

The Joint Applicant Support (JAS) Working Group shares the concerns of the ALAC noted in its Statement on the Applicant Support Implementation Program and fully endorses the recommendations for relief proposed by the ALAC. We believe that:

- The Board should apply Reserve Funds obtained from Applicant fees to reducing the fee for approved support applicants.
- Apply its allocation of \$2M USD as a seed to fund Registry capacity building in developing economies
- Mandate greater specificity and clarity for financial criteria to be used for support applicants, especially with regard to the possibility for forfeiture of their application fee and their disqualification from the gTLD program, including the appeal process of such disqualification
- Pay more attention to the fund raising issue in general and, in particular, the pronounced lack of response to the JAS WG's recommendation for a charitable foundation to be raised for this purpose
- More clarity is required on the composition of the Support Application Review Panel (SARP)
- New gTLD Outreach activities have redlined certain areas of the world where that outreach is even more desirable

Further to the last item, the WG is very concerned that the communications plan developed for the Applicant Support Program and those activities to date may be unfit to purpose and, underperforming. Since the program is intended to bring actors from middle and low income countries into this rung of the digital economy, we are not satisfied that the message is reaching those it ought with the clarity it must.

We are particularly concerned that the communications channels being employed are actually themselves party to these disabilities. We urge the remedial adoption of old media channels in MDCs/LDCs, inclusive of radio, for communicating the availability and benefits of the program.