



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

6 August 2008

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary General
United Nations
Room DC2-2320
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Dear Mr Sha,

Thank you for letter of 12 March inviting ICANN to provide an annual performance report as follow-up to the Tunis Agenda on the Information Society and steps undertaken in relation to “Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet,” as well as the communication from your office of 8 July with the copy of the resolution prepared by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

Following receipt of this latest communication, we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide your office, and through you the wider UN audience, with information regarding ICANN’s ongoing work relating to enhanced cooperation. As you know, ICANN is structured as a multi-stakeholder organization with a responsibility to the global Internet community. As part of fulfilling its responsibilities in an open and transparent manner ICANN promotes cooperation among all stakeholders, including governments through the GAC structure. In purely pragmatic terms we see this as one of the better examples of “enhanced cooperation” in practice.

A full summary of ICANN’s ongoing work is reflected in its annual reports that summarize the many activities and accomplishments of the ICANN community over the year. Copies of the last two annual reports (2005-2006 and 2006-2007) are enclosed, and can also be found online and freely downloaded at: <http://www.icann.org/annualreport/>. The 2007-2008 Annual Report will be forthcoming at the end of the year, but I can already signal that it will contain news of important progress in the use of additional/alternative scripts in the newly expanded IDN system (see also 2 below).

In addition to the cooperation reflected in the Annual Reports, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight a few specific areas where ICANN has and continues to enhance its cooperation with stakeholders and organizations.

1) ICANN has been a long-time participant in the World Summit on Information Society, including in the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), and now the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Forum provides additional opportunities for a wide variety of stakeholders to cooperate. Examples where ICANN has been involved include cooperative workshops on multilingualism with UNESCO and the Egyptian NTRA, see: <http://info.intgovforum.org/wksp57.php>; and UNESCO and ITU, see: http://www.intgovforum.org/wks_session_info.php?numes=11. ICANN maintains continued cooperation with these and other organizations with regard to areas of responsibility and expertise as it relates to multilingualism.



2) The relationship of the ICANN community with its diverse group of stakeholders is important and evolving. In this regard, recognizing the importance of the role of governments in the process and procedures of the ICANN multi-stakeholder structure, at its December 2005 Board meeting, the ICANN Board set up a Joint GAC-Board Working Group to address improving communication links and enhance collaboration processes between the GAC and the Board and relevant ICANN constituencies (see: <http://www.icann.org/committees/board-gac/>). The working group has attained its initial objectives, and subsequent work focuses on implementation. The GAC and ccNSO joint activities in developing IDN ccTLD Fast Track methodology should be considered as a concrete result of enhanced cooperation within ICANN.

3) In addition to its ongoing cooperation with all stakeholders, ICANN also coordinates and cooperates with a growing number of academic and professional organizations. In this regard, ICANN has entered into partnership cooperation Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). A full listing of these partnership MoUs can be found at: http://www.icann.org/global_partnerships/mous/.

4) An important part of cooperation and coordination with all stakeholders is ICANN's transparency and accountability. Unique to the ICANN model is that any policy decision reached is achieved through a bottom up, consensus building approach that by its very nature requires cooperation, input, and coordination, among all stakeholders. ICANN's strategic, operational and budget planning processes follow the same procedure. Further information on our continued commitment to this can be found at: <http://www.icann.org/transparency/>. I am also very pleased to share with you a decision made recently by the ICANN Board to the effect that, in an effort to increase transparency and international access, all documents relating to decisions of any significance will in future be freely available to all stakeholders in an increasing number of languages in addition to English.

5) As part of ICANN's commitment to the evolving Internet its Bylaws (Article IV, Section 4: Accountability and Review; Periodic Review of ICANN Structure and Operations) require regular reviews of its Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. These reviews provide regular opportunities for improvements to their effectiveness and cooperation with all stakeholders as part of ICANN's work.

(6) The ICANN Board is comprised of representation reflective of the multi-stakeholder and cooperative institutionalization of ICANN. The Board has fifteen voting Board members ("Directors") selected by the supporting organizations and nominating committee process, and six non-voting liaisons (Liaisons"). The non-voting Board Liaisons are appointed as follows: one by the Governmental Advisory Committee; one by the Root Server System Advisory Committee; one by the Security and Stability Advisory Committee; one by the At-Large Advisory Committee; one by the Internet Engineering Task Force and one by the Technical Liaison Group. The Technical Liaison Group is comprised of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the International Telecommunications Union's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Internet Architecture Board (IAB). The Technical Liaison Group rotates the appointment of the non-voting liaison to the Board, in the order of ETSI, ITU-T, and W3C. The IAB participates through its appointment of the IETF Liaison. The inclusion in the Board of the non-voting Board Liaison is an important part of the ICANN process, and assisting to facilitate cooperation among these groups of stakeholders and organizations". For further details on ICANN's Board structure, please see ICANN bylaws at: <http://www.icann.org/en/general/bylaws.htm>.

As you know ICANN is an internationally organized, non-profit, and non-governmental corporation, responsible for the global coordination of the Internet's unique identifier system. We are a non-political body, but I hope that the above response will demonstrate that we are very conscious of the needs of all sectors of our stakeholder community.



We appreciate this opportunity to provide you with our Annual Reports, and some additional detail on ICANN's continued contribution to enhancing cooperation among all stakeholders in the areas of its responsibilities. We would welcome your sharing this information in order that the broadest possible community is informed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D Twomey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "T".

Paul Twomey
President and CEO