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(CSTD)**

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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2016 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 20th 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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ANNUAL REPORT TO UNCTAD: ICANN CONTRIBUTION

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

Executive Summary

ICANN is pleased and honoured to be invited to contribute to this annual UNCTAD Report. We value our involvement with, and contribution to, the overall WSIS process and to our relationship with the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and membership of its Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation.

2016 has been an important year for ICANN and for the Internet Governance Ecosystem in general. It saw the ending of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Contract between the NTIA (of the US Department of Commerce) and ICANN; the culmination of a large and complex project initiated in March 2014. It also saw new Accountability measures introduced; the significance of which is outlined below, and the initiation of a policy process to underpin (potentially) a new application procedure for new gTLD applications.

Further afield ICANN is involved in the Enhanced Cooperation Working Group (ECWG) created from an ECOSOC mandate and which held its first meeting in September. The significantly changed environment with respect to Internet Governance should hopefully see an agreed output from this important initiative in 2017.

ICANN has also been involved in the UN WSIS Forum (which is an increasingly important opportunity to reflect on the importance of the ongoing but evolving WSIS process) and made its usual significant contribution to the IGF; this year successfully hosted by Mexico, in Guadalajara. The latter, of course, was only possible because of the excellent result achieved by the UN, in conjunction with the multi-stakeholder Community, at the WSIS+10 Review consultations in December last year. ICANN applauds the granting of a 10-year mandate for the IGF.

Detail

1. IANA Stewardship Transition

On 30th September this year the contract between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA),

to perform the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, officially expired¹.

That moment marked the transition of the coordination and management of the Internet's unique identifiers to the private sector, a process that has been committed to and underway since 1998.

As Stephen Crocker, the ICANN Board Chair noted; "This transition was envisioned 18 years ago, yet it was the tireless work of the global Internet community, which drafted the final proposal, that made this a reality. This community validated the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. It has shown that a governance model defined by the inclusion of all voices, including business, academics, technical experts, civil society, governments and many others is the best way to assure that the Internet of tomorrow remains as free, open and accessible as the Internet of today."

The final chapter of the privatization process began in 2014, when NTIA asked ICANN to convene the global multistakeholder community to come together and formulate proposals to both replace NTIA's historic stewardship role and enhance ICANN's accountability mechanisms.

The package of proposals developed by the global community met the criteria set by the NTIA in its March 2014 announcement, and were formally delivered to the NTIA on the 10th March, after approval by all the appropriate parts of the ICANN Community at the ICANN 55 meeting in Marrakech.

Since their submission to NTIA, ICANN and its various stakeholder groups have worked tirelessly to ensure that all the necessary implementation measures (including changes to bylaws have been completed, so that the IANA functions contract could expire on 30th September.

The proposals (The IANA Transition Proposal² and the Accountability Measures³) reinforce ICANN's existing multistakeholder model and are also aimed at enhancing ICANN's accountability. The improvements include empowering the global Internet community to have direct recourse if they disagree with decisions made by ICANN the organization or the Board.

The challenge ahead (and the opportunity) is to demonstrate that this new global Accountability will enhance ICANN's global mission concerning a single,

¹ <https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2016-10-01-en>

² <https://www.ianacg.org/icg-files/documents/IANA-transition-proposal-final.pdf>

³ <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ccwg-accountability-supp-proposal-work-stream-1-recs-23feb16-en.pdf>

interoperable and secure Domain Name System, underpinning an open and innovative Internet.

2. Domain Name System (DNS) Entrepreneurship Centres

ICANN, during 2016 has established two Centres. In **Cairo, Egypt** the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC) is a joint project between ICANN and the Egyptian National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA). Both parties signed a memorandum of agreement during the ICANN Public Meeting in London in June 2014.

The objective of the project 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. As for its mission, it is to foster the evolution of a robust and healthy domain name marketplace in Africa and the Middle East, through understanding and addressing the local needs of the region and providing an entrepreneurial platform, for business development, collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The center, to date, has conducted more than 10 workshops that have; combined, trained more than 200 participants. The DNS-EC has an online presence at <http://dns-ec.eg/>.

Meanwhile in **Asuncion, Paraguay**, the Centro de Emprendimiento de Internet for the Latin America and Caribbean region (CEILAC) was inaugurated on October 12, 2016. CEILAC was founded as an open initiative led by Paraguay's National Secretariat for Information and Communication Technologies (SENATICs), the Latin American and Caribbean Country Code Top-Level Domain Association (LACTLD) and ICANN. The goal is to contribute to the evolution of the Internet ecosystem in the region.

CEILAC is now focused on building a knowledge base of DNS Marketplace best practices through interactions with the industry. Moreover, its working with interested partners (regional organizations, private sector companies, individuals) to contribute to the consolidation of the Center in other areas of Internet development and also replicating Center's activities in other countries. More information on CEILAC can be found in <http://emprendimientointernet.lat/>

3. Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2016; Regional and National IGFs

ICANN has been a friend and keen supporter of the IGF since it started in 2006. It is the only global discussion forum on Internet Governance where all stakeholders, on an equal basis, can come together to discuss a wider range of topical IG issues.

The recent IGF in Guadalajara, Mexico was attended by over 2000 participants from 83 countries, that came together to discuss – in over 200 different sessions - a range of issues including cybersecurity, e-trade facilitation, privacy, the IANA transition, human rights and the Internet of Things (IOT).

ICANN, in addition to being a contributor to the IGF Trust Fund, takes an active part in the Programme and this year, in addition to holding an Open Forum, also conducted Workshops on the IANA Transition and the Review of the gTLD process (and the proposed subsequent application process).

At a Regional level ICANN has been supportive of many different events; including those in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe (EuroDIG). We supported the setting up of a Regional Initiative in South Eastern Europe (SEEDIG), which has now met three times. ICANN has also been keen to promote, where appropriate, national Initiatives, especially where there has hitherto not been mechanisms for discussion on IG issues.

An example of this, during this year, was the Polish IGF⁴, organised jointly by the Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK), the University of Warsaw Digital Economy Lab (DELab) and ICANN, in collaboration with various local civil society and business actors. Streamed online and drawing over 200 participants from across stakeholder groups, it received extremely positive feedback.

4. A subsequent generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) process

Since the launch of the (new) gTLD Application Round in March 2012, over 1000 new names have been delegated to the root of the Internet. There are (as of July 2016) over 190 million generic names in existence.

During 2016 a number of Reviews were initiated to assess the impact of this significant expansion of the generic domain name space, not least to look at the economic impact and to assess how competition, consumer choice and trust have been affected.

The Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review (CCT)⁵ was initiated this year and will report later in 2017. In addition there is also a review looking at the affect of the new gTLDs on Rights Protection and whether the current mechanisms appropriately protect rights holders.

⁴ <https://mc.gov.pl/the-first-polish-internet-governance-forum>

⁵ <https://www.icann.org/resources/reviews/specific-reviews/cct>

A Community led Policy Development Process (PDP)⁶ on “New gTLD Subsequent Procedures” has also been initiated to develop policy concerning the potential introduction of more gTLD names. This will take account of the Reviews noted above and other views and opinions concerning any new process. Any further application process is not expected until at least 2018.

The challenge is to ensure that any further expansion of the generic domain name space has geographical diversity and reflects the global nature of the Internet.

ICANN; December 2016

⁶ <https://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures>