

20 March 2020

Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair
At-Large Advisory Committee

RE: ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on the ISOC/PIR Issue

Dear Maureen,

Thank you for providing the At-Large Advisory Council's (ALAC) [comment](#) on 31 January 2020 and for our discussions during ICANN67. We understand your interest in the proposed change of control of Public Interest Registry (PIR) from the Internet Society (ISOC) to Ethos Capital, and your consideration given to individual end users as well as the security of and trust in the .ORG TLD.

Under the .ORG Registry Agreement, PIR must obtain ICANN's prior approval before any transaction that would result in a change of control of the registry operator. PIR formally notified ICANN of the proposed transaction on 14 November 2019 and ICANN has since and continues to thoroughly evaluate the proposed transaction to ensure that the .ORG registry remains secure, reliable, and stable. The Registry Agreement requires a standard of reasonableness for ICANN's determination about whether to provide or withhold its consent to the request. In order to evaluate the request and bring additional transparency, ICANN requested further information from PIR and ISOC about the proposed transaction, including information about the party acquiring control and whether it meets the ICANN-adopted registry operator criteria. As of 17 March 2020, PIR has [agreed](#) to extend the deadline for ICANN to respond to 20 April 2020.

We acknowledge ALAC's recommendation to the ICANN Board to consider facilitating an amendment to the .ORG Registry Agreement that captures the intentions of the 2002 RFP and encourages the space to remain a trusted TLD for non-profit entities and individuals. We understand that your guidance is intended to maintain the public trust by ensuring that explicit requirements are included in the .ORG Registry Agreement.

Ethos Capital issued a [press release](#) on 21 February 2020 and an [update](#) on 16 March 2020 announcing its proposal to the .ORG community to add contractual commitments related to pricing limitations, safeguarding against censorship and added accountability in the form of Public Interest Commitments (PICs) to the .ORG Registry Agreement. We encourage those interested to also communicate their views about the registry operations and/or policies directly to PIR, Ethos Capital, and/or ISOC.

ICANN appreciates your input on this topic.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors