

Endorsements of the IANA Globalization Process

Below is a sampling of comments and endorsements made publicly available. This document will be updated as more are released.

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U.S. Senator John D. Rockefeller

[Read on the U.S. Senate's Website >>](#)

Rockefeller Statement on Global Internet Governance
14 March 2014

“The Internet was invented and developed in the U.S., and it has completely transformed the way people communicate and do business in every corner of the world. Since 1998, the U.S. has been committed to transitioning management of the Internet’s domain name system to an independent entity that reflects the broad diversity of the global Internet community. NTIA’s announcement today that it is beginning the process of transferring additional domain name functions to ICANN is the next phase in this transition. It is also consistent with other efforts the U.S. and our allies are making to promote a free and open Internet, and to preserve and advance the current multi-stakeholder model of global Internet governance.”

U.S. Senator John Thune

[Read on the U.S. Senate's Website >>](#)

Thune Statement on NTIA’s Internet Governance Announcement
15 March 2014

“The U.S. helped create the Internet, and we want to see it grow and stand on its own. It doesn't need a nanny state, or a collection of nanny states, trying to stifle it. It needs – and deserves – a strong multi- stakeholder system free from the control of any government or governmental entity and which keeps the critical Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions insulated from the politics of Internet governance. My colleagues and I on the Commerce Committee will be watching closely to see if the transition NTIA has announced results in an acceptable structure to ensure a stable and free Internet, but I trust the innovators and entrepreneurs more than the bureaucrats -- whether they're in DC or Brussels.

“While ICANN will convene the process to craft a transition plan for the IANA functions, we need all stakeholders who believe in an open and innovative Internet to participate in the conversation. There are people who want to see the Internet fall into the grip of the U.N. or who would allow ICANN to become an unaccountable organization with the power to control the Internet, and we cannot allow them to determine how this process plays out.”

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio

“As Senator Rubio said at Google this week, preserving Internet freedom must be a national priority, and the best way to do that is to support a multi-stakeholder governance model. The Administration's announcement appears consistent with that policy, but we must consider this carefully and ensure this transition reflects the unanimous statement Congress made last year. Under no circumstances should this contract transition to a government or government entity. These decisions can have profound impacts on our future economic growth and freedom, so it is vital that Congress maintain close oversight and protect Internet freedom.”

U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo

*Eshoo statement on NTIA's announcement to transition IANA functions
18 March 2014*

Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto), Ranking Member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, issued the following statement in response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration announcement to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community:

“Multistakeholder governance of the Internet is essential to preserving a global Internet driven by choice, competition and innovation, and making it a revolutionary tool for commerce and freedom of expression. I've long held the belief and championed the U.S. support for the successful multistakeholder model for Internet governance.

“I welcome the announcement by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to transition from its role in coordinating the Internet's domain name system to a multistakeholder governance community, guided by the principles of an open, secure, stable and resilient Internet.”

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[Read on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Website >>](#)

*U.S. Chamber Statement on Department of Commerce's Transition of ICANN
20 March 2014*

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Vice President for International Affairs John Murphy released the following statement today on the announcement that the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications & Information

Administration (NTIA) will relinquish its oversight of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN):

“Given the announcement that the NTIA plans to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community as first laid out by the U.S. government in 1997, the U.S. Chamber strongly supports the U.S. government’s opposition to any proposal ‘that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or inter-governmental organization solution.’ As a representative of a diverse cross-section of the global stakeholder community, the Chamber urges the U.S. government and other parties to support a multi-stakeholder governance model that promotes and upholds the core attributes that have enabled the Internet to deliver transformative benefits to people and businesses around the world. These core attributes include respect for the rule of law, support for transparency and accountability, and rejection of disguised barriers to trade. We urge the U.S. government to require a careful and responsible transition that preserves and strengthens the multi-stakeholder model.”

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA)

[Read on the AfICTA Website >>](#)

*AfICTA statement on the proposed transfer of the IANA function by NTIA
20 March 2014*

The Africa Information and Communication Technology Alliance, notes the announcement by the United States’ [National Telecommunication and Information Agency \(NTIA\) of the Department of Commerce](#) regarding its role related to the internet [IANA function](#) and calling for a process of engagement by the global multi-stakeholder community by 2015.

AfICTA is a private sector member of the global multistakeholder community, representing the interests of the ICT sector in Africa; our members will actively participate in the processes leading to a responsible, accountable transition toward actualization of the NTIA announcement.

Africa is the world's second largest continent, and the Internet and online services are vitally important to the socio-economic development of Africa. With African businesses and socio-economic development being increasingly tied to the Internet, the need for a single, robust, stable, secure and trusted internet cannot be over-emphasized.

As the dialogue among stakeholders therefore intensifies in the coming months, great effort on the replacement of the NTIA role should be focused on an Internet that remains accessible, unified, stable, secure and trust-worthy. Whatever solution that will evolve should be balanced and unamenable to takeover by any political or economic interest. It should also be such that it operates under the highest environment of respect for the rule of law.

Finally, the potential new oversight regime should have inherent features that would enable it to surpass the stewardship of the regime it is to replace. AfICTA's members look forward to continuing our contribution to a transition that reflects bottom up, multi-stakeholder participation and full engagement.

African Union Commission (AUC)

[Read on the African Press Organization \(APO\) Website >>](#)

*AUC Communiqué on the USA Government Decision to transfer the Function of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) to a global multistakeholder community / For an inclusive governance of the Internet critical resources
19 March 2014*

The African Union Commission (AUC) welcomed the announcement of the United States Government intention to transfer the Function of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) to a “global multi-stakeholder community”

“This is an historical decision for an inclusive governance of the Internet critical resources” said Dr (Mrs) Elham M. Ibrahim, the African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy with the ICT Portfolio.

Since its creation, IANA, whose function is to oversee the global IP address allocation, autonomous system number allocation, root zone management in the Domain Name System (DNS), media types, and other Internet Protocol-related symbols and numbers, has been always operating under a contract with an US agency and approved allocation of these critical resources. Like many other institutions around the world, the AUC has been calling for more inclusive approach to this allocation while keeping the Internet secure, stable and open.

“This US announcement is important for the entire global Internet Community and particularly for African countries. The African Union Commission will work together with the US and other stakeholders to ensure that IANA functions will be well governed and efficiently operated for the benefits of all citizens of the world.” added the Commissioner.

In 2012, the AUC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US government in which they agreed among other to cooperate in the area of information technologies. The recent visit to Washington of ICT executives from the AUC, NEPAD Agency and the Regional Economic communities permitted both parties to discussion the progress made in the area of the Management of Internet Critical Resources.

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

*Statement from ITU Secretary-General, Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
17 March 2014*

[Read on the ITU Website >>](#)

I welcome the announcement from [the National Telecommunication and Information Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, of 14 March, 2014](#), regarding its intent to transition [IANA](#) functions to the global community, including full support for a multistakeholder model of Internet governance free from regulation by any one government or inter-governmental organization.

I would like to reiterate what I have said many times: the Internet is a global public good and therefore all nations and peoples should have an equal say in its running and development. I commend the US government's announcement about changing oversight arrangements of the management of critical Internet resources and I believe this development will lead to improved and productive cooperation between the telecommunications and Internet communities.

I look forward to further development of the appropriate mechanisms which will ensure fair, equitable and inclusive management of critical internet resources for the benefit of all and count on discussing these proposals with all relevant stakeholders at the [NETMundial](#) meeting in Brazil this coming April as well as other appropriate fora.

I urge all stakeholders involved to develop the transition plan in the spirit of principles agreed by the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005. This means, inclusive of all nations and stakeholders, from developing and developed countries alike, and conducted in a transparent, open, constructive manner with a view to ensuring a more equitable and accessible Internet for all.

