

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
(CSTD)**

**Eighteenth Session
Geneva, 9 to 13 May 2016**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2015 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

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 18th 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.

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Executive Summary

ICANN is honoured to be invited to contribute to this important Report. We value our involvement in the WSIS process and as an Observer to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

ICANN has had a busy year, both in terms of internal reforms and external focus. While the IANA Stewardship Transition was initiated in March 2014, the bulk of the work by the Community in seeking appropriate models and proposals has been taken forward in 2015. ICANN has also been a strong supporter of, and contributor to, the WSIS+10 Review process, culminating in the UNGA Review session in December in New York. We have also been involved in the successful 2015 IGF in Brazil, as a resource contributor and as a Workshop and Open session facilitator. In addition ICANN has had the pleasure of being involved, during 2015, in both the CSTD Plenary in May and the (ITU hosted) WSIS Forum in June.

On-going work at ICANN has included the continuation of the roll out of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) following an application process back in 2012.

Detail

IANA Stewardship Transition

<https://www.icann.org/stewardship>

During 2015 there has been extensive dialogue, consultation and work taken forward by the global Internet Community in crafting a mechanism to replace the role of the US Authorities (namely NTIA) in the IANA process. Initiated by the US announcement in March 2014, the work (in a number of different groupings) culminated in a consultation, over the summer, of a proposal that established IANA as an affiliate (subsidiary) of ICANN (known as the Post Transition IANA) subject to various forms of overview and monitoring by the wider Internet Community.

This proposal, from the IANA Coordination Group (ICG)¹ was supplemented by a second consultation on proposed Accountability Measures² for ICANN that would be enacted once the historical contract between ICANN and the NTIA has ended. These measures, to enhance the accountability of ICANN (as an entity) to the broader Internet Community include provisions such as the Community being able to reject

¹ <https://www.ianacg.org/icg-files/documents/IANA-transition-proposal-v9.pdf>

² <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ccwg-draft-2-proposal-work-stream-1-recs-03aug15-en.pdf>

proposed changes to bye-laws, being able in certain circumstances to reject the ICANN budget and, in extremis, being able to remove Board directors or even the whole Board. Such measures would, of course, be preceded by various consultation and discussion mechanisms designed to allow agreements to be reached.

At the ICANN meeting in Dublin (October) the ICG proposal (for the IANA stewardship transition) was generally agreed upon while further work was agreed to be taken forward on the Accountability proposals. This is taking place with a further (and final) Report being published for final consultation at the end of November. The current timescale envisages both proposals being submitted to the NTIA in January 2016 with (subject to agreement) the implementation of the measures being completed by the autumn. The contract between the NTIA and ICANN would correspondingly end.

The various elements of the transition process, described above, have involved hundreds of volunteers, from all stakeholder groups (including governments) and from all regions. Hundreds of hours have been spent on calls and in physical face to face meetings demonstrating both the commitment and ability of stakeholders (acting together) to decide upon complex public policy Internet Governance issues.

Generic Top Level Domains (gTLD)

<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/statistics>

While domain names are not (like other physical entities) a scarce resource, individual choice has been limited through the number of generic top-level domains (such as .COM) and country code names (such as .UK or .CH). Against this background ICANN (working with the Community including governments) set out on a process in 2008 to expand the range of gTLDs through an open application process. Working to detailed rules (again laid down by the Community) the application Round was launched in March 2012.

As of then there were only 21 gTLDs in the root of the Internet, but in the ensuing application process 1930 applications for new Names (some duplicates) were received including 116 applications for names in 12 different non-Latin Scripts³ (such as Chinese, Cyrillic and Indian). The geographical breakdown for these Names was 991 from North America, 675 from Europe, 24 from South America, 17 from Africa and 303 from Asia.

At present there have been 794 new gTLDs introduced into the root of the Internet with a further 540 names pending delegation.

