Report of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services Meeting (17-20 November 2013)

Location: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Attendees:

EWG Members:

In Person: Jean-Francois Baril (Lead Facilitator), Susan Kawaguchi, Michele Neylon, Stephanie
              Perrin, Rod Rasmussen, Carlton Samuels, Fabricio Vayra, Chris Disspain (Board Liaison)

Remote: Lanre Ajayi

ICANN Participants:

In Person: Denise Michel, Margie Milam, Lisa Phifer, Charla Shambley, Alice Jansen

Topics Discussed:

- **Briefings:** On 11 November, the EWG published a [Status Update Report](), providing further
  insight into the group's on-going analysis of key issues, following exploration of open areas and
  careful consideration of all Community comments received on its Initial Report.

  At ICANN 48, the EWG briefed the GNSO and GAC on progress since Durban, sharing its current
  ideas about public and gated data elements, validation and reusable contacts, privacy
  enhancements, jurisdictional concerns, use of standard protocols, and alternative
  implementation models. Recordings and transcripts of these briefings can be found here:

Sunday, 17 November GNSO	Recording: http://buenosaires48.icann.org/en/schedule/ sun-gnso-working/audio-gnso-working-6-17nov13-en Transcript: http://buenosaires48.icann.org/en/schedule/ sun-gnso-working/transcript-rds-17nov13-en.pdf
Tuesday, 19 November GAC	Recording: http://buenosaires48.icann.org/en/schedule/ tue-1030-gac-plenary/audio-gac-plenary-1030-19nov13-en

- **Public Sessions:** The EWG's primary goal at ICANN 48 was to clarify its initial recommendations
  and share new proposals on key issues, creating a foundation for continued dialog about a
  possible replacement for WHOIS. To this end, the EWG presented an overview of its
  recommendations in the session "[Exploring Replacements for WHOIS - A Next Generation
  Directory Service]()" on Wednesday, 20 November 2013. Public session materials are posted here:

  - ➢ [Status Update Report on Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services]()
  - ➢ [Discussion Document for EWG Buenos Aires Public Session]()
  - ➢ [Presentation: Exploring Replacements for WHOIS - A Next Generation RDS]()
  - ➢ [Public Session Audio Stream Archive]()

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In addition, over two dozen interested Community members participated in an [interactive open EWG Workshop](#) that afternoon, where key issues were discussed and debated in greater detail. The EWG expects to carefully consider all of the valuable ideas exchanged during these sessions, as well as any further suggestions submitted to the EWG's Public Mailbox mailto:input-to-ewg@icann.org by 31 January, 2014.

- **Research Areas:** The EWG hopes to use this Community input and research into specific areas to reach fact-based recommendations in its Final Report. Specifically, before completing its Report, the EWG has requested additional research into five areas: ccTLD and commercial validation practices, organizations capable of accrediting RDS users, analysis of risk/impact and cost, and Privacy/Proxy service best practices.

  The EWG spent much of its 17 November working session exploring these research needs and possible approaches. As input to these discussions, the EWG received a presentation about the impact of EU Data Protection law changes on the DNS from ICANN's Nigel Hickson, an overview of postal address validation services from the Universal Postal Union's Paul Donohoe, and advice about risk analysis methodologies from ICANN's Jacks Khawaja. The EWG also continued its consideration of a framework for binding corporate rules to ensure adequate data protection.

- **EWG Objectives and Work Plan:** Due to the complexity of the task at hand and the importance of basing any next-generation RDS on a solid understanding of the benefits and impacts that would likely result, the EWG has not yet completed its recommendations but intends to do so in early 2014. Specifically, the group expects to reconvene in March 2014 to consider Community feedback and in-depth research in the above-noted areas. The EWG will deliver its Final Report to the ICANN Board by June 2014, serving as focused input to the policy development process.