

[DRAFT 2.9.11]

APPLICANT SUPPORT—NEW gTLD PROGRAM MILESTONE REPORT & ADDENDA, JOINT SO/AC WORKING GROUP

PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

Sources:

Public Comments postings (11 Nov. 2010-10 Jan. 2011). The full text of the comments may be found at <http://forum.icann.org/lists/jas-milestone-report/>.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Application fee reduction.

The African Community welcomes the ICANN Board decision that support to applicants who require assistance will include outreach and education to encourage participation across all regions, but expresses its deep concern regarding the Board's non-consideration of the application fee reduction that the African ICANN Community and the Joint Applicant Support Working Group (JAS WG) proposed. Without the application cost reduction, the developing countries, and especially those of the African region, as well as the disadvantaged communities willing to apply for a cultural, linguistic or ethnic gTLD, will be excluded from this new gTLD program. Board Resolution 20 wanted the program to be inclusive. *African ICANN Community (21 Dec. 2010).*

The African ICANN Community strongly believes that assistance should be provided to the needy applicants at the upcoming first round of application and not at some possible future round because:

- (1) without assistance for applicants needing support, all of the most obvious names, including IDNs, will be taken by rich investors, leaving little opportunity to local community institutions and developing country entrepreneurs;
- (2) even if a second round is intended to be opened, its date is at best uncertain given the experience of the 2001 round.

African ICANN Community (21 Dec. 2010).

Support for Milestone Report. The African ICANN Community strongly supports the Milestone Report of the JAS WG and looks forward to the consideration of its recommendations by the ICANN Board. *African ICANN Community (21 Dec. 2010).*

Support for ongoing work. The African ICANN Community is supportive of all ongoing work as per the recommendations of the JAS WG Charter. *African ICANN Community (21 Dec. 2010).*

Support for African gTLD applicants requiring assistance. DotconnectAfrica voices and reinforces its announcement in ICANN Brussels that its DotAfrica project will be in support of African gTLD applicants requiring assistance in applying for and operating a gTLD.

DotconnectAfrica has also submitted its expression of interest in writing to the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the ALAC/AFRALO meeting that took place in Cartagena, Colombia, that discussed the same issue. *DotconnectAfrica (25 Dec. 2010)*.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Joint Applicant Support Working Group (JAS WG), responsible for the Milestone Report, thanks the respondents for taking the time to comment. The JAS WG has had its Charter renewed and continues to refine the recommendations that will be presented and considered by ICANN's Board in the near future.

RESPONDENTS

African ICANN Community, consisting of AFRALO and AfrICANN (African ICANN Community)
DotconnectAfrica