

**STATEMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONSTITUENCY ON
PROPOSED CHANGES REGARDING NUMBER OF GNSO COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

The Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on ICANN's proposed changes to its bylaws to allow three representatives of each constituency to sit on the GNSO Council, the body within ICANN responsible for developing DNS policy for gTLDs.

During the ICANN reform process, the ICANN Board amended the by-laws to reduce the number of GNSO Council representatives from three to two per constituency. *See* Proposed Change to ICANN Bylaws Regarding Number of GNSO Council Representatives - Public Comment Forum, at <http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-18mar05.htm>. Since completion of that process, ICANN has re-examined the desirability of reducing the number of representatives. Both an external and internal review of the GNSO Council on this issue determined that having three representatives, overall, provided more benefits than harms in the functioning of the GNSO Council. *See id.*

The IPC fully supports the recommendation that the bylaws be changed to allow three GNSO representatives of each constituency as opposed to two. We believe the important interests of ensuring geographic diversity, and spreading resources among multiple GNSO Representatives will be fulfilled by this proposal.

We also support enshrining this change in the by-laws, rather than extending the "transition period" under which each constituency has continued to have three GNSO Council representatives. IPC amended its by-laws to reflect the reduction in the number of representatives; the extension of the "transition period" was disruptive to us because our by-laws no longer provided for a third representative. Further amendment to IPC by-laws will be needed to account for the switch back to three representatives. We ask that, if this amendment to the ICANN by-laws is adopted, it be accompanied by a Board resolution not to make further changes in the number of representatives for at least five years.

We look forward to working with ICANN, if need be, to implement this policy.