2 0 1 5 L A C YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT



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Introduction

By Lito Ibarra, ICANN Board Member

Vibrant colors, cultural richness, biodiversity, dances and rhythms with lots of movement, human warmth, humor and joy, solidarity and empathy, visible manifestations of friendship and affection. The list could go on and on, and we would only have just begun depicting the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Our community is dedicated to seeing the Internet thrive, and we have worked hard to improve the regional infrastructure. 2015 has been a year of hard work, changing markets, new initiatives, broad discussions and a mature consolidation of the regional organizations.

This past year, we witnessed a greater level of participation from our community in national and international events, conferences, meetings, and webinars. We have shared opinions and viewpoints on diverse aspects related to the operation, security, stability, resiliency, regulation, and the lasting effects of Internet usage in our countries.

As part of ICANN's LAC community, we are not only trying to act as a link between the region and global processes, which are working to create a new oversight and supporting structure for the IANA functions, but we are also looking to promote, complement and increase our involvement in our local communities that have their own vision of the Internet.

By using the multistakeholder model, the LAC community is increasingly taking a leading and unique role in the definition and use of this tool.

As proof of this momentum, **La Casa de Internet de Latinoamérica y el Caribe** (Internet House for Latin America and the Caribbean), which is located in Montevideo, is now home to ICANN's LAC team and a group of regional Internet organizations. It is a model for the world on how to work in a collaborative environment.

In this annual report, you will find a brief summary of the main regional efforts that were undertaken in 2015. This includes the progress we made toward the goals laid out in the LAC Strategic Plan, the interactions we have created and maintained through social media, the activities we undertook to spread awareness and increase regional participation, and the steps to achieve our goals.

We will also examine our region's participation in ICANN's global efforts, including a review of the region's role in the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability processes. We will also take a close look at the efforts undertaken by ICANN's Global Domains Division in LAC.

The presentation of these activities, and the results they generated, serves not only as historical account, but also as motivation to those in the region for continued involvement, whether by organizing local events, contributing to the development of the LAC Strategic Plan, or simply acknowledging the hard work and dedication of other community members.





Rodrigo de la Parra, ICANN's Vice President for LAC

What Happened This Year in Our Region

By Rodrigo de la Parra, ICANN's Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean

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2015 was dominated by the IANA Stewardship Transition, which will transfer stewardship of the IANA functions from the U.S. government to the global multistakeholder community. Accompanying this transition is a comprehensive review of ICANN's accountability mechanisms.

ICANN facilitated the discussions on this topic and mobilized the LAC Global Stakeholder Engagement team to both disseminate relevant information to all stakeholders in the region and encourage regional participation - to ensure LAC has a voice in this important milestone.

All of our engagement efforts in 2015 were in some way related to the IANA Stewardship Transition. This past year demonstrated the maturity of ICANN's globalization strategy, which allowed us to have a stronger presence in the region and facilitated increased participation from regional stakeholders.

In this report, we will go into more detail on some of the most relevant and important activities that took place in LAC during 2015.

Advancing Our Community Regional Strategy

This past year, we witnessed a comprehensive implementation of the LAC Strategic Plan. It is a community-led effort that continues to deliver concrete results, and has benefited the LAC DNS marketplace. We are also seeing increased regional participation in various ICANN processes and groups. We will provide a detailed overview of the ongoing projects in another section of this annual report.

The Steering Committee of the LAC Strategic Plan met in 2015 in Montevideo to review the plan and evaluate the progress it has made this far, allowing us to further align its objectives against ICANN's Strategic Plan (2016 - 2020). As a result of this meeting, we now have an improved LAC Strategic Plan, which includes both previously planned projects and a variety of new ones. These projects match up with ten concrete objectives, which are in alignment with our previously defined four key areas interest:

- Political Aspects
- Outreach and Engagement
- Technical and Operational Aspects
- Economic Issues

Better Communication, More Often

Our region is now more aware of what is happening around ICANN, and the various activities taking place within our region. We have included a section on communications highlights in this report, but I would also like to stress four important developments.

- Our social media activity has increased substantially over the last 12 months, and we have established Twitter accounts in Portuguese and French.
- The LAC Regional Newsletter has seen a substantial increase in the number of subscribers, and given the great demand for information, we will now be publishing it on a monthly basis.
- Our regional website, http://icannlac.org/, now has more viewers, and updates are being uploaded promptly.
- We are publishing all relevant ICANN information and materials in all of the region's languages, and in less time than before!

Stronger and More Relevant LAC Presence at ICANN Meetings

ICANN53 in Buenos Aires, which took place in June 2015, had more than 30% of its attendees coming from within the region. 27 LAC countries were represented, from a variety of stakeholder groups. A variety of activities were developed in preparation for the meeting, including a welcome video from the Argentinian community, weekly podcasts highlighting relevant sessions and activities, press conferences prior to the meeting, visits to Parana and Tucuman, webinars and much, much more.

Side events included the second edition of the LAC DNS Forum, which was organized in partnership with LACTLD, LACNIC, ISOC, PIR, CABASE, NIC.ar (our host) and the LACTLD Commercial Workshop. During the meeting, we held 10 sessions for and about the LAC region, as well as the innovative LAC Lounge, which was a "Live the IPv6 Experience," designed in collaboration with LACNIC and the LACRALO Showcase. This session was a colorful and joyful event that celebrated the diversity and cultural richness of our region.

For the ICANN meetings that took place outside our region, we organized the consolidated LAC Space. ICANN52 in Singapore and ICANN54 in Dublin allowed us to engage with stakeholders from the various regions, and discuss issues related to the economic aspects of the DNS with our colleagues from Asia and Europe.

In the future, and in accordance with the new Meetings Strategy, we will have smaller and shorter meetings in our region, which will allow us to go to places we have not been able to visit before. These meetings will have a stronger focus on outreach and will enable us to focus on policy development work.



Buenos Aires, Argentina, host of regional events in 2015

Partnering with Our Sister Organizations from the Technical Community

All of our engagement efforts and activities within LAC have always been closely coordinated with our sister organizations, which are all based at La Casa de Internet. We work particularly closely with members of the Internet Technical Community, LACNIC, LACTLD, ISOC and LAC-IX. This year was no exception.

