

ICANN Highlights

IANA Transition related

Public Comments had been sought on PTI Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Governance Document.

Community inputs had been sought on the Draft PTI Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws developed to reflect the recommendations contained in the proposals by the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) as provided to the ICANN Board and transmitted to NTIA on 10 March 2016.

For more details on **Draft PTI Articles of Incorporation** visit <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/draft-pti-articles-incorporation-2016-07-01-en>

Comments on the **PTI Bylaws** can be submitted till 11 August 2016. For more details visit: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/draft-pti-bylaws-2016-07-12-en>

Public comments had also been sought on the draft on the **PTI Governance Document** which deals with PTI Conflict of Interest Policy, PTI Board Code of Conduct developed to strengthen the governance practices of PTI, as well as a draft PTI Expected Standard of Behavior, developed to guide PTI's Board, staff, customers and the broader community on expected standards to guide their participation. Each of these documents is modeled off of the versions already in force in ICANN. For more details visit : <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/pti-governance-documents-2016-07-08-en>

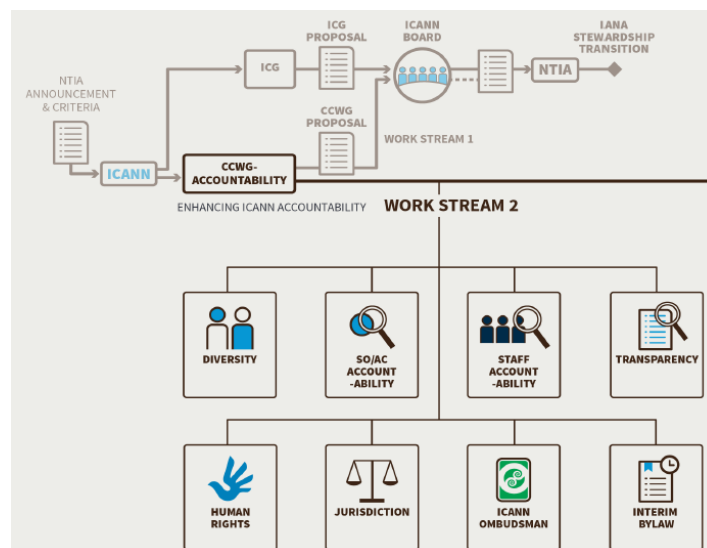


Fig:Diagrammatic Representation of IANA Transition and ICANN Accountability Process
(Source: ICANN)

ICANN Accountability (CCWG) Work Stream 2 (WS2)

As mentioned in our earlier newsletter, the discussion on ICANN Accountability (CCWG) Work stream 2 (WS2) has been divided into Nine work stream topics for the global community to work upon. Further, each work stream topic has been allotted own wiki page, staff support and self nominated Rapporteurs. The topic wise reporters are: Diversity - Fiona Asonga, Rafik Dammak; Human Rights - Niels ten Oever, Nigel Roberts; Jurisdiction - Greg Shatan, Vinay Kesari ; Ombudsman - Sebastien Bachollet; SO/AC Acct - Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Farzaneh Badii, Steve DelBianco; Staff Acct. - Avri Doria, Jordan Carter; Transparency - Michael Karanicolos, Chris Wilson; Reviewing CEP - Ed Morris and Guidelines for standards of conduct presumed to be in good faith associated with exercising removal of individual ICANN Board Directors - Lori Schulman

The individual subgroup wiki pages from the main WS2 topic wiki page, can be viewed from <https://community.icann.org/display/WEIA/WS2+SubGroup+Topics>

Call for Volunteers for the Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency of the DNS (SSR2) Review Team

As part of its existing Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) requirements, ICANN is seeking volunteers to serve on the Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency of the DNS Review Team (SSR2-RT). Applicants need to indicate whether they are applying to be considered as a representative of a Supporting Organization (SO) or Advisory Committee (AC) or wish to be considered as an Independent Expert. Candidates are asked to submit their applications to reviews@icann.org by 15 August 2016. For more details visit <https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-3-2016-06-30-en>

Revised Report on DNS Abuse and New gTLD Program Safeguards

The "Revised Report on New gTLD Program Safeguards to Mitigate DNS Abuse" methods for measuring the effectiveness of safeguards to mitigate Domain Name System (DNS) abuse that were implemented as part of the New gTLD Program has been published. This report explores which activities may constitute DNS abuse and provides a preliminary literature review examining rates of abuse in new gTLDs and the DNS as a whole.

