

15<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

Development and Public Responsibility Department (DPRD)  
ICANN

**Sub: Comments on the Projected FY17 Improvements Draft.**

Dear Madam/ Sir,

At the outset, I thank the Development and Public Responsibility Department (DPRD) of ICANN for seeking comments from the community on the Projected FY17 Improvements Draft of the ICANN fellowship Program's Application Process.

As an Alumni of the ICANN Fellowship Program, who has benefitted immensely from this program, I am pleased to submit my comments on the same.

I support the Projected FY17 Improvements Draft and welcome the suggested revision to open the process for deserving candidates from all across the globe following a merit based system, while emphasizing on diversity, especially gender, region (underserved regions) and financial constraints.

Sharing below a few suggestions to make the process more transparent and inclusive,

- For removing any gaps in understanding amongst applicants, it would be pertinent if the term "reasonable" of "applicants with reasonable knowledge" is elaborated.
- While support for deserving candidates from Civil Society, Technical Community, Academia and Government should be a priority, however, since in most instances Business Community is well funded, the circumstances under which the applicants from this community will be supported financially should be outlined so that only genuine and deserving candidates get the opportunity.
- ICANN should also deliberate in formulating a plan to use the experience of Alumni, especially those who have attended more than three fellowships. ICANN may think of assigning them to Coach or Mentor new Fellows not only during the meeting, but for sometime after that (the time frame could be decided by ICANN). Such an initiative would help to build a stronger ICANN Community.

- Further, while reviewing the applications for Fellowship, in places where there are no ICANN officials, the Fellowship committee may also think of taking the feedback from the local Alumni on the candidates engagement in national or local level initiatives.

Thanking you and looking forward for favorable consideration of suggestions to make the Fellowship process more inclusive.

Regards,

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