European Commission

[Read on the European Commission Website >>](#)

Towards further Globalisation of the Internet
15 March 2014

Vice President Neelie Kroes today warmly welcomed the announcement of the United States Government to "transition out of the IANA function", which will allow a more global multi-stakeholder basis for an important element of governance of the Internet.

"This is an historical step in making Internet governance truly global, and marks major progress towards the development of a multi-stakeholder model as advocated in the Commission's recent Communication" Vice-President Kroes said.

Until now the United States has had the final say in changes to globally used data on top-level Internet domain names, such as .com or .de. The Commission has been pushing for such a move since 2009 and, most recently in its Communication on Internet Policy and Governance of 12 February 2014, called for the globalisation of the IANA functions.

The Commission's Communication – like the US announcement – stresses the need to safeguard in the globalisation process the security and stability of the Internet, and commits to the multi-stakeholder model of governance.

"It is a very timely announcement, ahead of an important multi-stakeholder conference in São Paulo on Internet governance principles and the future evolution of the governance ecosystem" added Vice President Kroes. "The European Commission will work together with the US and with all global stakeholders to implement the globalisation of the IANA functions in a process that is accountable and transparent, and in a manner that secures the open Internet and that will underpin human rights."

Australian Minister for Communications, Malcolm Turnbull

[Read on the Minister's Website >>](#)

Australia is committed to a multi-stakeholder system of Internet governance
15 March 2014

A momentous day in the history of the Internet. On Friday 14 March, the US Government announced it was ready to withdraw from its central role in the management of the Internet provided future governance arrangements ensured an open Internet free from the control of governments.

The Internet may not have been invented by Al Gore, but it definitely began in the

United States and had its origins in research programs funded by the US Department of Defence and later other agencies.

This led to the US Government retaining a central, but increasingly symbolic, role in the administration of the Internet.

Right at the heart of the system is a series of address books – the Domain Name System (DNS). They make sure that addresses in words `www.aph.gov.au` or `bill.bloggs@gmail.com` will actually connect to the machines that host their web content or mail servers. These machines have IP addresses – long, unique, strings of numbers - and when a message is sent to one of them each packet of data making up the message must have the right digital address.

The most important address book, handling the top level domains (TLDs) is managed by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ([ICANN](#)) through what is called the [IANA](#) (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) function which manages the root zone (or the highest part of DNS hierarchy). This function operates under a contract with US Department of Commerce.

The function of the US Department of Commerce in the IANA contract has been largely symbolic, but it is a big symbol. It gave important legitimacy to ICANN at the outset and provided reassurance that somebody was keeping an eye on ICANN – a multi-stakeholder institution with representatives drawn from the Internet industry, academia, not for profits and of course governments. ICANN operates in a very consultative manner seeking consensus before making decisions about changes to the root zone.

While largely symbolic the US Government's role has aroused more and more controversy and from some quarters animosity. How could the Internet belong to the world and yet at its very heart be overseen by a contract with the US Government?

A number of Governments including China and Russia have argued, quoting from a recent submission, that “policy authority for Internet-related public issues is the sovereign right of States, which have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues” and so have supported the International Telecommunication Organisation (ITU) taking responsibility for the management of the Internet, stepping into not simply the shoes of the US Department of Commerce but potentially of ICANN itself.

The Snowden revelations about the NSA of course have nothing to do with the administration of the DNS root zone whatsoever but they added to the anxiety about the US Government remaining at the centre of the Internet and gave considerable momentum to the argument that the governance of the Internet should move to a formal inter-governmental level.

Of course there is a lot more to the governance of the Internet than ICANN let alone the administration of the DNS, but many have been concerned that the central role of the US Department of Commerce was creating the impression that the US Government had vastly more involvement and control in the management of the Internet than the very little it, in fact, had.

So today the US Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) [announced its intention to end its contractual involvement with ICANN](#) and it asked ICANN to convene the global Internet community to develop a proposal to transition away from the current US Government centred model of governance.

Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the United States Department of Commerce Larry Strickling, with whom I have been discussing this move this week, laid down some very clear conditions. Before any transition proposal would be acceptable to the US and allow it to exit, it must not only have broad support across the global Internet community but it must be one which supports and enhances the multi-stakeholder model and in particular must not involve the replacement of the US Government with a government-led or inter-governmental organization, like the ITU or the UN.

Mr Strickling also said any new structure must maintain the security, stability and resilience of the Domain Name System, meet the needs of global customers and partners of that system and above all maintain the openness of the Internet. Mr Strickling is confident that ICANN, beginning with a conference in Singapore on 23 March, will be able to mobilise the global Internet community to find the right transition.

As I noted in a [speech on this topic on March 5](#), the Australian Government is absolutely committed to supporting an open Internet which is administered by multi stakeholder organisations like ICANN and NOT by governments whether in the form of consortia or multilateral organisations like the ITU or the UN.

The Internet is the most remarkable invention of our times and while it had its origins in research contracts with the US Government its growth, its dynamism, its resilience have all been the result of collaborative efforts by the wide Internet community not government regulation or fiat.

While it is all too common to complain about the US Government role in the Internet the truth is that the world owes the United States an extraordinary debt not just for giving birth to the Internet, but above all for giving it the freedom to develop into the extraordinary global platform it has become today.

The IANA contract with the US Department of Commerce expires in September 2015 and today I assured the President of ICANN, Mr Fadi Chehade, that the Australian Government will provide all the support it can to ICANN's efforts to develop a structure of governance that will meet the US Department of Commerce's vitally

important conditions of removing itself from the IANA arrangements at the heart of the Internet.

A key question is whether the exit of the US Department of Commerce creates a gap that needs to be filled. Is ICANN now sufficiently representative, sufficiently trusted that it can manage the DNS root zone, allocate top level domains and country top level domains without oversight other than that which comes internally from its board and the global constituencies they represent?

On the other hand, while the prospective exit of the US Government will please many governments and indeed the technical organisations associated with ICANN as their statements today attest, it is true that for many people and their businesses the US Government's role was most reassuring – having a power, held in reserve no doubt, that could if necessary step in to protect the public interest.

There is a lot of work to do to support ICANN in transitioning to a new model and the Australian Government, committed as it is to a multi-stakeholder system of governance, will work with the Australian and global Internet community including other governments to ensure that the Internet remains free, stable and resilient and continues to be a powerful platform for freedom around the world.

National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA)

[Read on the NTRA Website >>](#)

*Internet governance
18 March 2014*

H.E. Eng. Atef Helmy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, welcomed the announcement by the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), issued on Friday, 14 March 2014.

NTIA expressed, in its announcement, its intent to transition its oversight role on key Internet domain name functions to a new future mechanism, replacing the role that NTIA has exercised for years in this sphere.

Particularly, H.E. praised NTIA's call to ICANN to commence without delay a consultative process to formulate a common vision involving all stakeholders throughout the world towards developing such future mechanism.

Eng. Atef Helmy has stressed the fact that the afore-mentioned announcement comes in line with the Egyptian vision that has been raised in various forums in the past years, including the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the United Nations Commission on Science and

Technology for Development (CSTD), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). That vision is based on main pillars that include:

- ⌚ Participation of all stakeholders in Internet Governance processes;
- ⌚ Participation of all countries on equal footing in Internet-related international public policy making, with no single government exercising a pre-eminent role; and
- ⌚ Recognizing the importance of openness, security, stability and resiliency of the Internet network, and its uninterrupted continuous operations given the crucial role that internet is playing on the globe, and its increasing impact on the digital economy and society.

Minister Atef Helmy is to head a high-level Egyptian delegation to the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance that will take place in Brazil on 23, 24 April 2014. The meeting aims to consolidate global principles, and propose a roadmap for the further evolution of the Internet governance ecosystem, with multi-stakeholder participation. Egypt's official representation at such high level testifies to its leading and pioneering role in the international Internet governance landscape.