The New gTLD Program Safeguards Against DNS Abuse report is intended to help inform the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice (CCT) Review Team's analysis of how well program safeguards prevent DNS abuse.

It may be mentioned that the initial draft of the DNS Abuse Review report was published for comment on 15 March 2016. The report can be viewed from the following link <https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/reviews/dns-abuse/safeguards-against-dns-abuse-18jull16-en.pdf>

Public comments sought in Modifications to GNSO Operating Procedures Relating to Motions and to the Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Public comments have been sought by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Standing Committee on Improvements Implementation (SCI) on its proposed modifications of the GNSO Operating Procedures on processes relating to (1) submitting, seconding, and amending motions; and (2) Chair and-Vice Chair elections. Last date for commenting is 14 August 2016. For more details visit : <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/gnsop-procedures-2016-07-05-en>

Public Comment: Proposed Measures for Release of Two-Letter Second-Level Domains in gTLDs

The proposed measures for release of two two-letter second-level domains in gTLDs is open for public comments. It may be mentioned that as per the existing New gTLD Registry Agreement (Section 2 of Specification 5) "All two-character ASCII labels shall be withheld from registration or allocated to Registry Operator at the second level within the TLD. Such labels may not be activated in the DNS, and may not be released for registration to any person or entity other than Registry Operator, provided that such two-character label strings may be released to the extent that Registry Operator reaches agreement with the related government and country-code manager of the string as specified in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 standard. The

Registry Operator may also propose the release of these reservations based on its implementation of measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes, subject to approval by ICANN."

If the proposed draft is adopted, all currently reserved two-letter second-level domains would be released for all gTLD registries who implement the adopted measures. The document is available for public comment through 17 August 2016. For more details visit <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/proposed-measures-two-char-2016-07-08-en>

For more news on ICANN visit : <https://www.icann.org/news/blog/iana-stewardship-transition-implementation-planning-update-volume-4>

ITU Releases 2016 ICT Facts & Figures

The new data on information and communication technology (ICT), released by International telecommunication Union (ITU) indicate that **half the world (3.9 billion people) are still not connected** to the Internet.

While the latest figures indicate that developing countries today account for 2.5 billion internet users and this figure is growing, however, in terms of internet penetration, while developed countries have 81% internet penetration, it is just 40% in developing countries and 15% in the Least Developed Countries.

This also indicates the persisting digital divide, as a result of which out of the 1 Billion households connected globally, 84% belong to Europe, while only 15.4% belong to Africa.

The report also indicates that **the Mobile broadband growth is slowing** overall, despite the number of mobile-broadband subscriptions continuing to grow at double digit rates in developing countries to reach a penetration rate of close to 41%, mobile-broadband penetration. Globally, the total number of mobile-broadband subscriptions is expected to reach 3.6 billion by end 2016, compared with 3.2 billion at end 2015. At present it is estimated that 95% of the global population (nearly 7 billion people) are living in an area covered by a basic 2G mobile-cellular network and Advanced mobile-broadband networks (LTE) have reached almost four billion people today – corresponding to 53% of the global population.

Global **fixed-broadband subscriptions are expected to rise** and reach around 12 per 100 inhabitants in 2016, with Europe, the Americas and the Commonwealth of Independent States regions having the highest rates of penetration. Strong growth in China is driving fixed-broadband in Asia and the Pacific, where penetration is expected to surpass 10% by end of 2016.

