Dear Becky and Maarten,

On behalf of the CCWG, we would like to thank you and other members of the ICANN Board for the input you provided in your letter dated 31 January 2018. The CCWG has considered your input and we like to share the following points with you.

- Regarding the feedback on the preamble, the CCWG appreciates your concern and notes that the CCWG similarly struggled with the content and scope of the preamble. After further consideration, the CCWG has come to the conclusion that the underlying objective of the preamble (to provide guidance to project evaluators on how to interpret projects that might not fully fall within ICANN's mission statement but could be considered in service of ICANN's mission) is probably better dealt with during the implementation phase, that will follow our current work and subsequent Board approval. Second, the feedback that the Board provided in the meantime that projects can be supported that are 'in service of ICANN's mission' covers the understanding we wanted to achieve with the preamble. Insofar the preamble is - at this stage at least - less relevant for our work. Therefore,, the CCWG is planning to reference the work that was undertaken on the preamble in its Initial Report, but in addition, it would also include a concrete recommendation related to it, that as part of the implementation process sufficient guidance should to be developed to allow project evaluators to appreciate and understand the scope and limitations of ICANN's mission to help inform the evaluation process.

- The CCWG appreciates your constructive feedback with regard to potential project examples the CCWG identified to test whether a potential project could be considered in service of ICANN's mission. In response, the CCWG has reviewed the list of examples we provided to you and we suggest a number of edits in line with your guidance to ensure that these examples are illustrative. To clarify, the CCWG does not expect that this exact list of examples is used in any kind of call for projects proposals but intends this list to serve as input to the implementation team to identify potential projects that would support ICANNs mission - or not. You will find attached in redline the edits that the CCWG is proposing at this stage.

We like to express our appreciation for the constructive way in which the Board - through the Board liaisons - is engaging in our work. The CCWG AP has agreed to an ambitious work plan which aims to deliver an Initial Report for community input by ICANN62. We count on your support in making this happen.

Sincerely,

Erika Mann & Ching Chiao
Co-Chairs of the new gTLD Auction Proceeds Cross-Community Working Group