LACTLD has been a key partner in the region, and has been invaluable as we work to implement ICANN's LAC Strategic Plan. In 2015, we implemented meaningful projects for the LAC ccTLD community. For example, we completed a study that examined how we can enhance the commercial capabilities of regional ccTLDs. We also implemented an internship program for ccTLDs. We are confident that we will continue to strengthen our relationship with LACTLD in 2016.

Besides being a wonderful host for ICANN at La Casa de Internet in Montevideo, LACNIC continues to be a strategic partner in the region. We attended and supported LACNIC meetings in Lima and Bogota, and LACNIC generously gave us the opportunity to interact with their community as we work to increase participation in the IANA Stewardship Transition process.

They also provided us with an opportunity to engage with the regional numbers community to get their ideas and input on our community-based LAC Strategic Plan.

We continue to work closely with the ISOC's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, and they are very helpful in increasing the technical community's involvement in the organization of the LAC Internet Governance Forum. ISOC has also been supportive of ICANN'S LAC Strategic Plan, and we worked together during ICANN53 in Buenos Aires to promote the Internet Engineering Task Force meeting that will take place in Buenos Aires in 2016.

In 2015, under the framework agreement we entered into with LACNIC to promote the deployment of regional L-Root instances, we successfully installed copies in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Venezuela. We have also started conversations with potential hosts in Brazil, Colombia, Panama and Saint Lucia.

Institutional Recognition of ICANN and Deeper Government Engagement

Following in the footsteps of the Memoranda of Understanding we entered into with intergovernmental organizations in the region, such as the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission of the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, during 2015 we intensified our government engagement efforts. We understand the importance of having this stakeholder group participate in ICANN processes, and will continue to make an effort to increase their involvement.

In 2015, we entered into Memoranda of Understanding with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, the Latin American Telecommunications Regulators Forum and the National Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies of Paraguay.

In addition to the mutual institutional recognition embedded in such MoUs, these Memoranda of Understanding allow us to strengthen our cooperation with all of these organizations and take concrete actions, such as capacity-building initiatives and information exchange.

For example, some of the resulting actions have included the provision of webinars with CITEL administrations, which include all ICT Ministries and some regulators of the Americas, covering topics such as basic DNS and the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS.

Thanks to the active participation of regional governments in the Governmental Advisory Committee, we were able to continue organizing GAC webinars before each of the ICANN Public Meetings. These webinars serve two purposes. First, they are intended to provide an opportunity for governments and intergovernmental organizations in the region that are not yet GAC members to learn more about the GAC (and potentially join it). Second, they provides an opportunity for preparation before GAC sessions on the ICANN Public Meeting agenda.

Bringing ICANN Closer to the LAC Business Community

In close coordination with our colleagues at ICANN's Global Business Engagement team and key business organizations from the region, we had a year full of important activities that brought ICANN closer to this stakeholder group.

In 2015, we participated at the World Economic Forum Latin America, which took place in Mexico. The theme was "Advancing through a Renovation Agenda." The meeting gathered over 700 of the region's most senior decision-makers to set a bold renovation agenda. Relevant sessions on ICT and the Internet's future allowed us to interact with the regional business community and educate them on ICANN's activities, challenges and goals.

The International Institute of Communications hosted the Telecommunications and Media Forum, in association with the Regional Regulators Forum. The event, which was held in Miami, brought together Latin American businesses and government agencies. Besides our participation as panelists and speakers, we were given the opportunity to organize a breakfast presentation on the Boston Consulting Group's study on e-friction, titled "Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy." This was an excellent opportunity to discuss the impact of the Internet on national economies, and the importance of preserving it as an open platform for "permissionless innovation."

During 2015, we presented an analysis of the particular results of the e-Friction Index for Colombia. The different components and variables of the Index were discussed in a multistakeholder roundtable with representatives of the government, private sector, civil society and technical community from Colombia.

In partnership with the ASIET, the regional office of GSMA, the International Telecommunications Union, the Government of Mexico and our sister organizations LACNIC and ISOC, we supported the Latin American Telecom Congress 2015. CLT2015 gathered the most important private sector organizations in the LAC region to share their views with governments. A strong emphasis was placed on discussing the challenges facing the future of the Internet and how to best embrace the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance.

2015 also brought us closer to Internet industry associations in LAC, such as ABRINT and ABRANET of Brazil, CABASE of Argentina and AMIPCI of Mexico.

Civil Society Engagement and the Internet End Users' Voice

At the heart of our regional engagement activities, and a defining aspect of ICANN's multistakeholder model of Internet governance, is our approach to civil society outreach. During 2015, we strengthened our engagement with civil society members by partnering with community leaders. We increased our efforts and improved participation from regional civil society organizations and Internet end users in ICANN processes.

Efforts toward fulfilling this goal included two additional trips for the Community Regional Outreach Pilot Program, as well as implementing the Contest and Rewards Program, which is part of the LAC Regional Strategy. During ICANN53 in Buenos Aires, we supported various activities and sessions aimed at informing civil society members how they can get involved in ICANN.

Our current approach to civil society engagement is to target countries that are not currently participating in ICANN. We are also in close coordination with our Global Civil Society team, and our community leaders are building a coordinated strategy to increase the participation of this crucial stakeholder group within ICANN.



Mexico City, Mexico, host of regional events in 2015

A Healthier Internet Ecosystem in LAC

ICANN is mindful of the importance of maintaining a healthy Internet governance ecosystem. This mindset framed our activities and participation in various regional and national activities and our participation in discussions on Internet governance.

During 2015, two key regional initiatives on Internet governance took place: the Caribbean IGF and the LACIGF. The Caribbean IGF was the world's first Internet Governance Forum, even before the global IGF started. It continues to assemble the main Caribbean stakeholders to discuss the Internet governance framework for the Caribbean.

This year, the LACIGF was organized in close coordination with the Ministerial meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to review the so-called eLAC Plan. Both mechanisms happened in the same venue, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and participants of both events collaborated heavily, resulting in new, strong partnerships.

The region has witnessed numerous national multistakeholder gatherings, platforms, dialogues and mechanisms. During 2015, ICANN contributed to discussions in Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Argentina and Costa Rica.

