

## Topic 28: Role of Application Comment AGB Language

### Community Input ~~Community Action Period~~

After applications are publicly posted, the community will have the opportunity to provide input in several ways during the timeframes and according to the guidelines described in the sections below.

~~The Community Action Period (CAP) takes place in the 90 calendar days [exact timeline tbd] following application publication<sup>1</sup>, which is expected to be on [date].<sup>2</sup> During this time, the public has the opportunity to take the following actions related to submitted applications: submit comments<sup>3</sup> and file objections<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, during this time, GAC members may issue GAC Early Warnings<sup>5</sup>. ICANN.org reserves the right to extend the CAP for a determined period of time, for one, more or all applications, should the volume of applications or other circumstances require it. ¶~~

## 1 Application Comments

### 1.1 Application Comments Overview

Comment mechanisms are part of ICANN's policy development, implementation, and operational processes. In line with ICANN's commitment to preserving the operational security and stability of the Internet, promoting competition, achieving broad representation of global Internet communities, and developing policy appropriate to its mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes, the public will have the opportunity to submit comments on posted applications (referred to as "application comments").<sup>6</sup>

Applicants and commenters should be aware that application comments are a mechanism for the public to bring relevant information and issues to the attention of ICANN.org, applicants, and evaluators. If a comment is not relevant to specific evaluation criteria, it may not have any impact on the outcome of the evaluation.

A single application comment period applies to all applications, including community-based applications. To the extent that third parties submit comments relating to a community-based

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<sup>1</sup> See [cross-reference] for more information on application publication. ¶

<sup>2</sup> Should the date be changed, applicants and the community will be informed in due time. ¶

<sup>3</sup> See [cross-reference] for more information on application comments. ¶

<sup>4</sup> See [cross-reference] for more information on objections. chang ¶

<sup>5</sup> See [cross-reference] for more information on GAC Early Warnings. ¶

<sup>6</sup> Application comments are not to be confused with ICANN's [Public Comment](#) process. While ICANN's Public Comment gives the ICANN community, Internet stakeholders, and the general public an opportunity to provide input on ICANN's work and policies, application comments relate specifically to applications for new gTLDs.

application, these comments must be submitted before the end of the [comment period](#)~~Community Action Period~~ to be considered during Community Priority Evaluation.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.2 How to Submit Application Comments

~~ICANN org will open an application comment period at the time applications are publicly posted on the [Next Round's website].<sup>8</sup> Comments will be posted on the Application Comment Forum (ACF) [Community Action Forum] (CAF), and all interested parties, including applicants, will be able to review and comment on the applicationsthem.~~

In order to submit a comment, commenters will need to have an ICANN account [in the ACF](#). ~~Commenters~~and will be asked to indicate their affiliation and whether they have a relationship with any applicants or applications. In addition, commenters will be required to specify the application(s), string(s), and specific evaluation(s) and process(es) to which their comment(s) relate(s). Commenters will be able to provide attachments along with their comments.

Should a commenter believe that they possess information related to confidential portions of the application, which may not be appropriate to submit publicly, they will have the option to submit a request to ICANN [org](#), which will provide guidance on the process to follow in order to submit the comment confidentially. The comment will be forwarded to the applicant, who will have the opportunity to respond. To ensure transparency, this option should only be used for comments related to confidential portions of the application, and ICANN [org](#) will refer the commenter to the ~~ACFCAF~~ should the comment refer to public portions of the application.

Any party posting comments must abide by the [ICANN Terms of Service](#).

## 1.3 Application Comments Timeline

The ~~ACFCAF~~ will remain open through all stages of the evaluation process, to provide a means for the public to bring forward any relevant information or issues regarding an application.

### 1.3.1 Application Comments Timeline after Application Publication

ICANN org will open an application comment period at the time [\[x days\]](#) after applications are publicly posted on the [\[Next Round's website\]](#).<sup>9</sup> ~~However, only application comments received during the following 90 -days Community Action Period (as per section [cross-reference]) will be considered by the evaluation panels performing the Initial Evaluation reviews. As mentioned in section [cross-reference above], ICANN org reserves the right to extend the comment periodCAP for one, more, or all applications.~~

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<sup>7</sup> As further described in the [\[Community Priority Evaluation section\]](#), applicants will also have the chance to attach letters of support to their application before submitting it.

<sup>8</sup> See [\[cross-reference\]](#) for more information.

<sup>9</sup> See [\[cross-reference\]](#) for more information.

Should applicants wish to respond to comments relating to their application and have their response made available to evaluation panels, they will be able to do so through the CAF until 30 calendar days following the end of the [comment period](#)~~CAP~~.

~~Some processes that occur during round processing may require additional operational comment periods, during which the CAF will be opened again for a determined period of time.<sup>10</sup>~~

### 1.3.2 Application Comments Timeline Following a Change Request

As described in detail in section [\[cross-reference Change Requests\]](#), applicants may change or update their applications throughout application processing and evaluation, and during the contracting process. Changes that result in material changes to public portions of the application will be subject to a 30-day comment period, during which the community will have the opportunity to raise any concerns they might have on the change(s).

## 1.4 Application Comments in the Evaluation Process

Evaluators will review the comments and responses relating to the application(s) they will evaluate; only the comments and responses received during the time periods described above in section [\[cross-reference 1.3\]](#) will be considered by the evaluation panels. For more information relating to application comments in the evaluation process and Community Priority Evaluation, please refer to sections [\[cross-reference evaluation\]](#) and [\[cross-reference CPE\]](#) respectively.

## 1.5 Application Comments in the Dispute Resolution Process

Application comments have a very limited role in the dispute-resolution process. A distinction should be made between application comments, which may be relevant to ICANN's task of determining whether applications meet the established criteria, and objections, which are a separate process.<sup>11</sup>

Comments related to any of the four objection grounds, or about an objection that has been filed, will be for a dispute resolution panel, not ICANN, to consider<sup>12</sup>.

It should be noted that the Independent Objector (IO) may consider application comments when making an independent assessment whether an objection is warranted. The IO will be able to file an objection only if at least one comment in opposition to the relevant application was submitted.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> See [\[cross-reference\]](#) for more information on change requests.~~¶~~

<sup>11</sup> See [\[cross-reference\]](#) for more information on objections.

<sup>12</sup> See [\[cross-reference\]](#) for more information on dispute resolution.

<sup>13</sup> See [\[cross-reference\]](#) for more information on the Independent Objector.