registrar(s) for the TLD.

Implementation of this additional clause is being delayed for a time in respect of the GNSO policy development process by providing the GNSO Council an opportunity to advise ICANN as to whether the GNSO Council believes that this additional clause is inconsistent with the letter and intent of GNSO Policy Recommendation 19 on the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains. In case additional time for review is necessary beyond the 45 days, please advise the NGPC along with an explanation as to why this additional time is required.

As you know, Specification 13 was an important topic of discussion among all of the interested parties during the ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore. We look forward to the GNSO Council's advice and our continued work together through the multi-stakeholder process.

Sincerely,

Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board New gTLD Program Committee