A Final Word

As we continue to increase participation by the region's different stakeholder groups, I would like to welcome all of those that joined our organization during the past year. I would also like to acknowledge the important contributions made by fellows and newcomers from our region, who are shaping the future of not only LAC Internet governance, but global Internet governance.

As people and organizations join ICANN, others leave to pursue other endeavors. I would like to thank them all for their important contributions to ICANN. In particular, I would like to recognize ICANN Board Member Gonzalo Navarro for his dedication to the development of the Internet, and to thank him for sharing his wisdom during his tenure. Farewell, Gonzalo!

I would also like to welcome Lito Ibarra, our new ICANN Board Member, who has kindly agreed to write the introduction of this report. ICANN and the LAC region are so fortunate to have Lito joining us. Lito is proficient in the naming and numbering spaces, and is a true LAC Internet pioneer. Welcome, Lito!

It would be impossible to list all of the many organizations and individual volunteers that have been supportive of our engagement efforts in the LAC region. But I would like to acknowledge that all of these achievements were the result of their efforts and contributions. We cannot thank you enough!

León Felipe Sánchez Ambía

The IANA Stewardship Transition Process

By León Felipe Sánchez Ambía, Member of CWG-Stewardship and Co-Chair of CCWG-Accountability.

On March 14, 2014, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community. This announcement meant that the Internet community would have to begin a process to replace the historical role of the U.S. government as the steward of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions, which is currently performed under contract by the ICANN, with the global multistakeholder community. This is the last step toward concluding the privatization of the DNS, as outlined by the U.S. government in 1997.

After this announcement, the NTIA asked ICANN to convene the global multistakeholder community to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by the NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's DNS. The proposal must have broad community support and address the following principles:

- Support and enhance the multistakeholder model
- Maintain the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet DNS
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services
- Maintain the openness of the Internet

On July 2014, the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) was created as a result of community discussions and input provided as part of ICANN's Process to Develop the Proposal and Next Steps on the IANA Stewardship Transition. Its single deliverable was the proposal to the NTIA, recommending a transition plan of NTIA's stewardship of the IANA functions consistent with the principles outlined by the NTIA. This proposal was to include the input received by the Protocol Parameters, Numbering Resources and Domain Names communities in a single document to be delivered to the NTIA for evaluation and approval.

During the discussions by the Domain Names community around developing the transition proposal, many stakeholders raised concerns about ICANN's accountability in the absence of the backstop that the U.S. government has historically had over it. As such, another group was created and tasked with developing a proposal to enhance ICANN's accountability in the absence of the historical backstop that the U.S. government has had over ICANN since its inception.

In January 2015, six months after the CWG-Stewardship Working Group began its work, the CCWG-Accountability Working Group held its first meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

Shortly after, the Protocol Parameters and the Numbering Resources communities delivered their proposals to the ICG, while the Domain Names community continued to develop its proposal.

As CWG-Stewardship's work continued, dependencies on enhancing ICANN's accountability were also identified. The Chairs of the the CWG-Stewardship and the CCWG-Accountability began working in coordination to address these dependencies.

After months of hard work from volunteers of all communities and stakeholders, the Domain Names community finalized its transition proposal and delivered it to the ICG, which began integrating the proposals from each community into a single proposal, to be delivered to the ICANN Board of Directors, who would then deliver it to the NTIA for review and approval.

The CCWG-Accountability continues to build its proposal to enhance ICANN's accountability, in line with the criteria set by the NTIA and the dependencies identified by the CWG-Stewardship.

The CCWG-Accountability has published draft proposals for Public Comment. The third proposal was the result of unprecedented commitment and compromise by all of the Chartering Organizations and stakeholders that have been involved in this effort.

It is expected that, after analyzing the comments received in the third Public Comment period, the CCWG-Accountability will issue a supplemental report that will contain the final version of the proposal to enhance ICANN's accountability.

At that point, the ICG will be able to finalize its work and the CCWG-Accountability will deliver its proposal to the ICANN Board of Directors, who will then forward that proposal to the NTIA, alongside the transition proposal developed by the different communities under coordination of the ICG.

If the political times in the U.S. are favorable, all the pieces in the puzzle will be in place, and the transition will be able to proceed, proving that the multistakeholder model actually works. Concluding this historic transition will be testimony that the Internet community is up to any challenge that it faces.

The countless hours of hard work from the community and staff already demonstrate that the multistakeholder community is successful in its continuous effort to preserve an open, inclusive, stable and resilient Internet.



Rodrigo Saucedo, Project Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, ICANN

A Glance at Our Community Regional Strategy

By Rodrigo Saucedo, Project Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, ICANN

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This was a fantastic year for the LAC Strategic Plan. Not only was it a joy working with the LAC community to implement our various projects, but it was also very gratifying to see concrete results that truly benefit our community.

Below, you will find a summary of the various projects implemented this year thanks to the support of our regional community.

DNS Observatory

The Latin America DNS Observatory established a focal point for the measurement of the technical parameters of the DNS in order to increase the region's understanding of its importance.

In 2015, the server for the DNS Observatory was acquired and installed at the home of the .cl ccTLD, which is located in Santiago de Chile.

The project is currently in the implementation phase of the first report. The first node will be operated by NIC Chile and, in the second stage, new observation points could be created in other regional cities.

Supporting the Commercial Development of ccTLD Registries in the LAC Region

This project supported a study that helps develop a business vision for registries in LAC. The project was led by LACTLD and sponsored by ICANN.

Wim Degezelle, Internet policy analyst and consultant (DUERMOVO), who has more than 10 years of experience in the domain name industry and ccTLD community, was hired to conduct the study, titled "The Commercial Development of ccTLD Registries in the Latin American and Caribbean Region."

The report analyzes the challenges faced by regional registries and provides them with a set of building blocks, so they can develop strategies for this new commercial environment.

ccTLD Internship Program

The ccTLD Internship Program targets small- and medium-sized ccTLDs in Latin American and Caribbean, with a focus on capacity building to promote participant ccTLDs' growth and stability.

For the first internship Engineer Jhonder J. Depablos, Chief of the Domain Name Administration Division at .ve, spent five days at the .uy ccTLD. He met the following goals:

- Understanding the operational procedures of the Registry-Registrar Protocol Model and the Extensive Provisioning Protocol
- Completing a short-term implementation with a couple of registrars (clients) in the Virtual Machines Lab
- Acquiring the knowledge necessary to complete the migration of OpenReg services within .ve

In December, the second internship took place. Robert Martin, an expert in the DNS and DNSSEC, spent five days at the .py ccTLD helping with the DNSSEC deployment process.



