

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Introduction

Welcome to ICANN's 39th Public Meeting in the lovely city of Cartagena, Colombia. The city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 and it's easy to see why. In the streets and markets you can feel the passion for living that Gabriel Garcia Marquez brought so richly to life. Its glorious past is reflected in every building, in the architecture and colors and sounds of the city, in the clip-clopping of horse-drawn carriages and in the warm and friendly welcome that seems to greet you at every step.

That warm welcome has been evident in our collaboration with our hosts, to whom I offer my sincere thanks for their dedication to the success of this meeting.

We are honored by the video participation of President Santos, and thank him for his government's assistance in preparing this international meeting.

Minister Diego Ernesto Molano and Vice Minister María Carolina Hoyos Turbay, thank you for your support and dedication to helping us make this meeting a success. We also thank Juan Diego Calle, CEO of .CO Internet, and Eduardo Santoyo, Vice President of Corporate Affairs of .CO Internet and ICANN's liaison in planning the meeting, whose active and enthusiastic dedication have contributed so much to bringing us here today.

I'd also like to recognize the leadership of those who have done so much to increase the availability of the Internet for users in Latin America - people like current and former ICANN Board members Gonzalo Navarro and Raimundo Beca from Chile; Demi Getchko, Vanda Scartezini and Hartmut Glaser from Brazil; Alejandro Pisanty from Mexico; Raul Echeberria, Executive Director of LACNIC, the Regional Internet Registry for Latin America, who is also chairman

of the Internet Society; and Oscar Robles, president of LACTLD, the Latin American and Caribbean Country Code TLD association. Thanks to their efforts, the Internet has continued its successful expansion in Latin America. Thank you.

Expanding our community

ICANN is an international community, with a consensus-driven approach and solid commitment to a set of ideals. Whatever our differences on issues or policies, we are united behind a common goal: a secure, stable and unified global Internet. It must keep running.

In support of that goal, we believe in inclusiveness, because everyone using the Internet has a right to be heard in its governance. Interested in the Internet? You're welcome here. There is no other requirement. Inclusiveness brings diversity to our community and fortifies the domain name system and addressing systems, which are cornerstones of the Internet. It's that important.

Expansion of our community should be a strategic imperative.

ICANN is only as global as its stakeholders. From Brazil, China and the Arab countries to the smallest island nations, from those who speak for millions to those who feel they are not being heard, you are important to ICANN. We encourage you to join us.

The success of our multistakeholder model depends entirely on the passion, dedication and intellectual contributions of this community. So many of you give so much. But the importance to the world of our work demands even more. More smart minds. More technical experts. More government and international involvement in our bottom-up policymaking. More participation in policy development working groups. More people engaged who are directly affected by the policies our community creates.

A new Board member, Sébastien Bachollet, selected by the At-Large community, will be seated at the end of this meeting, bringing an additional and welcome global perspective to the Board of Directors after years of effort to make this possible.

All these contributions will add to the richness of the debate and inject new ideas and creative thought.

We already see the benefit of this to Internet users. For example, diverse interests have come together to address domain name registration abuse and manage the depletion of IPv4 addresses, to name just two policy improvement efforts being tackled by the ICANN community.

We also see the global ecosystem of Internet and multilateral organizations making progress together. I warmly congratulate my colleague Hamadoun Touré

on his reelection as Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union and on his leadership of the ITU Plenipotentiary that recently concluded in Guadalajara, Mexico. His commitment to building stronger bridges between our communities is particularly welcome.

The ITU is on the Governmental Advisory Committee and the Nominating Committee, and serves as a technical liaison to the Board of Directors. They have a long history of constructive engagement with ICANN. Just this week, a new ITU liaison, Reinhard Scholl, will join the Board. The agreement of the ITU to recognize ICANN and other multi-stakeholder partners reciprocally is an important and valuable step forward.

Hamadoun, we appreciate your efforts to build constructive relationships and look forward to further cooperation and collaboration with the ITU. We have always sought to build our relationships based on mutual respect and integrity, taking into account the unique and distinct mandates entrusted to our organizations. The strengthening of communication between us is a personal priority for me.

I would also like to acknowledge our partners, the Internet Society – ISOC - and the regional Internet registries that participated in the Plenipotentiary. They not only carried the multistakeholder spirit and flame; they supported the governmental delegations with vital information necessary to ensure the conference's success. We thank you all.

