



Addressing the global Internet

ICANN

15 November 2010

Rod Beckstrom
CEO and President

Mr. Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations
Office of the Under-Secretary-General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Room DC2-2320
2 UN Plaza, New York
NY 10017

Dear Under Secretary General Sha,

On behalf of ICANN, (The Internet Corporation for the Assignment of Names and Numbers), I am pleased to contribute to the public consultation on the process of Enhanced Cooperation called for inter alia in your letter to me of 6 October. I note that this exercise is part of the process launched in Para. 7 of the WSIS Tunis agenda.

As I mentioned in my letter to you of 18 October, our experience within the WSIS process, and since then within the context of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to which I refer below, demonstrates that the technical coordination of the Internet involves numerous organizations and thousands of independently minded individuals around the world. While ICANN is responsible for the technical and policy coordination of the Domain Name System and other unique identifiers, that system is only a part of the Internet ecosystem. ICANN cannot speak for the much broader "technical community" that comprises the distributed knowledge, activities and decisions that we believe constitute the true power of the multi-stakeholder community, which is responsible for both the correct functioning, and the innovative evolution of the Internet. In this submission, I shall therefore focus on the contribution that I believe the unique structures of ICANN itself have contributed to the process of enhanced cooperation.

There have been several significant achievements within ICANN over the past year. Perhaps chief among these have been the implementation of the Affirmation of



Commitments (AOC) negotiated with the United States Department of Commerce in mid 2009: <http://www.icann.org/en/documents/affirmation-of-commitments-30sep09-en.htm>; and the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names.

The main impact of the Affirmation has been the transition to a series of accountability mechanisms involving the full membership of ICANN's multi-stakeholder community, with an enhanced role for a reinvigorated Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). I am pleased to say that we are making excellent progress towards implementation of the Affirmation, with the invaluable cooperation of all sectors of ICANN's multi-stakeholder community. This is perhaps the most significant contribution so far towards the further internationalization of ICANN, but in this context, I am also pleased to announce that participation in the GAC has increased over the past year to 107 members plus 15 observer organizations.

The other area of significant achievement, which fits firmly within the context of enhanced cooperation, has been the excellent progress we have been making with a wide variety of international partners towards the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) as top-level domains. To date we have received 33 requests from countries and territories. Of those 33, 22 requests have passed string evaluation, which means that they have completed the IDN relevant portion of their fast track application request evaluation and will be able to request entry into the DNS root zone via the standard IANA delegation process.¹ Fifteen strings are already in the root zone. All ICANN stakeholders, including the Technical Community, and those stakeholders represented in ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), ICANN's Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), and ICANN's At-Large community have cooperated to address and resolve the wide range of issues that have arisen during the evolution of IDN's.

¹ China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Jordan, Oman, Palestinian Territory, Occupied, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates string requests have already been delegated. The requests from Algeria, India, The Islamic Republic of Iran, The Republic of Korea, Qatar, Serbia, Singapore, the Arab Republic of Syria, and Morocco have passed string evaluation and are pending delegation.



ICANN continues to collaborate with the technical community in the security arena by supporting DNS capacity building initiatives. ICANN's activities also include the Joint DNS Security and Stability Analysis (DSSA) Working Group and other community efforts to develop a proposal on where a DNS-CERT, or collaborative response capability, might be housed and financially supported. Collaboration has included : documenting the current work to mitigate DNS-related threats; gathering data on the global volume of the DNS, participating in international cyber exercises to build cooperation; supporting global symposia on DNS security, stability and resiliency; and facilitating the work of top-level domain registries and the security community in response to domain name generation abuse such as Conficker.

ICANN continues to regularize root key signing operations for DNSSEC in partnership with VeriSign and with the support of the Internet community. ICANN conducted the third DNSSEC Key Signing Ceremony on 1 November 2010 in Culpeper, Virginia. A growing number of registry operators are implementing DNSSEC in TLD zones, including recent adoption in Finland, India, and in the Caribbean ccTLDs for Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Honduras, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. VeriSign has announced its progress on implementing DNSSEC in .NET and .COM, and ICANN anticipates this will accelerate the adoption of this security enhancement by other registries and registrars, for the benefit of Internet users. Large ISPs such as Comcast are announcing DNSSEC implementation initiatives, and this is a very positive step.

We are continuing to support DNS capacity building initiatives in partnership with the Network Startup Resource Center and the Internet Society. Successful training sessions have been conducted since the Brussels meeting in Mali for AfTLD and Guatemala for LACTLD. A training session was held on 2-6 November 2010 in Amman, Jordan, for APTLD.

Beyond ICANN's own activities, we have cooperated actively in the five meetings of the IGF. It is important for all stakeholders to continue to engage in the various Internet Governance fora, and to participate actively in each other's processes. Members of the ICANN family, especially the technical and the At-Large communities, have become engaged in the IGF process. We all look forward to continuing to contribute to this important forum when the UN General Assembly renews the mandate in the coming weeks.

Finally, I should record that ICANN has continued to work with an increasing number of



members of the UN family of organisations where we perceive there to be a genuine advantage in cooperation. Most recently within the cooperation agreement between UNESCO and ICANN, we signed a Letter of Intent during the meeting of the IGF in Vilnius. The main objective of the joint project is for UNESCO to provide assistance to its member states by creating a (reference-only) table for countries whose official languages are based on Cyrillic script, and for ICANN to provide IDN expertise to support UNESCO's work.

We also signed the .post contract with the Universal Postal Union and entered .post into the Internet root. <http://www.icann.org/en/tlds/agreements/post/>

I look forward to reading the compilation of views submitted in response to this current call for contributions and to our forthcoming discussion in New York on 14 December.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Beckstrom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rod Beckstrom
President and CEO