Eng. Hesham El Alaily, NTRA's Executive President, emphasized that NTRA is looking forward to participating actively in the consultation process announced by ICANN, which has already commenced in the afternoon of Saturday, March 15th, 2014 during the meeting which was held with the participation of Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN, which will be followed by a round of consultations in ICANN's next meeting in Singapore later this month.

Eng. Hesham El Alaily added that NTRA continually participates in ICANN's activities, where NTRA representatives actively engage in the work of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). Moreover, Egypt previously assumed the roles of Vice-Chairman both in GAC, and in the Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT), the latter that reached significant recommendations that are being implemented in ICANN. In addition, Egypt participates in the activities of the Global Internet Governance Forum since its inception, with Egypt hosting it in 2009.

Furthermore, Eng. Hesham El Alaily highlighted Egypt's pivotal role at the Arab level in the area of Internet governance, as H.E. Eng. Atef Helmy chairs the Executive Bureau of the Arab Telecommunication and Information Council of Ministers (ATICM), and where NTRA has participated in the establishment of the Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab IGF), which held its last meeting in Cairo last week, and also runs its Technical Secretariat since its establishment in 2012, as per the Arab Ministers mandate.

United Kingdom (UK) Communications Minister Ed Vaizey

[Read on the UK Website >>](#)

*UK backs US over ICANN internet move
21 March 2014*

Communications Minister Ed Vaizey has welcomed the US government's decision to transfer its responsibility for the internet's domain name system to an international, multi-stakeholder process.

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) has managed and coordinated the Internet's address system since 1998 under contract from the US Government. The contract expires in September 2015.

Mr Vaizey said:

"The time is right move towards transferring responsibility for the internet's domain name system into an open and transparent multi-stakeholder process which is fully accountable to the global Internet community."

The US government has asked ICANN to develop a plan for the transition to a multi-stakeholder process.

ICANN will hold its 50th public meeting of global stakeholders in London in June this year. Mr Vaizey is convening a meeting of government ministers and senior policymakers.

He said:

"This meeting will provide an opportunity for senior government policymakers to discuss how they can contribute to the process of globalisation of the Internet's critical infrastructure resources."

United Nations (UN)

[Read on the UN Website >>](#)

*Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on intent of the United States to Transition Key Internet Domain Name Functions
18 March 2014*

The Secretary-General welcomes the announcement by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of 14 March 2014, concerning its intent to transition key Internet domain name

functions to the global multi-stakeholder community.

The Secretary-General takes note of this important development, especially in light of the results of decisions taken at the World Summit on the Information Society that agreed on a multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. He encourages governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and the Internet technical community to engage in furthering the process to ensure a single, open, free, secure and trustworthy Internet.

UNESCO

UNESCO Director-General Welcomes Intent to Transition Key Internet Domain Name Functions

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova welcomes the announcement from the United States Department of Commerce on the intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community, involving the IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) functions of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).

“This is an important step for the open governance of the Internet Domain Name system as a major critical resource in cyberspace,” said the Director-General.

“This will not only contribute to advancing the distributed technical and infrastructural capacity of the Internet -- it will help facilitate the free flow of information, open access to information and exercise of freedom of expression and other fundamental human rights online, as promoted by UNESCO.”

The foreseen transition is a timely action, relevant to UNESCO’s ongoing work in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+10 Review Process and the Internet governance issues within the UNESCO mandate, towards post-2015 Development Agenda, as called upon by UNESCO’s 195 Member States.

For UNESCO, it is important that the envisioned transition maintains the openness, robustness, decentralized and interoperable nature of the Internet, while providing the means for a truly multi- stakeholder involvement in its governance.

As mandated by the 37th session of the UNESCO General Conference (Resolution 52), UNESCO has just launched a multi-stakeholder consultation process for conducting a comprehensive study on Internet- related issues within the UNESCO mandate, including Access to Information and Knowledge, Freedom of Expression, Privacy and Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society, and also exploring possible options for future actions.

UNESCO is committed to an Internet that is human rights-based, open, accessible to all and governed by a multi-stakeholder framework, so as to optimize its potential as an essential platform to lay the foundations for lasting peace, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

In December 2009, UNESCO signed an agreement with ICANN to help put into operation the first multilingual domain names. This was a significant step towards greater linguistic diversity on the Internet.

EU-US Summit Joint Statement

26 March 2014

The Internet has become a key global infrastructure. We share a commitment to a universal, open, free, secure, and reliable Internet, based on an inclusive, effective, and transparent multi-stakeholder model of governance. As such, we reaffirm that human rights apply equally online and offline, and we endeavour to strengthen and improve this model while working towards the further globalisation of core Internet institutions with the full involvement of all stakeholders. We look forward to the transition of key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community based on an acceptable proposal that has the community's broad support. We acknowledge the good expert-level cooperation developed in the framework of the EU-US Working Group on Cyber Security and Cybercrime. We commend the political success of our joint initiative to launch a Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online, as the EU prepares to hand over the lead to the United States, and we decide to tackle jointly the issue of transnational child sex offenders. We reiterate our support for the Budapest Convention on cybercrime, and encourage its ratification and implementation. Building on all these achievements and guided by shared values, we have today decided to launch a comprehensive EU-US cyber dialogue to strengthen and further our cooperation including on various cyber-related foreign policy issues.

Joint NGO Statement

*Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo
1 April 2014*

The undersigned human rights and free expression organizations, like the members of this Subcommittee, are dedicated to ensuring that the Internet remains a free and open global platform for the exercise of everyone's rights. With that common goal in mind, ahead of the April 2 hearing "Ensuring the Security, Stability, Resilience, and Freedom of the Global Internet" we write to express our support for the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration

(NTIA) announcement of its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community. We share concerns that throughout this transition the Internet must continue to be an open platform for the free exercise of human rights online, and believe this move could help thwart government overreach in Internet governance, which would have devastating implications for human rights worldwide.

NTIA's "historic stewardship" of the DNS (Internet domain name system), while largely hands off, has drawn criticism and growing opposition from the international community for the simple fact that a single government performs an oversight role for what is clearly a global resource. This perceived imbalance has played into the hands of governments seeking to undermine the open, decentralized, participatory, bottomup multistakeholder model of Internet governance and impose new governmental or intergovernmental controls that could threaten the security, stability, resilience, and freedom of the global Internet.

Therefore we welcome NTIA's announcement that it intends to transfer the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the global multistakeholder community and support the guiding criteria that NTIA articulated for that transition: a community generated proposal that supports and enhances the open, decentralized, bottomup, multistakeholder model; maintains the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's domain name system; and maintains the openness of the Internet.

This move would alleviate international pressure on explicit terms, deter government overreach on the issue of Internet governance, and facilitate the exercise of human rights online. A transition on those terms would be fully consistent with prior bipartisan, unanimous statements of policy by the Congress (H. CON. April 1, 2014 RES. 127/S. CON. RES. 50) seeking to "preserve and advance the multistakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived."

The Department of Commerce has clearly stated that it will not accept any arrangement that fails to meet the guidelines it has proposed, and that it will explicitly reject any proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a governmentled or an intergovernmental organization solution. In taking this proactive step, and implementing a transition that has been a stated intention of the Commerce Department since the late '90s, the NTIA is leading the process and would be able to reject any proposal that does not meet its standards or serve the interests of a free, open, and secure Internet. In contrast, the proposed DOTCOM bill, intended to protect human rights and the free and open Internet against repressive government control, could have the opposite effect: forestalling the transfer of the IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community could further empower critics who favor a governmental or intergovernmental model of Internet governance, whether implemented through the United Nations' International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or some other governmentdominated, nonmultistakeholder body.

