Report of Public Comments

Title:	**Work Continues to Increase Developing Economies Participation in the New gTLD Program**		
Publication Date:			
Prepared By:			

Comment Period:		Important Information Links	
Open Date:	13 October 2011	Announcement	
Close Date:	16 December 2011	Public Comment Box	
Time (UTC):		View Comments Submitted	

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Section I: General Overview and Next Steps

The Final Report is the final work done by the Joint Applicant Support Working Group (JAS WG). The group is represented by ICANN community members who have been working together on this initiative since April 2010. The JAS WG was formed following a Resolution from ICANN Board of Directors in Nairobi, on March 2010 which asked ICANN's stakeholder community *"...to develop a sustainable approach to providing support to applicants requiring assistance in applying for and operating new gTLDs."*

The Report offers recommendations on how ICANN should develop a sustainable approach to providing support to applicants from developing economies requiring assistance in applying for and operating new gTLD Registries under the New gTLD Program. The Report proposes initial criteria for qualification as well as several other types of support for ICANN to consider.

Next Steps:

On 12 January 2012 ICANN has launched the Applicant Support Program largely based on the work from the JAS WG. Details about the program can be found on the dedicated website: http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/candidate-support

After the Final report was published a sub-group of the JAS WG along with a Board of Directors committee was established to oversee the implementation of the Applicant Support Program.

The Applicant Support Program will be explained in details at the upcoming ICANN Costa Rica Meeting (11-16 March 2012). Details on the session will be available at: http://costarica43.icann.org/

Section II: Contributors

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Initials
Jeffrey Williams	CSIO IDNS LLC.	JF
Craig Spiezle	Online Trust Alliance	CS
Steve Metalitz	Intellectual Property Constituency	SM

Individuals:

Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials

Section III: Summary of Comments

Three submissions were received during the public comment period on the JAS WG Final Report. Here is a summary of the main points raised:

What is the justification for the cost of USD47, 000.00 for application of a new gTLD? Seems far too costly just to submit an application for review. See Ref: gnso.icann.org/drafts/jas-final-report-13sep11-en.pdf.   If the application is rejected for any reason is the up-front amount refunded at all, or in a timely manner? If not, why not? *CSIO IDNS LLC. (27 Oct 2011)*

Reviewing the "Applicant Guidebook", OTA is encouraged to see several of our past concerns addressed. While it is understood that the implementation details are to be finalized over the next several months, many open issues persist. It is critical that we do not lose sight of the key issues to ensure we do not "break the web" or introduce any variables which risk tarnishing consumer trust and confidence. *OTA (16 Dec 2011, re-entered 19 Dec 2011)*

The IPC does wish to register its concern that once again the ICANN Board has taken action without any consideration of the public comments (not a single comment had been received by the time the Board adopted its resolution, with more than a week remaining in the public comment period). This is a very disturbing trend because, rightly or wrongly, it clearly sends the message that the public comment periods are merely "window dressing" and are no way taken into account when ICANN's Board takes actions. It also raises serious questions about ICANN's compliance with the Affirmation of Commitments, section 7, where ICANN commits to "responsive consultation procedures. "or this reason, we think it is imperative that ICANN take a serious look into the public comment process and

the role it plays in supporting ICANN's "accountability and transparency." If the determination is made that this process is valuable, then we strongly urge the ICANN Board to refrain from taking action on any issue until such time as the public comment period has closed and the Board has thoroughly considered the input received during the public comment period. *IPC (16 Dec 2011)*

Section IV: Analysis of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to provide an analysis and evaluation of the comments received along with explanations regarding the basis for any recommendations provided within the analysis.

ICANN has launched the Applicant Support Program on 12 January 2012. Some of the questions raised in relation to the fee and refund are addressed in the program materials that can be found here: http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/candidate-support.

In the implementation of the program, ICANN took into account the public comments received, the timing of the launch of the New gTLD Program as well as the input from the JAS WG sub-group and a Board committee, specially formed to guide with the implementation details.