Raymond A. Plzak, Chair, Board Structural Improvements Committee

Bertrand de la Chapelle, Member, Board Structural Improvements Committee

24 September 2012

Dear Ray, Dear Bertrand,

The GNSO Council would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the request for input on the impact of new gTLDs on ICANN's structure.

As you know, the Council, as well as individual Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies, have been discussing this important subject for a long time now. It has also been a topic during face-to-face meetings between the GNSO Council and the Board and GAC as well as with the ccNSO. Some groups have already, or will respond to the Board directly and our impression is that they are confident to have taken appropriate steps to address the upcoming challenges.

Since this is an unknown factor, the effects on the democratic and participatory process of the Council and the response to that are yet to be seen. However, we would like to highlight that ICANN is already publishing information on how to participate (see http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/participation.htm) including information on how to form a Constituency. Thus, the information and processes are available to be inclusive.

In quantitative terms, challenges are more predictable in some aspects. For sure, there will be:
- more attention by the general pubic and governments;
- more attendants at meetings, which has an impact on sizing the venues;
- more groups that need administrative and technical support;
- more telephone conferences with more participants and more remote participation;
- more documents to be produced and read;
- more decisions to be made and operationalized;
- more contractors that need to be managed;
- the need for ever more stringent budget management and control; and
- more compliance issues that need to be taken care of.

Los Angeles	4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330	Marina del Rey, CA 90292	USA	T +1 310 823 9358	F +1 310 823 8649
Silicon Valley	325 Lytton Avenue, Suite 300	Palo Alto, CA 94301	USA	T +1 650 684 0200	F +1 650 328 2659
Brussels	6 Rond Point Schuman, Bt. 5	B-1040 Brussels	BELGIUM	T +32 2 234 7870	F +32 2 234 7848
Washington, DC	1101 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 930	Washington, DC 20006	USA	T +1 202 570 7240	F +1 202 789 0104
Sydney	Level 2, 48 Hunter Street	Sydney NSW 2000	AUSTRALIA	T +61 2 8236 7900	F +61 2 8236 7913

These quantitative challenges require managerial responses that ICANN can prepare for. Such preparations should also encompass the increased burden on volunteers to deal with even more and potentially more complex material to work on. Processes and support schemes for volunteers should be designed to best possibly avoid volunteer fatigue.

The unknown is what new groups will be established and what their place and role in the ICANN eco system shall be. However, additions will only lead to marginal changes that can be dealt with once they are known.

In summary, the GNSO Council believes that the current structure is resilient to respond to the challenges to come as long as ICANN provides the resources required to accommodate an increasing number of participants / stakeholders and their respective needs.

Yours Sincerely,

Stéphane Van Gelder

Chair, GNSO Council