



24 May 2019

Mohamed El Bashir
Chair, African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)

Dear Mr. El Bashir,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for your statement dated 13 March 2019, relaying AFRALO's response to Neustar's proposal on the subsequent round of New gTLDs.

As your statement indicated, the AFRALO's response, covered several topics that are already under discussion in the Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group, such as (a) whether there should be another opportunity to apply for new gTLDs, and (b) what should be the priorities for different application types. The Board encourages AFRALO to participate in those discussions by sharing its views, voicing its concerns and providing feedback on these topics and any other issues of importance to AFRALO. As the Board has previously indicated, once the Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group completes its work and a final report is delivered to the Board, the Board will consider the policy recommendations.

As you know, the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice (CCT) Review Team ("Review Team") recently produced its Final Report that examines the extent to which the introduction of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) has promoted competition, consumer trust, and consumer choice in the Domain Name System (DNS). The Final Report acknowledged that "while the New gTLD Program is quite new and the data available about the DNS marketplace is incomplete, on balance the expansion of the DNS marketplace has demonstrated increased competition and consumer choice and has been somewhat successful in mitigating its impact on consumer trust and rights (particularly trademark) protection." Based on its findings, the Review Team made several recommendations, which were considered by the Board. Board's action on these recommendations can be viewed [here](#).

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns. The Board looks forward to continuing to work closely with AFRALO. We welcome and greatly value the effective participation of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cherine Chalaby", written over a horizontal line.

Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors