



Centre for Internet and Society
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12 January 2015

To:

Mr. Fadi Chehade, CEO and President

Mr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the Board

Ms. Theresa Swineheart, Senior Advisor to the President on Strategy

Mr. Samiran Gupta, ICANN India

Sub: Creation and dissolution of the President's Globalisation Advisory Groups

On 17 February 2014, at a Special Meeting of the ICANN Board, the Board passed a resolution creating the President's Globalisation Advisory Groups.¹ Six Globalisation Advisory Groups were created, including on IANA globalization, legal structures, Internet governance, the Affirmation of Commitments, policy structures and the root server system.² According to the minutes of the meeting, the Advisory Groups were to meet with the community at ICANN49 (Singapore, March 2014), make recommendations to the Board, and the Board would present their reports at ICANN50 (London, June 2014).³ Mr. Chehade was vested with the authority to change the Advisory Groups and their composition without the need for a further resolution, but the manner of dissolution was not laid out.

ICANN lists the Advisory Groups on its "Past Groups" page, with no further information.⁴ Presumably, the Groups remained in existence for at most one month. No explanation is provided for the reasons regarding the dissolution of all the Advisory Groups. There are no reports or transcripts of meetings with the community at ICANN49 or recommendations to Mr. Chehade or the Board.

¹ See *Approved Board Resolutions | Special Meeting of the Board*, <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-02-17-en>.

² See *President's Globalisation Advisory Groups*, <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/globalization-19feb14-en.pdf>.

³ See *Minutes | Special Meeting of the Board*, <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/minutes-2014-02-17-en>.

⁴ See *Past Committees, Task Forces, and Other Groups*, <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/past-2012-02-25-en>.

The Globalisation Advisory Groups covered issues crucial for ICANN and the global Internet governance community, including its seat (“Legal Structures”), the Affirmation of Commitments (considered critical for ICANN’s accountability), the IANA stewardship transition, and ICANN’s (increasing) involvement in Internet governance. Given this, we request the following information:

- Of the six Globalisation Advisory Groups created, is any Group active as of today (12 January 2015)?
- When and how many times did any of the Groups meet?
- On what date were the Groups dissolved? Were all Groups dissolved on the same date?
- By what mechanism did the dissolution take place (oral statement, email)? If the dissolution occurred by way of email or statement, please provide a copy of the same.
- Did any of the six Globalisation Advisory Groups present any report, advice, or recommendations to Mr. Chehade or any member(s) of the Board, prior to their dissolution? If yes, please provide the report/recommendations (if available) and/or information regarding the same.
- Why were the Advisory Groups dissolved? Has any reason been recorded, and if not, please provide an explanation.

We await your favorable response and the requested information within the prescribed time limit. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any clarifications.

Thank you very much.

Warm regards,
Geetha Hariharan
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E:

Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit research organization based out of Bangalore and Delhi, India. Since 2008, CIS has performed groundbreaking research in technology and the law. Our research competence extends across free and open source software, open data, open government and right to information, accessibility and rights of disabled persons, intellectual property, access to knowledge, privacy and Internet governance. We are currently involved, *inter alia*, in a research project in Internet governance, where we are studying transparency, accountability and effectiveness of Internet governance institutions. Our project is funded by the MacArthur Foundation.