ICANN | GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

ICANN SO & AC Chairs
Steve Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board

Dear All,

Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) – The use of new gTLD auction proceeds

I would like to follow up with you in relation to the proposed creation of a Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) to develop a plan for the management and use of new gTLD auction proceeds. This follows my input during the most recent SO/AC Chairs call.

As a reminder, as also noted in my [message](#) of 23 April 2015, the GNSO Council reviewed the feedback received from all the GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies as well as other Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs). All those that responded (ALAC, ccNSO, GAC, NRO, RSSAC and GNSO SG/Cs) expressed support for commencing discussions on this topic, although some did indicate that they may not formally join the initiative (CCWG) as a chartering organization.

As a result, I reached out to all of you with the request to provide volunteers from your respective organisations in order to come together to develop a charter for such a Cross-Community Working Group. In this regard and specifically in order to keep the drafting team to a manageable size, I would like to encourage you again to limit participation to one or two volunteers per organization. As a reminder, the task of this drafting team will be to develop a proposed charter for the CCWG, which will then be considered for adoption by those SO/ACs that are interested to serve as a chartering organizations. Following the experience of recent CCWGs, my expectation is that this effort will be open to participation by anyone interested; regardless of which SO/ACs decide to serve as a chartering organization. To date, volunteers for the drafting team have come forward from the GNSO, SSAC and W3C.

However, in order to give all of you and your respective organizations additional time to consider this request and also recognising the busy period we are in, I would like to propose that the drafting team does not convene until during or after the ICANN meeting in Buenos Aires. This will hopefully allow you to identify volunteers that may be willing to assist in the drafting team as well as allow for some community conversations in Buenos Aires that may help inform the drafting team deliberations. I understand that the topic of the new gTLD auction proceeds will be covered during the SO/AC High Interest Topics session on Monday (22 June 2015) which will allow all of you to provide some high level input on this topic (such as thoughts regarding process, scope, outreach and managing conflict of interest). Furthermore, we are planning to organise a session on this topic on Wednesday afternoon (currently scheduled for 17.00 – 18.30 local time). This second session is intended to provide an opportunity for the community to be fully informed about the historic background as well as current status of the new gTLD auction proceeds, views of the ICANN Board on this topic as well as how other communities / organisations have dealt with distribution and management of funds with that may help inform the preparations for the CCWG.

Depending on the availability of drafting team members, an informal initial get together session could be planned for Thursday (25 June 2015) in order to allow for an initial exchange of views, taking into account the feedback heard during the ICANN meeting, as well as a discussion of next steps towards a proposed charter for SO/AC consideration.

If you have any questions or feedback on this proposed approach, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Robinson
Chair, ICANN GNSO Council