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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in
2012 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on “Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels” (to the 16th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

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19th December; 2012

Dear Mr Panitchpakdi

I refer to your welcome letter of 31 October 2012, requesting input with regard to initiatives and activities undertaken by ICANN towards implementing the WSIS outcomes. It is a privilege to be asked to contribute to this important exercise and I hope the following is instructive in this regard.

ICANN has continued to evolve since WSIS Summit in 2005. The organization has grown from less than 40 staff members in 2005 to about 140 in 2012. Today, ICANN staff members work from several countries around the world including USA, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Poland, Egypt, China, Australia, and others. ICANN staff members represent about 20 countries and speak 29 different languages. In the past few years, ICANN has undertaken a number of initiatives and programs aiming at advancing the Domain Name System (DNS) while enhancing its security, stability, and resiliency. All such programs have the primary goal of serving the global public interest of the Internet community. ICANN has formalized its relationship with ccTLD registries through voluntary agreements, and has established formal relationships with a number of regional and international organizations. This letter highlights some of the most recent developments in ICANN in relation to WSIS Action Lines as well as with WSIS Themes, in particular Internet Governance and Enhanced Cooperation.

WSIS Action Lines

Regarding Action Line C3 “Access to information and knowledge”, ICANN has been working on expanding the top-level domain (TLD) space of the DNS, to allow for the introduction of new TLDs, using not only the basic set of Latin characters users are used to seeing in web and email addresses, but also any set of characters in languages and scripts supported by computer systems. The latter case refers to what is called Internationalized Domains Names (IDNs), which could also fall under Action

Line C8 “Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content”, as it entails a linguistic element. This effort required the involvement of all stakeholders in the policy development process, including governments, business, civil society, and technical and academic community. There were two main tracks that worked in parallel: the introduction of IDN country code top-level domains



(ccTLDs); and the introduction of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The following sections provide more details on the two tracks.

In November 2009, ICANN launched the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process as a quick solution to respond to demands of countries and territories that use languages based on non-Latin scripts to have their country and territory names or acronyms as IDN ccTLDs. Over the past three years, ICANN has been processing requests from countries and territories for IDN ccTLDs. To date, a total of 37 requests have been received, 33 IDN ccTLDs representing 23 countries have been added to the DNS root, and the rest is still being processed. More information about this program is available at: <http://www.icann.org/en/resources/idn/fast-track>. More work is currently underway to finalize the long-term policy for IDN ccTLDs. This long-term policy includes a comprehensive overview of the types and categories of strings currently used or proposed to be used as TLDs, and related issues that might arise when using such strings. This is an activity that UNESCO is heavily involved in to identify, through consultations with its Member States, the different categories of country names, taking into account the diversity of languages and scripts.

The New gTLD Program is a major initiative that reflects the intensive participation of many stakeholder groups and individuals. The Program was launched on 12 January 2012. On 13 June 2012, ICANN revealed the applied for new gTLDs and who had applied for which strings. A total of 1,930 applications were received, of which 66 were geographic name applications, and 116 were for IDN strings in scripts such as Arabic, Chinese, and Cyrillic. Applications were received from 60 countries and territories, broken down by ICANN's geographic regions: 911 from North America; 675 from Europe; 303 from Asia Pacific; 24 from Latin America and the Caribbean; and 17 from Africa. More details on the program are available at: <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/>.

The opening of the gTLD space presents a number of opportunities: potential for innovation, increased diversity of scripts, languages, regional and community representation in the DNS, and increased competition and consumer choice. It also creates additional opportunities for the multi-stakeholder model to be strengthened with increased participation and capacity to build on existing provisions for the namespace, in keeping with ICANN's responsibility to serve the global public interest.

Among the core values that guide decisions and actions of ICANN is *"Preserving and enhancing the operational stability, reliability, security, and global interoperability of the Internet."* In striving to make the DNS more secure and trusted by end-users, ICANN has worked with many technical groups around the world to deploy a technology called DNS Security Extensions

(DNSSEC) that protects the content of DNS entries with digital signature and keys. This is an activity that pertains to Action Line C5 "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs".



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In the same bottom-up, cooperative fashion that created the Internet, the Internet community has developed and is aggressively deploying DNSSEC to address security concerns. DNSSEC is the result of almost two decades of hard work by the technical community under the leadership of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). This combined with cooperative efforts with the broader IT and business community has contributed greatly to the accelerated secure deployment of DNSSEC. ICANN in collaboration with the global Internet community had removed the final obstacle to DNSSEC deployment on July 15, 2010 with a signed DNS root. Prominent security researchers and Internet experts have recognized the signing of the root as the biggest change to the Internet in 20 years.

To date, 92 out of 315 TLDs have been signed, and more are in progress. Theoretically, this opens the door to 84% of existing 200+ million second level domains to be signed, yet only ~1% of domain registrants have signed their zones. ICANN continues to work with gTLD registries and registrars, ccTLD operators, IT business leaders, and experts from the technical community on raising awareness and building capacities to stimulate more DNSSEC deployments at second level.

