

# ICANN 17 November 2014 BOARD MEETING

## Board Papers

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**AGENDA – 17 NOVEMBER 2014 SPECIAL BOARD Meeting – 90 minutes**

<b>Time, etc.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Shepherd</b>	<b>Expected Action</b>	<b>Potential Conflict of Interest</b>
<b>Assembly, Roll Call &amp; Consent Agenda Vote</b>	<b>1. Consent Agenda</b>			
30 min	1.a. Approval of Minutes from 16 and 28 October 2014 Board Meetings	Steve Crocker	Approval	
	1.b. Appointment of C-, F-, and K- Root Server Operator Representatives to the RSSAC	Suzanne Woolf	Approval	
	1.c. SSAC Advisory on DNS “Search List” Processing and DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure	Ram Mohan	Approval	
	1.d. Review of the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Completion	Ray Plzak	Approval	



**ICANN BOARD PAPER NO. 2014.11.17.1b**

**TITLE:** **Appointment of B-, C-, F-, and K- Root Server Operator Representatives to the RSSAC**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** **For Board Approval**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Per ICANN Bylaws (Article XI, Section 2.3), the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) is submitting the following members for re-appointment to the RSSAC:

RSO-B: USC—Information Sciences Institute, Bill Manning

RSO-C: Cogent, Paul Vixie

RSO-F: Internet Systems Consortium, Jim Martin

RSO-K: RIPE NCC, Daniel Karrenberg

The individuals have been selected by their root server operator organizations to serve on the RSSAC.

**RSSAC RECOMMENDATION:**

The RSSAC co-chairs recommend the Board appoint Bill Manning as the appointee for B-root server operator, Paul Vixie as the appointee for C-root server operator, Jim Martin as the appointee for F-root server operator, Daniel Karrenberg as the appointee for K-root server operator.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

Whereas, the ICANN Bylaws call for the establishment of a Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) with the role to advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.

Whereas, the ICANN Bylaws call for Board appointment of RSSAC members based on recommendations from the RSSAC co-chairs.

Whereas, the RSSAC co-chairs recommended for Board consideration appointments to the RSSAC to represent the B-root, C-root, F-root, and K-root server operators.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board appoints the representatives for B-root, C-root, and K-root server operators, Bill Manning, Paul Vixie, Daniel Karrenberg, respectively, through 31 December 2017 and the representative for F-root server operator, Jim Martin, through 31 December 2015 to the Root Server System Advisory Committee.

**PROPOSED RATIONALE:**

In May 2013, the Root Server Operators (RSOs) agreed to an initial membership of RSO representatives for RSSAC, and each RSO nominated an individual. The Board approved the initial membership of RSSAC in July 2013 with staggered terms.

The representatives for B-root, C-root and K-root server operators were appointed to an initial one-year term, which expires on 31 December 2014. Their re-appointment is for a full, three-year term. The representative for F-root server operator is being appointed to complete the remaining initial term of the previous representative.

The appointment of the representatives will allow the RSSAC to be properly comprised to serve its function within ICANN's policy development work as an advisory committee. The appointment of these RSSAC members is not anticipated to have any fiscal impact on ICANN, though there are budgeted resources necessary for ongoing support of the RSSAC.

This resolution is an organizational administrative function for which no public comment is required. The appointment of RSSAC members contributes to ICANN's commitment to strengthening the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS.

**Signature Block:**

Submitted by: Steve Sheng

Position: Director, RSSAC and SSAC Advisories Development Support

Date Noted: 7 November 2014

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**ICANN BOARD PAPER NO. 2014.11.17.1c**

**TITLE:** **SSAC Advisory on DNS “Search List” Processing and DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** **For Board Approval**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In February 2014, the SSAC published SAC064: SSAC Advisory on DNS “Search List” Processing and SAC065: SSAC Advisory on DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure. These advisories contain a host of recommendations and suggested actions for ICANN.

The Board directs ICANN staff to perform the following steps to assist the Board in its response to the advisory:

- Produce a recommendation to the Board regarding acceptance of the advice
- Evaluate the feasibility, cost and implementation steps for any advice that Staff recommends that ICANN should adopt

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board:

- 1) Request staff to evaluate the advice and produce a recommendation to the Board regarding acceptance of the advice.
- 2) In the instances where staff recommends that the advice should be accepted, request staff to evaluate the feasibility, cost, and create an implementation plan with timelines and high-level milestones for review by the Board, no later than 120 days from the adoption of this resolution.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

Whereas, in February 2014, the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) published [SAC064](#): SSAC Advisory on DNS “Search List” Processing and [SAC065](#): SSAC Advisory on DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure.

Whereas, in SAC 064, the advice highlights some of the DNS “search list” processing behaviour presents security and privacy issues to end systems, lead to performance problems for the Internet, and might cause collision with names provisioned under the newly delegated top-level domains.

Whereas, in SAC 065, the advice recommends ICANN and operators of Internet infrastructure and manufacturers to take action to address the *unresolved* critical design and deployment issues that have enabled increasingly large and severe Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks using the DNS.

Whereas, while in some instances SAC 064 and SAC 065 call for actions not under ICANN’s control and actors not necessarily within ICANN’s usual community, they are meant to address the overall responsibilities of the multi-stakeholder community and encourage ICANN to take action where it is relevant to do so.

Whereas, ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet’s system of unique identifiers is part of ICANN’s mission; preserving and enhancing the operational stability, reliability, security, and global interoperability of the Internet part of ICANN’s core value; and ensuring the introduction of new gTLDs in a secure and stable manner is a strategic priority for ICANN.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board acknowledges the receipt of SAC064: SSAC Advisory on Search List Processing, and SAC065: SSAC Advisory on DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board directs the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to evaluate the advice provided in SAC064 and SAC 065.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), in the instances where it is recommended that the advice be accepted, the Board directs the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to evaluate the feasibility and cost of implementing the advice, and provide an implementation plan with timelines and high-level milestones for review by the Board, no later than 120 days from the adoption of this resolution.

**PROPOSED RATIONALE:**

On 13 February 2014, the SSAC published an advisory concerning the security and stability implications of DNS “search list” processing – SAC 064. The SSAC advice examines how current operating systems and applications process search lists. It outlines issues related to current search list behaviour, and proposes both a strawman to improve search list processing in the long term and mitigation options for ICANN and the Internet community to consider in the short term. The purpose of these proposals is to help introduce new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) in a secure and stable manner with minimum disruptions to currently deployed systems.