Our organizations will watch closely and engage deeply in the transition process to ensure that human rights are respected by any future Internet governance arrangement and that the transition meets the internationally recognized standards of inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability. In the meantime, we welcome this Subcommittee's interest in this important and complex issue, and look forward to working with its Members to ensure that the future of Internet governance fosters rather than undermines the security, stability, resilience, and freedom of the global Internet.

Sincerely,

Access
Center for Democracy & Technology
Freedom House
Human Rights Watch
The Open Technology Institute at New America Foundation
Public Knowledge

Access

[Read on the Access Website >>](#)

*Access welcomes historic USG announcement on IANA transition to global community
14 March 2014*

Access has supported greater international oversight of internet resources. We welcome today's announcement that the U.S. Department of Commerce intends to transition its current coordinating role over the internet's domain name system — the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, or IANA — to the 'global multistakeholder community.'

In making its announcement, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce has asked the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene stakeholders “across the global Internet community to craft an appropriate transition” plan with broad community support, and based on four key principles:

- 🕒 Support and enhance the multistakeholder 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.

While we largely support the four principles articulated by the NTIA, Access believes that the plan must 'meet the needs and expectation' of users, including the majority of the world that is not yet online, not just 'customers and partners.'

The plan must also be inclusive in its decision making so that policies reflect the interests of the global community, and the process to craft this transition proposal must be transparent, as must any resulting governance system.

Furthermore, Access strongly believes that the final proposed plan must secure and facilitate the exercise of fundamental human rights.

Today's announcement, while promising, is short on detail. We see this as positive step ahead of the global NetMundial conference being held in Sao Paulo, Brazil next month. Access looks forward to being part of the discussion on the development of the transition plan and its future implementation.

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

[Read on the APC's Website >>](#)

APC welcomes NTIA announcement on transition of key internet domain name functions
14 March 2014

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) welcomes the announcement made by the United States Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of its 'intent to transition key internet domain name functions to the [global multi-stakeholder community](#).'

NTIA's responsibility under current agreements means it has served as the "historic steward" of the DNS(internet domain name system). The fact that a single government currently plays this role, even if it has not been a particularly "hands-on" role, has been cause for concern and debate among governments and other stakeholders for more than a decade.

We commend the NTIA for committing to the transition to a multi-stakeholder process that needs full involvement of civil society, governments, business and the internet technical community (to mention just some of the current stakeholders affected by internet decision making) and for requiring that the resulting transition plan maintains the openness of the internet.

"This is however not trivial, as mechanisms for ensuring really effective and inclusive participation of all stakeholders on equal footing in internet policy making,

particularly those that currently lack power and influence, are still evolving. A further challenge lies in how to protect the broadest possible public interest in decisions about DNS and internet root zone management," said APC Executive Director Anriette Esterhuysen. "Nevertheless, this is a very constructive step, definitely in the right direction, and a unique opportunity to make progress in the evolution of the internet governance ecosystem. This is particularly important for stakeholders from developing countries," she added.

We recommend that ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), to which the NTIA is entrusting the development of the transition plan, look beyond its own internal multi-stakeholder processes in bringing together the larger community for the necessary consultations on how this transition should be undertaken. We also recommend that ICANN consider the submissions about how this transition can take place that were made to the upcoming NetMundial: Global Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance – www.netmundial.br – to be held in Brazil in late April 2014.

Article 19

[Read on the IFEX Website >>](#)

On 17 March 2014, ARTICLE 19 and other members of the Best Bits coalition welcomed the announcement made by the United States Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of its 'intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community.'

NTIA's responsibility under current agreements means it has served as the "historic steward" of the DNS (Internet domain name system). The fact that a single government currently plays this role, even if it has not been a particularly "hands-on" role, has been cause for concern and debate among governments and other stakeholders for more than a decade.

We commend the NTIA for committing to the transition to a multi-stakeholder process that needs full involvement of civil society, governments, business and the Internet technical community (to mention just some of the current stakeholders affected by internet decision making) and for requiring that the resulting transition plan maintains the openness of the Internet.

This is however not trivial, as mechanisms for democratising Internet governance, and ensuring really effective and inclusive participation of all who are affected by Internet policy making and standard setting both developing and developed countries are still evolving. A transition away from US government oversight does not in itself guarantee inclusion, transparency and accountability or protection of

the public interest in the management of DNS and the root zone. Nevertheless, this is a very constructive step, definitely in the right direction, and a unique opportunity to make progress in the evolution of the Internet governance ecosystem. This is particularly important for stakeholders from developing countries.

We recommend that ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), to which the NTIA is entrusting the development of the transition plan, look beyond its own internal multi-stakeholder processes in bringing together the larger community for the necessary consultations on how this transition should be undertaken. We also recommend that ICANN consider the submissions about how this transition can take place that were made to the upcoming NetMundial: Global Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance to be held in Brazil in late April 2014.

Brookings Institute

[Read on the Brookings Institute Website >>](#)

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Shifting Responsibility to "Global Multistakeholder Community"
15 March 2014

The National Telecommunications & Administration of the Department Commerce on Friday [announced a plan](#) to shift responsibility for overseeing the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to "the global multistakeholder community." This plan reflects a strong commitment to keeping the technical operations of the Internet in the hands of its nongovernmental community and out of the hands of governmental bodies.

ICANN aside, the key institutions that set these technical ground rules – the [Internet Engineering Task Force](#) (IETF) and its [Internet Architecture Board](#), the [Internet Society](#), the [Worldwide Web Consortium](#) (W3C) – operate as non-governmental, multi-stakeholder, multi-national, and community-driven bodies. There's a mouthful of hyphens in those adjectives, but they fit the Internet's diverse and fluid characteristics. These organizations make up a moveable feast of technical experts and, like the Internet, they have become global: for example, only about one-third of W3C members are American and the IETF is chaired by a Finn.

The ICANN transition will apply the same model across the board and complete the spinoff of the Internet from government that began in 1998, when ICANN was established and responsibility for overseeing the domain name internet registry systems was moved from the Defense Advanced Research Agency (DARPA) to Commerce. This moved the Internet fully into the civilian world and reflected the principles in the 1997 [U.S. Framework for E-Commerce](#) declaring that the development of the Internet should be led by the private sector with a minimum of

government involvement.

NTIA's commitment to these principles has helped to shield the Internet from regulation by government, whether in the United or elsewhere. Its three-year contracts with ICANN don't involve NTIA directly in managing the domain name system but spell out ICANN's responsibilities, including the importance of working with global stakeholders. As [Daniel Castro of the Information Technology and Internet Foundation points out](#), the NTIA contracts have helped hold ICANN accountable.

Nevertheless, NTIA's role in ICANN has taken on heavy symbolic freight way out of proportion to its value. While there is nothing in the role that enables any of the NSA surveillance revealed by Edward Snowden, the existence of this U.S. government role feeds a perception that the United States is somehow manipulating the Internet for its own economic and strategic advantage. It's not a perception on the part of foreigners only: in criticizing NTIA's decision, Newt Gingrich described it as "giving up control of the Internet."

The U.S. does not have "control of the Internet." Along with other countries for which the free flow of information, ideas, and innovation matter, it does have a large stake in continuing to protect the Internet from government control. Relinquishing NTIA's residual role will makes that job easier.

Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT)

[Read on the CDT's Wsite >>](#)

*US to Cede Control of Internet Naming, Significant Step Toward a Global Internet
15 March 2014*

"A global Internet needs global governance. The NTIA recognizes that this is the natural next step in the Internet's continued advancement."

Nuala O'Connor, CDT President & CEO

Yesterday, the US Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced that it plans to [transition key domain name functions](#) [1] to the global multistakeholder community. This is a significant step in the ongoing development of a truly global Internet. The transition will not happen until 2015 and there are many critical decisions to be made on how the naming system will be managed moving forward. The Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) will be actively involved in deliberations and CDT President Nuala O'Connor said the following in response:

“A global Internet needs global governance. The NTIA recognizes that this is the natural next step in the Internet’s continued advancement. Moving toward a fully globalized ICANN is necessary, however, in the process of cutting the US government’s umbilical cord, we must be careful to avoid exposing the domain name system to domination by other governments,” said O’Connor.

