Cross Community Working Group (CWG) on Framework of Principles for Future Cross Community Working Groups

What is this about?
With the increasing reliance on Cross Community Working Group, the ICANN community has recognized that there is an increasing number of issues that cut across and affect more than one of ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. CWGs have been created previously (e.g. the Joint DNS Security & Stability Analysis Working Group (DSSA) involving At Large, ccNSO, GNSO, NRO, and SSAC, and the Joint IDN Working Group (JIG) involving the ccNSO and GNSO), but to date there have been no agreed guidelines on their use or outcomes. Many ICANN community members have highlighted the need for a set of uniform principles to guide the formation and operations of these cross-community working groups. This CWG has been chartered by the ccNSO and GNSO Councils to develop a framework of operating principles that would allow for the effective and efficient functioning of future CWGs.

Why is this important?
Each SO and AC within ICANN is responsible for different aspects of policy development and advice, and operates under different mandates and remits. There has, however, been an increase in the number of issues that affect or interest more than one SO/AC. Up to now, cross community working groups have been formed on a relatively ad-hoc basis, without a framework of consistent operating principles that take into account the differences between each SO/AC. In order to facilitate the successful functioning of CWGs, the ccNSO and GNSO believe that it would be beneficial to attempt to develop such a framework in collaboration with other SO/ACs.

What is the current status of this project?
The CWG's charter was approved by the ccNSO and GNSO Councils in March 2014. It has reviewed past cross community efforts to generate "lessons learned" which aided in the development of a proposed framework of principles. The draft framework identifies key principles and process steps that should be considered during each phase of the CWG life cycle (i.e., initiation, formation, operation, decision-making and closure, and post-closure of the CWG).

Expected next steps
In Buenos Aires, the CWG is expected to discuss the draft framework, which is intended to serve as a non-prescriptive set of guidelines for the formation, operation and termination of future CWGs.

Background
In March 2012 the GNSO Council approved an initial set of operating principles for CWGs that it sent to other SOs and ACs for feedback. Detailed comments and suggestions were received from the ccNSO suggesting additions and clarifications to the initial principles in June 2013. In October 2013, a Drafting Team to be co-chaired by the ccNSO and GNSO was approved by the GNSO Council. The DT was tasked to develop a charter for a WG that will take up the initial work already done, and develop a finalized framework governing the formation, chartering,

operation, decision-making and termination of CWGs that would be workable across all SO/ACs. The charter was approved by the ccNSO and GNSO Councils at their respective Council meetings in Singapore, in March 2014.

How can I get involved?
If you are interested in joining the CWG, please email the GNSO Secretariat at gnso.secretariat@icann.org to be added to the mailing list. Membership limits per SO/AC are set out in the CWG charter (see https://community.icann.org/x/pgfPAQ). The CWG will also be holding a community session during the Buenos Aires meeting, on Wednesday 24 June from 8:00 - 9:00 local time (check the Meeting Schedule for confirmation).

Where can I find more information?
- Background information: http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/cross-community
- CWG Workspace: https://community.icann.org/x/rQbPAQ
- Open F2F CWG meeting during the ICANN meeting in Buenos Aires on Wednesday 24 June from 8:00 – 9:00 local time (see http://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/schedule/wed-framework-cwg-principles)

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