On 24 February 2014, the SSAC published an advisory concerning large-scale abuse that leverages DNS infrastructure - SAC 065. The SSAC advice examines how current operating systems and applications process search lists. The advice explores several unresolved critical design and deployment issues that have enabled increasingly large and severe Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks using the DNS. While DDoS attacks can exploit multiple characteristics of network infrastructure and operations, the prevalence and criticality of the DNS means that securing it is both challenging and urgent. These unresolved DNS issues and related DDoS attacks pose a real and present danger to the security and stability of the Internet.

The Board’s consideration of recommendations from Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees in general, and for SAC064 and SAC 065 in specific, needs to be informed by an analysis of both the substance of the advice as well as the feasibility and cost of implementing such advice that is deemed acceptable.

There are no foreseen fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution, which is the first step in initiating the analysis of implementation of the SSAC advice. The fiscal

impacts will be analyzed as a result of this Board action for future consideration. The adoption of this resolution is not an Organizational Administrative Action requiring public comment.

**Signature Block:**

Submitted by: Ram Mohan

Position: SSAC Board Liaison

Date Noted: 24 October 2014

Email: ram.mohan@icann.org

**ICANN BOARD PAPER NO. 2014.11.17.1d**

**TITLE:** **Review of the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Completion**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** **For Board Approval**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Number Resource Organization (NRO) has completed the review of the Address Supporting Organization, as mandated by the ICANN Bylaws and the ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Memorandum of Understanding. The proposed action is for the Board to receive the NRO implementation report, as recommended by the Structural Improvements Committee, thus signifying completion of implementation work resulting from the ASO Review. Additionally, the Board is asked to consider support from ICANN required on a go forward basis in order for the recommended improvements to become a part of standard operating processes. This support involves logistical staff support associated with ICANN meetings, allocation of time during ICANN meetings for ASO and NRO reports to the ICANN community, translation services and improved visibility on the ICANN web site.

This action is a component of ICANN's Organizational Review process, which is a key part of ICANN's commitment to accountability and transparency and continuous improvement.

**COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) is responsible for the oversight of the Bylaws-mandated organizational reviews and recommends that the Board accept the final report from the NRO issued in the form of a letter to the Chair of the SIC in November 2013 regarding the completion of implementation work resulting from the ASO Review.

In connection with the requested support from ICANN, staff confirms that such support is feasible within the existing allocated resources and recommends that the Board direct staff to provide such support on a go forward basis.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

Whereas, ICANN Bylaws Article IV, Section 4 call for a “periodic review of the performance and operation of each Supporting Organization, each Supporting Organization Council, each Advisory Committee (other than the Governmental Advisory Committee), and the Nominating Committee by an entity or entities independent of the organization under review”;

Whereas, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) “shall provide its own review mechanisms” in reference to periodic review of the ASO, based on the terms of the ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Memorandum of Understanding dated 21 October 2004;

Whereas, the NRO completed the review of the ASO and the implementation work resulting from the recommendations offered by ITEMS International, the independent examiner engaged to conduct the ASO review.

RESOLVED (2014.11.17.xx) that the Board accepts the final report from the Number Resource Organization (NRO) issued in the form of a letter to the Chair of the Structural Improvements Committee in November 2013 regarding the completion of implementation work resulting from the ASO Review. The Board thanks the NRO for its work in conducting the review and acknowledges the completion of the implementation work resulting from the recommendations received by the NRO during the review.

RESOLVED (2014.11.17.xx) that the Board directs staff to provide support requested by the Chair of the NRO Executive Council, consisting of logistical staff support associated with ICANN meetings, allocation of time during ICANN meetings for ASO and NRO reports to the ICANN community, translation services and improved visibility on the ICANN web site.

**PROPOSED RATIONALE:**

This action is a component of ICANN’s Organizational Review process, which is a key part of ICANN’s commitment to accountability and transparency and continuous improvement. ICANN [Bylaws Article IV, Section 4 calls](#) for a “periodic review of the

performance and operation of each Supporting Organization, each Supporting Organization Council, each Advisory Committee (other than the Governmental Advisory Committee), and the Nominating Committee by an entity or entities independent of the organization under review.” Based on the terms of the ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO) [Memorandum of Understanding](#) dated 21 October 2004, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) “shall provide its own review mechanisms” in reference to periodic review of the ASO. In June 2011, ITEMS International was hired as independent review consultants to conduct the ASO Review. ITEMS International issued their [final report](#) in December 2011, which was posted for public comment in March 2012. The report contained 26 recommendations, covering the following areas:

- **Clarifications and updates to the ASO MoU.** These recommendations suggested that the NRO: clarify the purpose, mandate and objectives of the ASO; distinguish between the ASO functions to be undertaken by the Address Council and those to be undertaken by the NRO Executive Council.
- **Global Policy Development Process (GPDP).** These recommendations suggested the development of various procedures related to initiation of GPDP and objections to policies by the ICANN Board.
- **Presence of the ASO during ICANN meetings.** A set of recommendations advocated for changes in the nature of meetings, joint sessions with other structures, and improved agendas and presentations.
- **Enhancements to the ASO web site.** Several recommendations proposed clarification of the ASO structure, addition of FAQs and history of the ASO, translations into other languages and improvements in quality control.
- **Enhancement of ASO procedures** – Recommendations addressed the need for several new procedures: for appointment of NomCom members and Affirmation of Commitment Review members; procedure for advising the ICANN Board on the recognition of new RIRs.

- **NRO Executive Council related recommendations.** Recommendations suggesting that the NRO Executive Council empowers the Policy Proposal Facilitating Teams (PPFT) and reacts to the ATRT report.

Two recommendations pertained to the ICANN Board. The Board is not required to take action on these recommendations based on the NRO's assessment of the recommendations and the processes already in place.

- The ICANN Board should be urged to request advice from the ASO on policy issues regarding IP number resources other than global addressing policies. The Board has been following this recommended practice.
- The ICANN Board should check if its Procedures for the Ratification of Global Addressing Policies are in conformity with the ATRT Report's recommendations in this regard. The procedures are contained inside the ASO MOU agreed to by the NRO and ICANN.

Complete listing of recommendations and NRO responses is available on the [NRO web site](#).

As part of the public comment process, the NRO submitted its conclusions on the report to the Public Comment forum, taking into account the comments received (see [Report of Public Comments](#)). One additional comment was submitted by an organization that provides post-distribution registrar services. The commenter expressed a concern about the inherent structural conflict of interest built into the ICANN Address Supporting Organization Memorandum of Understanding and recommended that an independent entity be appointed by the ICANN Board of Directors to undertake a review of the conflict of interest that is unique to this Supporting Organization.

