

Report on the Activities of the Cross Community Working Group on Internet Governance (CCWG-IG)

June 2019 – October 2019

30 October 2019

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SINCE JUNE 2019	1
2.1 CCWG-IG INPUT INTO ICANN’S ENGAGEMENT WITH, AND IN, EXTERNAL PROCESSES	1
2.2 CCWG-IG ENGAGEMENT WITH WIDER ICANN COMMUNITY	1
2.3 CCWG-IG INTERNAL WORK SINCE MARCH 2019	1
2.3.1 <i>Face-to-face meeting</i>	2
2.3.2 <i>CCWG-IG teleconferences</i>	3
2.4 CCWG-IG UPCOMING EVENETS AND ACTIVITIES	3
2.4.1 <i>ICANN66 Montréal</i>	3
3 INTERNET GOVERNANCE	4
3.1. <i>Internet Governance landscape</i>	4
3.2. <i>Internet Governance and ICANN</i>	6
4 WORK ON DEVELOPING A WAY FORWARD FOR ICANN CROSS-COMMUNITY WORK ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE	7

1. Introduction

This report of the Cross Community Working Group on Internet Governance (CCWG-IG) covers a number of its activities and issues that have an impact the Internet Ecosystem. These include participation in events and contributions made to on-going Internet governance activities, as well as regular Calls discussing Internet Governance issues.

The report also touches upon the overall Internet Governance landscape and ICANN organisation's activities. Being an important actor in the overall IG Ecosystem, the topics discussed and the evolution of the landscape are important for ICANN Org and to the overall ICANN Community.

The CCWG-IG is also currently in the process of developing a new cross-community vehicle, the [Engagement Group on Internet Governance \(EGIG\)](#) for its future activities and dialogue. The report provides updates on the latest developments and activities around this endeavour.

2. Events and activities since June 2019

2.1 CCWG-IG input into ICANN's engagement with, and in, external processes

The CCWG-IG did not have any external events nor activities, and was not asked for input in the work of ICANN Global Engagement Team. It did, however, engage in discussion (on the List) on a number of IG issues that may prove useful for future deliberation. This included a dialogue on the Recommendations of the UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (Report published in June); an issue that is being carried forward for discussion in the EGIG Public Forum in Montreal.

2.2 CCWG-IG engagement with wider ICANN Community

In the period covered by the report, the CCWG-IG did not formally engage with the wider ICANN community.

2.3 CCWG-IG internal work since March 2019

The CCWG-IG organized a face-to-face meeting during the ICANN65 Marrakesh Meeting. The Chair, and other representatives, of the Board Working Group on Internet Governance ([BWG-IG](#)) were present and a productive discussion ensued.

2.3.1 Face-to-face meeting

ICANN65, Marrakesh

[Internet Governance Face-to-Face Meeting](#)

24 June 2019, 15:15 - 16:30

Speakers:

- Olivier Crepin-Leblond (Chair)
- Leon Sanchez
- Nigel Hickson

Board Members:

- Leon Sanchez
- Chris Disspain
- Avri Doria
- Matthew Shears
- Tripti Sinha
- Rafael Lito Ibarra
- Maarten Botterman
- Ron da Silva
- Danko Jevtovic

Topics discussed:

1. Introductions and welcome (Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair)
2. Review of CCWG-IG activities since ICANN65 (Olivier Crépin-Leblond)
3. Update on Charter for a new Cross-Community WG (Olivier Crépin-Leblond)
4. Update on priorities for Board WG on IG (Leon Sanchez, Chair of the Board WG)
5. Discussion on external IG Priorities (Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Nigel Hickson, GE)
6. Any Other Business

Summary

The Face-to-face meeting was a constructive and well attended session, with important discussions taking place around the IG landscape and the specific work of the CCWG-IG. It was agreed that the work on the CCWG-IG should be expanded to allow it to have a role in the Legislative Tracking initiative introduced by ICANN Org. The meeting also agreed, in principle, to amend the Charter of the CCWG-IG to remove the chartered status of the SO/AC membership and transform it to an

Engagement Group on Internet Governance (EGIG). Other IG topics were also addressed, such as the IGF (and the importance of supporting it in light of UN High-Level Report on Digital Cooperation), the ICANN ITU-D Application and work in WTO, UN and WIPO that could affect the DNS.

Further Details

For more information, links to the video and transcript of the meeting can be found at <https://65.schedule.icann.org/meetings/1058290>

The ICANN Wiki page for the this session can be found at: <https://community.icann.org/display/CPMMB/CCWG+on+IG+F2F+Meeting+in+Mar+rakesh>

2.3.2 CCWG-IG teleconferences

In the period covered by the report, the CCWG-IG had one teleconference scheduled. For details of the call, including recording and participants, please see the link provided in the Date column.

