6 December 2017

RE: Implementing ICANN Board Resolution on Refinement of Similarity Review

Katrina Sataki, Chair, ccNSO, and
Patrik Fältström, Chair, SSAC

Dear Katrina and Patrik,

Following the joint ccNSO-SSAC response pertaining to the EPSRP Guidelines, the ICANN Board has directed ICANN organization to implement the proposed changes to the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process (see: https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-10-29-en-2.c).

During the implementation ICANN organization plans to develop the guidelines to evaluate the risk mitigation measures proposed by applicants in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process as well as the selection criteria of the external panel that will conduct the evaluation.

To ensure that these guidelines align with the joint response, we request the ccNSO and SSAC to reconvene the working party to review these guidelines and provide feedback and input on our interpretation of the joint response. We anticipate sharing a draft of these guidelines with you by mid-December. The tentative schedule for the overall implementation is provided as an annex to this letter.

We thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Akram Atallah
President, Global Domains Division
Annex:
Tentative Plan for Implementing the Refinement of Similarity Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Tentative Milestone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Tentative Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prepare Initial Draft Guidelines</td>
<td>Develop details of the guidelines to apply with mitigation measures to address string similarity</td>
<td>15 December 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Get Draft Guidelines Reviewed</td>
<td>Get feedback from ccNSO and SSAC work party on the initial draft of the guidelines</td>
<td>20 January 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Open Public Comment on the Final Draft Guidelines</td>
<td>Update guidelines based on input from ccNSO and SSAC and post final draft of the guidelines for public comment</td>
<td>15 February 2018</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Close Public Comment for Final Draft Guidelines</td>
<td>Collate and incorporate community feedback on the final draft of the guidelines for the updated IDN ccTLD Fast Track process</td>
<td>10 April 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Post updated Final Implementation Plan and the Guidelines</td>
<td>Post updated IDN ccTLD Fast Track process and the guidelines for refinement of string similarity review</td>
<td>20 April 2018</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Announce opening of the updated process for applications</td>
<td>Announce the start of the three-month period for current applications for similarity review mitigation requests, following the guidelines and the updated IDN ccTLD Fast Track process</td>
<td>1 May 2018</td>
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