During the meeting on 26 and 27 Apr 2012, the ASO Address Council passed a motion to update the work plan to consider a review of the Global Policy Development Process (GPDP) and develop process in accordance with recommendations from the ASO Review Report. The NRO provided its [response](#) to the ASO Review Report on 30 April 2012. Subsequently, the NRO submitted a letter to the Chair of the Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) as a final report of the implementation work.

In the letter to the Chair of the SIC in November 2013 regarding the completion of implementation work resulting from the ASO Review, the Chair of the NRO Executive Council identified several areas requiring modest ICANN support in order to move the implementation of recommendations into standard operating processes. This support involves logistical staff support associated with ICANN meetings, allocation of time during ICANN meetings for ASO and NRO reports to the ICANN community, translation services, and improved visibility on the ICANN web site. This is expected to have a minor resource implication on ICANN, but is expected to be performed within the allocated budget.

No security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS are anticipated as the result of this action.

**Signature Block:**

Submitted by: Larisa Gurnick

Position: Director, Strategic Initiatives

Date Noted: 5 November 2014

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**ICANN BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2014.11.17.2a**

**TITLE:** **Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG)  
Recommendations Implementation Plan for 2016**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** **For Board Approval**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The [Meeting Strategy Working Group](#) (MSWG) developed a constructive report that made proposals for changes to ICANN Public Meetings (“Meetings”). In order to inform the Board’s discussion on the MSWG recommendations, the Board directed the President and CEO, through his designee(s), to propose a plan for implementation of the recommendations contained in the MSWG report, to be provided to the Board for consideration in sufficient time for possible implementation for meetings to be held in calendar year 2016.

The Annex to this paper summarizes the steps for implementation of the recommendations made by the MSWG, the proposed dates and geographic rotation for ICANN Meetings over the next five (5) years, and estimated costs.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board accept all MSWG recommendations and direct the President and CEO, through his designee(s), to proceed with implementation as identified in the Annex.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

Whereas, ICANN intends to hold meetings in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Whereas, the Meeting Strategy Working Group produced a Final Report of recommendations to improve the overall structure and format of ICANN Meetings and on 26 June 2014 received the Board’s gratitude for conducting this review.

Whereas, in furtherance of the Board’s 26 June 2014, ICANN reviewed the MSWG Final Report and developed an implementation plan based on the recommendations

within that Final Report, identifying implementation in the calendar year 2016. In addition, ICANN identifies a five (5) year schedule and regional rotation for ICANN Meetings through 2020.

Whereas, the five year schedule reflects the MSWG recommendations for timing and duration of ICANN Public Meetings.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board accepts all MSWG recommendations and directs the President and CEO, through his designee(s), to proceed with implementation. For recommendations on meeting support and engagement activities, focusing on technical support for remote participants and easing of future visa attainment for attendees, the Board directs the President and CEO to provide required support to obtain relevant metrics on recurring attendees.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board accepts the dates of Meetings to be held in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 as set forth in Annex 1 to this Resolution.

**PROPOSED RATIONALE:**

The successful operation of ICANN's Public Meetings in all of the geographic regions is an important part of ICANN's accountability and transparency responsibilities.

The growing demand for more sessions and meetings spread over more days has resulted in over-scheduled agendas and reduced opportunities for cross-community interaction.

The MSWG developed a constructive report that made proposals for changes to ICANN Public Meetings in the following areas: meeting timing, duration and format; rotation of the meeting location; meeting support and engagement activities; and meeting planning.

The MSWG recommendations were submitted for public comment in February 2014. ICANN performed a thorough analysis of the comments submitted by the community in response to the MSWG recommendations, and prepared a comment report. The analysis indicates that the community supports the recommendations made by the MSWG.

The proposed dates for ICANN Meetings 2016-2020, which provide for equitable distribution of meetings over the five (5) geographic regions, were selected based on careful avoidance of important holidays, celebrations, and observances around the globe. Similarly, every effort was made to identify and prevent scheduling conflicts with other community events. The recommended dates were then developed in accordance with the timing and duration for ICANN Public Meetings recommended by the MSWG.

There will be a financial impact on ICANN in hosting these meetings and providing travel support as necessary, as well as on the community in incurring costs to travel to the ICANN meetings. Given that ICANN is committed to having regular meetings, the financial and resource impact of today's decision is not anticipated to vary significantly from the regular operation of ICANN meetings.

There is no impact on the security or the stability of the DNS due to the implementation of these recommendations.

This is an Organizational Administrative Function for which public comment has been considered.

Submitted by: Nick Tomasso and Tanzanica King  
Positions: VP, Meetings & Int'l Real Estate Operations, and Sr. Manager, Meeting Strategy & Design  
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## ICANN BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2014.11.17.2b

**TITLE:** **Planning for Future gTLD Application Rounds**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** **For Board Review and Resolution**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

ICANN [published a draft Work Plan](#) for New gTLD Program Reviews and Assessments on 22 September 2014. The draft Work Plan was also a topic of discussion during the ICANN 51 meeting in Los Angeles. This paper provides an update on project activities in the Work Plan as ICANN prepares to execute various reviews of the New gTLD Program.

It is important that ICANN facilitate and support the community's work toward assessing the program's impact, as well as capturing the organizational experience gained by managing the first round. These activities will be critical to setting the direction of the program and enabling the next round of applications.

The proposed resolution calls for staff to continue to develop and refine the Work Plan, and to provide regular updates to the community on progress. The resolution also provides input into GNSO discussions on potential policy development work to inform future rounds.

### **1. Background**

The [GNSO policy recommendations](#) that are the foundation of the New gTLD Program provided that ICANN should introduce new gTLDs in rounds, until the scale of demand is clear. ICANN [opened a process](#) for the first round of applications in January 2012 and the 1930 applications received were [published](#) in June 2012.

On 7 February 2012, ICANN's Board of Directors [passed a resolution](#) reaffirming a future round of applications in the New gTLD Program, and noting that ICANN is committed to opening a future application window for the New gTLD Program as expeditiously as possible.

The [gTLD Applicant Guidebook](#) also provided that ICANN's goal is to launch subsequent gTLD application rounds as quickly as possible, noting that the exact timing would be based on experiences gained and changes required after the completion of the first round, and stating a goal for the next application round to begin within one year of the close of the application submission period for the first round.

With Program operations proceeding in a stable manner, ICANN is now allocating resources to preparations for subsequent rounds.

## **2. Planning Principles & Objectives**

The New gTLD Program is designed to enable increased opportunity, diversity, and innovation at the top level of the DNS. An important part of ICANN's work is to continue to build a stable and smoothly-running program in keeping with its mission and core values.

