



11 February 2021

To: ICANN Board  
From: SSAC Chair  
Via: SSAC Liaison to the ICANN Board

We hereby forward to you a recent SSAC report, SAC114: SSAC Comments on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Draft Final Report.

This is a comment to the ICANN Board that was initiated in response to a call for comments on the Draft Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process (Final Report). Due to time constraints and issues the SSAC saw during its review that went beyond the scope of the Final Report, the SSAC was not able to complete its comments in time to submit them through the Working Group's Public Comment process. Instead, the SSAC analyzed the Draft Final Report holistically and prepared this comment to the ICANN Board. The SSAC also engaged directly with the Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group during the public comment period to provide direct verbal feedback on various items within the report. The SSAC would like to note its gratitude to the Working Group for that opportunity and the great deal of hard work that went into preparing their thorough Final Report.

While at the time of this writing, the GNSO Council is still considering the Final Report, we anticipate that it will be referred to the Board for consideration largely as-is. We look at this event as an opportunity to take a fresh, holistic look at the overall issues facing the community in considering further expansion of the gTLD namespace that go beyond the scope of the Final Report. We have put forward questions and recommendations in our report that tackle those from a Security, Stability, and Resiliency perspective within the SSAC remit. We did not address other perspectives outside our remit that will need to be considered in any eventual ICANN Board actions.

SAC114 contains seven recommendations for the ICANN Board with the intention of considering comments specific to the Final Report as part of their deliberations of that report. Overall, the SSAC is concerned about proceeding with subsequent rounds of the New gTLD program without addressing several fundamental issues related to the security and stability of the domain name system. The SSAC addresses its concerns in Recommendations 1-3 in SAC114. The SSAC also provides specific feedback on the Final Report in Recommendations 4-7.

Per our usual practice of submitting publications to the Board 48 hours prior to publication we are hereby submitting it to the Board.

The SSAC welcomes comments from the Board concerning this document and thanks the Board for its consideration.

Rod Rasmussen  
Chair, ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee