



15 January 2008

Ambassador Janis Karklins
Chairman
Governmental Advisory Committee
Via email

Dear Janis

I am writing to you to outline some recent initiatives at ICANN which I think you and the GAC members will find of significance.

During the Board's meeting with the GAC in Los Angeles in October, I spoke to the GAC about a number of initiatives being undertaken by ICANN and various things happening in the community. It has been a very busy time for staff and the community since the Los Angeles meeting and I am pleased to advise that a number of the things about which I spoke have now come to fruition and I felt it appropriate to provide you with an update.

Transparency and Accountability:

ICANN has done a considerable amount of work since late 2006, in developing a better understanding about what we and the community mean when we talk about transparency and accountability and I would sincerely like to thank the GAC for its invaluable input to these discussions. This has included a report prepared by the One World Trust, and input from the community at various stages of the process. I am pleased to advise that we have recently released a final draft of a key accountability document, which has gone through several rounds of public consultation and has been amended to incorporate additional community input, including that provided by the GAC to the Board in Los Angeles. The Frameworks and Principles on Accountability and Transparency document <http://www.icann.org/transparency/acct-trans-frameworks-principles-10jan08.pdf><<http://www.icann.org/transparency/acct-trans-frameworks-principles-10jan08.pdf>>

is posted for public notice prior to final consideration by the Board.

This is a crucial document which outlines in one place how ICANN is accountable in three ways:

1. Public sphere accountability which deals with mechanisms for assuring stakeholders that ICANN has behaved responsibly ;
2. Corporate and legal accountability which covers the obligations that ICANN has through the legal system and under its bylaws; and
3. Participating community accountability that ensures that the Board and executive perform functions in line with the wishes and expectations of the ICANN community.

As an additional tool of public sphere accountability, during the Los Angeles meeting I briefly touched on what I refer to as the "dashboard" project. This is a new initiative which aims to provide up-to-date information to the community on a range of operational metrics and I hope that you will find this a useful tool for tracking ICANN's performance, particularly IANA related information. At this stage the "Dashboard" has reports from Finance, and the IANA Root Zone and IETF request queues. We are looking for community



feedback on this tool and will expand the reports available over time. This is part of our management vision for ICANN of utilising information tools to improve global communication, including to our geographical community.

This information is available at :

<http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-11jan08.htm>
<<http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-11jan08.htm>>

and the Dashboard can be viewed both from a button on home page of the ICANN website, and via

<http://forms.icann.org/idashboard/public/view.php> <<http://forms.icann.org/idashboard/public/view.php>>

Annual Report:

I am also pleased to advise that ICANN has recently posted our second Annual Report which reflects the community's many achievements over the last 12 months and stands as a testament to our continuing maturity as an organization. An electronic copy of the report is available at :

<http://www.icann.org/annualreport/annual-report-2006-2007.pdf>
<<http://www.icann.org/annualreport/annual-report-2006-2007.pdf>>

Midterm review of the Joint Project Agreement between the US Department of Commerce and ICANN:

As you are aware, the US Department of Commerce is conducting a midterm review of the JPA and is seeking comments on the continued transition to the private sector of the technical coordination and management of the Internet's domain name and addressing system. The full notice of inquiry is available at:

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/frnotices/2007/ICANN_JPA_110207.html<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/frnotices/2007/ICANN_JPA_110207.html>

I would like to draw your attention to ICANN's own submission to the Inquiry which was posted in recent days:

<http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-09jan08.htm> <<http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-09jan08.htm>> .

The seven-page submission letter

<<http://icann.org/correspondence/dengate-thrush-to-sene-09jan08.pdf>> [pdf],

sent by ICANN's chairman of the Board, Peter Dengate Thrush, outlines the Board's position that it has met fully its obligations and responsibilities and that the JPA can now be completed. And finally, the table of achievements

<<http://icann.org/general/jpa-10-responsibilities-table-09jan08.pdf>> [pdf],

whose index runs to 41 pages and when printed out runs to several hundred pages of



evidential documentation, demonstrates what precisely ICANN has done in completion of the Joint Project Agreement.

As you will see from our submission, among other things, it is the view of the ICANN Board that:

- The JPA like the memorandums of understanding before it has helped ICANN to become a stable organization;
- ICANN has executed the terms of the JPA commenced in September 2006;
- ICANN is meeting its responsibilities under the JPA;
- The JPA is no longer necessary. Concluding it is the next step in transition of the coordination of the Domain Name System (DNS) to the private sector;
- This step will provide continuing confidence that the original vision laid out in the White Paper is being delivered;
- Concluding the JPA will not affect existing accountabilities expressed in the IANA contract and the United States Government¹'s participation through the Governmental Advisory Committee.

I am sure that both ICANN and the US Department of Commerce would appreciate hearing the views of the GAC on this important review.

I would like to take this opportunity thank the GAC for its significant contribution to a number of issues being discussed in ICANN at the moment, particularly on IDN ccTLDs. I look forward to another productive and successful year ahead.

If you have any questions on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D Twomey".

Paul Twomey
CEO & President
ICANN