Statements in Support of the IANA Stewardship Transition

On March 10, 2016 the ICANN Board of Directors submitted the IANA Stewardship Transition Proposals to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency within the Department of Commerce. In response, a number of businesses, trade associations and other organizations, including Intel Corporation, Amazon, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Dell, Cisco, Yahoo!, Cloudflare, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Internet Governance Coalition (AT&T, CISCO, Comcast, Disney, Facebook, GoDaddy, Google, Juniper, Microsoft, NCTA, Time Warner Cable, Telefonica, Verizon and 21st Century Fox), the U.S. Council for International Business, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Internet Association, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Information Technology Industry Council, the Software & Information Industry Association, the U.S. Council for International Business, Access Now, Article19, the Centre for Democracy & Technology, Human Rights Watch, Open Technology Institute, Public Knowledge, Ranking Digital Rights, Internet Society, the Internet Infrastructure Coalition, and the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board announced their support for the bottom-up multistakeholder process responsible for the development of the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability proposals.

Some of these organizations, including Intel Corporation, Amazon, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Dell, Cisco, Cloudflare, the U.S. Council for International Business, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Internet Infrastructure Coalition, the Internet Association, the Computer & Communications Industry Association, the Information Technology Industry Council, the Software & Information Industry Association, and the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board, expressed their belief the IANA Stewardship Transition Proposals should be approved.

INDUSTRY

AN OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM U.S. BUSINESS


An Open Letter to Congress from U.S. Business

April 21, 2016 (Updated May 23, 2016)

Dear Members of Congress:

The Internet is the greatest platform for innovation the world has ever known, and the greatest communication network yet devised. Our companies depend upon its stable and secure future.

The Internet’s addressing system helps keep the Internet global, scalable and interoperable. An important proposal to assure the continuing security, stability and resiliency of this system has recently been approved by the Board of Directors of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and delivered to the U.S. government.

In March 2014, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced a plan to transition its historical stewardship of the Internet’s addressing system to the global Internet community. This plan represents the final stage of the development of ICANN, as a private-sector led, multi-stakeholder organization to coordinate Internet addresses. At the time of their announcement, the Commerce Department asked ICANN to convene the global community of Internet stakeholders to produce a transition proposal.
Our companies and trade associations are proud and active members of this community. We have worked with representatives from civil society, government, and the technical community to craft a proposal that enables the U.S. Government to seamlessly transfer stewardship of the Internet's addressing system to its global stakeholders.

The proposal delivered last month meets the criteria set out by the Commerce Department two years ago. Furthermore, it includes significant and concrete measures to enhance ICANN's accountability to its global community. We recognize that additional important work remains, including properly revising ICANN's bylaws and further improving ICANN's practices and procedures. It is imperative that this work be accomplished in a timely and effective manner and we look forward to ensuring that it does.

The Internet is defined by its inclusivity and openness. Those critical characteristics are reflected in the work that – over the course of many months of open, transparent and inclusive discussion -- went into the drafting of this transition proposal.

We congratulate those who worked tirelessly to develop the proposal and we celebrate the effort that will enshrine America’s commitment to ensuring the future of a global, interoperable and stable global Internet.

INTEL

Policy@Intel, InternetAssociation.org

IANA Transition Moves Forward

March 11, 2016

Yesterday, the Board of Directors the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), approved the multistakeholder community's proposal for transitioning oversight of the Internet’s addressing system from the US government to the global multistakeholder community. The Board approval followed approvals from ICANN’s chartering organizations. I want to congratulate the community for their tireless efforts in developing this proposal. The ICANN Board has sent the proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) for their review and approval. These milestones are not only critical for the transition itself but a further endorsement of global multistakeholder Internet governance.

The proposal is comprised of two separate, but related, plans. The first part of the plan describes how the three communities of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) – Names, Numbers and Protocol Parameters – will operate and interface with ICANN directly. The second part of the plan includes an extensive set of reforms to ICANN’s governance structure to enhance the organization’s accountability to the global community. Intel has been deeply engaged in the development of the overall transition plan and we believe it meets the criteria outlined by NTIA in their announcement in 2014.

The current IANA contract between ICANN and NTIA expires September 30th. While today’s milestones are significant, we are not finished yet. The NTIA must review the proposal to ensure it meets the criteria. New agreements between ICANN and the communities must be executed and a new contract for the management of the Internet’s Root Zone must be developed, vetted by the community and executed. The cross-community Working Group responsible for developing the accountability measures must immediately begin drafting changes to ICANN’s bylaws so that the measures can be implemented. And, Congress must be given an opportunity to review the proposal.

I am confident that the community behind the incredible work to-date will succeed in completing the transition and moving us fully into 21st century Internet governance.
Transitioning Stewardship of the IANA Functions
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Press Release, USChamber.com

U.S. Chamber Statement on IANA Transition Plan
March 17, 2016
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President for International Policy John Murphy issued the following statement on the proposal to transition oversight of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the multi-stakeholder community and Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN):

“The Chamber continues to support the long-planned transition of the IANA functions along with needed improvements to enhance ICANN accountability. The recently agreed proposal appears to achieve binding, legally enforceable accountability that will benefit the multi-stakeholder community. While the proposal is a positive step forward, it’s too soon to declare victory, and we urge the business community to insist that implementation benchmarks be met prior to final approval by the U.S. government.

“We stand ready to work closely with Congress, the Department of Commerce, and the broader multi-stakeholder community to ensure the proposed plan moves forward in a way that preserves the safe and secure Internet that our members of all sizes and sectors rely on to conduct business and reach customers worldwide.”