Contest and Awards

The goal of this project is to create contests and rewards for Internet users from the LAC region, with the goal of strengthening regional participation.

In coordination with the LACRALO leadership, a trivia contest was hosted on a Facebook Page created especially for the contest. The contest was a skill-based event, with the winner being the individual who correctly answered the most questions within four minutes. The prize was a round trip to attend ICANN53 in Buenos Aires.

The winner was Barlett Morgan of Barbados, who had never attended an ICANN meeting. However, given that she was not able to attend ICANN53 due to visa issues, her prize was deferred and she will be attending ICANN55 in Marrakech.

Supporting Outreach Through the Community Regional Outreach Pilot Program

This project seeks to strengthen regional participation in outreach activities.

Each fiscal year, LAC Global Stakeholder Engagement will allocate a budget for two regionals trips, so that members of the LACRALO community can conduct outreach within the region.

Travel applications and procedures will be based on the rules established by the CROPP program.

In 2015, Dev Anand Teelucksingh, a constituent from Trinidad and Tobago, and Juan Manuel Rojas, a constituent from Colombia, applied for this support through the CROPP program, and both were able attend ICANN53 in Buenos Aires.

Mapping the Region

The idea behind this project was to create an inventory of relevant stakeholders in the region, Internet Access Points, Internet Service Providers, Telecom operators, ccTLDs, registrars and registries.

This project is still a work in progress, and we are collaborating with ASIET, LAC-IX, LACTLD and other regional organizations to collect the necessary information.

Visit our regional website to see the progress: http://icannlac.org/Map-ICANN_LACTLD_ccTLDs/StatPlanet.html

LAC Participation at ICANN Meetings

For this project, we created an observatory to develop growth indexes of LAC community members attending ICANN meetings. Visit our regional website to find out more about LAC participation at ICANN meetings:

http://icannlac.org/EN/participation-lac.php

Capacity-Building Webinars LACRALO

In coordination with the LACRALO leadership, we designed and hosted a series of webinars covering a variety of topics to provide training to Internet end users. The syllabus is

available at: https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=52892572

Governments

GAC-LAC

With the support of Olga Cavalli (GAC Vice Chair, Representative of Argentina) and Pedro Ivo Ferraz da Silva (Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Representative of Brazil), we hosted a webinar before each of ICANN's 2015 Public Meetings. These webinars were held for LAC government representatives. The goal was to discuss relevant topics prior to each meeting and inform new governments on how they can join ICANN's Government Advisory Committee

CITEL

In collaboration with the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission and the Telecommunications/ICT advisory body of the OAS, we held a webinar for government representatives. The webinar, which was the first of its kind, was attended by 64 participants from 18 different LAC countries.

Business

In 2015, we held three webinars for the business community to discuss and inform them of opportunities for registrar-level operations in LAC.

LAC Space

Thanks to this project, the LAC community now has a permanent space at ICANN public meetings, where the community can come together to discuss issues affecting their region.

ICANN 52 – February 2015 – Singapore (18 participants, 12 Remote participants) https://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-lac-space

ICANN 53 – June 2015 - Buenos Aires (105 participants, 16 Remote Participants) https://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-lac-space

ICANN 54 – October 2015 – Dublin (25 participants, 18 Remote Participants) https://meetings.icann.org/en/dublin54/schedule/mon-lac-space

We greatly appreciate the leadership and hard work of Vanda Scartezini, Esteban Lescano, Gabriela Szlak and Celia Lerman.

LAC-i-Roadshow

One of the most important activities within the LAC Strategic Plan is the LAC-i-Roadshow, which is a series of workshops designed to raise regional awareness about key topics related to the critical infrastructure of the Domain Name System, and the transition to IPv6, SSR and the New gTLD Program.

To ensure a well-distributed set of events, four editions of the LAC-i-Roadshow are held annually in the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, South America and the Andean Region.

In 2015, and in collaboration with regional and national organizations, we held four LAC-i-Roadshows, during which nearly 300 community members were trained:

LAC-i Roadshow

Castries, Saint Lucia, 27 April – 1 May 2015

LAC-i Roadshow South America

Asuncion, Paraguay, 22–23 September 2015

LAC-i Roadshow Andean Region

Bogota, Colombia, 28 September 2015

LAC-i Roadshow Central America

San Salvador, El Salvador, 19 November 2015









Caribbean Working Group

This new working group was created with 20 Caribbean participants. The objective of this working group is to collaborate with ICANN's Caribbean Stakeholder Engagement Manager to:

- Determine capacity-building necessities for the Caribbean region
- Enhance multistakeholder Internet governance mechanisms
- Build a strong and competitive domain name industry in the Caribbean
- Promote high-level dialogue between Caribbean governments, on ICANN-related topics

LAC Strategic Plan Review Workshop

In 2015, the LAC Strategic Plan Steering Committee met in Montevideo. The goal of the two-day workshop was to review the plan in light of the results achieved so far and to align its objectives to ICANN's new Strategic Plan for 2016–2020.

We now have a revised LAC Strategic Plan, which includes ongoing projects plus new ones. These new projects match up with ten concrete objectives, and are aligned with our previously defined four key areas of interest:

- Political Aspects
- Outreach and Engagement
- Technical and Operational Aspects
- Economic Issues





Albert Daniels, Sr. Manager for the Caribbean, ICANN

Our Caribbean Journey

By Albert Daniels, Sr. Manager for the Caribbean, ICANN albert.daniels@icann.org

Caribbean Developments in Regional Strategy

The projects outlined in the LAC Strategic Plan are critical to ensuring that the engagement activities in Latin America and the Caribbean are in sync with ICANN's overall Strategic Plan.

In the Caribbean, there were two important developments in relation to the LAC Strategic Plan that demonstrate the tangible results of community engagement:

- Project 2.1.5, the Caribbean Working Group, was founded, and several productive face-to-face and electronic meetings have already been held.
- On nearly every occasion where the LAC Strategic Plan was implemented in the Caribbean, we have seen an increase in stakeholder participation.