“The NTIA has clearly indicated it will oppose any government-dominated or inter-governmental solution. That is crucial. We cannot move toward a system where freedom and innovation on the Internet are put up to a vote among the governments of the world,” added O’Connor.

“There’s a lot of work ahead in determining the specifics of an accountable, independent, multistakeholder ICANN. It’s critical that the next evolution of ICANN be bound by a focused charter that confines it to the essential but narrow task of managing the domain name system, in a transparent and accountable way,” she concluded.

CDT will be posting a deeper analysis of the NTIA’s announcement next week, with further insight into the benefits and challenges of moving toward a more global Internet governance model.

Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA)

*Tech Industry Praises Liberation of Internet Governance Functions from U.S.G.
17 March 2014*

[Read on the CCIA Website >>](#)

Geneva/Brussels – The technology industry welcomes the [news](#) that the U.S. Commerce Department intends to complete the transition of relinquishing its control over key Internet addressing functions to the global multi-stakeholder community. This was a necessary next step in the evolution of the Internet and supports the current multi-stakeholder model of global Internet governance where all stakeholders concerned with the well being and functioning of the Internet help to shape the policies that make a bright online future for everyone possible.

The U.S. Commerce Department announced late Friday that it would transition its remaining authority over Internet addressing, administered through a contract with the international nonprofit ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. ICANN uses multi-stakeholder processes that involve governments, businesses, non-profits, Internet users and other stakeholders to set the policies governing the use of the key identifiers of the Internet, such as domain names and Internet Protocol (“IP”) addresses – which are to the Internet as street addresses are to the postal system.

While this relinquishment of residual control by the government was already underway, ICANN and its five regional sister organisations responsible for allocation of Internet addresses (known as “regional Internet registries”) have been pushing for this transition to be accelerated since the revelations about U.S. mass surveillance, culminating in the [Montevideo Statement on the Future of Internet Cooperation of](#) October 2013 signed by all these organisations.

The following can be attributed to CCIA Geneva Representative Nick Ashton-Hart: “Since the birth of ICANN in 1998, it has been clear that the United States’ custodial role over the Internet’s unique identifier systems was only meant to be temporary. This announcement is both welcome and timely in signaling the process to end that custodial role begins now. Whatever process ICANN and its partners utilize to design this final transition must engage stakeholders worldwide where they live and work – and not just at meetings held by the organizations concerned as part of their regular activities.”

The following can be attributed to CCIA Vice President James Waterworth, who runs CCIA’s Brussels office:

“This is great news for Internet users and businesses around the world that depend on an open, stable, secure Internet. The revelations about U.S. surveillance over the past year made clear that national policies which impact the Internet will come under increasing scrutiny and that the Internet belongs to the world.”

“The enhanced legitimacy flowing from this decision can only strengthen the technical and policy frameworks essential to all online communications. This is an essential opportunity to strengthen ICANN’s independence and governance institutions.”

European Telecommunications Network Operators Association (ETNO)

[Read on ETNO's Website >>](#)

*Internet Governance: Europe’s leading telcos welcome NTIA announcement
17 March 2014*

IANA functions transition is a first step towards a more inclusive governance approach

ETNO, representing Europe’s leading telecoms operators, welcomes the announcement that the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions will be transitioned to the global multi-stakeholder community. This is an important step towards a truly global, multi-stakeholder governance model for the Internet and it is

in line with ETNO's long standing ask that ICANN becomes globalised as an organisation.

Luigi Gambardella, Executive Chairman of ETNO, said: *"This is only a first step. European telecom operators are ready to play their part in this exciting and historic journey. Friday's NTIA announcement represents an incredible opportunity to make the governance of the Internet more participatory and global, by including all stakeholders. We will be very supportive of ICANN's efforts in opening up the IANA functions and we look forward to taking part in the community consultation process"*.

Last month, ETNO welcomed and supported the publication of the European Commission Communication on "Internet Policy and Governance", where the EU executive also called for the globalisation of the IANA functions. On top of this fundamental aspect, more is to be done if we are to improve and strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue on Internet-related matters.

Christoph Steck, Chair of ETNO's Internet governance Working Group and elected business representative to the NetMundial High Level Multi-stakeholder Committee, said: *"This is very good news: the Internet is global and so should be its governance. We congratulate the US Government for taking this historic step and we thank ICANN's CEO Fadi Chehade for his leadership in this process"*.

Internet governance is an important topic for ETNO members as demonstrated by ETNO's participation in various Internet governance. More specifically, ETNO is a member of the ICANN Business and ISPC Constituencies and participates actively in the annual Internet Governance Forum and the European Dialogue on Internet Governance.

About ETNO

ETNO has been the voice of Europe's Telecommunications Network Operators since 1992 and has become the main policy group representing European telcos. We represent 38 operators in 35 countries, who collectively account for an annual turnover of €600 billion and employ almost 1 million people. We bring together the main companies investing in innovative and high-quality e-communications platforms and services, representing over 60% of the total sector investment.

Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)

[Download from the MPAA Website >>](#)

*Statement by the MPAA on the NTIA Announcement Regarding Internet Domain Name Functions
24 March 2014*

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) issued the following statement today in reference to an announcement made by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that it intends to initiate a process that will transition key Internet domain name functions to a multi-stakeholder organization:

“We welcome the opportunity to participate in the process that ICANN and the Internet community will convene to ensure clear accountability and that the continued safety, security, and stability of the Internet are maintained through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process. An Internet that achieves peak performance and the highest level of operational excellence will benefit businesses and consumers alike.”

About the MPAA

The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA) serves as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries from its offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Its members include: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLC; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute

[Read on New America's Website >>](#)

*A Real Step? The Future of ICANN and how to support it.
21 March 2014*

“Control” of the Internet has been a contentious issue for a long time. The 1990s witnessed tension between the Internet’s founders such as Jon Postel and the U.S. government. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was created in 1998 as the agency that now manages, assigns, and controls Internet domain names worldwide. The U.S. government was connected to ICANN through a contractual agreement, which has led some to consider the US government the controller of the Internet. In the time since 1998, the number of Internet users around the world has grown to the billions and with this increased penetration has come growing opposition and criticism of the United States’ influential role in ICANN’s operations.

Aware of these critics, ICANN has developed and implemented a plan to [internationalize its activities](#). These activities have intensified since [Fadi Chehadé](#) assumed its leadership. The internationalization of ICANN can also be seen as a response to internet governance challenges, such as those posed by country proposals to expand of the role of International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

An apparent big step was made this past Friday when the United States Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intent to transition Internet domain name functions to a global multi-stakeholder community and that it will not renew [its contract](#) with ICANN, which expires in September 2015. NTIA currently contracts with ICANN to carry out the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, which include assigning domain names ([NTIA's FAQ](#)). Other IANA functions include: (1) the coordination of the assignment of technical Internet protocol parameters; (2) the processing of change requests to the authoritative root zone file of the DNS and root key signing key (KSK) management; (3) the allocation of Internet numbering resources; and (4) other services related to the management of the ARPA and INT top-level domains (TLDs).

ICANN will maintain its authority over naming and numbers, but the NTIA will no longer hold formal contracts with ICANN as the influence over the organization will be transferred over to a multi-stakeholder internet governance body that will hopefully include various international governments, private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. The nature of this body is still unclear and concerns have already been rising.