Guided by ICANN's stated goal of opening a new application round in a timely manner, the activities described here are intended to ensure that the next application round can take place with the added benefits of experience gained in the first round.

Recognizing that the impact of the program will continue to emerge over time, it is important that the results of the program be assessed regularly, using more than the initial data set. The reviews planned for the results of the 2012 application round are intended to lay the foundation for this by creating a framework for ongoing assessment as the space continues to develop.

## **3. Work Plan Overview**

This section includes a brief description and status of each of the review activities described in the Work Plan.

### **3.1 Root Stability**

Consistent with its mission supporting the security and stability of the DNS, ICANN will undertake an examination of the Program's impact on the DNS root zone.

This is a [previous commitment](#) based on GAC advice and other discussions. Specifically, ICANN committed to review the effects of the New gTLD Program on the operations of the root zone system, and to postpone delegations in a future round until it is determined that the delegations in the first round have not jeopardized the root zone system's security or stability.

Meeting this requirement will include substantial data analysis as well as consultation with RSSAC/root server operators and SSAC. This will support consideration of the rate of change, coordination, and monitoring measures for the first round of gTLD delegations, with the objective of identifying whether any new considerations should be applied to support root stability as the program moves forward.

*Expected timeline: A study is planned to begin in Q2 of 2015.*

### **3.2 Rights Protection**

A key feature of the New gTLD Program is the introduction of several new rights protection mechanisms for the new space, including the Trademark Clearinghouse, Uniform Rapid Suspension system, and Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Consistent with [GAC advice](#), ICANN will engage a qualified provider to perform a post-launch independent review of the Trademark Clearinghouse as one point of assessment of the multiple rights protection avenues offered in the new gTLD space.

As a precursor to this review, staff is currently working to compile and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on the usage of all rights protection mechanisms. This includes, for example:

- Compilation and analysis of statistics provided by third-party providers (e.g., geographic distribution of Clearinghouse records, outcomes of URS proceedings).
- Coordination among service providers and ICANN to identify the issues and questions most raised in customer service submissions.
- Soliciting feedback from users of the effectiveness of these processes to meet rights protection objectives.

The GNSO has previously [requested an issues report](#) on the status of rights protections, to be delivered eighteen months after the delegation of the first new gTLD, to help inform its discussions of whether to initiate policy work in this area. The work described in this section, including the initial analysis in progress, is intended to support consideration of rights protection in multiple fora, as this is expected to remain a key feature of the program.

*Timeline: Preliminary data gathering and analysis in process. In line with the GAC advice, ICANN plans to engage a qualified party to perform a review of the Trademark Clearinghouse beginning in February 2015.*

### **3.3 Program Implementation Reviews**

New gTLD Program implementation represented significant work by ICANN staff, multiple vendors, and members of the community (including applicants). Having been part of the most recent application round in the Program, each of these stakeholders has experiences gained and input to offer for a future round. It is anticipated that experiences will be captured from these stakeholders to serve as a basis for the design of a future round:

- ICANN staff – learnings from the operational execution of the Program in terms of quality, efficiency and cost (e.g., prioritization, consistency and quality of application evaluation, structure of application data, panel process integration).
- Vendors – learnings from performing application evaluations and delivering other related services to ICANN from a standpoint of efficiency and cost (e.g., subjectivity of criteria and consistency of evaluations, stand-alone evaluation and portfolio considerations).
- Community Members – learnings from participation in Program processes from a standpoint of effectiveness (e.g., additional safeguards required for certain TLDs, application types, predictability in process and timing).

These learnings will be gathered from publicly available information, materials provided to ICANN by stakeholders, and staff analysis. Some stakeholder groups and individuals

have already taken the initiative to submit feedback and recommendations to ICANN. The gathering of learnings is anticipated to be an ongoing process that will inform ICANN staff's work toward the development of future rounds.

*Timeline: In process. Reports from the initial set of review areas are projected to be published in Q1 of 2015.*

### **3.4 Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice**

An important aspect of reviewing the program is detailed in section 9.3 of the Affirmation of Commitments. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/affirmation-of-commitments-2009-09-30-en>). This provides for the convening of a community Review Team to examine three areas:

1. The extent to which the introduction of gTLDs has promoted competition, consumer trust and consumer choice. This element will be informed in part by a set of metrics recommended by the community, pulling data from in-house information, a consumer survey, and an economic study of the market. (See <https://features.icann.org/collection-benchmarking-metrics-new-gtld-program-support-future-aoc-review-competition-consumer>).
2. The effectiveness of the application and evaluation process. This element will be supported by quantitative and qualitative data and also informed by the analysis resulting from the program implementation reviews described in section 3.3 above.
3. The effectiveness of safeguards put in place to mitigate issues. This element includes consideration and review of the new trademark protection mechanisms and abuse mitigations developed as part of the New gTLD Program. This element will be informed in part by the review activities on rights protection described in section 3.1 above.

The Affirmation of Commitments provides that ICANN should undertake these reviews one year after new gTLDs have been introduced. As the first new gTLD was delegated in October 2013, this is being used as the benchmark date for planning purposes.

The expected timing of this review is being considered in light of the current status of the Program. To date, a fraction of the total applications have been delegated as gTLDs, and some types such as brand-related applications and highly-contended strings have not yet hit the market. To be most meaningful, the review should be able to take into account the impact of the full diversity of application types, including ASCII, IDN, community-based, and other types of TLDs. Areas such as competition and consumer trust, in which the impact will develop over time, can also be assessed taking into account more than the first set of new TLDs.

To help prepare for this review, the [Implementation Advisory Group for Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice \(IAG-CCT\)](#), has recommended collection of data for several metrics to inform the review of the Program in these areas. Based on an interim recommendation from the group [approved by the Board](#) in March, ICANN is commissioning a consumer survey (focused on consumer trust and choice considerations) and an economic study (focused on competition/marketplace considerations). Both are to take place as soon as possible to generate a baseline, and include a follow-on survey/study a year later. These are expected to be important inputs to the review process.

As has been the case with the Accountability and Transparency, Whois, and SSR reviews, it is expected that the Competition, Consumer Choice, and Consumer Trust review will become part of ICANN's routine reviews and that recommendations will be developed, considered, and implemented according to the established review team processes.

*Timeline: Preparations currently underway for reference material to help inform this review. The Review Team is currently projected to be convened in Q3 of 2015.*

### **3.5 GNSO Policy Development**

At its 25 June 2014 meeting, the GNSO Council [approved a motion](#) to help shape continued GNSO activities relating to the New gTLD Program. That motion called for formation of a [GNSO discussion group](#) (now under way) as a precursor to potential policy development, as well as inviting the Board's New gTLD Program Committee to

provide input by identifying areas that it believes may be appropriate for discussion for an evaluation of the current gTLD application round and/or for possible adjustments for subsequent application procedures.