Date	In Attendance	Topics Discussed
6 August 2019	13 (20, inc. staff)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction, Welcome, Adoption of Agenda2. Discussion of non-Charter for Group<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Link to working document Preparation for ICANN66 Sessions3. IGF Berlin4. Update on Internet Governance developments5. AoB

In **Summary** this was a constructive and relatively well-attended Call which witnessed considerable progress being made on Terms of Reference (or a Charter) for the new Engagement Group and an agreement to hold an IG public session (topic to be determined) and a face-to face meeting with the Board Working Group in Montreal. We also had an update on current IG issues including developments (potentially affecting ICANN) at the UN in New York and at the ITU.

2.4 CCWG-IG Upcoming events and activities

2.4.1 ICANN66 Montréal

The CCWG-IG has two meetings scheduled for the upcoming ICANN66 Montréal Meeting, a Public Session and a Face-to-Face meeting.

The IG Public Session scheduled for the 4th of November will provide an opportunity for the group to discuss current evolutions in the IG space, including updates on the evolution of the IGF and the UN High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation and other international fora in which IG issues are discussed. The group will also discuss the status of the CCWG-IG, its new Charter and its evolution into an Engagement Group on Internet Governance (EGIG).

<https://66.schedule.icann.org/meetings/1116852>

The Face-to-Face meeting with the ICANN Board Working Group on Internet Governance will be held on the 7th of November. An agenda for this session is currently being deliberated on.

<https://66.schedule.icann.org/meetings/1116763>

The full schedule for ICANN66 Montréal Meeting can be found below

<https://66.schedule.icann.org/>

3 Internet Governance

Increasingly, governments and intergovernmental forums are holding discussions and developing policies, legislations, and regulations that impact the Internet. In some cases, the results of these discussions may impact ICANN's ability to develop policies, run its operations, and fulfil its mission.

3.1. Internet Governance landscape

Increasingly, Internet issues have been taking a larger place in international fora, in the media and in political agendas. The third quarter of 2019 saw the continuation of this growing trend for an increased focus towards theme concerning the Internet and its implications for society. Internet Governance in particular has gained a lot of attention and is likely to become an increasingly extensive issue.

The publication of the [UN High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation](#)' report in June 2019 has brought Internet Governance issues to the forefront of many agendas. Since its publication, the report has been extensively discussed in several international fora, and in the technical community at large. The private sector and many technical and non-profit organisations have provided responses in the form of [contributions](#) to the report's findings, especially to the section about Recommendations concerning Mechanisms for Digital Cooperation and the future role of the IGF. The comments and contributions are being aggregated, and it is expected that there will be some form of announcement on the future of Digital Cooperation at the upcoming IGF in Germany.

The [IGF](#) will be held at the end of November 2019 in Berlin. The German organisers have been continuing the strong engagement for multistakeholderism that the Swiss and French had previously pursued. The agenda is focused on three main topics defined by the MAG (cybersecurity, data governance and inclusion) and Day 0 will include a parliamentary track. ICANN is hosting a pre-event on Day 0 on [The Evolving Ecosystem](#). ICANN is also organizing an Open Forum on Day 1 on [DNS, Threats and Opportunities](#), and a Workshop on Day 3 on Online Identity in the multilingual DNS.

There are a lot of expectations resting on this IGF concerning the future of digital cooperation. This year, the UN is also celebrating its 75th anniversary of its creation, and there are indications that the UN Secretary General will make an announcement concerning the future of the IGF.

Ahead of the IGF ICANN Org has been involved in the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), as part of the representation from the Technical Community, and in intersessional work in the Dynamic Coalitions on IOT Security and the DNS (which is currently focussing on Universal Acceptance).

A new round of negotiations on cybersecurity was begun at the UN in September, with start of the work of the [Open-Ended Working Group \(OEWG\)](#) on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. The work of the group involves Member States as well as (accredited) non-governmental organisations who are allowed to speak outside of the formal session time. Discussions and disagreements centre around the application of international law in cyberspace and the need for norms of behaviour of states in cyberspace, and in particular interest to ICANN, the critical Internet infrastructure. ICANN Organisation will continue to track these discussions and keep this group updated on future developments.

Developments within the WTO also have the potential to affect ICANN in its mission. The upcoming [Ministerial Conference](#) in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan in June 2020 will examine whether to revoke the current moratorium on electronic transmissions, which has been making electronic transmissions exempt of customs duties. This has been highly debated at the WTO Council and at the Public Forum held in October, and no clear path forward has been found. The heated discussions will likely continue. This ties in with the expected launch of e-commerce negotiations, to put in place global rules on electronic commerce, to which 76 countries and partners are currently participating. The outcome of the decision on the moratorium and the format of the e-commerce negotiations have the potential of affecting the DNS.

