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Root Server System Advisory Committee

6 October 2016

Subject: Response to the GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group on the new Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) Subsequent Procedures

To: Avri Doria, Jeff Neuman, and Stephen Coates (Working Group Co-Chairs)

On 9 June 2016, the co-chairs of the Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group on the new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) Subsequent Procedures requested input from the Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, Stakeholder Groups, and Constituencies on several overarching questions¹ as part of the Group's first Community Comment process.

The RSSAC *does not* have any input on these overarching questions requested by the Working Group, as these policy questions are outside RSSAC's technical mandate. However, the RSSAC does wish to highlight that if future plans for more top level domains are consistent with the past expansion program, the RSSAC does not foresee any technical issues. In line with the evolution of the entire root server system, the root servers are carefully monitored, and there are currently no signs of stress as a result of the TLD expansion.

If the approach to future TLD expansion significantly changes (e.g., rate of change, new Resource Records types), the RSSAC would like to be consulted in order to address possible technical implications.

Furthermore, the RSSAC advises root zone management partners and root server operators to implement coordination procedures so that root server operators can notify ICANN in the event of stress on the root name service. As a result, changes to the root zone can be temporarily reduced or suspended in order to maintain the stability of root name service. Similarly, ICANN should structure its obligations to new gTLD registries so that it can delay their addition to the root zone in case of root name service instabilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification or further information.

¹ These overarching questions are in the area of 1) Additional new gTLDs in the future; 2) Categorization or differentiation of gTLDs (for example brand, geographical, or supported/community) in ongoing new gTLD mechanisms; 3) Future new gTLDs assessed in "rounds"; 4) Predictability should be maintained or enhanced without sacrificing flexibility. In the event changes must be introduced into the new gTLD Application process, the disruptive effect to all parties should be minimized; 5) Community engagement in new gTLD application processes; and 6) Limiting applications in total and/or per entity during an application window.

Best Regards
Tripti Sinha and Brad Verd
Co-Chairs, ICANN Root Server System Advisory Committee