Today we stand at an important crossroads. The online world is in perpetual and rapid transition. Technology is moving very fast – slipping into aspects of life that were long immune to its encroachment - and merely keeping up has become a considerable challenge. With the potential for many more parts of our lives to move online, ensuring the stability and resilience of the domain name system and sufficient expansion of Internet capacity have become defining requirements of modern life.

We must ensure a stable, resilient and unified platform for society to build on, to empower further innovation and generate opportunities to build bridges across borders and cultures.

Internationalization

The Internet is global and ICANN is, too - in our thinking, our vision, our practices and our decisions. We are accountable to the world, not to any one country, and everything we do must reflect that. We exist for the benefit of billions of individuals around the world who depend on the Internet in their daily lives.

ICANN's international relations continue to improve. We are actively engaged around the world in dialogue with governments, businesses and civil society.

Membership in the Governmental Advisory Committee is growing, a sign that governments are increasingly interested in what we do, and want to be part of it.

There are many recent examples of this constructive international engagement.

The Whois review team includes members from Austria, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. We are particularly pleased that law enforcement is engaged in this effort.

We are participating at national and regional conferences around the world, including the Central and East European ccTLD conference in Russia; the APTLD meeting in Jordan; network operator group meetings in Turkey, and Palau; and ministerial meetings from Azerbaijan to Tunis, to name just a few.

A key expression of ICANN's commitment to the global Internet is internationalized domain names.

Their introduction required a tremendous effort by many parts of the ICANN community. That strong collaboration produced one of the biggest changes in the Internet in its history.

The fast track process was launched just over a year ago in Seoul and ICANN has received 35 requests for consideration of IDN country code top level domains. Twenty-two countries and territories, with a total of 32 strings, have successfully completed evaluation processing and are either at or near the last step - delegation. Twelve countries and territories, or fifteen strings, are now in the root zone.

We continue to be impressed by the uptake of IDNs. An astonishing surge of interest was reported among Russian Cyrillic registrants when the new Cyrillic IDN was first made available. Just before registration began on 11 November, Andrei Kolesnikov, CEO of the coordination center for the .ru ccTLD and the Cyrillic ccTLD, .rf, said that they expected about 100,000 domain names to be registered by the end of this year. These expectations have been exceeded more than anyone could have imagined.

One hundred thousand domain names were registered in the first *three hours*; 200,000 within six hours. And over half a million names within the first week! As of last night, 637,000 were registered, 97 percent of them domestic, and all entirely in Cyrillic.

That enthusiasm reflects the need and the desire to communicate online entirely in one's primary language. It goes beyond usefulness and touches a country's and a people's sense of national and cultural identity.

Our discussions here in Cartagena will include the issue of delegating additional IDNs in the root and ways to help developing nations enhance their capacity to create a multilingual Internet.

And ICANN is continuing to improve the very successful implementation of IDN TLDs. For example, we are considering whether, and if so how, to broaden eligibility beyond those on the ISO 3166 list for IDN ccTLDs. And to ensure IDNs provide a good user experience, we will look at practical implementation focusing on the Internet Engineering Task Force's recent revision of the IDNA protocol.

IANA

Unity and connectivity are among ICANN's core values - as enshrined in our bylaws - because the ability to connect to anyone anywhere depends on keeping the Internet whole.

ICANN now coordinates DNS operations with 240 countries and territories around the world in one seamless, interconnected Internet root, and each of those countries has contributed in some fashion to the advancement and growth of the Internet.

Today about three percent of the IPv4 address space is left in the free-pool. That means there are seven slash-eight IPv4 address blocks remaining in the pool. The ICANN-approved global policy provides that when only five blocks remain in the pool, each regional Internet registry will simultaneously receive one, and at that point the IPv4 address pool administered by IANA will be exhausted.

Of the 4.3 billion unique IPv4 addresses, only about 100 million are available or unassigned.

Fortunately, in 2006 ICANN's Board ratified a global policy drafted by IANA, the Number Resource Organization and the regional Internet registries for the allocation of IPv6 addresses, so IPv6 is waiting in the wings to provide incredible amounts of unique IP addresses. Each regional Internet registry received an IPv6 allocation per the global policy and their general policy is to assign a slash 48 to end sites.

