IGF 2016 Workshop (No. 63) Report: ICANN New gTLD Program: Exploring Impact and Future Direction

Session Title	ICANN New gTLD Program: Exploring Impact & Future Direction
Date	Wednesday December 7, 2016
Time	11-12:00
Session Organizer	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
Chair/Moderator	Cherine Chalaby – ICANN Board
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Nigel Hickson – ICANN
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Atallah, Akram – ICANN, Abdulrahim, Rinalia – ICANN Board Cavalli, Olga - GAC, Argentina Crépin-Leblond, Olivier M.J. -EURALO Doria, Avri – PDP process; Subsequent gTLD process, Richards , Megan – European Commission Zuck, Jonathan –ACT (CCT Review Team) Olufuye, Jimson – African ICT Alliance
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	• Impact of the expansion of the Internet's namespace via ICANN's New gTLD Program. • Reviews taking place and the PDP process for a subsequent gTLD process. • Stakeholder statements on IDNs, 2 letter country-codes; the gTLD health index, and Community Names. • Community assessment of Reviews should be complete before any new gTLD application process • Inequality on regional take-up of gTLDs in the previous Round and how this should be addressed in any subsequent application process • Protection of geographic names and two-letter country codes
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	gTLD overview presentation: • That only 20 "new" names were currently still to be contracted and delegates; and some of these may be withdrawn; with others have issues; such as name collisions • That a lot of progress had been made on the different Reviews; though work still to do; • On the TMCH Review – Report published in Jan for comment • On the Root Stability Study – Draft Report out until 20 December and final in April; • On the Policy Processes for a new application process (the PDP on Subsequent procedures) was noted open to all and the Review on Protection Mechanisms which will feed into it; • On the PD process ICANN did not see completion before

	2018 when Board would then need to Review;
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	This was a well-attended and constructive session in which the panelists were able to impart significant information on both the Reviews taking place and the PDP process for a subsequent gTLD process. There were also stakeholder statements on IDNs, 2 letter country-codes; the gTLD health index, and Community Names. In the discussion that followed there was much interest in the different review processes and how these (when complete) would lead into the policy agreement for any new gTLD applications. There was complete agreement on need for Community assessment of Reviews before any new application process. There were concerns raised about the significant inequality on regional take-up of gTLDs in the previous Round and how this should be addressed in any subsequent application process. Concerns were also raised on the protection of geographic names and two-letter country codes.
Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)	There are no specific follow-ups, though it is clear that all interested parties should involver themselves (as least as Observers) in the on-going Policy Development process for a subsequent gTLD process. Nigel Hickson (nigel.hickson@icann.org) happy to steer interested parties.