



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT 26 2018

Mr. Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536, USA

Dear Chairman Chalaby:

NTIA continues to be a strong supporter of the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance, including through our participation as the U.S. representative to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Paramount to the success of the multistakeholder approach is trust in the institutions that make decisions about the Internet's future. While the community has greatly improved ICANN's accountability through the IANA stewardship transition process, I am writing to raise a concern about an accountability deficit at ICANN.

Recent ICANN senior staff departures have highlighted that ICANN lacks post-employment restrictions. Given that ICANN, through the enforcement of its contracts with domain name registries and registrars, performs an industry self-regulatory function, it is necessary that conflicts of interest or appearance of unethical behavior be minimized. While the United States will recommend this issue be addressed in the third iteration of ICANN's Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3), which we expect to have had its initial meeting no later than June 2019, I encourage you to look into this now. One potential fix could be "cooling off periods" for ICANN employees that accept employment with companies involved in ICANN activities and programs. This is an ethical way to ensure that conflicts of interest or appearances of unethical behavior are minimized.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

David J. Redl

Cc: Göran Marby, CEO and President, ICANN