

7 March 2020

David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

United Nations Human Rights Council
Office of the High Commissioner

RE: Joint Communication from Special Procedures

Dear Mr. Kaye and Mr. Voule,

Thank you for your letter dated [20 December 2019](#). We appreciate your interest in the proposed change of control of Public Interest Registry (PIR) from the Internet Society (ISOC) to Ethos Capital.

Since learning of this proposed acquisition, ICANN has consistently and repeatedly urged ISOC, PIR, and Ethos Capital to act in an open and transparent manner throughout this process. ICANN has published several announcements and blogs to update the community, along with the correspondence relating to the transaction. Recently, ICANN raised several questions to ISOC and PIR (referenced below). We anticipate that these responses will provide a better understanding of the proposed structure, help us to evaluate the request, and bring additional transparency to questions raised.

For convenience, I've provided several of our recent updates:

- **11 January 2020** – Updates on PIR documentation (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2020-01-11-en>)
- **30 January 2020** – California Attorney General letter regarding .ORG change of control (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2020-01-30-en>)
- **13 February 2020** – Information Requests for ISOC (<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/botterman-to-camarillo-13feb20-en.pdf>)
- **19 February 2020** - Information Requests for PIR (<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/jeffrey-to-nevett-19feb20-en.pdf>)

You may now be aware that on 21 February 2020, Ethos Capital issued a [press release](#) conveying its proposal to amend the .ORG Registry Agreement to include enforceable commitments related to limitations on pricing, safeguarding against censorship and accountability in the form of Public Interest Commitments. We encourage those interested to communicate their views about the registry operations and/or policies directly to ISOC, PIR, and/or Ethos Capital.

We continue to thoughtfully and thoroughly evaluate the proposed acquisition to ensure that the .ORG registry remains secure, reliable, and stable. In accordance with the Registry Agreement,

ICANN will apply a standard of reasonableness in making its determination on whether to provide or withhold its consent to the request. As of 21 February 2020, PIR has agreed to extend the deadline for ICANN's response to 20 March 2020. The ICANN Board and ICANN.org appreciate your correspondence. Thank you for your interest and input in this topic.

Sincerely,



Göran Marby
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)