THE INTERNET ASSOCIATION (IA)
Official Statement, InternetAssociation.org

Statement On ICANN Plan To Transition IANA Functions
March 11, 2016
Internet Association President and CEO Michael Beckerman issued the following statement on the Internet Corporation for Assigned names and Numbers’ (ICANN) plan to transition stewardship of the Internet Assignment Numbers Authority (IANA) from the U.S. Government to the Internet community:

“The Internet Association congratulates the ICANN community on this outcome and the hard work that went into the proposal. The Internet industry is evaluating the proposal and looks forward to supporting a transition plan that preserves a multistakeholder governance model that implements strong accountability measures and controls. Such a model must treat all stakeholders equitably. Internet companies look forward to working with Congress and the NTIA as they review ICANN’s plan and look to set ICANN on a path that will allow the Internet to continue to thrive.”

INTERNET GOVERNANCE COALITION (IGC)

IGC members include AT&T, CISCO, Comcast, Disney, Facebook, GoDaddy, Google, Juniper, Microsoft, NCTA, Time Warner Cable, Telefonica, Verizon and 21st Century Fox.

Official Statement (PDF)
March 11, 2016
Today’s action by the ICANN Board to approve the plan for transitioning IANA from the United States government, together with the associated and substantially improved accountability processes, is an important milestone for the
multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance and for the Internet as a whole. Approval by the ICANN Board is the result of two years of hard work by many people and organizations, demonstrating that even complex and difficult Internet-related issues can be resolved successfully through a multi-stakeholder process. The proposals approved by the ICANN Board in Marrakesh will be instrumental to ensuring the continued stability and reliability of the Internet, especially as it continues to help the world’s people economically, socially and culturally. We look forward to the timely finalization of ICANN’s bylaws and the implementation of these recommendations.

YAHOO!

Blog Post, YahooPolicy@Tumblr

ICANN’s Transition Plan for IANA Will Preserve the Open Internet

March 14, 2016

Yahoo congratulates ICANN on submitting the IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal, which sets out a clear plan for transitioning the important global functions of IANA – including the coordination of Domain Names, Numbering Resources, and Protocol Parameters – from the U.S. Government to the global multistakeholder community and enhancing accountability of ICANN. ICANN’s plan represents many months of hard work and negotiation among all of the parties to achieve support for key principles that underpin the open internet and our global digital economy. These principles include: enhancing the multistakeholder model; maintaining the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS; meeting the needs of IANA customers and partners; and maintaining the openness of the internet. ICANN’s proposal now heads to the U.S. Department of Commerce for approval (and will be subject to Congressional review). As the proposal moves forward, Yahoo will continue to support ICANN’s proposal which, once implemented, will empower the global multistakeholder community to take over responsibility for these key functions, ensuring accountability and transparency in the evolution of the internet.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC-BASIS)

Press Release, ICCWBO.org

ICC-Basis Welcomes IANA Stewardship Transition Plan and Related Improvements to ICANN Accountability

March 11, 2016

As a long-time advocate of the need to ensure the continued security, operational stability and multistakeholder nature of the Internet, ICC BASIS has welcomed the submission of proposals to transition stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the global multistakeholder community. The package, which also includes plans to strengthen accountability of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) as an independent organization, has been submitted to the US National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) and is the result of an inclusive, global discussion among representatives from government, business, technical community, civil society and academia, as well as end users. If approved, implementation of the plan is expected to be completed prior to the expiration of the contract between US NTIA and ICANN in September 2016.
Thorough consultations seeking the global stakeholder views on the principles and mechanisms for the transition and enhanced accountability got underway following the US NTIA announcement of its intention to transition its stewardship of this crucial Internet function to the global multistakeholder community in March 2014.

IANA is responsible for coordinating some of the Internet’s technical functions, such as allocating and maintaining the unique codes and numbering systems that allow the Internet to operate smoothly. The comprehensive package submitted yesterday combines requirements for the transition coordinated by the IANA Stewardship Transition Group (ICG). The multistakeholder working group was responsible for assembling the components from the respective ICANN communities into a single proposal and for meeting criteria set out by NTIA. Enhancements to ICANN’s accountability were identified and put forward by the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability).

ICC BASIS and its cross sector membership of businesses and associations from around the world advocates the fundamental importance of a secure and stable Internet and strongly supports a multistakeholder approach to Internet governance. BASIS commends the serious and diligent work that occurred across all stakeholder communities in the development, evaluation and finalization of the proposals.

ICC BASIS participated in the ICG as a representative of business and was actively involved in the CCWG-Accountability process through the direct engagement of members advocating for minimum changes to the operational practices of the IANA technical functions. Chair of the ICC Commission on the Digital Economy and ICC BASIS liaison to the ICG Joseph Alhadeff said: “ICC BASIS called for any proposal for a path towards transition to maintain the security, stability and integrity of the Internet and be sourced from and supported by the breadth of the multistakeholder community. We believe that the proposals put forward have met those criteria and we will remain constructively engaged to continue to assure these priorities through the further implementation of these proposals.”

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY COUNCIL (ITIC)**

Blog, TechWonk

[*Multistakeholder Internet Governance Alive and Well*]

**March 13, 2016**

Last week, the process to transfer stewardship of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) from the U.S. government to the wider Internet community reached an important milestone: transmittal of the community-developed transition proposal to the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). This helps keep the process on track for the planned handover later this year. That’s a good thing.

ITI continues to support transitioning IANA stewardship. It is consistent with industry’s unequivocal support for multistakeholder governance of the Internet, where the policies and technical processes are developed and implemented by an array of experts in a bottom-up approach, rather than handed down by governments or multilateral organizations. Current management of the Internet is multistakeholder, a model that has—and will continue—to contribute greatly to the integrity and stability of today’s free and open Internet. The development of the IANA stewardship transition proposal has been a long, sometimes messy process, fueled by the investment of tens of thousands of volunteer hours and dollars. No matter what one may think of the outcome, the vigorous participation of various Internet communities and individuals is a tribute to, and a powerful validation of, multistakeholder governance. The system works. It’s as simple as that.
Even so, ITI, like many others, felt it was critical to use this opportunity to enhance ICANN staff and board accountability in order to build trust and confidence. We believe this has been achieved. The transition proposal lays the foundation for creating a more equitable balance in the governance of ICANN itself. Again, that’s a good thing.

