

Andrew Sullivan

President and CEO
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Göran Marby

President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers (ICANN)
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Dear Andrew and Göran, **and the boards of both ISOC and ICANN:**

We would like to thank you for your ongoing stewardship of .ORG and the governance of the non-commercial sphere of the internet.

However, as executive directors of some of the world's leading international NGOs, whose websites and services depend on stable and affordable .ORG domains, we are writing to express our deep concern about the proposed sale of the .ORG top-level domain and the process by which that proposed sale is occurring.

.ORG is the place where civil society and NGOs reside in the digital environment. Both the physical and virtual world have become increasingly inhospitable and risky for civil society organizations who face constant surveillance, online censorship, and even more physical risks and legal restrictions on their operations and personnel. This proposed sale presents an additional danger to civil society and undermines the safety and stability of the digital space for countless non-governmental organizations, their partners, and their broader communities.

Given the potential risks of privatizing the allocation of .ORG addresses, we urge you to stop the sale of .ORG to Ethos Capital, in your respective capacities, and to facilitate an open and transparent review of the circumstances that led to this proposal. We would also urge you to adopt and implement safeguards to ensure that should there be any change in the ownership of .ORG in the future, that it not lead to increased barriers to entry online or instability for non-profit civil society organizations.

We believe the ownership and management of .ORG is a significant human rights and social justice issue because this unique address is a critical channel for civil society to seek and receive information about human rights and other environmental and social justice issues, and to hold institutions accountable. The sale of .ORG could have generational impacts, should the governance and stewardship of .ORG end up under the control of private or other actors that could lead to financial or other barriers that would irreparably harm global civil society.

Proper due diligence must be done to assess any potential adverse impacts on civil society and ensure proper safeguards are in place to mitigate those risks and prevent any harms. At this time, we therefore call upon you to stop this sale.

Signed,

Jennifer Morgan
Executive Director
Greenpeace International

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
International Trade Union Confederation

Julie Verhaar
Acting Secretary General
Amnesty International

May Boeve
Executive Director
350.org

Patricia Moreira
Managing Director
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Brett Solomon
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Anthony Romero
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