



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

July 27, 2012

Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Re: Processing of applications for New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs)

Dear Heather,

On 17 June 2012 the GAC sent a letter to the ICANN Board regarding three pieces of advice:

First: The GAC advises the Board to consult with the community as a matter of urgency to consider ways to improve its assessment and delegation processes in order to minimise the downside risks and uncertainty for applicants. In line with the concerns raised by the community, this should include a focus on competition and fairness with delegation timing. The GAC intends to address the issue of the digital archery and batching system at the Prague meeting with the Board.

Second: The GAC advises the Board that it is planning to issue any Early Warnings shortly after the Toronto ICANN meeting, in October 2012.

Third: The GAC advises the Board that it will not be in a position to offer any advice on new gTLD applications in 2012. For this reason, the GAC is considering the implications of providing any GAC advice on gTLD applications. These considerations are not expected to be finalised before the Asia-Pacific meeting in April 2013.

On the 20th June 2012, the Board responded in writing to the GAC regarding the first piece of advice.



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In this letter of 27th July 2012, the Board informs the GAC that it accepts the second and third pieces of advice about the GAC new gTLD timelines. We look forward to receiving the results of your deliberations in a timely fashion. The Board has instructed the CEO of ICANN to develop an overall timeline for the new gTLD process, and he will be writing to you in the near future to seek further clarification of the GAC's intended timeframe for providing further advice on these two matters.

Thank you again for providing advice to the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, which appears to read "Stephen D. Crocker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen D. Crocker,
Chair, ICANN Board