The UN CSTD is having its plenary meeting at the same time as ICANN66 is taking place. The length of the meeting has been reduced from three to two days due to budget constraints, an issue faced by all the International Organisations in the UN ecosystem. The WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications is also holding its bi-annual meeting at the

same time as ICANN66, with a proposal¹ to be discussed concerning protection of Geographical Names and Geographical Indications from being registered as domain names.

In the light of these developments, continued dialogue between ICANN Org and the Community remains extremely important. The ICANN Community is geographically dispersed and has a presence in every layer of the Internet Ecosystem, allowing for a vast and varied knowledge of regional and national proposals. In this context, the Community plays a key role in facilitating the required dialogue with ICANN Org.

Developments in Europe (which have a potential global affect) are closely monitored by the Government Engagement team. An overview of relevant issues is discussed in the Commission chaired High Level Internet Group (HLIG). Details of this are at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2450>

On 10th October the HLIG discussed a range of issues; several of which were pertinent to ICANN, including DOH and WHOIS. Relevant Papers and presentations can be found at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupMeeting&meetingId=17715>

3.2. Internet Governance and ICANN

ICANN organization, with contributions from the Community and the Board, monitors and participates in the global Internet Governance ecosystem in order to fulfil the mission of coordinating the stable operation of Internet's unique identifier system. This participation can be categorized through different activities and initiatives. ICANN directly engages with governments and the international organisations listed above, provides capacity building to the community in the form of workshops, presentations, an e-learning platform and during ICANN Meetings, and identifies and regularly reports on legislative developments around the world that could have an impact on ICANN. Through the GE, GSE and OCTO teams, ICANN's engagement in the Internet Governance ecosystem endeavours to be thorough, informative and productive.

ICANN org seeks to provide technical advice to governments without influencing or impacting the development of any legislation. With governments increasingly trying to regulate the global nature of the Internet and its global content, it is essential that to identify issues that could impact the organisation's ability to work in service of its mission. ICANN then has the ability to provide information and education to

¹ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct_41/sct_41_6.pdf

governments on those issues, and help ensure that lawmakers around the world have the full benefit of ICANN's technical expertise.

In addition to engaging with governments, ICANN Org. also engages with International Organizations and Standard Bodies. The organization provides technical information on issues, regulations and legislative efforts drawn up by international bodies that could impact ICANN's Mission or Articles of Incorporation. In an ever-evolving landscape, ICANN's ability to monitor and evaluate regulatory and legislative developments is increasingly important.

Engagement efforts with governments, international organization and other stakeholders take several forms. Staff's involvement in different working groups, working parties and study groups at several organizations ensures that ICANN has a seat at the table and a platform to provide information and education on topical issues that are in ICANN's remit as needed. For instance, since joining ITU-D as a Sector Member in June 2019, ICANN staff have been able to engage on several levels with the ITU and its stakeholders, including attending the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), the meeting of the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), and preparatory meetings for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), and the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF).

ICANN directly engages with governments through the Government Advisory Committee (GAC), and efforts have been made to provide Members with the necessary tools to be able to fully participate within GAC meetings and ICANN's multistakeholder processes. Capacity building and workshops have been organized for this purpose. ICANN has provided support to a "Train the Trainer" Conference in Burkina Faso in August aimed at developing capacity of several African stakeholders. Furthermore, as part to a regional ITU Capacity Building workshop, ICANN has organized a Middle East GAC Capacity Building workshop in Bahrein in October. Through the GAC Working Group on Under-Served Regions, more capacity building workshop are planned in the upcoming semester.

Engagements efforts with governments are not restricted to the GAC, and ICANN has also taken part in several capacity development meetings organized by the Diplo Foundation and the [Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie](#).

4 Work on developing a way forward for ICANN cross-community work on Internet governance

The transformation of the CCWG-IG into a new structure has been in discussion since ICANN59. Prior to ICANN64 Kobe Meeting, the Working Group created for this purpose drew up a Charter for a Cross-Community Engagement Group (CCEG) and had shared it with SOs and ACs with the intent of finding chartering members.

Following consultations and discussions, and despite significant interest from the Community, only ALAC indicated their willingness to become a chartered member; though, the GAC, gNSO and the ccNSO have all noted the importance of dialogue on Internet Governance issues, affecting ICANN, in the ICANN Community

During the Face-to-Face meeting at the ICANN65 Marrakesh Meeting, it was agreed that the Charter should be amended to remove the chartered status of the SOs and ACs memberships. Instead, the group has been renamed [Engagement Group on Internet Governance \(EGIG\)](#) to better reflect its un-chartered nature by the Community. The Charter has been redrawn to take these developments into consideration, and the group has been able to co-edit a Google Doc which would create the group's mandate.

The document is still in the works and further advances are expected to be made during ICANN66. In particular finalisation will need to take into account the role of the EGIG with respect to legislative tracking.

ICANN; GE; October 2019