

Rod Beckstrom
President
ICANN

Janis Karklins
Chair
GAC

Dear Sirs

I would like to apply as a volunteer review team member on the Accountability and Transparency review team, representing the GNSO.

My full name is William Hamilton Currie and my contact details are contained in my CV. I am employed by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) as Communications and Information Policy Programme Manager. I affirm that I am a South African citizen and resident in South Africa, and hence fall within the ICANN geographic region of Africa. I am willing to commit at least ten hours a week during the review period as well as participate in the planned meetings or teleconferences. I have no financial ownership or senior management/leadership interest in registries, registrars or other entities with a stake in ICANN. I am a member of the Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC). I will not represent any other party or person through my participation on the review team.

I am a relatively new member of the GNSO community. However, I believe I bring useful skills and attributes that would be relevant to the accountability and transparency review team. I have experience in participatory policy development in the telecommunications sphere. I coordinated a bottom-up telecommunication policy process in South Africa in the 1990s which engaged all stakeholders in the development of a White Paper on Telecommunications Policy.

I worked in a leadership position in the South African communications regulator dealing with issues related to the internet and telecommunications. In that respect I have a solid understanding of accountability and transparency issues that an institution which deals with logical resources faces. I understand the dynamics of political interference and issues of regulatory capture which are relevant to ICANN with respect to issues of the accountability of its decision-making processes to its community and other stakeholders.

I have been engaged in questions of internet governance through my work as Communications and Information Policy Programme Manager for the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), which is a global civil society network that addresses communications and information policy questions through the frame of social justice (www.apc.org). APC has played a leading role in developing multi-stakeholder approaches to internet governance in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and has advocated for the greater internationalisation of ICANN, including supporting the expiry of the Joint Project Agreement between ICANN and the US Department of Commerce in 2009. APC has worked on a Code of Good Practice on Information, Participation and Transparency in Internet Governance together with the Council of Europe and the UN Economic Commission for Europe over the last few years. I have also responded to ICANN public comment calls on the issue of accountability on behalf of APC. This civil society perspective is different to that of

governments and the private sector and would be useful to bring into play in the review process.

I think the approach of participatory evaluation that ICANN plans to use in the review process is the best approach for a bottom-up organisation like ICANN and I believe I can bring a fresh eye to the process. Lastly, I am an independent thinker, trained in logical argument and the analysis of information, while sensitive to the human dynamics of institutions and their operations. These attributes will be of value to the review team.

Yours sincerely

Willie Currie

March 7, 2010