

ccNSO meeting report

Cape Town, South Africa

0. Introduction

The ccNSO meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa on the 2nd and 3rd of December, 2004, at which representatives of 20 country-code top level domains (ccTLDs) who are ccNSO members met, along with 15 ccTLDs who are not ccNSO members and several dozen observers.

We are delighted that the meeting was so well attended by both members and non-members.

Because of the timing of the various meetings, the ccNSO Council has not yet held it's meeting and will do so this afternoon. So, this report is a members report and some of the decisions made and outlined need to be officially resolved by the Council.

1. CCNSO PROCEDURES

The ccNSO finalised its internal rules and procedures of operation, agreeing that it will operate openly and without discrimination, allowing for and encouraging maximum public participation.

At the Council meeting tomorrow a Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed for a 1 year term.

It was agreed to appoint a liaison the ALAC,

Appointments to the ICANN Board were discussed and the ccNSO Council should be in a position to make those 2 appointments within the next month.

Thanks to the work of the ccNSO/GAC working group both the GAC and the ccNSO have agreed a method for ongoing liaison between us. The opening of this line of communication is a very important achievement and will lead to increasing dialogue between the GAC and ccNSO. It means that our future joint meetings rather than being merely a chance to report will become a venue for meaningful discussion on topics of mutual interest and importance.

Finally in this session the members met briefly our 3 new Councillors who have been appointed by the Nom Com. We look forward to working closely with them in their new role.

2. WSIS

The ccNSO discussed the recent developments concerning the WSIS, WGIG and parallel developments related to the ITU. Marcus Kummer and Theresa Swinehart attended this session.

It was agreed that the ccNSO's WSIS working group will prepare a paper to be submitted to the WGIG and will work closely with those members of the WGIG who have knowledge of ccTLD issues. We were encouraged by the stated willingness of the WGIG to consult with us and look forward to being involved in the process.

All ccTLD members are encouraged to provide input and the ccNSO WSIS working group is looking forward receiving wide ranging responses.

3. ICANN STRATEGIC PLAN

Paul Verhoef attended a session to discuss the ICANN strategic plan. The particular areas of relevance to the ccNSO are IANA issues, Accountability Frameworks and the ICANN Budget.

The ccNSO members were encouraged to provide their concerns and thoughts about the various issues raised and the Council will endeavour to provide ICANN with feedback by the deadline. It would be helpful if the 15 January deadline could be extended to allow time for consultation.

4. JOINT GAC – CCNSO MEETING

The joint ccNSO and GAC meeting was well attended by GAC members, ccNSO members and other ccTLD managers. The GAC announced imminent publication of new GAC principles. Obviously the GAC is expecting comment and feedback on the principles from the ccNSO and we look forward to providing that as soon as possible.

The joint meeting also had a brief discussion on Accountability Frameworks and listened to a presentation on the relationship between SIDN and the Dutch government. The latter led to a number of questions and is a good example of importance of the now established liaison between the GAC and the ccNSO.

Finally, the ccNSO invited the GAC to consider appointing someone to the GAC-liaison position on the ccNSO council.

5. CCNSO SECRETARIAT

The ccNSO has discussed various operating models for its secretariat. The meeting gave clear guidance as to the job specification of the secretariat and gave direction as to the model which will be further elaborated and presented to the members on its list. As an interim measure Taiwan has volunteered to provide secretariat services and the ccNSO community gratefully accepts their offer.

6. ALAC JOINT SESSION

We held a joint session with the ALAC and had a constructive exchange of thoughts on end-user involvement. The ccNSO will soon appoint a liaison to the ALAC and looks forward to welcoming the ALAC liaison the ccNSO.

7. ICANN BUDGET

The ccNSO welcomed the opportunity to participate in the ICANN budget process. The meeting has formed no view as to whether the proposed ICANN budget in general and the ccTLD-aspect in particular, is at an appropriate level, or whether the proportion sought from ccTLDs is acceptable.

The Council will later today formally ratify the appointment of 3 members to the Budget Advisory Group so that we can provide input into the totality of the ICANN Budget.

The ccNSO Budget Working Group will begin work with ICANN staff as soon as possible to agree a method for calculating the quantum of fees payable to ICANN.

8. IDN

The ccNSO would like to thank Edmon Chung (Afilias) for his interesting presentation on IDN and EPP and to encourage all ccTLDs to participate on the development of standardization in the IDN over EPP implementation and application.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Chair of the Accountability Framework Working Group provided an informative presentation on the discussions of the working group, the schedule and their overall objective. The ccNSO has agreed that it is appropriate for it to develop a series of Accountability Framework guidelines for ccTLDs that may be referred to by them when they are negotiating an Accountability Framework with ICANN.

Revealing and useful information was shared by SIDN about their Accountability Framework negotiations with ICANN.

The ccNSO strongly encourages all ccTLDs to participate in the development of the accountability framework guidelines so that the guidelines can fully and effectively capture all of the ccTLDs' concerns, needs, and requirements.

10. IANA PROCEDURES AND FUNCTIONALITY

A very productive session was held with Doug Barton. The ccNSO welcomed the data reports on the recent IANA achievements and the operational improvements it shows. The ccNSO also welcomed the news on the accomplishments regarding DNSSEC and the extensive achievements regarding IPv6 glue.

It was agreed that a session on IANA with Doug Barton would become a regular feature of ccNSO meetings and the members directed the Council to set up an IANA Working Group to liaise closely with ICANN on IANA issues. Membership of this working group is open to all ccTLDs.

11. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

The ccNSO welcomes President's invitation to meet with him and the ICANN Board and suggests that there be a meeting between the ccNSO Council and the ICANN Board at each ICANN meeting.

13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

The ccNSO expresses its warm appreciation to the members of the local host organising committee, Uniforum, zaDNA, ICANN staff and all others involved for their excellent work in supporting the meeting and to Neulevel and Afillias for sponsoring lunch and drinks.