30 April 2019

SUBJECT: Cross-Community Engagement Group on Internet Governance (CCEG-IG)

Dear Katrina, Maureen and Olivier,

As one of the original chartering organizations of the Cross-Community Working Group on Internet Governance (CCWG-IG), the GNSO Council would like to provide our views on the status and future of the current Cross-Community Engagement Group on Internet Governance (CCEG-IG).

The GNSO Council continues to see value in community engagement on issues related to Internet Governance. However, at this time, we do not see a need to formally charter the current CCEG-IG. Rather, we believe the group can and should continue engaging in an open and informal manner.

As you will recall, the CCWG-IG was originally chartered in 2014. Subsequent to that, the ICANN community came together and developed a Uniform Framework of Principles and Recommendations for Cross Community Working Groups. With the acceptance of that Uniform Framework, the previously-chartered CCWG-IG was overtaken by events and its charter became inconsistent with the new principles agreed upon by the community. In light of this development, following substantial consideration, the GNSO Council resolved on 24 August 2017 to request that the CCWG-IG consider and propose a new structure for its work, and the GNSO withdrew as a chartering organization of the CCWG-IG.

On 15 February 2018, the GNSO Council received a new proposal to consider and charter a new Cross-Community Engagement Group on Internet Governance (CCEG-IG). After further discussion and consideration, the GNSO Council decided that such a charter is unnecessary at this time. As noted above, it is our current view that the CCEG-IG does not require a charter and can continue to engage in an ad hoc manner as events warrant. We acknowledge and thank those who worked diligently to develop the proposed new charter.

Looking ahead, if it becomes clear the informal CCEG-IG requires more structure and community oversight, the GNSO Council will be available to revisit this topic. Meanwhile, we look forward to continuing to engage with ccNSO and ALAC and the rest of the ICANN community on the important Internet Governance issues surrounding and impacting ICANN and its mission.

Thank you for your patience as the GNSO Council assessed this matter and reached our conclusion. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Keith Drazek, GNSO Chair
Rafik Dammak, GNSO Council Vice Chair
Pam Little, GNSO Council Vice Chair