To date, the Board’s New gTLD Program Committee has considered and voted on a number of matters relating to the Program, and in some cases has requested advice or input from the GNSO on policy considerations (e.g., name collision, IGO/INGO name and acronym protections, Specification 13). Based on a review of these issues and discussions, a set of areas for possible policy work has been identified and is included as Annex A to this paper.

The list in Annex A forms the basis for a proposed response from the Board to the GNSO request for input on areas that may be appropriate for discussion for an evaluation of the current gTLD application round or for possible adjustments for subsequent application procedures. Communicating these to the GNSO is intended to ensure that these issues are specifically incorporated into the planning for the next round, and that the Board’s perspective and experience is added to this component of the Program review.

#### **4. Recommendation**

The proposed resolution calls for staff to continue to develop and refine the Work Plan, and to provide regular updates to the community on progress. The resolution also provides input into GNSO discussions on potential policy development work to inform future rounds.

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

Whereas, the New gTLD Program was developed and implemented based on consensus policy recommendations from the GNSO;

Whereas, ICANN undertook thorough consultation with the global stakeholder community in the development of the application and evaluation processes in the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook (“Applicant Guidebook”);

Whereas, the GNSO policy recommendations provide that applications for new gTLDs should continue to be accepted in rounds;

Whereas, the Board has reaffirmed its commitment to opening a subsequent application round in a timely manner;

Whereas, the Board wishes to set the continuing direction for the New gTLD Program;

Whereas, ICANN is committed to executing a number of reviews as part of moving forward with subsequent rounds of the New gTLD Program;

Whereas, the Board wishes to ensure that the GNSO's deliberations on policy applicable to future rounds includes consideration of potential policy issues that were not addressed by the GNSO's 2007 policy recommendations, including issues that the NGPC was called on to address as implementation issues;

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board directs the staff to continue working with the community to refine the work plan for executing all required reviews of the New gTLD Program and to provide regular updates to the community on the status and timeframes of review activities.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board notes the effort in progress within the GNSO to identify areas where the GNSO believes that policy advice can be clarified or where it wishes to provide additional policy advice applicable to future application rounds, and looks forward to the results of this work, to ensure that key policy areas are addressed for future rounds.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board notes that the [GNSO has invited](#) the NGPC to provide input to the GNSO Council to identify areas that may be appropriate for discussion for an evaluation of the current gTLD application round and for possible adjustments for subsequent application procedures. The Board appreciates the request and has identified, in addition to the GNSO analysis of the Applicant Guidebook and the current application round, a set of topics (included as Annex A) that may be appropriate for discussion by the GNSO.

## **PROPOSED RATIONALE:**

### **Why is the Board addressing this issue now?**

On 22 September 2014, ICANN published a New gTLD Program Reviews and Assessments [draft Work Plan](#) to describe the set of community reviews and activities underway and planned to support consideration of an additional application process for the next round of generic top-level domain (gTLD) names under the New gTLD Program. The ICANN Board is taking action to direct staff to continue to work with the community to refine the work plan for executing all required reviews of the New gTLD Program.

ICANN is at a midpoint in processing the applications received in the 2012 application process, with initial and extended evaluation processes now completed by ICANN and pre-delegation, contracting, and delegation procedures being completed by applicants on a regular basis. Those applications still active in the process are proceeding through contention resolution or other applicable processes.

The Board recognizes the necessity of capturing the experience gained by operating this application round, as well as considering the activities that will lead toward the future of the New gTLD Program. This is an appropriate time to anticipate what will need to occur and support the community's efforts in planning and developing additional application rounds.

As part of its action today, the Board acknowledges the effort and progress within the GNSO to identify areas where the GNSO believes that policy advice can be clarified or where it wishes to provide additional policy advice applicable to future application rounds. The Board looks forward to the results of this work to ensure that key policy areas are addressed for future rounds. As requested by the GNSO, the Board is providing input into the GNSO Council discussion to identify areas that the Board believes may be appropriate for discussion in an evaluation of the current gTLD application round and for possible adjustments for subsequent application procedures.

### **What are the proposals being considered?**

ICANN has committed to certain reviews as pre-requisites to a subsequent application round in the New gTLD Program, and a number of activities are under way in the community relevant to planning for a subsequent round. The resolution anticipates continuing work throughout the community and provides one piece of input for consideration by the GNSO in its process.

### **What stakeholders or others were consulted?**

ICANN published the draft Work Plan for reviews and assessments of the New gTLD Program on 22 September 2014, to begin the process of soliciting input from the community on the required reviews of the New gTLD Program. ICANN expects to continue to work with stakeholders to refine the Work Plan, including incorporating feedback received during the ICANN 51 meeting in Los Angeles.

### **What significant materials did the Board review?**

The Board reviewed the draft Work Plan, materials from the Board-GAC consultations on the GAC Indicative Scorecard on outstanding issues in the New gTLD Program, the Affirmation of Commitments, previous NGPC resolutions, previous GAC communiques, the Applicant Guidebook, the Name Collision Framework, and other resources.

- <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/historical-documentation/board-gac-consultations>
- <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/affirmation-of-commitments-2009-09-30-en>
- <https://features.icann.org/resolutions>
- <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>
- <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/name-collision-framework-30jul14-en.pdf>

- <https://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/summary-of-impact-root-zone-scaling-06oct10-en.pdf>
- <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/historical-documentation/prior-reports>

**What factors did the Board find to be significant?**

The Board reviewed the time period for which the Program has been in operation, and noted that there were particular areas where significant time and effort were invested in resolving issues. The Board intends its action to account for those areas as planning for the subsequent round moves forward.

**Are there Positive or Negative Community Impacts?**

The Board expects that continuing thorough planning for the required reviews, including discussion of the draft Work Plan with the community, and initiating the work toward subsequent application rounds, will have a positive impact.

**Are there fiscal impacts/ramifications on ICANN (Strategic Plan, Operating Plan, Budget); the community; and/or the public?**

Some of the Program reviews will require engaging specialized expertise, and funds have been allocated to these activities in the FY15 budget.

**Are there any Security, Stability or Resiliency issues relating to the DNS?**

This is one of the proposed areas of study in the Work Plan. There is no immediate impact to the security, stability or resiliency of the DNS as a result of taking this resolution.

Submitted by: Karen Lentz  
Position: Director, Operations & Policy Research  
Date Noted: 7 Nov 2014  
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## **1. Consent Agenda:**

### **a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board approves the minutes of its 16 and 28 October 2014 meetings.

### **b. Appointment of C- and F-, and K- Root Server Operator Representatives to the RSSAC**

Whereas, the ICANN Bylaws call for the establishment of a Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) with the role to advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.

Whereas, the ICANN Bylaws call for Board appointment of RSSAC members based on recommendations from the RSSAC co-chairs.

Whereas, the RSSAC co-chairs recommended for Board consideration appointments to the RSSAC to represent the B-root, C-root, F-root, and K-root server operators.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board appoints the representatives for B-root, C-root, and K-root server operators, Bill Manning, Paul Vixie, Daniel Karrenberg, respectively, through 31 December 2017 and the representative for F-root server operator, Jim Martin, through 31 December 2015 to the Root Server System Advisory Committee.

#### ***Rationale for Resolution 2014.11.17.xx***

In May 2013, the Root Server Operators (RSOs) agreed to an initial membership of RSO representatives for RSSAC, and each RSO nominated an individual. The Board approved the initial membership of RSSAC in July 2013 with staggered terms.

The representatives for B-root, C-root and K-root server operators were appointed to an initial one-year term, which expires on 31 December 2014. Their re-appointment is for a full, three-year term. The representative for F-root server operator is being appointed to complete the remaining initial term of the previous representative.

The appointment of the representatives will allow the RSSAC to be properly comprised to serve its function within ICANN's policy development work as an advisory committee. The appointment of these RSSAC members is not anticipated to have any fiscal impact on ICANN, though there are budgeted resources necessary for ongoing support of the RSSAC.

This resolution is an organizational administrative function for which no public comment is required. The appointment of RSSAC members contributes to ICANN's commitment to strengthening the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS.

### **c. SSAC Advisory on DNS "Search List" Processing and DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure**

Whereas, in February 2014, the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) published SAC064: SSAC Advisory on DNS "Search List" Processing and SAC065: SSAC Advisory on DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure.

Whereas, in SAC 064, the advice highlights some of the DNS "search list" processing behavior presents security and privacy issues to end systems, lead to performance problems for the Internet, and might cause collision with names provisioned under the newly delegated top-level domains.

Whereas, in SAC 065, the advice recommends ICANN and operators of Internet infrastructure and manufacturers to take action to address the unresolved critical design and deployment issues that

have enabled increasingly large and severe Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks using the DNS.

Whereas, while in some instances SAC 064 and SAC 065 call for actions not under ICANN's control and actors not necessarily within ICANN's usual community, they are meant to address the overall responsibilities of the multi-stakeholder community and encourage ICANN to take action where it is relevant to do so.

Whereas, ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's system of unique identifiers is part of ICANN's mission; preserving and enhancing the operational stability, reliability, security, and global interoperability of the Internet part of ICANN's core value; and ensuring the introduction of new gTLDs in a secure and stable manner is a strategic priority for ICANN.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board acknowledges the receipt of SAC064: SSAC Advisory on Search List Processing, and SAC065: SSAC Advisory on DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board directs the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to evaluate the advice provided in SAC064 and SAC 065.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), in the instances where it is recommended that the advice be accepted, the Board directs the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to evaluate the feasibility and cost of implementing the advice, and provide an implementation plan with timelines and high-level milestones for review by the Board, no later than 120 days from the adoption of this resolution.

***Rationale for Resolutions 2014.11.17.xx – 2014.11.17.xx***

On 13 February 2014, the SSAC published an advisory concerning the security and stability implications of DNS "search list" processing –

SAC 064. The SSAC advice examines how current operating systems and applications process search lists. It outlines issues related to current search list behavior, and proposes both a strawman to improve search list processing in the long term and mitigation options for ICANN and the Internet community to consider in the short term. The purpose of these proposals is to help introduce new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) in a secure and stable manner with minimum disruptions to currently deployed systems.

On 24 February 2014, the SSAC published an advisory concerning large-scale abuse that leverages DNS infrastructure - SAC 065. The SSAC advice examines how current operating systems and applications process search lists. The advice explores several unresolved critical design and deployment issues that have enabled increasingly large and severe Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks using the DNS. While DDoS attacks can exploit multiple characteristics of network infrastructure and operations, the prevalence and criticality of the DNS means that securing it is both challenging and urgent. These unresolved DNS issues and related DDoS attacks pose a real and present danger to the security and stability of the Internet.

The Board's consideration of recommendations from Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees in general, and for SAC064 and SAC 065 in specific, needs to be informed by an analysis of both the substance of the advice as well as the feasibility and cost of implementing such advice that is deemed acceptable.

There are no foreseen fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution, which is the first step in initiating the analysis of implementation of the SSAC advice. The fiscal impacts will be analyzed as a result of this Board action for future consideration. The adoption of this resolution is not an Organizational Administrative Action requiring public comment.

#### **d. Review of the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Completion**

Whereas, ICANN Bylaws Article IV, Section 4 call for a “periodic review of the performance and operation of each Supporting Organization, each Supporting Organization Council, each Advisory Committee (other than the Governmental Advisory Committee), and the Nominating Committee by an entity or entities independent of the organization under review”;

Whereas, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) “shall provide its own review mechanisms” in reference to periodic review of the ASO, based on the terms of the ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Memorandum of Understanding dated 21 October 2004;

Whereas, the NRO completed the review of the ASO and the implementation work resulting from the recommendations offered by ITEMS International, the independent examiner engaged to conduct the ASO review.

RESOLVED (2014.11.17.xx) that the Board accepts the final report from the Number Resource Organization (NRO) issued in the form of a letter to the Chair of the Structural Improvements Committee in November 2013 regarding the completion of implementation work resulting from the ASO Review. The Board thanks the NRO for its work in conducting the review and acknowledges the completion of the implementation work resulting from the recommendations received by the NRO during the review.

RESOLVED (2014.11.17.xx) that the Board directs staff to provide support requested by the Chair of the NRO Executive Council, consisting of logistical staff support associated with ICANN meetings, allocation of time during ICANN meetings for ASO and NRO reports to the ICANN community, translation services and improved visibility on the ICANN web site.

