



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Dr. Steven Crocker

Friday 28 October 2011

Chairman of the ICANN Board

Re: Joint Applicant Support (JAS) Working Group

Dear Dr. Crocker,

I am pleased to send the following note on behalf of the GNSO Council, in relation to the recommendations contained in the Joint Applicant Support (JAS) Working Group (WG) Final Report. We understand that the Board has been working on the issue of how ICANN can demonstrate its commitment to ensuring fair and non-discriminatory access by and adequate support for needy applicants in the new gTLD program, and hope that the GNSO community can be of assistance in this regard.

The GNSO Council and community which it represents shares the Board's commitment and fully supports the goals around which the JAS WG was formed. The Council is extremely grateful to the WG and its volunteers, for the incredible amount of work and the many substantive recommendations that it made, including in the Milestone Reports that were published prior to the Final Report. We encouraged each of the GNSO's constituencies and stakeholder groups to submit substantive comments and, where appropriate, level of support for each of the WG's recommendations.

As the overall issue and specific recommendations are fairly complex, spanning financial, technical and policy implementation matters, we hope the Board understands that this is not a topic on which there is a unified GNSO-wide consensus.

We believe that, as each constituency and stakeholder group's comments are received, it will be possible to see where there is consensus and/or support, and where there is disagreement.

In addition, we hope that more specific implementation issues and suggestions may emerge from these comments.

We are pleased that the Board has demonstrated a continuing and serious interest in the work of the JAS WG, and wish to inform you that the Council and GNSO community stands ready to assist the Board in coming to implementable decisions regarding this very important issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Stéphane Van Gelder

Chair, GNSO Council