Let's put this in perspective: a single slash 48 is 1.2 *septillion* unique addresses and dwarfs the entire IPv4 space. A septillion – known as a quadrillion in many countries - has *24 zeroes*. Or a trillion, trillion. With the depletion of the IPv4 address space, IPv6 offers a path well into the future.

We would like to acknowledge the government of Colombia, which a few days ago announced its national plan for the formal adoption of IPv6, called *Viva Digital*. This support from the government lays the foundation for continued Internet penetration in Colombia and is a welcome move. We applaud Colombia for its foresight and leadership.

Security

Security, stability and reliability are among ICANN's core values, because the Internet must keep running. Too much is at stake for it to fail.

And there are threats. The security of the Internet's unique identifier system remains a primary mission, and in partnership with the community, we will continue to do our best to help coordinate community supported security efforts.

DNSSEC - DNS Security Extensions - is a main component of the security effort and the biggest structural improvement to the DNS in 20 years. When fully deployed, it will make substitution, redirection or man-in-the-middle attacks more difficult by cryptographically protecting DNS data with digital signatures and keys. This ensures that information has not been modified while in transit from its authoritative source.

Since we met in Brussels in late June, the root was signed on 15 July 2010 with the involvement of the global Internet technical community. Twenty-one distinguished community members from 19 countries directly participate in managing the root key, making this a truly global responsibility.

Thanks to community efforts, DNSSEC is being deployed aggressively around the world. Fifty TLDs have been signed and are in the root, and at least 15 more are in the works. A number of new registry operators are implementing DNSSEC in top level domain zones. .net will be ready for DNSSEC validation this week – a major milestone - and .com is on track for validation by March 2011, when we meet in San Francisco for the 40th ICANN meeting.

The signed zones in Latin America and the Caribbean include Belize's .bz, Brazil's .br, Honduras' .hr, Puerto Rico's .pr and Saint Lucia's .lc. We appreciate their leadership in implementing DNSSEC. If you are a registry operator in the region, we hope you will reach out to these countries for their help and advice on how you can best implement DNSSEC. Or please ask someone else in the community.

In recognition of the importance of the DNSSEC effort, there will be a special DNSSEC Beginners session in Cartagena in addition to the regular DNSSEC session. This is a joint effort between SSAC and the ccNSO's Tech Day, and thus represents a new community effort. I encourage you to attend.

In all its work, ICANN has one singular goal: protecting the public interest in the global Internet.

So let's ask the obvious question: what is the public interest in the security of the global Internet?

What do governments and law enforcement expect of our community? How about financial services institutions that experience cyber attacks that leverage the DNS - what do they expect? Or small registries experiencing a cyber attack?

What happens if a small registrar is attacked or threatened? Who will come to their assistance, and through what mechanism?

It's understandable that there would be debate on such a complex topic as DNS security, and it is challenging to develop synthesized policies on matters where many opposing views are held - sometimes vehemently. In a multistakeholder environment, different parties have different views on important issues and differing stakes in their outcomes. That's what makes our community such a rich policy development environment.

We are committed to our bottom-up policy development process. The staff under my leadership is willing to go as far on security as the community is willing. And whatever security effort this community decides, we will do our utmost to implement and support, given sufficient resources. Because when it comes to security, how can we ever say we've done enough?

We're listening to you. Let's work together to act on our number one core value as spelled out in our bylaws, and I quote: "*Preserving and enhancing the operational stability, reliability, security, and global interoperability of the Internet*".

And now you need to tell us: where do you want us to go?

Of course, I am sure we can agree that when it comes to security, the question is not *what do we want to do? Or what is popular or easy?* It's *what do we owe the world?* Because all of us care about the global public interest.

Good security measures cannot be developed in an information vacuum. We need more data. Data on trends of DDoS and other attacks and gaps in the current security response to those threats. We need to document known risks to the DNS, as well as the potential and hypothetical risks that we have not yet encountered.

Many in the community are willing to discuss risks, threats and security incidents in private. We believe that our community's longstanding commitment to transparency requires responsible disclosure of this information, which is essential for a full understanding of the situation and to establish a baseline of previous attacks and their impact on DNS operations.

Governments have a role too. We have asked GAC members to provide information about security activities in their countries. We appreciate the information some have shared but there have been few responses. As

governments urge us to remain committed to security efforts, we in turn request that they help us by responding and working with the ICANN community on this vital mission.

