MEMORANDUM

TO
Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Fadi Chehadé
Christine Willett
Community Priority Evaluation Panel

LOCATION
ICANN
ICANN
Economist Intelligence Unit

CC
Rashi Rai
Merck & Co., Inc.

FROM
David Taylor

DATE
8 April 2016

TELEPHONE
+33 1 53 67 47 47

SUBJECT
Community Priority Evaluation: Additional Letter of Support for Application Number 1-1702-73085 as Filed by Merck Registry Holdings, Inc. for .MERCK

Dear ICANN and the Economist Intelligence Unit,

Please find enclosed a letter of support for Application Number 1-1702-73085 as Filed by Merck Registry Holdings, Inc. for .MERCK. This is submitted as part of the Community Priority Evaluation process and is to be posted as correspondence.

Kind regards

David Taylor
April 8, 2016

Jim Ciriello  
Merck Registry Holdings, Inc.  
2000 Galloping Hill Road  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033  

Re: Letter of Support for Application No 1-1702-73085  

Dear Mr. Ciriello,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our support for Merck Registry Holdings, Inc.’s (“MRHI”) gTLD application number 1-1702-73085 for the domain .MERCK.

Sightsavers and Sightsavers Inc in the US have worked in close collaboration with MRHI’s parent company, Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA over many years to deliver a range of beneficial outcomes that are linked to our shared goals around Eye Health, Education and Social Inclusion. Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA has contributed significantly in the fight against diseases by providing vaccines and medicines to millions of the world’s poorest and most underprivileged people.

In 1987, Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA established the Mectizan® Donation Program (MDP) based on a community directed treatment model. This health care innovation places the power to eliminate Onchocerciasis (river blindness) in the hands of community members themselves by building partnerships between communities and health care systems that can be sustained over time with minimal resources after initial technical assistance and training are provided. Increasingly these programs are reaching out more widely to provide support for other neglected tropical diseases such as lymphatic filariasis.

It has been Sightsavers and Sightsavers Inc’s privilege to work with Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA to address some of the world’s most important eye health challenges. Chief among these have been our long term partnership to eliminate river blindness. Our partnership with Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA supported 47 million treatments in 2015. Since our collaboration began a total of over 340 million treatments have been supported.

The contribution of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA has been invaluable and is a key part of what they represent as a company. We consider it is important that nothing
should diminish or confuse that perception which is why we support their application for the .MERCK domain.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Caroline Harper, CBE
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Brenda Colatrella, Executive Director, Corporate Responsibility