The **ICT prices continue to fall** and Mobile-broadband services have now become more affordable than fixed-broadband services, with the average price for a basic fixed-broadband plan more than twice as high as the average price of a comparable mobile-broadband plan. By the end of 2015, 83 developing countries had achieved the Broadband Commission's affordability target.

Another area of concern is that the **Global online gender gap is widening**. It was 11% in 2013 and expected to rise to 12% in 2016. The regional gender gap is largest in Africa, at 23%, and smallest in the Americas, at 2%.

While by early 2016, international Internet bandwidth had reached 185,000 gigabits per second, up from a low of 30,000 gigabits in 2008, however, **unequally distributed bandwidth globally, and lack of bandwidth** remains a major bottleneck to improve Internet connectivity in many developing and Least Developed Countries.

For further information view : www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/statistics

EU Adopts the EU-US Privacy Shield

On 12 July, 2016, European Union adopted the EU-US Privacy Shield.

The Privacy Shield will establish strict obligations on companies handling data, and will create clear limitations, safeguards and oversight mechanisms regarding US government access. The scheme will benefit from several accessible and affordable dispute resolution mechanisms and an annual joint review mechanism will be put in place to monitor the functioning of the Privacy Shield. The European Commission will publish a guide for citizens providing further details on the available remedies in case of personal data breach. On 25 July, the Article 29 Working Party will review the final text and provide a merely advisory and non-binding assessment.

Post EU adoption on 12 July, the US companies are expected to review the framework and ensure compliance, they will be able to certify with the US Department of Commerce starting 1 August.

It may be mentioned that 4 countries, namely, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovenia abstained from the privacy shield vote as they did not approve the data transfer mechanism.

For more details visit http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/files/privacy-shield-adequacy-decision_en.pdf

TRAI releases Consultation Papers on Public Wi-Fi Networks & Complaint/ Grievance Redressal

Consultation Paper on Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a consultation paper on Public Wi-Fi networks to boost internet usage on 13 July, 2016. Through this consultation paper, TRAI is seeking views from stakeholders on how the public Wi-Fi networks can be set up and encouraged to ensure more reach and usage of broadband. The regulator has sought responses on 13 questions on issues related to regulatory and policy challenges, spectrum requirement, architecture, interoperability between cellular and Wi-Fi networks, payment modes, authentication process, quality of services, privacy and security of data, legal and regulatory framework; implementation issues.

The last day to submit comments has been extended to 24 Aug, 2016. For more details visit [http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/ConsultationPaper/Document/Wi-Fi consultation%20Paper 13 july 2016.pdf](http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/ConsultationPaper/Document/Wi-Fi%20consultation%20Paper%2013%20july%202016.pdf)

Consultation Paper on Complaints/ Grievance Redressal in the Telecom Sector

TRAI has released a Consultation Paper for improving Complaints and Grievance Redressal in the Telecom Sector on 28 July, 2016. In this paper the regulator has sought comments from stakeholders on 6 questions which include whether the current complaint redressal mechanism is adequate or needs improvement, should an independent body for resolving complaints and grievances of telecom structure be established and what should be its structure, powers, etc., should an Office of Telecom Ombudsman be set up, what would be its structure, funding, responsibilities and duties, etc.

The last date to submit comments is 18 August, 2016. For more details visit [http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/ConsultationPaper/Document/Consultation paper 28 july 2016.pdf](http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/ConsultationPaper/Document/Consultation%20paper%2028%20july%202016.pdf)

IGF MAG Retreat Update

A retreat of IGF MAG members to discuss on 'Advancing the 10-Year Mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)' was held between the 14-16 July 2016.

In order for the IGF to respond fully to the expectations and aspirations that have been aroused, a number of practical ideas were suggested.

While it was acknowledged by the participants that the IGF had evolved over the years, however many were of the view that its organizational modalities resulted in some operational complexities and role confusion in the IGF community, UNDESA including the IGF secretariat and the MAG.

