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Subject: Cities and ICANN Representation

In adopting its new TLD policy at its June 2008 meeting in Paris, the ICANN agreed that cities were to be eligible for TLDs. This long awaited action acknowledged the need for, and the advantages, this vital and utilitarian Internet resource can bring to the operation of cities.

With historic, organized, and responsible institutions such as Barcelona, Berlin, New York, and Paris lining up for TLDs, both DNS stability and competition will be fostered with the arrival of city TLDs. And just last month several cities joined to submit an application to ICANN for the formation of a city TLD constituency within the GNSO (Generic Name Support Organization). The completion of this application process, and the issuance of city TLDs, should enable the inclusion of city TLDs in the bottom up coordination of the DNS's technical operation.

With cities' imminent arrival of within the DNS sphere, it's time to consider the impact and role city TLDs should have in Internet governance. In that regard we submit this comment on representation of cities within the ICANN processes.

The White Paper was prescient in stating:

The development of sound, fair, and widely accepted policies for the management of DNS will depend on input from the broad and growing community of Internet users.

In thinking about representation in ICANN's processes, the NTIA should consider cities' growing share of the global population - now 50% heading toward 70% in 2030 - and that cities and their residents, governments, businesses, civic organizations, neighborhoods, etc. will play the leading role integrating the DNS and Internet with the human population and the systems it was created to serve.

Therefore, we recommend that in negotiating the new relationship with ICANN, the NTIA should negotiate for formal representation of cities within the ICANN's executive decision level.

Thomas Lowenhaupt, Chair

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