

31 October 2019

RE: ccNSO Letter 4 September 2019 Closure ccNSO PDP 2 and Evolution of the Fast Track Process

Ms. Katrina Sataki
Chair, Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
On behalf of the ccNSO Council

cc: Chris Disspain
Nigel Roberts
Göran Marby

Dear Katrina:

On behalf of the ICANN Board of Directors, I write to respond to the ccNSO Council letter of 4 September 2019 on the closure of ccPDP 2 and evolution of the Fast Track Process.

With respect to your request to pass back to you the recommendations of ccNSO IDN ccTLDs overall policy proposal, the Board agrees and will not undertake any further steps with respect to the recommended policy proposals. We understand from your letter that the ccNSO Council will now launch a new policy development process focusing on the selection of IDN ccTLD strings and that the current policy recommendations or updated versions of them will be incorporated into the new policy recommendations. The Board would appreciate being informed regularly about the progress the ccNSO makes in developing the policy for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings.

The Board also understands that the ccNSO Council is intending to request an amendment of Article 10 of the ICANN Bylaws. After receiving such a request, the Board will follow the relevant procedure for making such a Bylaw change.

With respect to your request to end the evolution of the Fast Track Process, the Board notes that since November 2009 three (3) reviews of the Fast Track Process have been concluded, leading to changes of the Fast Track Process to address pressing issues. In the future, other serious issues may surface related to the Fast Track Process, especially in light of the potential duration of policy development processes. Therefore, the Board does not want to rule out potential evolution of the Fast Track Process through additional review(s) or otherwise. However, we also accept that conducting a review that is not focused on urgent and important topics will be sub-optimal given the current discussions on community, Board and ICANN org workload and available capacity.

We therefore hope you agree that steps to further evolve the Fast Track Process, if at all, should be limited to issues that cause a demonstrable threat to the security and stability of the

DNS, can only be addressed through an amendment of the Fast Track Process, and, require resolution before completion and implementation of the envisioned ccPDP 4. The Board believes this is also in line with one of the original goals of the Fast Track Process: to provide an experimental basis for the policy and its implementation which in time shall replace the Fast Track Process.

Finally, the Board agrees that the Fast Track Process should remain available to the community up and until it has been replaced by a process grounded on a policy developed through the ccNSO Policy Development Process.

Sincerely,



Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors