21 September 2013

Olivier MJ Crépin-Leblond

Chair, At-Large Advisory Committee

Re: ALAC Statements regarding: (1) Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation and (2) Preferential Treatment for Community Applications in String Contention

Dear Olivier,

On behalf of the New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC), I thank you for providing the two recent ALAC Statements regarding:  (1) Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation; and (2) Preferential Treatment for Community Applications in String Contention.  The NGPC appreciates the attention the ALAC has given to these two topics and has reviewed the statements carefully. The NGPC understands that additional detail regarding these topics may be sent to it in the near future.

**Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation**

With regard to the statement on Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation (CPE), the NGPC notes that the ALAC statement was submitted to the CPE feedback forum. The CPE panel firm will consider these recommendations as they finalize their evaluation guidelines and operational implementation.

**Preferential Treatment for Community Applications in String Contention**

With regard to the statement on Preferential Treatment for Community Applications in String Contention, the NGPC notes that the Applicant Guidebook provides two distinct mechanisms relating to community support. These mechanisms are the community-based designation described in Section 1.2.3 of the Applicant Guidebook and the Community Objection described in Section 3.2.2.4 of the Applicant Guidebook. Applicants were provided with the opportunity to self-designate as community-based applications during the application window, and communities with standing were provided with the opportunity to file a community objection during the objection filing window.

Implementing the ALAC’s advice would represent a change to the policies and procedures established in the Applicant Guidebook. In the interest of fairness to all applicants, it would not be appropriate to re-evaluate applications that chose not to self-designate as community-based applications. As such, all applications will be considered based on their current designations.

The NGPC wishes to reiterate its thanks to the ALAC for its interest in the topics of (1) Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation; and (2) Preferential Treatment for Community Applications in String Contention. The NGPC shares the ALAC’s goal of ensuring that the processes related to Community Priority Evaluation will be performed in a manner consistent with the global public interest. The NGPC will continue to consider the global public interest throughout the string contention resolution process.

The NGPC hopes that the information provided in this letter is helpful.

Best regards,

Cherine Chalaby

Chair, New gTLD Program Committee