The Wall Street Journal [reported](#) on Friday that the NTIA's Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, Lawrence E. Strickling, is looking forward to the transition of ICANN to a model that "must ensure that ICANN is free from government influence" and that gives "stakeholders across the global Internet community to craft an appropriate transition plan."^[1]

In private communications with the authors, Brazilian Ambassador and Director of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations' Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho, praised the announcement saying it paves the way for the evolution towards ICANN becoming an entity whose comprehensive legal 'status' is not subject to a single jurisdiction while maintaining its multi-stakeholder nature. Benedicto explains that this has been a long standing request by Brazilian diplomats in regards to the consolidation of an internet governance ecosystem that is truly international and multi-stakeholder.

The move by NTIA has also been praised by civil-society organizations and coalitions. The Association for Progressive Communications [welcomed](#) the announcement and NTIA's commitment to maintaining transparency in the process, but suggested that ICANN plan the transition in a way that does not exclude those outside of ICANN's own multi-stakeholder process. Similarly, members of the Best Bits coalition also [commended](#) the historic announcement, but noted that the fight for inclusive Internet governance is not yet over.

Gene Kimmelman - president of the watchdog Public Knowledge - commented: "This is an opportunity for civil society and all other stakeholders to develop a workable open and transparent process for resolving Internet policy disputes. I hope

advocates can come together and seize this invitation for reform.” And Kevin Bankston, Policy Director at New America’s Open Technology Institute, notes that “a key challenge is how to create a democratic governance system, but a move towards a multi-stakeholder approach to governing the Internet is a positive step and a unique chance for all stakeholders to develop the free and open Internet of the future.”

Though NTIA’s decision is welcomed by a variety of stakeholders from civil society to government, the discussion on the possible concerns of a new system of Internet governance is far from over. NTIA has stated that it will not accept any proposal that replaces NTIA with another intergovernmental or government-led body, leading to questions on what role governments, especially those of developed countries, will play in the future of Internet governance. Though the United States government will no longer enjoy the benefits of a contract with ICANN, there are still concerns over whether developed countries’ governments or organizations will have more decision making power than those of developing countries. This concern also appears in regard to the power that might be exercised by non-democratic countries. For instance, conservatives in the United States have argued in the past that the U.S. needs to protect what control it has over the Internet and keep countries like China and Russia, which limit what citizens can see online, from making oversight decisions. With this in mind, [Republicans have](#), on March 18th, called for a hearing and close congressional oversight to any change.

Though the prospects of an ICANN without United States government ties is praised by some, other important questions emerge. As it becomes increasingly independent, what will keep ICANN from using tactics such as revoking domain names to enforce ICANN global principles? How will decisions be made and what legitimacy model will they be based on - consensus among nation’s governments or amongst consumers? As a global multi-stakeholder organization, will the rules of ICANN replace already existing national and local rules regarding the Internet without the consent of consumers? Granted, domain name seizures have occurred under United States government oversight, but will these incidences increase, decrease, or be unaffected without government oversight? When planning the roadmap for ICANN, these questions must be seriously considered by looking at the checks and balances of United States oversight, or lack thereof, and revise them to effectively check the power of a more independent ICANN.

In its [statement](#) last week, NTIA outlined its requirement that any new Internet governance model “maintain the openness of Internet,” but there was no guarantee or mention of what role international human rights law will play into the creation of Internet governance principles that would guide ICANN’s work moving forward. On the other hand, in its [contribution](#) to the upcoming Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, [NETmundial](#), the United States government included “protection of human rights” online as a necessary principle for internet governance.

ICANN's shift towards an international, multi-stakeholder model is a step in the right direction for internationalizing governance of the Internet, but NTIA and ICANN must ensure the process is transparent and open for discussion with government, technology, private sector, civil society, and other affected actors around the world. An official transition plan for the September 2015 separation has yet to be drafted, but ICANN's Noncommercial Stakeholders Group has [submitted](#) its own proposed roadmap for Internet governance to NETmundial that could shed light on some ideas floating around ICANN's transition planning. Other submissions to NetMundial also recommend that human rights be respected by any and all future Internet governance players, so ICANN should accept this principle as a starting point for its transition away from the United States government.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org)

Abu-Ghazaleh Applauds Decision to Transfer Key Internet Stewardship to Global Community

The US Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced March 14th, 2014 its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community. As the first step, NTIA is asking the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's domain name system (DNS).

"We welcome this move and applaud the decision to transition management responsibility for key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community. As an ICANN accredited registrar and through our different involvements in the multistakeholder model, we strongly believe that this move will have a positive impact on the Internet," HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) said in a statement. Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh who chaired the UN Forum on Internet Governance and laid the foundation for the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Berlin November 2004 added: "ICANN through its bottom-up approach is capable of developing a transition plan that supports and enhances the multi-stakeholder model, preserves the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet domain name system."

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also confirmed TAG-Org's support and participation in the consultation process, which will lead to developing a transition plan, "As the Chairman of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP), a global intellectual property rights protection leader, I am a very interested stakeholder in this process", he said.

"I continued to fully support IGF all the way since its inception as UN ICT TF, and subsequently as GAID chair, and always as TAG-Org chair. TAG-Org proudly served on the UN SG WGIG since its establishment. Today, once again I wish to applaud IGF success under its able leadership," he said.

It is worth noting that Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh chaired the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force (UNICTTF) (2004 – 2006), the Advisory Committee on Internet Governance (2003 – 2004), Global Alliance for ICT and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Commission on E-Business, Information Technologies and Telecoms, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (2001 – 2008).

In several occasions, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh called for transfer of key Internet Stewardship to the Global Community. In 2008, in his keynote speech during the ICANN Regional Outreach Meeting in Dubai, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stressed "The USA has served humanity with the introduction and continuous support of the Internet, and we thank the USA for this achievement", he concluded by stressing "It is time now to have the Internet managed and administered by an independent body ensuring the security and stability of the overall functions of the Internet."

World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA)

WITSA welcomes US decision to transition ICANN to global multi-stakeholder community
24 March 2014

WITSA welcomes US Government decision to transition Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Authority (ICANN) to global multi-stakeholder community

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), representing the national ICT associations of more than 80 economies, today welcomed the statement from the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of its intent "to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community."

WITSA, as the global voice of the ICT sector, welcomed this important step towards effective multi-stakeholder Internet Governance.

WITSA notes the first step proposed by NTIA is for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's domain name system (DNS).

WITSA considers the NTIA statement of intent as an important first step, since ICANN has been asked to enable this transition with broad community support, and address four key principles in the process:

- 🕒 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.

“WITSA underscores these principles which are of critical importance to the global ICT industry, and to ensure the ongoing technical development of the Internet,” said WITSA Chairman Santiago Gutierrez.

WITSA emphasized these not be regarded as ‘political’ principles, but as basic technical design and implementation principles that enable effective and efficient access for all the world’s people, and support the ever-growing capability of Internet technologies.

WITSA stated that it congratulates the U.S. Government for taking this step, and looks forward to working with ICANN in the transition.

Afilias

[Read on the Afilias Website >>](#)

*Afilias joins Internet Technical Leaders in Welcoming IANA Globalization progress
15 March 2014*

Afilias today announced its support for the statements by the Internet technical organizations responsible for coordination of the Internet infrastructure ([IETF](#), [IAB](#), ccTLD ROs, [ICANN](#), [ISOC](#) and [W3C](#)) regarding the announcement by the US Government of the suggested changes related to the IANA functions contract.

As a TLD Registry Operator and a leading registry technology services provider, Afilias has participated in the ICANN community since its inception and has helped to shape and implement Internet policies and practices in a secure and reliable manner consistent with evolving technical standards.

We endorse the statements of the [NTIA](#) and the organizations noted above with respect to the maturation of these organizations and processes, and we are committed to continuing to contribute to the stewardship of the Internet as part of a globally inclusive, open and transparent multi-stakeholder community.

