

## **PAPER FOR GAC ON THE CROSS-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP (CCEG) ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

*The Paper below sets out the background to the creation of this Engagement Group and makes a case for membership of GAC as a Chartered Member*

### **Background**

The Cross Community Working Group on Internet Governance (CCWG IG) was created in November 2013 during the ICANN 48 Meeting in Buenos Aires. It came about primarily as a conduit through which the Community could influence decisions taken within the organization on IG issues; with (at that time) our involvement in the NETMundial Conference being pertinent.

After starting its tenure by submitting a Paper for the NETMundial Conference in March 2014 it settled into a number of distinct activities, these including contributing to Papers and positions being taken forward by the Organisation, organising, with the GE team Public IG Sessions at ICANN meetings, contributing workshops at the annual WSIS Forum and IGF meetings and discussing (on Calls and at Face to Face Meetings) different IG issues.

The CCWG IG has also contributed (in terms of advice) to the establishment of the Board WG on Internet Governance in 2016 and to their work in setting priorities for the Organisation in their involvement in global IG work, not least with bodies like the UN, the ITU, WIPO, WTO, OECD and UNESCO. Face to Face meetings are held between the WG and the CCWG at ICANN Meetings.

The CCWG had three initial chartered members, the ccNSO; the gNSO and ALAC, but also had the benefit of members from other parts of the Community, including GAC members (including IGOs), and representatives from SSAC and RSAC.

### **Transition to the CCEG IG**

In 2015 concerns were raised by the gNSO and others that the CCWG IG was not functioning like other CCWGs, namely in that it did not have specific timed objectives or an end-date for its deliberations. Such concerns were re-enforced by the results of a review of the functioning of CCWGs<sup>1</sup>.

It was thus decided, after due deliberation in the Working Group, to transition the CCWG into a Cross Community Engagement Group (CCEG); the latter having the same overall structure and membership but with a life not set by specific objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gns0.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/2016-12/uniform-framework-principles-recommendations-16sep16-en.pdf>

Work was taken forward in drawing up a new Charter (see <https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/cceg-ig-16feb18-en.pdf>) by a small task force of the CCWG and this was socialized as a final draft with the AC/SO leadership ahead of ICANN 63.

Discussions on the Charter took place at ICANN 63 and have done since. Currently there are no chartered members, though gNSO and ALAC are giving consideration to such.

For the CCEG Internet Governance to function at least two chartered members are required. The current CCWG IG cannot legitimately continue to function following withdrawal from chartered membership of ccNSO and gNSO.

### **Looking ahead**

The involvement of the Community in IG issues has been both important and beneficial to ICANN Org, not least because of the ever-increasing complexity of the Internet Ecosystem which ICANN operates within. Judgements on how to engage, and who to engage with, have to be made and the knowledge and experience of Community members, not least those serving in Governments and IGOs is invaluable in such circumstances.

In view of the above it is considered important that the GAC is involved in the on-going discussions and dialogue facilitated by the CCEG IG.

Typically Calls are held every two months; with physical meetings being held during the ICANN Meetings. Discussions on potential involvement of the CCEG IG in the IGF, WSIS Forum or other events are discussed by the membership (during Calls / Meetings) with the follow-up primarily in the hands of GE Staff who provide the Secretarial support.