It was also suggested that more could be done to take a strategic, long-term view of the role and activities of the IGF, such as through a predictable multi-year programme of work, make the working groups of MAG and IGF processes more continuous, make the work of work of IGF 'future proof'.

Many also felt that while the IGF's innovative and unconventional multistakeholder structure and culture, compared with other UN processes, was a strength, however, at times it also posed as a challenge in integrating it with other UN processes.

The composition, role, capacity and effectiveness of the MAG and IGF secretariat was discussed in great details, especially on how the IGF can best deliver on current expectations. It was emphasized that the role of the MAG needs to be clarified in order to pursue significant innovations in the IGF

For ensuring the viability of the IGF, it was noted that renewed attention could help in accelerating implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF which was reported in 2012. Also, additional resources would have to be mobilized in order to allow the IGF to deliver on its mandate

While taking stock, it was generally felt that the retreat had been an important reality check, focusing attention on the challenges to be addressed in order to meet both the aspirations and potential new activities that have been suggested. The key ideas and suggestions were captured in the informal document and would be posted online for public comments.

For more information view <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/igf-2016/812-igf-retreat-proceedings-22july/file>

The World Economic Forum's Global Information Technology Report 2016

The World Economic Forum's Global Information Technology Report 2016 released in July states that seven countries, namely Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Israel, Singapore, the Netherlands and the United States are excelling when it comes to economically benefiting from investments in information and communications technologies. On average, this group of high-achieving economies in terms of Networked Readiness Index (NRI) is 33% higher than other advanced economies and 100% more than emerging and developing economies.

The seven are all known for being early and enthusiastic adopters of ICT and their emergence is significant as it demonstrates that adoption of ICTs – coupled with a supportive enabling environment characterized by sound regulation, quality infrastructure and ready skills supply among other factors.

As per the report Singapore is the highest-placed country in the world when it comes to networked readiness. Finland, remains in second place, followed by Sweden (3rd), Norway (4th) and the United States (5th). Making up the rest of the top 10 are the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Japan.

Amongst BRICS nations, Russia remains unchanged at 41st position. China moved up 3 places to 59th. South Africa climbed to 72nd position while India dropped two places to 91st.

Apart from providing insights into countries' performance basis the digital revolution, the report also notes few trends across ICT adoption in 2016:

- As the global economy becomes increasingly digitized, innovation is becoming much less defined in a narrow technological sense.
- Patents are declining as a measure of innovative capacity.
- The ICT infrastructure gap remains a chronic challenge and is getting wider.
- Social impact needs new momentum in important areas, but is picking up overall.

For more information view <http://reports.weforum.org/global-information-technology-report-2016/press-releases/> and <http://wef.ch/gitr16>

Other Highlights of the Month

- Smt. Aruna Sundararajan has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).
- Leading Internet organizations and companies, namely AFRINIC (Internet Numbers Registry for Africa), ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers), the Internet Society and RIPE NCC (Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia) has announced a combined commitment of more than US\$3 million for the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Endowment.

The IETF is the Internet's premier technical standards body, gathering a large international community of network designers, operators, vendors and researchers concerned with the development and evolution of the Internet technologies and its architecture. The IETF Endowment will provide stable, long-term funding to support the IETF in its mission to make the Internet work better. "This endowment will help ensure that the IETF has the financial support it needs to expand the global community which produces the excellent technical standards that nearly 4 billion people rely on each day when they use the Internet," said Gonzalo Camarillo, Chair of the Internet Society Board of Trustees. "The significant contributions by each of the organizations underscore the important role that the IETF plays." For more details visit : <https://www.internetsociety.org/news/leading-companies-and-organizations-commit-over-us3m-internet-engineering-task-force-endowment>

- The ICT & Digital Economy Committee of FICCI held an Interaction with Shri J S Deepak, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Govt of India on July 20, 2016, where the industry got an opportunity to appreciate and also share their concerns with the current regulatory environment. Spectrum Management, Harmonization, M2M opportunities, IoT and Smart cities were few topics which were discussed.

