

To: Julf Helsingius, Chair of NCSG

From: Kathy Kleiman

Re: Motivation Statement for Travel Slot to ICANN80 in Kigali

Date: April 10, 2024

In accordance with the rules, of NCSG, I provide this Motivation Statement to the Chair of NCSG, and copy in ICANN support staff.

I understand that Stephanie Perrin will be unable to attend ICANN80, and we will miss her greatly. I apply for her slot and provide the following rationales. Please note that I have changed to the order to answer the first and fourth questions together, and the second and third.

A. Why I want to attend and why my Physical presence important for ICANN80.

NCSG is deeply involved in ICANN and finalizing the last details of the New gTLD Program and launching the Applicant Support Program alongside. I am deeply involved in both efforts, and spent ICANN79 running between meetings of the SubPro Small Team Plus, the SubPro IRT, and serving on the Plenary Session discussing Voluntary PICs and RVCs. I have been working closely with and mentoring Reema Moussa and Namra Naseer, who have also been participating on the Small Team Plus and in discussions on behalf of NCSG.

On the top of Voluntary Commitments, input is now coming to the Board from GAC and other groups outside the GNSO. We are continuing this discussion and very likely to be settling it in Kigali. On this critical issue involving keeping ICANN “in its mission” and out of content moderation, NCSG is playing a special role. At the NCUC Constituency’s Issues Forums at ICANN77 and ICANN78, we dedicated key discussions to our very deep concerns about the misuse of Voluntary Commitments in Round One, and the likelihood of using them in future rounds to avoid key commitments of ICANN in its Core Values and Fundamental Commitments, including bypassing competition, human rights, and commitment not to engage in content oversight.

NCSG and NCUC asked for this important issue to be raised and reviewed – and we got it. As we head into ICANN80, I’d like to be ready for anything that happens on Voluntary Commitments, and for the debates ahead. At ICANN79, I was invited onto the Plenary Panel by Becky Burr less than a week before it took place. If I similar opportunity opens, I’d like to be ready – NCSG has a very important and central role in this work, and serving as a guide to ICANN on this issue.

In addition, as a former member of the SubPro WG, I was very active in the last year in helping and supporting NCSG efforts on the Council SubPro Small Team and Small Team Plus discussions. We worked on Applicant Support and successfully pushed the Board to include much better “non-financial support” for Indigenous Peoples, Tribes, and NGOs if they are accepted into the Applicant Support Program as they are preparing their applications for New gTLDs and seeking good business, technical and legal advice.

Wrapping up the Applicant Support Program, and the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook, is likely to be the goal of ICANN80. As the finally decisions are made and compromises drawn, I would like to be there to

help NCSG in our work of protecting noncommercial New gTLD applicants, and protect the Applicant Support Program.

In addition, as a member of both the SubPro and RPM Working Groups, and with their IRTs coming to a close shortly, I would like to help lead NCSG's effort for a final review, and seeking that any final concerns are addresses at the meetings to take place in ICANN80. NCSG plays a major role in seeking clarity, comprehensiveness, and fairness in the New gTLD program.

- B. Evidence of full and verifiable engagement in Domain Name System policy deliberations and proof that I have previously attended calls and contributed to PDPs, NCSG Policy Committee meetings and other relevant policy and related meetings,

I was on both the RPM and SubPro Policy Development Process Working Groups, but that was not my original plan. As the ICANN record shows, I was Co-Chair of the Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP WG for the four years of its work, 2016-2020. Alongside Phil Corwin and Brian Beckham, I led dozens (hundreds?) of RPM meetings, working through each issue of the URS, Trademark Clearinghouse and Trademark Claims Notices. These meetings were once a week, and then twice a week. For years.

Because I did not see a strong and robust presence of NCSG in the SubPro Working Group, I joined it too and participated in dozens (hundreds?) of meetings over SubPro's final three years. For both WGs, I read hundreds of pages and provided edits for both of the extensive final reports.

I regularly attend and contribute to the NCSG Policy Meetings, in person and online, and lead many discussions (with slides). Recently, I have been actively involved in trying to get others to lead sessions at the Policy Meetings, and helping them organize presentations.

I commit to attending the ICANN meeting fully, being at the meeting venue every day, and presenting to the greatest extent possible at all NCSG meetings, constituency meetings, GNSO Council meetings, and PDP sessions for which I have expressed interest above.

Best regards,

Kathy Kleiman