

GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has issued advice to the ICANN Board of Directors regarding New gTLD applications. Please see Section IV of the [GAC Singapore Communiqué](#) for the full list of advice on individual strings, categories of strings, and strings that may warrant further GAC consideration.

Respondents should use this form to ensure their responses are appropriately tracked and routed to the ICANN Board for their consideration. Complete this form and submit it as an attachment to the ICANN Customer Service Center via your [CSC Portal](#) with the Subject, “[Application ID] Response to Singapore GAC Advice” (for example “1-111-11111 Response to Singapore GAC Advice”). All GAC Advice Responses to the GAC Singapore Communiqué must be received no later than 23:59:59 UTC on 02-May-2014.

Respondent:

Applicant Name	.music LLC
Application ID	1-959-51046
Applied for TLD (string)	MUSIC

Response:

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the GAC’s Singapore Communiqué. As a Community applicant with one string, we are grateful for the GAC’s repeated Advice from Beijing, Durban and Singapore regarding applicants which have demonstrable community support.

The music community is vulnerable to online theft on one hand and yet on the other hand much of it is subject to fixed royalty rates set by government statutes. The GAC recognized the “MUSIC” string as sensitive and therefore subject to Category 1 safeguards.

As we noted in response to the Beijing Communiqué, these safeguards were “baked-in” to our application as originally submitted. This is reflective not only of our commitment to our community, but also of our commitment to serve the public interest. Accordingly, we are gratified that in the Singapore Communiqué the GAC advised ICANN “to continue to protect the public interest and improve outcomes for communities, and to work with the applicants in an open and transparent manner in an effort to assist those communities.”

We encourage the ICANN Board of Directors to accept this Advice and to develop a meaningful implementation plan.

From our perspective, it is important that the Community Priority Evaluation process reflect the GAC’s repeated Advice regarding “preferential treatment for all applications with have demonstrable community support.” This means not only following the established guidelines and scoring system as set out in the AGB, but also applying a

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holistic and “common sense” approach to ensure applications with substantial and demonstrable community support (such as ours), do in fact receive preferential treatment.

As a result, we would like to know what mechanisms are in place, or will be created, to ensure the GAC advice regarding Community applications will be taken into account by the EIU evaluators. Specifically, does the Board intend changing the scoring system from the current two points for applicants demonstrating community support (Criterion 4) to something greater, reducing the total points required for applicants scoring points for Community support, will there be another mechanism created in addition to the current scoring system to reflect community support, or does the Board think the current scoring system meets the requirements of GAC advice?

We are also interested to know the response to the question asked by the GAC in item #4 of its attachment to the Singapore Communiqué: “Is ICANN able to provide more detailed information confirming that rules for auctions are consistent with its Bylaws, its not-for profit status, the objectives of the new gTLD Program and the Applicant Guidebook to promote competition, diversity, innovation and consumer choice?”

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to make these comments in response to the GAC’s Singapore Communiqué.