



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

7 February 2014

Heather Dryden  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Re: GAC Advice re .SPA

Dear Heather,

In the Governmental Advisory Committee's Buenos Aires Communiqué, the GAC advised the ICANN Board, "[n]ot to proceed beyond initial evaluation until the agreements between the relevant parties are reached" for "[t]he applications for .spa (application number 1-1309-12524 and 1-1619-92115)." The New gTLD Program Committee seeks clarification on two aspects of the GAC's advice.

First, the Buenos Aires advice references "relevant parties" who may reach an agreement that would allow the applications to move forward. It does not indicate who the "relevant parties" may be. The NGPC seeks GAC identification of the "relevant parties."

Second, the GAC first advised against moving forward with processing of the .SPA applications in the Beijing Advice (11 April 2013). It repeated that advice in the Durban Communiqué (18 July 2013) and again in the Buenos Aires Communiqué (20 November 2013). The application was posted more than 18 months ago and received no early warnings or objections. As there is no provision in the Applicant Guidebook for an indefinite hold, the NGPC seeks an understanding as to the anticipated timeline leading to the issuance of final GAC advice on these applications.

Best regards,

Stephen D. Crocker, Chair  
ICANN Board of Directors