Statements in Support of the IANA Stewardship Transition

INDUSTRY

*Following the March 10, 2016 deliverance if the IANA Stewardship Transition Package to NTIA by the ICANN Board of Directors, a number of businesses, including **Intel**, the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**, the **Internet Governance Coalition**, **Yahoo!**, the **International Chamber of Commerce**, the **Internet Association**, the **Information Technology Industry Council**, the **Software & Information Industry Association**, the **U.S. Council for International Business**, the **Internet Infrastructure Coalition**, the **Los Angeles Times**, and the **European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association**, provided support for the bottom-up multistakeholder process that developed the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability proposals.*

*In addition, many businesses, including **Intel**, the **International Chamber of Commerce**, and the **U.S. Council for International Business**, went on to acknowledge that they believe the IANA Stewardship Transition Package meets the requirements set forward by NTIA.*

INTEL

Policy@Intel, InternetAssociation.org

📄 *IANA Transition Moves Forward*

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.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Press Release, USChamber.com

📄 *U.S. Chamber Statement on IANA Transition Plan*

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."

INTERNET GOVERNANCE COALITION (IGC)

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

Official Statement (PDF)

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*

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*

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."

THE INTERNET ASSOCIATION (IA)

Official Statement, InternetAssociation.org

📄 *Statement On ICANN Plan To Transition IANA Functions*

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."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY COUNCIL (ITIC)

Blog, TechWonk

📄 *Multistakeholder Internet Governance Alive and Well*

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*

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 Doman 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*

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*

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.

EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION (ETNO)

Press Release, ETNO.eu

📄 *Global Internet: ETNO Welcomes ICANN 55 Decisions*

ETNO, the Association representing Europe's leading telecom operators, welcomes the decisions taken last night in Marrakesh by the Board of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).

The approval of the accountability proposal is an important milestone towards improving the governance of the internet and the management of domain names. Thanks to this decision, the ICANN Board will refer the proposal to the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration), the competent agency of the United States Department of Commerce to finalise the transition of IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) to the international community by the end of September 2016. ICANN is therefore a step closer to building an open, independent and inclusive multi-stakeholder governance model of the internet.

Lise Fuhr, Director General of ETNO, said: "The internet and the digital ecosystem are global. Yesterday's decisions recognise the role of the internet community and of stakeholders in the governance of the internet. The work of the accountability group has been an excellent experience of joint effort by all stakeholders to improve internet governance, with an open and cooperative spirit. We should continue building on this positive experience to empower the future work on the transition. We thank the outgoing CEO of ICANN Fadi Chehadé for his extraordinary efforts and look forward to working with the incoming CEO, Göran Marby."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Editorial, LATimes.com

📄 *Cutting U.S. ties to the Net*

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

INTERNET SOCIETY

Press Release, InternetSociety.org

📄 *Internet Society Applauds Community-Developed Plan to Transition Oversight of Key Internet Functions*

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 to 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

GOVERNMENT

U.S. Congress

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Press Release, EnergyCommerce.House.gov

📄 *Committee Leaders Acknowledge Progress on Internet Transition Proposal*

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

Press Release, Democrats-EngergyCommerce.House.gov

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

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*

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.