

To The ICANN New gTLD Board Committee

Geneva, 14 May 2013

FIBA Comments on GAC Advice.

The Fédération Internationale de Basketball, applicant for .BASKETBALL, appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to the ICANN Board regarding the GAC Advice set forth in the Beijing Communiqué.

The recommendation enumerated by the GAC in Section IV(1)(e) – Community Support for Applications recognizes the significance of prioritizing applications that have worldwide community support:

e. Community Support for Applications - The GAC advises the Board: (i) that in those cases where a community, which is clearly impacted by a set of new gTLD applications in contention, has expressed a collective and clear opinion on those applications, such opinion should be duly taken into account, together with all other relevant information.

FIBA fully supports the GAC's recommendations and strongly requests adoption by the ICANN Board.

The consideration of community support as a prioritizing factor in the new gTLD process was initially highlighted back in November 2012 through the Early Warning process. Two governments (UK and Greece) issued Early Warnings advising the prioritization of applicants that have their own community world governing body (such as FIBA) and that have demonstrable support from their respective communities over competing applicants with neither the support of nor any affiliation to such community (See GAC Early Warnings – November 21, 2012). These GAC members recognized that these particular community applicants were best-placed, as trusted and respected representatives of their communities, to ensure responsible and measured growth for these new gTLDs.

Now the entire GAC agrees that the communities' opinion must play a prominent role in this process, particularly where the string is part of a contention set.



In our case, FIBA is the world governing body for the sport of basketball, formed by 213 national federations throughout the world. Its mission is to develop and promote the game of basketball as well as unite the global basketball community. Our global basketball community has repeatedly voiced its opinion on multiple fronts throughout this new gTLD process.

Through public comments to ICANN, letters to GAC members, and support in the objection process, the basketball community clearly prefers FIBA (as the world governing body) to be the trusted steward of the .BASKETBALL string. Most importantly, the community expressed significant concern and objection to entrusting the competing applicants (with no affiliation to basketball) with the development and growth of this new domain space. Failure to consider these valid concerns and to allow applicants with no community support and in fact, significant opposition to delegation of the string, threatens the integrity of the new gTLD process. It diminishes the importance of the communities' opinions and dissuades current and future world governing bodies from seeking expansion in the new gTLD arena.

FIBA urges the Board to heed the GAC's Advice and strongly consider the communities' recommendations in the new gTLD delegation process.

Respectfully submitted,

FIBA

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