

The International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition, Inc. (“IACC”) is the world’s oldest and largest organization representing exclusively the interests of companies concerned with trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy. Our members consist of over 200 corporations, trade associations, and professional firms and represent total annual revenues of approximately \$750 billion. Our brand and copyright owner members represent a broad cross-section of industries, and include many of the world’s best known companies in the apparel, automotive, consumer goods, entertainment, pharmaceutical, and other product sectors. The IACC is committed to working with government and industry partners in the United States and elsewhere, to strengthen IP protection by encouraging improvements in the law and the allocation of greater political priority and resources, as well as by raising awareness regarding the enormous – and growing – harm caused by IP violations.

The IACC appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in regards to Annex I of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Advice from the Beijing meeting regarding “Safeguards on New gTLDs”.

The IACC urges ICANN to adopt major elements of the GAC Safeguards in order to increase the likelihood that the new gLTD program will achieve the stated goals of expanding competition and enhancing consumer choice.

The six GAC Safeguards – WHOIS verification and checks, mitigating abusive activity, security checks, documentation and maintenance of statistical reports, establishment of a complaint mechanism, and enforcement penalties – are simple to implement and could significantly reduce the risk of abusive registrations in all new gTLDs. The GAC Safeguards are neither unprecedented nor unanticipated, and are similar to features that appear in the revised Registrar Accreditation Agreement. In fact, many new gTLD applicants have anticipated and addressed these safeguards in their applications. Requiring *all* registrants to comply with the Safeguards will create a safer and more lawful gTLD space.

Finally, if ICANN does not require the GAC Safeguards for all gTLDs, the Safeguards should be, at a minimum, be required for those gTLDs listed as “sensitive strings” by the GAC (pp 8-9). IACC members are continually combating online infringement and are highly dependent on intellectual property protection; as such, the Safeguards are essential for strings focused on their sectors.

ICANN should continue to work with GAC, as well as applicants and members of the community, including intellectual property owners, to integrate the GAC Safeguards into the remaining stages of the new gTLD process.

The IACC thanks ICANN in advance for its consideration of our comments, and is available at any time for clarification or additional input.