We also need objective risk models of the overall DNS system. Without them, how can we quantify and understand the risks? It may not be easy, but working together we can make progress, if we are willing to dedicate the time and resources as a community.

We also continue to address security concerns across a wide range of issues. Led by the community, we're supporting work on High Security TLDs, centralized zone file access and initiatives to reduce the potential for malicious conduct in new generic top level domains.

Under the Affirmation of Commitments we are supporting the efforts of the Security, Stability and Resiliency review team, which will conduct its first face-to-face meeting here in Cartagena.

We've published an FY 11 Security, Stability and Resiliency Plan - it's available in six languages - and conducted a series of briefings with the community to ensure we have your input as we proceed.

We're also continuing to support DNS capacity-building initiatives, with successful training sessions held recently in Guatemala, Jordan and Mali.

Empowering innovation: new gTLDs

Innovation is a key value for ICANN, because the Internet is changing rapidly and the domain name system must evolve with it. Opening up the name space to new generic top level domains is intended to promote competition, innovation and consumer choice in a safe and stable manner, with sufficient and appropriate safeguards to mitigate costs and risks.

Guided by community input, the Board has considered the public interest in its recent discussions on the implementation of trademark protections, the new registry agreement terms, measures to mitigate malicious conduct and ensure root zone stability, and by resolution of the cross-ownership issue.

An extraordinary amount of constructive attention and collaboration by many parties has been devoted to resolving the very difficult issues of this program. The community has been involved through working groups and detailed public comments. We have received exceptional input from the Implementation Recommendation Team, or IRT, the Special Trademark Issues Working Team, or STI, the Internationalized Domain Names Working Group - IDN WG, the Zone File Access Advisory Group, or ZFAAG, the High Security Top-Level Domain Advisory Group, or HSTLD-AG, and other working groups.

This has been an amazing display of broad community cooperation and expertise. And a major contribution to our library of acronyms! It demonstrates clearly that our multistakeholder model is working.

As is often the case with policy decisions in that multistakeholder model, not everyone is pleased, and this diversity of opinion contributes to the policy process. For example, last week we received a critical letter from the US Department of Commerce. As with all contributions, ICANN will give these comments careful consideration as part of the implementation of the GNSO policy. We welcome the transparent way that Commerce provided their comments through the public comment process.

Transparency and Accountability

ICANN is profoundly committed to the principles and the practice of transparency in *all* our activities. You can't have real accountability without it and ICANN is accountable to its constituencies and to the world.

ICANN's staff, Board and community have an impressive record of accountability and transparency, and we are building on this foundation every day.

The Affirmation of Commitments requires a review of how well we are maintaining and advancing accountability and transparency by continually assessing and improving elements that support this objective.

We thank the Accountability and Transparency Review Team for their draft report, which was posted last month for public comment, and look forward to community and Board discussion here in Cartagena. Public input will help ensure ICANN's continuing accountability and transparency.

We've noted many constructive elements in the report that could be implemented and that validate and build on ICANN's achievements.

We encourage the community to comment on the draft. Community input is particularly relevant for potential implementation and for the changes it would imply for several ICANN structures and processes, including the policy development process.

Ultimately, the Board will decide which recommendations should be incorporated into ICANN's annual plans and budget, taking into account the increase in time, cost and resources that implementation may require.

A core part of ensuring the fullest possible transparency in our work is our flagship website ICANN.org. It is a great expression of our commitment to transparency - admirable in its completeness, but not so admirable in its dense presentation and challenging navigation. As a result, and as further evidence of our commitment to full transparency and to public participation, the website is

undergoing renovation and upgrade. The goals are ease of use and to make the site more engaging in order to welcome more people into the community. We will keep you updated on this important project.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like once again to welcome and thank Minister Diego Ernesto Molano, Vice Minister María Carolina Hoyos Turbay, Juan Diego Calle and Eduardo Santoyo. Thank you very much for your support.

The power of the Internet to change our lives is breathtaking. It is profoundly reshaping our communications, our infrastructure, our economies and our future.

The work and dedication of the ICANN community is fundamental to ensuring a secure, stable and unified Internet. Welcoming new voices and new thinking into our community will strengthen our collective ability to meet that challenge for the benefit of the world.

Thank you.

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