

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 Durban 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 GAC Advice” (for example “1-111-11111 Response to GAC Advice”). All GAC Advice Responses to the GAC Durban Communiqué must be received no later than 23:59:59 UTC on 23-August-2013.

Respondent:

Applicant Name	Asia Spa and Wellness Promotion Council Limited
Application ID	1-1309-81322
Applied for TLD (string)	SPA

Response:

Dear ICANN Board & GAC,

The Asia Spa and Wellness Promotion Council (ASWPC) thanks the GAC for issuing further advice to the ICANN Board.

ASWPC is in agreement with the GAC advice regarding “.SPA”. We believe it is important to acknowledge and respect the origins of the term “SPA”, which is clearly derived from the name of the City of Spa in Belgium (i.e. the geographical origin that also conveys the meaning of its use), as well as to put in place concrete policies to mitigate against abuse.

ASWPC notes that the GAC advice is consistent with the Applicant Guidebook Section 2.2.1.4.2 on Geographic Names Requiring Government Support (Bullet 2) that emphasizes “for purposes associated with the city name” and not necessarily only for the use of or by the city. In the case of “.SPA”, all applicants for “.SPA” expressed the use of the gTLD for purposes associated with springs and curative powers of mineral waters and environments promoting health and wellness, which derive its origins from the City of Spa.

The ASWPC proposal is the ONLY application for “.SPA” that proposed specific implementable policies to mitigate against potential abuses corresponding to the protection of the City of Spa. These special policies are discussed in detail in our responses to #20e, #22 and #29 in our original proposal. They include Sunrise provisions to ensure that the prior rights of others are not infringed upon, as well as ongoing measures to address and curb abuse. We believe that these measures must be taken into consideration in the Board’s decision regarding the GAC advice.

GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



Finally, ASWPC is happy to report that it has reached an agreement with the relevant party as expressed/required in the GAC Durban Communiqué. We also understand that ASWPC is the only applicant for “.SPA” that has reached such an agreement. We look forward to proceed (beyond initial evaluation) with the development and implementation of the “.SPA” gTLD for the global spa and wellness community.

Sincerely,

William Ng
Chairman
Asia Spa and Wellness Promotion Council Limited (ASWPC)