The most recent development is that the Caribbean Working Group has formalized its structure and execution plans. It selected a Chair, Dev Anand Teluksingh. He has taken the lead in mobilizing volunteers from various Caribbean countries with a goal of widening and deepening Caribbean participation in ICANN activities.

The Caribbean working group is focused on identifying regional volunteers who have an interest in Internet governance, and are willing to help us implement the LAC Strategic Plan. Attention is also being paid to identifying persons who may have previously participated within ICANN, whether it was through the fellowship program or previous working groups. We hope to leverage their experience to increase regional participation in ICANN activities.

ICANN engaged the Caribbean Network Operators Group during their 9th meeting, CaribNOG 9, and hosted the LAC-i-Roadshow at the same time. Many of the topics we focus on are of interest to both CaribNOG and ICANN stakeholders, so we used the opportunity to have ICANN experts present on topics such as the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability, DNSSEC and IPv6 deployment.

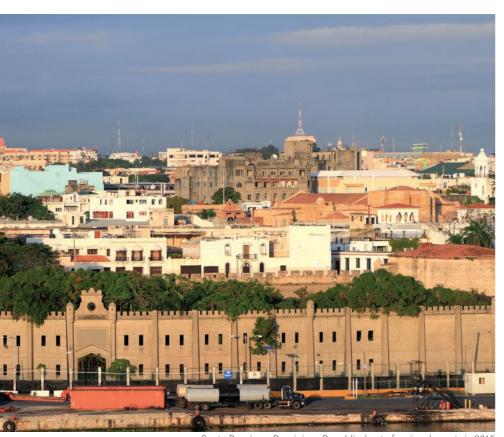
Enhanced Community Outreach

We are excited to see regional organizations tell us that they are now learning more about the ICANN's important role within LAC. They are getting a better understanding of not only how to participate but, more importantly, why it is essential for them to do so.

These sentiments have been expressed on several occasions by government ministers, Internet Service Providers, civil society members, and even by organizations such as OOCUR and CTU. Many regional organizations have even requested ICANN to return to their events, on an ongoing basis, to engage in capacity-building activities with their members.



Belize, host of regional events in 2015



Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, host of regional events in 2015

Improved Participation from the Caribbean at ICANN Meetings

Over the past year, ICANN saw an marked increase in participation from Caribbean stakeholders. More Caribbean governments joined the GAC, and we are excited to welcome Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Grenada, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

Christelle Vaval, from Haiti, was welcomed as one of the new Councilors on the ccNSO. Wanda Perez, who was a first-time ICANN Fellow in 2015, has already made tremendous strides in mobilizing the Internet Service Providers in the Dominican Republic, her home country, to engagement activities related to the ISP community. She has also sparked the interest of civil society – which has recently requested that ICANN establish an At-Large Structure in the Dominican Republic.

The Caribbean Working Lunch has become a fixture at ICANN meetings, and we are seeing increasing participation from the Caribbean. The lunch is an opportunity for meeting participants and fellows from the Caribbean to meet each other, share experiences and interests, and develop collaborative strategies for enhancing Caribbean stakeholder participation.

Expanded Collaboration with Other Participants in the Technical Community

In 2015, ICANN facilitated a connection between LACTLD and a Caribbean grouping of ccTLD operators, collaborated with the Internet Society on presentations on issues such as the Internet and DNS Security, and collaborated with LACNIC on their "LACNIC on the Road" event in Belize City, Belize.

ICANN renewed its commitment to the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, affirming ICANN's interest in COM/CITEL's activities and a desire to continue looking for opportunities for collaboration. Using the joint MoU between ICANN and COM/CITEL as a starting point, ICANN staff and and the new COM/CITEL Executive Secretary discussed the possibility of collaborating on capacity building, remote participation and other activities.

Our engagement with the American Registry for Internet Numbers has resulted in multiple positive outcomes, including an increase in the number of available fellowships offered to Caribbean participants. We are also excited to announce that the first ARIN meeting of 2016 will be held in Jamaica.

ICANN continues to be an important voice at CTU events across the region. These events have provided us with opportunities to present on and discuss the IANA Stewardship Transition, Enhancing ICANN Accountability, IPv6 and DNSSEC – to government, civil society, technical and business audiences across the Caribbean. Events have included the Caribbean IGF, ICT Weeks, and executive council meetings.

For the first time, and as a result of our engagement efforts at a Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations meeting in Suriname, ICANN was invited to present at the annual meeting of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators, which took place in Turks and Caicos.

ICANN has also deepened relations with CANTO – with talks of increasing ICANN's presence at CANTO meetings, and bringing in ICANN staff as presenters and participants on discussion panels. CANTO meetings are typically attended by Telecommunications and ICT Ministers, ISPs and regional businesses.



Wider Recognition of ICANN by Governments and Other Organizations

On multiple occasions, high-ranking government officials made direct reference to ICANN in their public statements, indicating a growing understanding of the importance of ICANN's work

On one occasion, the Prime Minister of Grenada announced in his address at ICT Week that the country could not afford to be left out of the global debate taking place in the ICANN community, on topics such as DNSSEC deployment and IPv6.

Historically, government ministers in the Caribbean never mentioned ICANN in their addresses, nor was there a clear understanding of why participating in the ICANN community would be important for Caribbean stakeholders. Having ICANN mentioned in official speeches means we are seeing improved visibility in the region.

CANTO is an example of a regional organization that now has higher level of recognition for ICANN based at our presentations and participation at their events. Their Chairman, Julian Wilkins of Digicel, has expressed interest in finding ways to increase participation by ISPs in ICANN's ISPs and Connectivity Providers Constituency of the GNSO. The CTU also encouraged regional stakeholders to participate in ICANN policy development.

Engagement of the Business Community

The Domain Name Industry Study is an important part of the LAC Strategic Plan. Caribbean stakeholders have been providing input since the project began. The Saint Lucia ICT Association, the .bz registry in Belize and the .ag registry in Antigua and Barbuda provided their input in the developmental stages of this project.

Additionally, the OECS Business Council will be actively participating in the study. This council works with national chambers of commerce in the nine OECS states. The CARICOM Community Secretariat, which has fifteen Caribbean states as full members and five Caribbean states as associate members, has been briefed on the study and will be participating in the study's implementation.

