13 December 2013

David Archbold
Chair, ICANN Geographic Regions Working Group

Dear David,

Written notification and feedback on the work of the Geographic Regions Working Group

First, we would like to acknowledge the considerable amount of effort that has gone into your work and take the opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for that work.

Second, we would like to acknowledge some key areas which we strongly support, in particular the following points:

1. **Executive Summary item 7:** *" … provide flexibility to individual communities and structures within ICANN … "* by permitting them to *" … follow the same framework as the Board, or develop their own mechanisms (with Board oversight) for ensuring geographic diversity within their own organizations."*
2. **Executive Summary Item 8: *" …*** *Staff should also develop and implement a process to permit stakeholder communities in countries or territories to pursue, if they wish, re-assignment to a geographic region that they consider to be more appropriate for their jurisdiction."*

Third, we would like to call attention to one area which raises questions for us as follows:

3. **Executive Summary Item 9**: *" … the Working Group recommends that ICANN seek ways to recognize and accommodate Special Interest Groups to promote the interests and unique attributes of stakeholder communities that may not clearly fit into the formal top down regional structures. These "bottom-up" groupings would be complementary to the formal regional framework, and would not replace it. They would not form any part of ICANN's decision-making structure but would be free to lobby for the support of elected representatives."*

   Here, some clarification of what is meant by the last sentence would be helpful. Assuming we understand the intent, we would suggest that such groups work within existing structures as much as possible to communicate their concerns.

We thank you again for your efforts in this regard and for the opportunity to provide input.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Robinson
Chair, ICANN GNSO Council

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