- The World Economic Forum and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) organized the “Digital in South Asia” discussions on 19 July 2016, which provided an opportunity for stakeholders from government, business and civil society the future of the digital economy and society to interact. The discussion explored a possible regional initiative on the Future of the Internet to develop new, scalable and replicable on-the-ground models for public-private collaboration.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- ISOC has released the latest policy brief on the Internet Invariants for comments. ISOC is seeking inputs if all major points has been covered and whether the paper is reflecting the regional considerations. Local Chapters are encouraged to share information and contribute how these policy issues are addressed in different regions of the world. Last date for submitting inputs would be 12 August, 2016. The same can be viewed from the following link <https://isoc.box.com/v/policybriefs-preview>
- The First India School on Internet Governance (inSIG), will be held from 31 Oct - 2 Nov 2016 at Hyderabad. Registration begins from 15 August, 2016. For more details visit <http://insig.in>.
- The election for the Vice Chair (2016 - 2018) position of the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) has been confirmed. The Election Voting Period will begin on 8 Aug 2016 and end on 15 Aug 2016, 24:00 UTC. Details of the candidates and Eligible Voting Members is available in from the following link :<http://aprigf.asia/elections/2016/candidates.html>
- The Global IOT Conclave will be held in Bangalore on 26 August, 2016. For more details visit <http://www.globaliotconclave.com/>
- APNIC 42 relocated to Colombo, Sri Lanka and will be held between 28 September to 5 October. The details of the conference would be available from the following link: <https://conference.apnic.net/42/faqs>
- Nominations now open for Number Resource Organization Number Council as the term of Dr Ajay Kumar will end on 31 December 2016. This term is for two year from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018. Any individual is eligible for nomination, except Regional Internet Registry (RIR) staff members. To nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate for the position, please submit your nominations using our online form by 17:30 (UTC +10) on 1 September 2016 at <https://conference.apnic.net/42/elections#nominations>
- Nomination are now open for ISIF Asia Awards 2016 for projects that showcase the use of the Internet as a social development tool to promote access, openness, inclusion and human rights in the Asia Pacific. Two projects will be supported with AUD 3,000 to support their work in - Technical innovation (access provision, electricity supply, devices, IoT, IPv6, security and privacy) or Community impact (Women and Girls in ICT, democracy enhancement, open data, applications for economic empowerment and poverty alleviation). Nominations close on 15 September 2016. For more information, visit: <http://isif.asia/award>
- CII Connect 2016 - International Conference and Exhibition on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 27-28 September 2016 at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, For more details visit <http://www.ciiconnect.in/index.php>

- FICCI is organizing the 2nd Smart City Summit 2016, “Winning the Challenges” on 30th September 2016 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi that would primarily focus on the address the challenges concerning the on-going smart city projects and also deliberate on the various ways of winning the challenges. To more details email to urban@ficci.com
- ICANN 57 to be held in Hyderabad between 3-9 November, 2016 To register visit <https://registration.icann.org/register.php?id=Hyderabad57>
- International Mobile Technology Expo” on 2nd to 4th Dec’16 in Goa, India
- The Exhibitions India Group will organise the first Internet of Things India 2017 expo (IoT India expo) from 8 – 10 February 2017. For more details visit <http://www.iotindiaexpo.com/>
- Municipalika + CAPEX 2017, 14th International Conference and Exhibition on Smart City Solutions is being organized in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra from 18 - 20 of May 2017 . For more details visit www.municipalika.com
- IEEE is calling out for people interested in Technology projects to associate with the IEEE SIGHT projects, which promote humanitarian technology activities by bringing together, encouraging and promoting members and other stakeholder groups to build and use humanitarian technologies. SIGHT also aims to raise awareness of these technologies and increase efforts of stakeholders, NGO’s, etc. to create useful and sustainable technologies. For more details please visit, http://www.ieee.org/special_interest_group_on_humanitarian_technology.html

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