Civil Society Engagement

The main official channel for civil society engagement at ICANN is the At-Large Advisory Committee. Other avenues are regional At-Large organizations and local At-Large structures. For Latin America and the Caribbean, LACRALO is the official structure.

In 2015, we faced a variety of challenges as we tried to leverage existing mechanisms in LACRALO to facilitate the representation of views from the Caribbean. This issue is not new; both LACRALO leadership and ICANN staff recognize it as a problem we must overcome. This past year, we explored many solutions. We expect that by early 2016, steps toward improving the situation will be underway.

At the same time, we have witnessed exceptional participation from several Caribbean participants, who are working to engage with LAC civil society. One of the most dedicated community members is Dev Anand Telucksingh, who chairs several working groups.



Security, Stability and Resiliency of the Internet Ecosystem in the Caribbean

The security, stability and resiliency of the DNS is a critical aspect of the work ICANN's LAC team does in the Caribbean. We received incredible support from ICANN staff, including Richard Lamb.

We were able to deliver several presentations on DNSSEC at events in the Caribbean. These presentations were very well received by stakeholders, particularly by members of the business community and financial institutions who participated at events like CaribNOG 10 in Belize, ICT Roadshows, and the LAC-i-Roadshow.

Conclusions and Thoughts for 2016

Throughout the past year, a recurring issue was burnout of regional volunteers. We recognize and salute the hardworking community members who have been contributing to ICANN over the years. During 2016 and beyond, we need to develop a plan to better support ICANN participants and fellows – to document, support and encourage their work. We believe that this will result in a greater participation of stakeholders from the Caribbean, and a deeper involvement in ICANN's mission. Caribbean stakeholders are eager to participate, and are excited to have their unique perspective voiced and their unique positions understood.



Daniel Fink, Sr. Manager for Brazil, ICANN

Our Engagement in Brazil

By Daniel Fink, Sr. Manager for Brazil, ICANN daniel.fink@icann.org

This year saw colorful and diverse activities as part our engagement in Brazil. Business as usual here means large-scale events (NETmundial in 2014 and IGF in 2015), vibrant national policy implementation (Marco Civil, Data Privacy bill), massive ICT markets and virtuous global leadership (IANA Stewardship Transition, World Summit on Information Society Review Process – WSIS+10). And these are just a few examples!

2015 was a year to encourage new stakeholders, assist our existing ones and warmly welcome new contracted parties as "de facto" top-level domain operators. In short, we worked to serve the community as much as we could!

The two main topics of the year, the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability, were widely discussed with the Brazilian multistakeholder community.

In early July, we were happy to welcome ICANN's Vice President, Global Business Engagement, Christopher Mondini, for a series of talks in Brasilia and São Paulo, where we engaged with representatives from a handful of government bodies such as the Ministries of Industry and Commerce, Science and Technology, External Relations, Communications, Justice, ANATEL, FIESP and ABRINT.

In September, the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability processes were analyzed in detail, thanks to a readout event where we discussed the future of Internet governance. The event was promoted in partnership with the Center for Technology and Society. It was held at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, and we saw excellent participation from civil society representatives.

The integration with the main ICT industry associations during the year is now a model that will pave the way for our future engagement. We were able to consistently support and participate in key regional events, which were promoted by ISP associations such as ABRANET, ABRINT and InternetSul. These events allowed us to communicate our messages on policy processes, business opportunities and ongoing DNS operation issues to the vibrant and numerous communities of small- and medium-sized Brazilian ISPs.

We are also working with FIESP on enhancing awareness levels for the industry/production sector.

Brazil's involvement in the New gTLD Program was celebrated during symbolic signing ceremonies, which were attended by Akram Atallah, President of Global Domains Division. The ceremonies took place during ICANN53 in Buenos Aires and RioInfo 2015.



São Paolo, Brazil, host of regional events in 2015

2015 also marked the kickoff of the commercialization of the .rio top-level domain, which is the first city in the region to get its own online identity. Additionally, seven well-recognized Brazilian enterprises launched, or are in final stages of launching, their .brand operations, which provide excellent opportunities for innovation and an enhanced online presence.

Our Brazilian engagement efforts were heavily focused on informing the community about opportunities for registrar-level operations. As recommended in the LAC Strategic Plan, this particular topic was discussed during several speaking opportunities and workshops, which were held at ABRANET and ABRINT events. The topic was also covered during two webinars that were open to the general community. The large participation of Brazilian entrepreneurs, interested in exploring new opportunities, greatly contributed to the launching of an exploratory study on the regional domain name marketplace to be executed in 2016. We firmly believe this worthwhile investment from the ICANN community will be fundamental to motivating new participants to become involved for the benefit of consumer's choice, innovation and a healthier ecosystem.

We also want to recognize the work of the GCI.br and NIC.br for the numerous engagement opportunities and joint actions during 2015: the invitation of Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of ICANN Board, to São Paulo during the 20th anniversary of CGI.br celebrations in June; their support during the initial discussions held in Paraguay for the creation of a national Internet steering committee body; and the inclusion of our CEO speeches during the two last editions of the CGI Internet Governance School, aimed at the new generation of Brazilian leaders

ICANN's involvement in developing young leaders helped support the participation of 18 Brazilians in ICANN meetings thanks to fellowships and NextGen scholarships. It is with great pride that we witnessed the fast development and active participation of all alumni members who brought valuable contributions on national and global Internet governance discussions.

Last but not least, 2015 closed with the 10th IGF which took place in Joao Pessoa, Paraiba. Spearheaded by the CGI.br under the auspices of the United Nations, the second Brazilian edition of the global multistakeholder meeting marked a benchmark to be remembered in terms of organization and substantive discussions. ICANN Board Directors, community members (including ICANN Fellows and NextGen members) and staff proudly participated in the event – contributing with sessions on the IANA Stewardship Transition and ICANN Accountability processes, and an open forum.

Muito Obrigado (thank you very much) to the entire Brazilian community for this fantastic 2015, and we are looking forward to an even more productive 2016!



