

Date: April 27, 2012
To: ICANN Board of Directors
From: GNSO Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG)
Subject: **Response to the challenge of new TLDs on ICANN structures and operation**

Thank you for raising the important issue, both with the RySG and with others in the broader ICANN community, regarding the response to the challenge of new TLDs on ICANN structures and operation.

We take this opportunity to follow up with a reminder of the work we have undertaken so far as well as to confirm our intention to maintain this topic on the RySG agenda.

We have anticipated the impact and potential changes to the RySG as a result of the new TLD program for some time now, including the potentially sizable increase in membership. We have responded to this by modifying both the RySG bylaws and the way in which the group conducts its business. Changes to date can be summarized as follows:

Within the last year, the RySG bylaws have been revised and updated to include:

The addition of Observers; and

Adjustments to our voting structure and rules to:

- Recognize that members may be participating in more than one stakeholder group or constituency (as a result of registry – registrar vertical integration for example);
- Introduce procedures for insuring that members may not vote in more than one group or constituency;
- Clarify the distinction between active and inactive members, so that reaching a quorum will depend on participation of active members.

The RySG has commenced and undertaken active engagement with the Registrars Stakeholder Group in recognition of the potential blurring of traditional ICANN boundaries in the future and the on-going dialogue that will necessitate.

The RySG has given consideration to the fact that individuals in the group, as delegates of members, may represent more than one TLD or string in future.

Looking forward we recognize that there will be on-going challenges with respect to the RySG and the broader ICANN community. We welcomed the clarifying input from the Board at our joint Board-RySG meeting in Costa Rica.

Specifically, we heard that, as part of an on-going process, the Board would initially like to identify a list of issues and impacts arising out of the new gTLD program. We look forward to working with you on identifying these, and we welcome any additional communication.

Respectfully submitted

GNSO Registries Stakeholder Group

By David W. Maher, Chair