

ICANN 17 November 2014 BOARD MEETING REFERENC MATERIALS



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REFERENCE MATERIALS - BOARD PAPER NO. 2014.11.17.1d

TITLE: **Review of the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Completion**

History and timeline

Discussions between the SIC and the NRO about the modalities for the ASO review	August 2010
The NRO publishes a Request for Proposals for Consulting Services .	December 2010
ITEMS International, independent review consultants performed interviews at the ICANN 41 Meeting	June 2011
ITEMS International issued a global survey	September 2011
ITEMS International final report issued	December 2011
Public comment period on ASO Review Report	16 March 2012 –30 April 2012
ASO resolution to update 2012 work plan and subsequent updates in 2012 – 2012 Work Plan	26-27 April 2012
NRO Response to the ASO Review Report of the ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO)	30 April 2012
NRO submitted a letter to the Chair of the Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) as a final report of the implementation work (see Exhibit B)	27 November 2013
Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Status of implementation of independent review recommendations (see Exhibit A)	June 2014
SIC Action - agreed to recommend that the Board accept final report from the NRO, and thank the NRO for its work in conducting the review and acknowledge the completion of the implementation work resulting from the recommendations received by the NRO during the review	October 2014

Relevant Materials

- [ITEMS International Final Report](#)
- [Public Comment Period on ASO Review Report](#)
- [NRO response to the ASO Review Report](#)
- Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Status of implementation of independent review recommendations – Exhibit A
- Letter from NRO Chair Paul Wilson – final report of the implementation work – Exhibit B

Signature Block:

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Date Noted: 5 November 2014

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Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Status of implementation of independent review recommendations June 2014

Background

The purpose of the ASO is to advise the ICANN Board with respect to policy issues relating to the operation, assignment, and management of Internet addresses.

The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) is one of the supporting organizations that according to ICANN Bylaws say should be “formed through community consensus”. In 2005, ICANN started an independent review process of all ICANN bodies. The ASO review is the last one of a five years’ cycle.

The NRO commissioned ITEMS International -a consultancy firm specialized in strategic consulting in the areas of telecommunications and the Internet - to conduct an independent review about the ASO performance, where a set of recommendations for changes and improvements.

The review process took 6 months, between July and December 2011, through the implementation of 3 three complementary and parallel methodological approaches: 1) Extended face-to-face interviews with selected individuals within ICANN, with a direct or indirect connection with the operations of the ASO, members of the five RIR communities and members of other constituencies; 2) Running of an online survey circulated widely within ICANN and the wider internet addressing community; and 3) Fact-gathering and evaluation by the review team. Details about the review process are included in the report represented by ITEMS International. The report was submitted for public comment on 16 March 2012¹.

On 30 April 2012, the NRO and the ASO Address Council, submitted a joint response² to the 26 recommendations of the Review Report and the one recommendation received during the ICANN public comment period, where most of the recommendations were accepted, some with considerations.

On 11 April 2013, during the 46th ICANN meeting held in Beijing, the ASO AC and the NRO met with the ICANN board to work through the recommendations and their status. Some were considered out of the scope of the ASO, but were shared with the ICANN board for their own benefit and independent follow-up.

The NRO and ASO AC acted upon the commitments agreed during that meeting and the next section of this document provides updated information about the status of the activities undertaken and the plans to implement them.

¹ ASO Independent Review Report – ITESM International <http://www.nro.net/documents/independent-report-aso>

² NRO response to ASO Independent Review Report
<http://www.nro.net/documents/response-to-aso-review-report>

Chronology of activities

June 2014	↑	Status of Implementation of recommendations
October 2013	↑	Status of implementation of recommendations
April 2013	↑	<u>Minutes</u> . ASO/NRO and ICANN Board in ICANN 46 in Beijing China
April 2012	↑	http://www.nro.net/documents/response-to-aso-review-report
March 2012	↑	The report is submitted for <u>public comment</u> to inform the NRO as well as ICANN in preparation for further steps in the review process.
September 2011	↑	Items International issues a global survey. The ASO/NRO publishes a <u>call for survey participation</u> .
June 2011	↑	Singapore Meeting – Items International hired as independent review consultants are performing interviews at the ICANN 41 Meeting.
December 2010	↑	The NRO publishes a <u>Request for Proposals for Consulting Services</u> . Applications must be submitted by 31 January 2011 to the Chair of the NRO at chair@nro.net .
August 2010	↑	Discussions are ongoing between the SIC and the NRO about the modalities for the ASO review.