Asunción, Paraguay, host of regional events in 2015



Alexandra Dans, Head of Communications, LAC

By Alexandra Dans, Head of Communications, Latin America and the Caribbean

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ICANN's Latin American and the Caribbean team is constantly working to increase regional participation and spread awareness about ICANN's role. The following is a recap of our 2015 communications efforts, which were aimed at strengthening ICANN's presence in the region and providing the community with opportunities to engage with us and learn about what we do.

2015 LAC Communications Highlights

#1 Get social!

During 2015, we increased our social media presence, adding a new Twitter handle in French (https://twitter.com/icann_fr), which we actively use for LAC and Europe, Middle East and Africa news.

Our regional Twitter handles in Spanish (https://twitter.com/ICANN_es) and Portuguese (https://twitter.com/ICANN_pt) are nearing 3500 followers, after gaining over 1000 followers in the past year alone.

#2 ICANN LAC YouTube playlist

We also continued to share relevant videos on our regional YouTube list (https://goo.gl/CPqfLW) throughout the year, and have managed to almost double the number of views (1500+ views versus 800 views at the end of 2014).

Bogotá, Colombia, host of regional events in 2015



#3 More interviews

During 2015, we recorded and published **79 interviews** with members of our regional team, which are all available on our scoop.it page, both in Spanish (http://goo.gl/6Td1Nt) and in Portuguese (http://goo.gl/04L5zb). These interviews gathered nearly **1000 new visits** during the year (2500+ visits since 2013).

#4 Get our latest news

Other important communications efforts are the newsletters (https://goo.gl/2dYyyo) that we started in 2014, which are now being distributed to the regional community on a monthly basis. We are proud to say that the translated versions of the newsletters are now being sent simultaneously in the region's four languages – Spanish, Portuguese, English and French. We already have **over 1100 subscribers**, but we want to keep growing. I highly encourage you to sign up for our newsletter – send me a message at alexandra.dans@icann.org and I'll add you to our subscriber list!

#5 Now on Soundcloud, too!

Finally, a new activity that we launched during ICANN53 in Buenos Aires was the recording of short messages from ICANN's LAC team and LAC community members. The goal of these messages was to highlight different regional activities that took place during the meeting. We shared a total of 11 podcasts in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French as a countdown to the event. The podcasts were **played 778 times**. You can listen to these podcasts on ICANN's Soundcloud (https://soundcloud.com/icann).

Don't forget to regularly visit our regional community website, http://icannlac.org, for updates and upcoming activities in your region!

We want to thank you for helping us reach these milestones. We are very proud to see an ever-growing interest in ICANN's LAC community work and communications efforts.

Relive GDD's Main News in 2015

Registrar Insurance Waiver Levels Playing Field

The ICANN Board passed a resolution to remove a barrier to registrar accreditation by waiving the requirement for Commercial General Liability Insurance. The move is expected to benefit registrars in parts of South America and Africa, in particular, where Commercial General Liability Insurance is difficult (and sometimes impossible) to find and is very costly.

Learn more about registrar insurance waivers: https://goo.gl/WElir3

ICANN54 Marks Second Anniversary of New gTLD Program Domain Name Delegations

On 23 October 2013, the first internationalized generic top-level domains were introduced into the Internet. These four gTLDs were also the first delegated under the 2012 round of the New gTLD Program.

The two-year anniversary of this milestone fell on the last day of ICANN54 in Dublin, 23 October 2015. By this date, 1204 contracts for new gTLDs had been signed, and 774 of these contracted gTLDs had been delegated.

Learn more about the New gTLD Program: https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/

Resolving the Release of Two-Character ASCII Labels with Comments

ICANN initiated the authorization process for the release of two-character ASCII labels. The process explains that requested, non-objected-to letter/letter two-character ASCII labels will be released after a 60-day comment period.

On October 2015, ICANN announced that it began the first phase of the process for considering comments on two-character letter/letter domain name labels. During this phase, ICANN requested that governments and others who commented on these labels clarify their reasons for commenting. Then, ICANN solicited a response from those registry operators whose requests for labels have received comments. ICANN reviewed and considered comment clarifications to determine whether to authorize the release of requested letter/letter two-character ASCII labels (https://goo.gl/bcCeP7) that were previously withheld from authorization.

Learn more about two-character ASCII labels: https://goo.gl/SfpF9M

New gTLD Program Reviews

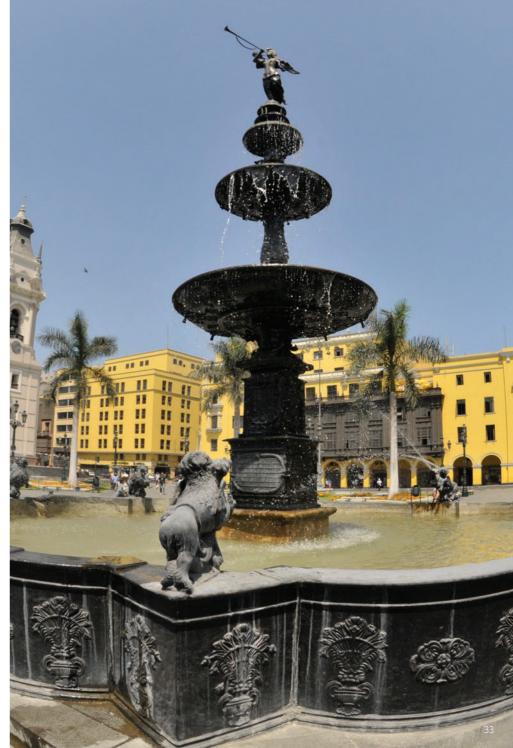
ICANN is facilitating comprehensive reviews of the New gTLD Program that will help determine how well program goals are being met and what lessons we can incorporate in future rounds. The community-based volunteer team that will review the program in terms of competition, consumer trust and consumer choice was seated in December 2015. The CCT Review Team will consider a variety of reports before issuing recommendations for the next round. These reports, which include economic and consumer studies, rights protection analyses and an examination of the technical impact of the New gTLD Program on the root server system, are in various stages of completion.

