

ISPCP Constituency statement on current gTLD discussions between ICANN Board and the Government Advisory Committee.

San Francisco ICANN meeting

16.3.2011

The ISPCP constituency appreciates the dedicated efforts taken by the Board and the GAC to bring to a swift conclusion the definition of the final Applicant Guidebook. We welcome the opportunity to submit the following comments:

The ISPCP constituency has always supported the bottom-up multi-stakeholder approach for the development of ICANN policy. This includes the important role of government advice to the Board through the GAC on public policy.

The ISPCP believes that for the Applicant Guidebook to command widespread and lasting support it will be necessary for the policy it encapsulates to be capable of being applied by ICANN in an objectively justifiable and non-discriminatory manner, with clarity of meaning and predictability of outcome both for applicants and other affected parties.

We believe that this objective will be aided by drawing a clear distinction between the development of policy and its execution.

Our constituency is conscious of the continuous effort on the part of the ICANN Board to accommodate GAC concerns through succeeding drafts of the Guidebook. We welcome this collaboration at this stage in proceedings, but once the Applicant Guidebook is finalised the process for determining the outcome of individual applications must be conducted in a neutral and objective fashion by ICANN, in accordance with the policy expressed in the Guidebook.

In addition we'd like to stress the need to make all efforts to conclude the process as quickly and efficiently as possible.