

ICANN is pleased to respond to the IGF's call for information on any decisions or actions we have taken as a result of our engagement and participation in the IGF.

Since its inception, the IGF has served as a unique platform for multi-stakeholder debate around Internet Governance issues. It has offered an open and inclusive space for exchange of knowledge and best practices, and thus has been well placed to inform the decision-making processes of other organizations / fora.

ICANN has been engaging actively in the IGF, both in the preparatory process as well as in the annual meetings. Furthermore, the ICANN Open Forum at the IGF has allowed ICANN the opportunity to engage with the broader IG community, particularly those who either are new to ICANN or do not regularly attend ICANN meetings. At the Open Forum, IGF participants have had the chance to learn about, and provide feedback on, ICANN programs and initiatives such as Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs), and ICANN regional engagement strategies. ICANN has also been participating in and supporting the various regional and national IGFs, which are widely regarded as one of the key successes of the IGF.

This document highlights a few areas in which ICANN has made significant progress over the past couple of years, through its bottom-up, multi-stakeholder processes, and engagement in various Internet-related multi-stakeholder fora, particularly the IGF.

Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Internet Cooperation

ICANN is a multi-stakeholder organization by design; hence ICANN's interest in strengthening the multi-stakeholder model is inevitable. ICANN has been working hard with its partners in the Internet technical community as well as with other stakeholders from governments, private sector, civil society and academia to enhance Internet Governance processes at global, regional and national levels, and ensure that such processes are open and inclusive.

The IGF has been thus helpful in facilitating the dialogue among community members on how to enhance multi-stakeholder cooperation, and in stimulating partnerships and initiatives in that regard. The UNESCO-ICANN partnership on promoting Internet multilingualism and the use of IDNs is one example of many partnership initiatives whose roots go back to some initial discussions that took place at the IGF.

The 8th IGF meeting in Bali was the place where community members came together to form 1NET and to brainstorm about the future of Internet Governance. Planning also took place in Bali for the global multi-stakeholder conference to be held in Brazil in 2014 (later known as NETmundial). ICANN together with stakeholders from around the world took part in NETmundial, which was uniquely successful not only in demonstrating a true multi-stakeholder process at play, but also in producing outcome through an inclusive and consensus-based approach. Aside from NETmundial, a High Level Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms was put together with

members from governments, private sector, civil society, the technical community and international organizations. The Panel's submission to NETmundial articulated a set of principles for Internet governance along with a roadmap for greater collaboration in the evolution of a distributed Internet governance ecosystem. The Panel acknowledged the NETmundial principles as a further evolution of their original submission, and adopted them for its final report.¹

IANA Functions' Stewardship Transition

Strengthening the global multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance has been discussed extensively at many regional and international fora, including the IGF. As a key player in the Internet ecosystem, ICANN has always been present in these discussions. IGF main sessions on Critical Internet Resources (CIR) have addressed issues related to ICANN and the IANA functions, and participants have provided enormous input through those sessions. The stewardship role of the U.S. Government vis-à-vis the IANA functions has continued to raise controversy as some stakeholders have been of the opinion that such a role goes against the multi-stakeholder principles.

Last March, the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce announced its intent to transition its stewardship of the IANA functions to the global Internet multi-stakeholder community, and asked ICANN to convene a multi-stakeholder process to develop a proposal for the transition. Shortly after this announcement, ICANN has launched a multi-stakeholder process and discussion to gather input as to the principles and mechanisms for the IANA functions stewardship transition process. Based on input received from community, a Coordination Group is currently being formed to develop a transition proposal respective of the differing needs of the various affected parties of the IANA functions. The Group will be responsible for assembling the components from the respective communities into a single proposal meeting the criteria set out by NTIA in relation to the following four principles:

- Support and enhance the multi-stakeholder model;
- Maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services; and,
- Maintain the openness of the Internet.

ICANN has also launched a separate but inter-related process to look at enhancing ICANN accountability in light of the foreseen absence of its historical contractual relationship to the U.S. Government but also taking account of the overall globalization agenda. While separate from the IANA stewardship transition process, this process on enhancing ICANN's accountability is key to the success of the IANA stewardship transition.

¹ HLP final report: <http://internetgovernancepanel.org/panel-report>

A main focus session is scheduled to take place at the IGF meeting in Istanbul to shed more light on these two processes, and continue to seek feedback from the broader IG community and inform ongoing work at ICANN.