ITI applauds all who helped achieve this significant milestone. We hope that the various stakeholders will continue their collaboration to further improve and strengthen ICANN and the multistakeholder ecosystem.

SOFTWARE & INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SIIA)

Press Release, SIIA.net

SIIA Welcomes Proposal to Transfer Control of Internet Assigned Names Authority (IANA) Function to Multistakeholder Stewardship

March 11, 2016

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), which represents software and digital content companies in the United States and Europe, today welcomed the transmittal of the proposal to place the responsibility for the Internet’s naming system under the control of the multistakeholder community.

Mark MacCarthy, SIIA’s Senior Vice President of Public Policy, issued the following statement:

“We welcome yesterday’s decision by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) board to transmit a set of proposals to transfer to multistakeholder oversight the functioning of Internet’s address system, the Domain Name Server (DNS) system. Now it is up to the U.S. Administration to review the proposal and for Congress to exercise its legitimate role.

“ICANN plays a critical role in facilitating the digital trade that underpins worldwide technological innovation. SIIA encourages careful review of the proposals, particularly from the perspective of ensuring multistakeholder, as opposed to inter-governmental, control over the Internet. SIIA has supported the transition from its March 14, 2014 announcement, subject to the new arrangement meeting the conditions established by the U.S. government.”

U.S. COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (USCIB)

Press Release, USCIB.org

USCIB Applauds Plan to Transition Stewardship of Key Internet Functions, Urges U.S. Government Approval

March 10, 2016

The United States Council for International Business (USCIB) welcomed a comprehensive package of proposals developed by numerous Internet stakeholders including the private sector, which will enable global stewardship of the domain name system (DNS) and enhance accountability of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which manages the global domain name system.

The proposals, if approved, would permit the transfer of the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), a set of core functions necessary for the running of the Internet domain name system, from the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), to the multi-stakeholder Internet community, with safeguards to enable active involvement by the in processes designed to hold ICANN accountable as an independent entity.
“While some have argued that the Internet should be overseen by governments, the two-year process that culminated in this plan demonstrates that the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance works,” said USCIB President and CEO Peter M. Robinson. “This model is clearly the most appropriate means for considering issues that could affect the operation of the global Internet as we move forward.”

At an ICANN meeting wrapping up today in Marrakesh, Morocco, ICANN’s board approved the proposal and immediately transmitted it to NTIA.

“USCIB worked actively to help shape this ground-breaking initiative,” said Robinson. “We believe that the final product will meet NTIA’s criteria for the transition of the IANA stewardship role and ensure the continued stability, security and resiliency of the domain name system as well as fundamental openness of the Internet. We urge NTIA to approve the plan.”

The package combines the technical requirements for the IANA stewardship transition with important, interrelated enhancements to ICANN’s accountability to replace the “backstop” function provided by NTIA’s current contract with ICANN.

“USCIB believes this package will best ensure the continued security and stability of the domain name system and preclude its capture by a government or governmental entity, which is one of NTIA’s important criteria,” according to Barbara Wanner, USCIB’s vice president for information, communications and technology (ICT) policy.

On ICANN accountability, USCIB said the proposal would empower the Internet community through use of a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder model. “There are details that still need refinement, such as the drafting of bylaws,” said Wanner. “We look forward to helping shape these as part of the continued open and consultative implementation process.”

According to Wanner, USCIB contributions to the processes of encouraging the IANA stewardship transition and enhancing ICANN’s accountability have reflected cross-sectoral and cross-community perspectives. She noted that, as an association composed of more than 300 multinational companies, law firms and business associations, the organization’s membership represents a broad cross-section of leading global companies in the ICT sector. Moreover, USCIB members come from both the “contracted house” of ICANN – those companies that serve as registries and registrars of Internet domain names – as well as the “non-contracted house,” which encompasses others in the private sector.

INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION (I2 COALITION)

Announcement, i2Coalition.com

ICANN, The IANA Transition and The Marrakech Package

March 17, 2016

The best thing about ICANN is the amazing fact that for the past fifteen years it has been a functioning multistakeholder approach to Internet policy development and decision-making. The undue influence the U.S. Government arguably has – seeing as how ICANN is a California-based nonprofit corporation and the U.S., through the NTIA, has a continuing stewardship and administrative role in the DNS and contracts with ICANN to maintain the IANA functions – does not comport with this multistakeholder approach.

The NTIA’s long anticipated move to ensure a functional transition that removes the U.S. Government from direct control over the Internet demonstrably authenticates the argument that no government has a special relationship to
the Internet and strengthens the multistakeholder model. The comprehensive package agreed to last week by the
global Internet community to transition the IANA responsibilities to global stewardship from U.S. Government control
remarkably enjoys the broadest possible support from this very diverse community. Moreover, it proposes ways to
enhance ICANN’s accountability as a fully independent organization. This transition is the final step in the long-
anticipated privatization of the Internet’s DNS, first outlined when ICANN was incorporated in 1998.

The U.S. Government will now review the package to ensure that it meets NTIA’s criteria, set out two years ago, to
ensure that the package:

- Maintains the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS,
- Meets the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the IANA services, and
- Maintains the openness of the Internet.

If approved, implementation is expected to be completed prior to the expiration of the contract between NTIA and
ICANN in September of this year.

The global Internet community has seen to it that the world can enjoy a stronger ICANN and a stronger Internet
through the transition of IANA. Everybody who believes in freedom of expression and the power of the connected
world owes this group of heroes a huge debt of gratitude. Through their hard work they have ensured that no one
entity controls the Internet and have set the stage for this global resource to continue to be governed by the
stakeholders it serves.

LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD

Editorial, LATimes.com

Cutting U.S. ties to the Net

March 16, 2016

No government or interest group should control the Internet. On that point you'll find broad agreement, particularly
among the world's democracies. The United States, however, has final say over one small but important aspect of the
net: keeping track of the list of “top level domains,” such as .com and .org.

Whether that's a good thing or a bad one depends on how much you trust the United States. Congress has voted to
preserve the Commerce Department’s connection to the Internet's name-and-address system at least through Sept.
30. But ever since Edward Snowden’s revelations about U.S. surveillance of the net, much of the rest of the world has
been trying to put the technical standards of the Internet out of any government's reach — or to give more
governments a say in the rules of the virtual road. Some countries have even threatened to create their own name-
and-address systems, potentially fracturing the net and undermining its role as a free and open platform.

That's one reason the Obama administration proposed in 2014 to cut the U.S. government's ties to the domain name
system and give complete control over those functions to the “global multi-stakeholder community” — in other
words, an entity broadly representative of Internet users. It asked the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers, the independent nonprofit that now manages the domain name system for the government, to propose a
way to do so.

At issue was the fate of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, which ICANN operates through a contract with the
Commerce Department. The authority oversees changes to top level domains, managing a list that Internet service
providers around the world rely on to route data and ensure that only one place online corresponds to each domain
name. By virtue of its contract, ICANN also gets to control the supply of top level domains and set conditions on the companies that sell domain names.

Last week, ICANN’s board approved a proposal to take over the authority, the culmination of two years of difficult negotiations among Internet service providers, businesses, public interest groups, governments and other interested parties. Although the plan would end formal U.S. oversight, it’s a thoughtful compromise that promises to do more to preserve the status quo online than the current system does. In particular, it would make ICANN more accountable to those who use the Internet, and give the net more protection against meddling by governments that don’t value the free flow of information online as much as Americans do — a freedom that has been crucial to the development of the net as a boundlessly innovative hub for information, communications and commerce around the globe.

Included in the plan are new mechanisms that could be used to remove board members who stray from the recommendations made by the policymaking panels, which are composed of technical experts, businesses, public-interest groups and Internet users. Another proposal would have ICANN’s board consider only those recommendations from a governmental advisory committee that two-thirds of the committee members supported — a requirement that should restrain repressive regimes or others threatened by an open Internet.

Republicans in Congress have opposed privatizing the numbering authority on the grounds that U.S. ownership helps protect freedom online. Setting aside the irony of conservatives arguing that the government can better protect the public interest than private industry can, the GOP overstates what the U.S. can do with its control over the numbering authority. It is not the Internet’s cop — its role is purely technical and administrative.

It’s certainly true that many countries crave more control over the Internet, as evidenced not only by China’s “great firewall,” but also Europe’s “right to be forgotten” and Brazil’s proposal to bar companies from exporting the data they collect from users there. ICANN’s plan would be a step in the opposite direction. That’s reason enough for Congress to support it.

PUBLIC INTEREST/CIVIL SOCIETY

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR IANA TRANSITION

Signed by Access Now, Article19, Centre for Democracy & Technology, Human Rights Watch, Open Technology Institute, Public Knowledge, Ranking Digital Rights

Statement, AccessNow.org

Civil Society Statement of Support for IANA Transition

May 23, 2016

Introduction

We the undersigned US and international civil society and public interest groups support and encourage the timely transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the multistakeholder community, as outlined in the Internet community’s proposal submitted to National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on March 10th 2016.

Civil society has been involved in and following the IANA transition since NTIA’s announcement in March 2014 in which the agency communicated the intention to “transition key Internet domain name functions to the global
multistakeholder community.” Members of our community have been involved in both the Working Group (WG) on stewardship transition and the WG on enhancing ICANN accountability. Representatives from civil society have participated throughout, contributing substantively on a range of issues from the structuring of the post-transition IANA; to working to ensuring the continued stability, continuity, and resiliency of the DNS; to bringing about a commitment that ICANN will recognize and meet its human rights obligations going forward.

When the Internet community came together in Marrakech in March 2016 to endorse and forward the IANA transition package to NTIA, there was consensus that the product of two years of challenging hard work was robust and credible and met the key NTIA criteria. The undersigned civil society and public interest groups believe that the IANA transition is a positive development for the Domain Name System and for the Internet at large, and that the process to develop the transition proposal has been a successful expression of multistakeholder approaches to Internet decision-making.

The transition is important

The Internet has been instrumental in promoting civil liberties and universal human rights, a goal shared by the United States government. As a global platform for the free flow of information, the Internet has facilitated unprecedented expansion of free expression and freedom of assembly & association. Simply put, the Internet has become an indispensable vehicle for the exercise of human rights around the world. The continued functionality of the open, interoperable, global Internet is a top priority shared by our organizations because it is essential to protection of human rights in the 21st century. Our organizations depend upon the stable and secure operation of the Internet to do our work every day, as do the human rights defenders, journalists, and other civil society groups we work with around the world.

Many of the undersigned organizations have worked with ICANN’s staff and community on the structure of the transition and are committed to continue holding ICANN accountable to its human rights obligations after the transition. We believe that the multistakeholder model and governance structure of ICANN is the best way to empower global civil society along with the technical and business communities who have an interest in the free and open global Internet. We believe that supporting the participation in ICANN of a diverse international multistakeholder community that shares a common interest in openness and innovation is the most robust long term strategy for preventing any governments - or other multilateral entities they may commandeer - from steering the DNS in a direction that would be much less supportive of a free and open global Internet. Further, we see this proposal as an effective path to continue stable and resilient DNS administration that supports the interests of public and private stakeholders across societies and industries.

For those reasons, we strongly support the plan to transition oversight of the IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community. The IANA functions, which include management of Internet number resources and the DNS, help keep the Internet global, scalable and interoperable. We believe that executing upon the IANA transition is the best way to ensure the continued functionality of the global Internet and to protect the free flow of information so essential to human rights protection.

Delaying or blocking the transition is not in the interest of stakeholders

The transition of these functions away from the US government removes an excuse for authoritarian countries to demand greater oversight and regulation of Internet issues. Any delay in the transfer of these management functions to the global multistakeholder community could have the effect of undermining the openness and interoperability that has characterized the Internet to date. This is because the open, interoperable, global Internet did not arise out of agreements between governments, but rather through community-led innovative approaches by a diversity of
stakeholders. In many ways, this transition is returning the Internet and DNS to the open multistakeholder governance model that characterized and fostered its first few decades of growth.

Failure to move ahead with the IANA transition will empower those who advocate for governments alone to manage or regulate the Internet, without equal involvement of the private sector or civil society. Delay will encourage those who favor a governmental, intergovernmental, or solely multilateral model of Internet governance, whether implemented through the United Nations’ International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or some other government-dominated, non-multistakeholder body.

Yet, the importance of the transition to realizing human rights and the empowerment of Internet users around the globe does not seem to be shared by all. We read with concern the mischaracterizations of the IANA transition plan’s proposed human rights commitment for ICANN in the May 19th letter from Senators Cruz, Lankford, and Lee to US Department of Commerce Secretary Pritzker and Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Strickling. While we share the Senators’ stated desire to protect Internet freedom, we note that their proposed solution of delaying the IANA transition will unintentionally have exactly the effect they hope to avoid: Delay would incur risk of increasing the role for foreign governments over the Internet and undermine free speech. The suggestion in the letter that the commitment that is sought of ICANN to respect its human rights obligations “would open the door to the regulation of content” is frankly puzzling and clearly incompatible with the further defined and limited ICANN mission in the transition plan.

The consequence of failure to move ahead with this transition will be to reinforce the power and influence of those who would prefer a less open, less innovative, less global Internet platform. We believe this could have significant implications for human rights worldwide, as well as undermine US interests and values. We strongly believe that the best way forward is to support a strong and accountable multistakeholder system that enables civil society groups, business, and technical community members from all over the world to participate in ICANN independently of their governments.

**Conclusion**

It is the view of the undersigned civil society organizations that the IANA transition will confirm the legitimacy of multistakeholder approaches to Internet policy and governance, will result in a stronger and more empowered community within ICANN and ensure that the Internet community - and not ICANN or one government - is responsible and accountable for the stability, security and resiliency of the Internet going forward. This multistakeholder transition both protects the Internet and best serves stakeholder interests. Blocking or delaying the transition would strengthen the hand of those who do not believe in or support an open Internet and would encourage further government intervention and control.

**INTERNET SOCIETY**

**Press Release, InternetSociety.org**

[Internet Society Applauds Community-Developed Plan to Transition Oversight of Key Internet Functions](https://netricity.org/news/InternetSociety.org)

**March 10, 2016**

The Internet Society (ISOC) Board of Trustees today **passed a resolution** to strongly support the plan developed by the global Internet community presented to the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration to transition oversight of key Internet resources. The ISOC Board further urged the community to continue its efforts to
 implement the plan, and recognized that ICANN must continue to make the reforms called for by the community to continue to be a strong steward of the IANA functions.

Robert Hinden, Chair of the Internet Society Board of Trustees, said, “This is a significant milestone in the transition process. We commend the persistent and dedicated efforts by all stakeholders in developing the plan presented today, and look forward to their continued commitment to ensure the plan is successfully implemented.”

The plan provides continuity for the processes and principles that have provided a foundation for the Internet’s growth and development, and sets a course for strengthening the security and stability of the Internet going forward. The Internet Society has been active in and strongly supportive of the community-led processes that led to the plan developed by the IANA Transition Coordination Group.

Kathryn Brown, Internet Society President and CEO, said, “Ultimately, this process is about stewardship of the critical functions of one of the most extraordinary human innovations. It was right to entrust this important role to the Internet community. The IANA transition proposal is reflective of the collaborative nature of the community and I am confident that it protects and enables the continued growth and development of the Internet.”

On 14 March 2014, the U.S. Government’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intent to transition stewardship responsibility for the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the global, multistakeholder community. The Internet Society, along with other key Internet technical organizations, welcomed the announcement and have been committed to engaging in open, community-driven processes to develop the plan that was presented today.

The IANA functions keep track of IP addresses, domain names, and protocol parameters that are used by Internet standards. These identifiers are what allow billions of devices and the many thousands of networks that make up the Internet to connect with one another. IANA ensures these identifiers are responsibly managed and are publicly-available on the Internet.

Over the past two years, the work undertaken by the stakeholders in this process has been a testament to the dedication, persistence and expertise of the dedicated Internet community. In the true spirit of the Internet, there has been a tremendous amount of work and effort to ensure that the transition of the IANA functions happens in an open, inclusive, transparent and accountable manner. A successful transition is key to the positive strengthening and evolution of the multistakeholder Internet governance model.

For more information about the IANA transition, see: http://www.internetsociety.org/ianaxfer

**Announcement, InternetSociety.org**

**Internet Society Statement in Support of the IANA Stewardship Transition**

**May 24, 2016**

The Internet Society made a statement today in support of the timely transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the global Internet community.

The Internet Society has been involved in and followed the IANA Stewardship Transition since the NTIA announcement in March 2014. As the US government continues to review and analyse the IANA final proposal, the Internet Society wishes to reiterate the following:

- The Internet Society strongly supports the IANA Stewardship Transition plan as the means to ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of the global Internet;
Transitioning Stewardship of the IANA Functions
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

• We are confident that the proposal meets all of the requirements as set out by the NTIA in its statement in March 2014, including that it:
  o Supports and enhances the multistakeholder model;
  o Maintains the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;
  o Meets the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services; and,
  o Maintains the openness of the Internet.

• We are confident that the current proposal balances the diversity of the global multistakeholder community, but does so in a manner that does not grant any special powers to any one stakeholder group alone, including governments and intergovernmental institutions;

• We believe that the proposal developed by the global, multistakeholder community ensures the continued stability of key technical functions that are a core part of the smooth operation of the Internet, and provides the path forward for strengthening the stewardship role of the ICANN community;

• Furthermore, we believe that the proposal includes an important shared commitment to performance and performance metrics that are crucial for the security, stability and resiliency of the IANA operation.

The Internet Society looks forward to the timely implementation of the IANA Stewardship Transition, including the revision of ICANN’s Bylaws. A successful IANA transition will strengthen the collaborative, multistakeholder model of governance that has been at the foundation of the Internet’s success to date. The Internet Society is confident that this can be done in a way that allows the contract to expire at the end of September 2016.

From our perspective, the Internet Society sees no reason to delay the IANA Stewardship Transition. In fact, we believe that such a delay would add a degree of instability and making the prospect of government control of the Internet more likely, not less. Currently, there is an impressive momentum and collaboration in the IANA Stewardship Transition process that will only assist and enhance the evolution of the Internet.

The Internet Society believes therefore that the best approach is to empower the multistakeholder model through renewed commitment to the plan. We believe this will:

• Strengthen the solidarity among the diverse group of stakeholders that have been engaged in the 2+ year process to develop the proposal;

• Increase support for the multistakeholder model, which has been the foundation for the tremendous success of the Internet to date. The Internet’s governance requires many voices in order to continue to function in a reliable, stable, secure and predictable manner, and the process in the development of the proposal has proven the multistakeholder model to be effective, efficient and successful.

Whereas stakeholders came together towards a common goal, delaying the transition will challenge the collaborative frameworks that have been established in order to achieve the common goal of a global, free and open Internet that benefits all citizens of the world.

The collaborative nature of the work that has taken place around the IANA Stewardship Transition exemplifies the strength of the multistakeholder model in reflecting the open, distributed, interconnected and trans-national characteristics of the Internet itself. The Internet Society believes that a challenge to the validity of the IANA Stewardship Transition process and its implementation is also a challenge to the very characteristics that have allowed the Internet to thrive.
It is a strange world we are living in when a Democratic President wants to reduce government interference in the private sector and the GOP’s standard bearer for limited government is fighting to stop him. That is what is happening with the continued fight over the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and its contract with the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA).

In the spring of 2014, the Obama Administration announced plans to end the contract it has for managing some of the core governance functions that keep the Internet running. The thinking was that the private companies that own and operate the Internet, their user base, and the engineers that work for them should manage the functions involved with keeping the domain name system working via what has become known as the multistakeholder process.

Ted Cruz, the Senator from Texas and now-former presidential candidate, has fought to thwart President Obama at every turn. Oddly, the entire limited government movement has gotten behind continued government intervention. That this movement is doing so over the protests of private companies like Google and Microsoft that are actively advocating for ending this contract is all the more strange. Americans for Limited Government, an advocacy group, has put out a bizarre report condemning ICANN entitled “ICANN Do What I Want” and advocating for continued government oversight.

Let’s be clear about what’s happening: The innovators, entrepreneurs and businesses that drove the Internet to astronomical success are asking for better control over the future of the Internet and Senator Cruz is trying to block them on the grounds that Washington, DC bureaucrats—whom he criticized almost daily during his campaign—need to oversee the management of the Internet.

Senator Cruz is rightly concerned that foreign governments, most notably China and Russia, want to bring the Internet under the control of their governments and other repressive states. What he fails to recognize is that the continuation of U.S. government control makes that outcome all the more likely. Ending the contract was a move designed to keep the functions in the hands of a California-based non-profit that is beyond the reach of those governments.

The functions covered by the contract are routine and administrative. At a basic level, ICANN processes and authenticates requests to make changes to the root zone file, the list of operators of top-level domains like .com or .cn, China’s country-level domain. If China wants to change the IP address for one of its servers, ICANN makes sure the request is from China and not from Internet pranksters. It then passes the information to NTIA to approve, and then passes it to Verisign, which distributes the updated file to the root zone servers around the world.

The root that the U.S. government nominally controls is only the root because everyone agrees that it is. There is quite literally nothing to stop the United Nations from setting up a separate system of root servers and publishing a separate root zone file, thereby fracturing the Internet. The only thing that keeps everyone from using the one that ICANN uses is consensus. Maintaining that consensus is becoming all but impossible with the current contract in place.

When the Clinton administration created ICANN in 1998, they did so with the full intention of eliminating NTIA’s role as the middle man once the support of the government was no longer needed. As far back as 2000, the agreement has been a “zero dollar” contract, with the U.S. government paying ICANN nothing to carry out its functions (ICANN
Transitioning Stewardship of the IANA Functions
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

derives fees from website registrars like GoDaddy to cover its costs). In the entire time that NTIA has overseen ICANN, it has never rejected a single change to the root zone file that ICANN wanted to make. Ending the contract simply eliminates a vestigial function within the U.S. Department of Commerce that has become a source of international intrigue.

The best way to protect the Internet from political interests is to take it out of the realm of government and lodge it firmly in the multistakeholder process that entrepreneurs, users, nonprofits, governments, and ICANN built over the last two decades.

The function that NTIA performs has become unnecessary. Advocates of small government and proponents of the private sector should be for, not against, ending this contract. The ultimate irony may be that if Ted Cruz had been elected President and made good on his campaign promise, he would not have just ended this contract but also eliminated the entire Commerce Department and with it NTIA.

PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

Press Release, PublicKnowledge.org

Public Knowledge Joins Public Interest Groups to Reinforce Support for Timely IANA Transition

May 24, 2016

In advance of today's Senate Commerce Committee hearing to examine the plan to transition the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), Public Knowledge joins other civil society and public interest groups in reinforcing our support for the timely transition of IANA functions from the purview of the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to the global multistakeholder community, set to take place on September 30, 2016.

Since March 2014, Public Knowledge has worked with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) community to provide input into the overall process and advocate for a successful transition that protects the stability and continuity of the Domain Name System (DNS).

