Submission of the ccNSO SOP WG on
Draft ICANN Strategic Plan 2013-2016

November 2012

The ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Working Group (SOP WG) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft 2013-2016 Strategic Plan.

The SOP WG was created to coordinate and increase participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN's Strategic and Operational planning processes. The scope of activity of the Working Group is to do whatever it deems relevant and necessary to facilitate and improve participation of ccTLD managers in the aforementioned processes. The views of the Working Group do not represent the ccNSO, its Council, or ccTLD managers collectively or individually. However, the SOP WG is mandated to make submissions on its own behalf.

With regard to ICANN's draft Strategic Plan 2013-2016 the SOP WG notes that the draft only contains marginal updates compared to the current 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.

At the ICANN Toronto Meeting the WG was advised, that, understandably, ICANN's new CEO and President was hardly involved in the drafting of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan. In addition, we learned that next year (2013) the process and substance of the next full Strategic Plan will change fundamentally, while its time horizon will change from 3 to 5 years.

In light of the aforementioned changes, considering the fact that the current Strategic Plan is valid until the end of 2015, and concluding that it is of little use to spend considerable time and effort of ICANN staff and community members to finalise the 2013-1016 Strategic Plan, the SOP WG recommends ICANN to:

1. Discontinue the development of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan;
2. Possibly add an addendum to the current Strategic Plan (2012 – 2015) if significant changes for 2013 are already foreseen; and
3. Focus staff and community efforts on the development of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan in 2013.

In order to contribute at the earliest possible moment to the development of the 2014-2019 Plan, the SOP WG commits to creating a high-level overview and summary of the comments still valid and which the SOP has submitted on ICANN's Strategic Plans since the WG's creation in 2009. This overview will be provided to ICANN (via the Chair and the CEO) and also to the ccNSO Council.

On behalf of the ccNSO SOP WG,

Roelof Meijer,

Chair