We look forward to participating in the development and deployment of the

transition plan.

AT&T

[Read on the AT&T Website >>](#)

The Continuing Evolution of the Global Internet
March 14, 2014

Twenty-five... global... and surpassing expectations! That's the Internet, driving economic growth, job creation, education, and production efficiencies; and enriching our lives and our communities, all around the world.

The Internet works so well, and has expanded so quickly, that we tend to take for granted what made it possible. All of this has been brought to citizens of the world by a private-sector-led, multistakeholder governance model that is flat, decentralized, and consensus-based. Governments have a role, but so too do other interested and competent stakeholders including, perhaps most significantly, the experts and independent bodies that make crucial contributions to the technical operation of the Internet.

Early on, the U.S. government recognized the important role the private sector and Internet users play in managing the Internet's core functions. It supported efforts of the Internet community to form a private, dedicated, and nonprofit corporation to handle certain essential technical functions including responsibility for allocation of domain names and IP addresses, for protocols, and for root servers that together authoritatively map website names to IP addresses. These functions comprise the Domain Name System (DNS) that is operated by the [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority](#) (IANA).

In 1998, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) selected the [Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers](#), or ICANN, to manage the DNS precisely because of its focus on being open and consensus-based. A decade later In 2009, the U.S. took an important step in support of ICANN's transition to an independent, private-sector-led multistakeholder organization by establishing a [framework](#) that enhanced ICANN's independence while, at the same time, putting measures in place to assure ICANN remains transparent and accountable.

The Internet has thrived in an environment that allowed ICANN to operate without the type of government intrusion that would have impeded global growth and development. Approximately 147 million people were using the Internet when ICANN was founded in 1998. Today, there are more than 2.7 billion users all over the world. The U.S. can be proud of being a leader in shaping the governance model

that has brought such rapid and stable growth. And now, we are at another important moment in the long-standing evolution of the global Internet.

Today, NTIA [announced](#) its intent to transition domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community, and called upon ICANN to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's DNS. NTIA made clear that any transition proposal must have broad community support and address four principles: support and enhance the multistakeholder model; maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS; meet the needs and expectations of global customers and partners of the IANA services; and maintain the openness of the Internet. Wisely, NTIA made clear that it would not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an inter-governmental organization solution. The solution must be found in the private-sector-led, multistakeholder model and cannot become controlled by governments or inter-governmental institutions.

This is an important step in the ongoing evolution of the global Internet. NTIA is to be commended for its historical stewardship, its current thoughtful and pro-active approach, and its global leadership throughout. The U.S. is looking to the future, promoting leadership and ideas from the global multistakeholder community, and establishing clear criteria to ensure the stability and security of a remarkably well-functioning system. We expect that other governments and stakeholders will join with the U.S. in committing to this vision.

As we move forward, it's vital that the global multistakeholder arrangement envisioned by NTIA remain independent from government control, yet accountable to its mission. Stable, yet open to evolution. Today, some countries and institutions are advocating for inter-governmental control of the Internet. This would undermine the Internet, put at risk the stability that is crucial to its operation and growth, and stifle its unprecedented capacity for economic and social development. ICANN was first created to reduce government control over important Internet functions, and going forward these functions must remain free of undue government influence.

NTIA has made this initiative at the right time. It has provided a blueprint for how the multistakeholder community can further internationalize the governance of the Internet, while critically preserving the security, stability and dynamism that we all require. Next week, the ICANN community meets in Singapore, presenting an important opportunity for the multistakeholder community to begin this important work.

AT&T has a tradition of working with stakeholders around the world on this effort, and we believe NTIA's initiative will lead to even more thoughtful discussions about how to ensure a stable, secure, and open Internet for the future. We are not kidding ourselves about how important and challenging this task will be. Only with concerted, good faith effort and collaboration will the world community define an

operating model that is globally accountable yet independent, and that preserves the reliability, security, and scalability essential to the operation of the Internet.

.au Domain Administration (auDA)

[Read on the auDA Website >>](#)

auDA welcomes US announcement regarding changes to global Internet management

.au Domain Administration Ltd (auDA), the manager of Australia's ".au" Internet domain space, welcomes the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) recent decision to transition key Internet management functions to the global multi-stakeholder community.

Since its establishment in 1999, auDA has been an active participant within this community, and a supporter of the global manager of the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

"auDA welcomes the NTIA's announcement and, in particular, a number of key messages within it", said auDA CEO and ICANN Board Director, Chris Disspain.

"Firstly, auDA agrees that ICANN is ideally positioned to assume responsibility for coordinating the transition process. We also support NTIA's stipulation that current arrangements will not be replaced by a government-led or intergovernmental solution. We also agree that broad community engagement is required in developing a transition plan and support the key principles of openness, multi-stakeholderism, security and stability, and customer-focus stipulated by NTIA."

Most importantly, auDA notes the NTIA's announcement will not affect the security, stability and functionality of .au.

auDA also notes that NTIA's action will cause no instability to current operational arrangements for the management of key Internet naming resources globally.

"NTIA's announcement is not a surprise, but rather a welcome conclusion to a transition process commenced by the U.S. Government in 1997", said Mr Disspain.

"Many of us have worked extremely hard over the last 15 years to develop an open, responsive and reliable governance environment. auDA looks forward to working with all stakeholders, including the Australian Government, to realise a model that will reflect the interests and needs of all Internet users, especially those in Australia".

Blacknight

[Read on the Blacknight Website >>](#)

*US Government To Transition Key Technical Functions
16 March 2014*

Ireland's leading domain registrar and hosting company is pleased to welcome massive change to the Internet's infrastructure that will signify the closure of the United States control over ICANN and the IANA function.

During a press conference that took place at 11 p.m. UTC on March 14, 2014 ICANN CEO Fadi Chehade and Chairman of the ICANN board Steve Crocker Announced that The United States Government, which currently oversees the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), and is the appointing body for The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), would transfer its responsibilities to the global multistakeholder community.

For those who are unfamiliar with these entities, IANA administers the root zone and coordinates the DNS as well as many other functions. ICANN oversees the general function of the Internet at large. On a practical level, The IANA functions are currently administered by ICANN. This will not change as ICANN has been providing the IANA service for sixteen years without financial assistance from the US Govt.

ICANN anticipates that the role will be taken over not by another single government entity, but by a global multistakeholder community. The U.S. government is asking ICANN to lead a process for a global multistakeholder community dialogue about how and what this transition will entail.

Blacknight CEO Michele Neylon "This is an incredibly historic and important day for Internet governance. As a member of the International governance and infrastructure communities I applaud this move away from a single government to a regulating body that represents the interests of the global community. However, the real challenge now lies ahead in identifying and implementing a strong, diverse community to oversee these crucial organizations."

According to ICANN's website "The transition from the U.S. government has been envisioned since 1997 as reflected in "Framework for Global Electronic Commerce" and the subsequent "Statement of Policy" in 1998. The US government always envisioned its role as transitional and this is the next step in the concept of globalization of the IANA Functions that was called for and begun sixteen years ago." The U.S. contract expires in 2015.

The multistakeholder-designed process that is consensus-driven, participatory, open, and transparent will launch at the ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore in March

2014. Subsequent to this meeting, input from the community discussions will be compiled and put out for public comment and community feedback. The feedback from the community will inform the process going forward.

ICANN has stated that the transition away from the U.S. government can be made as early as September 2015. This announcement does not affect Internet users or how the Internet functions.

Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA)

[Read on the CIRA Website >>](#)

*The U.S. government will not renew the IANA contract
March 16, 2014*

Last evening the government of the United States made an announcement that sent shockwaves through the [Internet governance world](#). The [National Telecommunications & Information Administration \(NTIA\)](#), a division of the Department of Commerce, publicly stated that it will not be renewing its contract with the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) past its September 2015 expiry date.

