

April 18, 2002

Vinton G. Cerf  
Chairman of the Board  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
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Dear Vinton,

This letter is in regard to the reassignment of the .ORG top level domain. The Registry Agreement for .ORG stipulates that the current registry maintainers divest themselves of .ORG by December 31st of this year. In real terms, we have been informed by collaborating NGO organizations, that the deadline for organizing bids is a real challenge, especially for developing world participation. Our organization has two concerns regarding this process.

We are concerned that the process to determine a successor to the current .ORG registry operator is proceeding too quickly for organizations in the developing world. We are also concerned that the .ORG changes are taking place in conjunction with ongoing ICANN reform and that, as a result, there is a risk that a range of potential successor operators of .ORG are reluctant to become involved in the bidding process. To ensure that a thorough and meaningful process of coalition building among international organizations is able to include developing world participants we believe that a six month extension in the process would be advisable.

For over 30 years our work at International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has taken place through partnerships with a wide network of Southern organisations. IDRC has followed Internet governance in the context of our ICT for Development programing which supports research on telecentre, public policy and related connectivity issues.

It is our experience that effective processes of participation and consultation take considerable time to organize. In order for the .ORG RFP process to attract the best selection of potential successor operators we respectfully request an extension to the process. We believe that this would be best for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Richard Fuchs, Director of Program Area  
Information and Communication Technologies for Development, IDRC

c.c.: M. Stuart Lynn, President and CEO, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
Louis Touton, Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
Philip Sheppard, Chair DNSO Names Council