

2 July 2021

Yoshi Murakami  
Representative Director  
Com Laude (Japan) Corporation

Re: Next Round of New gTLDs

Dear Mr. Murakami,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for your [letter dated 1 June 2021](#) reiterating the question you posed during the Public Forum at ICANN70 in March.

The GNSO Council approved the Final Report of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group (SubPro PDP WG) and submitted the Recommendation Report to the Board in February 2021. The Board, in accordance with the relevant Bylaws requirements, will adopt the recommendations unless “the Board determines that such policy is not in the best interests of the ICANN community or ICANN.”

To facilitate that determination and to provide the Board with information on the operational implications of implementing the recommendations, the Board is considering launching an Operational Design Phase (ODP). The outcome of the ODP, together with other relevant input including submission to the recently closed [Public Comment procedure](#), will inform the Board’s deliberations.

If the Board approves the SubPro PDP WG’s recommendations, we expect implementation to start as soon as feasible. We note there are more than 100 recommendations from the SubPro PDP WG Final Report that require implementation, which will be extensive. As the Board has not yet approved the recommendations, and noting the complexity of implementing such a significant number of recommendations, we are unable to provide a concrete timeline for when the application window of a subsequent round may open at this time. However, this does not affect the 2012 Board [resolution](#) to open “a second application window for the New gTLD Program as expeditiously as possible.”

Throughout the work of the SubPro PDP WG, the Board has closely followed relevant community discussions, and we believe that Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), among other topics, will play an important role in subsequent rounds. In this context we also note your stated interest of Japanese brand owners. We encourage you to provide relevant input and feedback during a prospective ODP.

The Board further notes your comments regarding the need for continued competition and choice. As noted in its bylaws, one of ICANN’s core values is “promoting competition in the registration of domain names where practicable and beneficial to the public interest as identified

through the bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development process". We will continue to ensure that ICANN's core values are upheld when a subsequent round is launched.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns and suggestions. We appreciate your input on this topic and look forward to discussing this further.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maarten Botterman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maarten Botterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors