

## **REPORT ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES SINCE ICANN 51**

This is a brief Report for the purposes of updating participants at the ICANN 52 Public Session on Internet Governance on the main issues and events ICANN have been involved in since ICANN 51 (October 2014). It will be posted as a link in the ICANN 52 Programme and be available in hard copies for participants in the IG Session at ICANN 52 (Thursday @ 11.15)

### (I) ITU Plenipotentiary (PP-14)

The end of 2014 was dominated by the ITU Plenipotentiary in Busan, South Korea (<http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Pages/default.aspx>). A Plenipotentiary is a significant event for the ITU and was made more so in Busan through the elections that took place for a new Secretary General (Houlin Zhao from China), a deputy SG (Malcolm Johnson, UK) and the Director of the TSB (Chaesub Lee).

There were also the usual elections to Council. A full breakdown of the results can be found at:

<http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Pages/results.aspx>.

In addition to the elections there were substantive discussions on a whole range of existing, and new Resolutions. Many of these had a locus for ICANN; including changes to Resolution 102 on Internet Governance and Resolution 133 on International Domain Names. The full overview of changes to ITU Resolutions (the “Final Acts”) can be found at <http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Documents/final-acts/pp14-final-acts-en.pdf>

In general the changes agreed in Busan were positive for ICANN; with an enhanced recognition of the role we, and the other Technical Organisations (such as ISOC) play in Internet Governance. There was also recognition for the work taken forward in promoting multilinguism through IDNs. There was, however, also a clear recognition of the ITU role on Internet Governance issues and a continuation of the government only Council WG on Internet Public Policy; though (in time) with the involvement of the multi-stakeholder Community in pre-CWG sessions.

Participation from staff included Anne-Rachel Inne; Veni Markovski, Jia-Rong Low, Kelly Kang and Nigel Hickson.

### (ii) CSTD and WSIS

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN; it is where discussions on the Internet generally take place. In the run up to the UNGA Review of WSIS it has a particular mandate to produce a Report on the WSIS Outcomes; essentially looking how effective the implementation of the Action Lines (agreed during the WSIS process in 2005) has been. (<http://www.itu.int/wsis/outcome/booklet.pdf>).

A draft of this Report was discussed at the (annual) CSTD inter-sessional meeting in November in Geneva; the Report – which ICANN helped the preparation of - is at <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD/WSIS-10yearReview.aspx>. ICANN has also participated in a review and update on this Report prior to it being discussed at the CSTD Plenary Session in May 2015; recently (along with the CCWG) we have submitted a further update on this draft. Associated with this the Plenary Session will also look at the “Mapping Exercise” which the UNCTAD Secretariat have prepared and was discussed at the inter-sessional in November. This Paper – which essentially catalogues what work is being effected across a range of IG issues – was commissioned following work in the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation. The draft is at [http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/CSTD\\_2014\\_Mapping\\_Internet\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/CSTD_2014_Mapping_Internet_en.pdf).

ICANN is accredited as an Observer in CSTD and is represented by Nigel Hickson.

### (iii) IGF Mandate at the UN and MAG

The 2nd Committee at the UN (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/>) agrees an annual Resolution (for adoption at General Assembly) on ICT for Development; which includes WSIS issues. It was hoped that last autumn

the Resolution would include extension of IGF Mandate (which expires at end of 2015) but this did not take place. ICANN closely tracks developments and is fortunate that Veni Markovski is accredited by the Bulgarian foreign ministry to the UNGA, and participated at the informal consultations of the Second Committee meetings.

The Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the IGF (see <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article?id=2102:mag-2015>) which was appointed in November 2014, met for the first time in December in Geneva. In addition to Baher Esmat (VP, Middle East) serving on MAG a number of Community Members also are members.

#### (iv) ITU Council Working Groups

There are a number of different ITU Council Working Groups that touch on ICT and Internet issues. The ones most affecting the work of ICANN are primarily those on WSIS and on Internet Public Policy (IPP). Both of these met just before ICANN 52 in Geneva.

The WSIS WG mainly concentrated on preparations for the WSIS Forum in May 2015 (<http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/>) as well as discussing how the WG could make contributions to the forthcoming WSIS Review discussions at the UNGA. Nigel Hickson attended this meeting as a member of the ISOC delegation.

The CWG on Internet public policy was a pure inter-Governmental Session; it did not include the “multi-stakeholder” element, which will not be part of this WG until the ITU Council amends the appropriate Decision in May. The meeting in Geneva also discussed what IG issues the Group might consult on. Veni Markovski attends as a member of the Bulgarian delegation.

#### (v) OECD – CDEP Committee

ICANN is a member of the Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) which works alongside governmental members at the OECD (<http://www.internetac.org/>). The OECD has worked on many aspects of

the digital economy including producing guidance on Information Security, Privacy and Cryptography. It also adopted a set of Internet Principles in 2008 that were a significant component of discussions during NETMundial last April.

In the meeting of the Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP) in December there was confirmation of an OECD Ministerial in May / June 2016 in Mexico. While essentially concentrating on Jobs and Growth in the Digital Economy there will be a focus on, inter-alia, Internet Governance. Nigel Hickson represents ICANN in the ITAC along with Dave Piscetello who contributes to work in the Security and Privacy WG to the CDEP.

#### (vi) NETMundial Initiative

ICANN, along with the WEF and the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee announced the NETMundial Initiative (<https://www.netmundial.org>) in November 2014; this included the establishment of a small secretariat (with Nora Abusitta serving from ICANN) and the formation of Coordination Council for which membership was sought.

The membership of the Council was announced on 23rd December and is given at <https://www.netmundial.org/blog/secretariat/netmundial-initiative-announces-formation-its-inaugural-coordination-council-and>.

On 2nd February the NMI launched a public consultation on ideas for Terms of Reference of the Initiative ahead of the first meeting of the Coordination Council on 31 March 2015; <https://www.netmundial.org/blog/secretariat/netmundial-initiative-announces-launch-community-consultation-development-its-terms>

#### (vii) Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) Conference, November

Fadi Chehade (who gave a keynote address) along with other staff took part in this Conference on Internet Governance; the GIP is operated by DIPLO

and supported by the Swiss Authorities (<http://giplatform.org/gic>).

ICANN regularly contributes to the (excellent) monthly IG webinars offered by DIPLO (<http://www.diplomacy.edu/tags/webinar>).

#### (vii) WEF Davos Meeting

In January Fadi Chehade and Nora Abusitta (VP for Public Responsibility) attended the WEF Davos meeting. In addition they took part in a range of different sessions (with nearly 20% of the agenda touching on Internet related issues). Fadi and Nora conducted a wide range of bilateral meetings with both government and business leaders.

#### (viii) New York and Geneva Briefings

ICANN is increasing its outreach activities in both New York and Geneva for the UN Missions, IGOs and other organisations. Issues discussed include ICANN globalization, the gTLD Programme, the IANA Stewardship Transition and preparations for the UN WSIS+10 Review at the UNGA in December.

In Geneva, Tarek Kamel (along with Anne Rachel Inne and Nigel) have conducted a number of briefings with groups of diplomats from the different country Missions and have taken part in joint activities with ISOC and DIPLO. Similarly Veni in New York has been meeting with UN Missions and UN agencies. In both locations we have been fortunate to have Board members join some of the briefings.

February 2015

Tarek Kamel  
Nigel Hickson  
Anne-Rachel Inne  
Veni Markovski  
Mandy Carver