The deadline for FY19 Budget consideration is **31 January 2018.** All questions and completed forms should be sent to **planning@icann.org**.

PRIORITY #1

REQUEST INFORMATION

Title of Proposed Activity	
Registries Stakeholder Group request for on-going support of the Document Development and Drafting Pilot Program	

Community Requestor Name	Chair
gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group	Paul Diaz

ICANN Staff Community Liaison	
David Olive, Senior Vice President Policy Development Support	

REQUEST DESCRIPTION

1. Activity: **Please describe your proposed activity in detail**

History

Prior to ICANN 56, Helsinki, the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) was contacted by Dan O'Neill, WBC Global, regarding a potential pilot program being developed by ICANN to provide identified members of the community with enhanced tools to assist in reviewing and preparing comments on critical issues/topics impacting their Stakeholder Group/Constituency.

Representatives from the RySG met with Mr. O'Neill in Helsinki to further discuss options and next steps in the pilot program. Following Helsinki, Mr. O'Neill and members of the RySG Executive Committee held a teleconference call to further flesh out the next steps in the process. The agenda for discussion was centered around a review of the objectives and timeline of the program, along with two candidates Mr. O'Neill had identified as viable candidates to fulfil this roll. On 6 Oct 2016, the RySG Executive Committee interviewed via teleconference both candidates – Wim Degezelle and Siddhartha Menon. Discussion with each candidate lasted approximately 25 minutes and the following agenda was followed for both:

- Introductions
- Overview of background (by candidate)
- Questions (by RySG)
- Closing remarks and questions (candidate)

Both Mr. Degezelle and Mr. Menon were found to be excellent candidates. The RySG Secretariat then conducted a blind survey where skill sets and knowledge were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 relative to their background and experience in being best suited for this position. The results were then discussed among the Ex Com members and Mr. Degezelle was ultimately selected for the position.

Mr. Degezelle (Wim) attended a bi-weekly RySG teleconference call and was introduced to the membership, provided an overview of his background and his anticipated contribution to the RySG. In early November 2016, Stéphane Van Gelder, RySG Vice Chair, Policy, took over direct orientation to start introducing Wim to the current pending public comments and general process. Needless to say, there was a rather steep learning curve for Wim to be able to fully embrace the overall structure and perspective of the RySG. This being said, from day one Wim has made an incredible contribution in his role of drafting comments to complex public comments. His ability to research a topic, communicate with those in the RySG who may have some more in-depth knowledge of the issues/topics at hand, prepare and present salient observations and suggested comments has been of incredible benefit to the RySG and, where relevant, to others in the community who may be impacted by a particular issue.

From his initial involvement in early November 2016, Wim has taken the lead on researching and developing initial comments (including input/comments from the RySG membership for incorporation into a final draft) on over eight important ICANN public comments and issues.

The original pilot program was to be four (4) months at 25 hours a month (not to exceed a total of 100 hours). The RySG was informed the pilot program was drawing to a close as of 31 January 2017; however, given the delayed start of the RySG involvement, coupled with the holidays in November (Thanksgiving US holiday) and December (world-wide), the RySG was of the opinion this invaluable and successful pilot program should receive support for the full fiscal year. In particular, with his now better understanding and developed background of the Registry Operator community, as well as the GNSO and ICANN community, the RySG would like Mr. Degezelle to continue in this capacity.

Today
Given the above, along with discussions among the RySG Executive Committee, the RySG members, and with ICANN GDD staff, the above request to provide support for ICANN to provide funding for the Document Drafting Program (Wim Degezelle) for FY 19 and to also add this as a core operating expense going forward.

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*2. Type of Activity***: e.g. Outreach - Education/training - Travel support - Research/Study - Meetings - Other**

Requesting funding for the continuation of the Document Development and Drafting Program at the level supported during the pilot program (i.e., 25 hours/month). Upon mutual agreement, the RySG would also like to request support for Mr. Wim Degezelle to continue in this capacity.

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3. Proposed Timeline/Schedule: **e.g. one-time activity, recurring activity**

 Full funding for Fiscal Year 19 (1 July 2018 through 30 June 2019). If required, the RySG would welcome an assessment be conducted to once again request consideration for this activity to become a core support of the ICANN operating budget going forward.

REQUEST OBJECTIVES

1. *Strategic Alignment.* **Which area of ICANN's Strategic Plan does this request support?**

Evolve and further globalize ICANN (evolve policy development and governance processes, structures and meetings to be more accountable, inclusive, efficient, effective and responsive).

Advance organizational, technological and operational excellence (develop a globally diverse culture of knowledge and expertise available to ICANN's Board, staff and stakeholders).

Promote ICANN's role and multistakeholder approach (empower current and new stakeholders to fully participate in ICANN activities.).

Develop and implement a global public interest framework bounded by ICANN's mission.

2. *Demographics.* **What audience(s), in which geographies, does your request target?**

The role of the Document Development and Drafting Research Assistant will potentially reach all geographic regions throughout the ICANN community, and better enable engagement by smaller (or new) registry operators who have limited bandwidth, resources and/or knowledge that restrict their participation in issues that may have a direct impact on their operations.

3. *Deliverables.* **What are the desired outcomes of your proposed activity?**

1. To provide support in both research and drafting responses to public comments solicited through ICANN.
2. To assist in further development of active participation by RySG members by providing support through partnerships in collaborating on research and an inherent enhanced knowledge of issues and topics which affect/impact registry operators.

4. *Metrics.* **What measurements will you use to determine whether your activity achieves its desired outcomes?**

With the assistance of a Document Development and Drafting Research Assistant, an Increase in level of participation of volunteers to partner (or taking a lead role) in developing and/or contributing to critical issues requiring formal comments by the RySG.

> **Note**: The assistance of Mr. Degezelle in this role has demonstrated enhanced involvement by members to participate in and (with Mr. Degezelle's support) take lead in drafting comments for the RySG membership. The program has also proven to be an excellent mentor-type role to enable newer members to the stakeholder group, or those who may have limited bandwidth, to be able to step forward and further engage in this important effort.

RESOURCE PLANNING – INCREMENTAL TO ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST

Staff Support Needed (not including subject matter expertise):

Description	Timeline	Assumptions	Costs basis or parameters	Additional Comments
N/A				

Subject Matter Expert Support:

Skills and knowledge as identified through this initial evaluation and selection process used for the Document Development and Drafting Pilot Program. Mr. Degezelle has not only met but exceeded expectations in this area.

Technology Support: (telephone, Adobe Connect, web streaming, etc.)

None

Language Services Support:

None

Other:

Funding of Document Development and Drafting Research Assistant at 25 hours/month at a competitive rate for twelve (12) months, commencing 1 July 2018.

> **Note**: The RySG submitted a request to ICANN to support this program for the full current fiscal year (FY 18). However, ICANN was only able to approve funding for 7 months. With this, and given the value and level of contribution made by Mr. Degezelle, the RySG membership agreed to provide gap funding for the remainder of FY 18, or until the full year program support request is supported by ICANN.
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Travel Support:

None.

> **Note**: As further demonstration of the value and contribution of this position, the RySG allocated one of the seven RySG travel support slots to Mr. Degezelle to attend ICANN 61 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Potential/planned Sponsorship Contribution:

Given the immense value-add during the pilot program, and based on the partial year funding ICANN approved for FY 18, the RySG membership agreed to support gap funding for this same time period. However, the stakeholder group may not be in a financial position to provide gap funding for FY 19.