

17 July 2013

Ms. Christine Willett  
Vice President, gTLD Operations  
ICANN  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Dear Christine,

The undersigned Community TLD applicants, once delegated, will have obligations and responsibilities to the communities they serve, as articulated in Specification 12 of their Registry Agreements and based on the registration policies they articulated in their applications.

Communities are organized and inspired by leadership and coordinated through agreed governance, standardization and accountability mechanisms to create action directed towards achieving their agreed goals.

Whether this is the enjoyment and regulation of or participation in sport, the desire to create social change, or to prevent harm, the common threads that link communities are inspiration, coordination, and action.

Similarly to geoTLDs, groups in communities exist to maintain and perform what are often complex standards setting, educational, and accountability functions. These governance roles are just as important in the community context as they are in the governance context.

Aligned with and expressing the clearly defined aspects of community TLDs in the guidebook provides a useful framework within which to consider how communities can best consider name selection within the context of community establishment.

We therefore request your support in allowing communities to function freely, within these Internet community agreed guidelines, to agree to multi-stakeholder standards for name allocation at the second level in accordance with the 12 July, 2013 geoTLD letter, but with the following key differences:

We agree with geoTLDs that this joint approach will avoid resource-intensive individual negotiations, is more efficient for both applicants and ICANN, and also affirms ICANN's commitment to the multi-stakeholder model and to alignment with the applicant guidebook.

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## Community TLD Applicant Relevant Launch and Eligibility Criteria

1. Aligned with the process described in the geoTLD letter (i) prioritization and allocation of names, except instead of the geo association, the community TLDs must have the ability to allocate names associated with:

A. Contentious issues that are relevant to community goals. (e.g., where there is significant disagreement around the use of the name, or significant agreement about how it should not be used).

B. Iconic community individuals (e.g. figureheads, founders, leaders, and/or inspirational figures).

C. Authorities and Associations (e.g. those that provide services such as recognized providers of community standards, memberships, representation, or verification services).

2. Recognizing the need for nexus, we concur with the nexus requirements expressed in the geoTLD letter, also noting that the Nexus requirements and community establishment definition are currently established in the Applicant Guidebook and will be well established in the Community Specification for any community TLD registry agreement.

3. We agree with and support the geoTLD need for 'anchor tenant' representative organizations, for example those that are directly involved in the governance of the community to which the community TLD will serve as defined in Community Establishment. Similar requirements must be put in place as those for geoTLDs. We therefore request a community 'early adopter phase' for those organizations that can demonstrate a role in the governance of the community in question, for example through participation at an international level in multi-stakeholder processes related to that community, through the issuing of memberships, certificates or other community identifiers.

Sincerely,

The Community TLD Applicant Group  
Letter coordinated, and issued to ICANN, by Craig Schwartz

cc: Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO, ICANN  
Mr. Cherine Chalaby, Board Chair, New gTLD Program, ICANN

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