HIGH SECURITY ZONE TLD FINAL REPORT
(11 March – 7 April 2011)

KEY POINTS

- The High Security Zone TLD (HSTLD) Advisory Group (the "Group") was formed in response to public comment about the importance of improving the security property of zones and the associated registries. The exploration of a HSTLD Program was initially identified as a measure to mitigate malicious conduct in new gTLDs.

- The Group commenced its effort in December 2009 and worked through February 2010 to study and develop proposed solutions for establishing a High Security Zone TLD Program. During the course of its work, the Group published two status reports for public comment to inform the community of its progress. The first snapshot was made available on 22 February 2010 and the second snapshot was published on 16 June 2010.

- This Final Report documents the history of the Group's work, how it was conducted in accordance with the Affirmation of Commitments, and consultations it conducted with subject-matter and industry experts. The report also includes descriptions of the shared positions among its members as well as a recommendation for future work that could be done by a community working group comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of experts.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

The two comments received were provided by members of the Group. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Brunner-Williams used the public comment forum to express their opinions about how the Group's work was conducted including how the methodology impacted the Group's ability to reach a consensus recommendation on a HSTLD Program. Due to the extensive nature of the comments and that they are personal reflections on the Group and its work, ICANN has not summarized them and encourages interested parties to read them in their entirety.

ANALYSIS AND PROPOSED POSITION

The Group concluded its work with the publication of its Final Report and there is no analysis required or proposed position.

NEXT STEPS WITH HSTLD PROGRAM

ICANN may undertake an additional consultation to assess the community's interest in pursuing more work and what role ICANN could potentially play in that process. As noted in the Final Report, there was consensus within the Group that more work could be done to develop a HSTLD Program, but that it must be facilitated by a community working group comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of experts. Some members of the Group that have suggested that any future effort should deconstruct the current Program

model into a series of business and operational processes, and that the Program should make use of established auditing or control standards that are currently employed such as ISO27XXX. In parallel, the aforementioned community working group should consider and work with auditing and assessment standards organizations to define DNS control elements that are new, different or unfamiliar to traditional assessors. Lastly, it has been recommended that any group assembled to participate in the ongoing evolution of a HSTLD Program establish a common understanding of what is meant by a "high security TLD" and develop metrics to support that label.

RESPONDENTS

Mikey O'Connor
Eric Brunner-Williams