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**At-Large New gTLD Review Group**

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Geneva, 06 March 2013

**Subject: Support of the objection to the 5 proposed “.health” gTLD applications**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Health On the Net Foundation with 8'400 members in 102 countries in 235 languages. HON is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of transparent and trustworthy health information on the Internet. To achieve this goal, HON offers tools free of charge to the growing online community of healthcare consumers and information providers. One of these tools is the HONcode certification, a proactive way to promote trustworthy health-related websites which represents 8'400 websites in 102 countries ([www.HealthOnNet.org](http://www.HealthOnNet.org)).

Health On the Net Foundation has comment on the .health

<https://gtldcomment.icann.org/applicationcomment/commentdetails/5696>

In this context it has come to our attention that you are considering filling an Objection to the 5 proposed .health gTLD applications (including the .health application in Chinese).

We share the concerns of the International Medical Informatics Association as noted in their letter of 25 January 2013:

- The ".health" TLD should be a trusted resource for health, in particular to counter current international challenges such as fraud, identity theft, illicit sale of pharmaceuticals, security, protection of minors and so on.
- There is no guarantee that the new ".health" TLD will be operated in the interest of global public health and consumer protection.
- The ".health" TLD without the adequate quality assurance and consumer protection mechanisms in place will undermine credibility and harm the growth of the health online market place. An open and unrestricted TLD will help to bypass regulatory controls creating new risks for the whole industry sector.
- Developing countries will suffer the most in this scenario, due to their difficulties in enforcing national policies to regulate, monitor, and stop fraud and misuse.

We hereby lend the voice of our Health On the Net Foundation, an NGO, with +8'400 members in 102 states to this Objection.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Edith Litscher-Graf, Swiss National Councilor  
President Health On the Net



Célia Boyer  
Executive Director Health On the Net