***Rationale for Resolution 2014.11.17.xx***

This action is a component of ICANN's Organizational Review process, which is a key part of ICANN's commitment to accountability and transparency and continuous improvement. ICANN [Bylaws Article IV, Section 4 calls](#) for a "periodic review of the performance and operation of each Supporting Organization, each Supporting Organization Council, each Advisory Committee (other than the Governmental Advisory Committee), and the Nominating Committee by an entity or entities independent of the organization under review." Based on the terms of the ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO) [Memorandum of Understanding](#) dated 21 October 2004, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) "shall provide its own review mechanisms" in reference to periodic review of the ASO. In June 2011, ITEMS International was hired as independent review consultants to conduct the ASO Review. ITEMS International issued their [final report](#) in December 2011, which was posted for public comment in March 2012. The report contained 26 recommendations, covering the following areas:

- **Clarifications and updates to the ASO MoU.** These recommendations suggested that the NRO: clarify the purpose, mandate and objectives of the ASO; distinguish between the ASO functions to be undertaken by the Address Council and those to be undertaken by the NRO Executive Council.
- **Global Policy Development Process (GPDP).** These recommendations suggested the development of various procedures related to initiation of GPDP and objections to policies by the ICANN Board.
- **Presence of the ASO during ICANN meetings.** A set of recommendations advocated for changes in the nature of meetings, joint sessions with other structures, and improved agendas and presentations.

- **Enhancements to the ASO web site.** Several recommendations proposed clarification of the ASO structure, addition of FAQs and history of the ASO, translations into other languages and improvements in quality control.
- **Enhancement of ASO procedures** – Recommendations addressed the need for several new procedures: for appointment of NomCom members and Affirmation of Commitment Review members; procedure for advising the ICANN Board on the recognition of new RIRs.
- **NRO Executive Council related recommendations.** Recommendations suggesting that the NRO Executive Council empowers the Policy Proposal Facilitating Teams (PPFT) and reacts to the ATRT report.

Two recommendations pertained to the ICANN Board. The Board is not required to take action on these recommendations based on the NRO's assessment of the recommendations and the processes already in place.

- The ICANN Board should be urged to request advice from the ASO on policy issues regarding IP number resources other than global addressing policies. The Board has been following this recommended practice.
- The ICANN Board should check if its Procedures for the Ratification of Global Addressing Policies are in conformity with the ATRT Report's recommendations in this regard. The procedures are contained inside the ASO MOU agreed to by the NRO and ICANN.

Complete listing of recommendations and NRO responses is available on the [NRO web site](#).

As part of the public comment process, the NRO submitted its conclusions on the report to the Public Comment forum, taking into account the comments received (see [Report of Public Comments](#)). One additional comment was submitted by an organization that provides post-distribution registrar services. The commenter expressed a concern about the inherent structural conflict of interest built into the ICANN Address Supporting Organization Memorandum of Understanding and recommended that an independent entity be appointed by the ICANN Board of Directors to undertake a review of the conflict of interest that is unique to this Supporting Organization.

During the meeting on 26 and 27 Apr 2012, the ASO Address Council passed a motion to update the work plan to consider a review of the Global Policy Development Process (GPDP) and develop process in accordance with recommendations from the ASO Review Report. The NRO provided its [response](#) to the ASO Review Report on 30 April 2012. Subsequently, the NRO submitted a letter to the Chair of the Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) as a final report of the implementation work.

In the letter to the Chair of the SIC in November 2013 regarding the completion of implementation work resulting from the ASO Review, the Chair of the NRO Executive Council identified several areas requiring modest ICANN support in order to move the implementation of recommendations into standard operating processes. This support involves logistical staff support associated with ICANN meetings, allocation of time during ICANN meetings for ASO and NRO reports to the ICANN community, translation services and improved visibility on the ICANN web site. This is expected to have a minor resource implication on ICANN, but is expected to be performed within the allocated budget.

No security, stability or resiliency issues relating to the DNS are anticipated as the result of this action.

## **2. Main Agenda:**

### **a. Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG) Recommendations Implementation Plan for 2016**

Whereas, ICANN intends to hold meetings in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Whereas, the Meeting Strategy Working Group produced a Final Report of recommendations to improve the overall structure and format of ICANN Meetings and on 26 June 2014 received the Board's gratitude for conducting this review.

Whereas, in furtherance of the Board's 26 June 2014, ICANN reviewed the MSWG Final Report and developed an implementation plan based on the recommendations within that Final Report, identifying implementation in the calendar year 2016. In addition, ICANN identifies a five (5) year schedule and regional rotation for ICANN Meetings through 2020.

Whereas, the five year schedule reflects the MSWG recommendations for timing and duration of ICANN Public Meetings.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board accepts all MSWG recommendations and directs the President and CEO, through his designee(s), to proceed with implementation. For recommendations on meeting support and engagement activities, focusing on technical support for remote participants and easing of future visa attainment for attendees, the Board directs the President and CEO to provide required support to obtain relevant metrics on recurring attendees.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board accepts the dates of Meetings to be held in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 as set forth in Annex 1 to this Resolution.

***Rationale for Resolutions 2014.11.17.xx – 2014.11.17.xx***

The successful operation of ICANN's Public Meetings in all of the geographic regions is an important part of ICANN's accountability and transparency responsibilities.

The growing demand for more sessions and meetings spread over more days has resulted in over-scheduled agendas and reduced opportunities for cross-community interaction.

The MSWG developed a constructive report that made proposals for changes to ICANN Public Meetings in the following areas: meeting timing, duration and format; rotation of the meeting location; meeting support and engagement activities; and meeting planning.

The MSWG recommendations were submitted for public comment in February 2014. ICANN performed a thorough analysis of the comments submitted by the community in response to the MSWG recommendations, and prepared a comment report. The analysis indicates that the community supports the recommendations made by the MSWG.

The proposed dates for ICANN Meetings 2016-2020, which provide for equitable distribution of meetings over the five (5) geographic regions, were selected based on careful avoidance of important holidays, celebrations, and observances around the globe. Similarly, every effort was made to identify and prevent scheduling conflicts with other community events. The recommended dates were then developed in accordance with the timing and duration for ICANN Public Meetings recommended by the MSWG.

There will be a financial impact on ICANN in hosting these meetings and providing travel support as necessary, as well as on the community in incurring costs to travel to the ICANN meetings. Given that ICANN is committed to having regular meetings, the financial and

resource impact of today's decision is not anticipated to vary significantly from the regular operation of ICANN meetings.

There is no impact on the security or the stability of the DNS due to the implementation of these recommendations.

This is an Organizational Administrative Function for which public comment has been considered.

