



20 December 2018

Ms. Katrina Sasaki
Chair, Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

RE: Representation of ccTLDs on IFRT

Dear Katrina:

I am writing on behalf of the ICANN Board, in response to your letter addressed to me as ICANN's Chairman of the Board, dated 6 December 2018, regarding the ccNSO's selection of a non-ccNSO member from a ccTLD for the IANA Naming Function Review Team (IFRT).

Thank you for the background on the ccNSO's efforts to find a qualified candidate and the difficulties in meeting the Bylaws stipulations for the third ccNSO selected member.

The Board is not in a position to agree to an interpretation of the Bylaws that is not aligned with the community-developed requirements of this review as defined through the IANA Steward Transition process. The Board understands the issue of the change in membership within the ccNSO and how that might impact the ability to complete this selection. However, a change to the defined composition of the IFRT should be a broader community conversation, with the other entities represented on the team having an opportunity to consider if they agree with the ccNSO's proposal to have a third seat on the IFR allocated to a ccNSO member, which could be replaced by a non-ccNSO member ccTLD representative at a later time.

We understand that there is a separate Bylaws issue relating to the composition of the IFR for which ICANN org is planning an outreach to the appointing entities, and we have requested ICANN org to raise this issue as well in that outreach.

While there is not time to do so for this IFR, if the ccNSO or other parts of the community would like to propose a change to the Bylaws to improve the effectiveness of future IFRs, the Board and ICANN org would be willing to facilitate and support the Bylaws-mandated process to consider a Bylaws amendment.

Thank you for your efforts on selecting candidates for the IFRT and we look forward to all the appointing organizations working towards a final IFRT slate.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cherine Chalaby", with a horizontal line underneath.

Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

cc: Cyrus Namazi, Vice President, Global Domains Division
cc: Kim Davies, President, Public Technical Identifiers (PTI)
cc: Cherine Chalaby, Chair, ICANN Board
cc: Lise Fuhr, Chair, PTI Board
cc: Bart Boswinkel, Vice President, Policy Development and ccNSO Relations