To: William Donovan

Date: 5 February 2019

Re: Request No. 20190106-1

This is in response to your request for documentary information (Request), which was submitted on 6 January 2019 through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN org) Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP). For reference, a copy of your Request is attached to the email forwarding this Response.

Items Requested

Your Request seeks disclosure of the following information related to the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG):

1. What translucent procedure was adopted in appointment and selection of UA Ambassador?

2. Why feedback and voting from community was not been *[sic]* done for their selection?

3. How many individuals put on *[sic]* for this position till now?

4. What was done with those solicitations?

5. What was the terms for which they were been positioned?

6. What were the roles and responsibilities of these individuals in *there [sic]* region?

7. What were the monitoring benchmarks?

8. What is the evolution testimony of each individual?

9. When UASG's Code of Conduct, which was on no occasion obtainable on UASG website or communal, can Chair take any such stand of withdrawing posting privileges of the Community members?

10. Why UASG administrative group is irresolute in responding *[sic]* retorts of questions?

11. Why should ICANN intercede and take action against individuals responsible for this misconduct done with community members by Chair of UASG?

12. ICANN and its supporting groups are always community driven, can individuals elected by community here can self-decide to exterminate community opinion and tangential them?

Response

I.   Background Information

A. Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) is an Internet community initiative that was founded in February 2015 and tasked with undertaking activities that will effectively promote the Universal Acceptance (UA) of all valid domain names and email addresses. (*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/UASG003-160823-en-onesheet-digital.pdf.) The group is made up of members from more than 120 companies, governments and community groups. (*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/UASG011-160823-en-faq-digital.pdf.) The group's primary objective is to help software developers and website owners understand how to update their systems to keep pace with an evolving domain name system (DNS). (*See* https://uasg.tech/.) The UASG makes information about the group available on its website at https://uasg.tech/.

The UASG operates independently from ICANN organization but receives administrative and logistical support from ICANN org in the following specific areas:

- Procurement, legal and accounting services
- Operation of an incident logging service
- Evaluation of UA readiness of popular websites
- Communications
- Travel logistics
- Global Engagement executives raising awareness of UA & EAI in relevant forum
- Influencing the Influencers by raising awareness during speeches and presentation
- Providing technical guidance, advice, and awareness – particularly in technical forum
- Providing real-world experience and advocacy in getting UA & EAI Ready
- Raising awareness and engaging with ICANN Constituencies
- Supporting UASG gatherings – physical and virtual

(*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Annual-Report%E2%80%93FY-2017.pdf.)

B. Composition and Participation in the UASG

The UASG is made up of ICANN community members as well as experts who do not necessarily participate in the ICANN Community. (*See* https://uasg.tech/uasg-charter/.)

Each member is counted on to contribute in some area of expertise needed by the UASG program. (*Id.*) While active volunteer participation is expected from the community, the UASG engages paid consultants as necessary to accomplish the goals set forth by the UASG leadership. (*Id.*) Anyone who is interested and passionate about Universal Acceptance may join the UASG discussion group and participate in group discussions through the "Get Involved" button. (*See* https://uasg.tech/contact/.)

The UASG itself is overseen by one Chair and two to three Vice-Chairs. (*See* https://uasg.tech/uasg-charter/.) The UASG Coordination Group, consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chairs, and a few issue leaders, sets rules of membership so that a group's composition is fit for its task and focus areas. (*Id.*)

The UASG intends participation to be multistakeholder and encourages all capable and interested parties to contribute to the effort. (*Id.*) As such, all UASG meetings are open to all and opportunities for remote participation are available when possible. (*Id.*) Similar to other community groups, those who take part in UASG meetings and discussions are required to adhere to the "Meeting Ground Rules" and UASG Expected Standards of Behavior. (*See* https://uasg.tech/uasg-charter/ and https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/UA-Expected-Standards-of-Behavior.pdf.)

C. The UA Ambassador Program

In January 2018, the UASG Coordination Group created the role of UA Ambassador. UA Ambassadors are well-respected, articulate, industry leaders, who are encouraged and supported to raise the issues of UA and Email Address Internationalization (EAI) within their respective spheres to a target audience of developers and Chief Information Officers (CIOs). (*See* https://uasg.tech/people/.) UA Ambassadors are selected by the UA Coordination Group. (*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.)

A Call for Expression of Interest for the UA Ambassador Program was published on 15 January 2018 on the USAG website. (*See* USAG "Help Wanted" page, https://uasg.tech/help-wanted/; https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.) The application process included a brief description of an applicant's organization and his/her role within that organization, a conflict of interest form, a brief biography, and answering the questions "why do you want to be a UA Ambassador?" and "how will you use the Ambassador status and funding?". (*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.) The selection criteria included the applicants' experience, understanding of UA & EAI, standing in their respective communities, and ability to raise awareness. (*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.) The selectors also consider collective diversity of ambassadors. (*Id.*) Once selected, the designation of UA Ambassador is for a period of twelve (12) months and renewable as a decision of the UA Coordination Group. (*Id.*) Currently, nine individuals have been appointed as UA Ambassadors. (*See* https://uasg.tech/people/.)

