6 May 2019

Keith Drazek, GNSO Chair
Rafik Dammak, GNSO Council Vice Chair
Pam Little, GNSO Council Vice Chair

Dear Keith, Rafik and Pam,

Thank you for your letter of 12 April 2019, concerning your request for Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team resources for the Team’s work in Phase 2.

The Board is committed to providing the necessary support to the EPDP Team to continue its important work, while recognizing that any supplemental resources must be managed in a transparent and fiscally prudent manner.

I, along with my Board colleagues, are happy to report that a supplemental budget from ICANN org’s FY19 operations will be made available immediately to support the GNSO Council’s request for the following resources that were identified and prioritized by the EPDP Team:

- Continued support for telecom services and transcriptions (estimated at $7,000);
- Professional mediation services to support the EPDP Team’s deliberations at ICANN65 in Marrakech (estimated at $40,000);
- Continued availability of legal counsel, following the same process and approach in phase 1, i.e., all proposed legal questions are vetted through the EPDP Team’s legal committee (estimated at $50,000);
- ICANN65 travel support to be made available for EPDP Team members who would otherwise not be able to attend and where no alternate is able to step in (estimated at $28,000).

Please note the above allocation of resources is being funded from ICANN org’s FY19 contingency fund, and accordingly, the resources must be aligned with the corresponding fiscal year, i.e., FY19. At the time of this request, the EPDP Phase 2 project plan and accompanying resources request have not been finalized. However, the Board is committed to acting with urgency in supporting the EPDP Team’s work related to access to registration data. In anticipation of the EPDP Team’s additional needs, the Board has already earmarked additional resources. Release of these resources is contingent on the approval of a detailed work plan and resources identified by the GNSO Council.

ICANN org plans to continue utilizing the Project Cost Support Team (PCST) that was established to ensure the accountability and transparency of any proposed expenditures. Similar to its work in Phase 1, the PCST will continue to support the project planning, cost provisioning, associated analysis and budget forecasting.
David Olive, SVP, Policy Development Support, will be ultimately responsible for the ICANN budget for this effort. David will continue to work in close coordination with the GNSO Council Chair, the EPDP Leadership Team and the PCST to ensure that all supplemental budget resources are reviewed and managed in a responsible and fiscally prudent manner. David will contact you shortly to provide you with further details on the supplemental budget and will be able to answer any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors