

Registries Stakeholder Group Statement

Issue: Registries Stakeholder Group comments on the ICANN Fellowship Program Application Process Review

Date statement submitted: August 3, 2016

Reference URL: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/fellowship-application-process-review-2016-06-14-en>

First and foremost, the Registry Stakeholder Group (RySG) commends the Development and Public Responsibility Department (DPRD) for this initiative and appreciates the opportunity of providing comment for the Projected FY17 Improvements (“**IMPROVEMENTS**”) to the ICANN Fellowship Program.

1. In light of the vigor and diversity it has brought to the ICANN community, the RySG fully supports the continuous improvement of the Fellowship Program to maintain its success. It has invaluable facilitated the participation from traditionally underrepresented regions.

2. As the Fellowship Program is of great importance to ICANN’s overall outreaching and awareness raising, we believe it is both necessary and appropriate that these improvements were developed to reflect the voices of the ICANN communities.

3. **“ICANN Fellowship Program: Review of Application process Supporting Research”** states that ICANN uses World Bank’s list of “Country and Lending Groups” to define the “underserved and/or

disadvantaged community” and its annual updates has created problem. While agreeing with the inconvenience these updates have brought, we encourage ICANN to look at comparative grant programs and maybe change to more stable and consistent standards.

4. The RySG welcomes the consideration of taking gender into account during the selection process.

Thank you again for the comment opportunity and we appreciate your consideration of the above.