Recommendations status

Recommendation	Report	Status
I) Recommendations regarding clarifications and updates to the ASO MoU		
Recommendation 1: Clarify the purpose, mandate and objectives of the ASO and distinguish between the ASO functions to be undertaken by the Address Council and those to be undertaken by the NRO Executive Council	<i>Task assigned to the NRO Communications Coordination Group (CCG) An explanatory document created by the CCG was circulated in the ASO AC and NRO EC mailing for approval New content is now published in ASO website. http://aso.icann.org/about-the-aso/</i>	<i>Closed.</i>
Recommendation 2: Update Attachment A of the ASO MoU to ensure that it is consistent with the description of the Global Policy Development Process (GPDP) in the Address Council Operating Procedures (ASO AC OP) document.	<i>The ASO AC OP (ASO Procedures) is an internal document, under ongoing development, where details about the global policy development process can be expanded and tasks between EC and NC (AC) assigned. We believe the ASO AC OP should be consistent with the ASO MoU and not vice versa, but as a result of this review the NRO will continue to review the OP to ensure that this is the case</i>	<i>Closed</i>
II) Global Policy Development Process (GPDP)		
Recommendation 3: The signatories of the ASO MoU should mutually agree on a procedure on how the	<i>The ASO AC considers the issue is artificial and not relevant.</i>	<i>Closed</i>

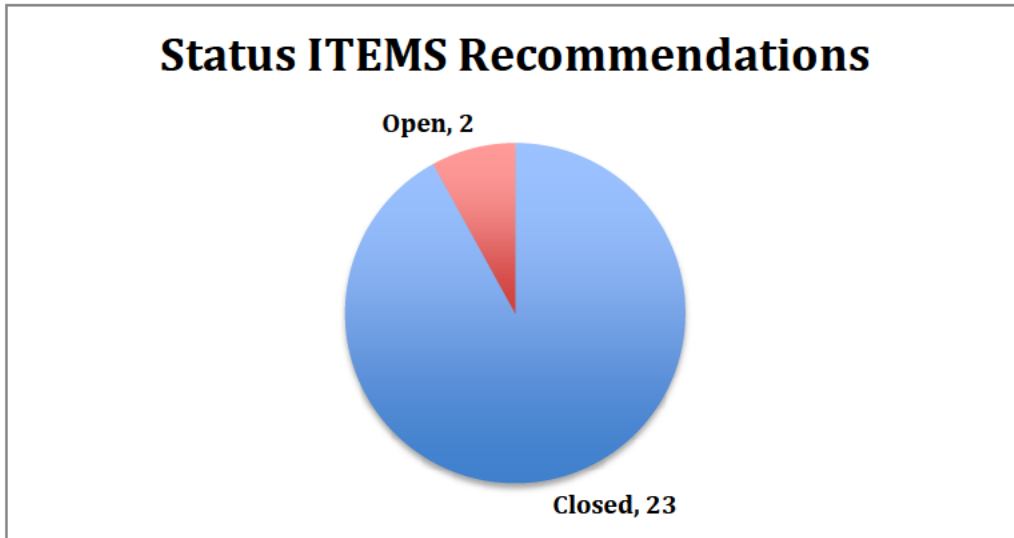
Recommendation	Report	Status
Address Council should deal with a global policy proposal that has been objected or rejected by the ICANN Board.		
Recommendation 4: The signatories of the ASO MoU should mutually agree on a mediation procedure should the ICANN Board reject a resubmitted global policy proposal for the second time.	<i>The ASO AC considers the issue is artificial and not relevant.</i>	Closed
Recommendation 5: The signatories of the ASO MoU should agree on a procedure through which the recognition of the ability of the ICANN Board to request the Address Council to initiate a policy development process through the RIRs would be provisioned.	<i>The ASO AC considers the issue is artificial and not relevant</i>	Closed
Recommendation 6: Update Section 6.1.1 of the ASO AC OP concerning the Address Council Review Segment to reflect the fact that the ICANN Board is now mandated to request advice from the Address Council on the merits of a forwarded global policy.	<i>The ASO AC consider the issue is not relevant as the one the main responsibilities stated in the ASO MoU is to provide advice to the Board of ICANN on number resource allocation policy</i>	Closed
Recommendation 7: Section 6 of the ASO AC OP should contain a complete description of the GPDP, including Attachment A of the ASO MoU and all the associated procedures requested by the ASO MoU.	<i>Agreed. The ASO AC will discuss and resolve the matter in their teleconference scheduled on August 2014.</i>	Open.
III) Recommendations regarding the presence of the ASO during ICANN meetings		
Recommendation 8: The in-person meetings of the Address Council held during ICANN meetings should be open to all registered participants, at least for	<i>The NRO EC and ASO AC agreed that the annual ASO AC face-to-face meeting be conducted during ICANN meetings (preferably the first of each year). Starting in ICANN 46 in Beijing the ASO AC made their meeting open including the meeting with ICANN Board.</i>	Closed