### **b. Planning for Future gTLD Application Rounds**

Whereas, the New gTLD Program was developed and implemented based on consensus policy recommendations from the GNSO;

Whereas, ICANN undertook thorough consultation with the global stakeholder community in the development of the application and evaluation processes in the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook ("Applicant Guidebook");

Whereas, the GNSO policy recommendations provide that applications for new gTLDs should continue to be accepted in rounds;

Whereas, the Board has reaffirmed its commitment to opening a subsequent application round in a timely manner;

Whereas, the Board wishes to set the continuing direction for the New gTLD Program;

Whereas, ICANN is committed to executing a number of reviews as part of moving forward with subsequent rounds of the New gTLD Program;

Whereas, the Board wishes to ensure that the GNSO's deliberations on policy applicable to future rounds includes consideration of potential policy issues that were not addressed by the GNSO's 2007 policy recommendations, including issues that the NGPC was called on to address as implementation issues;

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board directs the staff to continue working with the community to refine the work plan for executing all required reviews of the New gTLD Program and to provide regular updates to the community on the status and timeframes of review activities.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board notes the effort in progress within the GNSO to identify areas where the GNSO believes that policy advice can be clarified or where it wishes to provide additional policy advice applicable to future application rounds, and looks forward to the results of this work, to ensure that key policy areas are addressed for future rounds.

Resolved (2014.11.17.xx), the Board notes that the [GNSO has invited](#) the NGPC to provide input to the GNSO Council to identify areas that may be appropriate for discussion for an evaluation of the current gTLD application round and for possible adjustments for subsequent application procedures. The Board appreciates the request and has identified, in addition to the GNSO analysis of the Applicant Guidebook and the current application round, a set of topics (included as Annex A) that may be appropriate for discussion by the GNSO.

### ***Rationale for Resolutions 2014.11.17.xx – 2014.11.17.xx***

#### **Why is the Board addressing this issue now?**

On 22 September 2014, ICANN published a New gTLD Program Reviews and Assessments [draft Work Plan](#) to describe the set of community reviews and activities underway and planned to support consideration of an additional application process for the next round of generic top-level domain (gTLD) names under the New gTLD Program. The ICANN Board is taking action to direct staff to continue to work with the community to refine the work plan for executing all required reviews of the New gTLD Program.

ICANN is at a midpoint in processing the applications received in the 2012 application process, with initial and extended evaluation processes now completed by ICANN and pre-delegation, contracting, and delegation procedures being completed by applicants on a regular basis. Those applications still active in the process are proceeding through contention resolution or other applicable processes.

The Board recognizes the necessity of capturing the experience gained by operating this application round, as well as considering the activities that will lead toward the future of the New gTLD Program. This is an appropriate time to anticipate what will need to occur and support the community's efforts in planning and developing additional application rounds.

As part of its action today, the Board acknowledges the effort and progress within the GNSO to identify areas where the GNSO believes that policy advice can be clarified or where it wishes to provide additional policy advice applicable to future application rounds. The Board looks forward to the results of this work to ensure that key policy areas are addressed for future rounds. As requested by the GNSO, the Board is providing input into the GNSO Council discussion to identify areas that the Board believes may be appropriate for discussion in an evaluation of the current gTLD application round and for possible adjustments for subsequent application procedures.

### **What are the proposals being considered?**

ICANN has committed to certain reviews as pre-requisites to a subsequent application round in the New gTLD Program, and a number of activities are under way in the community relevant to planning for a subsequent round. The resolution anticipates continuing work throughout the community and provides one piece of input for consideration by the GNSO in its process.

### **What stakeholders or others were consulted?**

ICANN published the draft Work Plan for reviews and assessments of the New gTLD Program on 22 September 2014, to begin the process of soliciting input from the community on the required reviews of the New gTLD Program. ICANN expects to continue to work with stakeholders to refine the Work Plan, including incorporating feedback received during the ICANN 51 meeting in Los Angeles.

### **What significant materials did the Board review?**

The Board reviewed the draft Work Plan, materials from the Board-GAC consultations on the GAC Indicative Scorecard on outstanding issues in the New gTLD Program, the Affirmation of Commitments, previous NGPC resolutions, previous GAC communiqués, the Applicant Guidebook, the Name Collision Framework, and other resources.

- <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/historical-documentation/board-gac-consultations>
- <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/affirmation-of-commitments-2009-09-30-en>
- <https://features.icann.org/resolutions>
- <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>
- <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/name-collision-framework-30jul14-en.pdf>
- <https://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/summary-of-impact-root-zone-scaling-06oct10-en.pdf>
- <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/historical-documentation/prior-reports>

### **What factors did the Board find to be significant?**

The Board reviewed the time period for which the Program has been in operation, and noted that there were particular areas where significant time and effort were invested in resolving issues. The Board intends its action to account for those areas as planning for the subsequent round moves forward.

**Are there Positive or Negative Community Impacts?**

The Board expects that continuing thorough planning for the required reviews, including discussion of the draft Work Plan with the community, and initiating the work toward subsequent application rounds, will have a positive impact.

**Are there fiscal impacts/ramifications on ICANN (Strategic Plan, Operating Plan, Budget); the community; and/or the public?**

Some of the Program reviews will require engaging specialized expertise, and funds have been allocated to these activities in the FY15 budget.

**Are there any Security, Stability or Resiliency issues relating to the DNS?**

This is one of the proposed areas of study in the Work Plan. There is no immediate impact to the security, stability or resiliency of the DNS as a result of taking this resolution.

**c. [Placeholder for ICANN 53 Meeting Location]**

**d. AOB**

**Directors and Liaisons,**

**Attached below please find the Notice of date and time for a Special Meeting of the ICANN Board of Directors:**

**17 November 2014 – Special Meeting of the ICANN Board of Directors - at 22:00 UTC – This Board meeting is estimated to last 90 minutes.**

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/fixetime.html?msg=Special+Meeting+of+the+ICANN+Board+&iso=20141117T22>

**Some other time zones:**

**17 November 2014 – 2:00pm PST Los Angeles**

**17 November 2014 – 5:00pm EST Washington, D.C.**

**17 November 2014 – 11:00pm CET Brussels**

**18 November 2014 – 9:00am AEDT Sydney**

**18 November 2014 – 6:00am CST Taipei**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of Minutes from 16 and 28 October 2014 Board Meetings**
- **RSSAC Appointments**
- **SSAC Advisory on DNS “Search List” Processing and DDoS Attacks Leveraging DNS Infrastructure**
- **Review of the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Completion**

#### **Main Agenda**

- **Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG) Recommendations Implementation Plan for 2016**
- **Planning for Future gTLD Application Rounds**
- **[Placeholder for ICANN 53 Meeting Location]**
- **AOB**

Contact Information Redacted

**MATERIALS --**

Contact Information Redacted

**If you have trouble with access, please let us know and we will work with you to assure that you can use the BoardVantage Portal for this meeting.**

**If call information is required, it will be distributed separately**

**If you have any questions, or we can be of assistance to you, please let us know.**

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