The importance of this announcement cannot be underestimated.

The Internet is, for the most part, a product of U.S. interests, including the Department of Defense and the Department of Commerce. As a result, key Internet technical infrastructure has been operating under contract administered by the NTIA. Core to these operations are the functions IANA plays – the coordination of the DNS Root and Internet Protocol addressing. As you can imagine, among the entities that comprise the Internet governance ecosystem and certain states around the world, there are many that are opposed to U.S. government interests so close to the Internet's operations.

Interestingly this announcement, however big it is, should not be seen as entirely unexpected.

I've blogged before about the current governance model in place to manage the [Internet](#). Commonly called the multi-stakeholder model, it is a bottom-up, consensus-based model that includes an organic mix of public and private entities at the regional, national and international levels – those entities that have a stake in the success of the Internet. This complex network of inter-related and inter-connected bodies that comprise the Internet governance world is analogous to a natural ecosystem. And like a natural ecosystem, the current governance structures and

processes grew organically, beginning in the 1960s when the Internet was entirely under the control of the United States government.

Like a natural ecosystem, the organisms that comprise the greater governance entity exist in a delicate balance. As it is continuously evolving, the entities involved in the governance of the Internet also need to evolve. The fact is many organizations have ceased to exist or were reorganized as a result of the changing needs of the Internet ecosystem. Who remembers the International Network Working Group or the Federal Networking Council?

I should also note that it has always been the intent of the government to transfer management of these functions to ICANN. Central to this commitment was the transitioning of the so-called 'IANA functions'.

I believe we are witnessing another evolutionary step in the development of the Internet with today's announcement. Momentum to reform the current Internet governance structures and systems has been gaining steam for a number of years. However, much of the current discourse on Internet governance focuses on the linkage between ICANN, IANA and the U.S. government. The U.S. government backing away from that accountability role removes a considerable barrier in those discussions.

We are, however, left with an accountability vacuum. Whether or not you agreed with the role of the U.S. government, the fact is they did play an important – if only very limited in recent years – role in ensuring IANA was doing the work it was tasked with. With the removal of the U.S. government as that accountability body, mechanisms or structures will likely need to be put in place in order to assume that role. That said, I'm confident any number of solutions will be proposed over the coming months, and that we are on the cusp of settling a number of the outstanding issues that have dogged the Internet governance world for years.

Cisco

[Read on the Cisco Website >>](#)

Cisco Supports U.S. Department of Commerce Decision to Transition Internet Management Functions
15 March 2014

On Friday, March 14, the US Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community. As the first step, NTIA is requesting the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene global stakeholders and develop a proposal to

transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's domain name system (DNS).

This is a significant milestone in the transition of Internet governance to a global multi-stakeholder model, and Cisco welcomes this development. We applaud the NTIA for seeking to complete the final phase of the privatization of DNS management, as outlined by the U.S. Government in 1997. Cisco has long supported an open and innovative multi-stakeholder Internet governance process and this next step in its evolution.

NTIA has outlined a powerful process for the move towards full privatization and globalization of DNS management. It is based upon the recognition that the ecosystem of organizations, groups and individuals which make up the multi-stakeholder Internet governance community is mature and robust and can stand on its own.

At the same time, NTIA has outlined a transition designed to ensure participation by the entire Internet community, and that will continue to support the open and multi-stakeholder nature of the Internet. Key to this process will be the continued strong collaboration between ICANN, the Regional Internet Registries who allocate addresses, and the IETF that specifies Internet standards.

We look forward to working with the Internet community stakeholders to make this transition as successful as possible.

Google

[Read on the Wall Street Journal >>](#)

"The Internet was built to be borderless and this move toward a more multistakeholder model of governance creates an opportunity to preserve its security, stability and openness."

-Vint Cerf, Google vice president and Chief Internet Evangelist.

Microsoft

[Read on Microsoft's Blog >>](#)

*Microsoft applauds US NTIA's transition of key Internet domain name functions
17 March 2014*

The U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information

Administration's recent announcement of its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community is a significant and welcome development.

Unlike the other major international communications networks (e.g., the telephone system and postal systems), there has been no single government-led organization that has guided the evolution and growth of the Internet. Instead, "Internet governance" has been the responsibility of literally dozens of different organizations, involving academics, technologists, government and business working collaboratively to create and implement the key standards, shape business practices, and develop norms that have enabled the Internet to grow at an astonishing rate over the last 20 years. This model has served the world well and led to countless innovations that have transformed our world. Initiating the final steps in the transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions now is a clear recognition of the value and success of this unique model.

The IANA functions are critical to the operation of the Internet – and the Internet technical organizations have worked carefully and collaboratively to ensure that we can all rely on the Domain Name System (DNS). The U.S. government has had a stewardship role over the IANA functions since their inception and, as part of the group that began the transition process in 1997, I can personally attest that our goal since that time has been to fully transfer stewardship to the global multi-stakeholder community.

As a worldwide leader in providing devices, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential, Microsoft relies on the stability, resilience and security of the DNS system to enable our cloud services – and we are confident that now is the right time to complete this transition. It is the logical next step in the evolution of the greatest technological innovation of our time, and we look forward to participating in the process with ICANN, IETF, IAB, ISOC and all other stakeholders.

Mozilla

"The transition of ICANN away from formal ties to the US Department of Commerce is an important step forward for global Internet governance. Many details to work through, however, careful stewardship by a multistakeholder international community has the potential to create an inclusive, effective and lasting process for managing the Internet's core resources and mechanisms."

-Alex Fowler, Global Privacy & Public Policy Lead - Mozilla

Neustar

[Read on the Neustar website >>](#)

Neustar Applauds NTIA's Decision on IANA Services
Mar 15, 2014

Sterling, Va. – Today, Neustar Inc. (NYSE:NSR) applauded the United State’s decision to transition management responsibility for key Internet domain name functions – currently provided by ICANN under contract to the Department of Commerce - to the global multi-stakeholder community. As the registry operator for .us, the US country code top-level domain, and the .biz top-level domain, and as the registry services provider for many new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), Neustar relies on the stable and reliable delivery of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions that are the subject of this announcement.

“As an early participant in and supporter of the ICANN process, Neustar welcomes this decision,” said Lisa Hook, Neustar’s CEO.

In making this announcement, NTIA called upon ICANN to work collaboratively with affected stakeholders to develop a transition plan that supports and enhances the multi-stakeholder model, preserves the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet domain name system, and serves global consumers of IANA services. Said Hook, “We share the US government’s view that the time has come for ICANN to convene global stakeholders to develop the policies, procedures, and accountability framework needed to transition ultimate responsibility for the IANA functions, and we look forward to participating in that process.”

“NTIA’s announcement marks the beginning of the final phase of a process envisioned in 1998, when the US government issued the White Paper on DNS management,” said Neustar’s Deputy General Counsel, Becky Burr, who served as the director of NTIA’s Office of International Affairs at the time. “To paraphrase Jon Postel: ‘there’s still a lot of work to do in these interesting times we live in.’ Neustar looks forward to working with all stakeholders through ICANN to take this important step in Internet governance.”

Verizon

[Read on the Verizon Website >>](#)

Verizon Supports Global Multi-stakeholder Process for Domain Names
14 March 2014

Today (Friday, March 14), the National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community. The following statement

should be attributed to Craig Silliman, Verizon senior vice president for public policy:

“We applaud NTIA for recognizing the global relevance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions and the current maturity of multi-stakeholder frameworks. A successful transition in the stewardship of these important functions to the global multi-stakeholder community would be a timely and positive step in the evolution of Internet governance. Given the importance of the IANA functions to the stability and correct functioning of the Internet, it will be essential that a plan that preserves the security, stability, and seamless nature of the Internet be developed through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder process prior to the transition.”