Learn more about program reviews and opportunities to comment: http://newgtlds.icann.org/reviews

Internationalized Domain Names Enabling a Multilingual Internet

Internationalized Domain Names consist of characters from Arabic, Chinese, Cyrillic, Devanagari and many other scripts. These domains make it possible for people around the world to navigate the web and digest content entirely in local languages. ICANN's IDN program is tackling the linguistic and technical challenges associated with introducing the world's many languages into the DNS. In December 2015, the first version of the Label Generation Ruleset for the Root Zone was published for comment. Label Generation Rules for 20 of the 28 scripts that have been prioritized for use in the Internet's root are now in various stages of completion. Once approved, each of these groups of rules will be added to the Label Generation Ruleset.

Learn more about IDNs: https://www.icann.org/idn



Universal Acceptance

Universal Acceptance is the state where all valid domain names and email addresses are accepted, validated, stored, processed and displayed correctly and consistently by all Internet-enabled applications, devices and systems. Due to the rapidly changing domain name landscape, many systems do not recognize or appropriately process new domain names, primarily because they may be more than three characters in length or in a non-ASCII format. The same is true for email addresses that incorporate these new extensions.

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group, a community-led, industry-wide initiative, was formed in January 2015 and is working on creating awareness, identifying and resolving problems associated with the universal acceptance of domain names – to help ensure a consistent and positive experience for Internet users globally. The UASG is now preparing documentation to help guide CIOs and software developers through the process of making their systems UA-ready.

Learn more about UA and involved: https://www.icann.org/universalacceptance

"Cidade Maravilhosa" Earns Gold Medal from ICANN With .RIO

The city of Rio de Janeiro is working hard to receive thousands of athletes and fans for the 2016 Olympic Games. There's a feeling of transformation in the air as **La Cidade Maravilhosa** (The Marvelous City) prepares for the arrival and union of nations in celebration of sport and amateur competition. Like the many athletes who will grace its stadiums, Rio de Janeiro is aspiring to a great goal. In 2015, it has earned its first medal on the path to becoming a leader in the digital age by gaining the right to operate its own top-level domain: .rio.

Read more about this award: https://goo.gl/92GV8w



rio signing ceremony with representatives of .rio and Akram Atallah. President of ICANN's Global Domains Division

Countries Visited by the Team in 2015

IR - Internet Recorre (NIC Argentina)

Engineers Week (Tucuman Regional College)

CarPIF - Caribbean Peering and Interconnection Forum

FIESP - National Cybersecurity Congress

2o Café Tecnológico (Inatel)

UNICAMP - event with students and researchers WSYA - World Summit Youth Award

Broadband Latin America

FISL 16 - 16th International Free Software Forum

V Brazil Internet Forum

School on Internet Governance CGI.br

NetCom 2015 Rio Info

Internet Governance Forum

Belize

CaribNOG 10

British Virgin Islands ICT Week

Colombia

LACNIC 24/LACNOG 2015

LAC-i-Roadshow Andean Region

SSIG 2015 - South School on Internet Governance Internet Governance Forum of Costa Rica's Ministry of

Science and Technology

Dominican Republic COM/CITEL (OAS)

El Salvador

LAC-i-Roadshow Central America

Grenada ICT Week

Mexico

Dialogues on Internet Governance World Economic Forum on Latin America

CLT2015 - III Telecommunications Congress (ASIET)

LACIGF8 - Internet Governance Forum

LAC-i-Roadshow South America

LACNIC23/LACTLD XXVI PCCI (CITEL) Meeting

Saint Lucia

ECTEL 15th Anniversary Conference

ICT Association of Saint Lucia Annual General Meeting

LAC-i-Roadshow, Caribbean Edition

Suriname CANTO 2015

Trinidad and Tobago

CTU 25th Anniversary ICT Week 11th Caribbean IGF

LAC Strategic Plan Steering Committee Workshop

ARIN 35

CANTO IV Annual Latin American Telecommunications,

Technology, and Internet Public Policy Forum Exclusive workshop: Developing the Benefits of the

Digital Economy

Venezuela

II Meeting on Internet Governance for Development and

Social Transformation



Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
ABRANET	Brazilian Internet Association	IANA	Internet Assigned Names Authority
ABRINT	Brazilian Association of Internet and Telecommunications Service	ICG	IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group
	Providers	IDN	Internationalized Domain Name
AMIPCI	Mexican Internet Association	IGF	Internet Governance Forum
ANATEL	National Telecommunications Agency (Brazil)	IPv6	Internet Protocol version 6
ARIN	American Registry for Internet Numbers	ISOC	Internet Society
ASIET	Latin American Association of Telecommunications Companies	ISP	Internet Service Provider
CABASE	Argentina Internet Association	ISPCP	Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency
CANTO	Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations	LAC	Latin American and Caribbean
CaribNOG	Caribbean Network Operators Group	LACIGF	Latin American and Caribbean Internet Governance Forum
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market	LACNIC	Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry
ccNSO	Country Code Names Supporting Organization	LACRALO	Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization
ccTLD	Country code top-level domain	LACTLD	Latin American Top-Level Domains
CCT	Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice	LAC-IX	Latin American and Caribbean Internet Exchange Association
CCWG	Cross Community Working Group	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CCWG-Accountability	Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability	NIC	Network Information Center
CGI.br	Brazilian Internet Steering Committee	NIC.ar	Network Information Center Argentina
CIO	Chief Information Officer	NIC.br	Network Information Center Brazil
CITEL	Inter-American Telecommunications Commission	NTIA	U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration
CLT2015	Latin American Telecom Congress 2015	OAS	Organization of American States
COM/CITEL	Inter-American Telecommunication Commission	OAS-CICTE	Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
CROPP	Community Regional Outreach Pilot Program	OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
CTU	Caribbean Telecommunications Union	OOCUR	Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators
CWG	Cross Community Working Group	PIR	Public Interest Registry
CWG-Stewardship	Cross Community Working Group to Develop an IANA Stewardship	REGULATEL	Latin American Telecommunications Regulators Forum
DNS	Transition Proposal on Naming-Related Functions	SENATICS	National Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies
DNSSEC	Domain Name System Security Extensions		of Paraguay
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	SSIG	South School on Internet Governance
FIESP	Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo	UA	Universal Acceptance
FISL	International Free Software Forum	UASG	Universal Acceptance Steering Group
GAC	Governmental Advisory Committee	WSIS+10	World Summit on Information Society Review Process
GAC-LAC	Governmental Advisory Committee, Latin America and the Caribbean		
gTLD	Generic top-level domain		



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http://icannlac.org

