gTLD Registries Constituency
Statement Presented at the ICANN Meeting, New Delhi, India,
on the ICANN Board Governance Committee Working Group on
GNSO Improvement Recommendations

12 Feb 2008

The RyC thanks the BGC WG for the amount of time devoted to this effort and compliments the WG on a very thorough job. We believe that GNSO reform is as important today as it was a year ago. The problems identified by the LSE study still exist. For example, (i) there are still instances where voting is overemphasized, (ii) the proposal to fund GNSO Council travel emphasizes the Council's role in policy development as opposed to the proper role of the community and (iii) significant policy work is still being delegated by the Council to itself rather than to Working Groups, Task Forces or other groups with the requisite expertise needed to develop policy. Put more simply, the Council is still acting on occasion like a legislative body.

In evaluating the GNSO Improvement Recommendations, we believe that there are two points that are essential.

1. It is critical to judge the recommendations as a total package:
    - Many of them are interdependent and thus must be evaluated in relationship to one another.
    - For example, the recommendations regarding Council restructuring and associated vote allocations must be examined in light of the enhanced working group model with a de-emphasis on voting.

2. The recommendations should not be evaluated in light of old paradigms:
    - A Council that is primarily involved in developing policy is very different than a Council that is managing the policy development process and providing leadership to a broader section of the community that is doing the policy development work.
    - Therefore, in the new model, it may be deemed more important by some to serve on a working group than to serve on the Council.

When looking at the overall GNSO Improvement Recommendations, the RyC strongly supports them; in particular we believe that:
1. They build on recent GNSO successes in using open working groups.
2. They address the major issues raised in the various GNSO reviews done over the last several years and can result in many key improvements such as:
    o Enhanced representation of stakeholders
    o Spreading of the workload over more people
    o Refining the policy development process
    o Introducing new tools
    o Improved document management
    o Providing training for process leaders
    o Increased staff support
    o Periodic assessment of policy development efforts
    o Improved outreach to and involvement of more stakeholders
    o Greater cooperation across other supporting organizations and advisory groups