³ http://icannwiki.com/index.php/New_gTLD_IDN_Applications

ICANN is committed to a future application round but a timeline has not been defined. As a pre-condition for a new round ICANN has embarked upon a comprehensive review of the 2012 round, so that benefit can be gained from the collective experience gained. There are several different reviews underway including one on *Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice*. This will examine the impact of the new gTLD Program in the areas of competition, consumer trust, and consumer choice, as well as the effectiveness of the application and evaluation process and the safeguards put in place to mitigate issues in expanding the namespace.

ICANN Regional Engagement

ICANN, as a global organisation, is committed to develop and grow wider Community involvement in all regions. As such it has a Global Stakeholder Engagement Team (GSE) with over 20 staff deployed in all UN regions; with presence from Australia to Jamaica. We have hub-offices delivering services in Singapore and Istanbul and Engagement Centres in Geneva, Beijing, Tokyo, Washington DC, Geneva, Brussels, Montevideo and Seoul.

Leveraging the presence of staff in the Regions to foster the involvement of the Community has been a key objective of ICANN, delivered, inter-alia, through the roll out of Regional Engagement Strategies. An example of such a strategy (and the first to be launched) is the Africa Strategy. Launched in 2013, this strategy has involved a number of different initiatives to both involve stakeholders in the ICANN Community and to grow the DNS sector across Africa. These include the DNSSEC Roadshow the flagship project of the Africa strategy and a DNS Exchange Program for African registries and registrars engaging key DNS industry leaders globally and regionally to help build capacity for Africa.

Under the Middle East Strategy, ICANN together with Egypt's National telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA) have announced the foundation of a regional DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC), to serve communities in Africa and the Middle East. The objective of the Center is to contribute to the evolution of the Internet ecosystem in Africa and the Middle East by building a network of experts in both regions in the DNS technical, policy, business, and legal areas, as well as providing resources to support the implementation of initiatives and projects in this field.

Engagement in WSIS+10 Review process

ICANN, as a WSIS Stakeholder, and contributor to the WSIS Summits in 2003 and 2005 has been constructively engaged in the overall review process leading up to the UNGA WSIS+10 Review in December. During 2015 the focus of the Review was initially in Geneva with the CSTD's "10 Year Review of the WSIS Outcomes" being the most salient issue discussed at the CSTD Plenary in May. The excellent

discussion at the Plenary allowed a comprehensive and thorough analysis of the WSIS process (including proposals for the future) to be adopted and forwarded to the UN. May this year also saw the ITU- hosted WSIS Forum, which in addition to discussing the work taken forward pursuant to the WSIS Action Lines, also discussed the WSIS+10 Review process.

In July work on the WSIS+10 Review file transferred to New York with an Open Consultation Session in July at the UN to discuss the Background Paper (crafted by the UN) that laid out the issues to be addressed in the final UN Resolution. A Non-Paper (an initial draft Resolution) was issued and discussed at a further Open Consultation Session in October and (earlier this month) a further draft was discussed (in the presence of the UNGA Co-facilitators) at the IGF in Brazil. ICANN has been involved in all of these discussions.

Looking ahead to the UNGA session on 15/16 December, it is important for us that the UN, at this highest level, recognises the unique contribution that ICTs has made to the global economy, in addition to revolutionizing, for many, both social and personal interactions. In doing so the need for enhanced commitment by all parties to further ICT development and ensuring that all have opportunities for affordable and safe access, has to be top of the agenda.

The 2015 IGF – João Pessoa, Brazil

ICANN, through our commitment to the WSIS process and adherence to the Tunis Agenda is a keen supporter and funder of, and participant in, the IGF.

The IGF this November, in Joao Pessoa, was important to ICANN in allowing us to share, with the global Community, developments on the IANA Stewardship Transition and our involvement in the NETMundial Initiative. The IGF remains the pre-eminent discussion platform for dialogue on Internet policy issues allowing better informed decisions to be made by governments and other stakeholders in other Internet Governance fora, whether regional (such as in the African Union Commission or the European Commission) or globally (such as at the ITU).

ICANN; November 2015