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ICANN SO & AC Chairs
GNSO SG & C Chairs
Steve Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board

Dear All,

A Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) – The use of new gTLD auction proceeds

Following the ICANN meeting in Buenos Aires, I wanted to provide you with an update on the activities that took place during that meeting in relation to the use of new gTLD auction proceeds as well as the proposed next steps.

As you know, with several of you having participated in the Monday session, the discussions were kicked off by an exchange of views between community leaders during the SO/AC High Interest Topic Session. At a high level, I took the following points away from that session:

- There is broad and substantial interest in the topic;
- There are many ideas about how funds could / should be distributed;
- However, there is clear recognition that the principles, process and a framework should be developed first;
- There was a suggestion to capture the discussions to date in the form of a Discussion Paper so as to encourage further community input as well as facilitate next steps

For further details on this session, I encourage you to review the recording and/or transcript, which are available here: https://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-soac-high-interest.

This meeting was followed by a workshop on Wednesday during which a factual overview of the history and current status of the auction proceeds was presented, followed by a review of the current context and presentations by a number of ccTLD representatives on their experiences with managing excess funds. The presentations by Mark Buell (CIRA), Russell Haworth (Nominet) and Roelof Meijer (SIDN) were particularly insightful with regard to some of the questions and issues the ICANN Community will need to address as it considers dealing with the new gTLD auction proceeds. For further details, please see https://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/schedule/wed-cwg-new-gtld-auction.

As has been noted on a number of occasions, it is important to get this work right and not to rush. Accordingly, I have requested that the GNSO policy staff work to capture all the valuable input received and questions raised in the form of the suggested Discussion Paper. This paper can then then be published for public comment to allow for further input and

feedback by all of you and others that may be interested. The final Discussion Paper as well as the community input received to date will then be provided to the drafting team in order to facilitate their work on the development of a charter for a Cross-Community Working Group on the use of new gTLD auction proceeds.

I hope you all agree that this deliberate approach will allow for all views to be heard and moreover, will provide the community with sufficient opportunity to consider and share their views on this issue before a CCWG is convened.

If you have any questions or feedback on this approach, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Robinson
Chair, ICANN GNSO Council

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