DRDWG Progress Report (DRAFT)

February 25th, 2010

This is a progress report on the activities of the ccNSO Delegation, Re-delegation and Retirement Working Group (DRDWG) since the Seoul meeting of ICANN.

Since the Seoul meeting the working group met regularly (5 meetings by telephone conferences) and has appointed Becky Burr as its vice-chair. Notes of these meetings can be found at http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/drdwg.htm .

Update of the DRDWG charter

1. Purpose

The purpose of the working group is to advise the ccNSO Council whether it should launch a policy development process to recommend changes to the current policy for delegation, re-delegation and retirement of ccTLDs.

2. Scope

The working group will consider the current policies relating to delegation, re-delegation and retirement of ccTLDs and report on any issues or matters of concern that it believes exist with those current policies. It will also consider possible solutions to any issues or matters of concern.

The IANA functions contract between the US Government and ICANN, including any contract implementation issues or procedures relating to it, are considered outside the scope of this working group.

The working group will recommend whether or not to launch a country code policy development process. If it does recommend a policy development process, it shall be considered as a request for an issues report to the ccNSO Council as documented in Annex B Section 1 of the Country-Code Policy Development Process.

 If issues outside this scope become apparent to the working group, its chair will inform the ccNSO Council of the issue so that it can be taken into account and dealt with more appropriately.

Project plan

The working group accepted a work plan which would see it complete its mandate by July 2011.

The activities of the working group are broken down into 4 major phases:

- Phase 1 Delegation

- Phase 2 Retirement

- Phase 3 Re-delegation

- Phase 4 Final Report

Each of the first 3 phases is composed of the following activities:

- Identify relevant policy, guidelines, procedures and practices etc. (includes an overview (glossary) of the terms and references in use).

- Identify issues with any of the elements identified in the previous section.

- Identify methodology (ies) for dealing with issues identified in the previous section.

- Publish Final Paper on specific process for community input.

Current Status

The working group is currently working on Phase 1 Delegation and in the process of identifying relevant policies, guidelines,procedures and practices.

This has turned out to be a more significant undertaking than originally anticipated. Major reasons are:

- The working group has not identified an authoritative source which has compiled all relevant policies or guidelines; and,
- There is no publicly available documentation of the current practices or procedures.

Given this situation the working group identified a list of policies, guidelines and practices related documents and will be analysing all IANA reports and Board decisions relating to the delegation and re-delegation of ccTLDs since the ICANN Board has started making such decisions.

Once all relevant Board decisions have been compiled and analysed the working group will work on identifying issues, if any, relative to the delegation policy that it should consider as per its mandate.

In this context it seems generally accepted that the first statement that framed ICANN's dealing with ccTLDs was RFC1591 (including the ccTLD News Memo #1 dated October 23, 1997 which deals specifically with ccTLDs). Other major documents considered to date are ICP-1 and the GAC Principles which have been analysed with respect to RFC1591 (relevant RFC's pre-dating RFC 1591 were identified and analysed as well).

One of the major topics of discussion was the status and relevance of the documents as a source for the policy.

The working group will now concentrate on identifying and analysing relevant decisions by the Board.

It is expected that once this is completed that the activities of the working group will proceed at a significantly faster pace and that it should respect the schedule of the work plan.

Activities in Nairobi

The DRDWG will be holding the following activities while at the Nairobi ICANN meeting:

- Nairobi public workshop. The Working Group is convening a 90 minute open workshop to be held on Sunday 7 March (14:00 - 15:30 hours, local time) at ICANN Nairobi, and invites stakeholders to provide presentations on issues relating to the delegation, re-delegation or retirement of ccTLDs, and their experiences with IANA. Stakeholders may be any group comprising the local Internet community.
- Working Group Meetings – there will be 2 working group meetings in Nairobi.
- Presentation of the DRDWG Progress Report to the ccNSO.