



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

4 February 2014

Mr. Ron Andruff
Ms. Marilyn Cade
Mr. Olivier Crepin-Leblond, on behalf of the ALAC Leadership Team
Mr. Alan Greenburg
Ms. Evan Leibovich

Dear Mr. Ron Andruff and Associates:

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 2014, regarding the proposed Policy Advisory Board model. We appreciate your comments, and we have posted the letter to the New gTLD correspondence page (<http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/andruff-et-al-to-chalaby-27jan14-en.pdf>).

We note your assertion that the Public Advisory Board model “provides a flexible, pragmatic, and effective means of implementing GAC Safeguard Advice for strings associated with regulated industry/profession gTLDs” and your request that the proposal be the subject of a formal public comment period. As you are aware, the implementation of GAC Category 1 Advice has already been the subject of a public comment period (<http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/gac-safeguard-advice-23apr13-en.htm>). As described below, the multistakeholder community has participated in robust and transparent processes leading up to the implementation of the GAC’s advice. As a result, ICANN does not believe that a second comment period is warranted.

On 11 April 2013, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) issued its Beijing Communiqué (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/correspondence/gac-to-board-11apr13-en.pdf>), in which it provided advice on New gTLDs, including Category 1 and Category 2 Safeguard Advice. On 23 April 2013, ICANN sought public comment on how to implement the GAC’s Safeguard Advice. ICANN received 82 comments during the comment window and 50 comments during the reply window. In considering how to implement GAC Category 1 advice, ICANN and the New gTLD Program Committee of the ICANN Board (NPGC) have taken into consideration the public comments submitted during that period, as well as feedback from the community through other channels, such as input at ICANN meetings. ICANN’s proposed implementation of GAC Category 1 and Category 2 Safeguard Advice was posted publicly in the form of a letter from the Chair of ICANN’s Board to the Chair of the GAC on 29 October 2013 (<http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/crocker-to-dryden-3->



[29oct13-en.pdf](#)), and that implementation has been the subject of community discussions including at the ICANN meetings in Buenos Aires in November 2013.

The Policy Advisory Board proposal was initially submitted to ICANN in September 2013 (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/correspondence/andruff-to-chalaby-25sep13-en.pdf>), and the NGPC considered the proposal at its 16 November 2013 meeting (<http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/minutes-new-gtld-16nov13-en.htm#2.a>). Although the Policy Advisory Board model was not included in the NGPC's proposal to the GAC on the implementation of GAC Category 1 and Category 2 Safeguard Advice, a registry operator is not prohibited from voluntarily implementing such a model.

Thank you for your valuable feedback. We welcome your continued participation in the multi-stakeholder process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine A. Willett", written in a cursive style.

Christine A. Willett
Vice President, gTLD Operations