The following may be attributed to Carolina Rossini, Vice President of International Policy at Public Knowledge:

"At this crucial time for the Open Internet, we are sending a letter to members of Congress and the NTIA urging them to move forward with the IANA transition. Contrary to political opposition, to block or delay this process would have worldwide implications for human rights and undermine U.S. interests and values.

"We believe that supporting the participation in ICANN of a diverse international multistakeholder community that shares a common interest in openness and innovation is the most robust long term strategy for preventing any governments - or other multilateral entities they may commandeer - from steering the DNS in a direction that would be much less supportive of a free and open global Internet.

"A timely transition is essential to ensure the continued functionality of the open, interoperable, global internet and protection of fundamental human rights, such as freedom of expression and the free flow of information."

Read the full statement here.
As the Senate Commerce Committee hosts a hearing on “Examining the Multistakeholder Plan for Transitioning the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority” and the Board of ICANN meets to adopt the new ICANN bylaws, a number of concerns continue to be raised in the media, on Capitol Hill and elsewhere about the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) transition. CDT offered our thoughts on these unfounded concerns in a statement we submitted for the record of the Senate hearing and we debunk a number of these concerns in this post.

One suggestion, that the internet is being “given away” – whether to governments or whoever – is troubling to CDT, and, we would assume, to those in government, business, technical organizations and other public interest groups who have worked to build, promote, and strengthen the open internet over the years. This multistakeholder community has worked together to ensure that the internet remains a tool that can bring about social, economic, and political change and further the realization of human rights around the globe. Many of these same stakeholders have worked diligently over the past two years to develop a credible and implementable IANA transition plan. To suggest that this same community would agree to handing-over the internet to nations that support a government-run internet is ludicrous.

To suggest that the community would agree to handing-over the internet to nations that support a government-run internet is ludicrous.

Critics have also raised the concern that, with the proposed IANA transition, there will be an increase in censorship around the globe. Astonishingly, these critics are taking an element of the proposal that seeks to ensure that ICANN will meet its human rights related obligations post-transition and turning it on its head. The language in the accountability proposal is being portrayed as a way of unduly increasing ICANN’s mission, opening the door to content control and undermining online free speech. It is wholly inaccurate to characterize the IANA transition plan as something that would increase censorship and diminish free speech worldwide. As CDT and other civil society and public interest groups have said in a statement on the IANA transition released today: “We believe that executing upon the IANA transition is the best way to ensure the continued functionality of the global internet and to protect the free flow of information so essential to human rights protection.”

Some are also calling to extend the ICANN-NTIA contract, stating that the transition plan is untried and untested and therefore it would be hasty for NTIA to step away. Were the community not ready to transition, it would acknowledge that fact, but this is not the case; none of the stakeholders involved in drafting the transition plan wish to see the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS imperiled. The process for drafting the necessary ICANN bylaws is proceeding as foreseen and it is anticipated that the ICANN Board will adopt the new bylaws on May 27th. The implementation planning work for the post-transition IANA is also underway. CDT and others testified in March 2016 that the transition should occur as anticipated and that the community is ready.

Delivering the transition through extending the contract would undermine the two-year multistakeholder process that developed the transition plan. Governments that want to see the transition fail will use the extension and continued US government involvement as justification to promote further intergovernmental control over the internet. The longer the US government retains its role, the more the voices against multistakeholder approaches and an open internet will grow.
Many of the same repercussions would result from Congress seeking to vote on the IANA transition. The US government’s relationship with the internet can reasonably be characterized as a hands-off approach. Since the establishment of ICANN, the US government has managed its relationship through a contract with ICANN for the provision of the IANA services, not through government diktat. It has recognized that the community that has developed policies and managed the Domain Name System so successfully over the years should continue to do so without one government having a prominent, if administrative, role. For Congress to vote on the transition could undermine and put in question the multistakeholder model globally. A vote could also undermine a cornerstone of the US government’s internet policy: the primacy of the multistakeholder approach over a government-run or intergovernmental approach.

At the end of the day, this multistakeholder community – representing diverse interests and stakeholders – came together and created a robust and credible transition plan that will see a more accountable ICANN and the centrality of multistakeholder community in managing the Domain Name System going forward. The transition is providing a unique opportunity for the ICANN community to insist on new powers that will increase accountability and transparency, strengthen review mechanisms, and more narrowly scope the mission of ICANN. By transitioning the IANA functions to the multistakeholder internet community in ICANN there is no hand-over to governments, but rather an overdue recognition that the multistakeholder management of the internet is working just fine.
First, delays will just encourage and play into the hands of those countries looking to restrict and fragment the internet under strict intergovernmental control. As we note in the letter, failure to move ahead with the IANA transition now will empower those who advocate for governments alone to manage or regulate the internet, without equal involvement of the private sector or civil society. Russia and China, for example, routinely push for the United Nations’ International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to regulate the internet, and would pounce on any delays as a signal that a government-only body should take control. As the sole government overseeing the DNS, the U.S. has an opportunity now to shift power to an inclusive, balanced set of stakeholders who spent two years on this transition plan — a chance the U.S. must not pass up. Moreover, as participants mentioned in Tuesday’s hearing, the current IANA contract ends in 2018. At that time, the U.S. would have to face telling other governments that it will not give up control of the DNS. Their reaction would not be pleasant.

Second, human rights are on the line — though not in the way U.S. Senator Ted Cruz believes. To protect human rights in the 21st century, it is essential that the open, interoperable, global internet continue to function. We and the other organizations that signed the joint statement depend upon the stable and secure operation of the internet to do our work, every day. So do the human rights defenders, journalists, and other civil society groups we work with, all around the world. This contradicts the beliefs of Senator Cruz, who sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Commerce last week with the strange message that increasing human rights protections would allow or encourage internet censorship. In fact, the transition includes a plan to enhance protection of human rights like freedom of expression and privacy online.

Finally, there is no technical reason for NTIA’s involvement in DNS management. The NTIA and the U.S. government have no special technical expertise or capacity that the rest of the world lacks. In fact, one expert testifying before Congress on Tuesday compared the NTIA role to a vulnerability. Software developers try to get rid of unneeded features in their code, which are “just bugs waiting to happen,” Andrew Sullivan of the Internet Architecture Board told the Senate. Similarly, Congress must allow the global multistakeholder community to eliminate the unnecessary government involvement in the IANA functions. As we make clear in our letter, the transition path outlined will “continue stable and resilient DNS administration that supports the interests of public and private stakeholders across societies and industries.”

Join us in calling on the U.S. Congress not to delay the IANA transition by signing onto our letter here.
GOVERNMENT

U.S. Congress

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE


Committee Leaders Acknowledge Progress on Internet Transition Proposal

March 10, 2016

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL) today acknowledged the multistakeholder community’s proposal to transition stewardship of the Internet Assigned Number Authority from the U.S. government to the Internet community. The committee has been actively engaged in the future of the Internet.

“This transition proposal marks a major milestone in the history of the Internet. We thank the entire multistakeholder community for their hard work and attention to this important task,” said Upton, Walden, and Shimkus. “Now we in the U.S. government must do our work. We look forward to reviewing the proposal and to the thoughtful analysis from NTIA as we look to whether this proposal meets the U.S. government’s requirements for the transition and the needs of the American people. This final step of removing U.S. government oversight of the IANA functions is irreversible and we must be sure the transition will not harm the Internet or the millions of Americans that rely on it. There are no do-overs. Once the U.S. relinquishes its role in IANA, that’s it, there’s no going back. We must get it right.”

On Thursday, March 17th, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology will hold a hearing on “Privatizing the Internet Assigned Number Authority” to begin consideration of the proposal. The subcommittee will hear from a cross-section of stakeholders that participated in the development of the proposal.

More information, including a background memo and witness testimony will be available online here as they are posted.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE


Pallone Welcomes Oversight of the IANA Transition and Accountability Proposal under DOTCOM Act Framework

March 10, 2016

Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) issued the following statement today as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) approved its IANA transition and accountability proposal for submission to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Under the proposal, the Internet’s multistakeholder community would become the new steward of the IANA functions that are central to the Internet’s Domain Name System. The proposal also reconfigures the structure of the ICANN to
address ICANN’s accountability to the multistakeholder community. The proposal will now go to the NTIA for further review:

“I applaud the efforts of the multistakeholder community in reaching this consensus proposal. I look forward to closely reviewing the proposal and the NTIA’s forthcoming report to Congress. Fortunately, the bipartisan DOTCOM Act we negotiated last year and passed through the House already set out the framework for ongoing congressional oversight, and I hope to follow that outline as this process continues.”

U.S. Department of Commerce

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA)

Blog by Lawrence Strickling, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, NTIA.doc.gov

Reviewing the IANA Transition Proposal

March 11, 2016

Over the past two decades, the Internet has touched the lives of billions of people around the globe in profound ways. It has fueled economic growth, giving even the most remote villages the opportunity to sell their products in faraway lands. It has fueled innovation, connecting mobile gadgets and household appliances. And it has torn down barriers to speech, enabling diverse viewpoints to be heard across the political spectrum.

The Obama Administration is committed to doing everything within our power to preserve and protect the open, free-flowing global Internet, which has revolutionized the world. That’s why two years ago, we announced our intention to transition the U.S. government’s stewardship role of the Internet Domain Name System to the global multistakeholder community.

Since our announcement, the Internet community – made up of businesses, technical experts, academics and civil society – has risen to the challenge by developing a transition plan that has achieved broad community support. The community delivered that proposal to NTIA yesterday, marking the culmination of the largest multistakeholder process ever undertaken. Stakeholders spent more than 26,000 working hours on the proposal, exchanged more than 33,000 messages on mailing lists, and held more than 600 meetings and calls.

Why is this transition so important? The Internet has grown and thrived largely because of the multitude of folks who have come together around the globe through multistakeholder processes to solve technical and policy challenges on a consensus basis. No government or intergovernmental entity could have accomplished what this community of experts has achieved in such a relatively short period of time.

The U.S. government has been a strong proponent of this model, and we believed in 2014 and still believe today that transitioning our stewardship role is the best path to preserving and strengthening this multistakeholder model that has worked so well. This model has demonstrated that it is a powerful mechanism for protecting the Internet as a driver of economic growth, innovation and free speech.

Over the last two years the members of the IANA Transition Coordination Working Group (ICG) and the ICANN Cross Community Working Group on Accountability (CCWG) have worked tirelessly to develop the stewardship transition proposal. Scoping the issues, understanding the challenges, working through the various scenarios and then
engaging with the various ICANN constituency groups and customers along the way was not easy. Both the ICG and the CCWG showed incredible determination, focus and then flexibility to adjust as conditions required.

So, what’s next? NTIA will now begin the process of reviewing the proposal, hopefully within 90 days, to determine whether it meets the criteria we outlined when we announced the transition:

- First, the proposal must support and enhance the multistakeholder model of Internet governance, in that it should be developed by the multistakeholder community and have broad community support. More specifically, we will not accept a transition proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or intergovernmental organization solution.
- Second, the proposal must maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the domain name system.
- Third, it must meet the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the IANA services.
- And finally, it must maintain the openness of the Internet.

In this effort, we will be joined by other agencies of the U.S. government. We will also be guided by the recommendations of the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The U.S. Congress has a strong interest in this proposal and we expect Congress to closely monitor and review the proposal as well as our evaluation of the plan.

I applaud all those who participated in and contributed to this process for working through very complex issues. Not only will ICANN be stronger as a result of this effort, but a successful outcome here would serve as a powerful example to the world that the multistakeholder model can be used to address challenging Internet governance issues.