ICANN

04 August 2017

Mr. Patrick Nyirishema
Director General
Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority

Dear Mr. Nyirishema,

Thank you for your letter of 2 June 2017 regarding the release of two-character labels at the second level. Your letter has been posted to ICANN's Correspondence page at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/nyirishema-to-crocker-marby-02jun17-en.pdf.

As you may recall, the policy development process for the current round of new gTLDs took years of community work that resulted in the Applicant Guidebook and the New gTLD registry agreement which the ICANN organization continues to implement. In particular, with respect to the release of all two-character labels at the second level, the ICANN Board and organization have been engaging with the GAC and various governments on this topic following the Board resolution of 8 November 2016. The ICANN Board and organization have continued this dialogue with the GAC and the concerned governments, including the government of Rwanda, to provide added clarity and information related to the process that was undertaken, as well as the measures implemented by the registries prior to the release of two-character country codes at the second level. Additionally, ICANN executives have conducted a number of Webinars and provided publicly available registration information of relevant two-character labels in various country code top-level domains, including .rw. This dialogue included a discussion at a recent GAC session at ICANN59 in Johannesburg and is ongoing.

I thank you for your participation in the ICANN multistakeholder model, and look forward to further engagements with you in the ICANN community discussions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

cc:
Mr. Nkeramugaba Ghislain, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Information and Communication Technology Association
Mr. Charles Semapondo, Ag. Head of Innovation & Cybersecurity Department, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority
Mr. Thomas Schneider, Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee