

## **ISPCP Comments on New gTLD Auction Proceeds Discussion Paper**

### **Comments:**

The Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers operate Internet backbone networks and/or provide access to Internet and related services to End Users. We are key players on the Internet, and have an essential role in its stability and development. The Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency seeks to provide public comment on the New gTLD Auction Proceeds Discussion Paper.

As a constituency, the ISPCP supports the idea of a CWG to be created by the GNSO to deal with the new gTLD auction proceeds. We support the principles laid down in the Discussion Paper with regards to the process envisaged to address the topic. In anticipation of this CWG, the ISPCP seeks to preview a proposal we are developing in anticipation of this bottom-up process.

### **Proposal Preview:**

We know that many different interested parties are attempting to influence where these auction funds are going to be employed. No doubt there are many worthy causes out there, all of which could greatly benefit from this large cash windfall. However, we believe it is important for the use of these funds to be used only for a purpose directly linked to the needs of the global root within the changed TLD landscape. We should look at the effects of the new gTLD program, and use the proceeds in a manner that benefits the ecosystem as a whole, to aid the ecosystem in modernizing to deal with the modern domain root and TLD landscape.

One of ICANN's core missions is to preserve the security, stability and global interoperability of the Internet. Since the introduction of the new gTLDs, work has significantly escalated - as a requirement of the new gTLD program - on the following two issue areas, which served to undermine that key mission:

- Universal Acceptance of TLDs, including IDN and EAI issues
- Name Collisions

To date, ICANN has funded multiple projects to try to address both issues. However, there are always lengthy conversations about ICANN's remit, and how many resources can be applied to issues such as these - especially when much of the work is 'outreach' work that extends beyond the ICANN community.

In response to the New gTLD Auction Proceeds Discussion Paper, we seek to ask this group formulating the plan for how the auction proceeds will be applied to ensure that a process will be set up that would include the following idea, which we will preview for you here:

Acknowledging that these auction proceeds are a one-time windfall that will not, and should not, be collected again in future rounds, we propose we take this moment to ensure that we have funds that will allow the ICANN community access to necessary funds to address current and future outreach needs as the global root continues to change and mature. We seek to propose a **Global Technical Outreach Endowment**.

A **Global Technical Outreach Endowment** would fund outreach endeavors associated with issues surrounding the security and stability of the global root, with UA adoption and name collision outreach as primary examples. More examples may come as time goes on.

The Endowment could be managed as a separate line item within the current ICANN budget process, or a new structure could be built to administer the funds. Normal operations could be funded by the dividends of the Endowment, but the Endowment could be drawn down as necessary during times of dramatic requirement, as determined by the fund administrators.

Ultimately, this would be a clear source of funding for issues that are clearly tangential to, though essential to, ICANN's core remit. Let's set up a system that will allow for this submission, as we believe it to be the most responsible way to utilize these one-time auction proceeds.

On behalf of ISPCP,

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