II. Your Request

The DIDP is a mechanism, developed through community consultation, to ensure that information contained in documents concerning ICANN org's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or control is made available to the public unless there is a compelling reason for confidentiality. (*See* https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/didp-2012-02-25-en.) This Request seeks the disclosure of information, not documents, and is not an appropriate DIDP Request. Nevertheless, ICANN org has responded to your requested items below to the extent the information might be found in documents.

Items 1 and 4
Item 1 asks "[w]hat translucent procedures was adopted in appointment and selection of UA Ambassadors?" Item 4 asks "[w]hat was done with those solicitations?"

Item 4 asks "[w]hat was done with those solicitations?"

The selection process and criteria for UA Ambassadors are set forth on the Call for Expression of Interest that is published on the UASG website. (*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.) ICANN org has conducted a thorough search of documents responsive to these items in accordance with the DIDP Response Process and has determined that there are no documents in its possession, custody, or control that are responsive to these items that have not already been published.

Item 2

Item 2 asks "[w]hy feedback and voting from community was not been done for their selection?"

ICANN org has conducted a thorough search of documents responsive to this item in accordance with the DIDP Response Process and has determined that there are no documents in its possession, custody or control that are responsive to this item.

Item 3

Item 3 asks "[h]ow many individuals put on for this position till now?"

As published on the UASG website, to date, there have been eight individuals appointed as UA Ambassadors. (*See* https://uasg.tech/people/ and https://uasg.tech/2018/04/introducing-the-first-ua-ambassadors/.)

Item 5
Item 5 asks "[w]hat was the terms for which they were been positioned?"

The information responsive this question is available on the UASG website at
https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.

Item 6
Item 6 asks "[w]hat were the roles and responsibilities of these individuals in [their]
region?"

As noted above, UA Ambassadors are empowered to raise awareness of UA & EAI
issues to our target audiences of developers and CIOs.
(*See* https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UA-Ambassadors-18-01-15.pdf.)
UA Ambassadors are expected to provide quarterly reports to the UASG on activities
and results. (*Id.*)

Item 7
Item 7 asks "[w]hat were the monitoring benchmarks?"

As noted above, the UA Ambassadors program is a new startup program of the UASG
that was implemented a year ago. To date, there are no documentary information
responsive to this item that exists.

Item 8
Item 8 asks "[w]hat is the evolution testimony of each individual?"

As currently written, ICANN org is unable to address this request because given no
context, ICANN org cannot determine what is meant by "evolutionary testimony."

Items 9 through 12
Item 9 asks "[w]hen UASG's Code of Conduct, which was on no occasion obtainable on
UASG website or communal, can Chair take any such stand of withdrawing posting
privileges of the Community members?

Item 10 asks "[w]hy UASG administrative group is irresolute in responding [to] retorts of
questions?"

Item 11 asks "[w]hy should ICANN intercede and take action against individuals
responsible for this misconduct done with community members by Chair of UASG?"

Item 12 asks "[since] ICANN and its supporting groups are always community driven,
can individuals elected by community here self-decide to exterminate community
opinion and tangential them?"

As previously stated, the DIDP is a mechanism, developed through community
consultation, to ensure that information contained in documents concerning ICANN
organization's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or control
is made available to the public unless there is a compelling reason for confidentiality.
Items 9 through 12 are not asking for documentary information, and instead, are

seeking the disclosure of information based upon purported presumptions of misconduct on the part of UASG. Thus, these are not proper DIDP requests. The questions being asked also runs contrary to the intent of the DIDP process. The DIDP is an example of ICANN's commitment to supporting transparency and accountability by setting forth a procedure through which documents concerning ICANN org's operations that are not already publicly available are made available unless there is a compelling reason for confidently; it is not a mechanism to make accusations and complaints about UASG's administrative group and ICANN org.

As provided on the UASG website, the UASG encourages all capable and interested parties to contribute and participate in UASG meetings, and those who take part in UASG meeting and discussion are required to adhere to the "Meeting Ground Rules" and UASG Expected Standards of Behavior. (*See* https://uasg.tech/uasg-charter/ and https://uasg.tech/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/UA-Expected-Standards-of-Behavior.pdf.) This includes "[maintaining] a respectful stance toward all participants; [listening] to other points of view and try to understand other interests; [sharing] information openly, promptly, and respectfully;" and etc. (*Id.*) The UASG Coordination Group has the right to set rules of membership and limit the participation of those who violate these standards of behavior or prevent the group from reaching its objectives. (*See* https://uasg.tech/uasg-charter/.)

With respect to items 10 through 12, there are no documents in ICANN org's possession, custody or control that are responsive to these items.

About DIDP

ICANN's DIDP is limited to requests for documentary information already in existence within ICANN that is not publicly available. In addition, the DIDP sets forth Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure. To review a copy of the DIDP, please see http://www.icann.org/en/about/transparency/didp. ICANN makes every effort to be as responsive as possible to the entirety of your Request. As part of its accountability and transparency commitments, ICANN continually strives to provide as much information to the community as is reasonable. We encourage you to sign up for an account at ICANN.org, through which you can receive daily updates regarding postings to the portions of ICANN's website that are of interest. We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further inquiries, please forward them to didp@icann.org.