



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

February 19, 2016

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael S. Lee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cruz, Lankford and Lee:

I write in response to your letter of February 4, 2016. As my term as ICANN's President and CEO draws to a close, I thank you and your colleagues for your interest and attention to the multistakeholder model reflected in ICANN and the transition of the stewardship of the IANA functions to the multistakeholder community. We appreciate your leadership in supporting ICANN's role in Internet governance and upholding the multistakeholder governance values that both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives endorsed in their concurrent resolution passed in S.Con.Res.50 (112th Congress).

Throughout my time at ICANN, I have worked alongside my staff to build global support for the multistakeholder model as one of the clearest ways to maintain a globally interoperable, stable and secure Internet. I share the longstanding belief that such freedom from government control over the technical functioning and interoperability of the Internet is best achieved as the United States leads by example, transitioning its own oversight to the community over the past two decades. The transition of the stewardship of the IANA functions is the next logical step in that path.

Thank you for your questions regarding the Wuzhen World Internet Conference and giving me the opportunity to explain ICANN's role and my participation in that conference. Attending conferences such as the Wuzhen World Internet Conference is just one way that ICANN does the outreach that has enabled a global shift towards preserving a globally interoperable Internet. ICANN participates in many other international conferences, such as the Internet Governance Forum, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, as well as regional Internet Governance Forum events and technical events across the world. In 2014, I participated in the World Internet Conference's opening ceremony in my role as ICANN's President and CEO. My return to the



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

2015 meeting as ICANN's President and CEO was a natural continuation of ICANN's work. Of course, ICANN's attendance at a conference does not represent an endorsement of every viewpoint expressed at that conference. In this fragile time, ICANN cannot ignore potential challenges to the values of multistakeholderism and to ICANN's mission. It is even more important to be present for those tough conversations, perform outreach, and maintain a supportive environment for the secure, unified operation of the Internet. Contrary to what is suggested in your letter, staying away from the World Internet Conference, particularly to make a political statement on issues outside of ICANN's mission, would not have served the global Internet community.

After the 2015 World Internet Conference, it was announced that I will serve as a co-chair of a high level advisory committee to the World Internet Conference's organizing committee. I have confirmed that my service in this role is a post-ICANN effort that is in my personal capacity, with my first meeting as co-chair to occur later this year. I will be joined on the advisory committee by executives from Microsoft, Nokia, Brookings Institution, as well as Bruce McConnell, former U.S. Department of Homeland Security Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity, among others. My goal in participating on the high level advisory committee is to continue to advocate for global multistakeholder governance and a single, open, and interoperable Internet. I publicly declared that goal in my announcement of being appointed, and reconfirm it here for you today. I have not received any form of gift, reimbursement, compensation, or any other form of personal enrichment, direct or indirect, for this post-ICANN effort, though I understand that travel costs to the World Internet Conference will be covered while I serve on the high level advisory committee. I do not have any plans to seek any form of employment with the Chinese government.

As to my other post-ICANN plans, in August 2015, I announced that one of my primary post-ICANN activities will be serving as a Senior Advisor on Digital Strategy for ABRY Partners, a Boston-based private equity investment firm. In January of this year, it was announced that I will also serve as senior advisor to the Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, advising on the Global Challenge Initiative on the Future of the Internet.

ICANN maintains strong practices as it relates to conflicts of interest. I am fully in compliance with ICANN's Conflict of Interest policies and practices. We have a publicly available Conflicts of Interest policy, at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/coi-en>. In its role in performing the IANA Functions Contract, ICANN follows Section C.6 of the contract on Conflict of Interest Requirements as well as the Organizational Conflict of Interest requirements set out at Section H.9.

Let me be clear: ICANN's participation in global conferences should not be in any way used to distract us from the commitment the U.S. Government has made to the world since 2000 to remove the central role of governments from the technical administration of the one global



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Internet. Failure to deliver on this commitment in 2016 would have grave repercussions on the U.S. and global economies and will undermine multistakeholder governance, potentially leading to the fragmentation of the Internet.

As I prepare to leave ICANN after the ICANN55 meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, I continue to focus all of my efforts on ICANN's providing superior operations, and towards delivering to NTIA the proposals for the transition of the stewardship of the IANA functions. Once approved, the transition will be the single greatest step to supporting the global, interoperable Internet. The courage and wisdom of the United States in fulfilling its commitment to transition its stewardship of the IANA functions will be a demonstration to governments around the world that, like the Internet, the multistakeholder model works. Thank you for the support that the U.S. Government has provided to ICANN during my tenure as the President and CEO.

Sincerely,

Fadi Chehadé
President & CEO, ICANN

Cc: Dr. Stephen D. Crocker, Chairman, ICANN Board of Directors

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, U.S Department of Commerce