On Action Line C4 “Capacity building”, ICANN has partnered with different stakeholders in organizing a number of training programs in various parts of the world. Here are examples of capacity building and engagement activities that ICANN has taken part in over the past year:

Event/Meeting	Location
X-Con, CNNIC, CONAC meetings	China
UN Group of Experts on Geographic Names/UN Conference on Standardization of Geographic Names	New York
CIS Registries Meeting	Budva, Montenegro
DNS training with SOCA & OFT	London
DNSSEC training	Hong Kong
APNIC 34	Cambodia
Supported DNS capability training at LACTLD	St. Maarten
OAS CICTE Hemispheric Meeting on Cyber Security	Montevideo, Uruguay
Supported DNSSEC training with .CO	Colombia
Supported DNSSEC training with .PE & NSRC	Peru

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)	Macau
Cybersecurity Conference	Budapest
DNS Training at MENOG with NSRC	Amman, Jordan
APWG eCrime eCOS/DNS SSR Symposium	Puerto Rico
LACTLD Technical Training	Paraguay
LACNIC/LACNOG	Uruguay



PACNOG 9	Suva, Fiji
RANS Meeting, DNS Security topics	Moscow, Russian Federation
DNSSEC Training, LACTLD	Santiago, Chile
Cyrillic Case Study Team meeting on IDNs	UNESCO HQ, Paris, France
AfTLD Training on DNSSEC, Secure Registry Operations (in French)	Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Gambia
JPNIC DNSSEC key signing and JANOG	Tokyo, Japan
Forum for Incident Response Security Teams meeting	Malta
NZNOG	Christchurch, New Zealand
APRICOT/APNIC	Delhi, India

In addition, ICANN has a Fellowship Program that aims at broadening participation in ICANN process, and building capacities in areas pertaining to ICANN's mission. The Program is designed to support participation in ICANN meetings from developing and least developed economies. 23 fellows participated actively in the last ICANN meeting in Toronto (Oct-2012). They represented governments, small businesses, civil society, academia, and technical community, and came from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Swaziland, and Tanzania. More information about the Fellowship Program is available here: <http://www.icann.org/en/about/participate/fellowships>.

Internet Governance and Enhanced Cooperation

ICANN has been engaging in a number of Internet Governance fora at regional and international levels.

In the past year, ICANN has been part of the CSTD WG on IGF improvements together with other members of technical and academic community, governments, private sector, and civil society. ICANN has joined the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) that carries out the preparatory process of the IGF including the meeting agenda, main themes, design of main sessions, and so forth. ICANN has and will continue to support the IGF and participate in its annual meetings. This year in Baku, ICANN has organized workshops on new gTLDs and DNSSEC, as well as an Open Forum.

ICANN has also been supporting regional IGF initiatives, the most recent of which is the Arab IGF. The Arab IGF meeting took place this year in Kuwait, and was hosted by Kuwait Information Technology Society, a leading civil society in Kuwait. The Arab IGF is a multistakeholder forum with a secretariat hosted by the Government of Egypt, under the auspices of the League of Arab States and UN Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia (ESCWA). ICANN was part of the consultation process that led to the establishment of the Arab IGF, and participated actively in the preparations for its first meeting, as well as in the meeting itself.



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Progress has been made in areas pertaining to Enhanced Cooperation. The Government Advisory Committee (GAC) has continued to evolve, and become more effective part of ICANN. It demonstrated its unique and special role through, inter-alia, involvement in giving advice on the details of the gTLD Programme; especially in relation to IP considerations and the process as outlined in the Applicant Guidebook. In at least 9 out of 10 cases the GAC advice to the Board we acted on.

Three years ago ICANN and UNESCO signed a cooperative agreement to strengthen partnership and work together on promoting the use of IDNs. A year later, the two organizations signed a letter of intent in which they identified specific activities to pursue. Currently UNESCO is helping one of ICANN ccNSO's study groups that are looking into the issue of using complete country and territory names in top-level domain names. UNESCO through consultation with its member states attempts to help the study group develop a typology of country and territory names. Once such typology is defined, the study group will be able to advise as to policy and implementation rules pertaining to the issue under study. This work undertaken by UNESCO is still ongoing and is expected to be finalized by mid-2013.

ICANN has also had a relationship with the Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) – a grouping of Commonwealth countries represented on the GAC. One IGF objective, the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative (CCI), is particularly relevant to ICANN's mission to ensure the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet's name and number systems. The CCI is an ambitious project intended to improve Internet and infrastructure operational security, develop cybercrime investigatory capacity among law enforcement agencies, and establish cybercrime model law in member states of the Commonwealth of Nations. As a member of the CCI Steering Group and Executive Management Group, ICANN works with Commonwealth member states, NGOs, and private sector partners to respond to Requesting States' needs for such capacity in areas where we are able to lend our expertise.

We hope the above information is both useful and instructive. We stand by to provide more information as appropriate and to take part in any related dialogue.

Yours Sincerely

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