



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MODERNISATION**

The Minister of Local Government and Modernisation

ICANN
Attn: Göran Marby
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

UNITED STATES

Your ref

Our ref

Date

19/5949-3

6 May 2020

Letter of interest

Dear Göran Marby.

Referring to our conversation the last time we met during the MWC in Barcelona 2019, I would like to follow up and take the time to inform you of our project on Global Digital Public Goods, and our intentions to acquire a new gTLD from ICANN when the next process for applications opens.

Digital technologies are of key relevance for accelerating achievement of the UN SDGs. When open-source digital products can be freely used, distributed and adapted by anyone, and conform to minimum standards, for instance related to privacy and security, we can refer to them as Digital Public Goods. Global Digital Public Goods (GDPG) that are scalable sustainably managed and of high-end user relevance can be particularly important, especially for low- and middle income countries.

Norway and UNICEF therefore see an opportunity to create an alliance around digital public goods – to ensure that fair, equitable, and open access to these unique and new tools for human development is available globally. The vision for the Digital Public Goods Alliance is to quickly identify and advance digital solutions (digital public goods) that can help solve or ameliorate the effects of the biggest challenges facing humanity as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. The Digital Public Goods Alliance will allow for the identification, support, scale-up, and proper use of software, data, and algorithms that can advance humanity.

The Alliance will be incubated by UNICEF, but accelerated by governance mechanisms to ensure engagement and leadership from key "pathfinder" countries, private sector technology experts, and innovation groups across the UN system. The underlying governance structure of the Alliance would be a multistakeholder alliance of public, private and UN partners, development banks, foundations, and others, with initial seed funding from Norway and two private donor partners.

Norway has tasked UNICEF Ventures with helping to develop a prototype of the platform for GDPG, which can help make discoverability of existing GDPG easier, thereby helping match supply and demand, and which can leverage additional private sector engagement.

When the development of the platform and the "storefront" for digital public goods is finished, Norway would be interested in applying for a new gTLD from ICANN to host the service.

I hope you find this information interesting and that we will meet again on another occasion. Any information you have on the next expansion of gTLDs and the reopening of the TLD Application System is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikolai Astrup". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nikolai Astrup

Copy send to: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs /Minister of International Development