Recommendation	Report	Status
most of the agenda.		
Recommendation 9: During ICANN meetings, the ASO should continue to organize, on an experimental basis, short joint sessions with interested SOs, ACs and GNSO Constituencies.	<i>Agreed. ASO AC and NRO EC chair have been working in coordination with other constituencies and ICANN staff to fulfill this recommendation. This will be an ongoing effort.</i>	Closed
Recommendation 10: The agenda for NRO/ASO workshops at ICANN meetings should be enriched, avoiding presentations that are already available in the NRO, ASO and RIR websites.	<i>Agreed. The agenda of workshops can be enriched to become more attractive to the ICANN audience and should be announced in advance. Presentations should focus on current and prospective ASO activities. Presentations could be made publicly available in the NRO, ASO and RIR websites. The ASO AC is open to explore new formats to organize the ASO Workshop. On ongoing coordination and support from ICANN will be required.</i>	Closed
Recommendation 11: The presentation of the ASO Report during ICANN meetings should always be delivered by the Chair of the Address Council.	<i>Agreed</i>	Closed
IV) Recommendations regarding enhancements to the ASO website		
Recommendation 12: The ASO website as a whole, and especially the homepage, should clearly reflect the fact that the ASO is an ICANN SO whose functions are fulfilled by the NRO.	<i>An explanatory document created by the CCG was circulated in the ASO AC and NRO EC mailing lists for comments. The content is now published at http://aso.icann.org/internet-community/what-is-the-aso/</i>	Closed.
Recommendation 13: A detailed FAQ of the ASO should be added to the ASO website.	<i>A FAQ document produced by the NRO CCG was circulated in the ASO mailing list for comments. FAQ section will be part of the revamp ASO website to be launch in approximately end of August 2014.</i> <i>New ASO website currently under production at https://meetings.ripe.net/aso-devel/</i>	Closed.
Recommendation 14: A fully researched, documented and referenced history of the ASO should replace the existing history page of the ASO website.	<i>A document created by the CCG was circulated in the ASO AC mailing list. The content is now published at http://aso.icann.org/internet-community/history-of-the-aso/</i>	Closed
Recommendation 15: The ASO should translate the ASO's constituent	<i>The following ASO's constituent documents were translated to ICANN "official" languages Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese:</i>	Closed

Recommendation	Report	Status
documents into the main languages in use within ICANN and the addressing communities.	<p>1.- NRO Memorandum of Understanding http://aso.icann.org/documents/nro-memorandum-of-understanding/</p> <p>2.- ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO) MoU http://aso.icann.org/documents/memorandum-of-understanding/</p> <p>3.- AFRINIC addition to NRO MoU http://aso.icann.org/documents/afrinic-memorandum-of-understanding/</p> <p>Additionally the following Global Policies were also translated to the same languages</p> <p>1.- Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Policy For Allocation of IPv6 Blocks to Regional Internet Registries</p> <p>2.- Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Policy for Allocation of ASN Blocks to Regional Internet Registries</p> <p>3.- Global Policy for Post Exhaustion IPv4 Allocation Mechanisms by the IANA http://aso.icann.org/global-policies/</p>	
Recommendation 16: The ASO website should be regularly checked for technical errors, broken links, etc. For this Reviewers recommend using the three W3C website validators.	<p>The ASO website now contains a module that reviews any broken links and it's hosted in RIPE NCC with 24/7 monitor.</p> <p>Additionally, the CCG is working on a complete revamp of the ASO website.</p>	Closed
V) Recommendations regarding the enhancement of the ASO Procedures		
Recommendation 17: The procedures of the ASO should be labeled 'ASO Procedures', not ASO AC Procedures.	Agreed. The ASO AC will discuss and resolve the matter in their teleconference scheduled on August 2014.	Open
Recommendation 18: A procedure for the appointment of NomCom members should be added to the ASO Procedures.	<p>The ASO AC agreed in new Procedures to Appoint Members to Various Bodies.</p> <p>https://aso.icann.org/documents/aso-ac-procedures-to-appoint-members-to-various-bodies/</p>	Closed
Recommendation 19: A procedure for the appointment of members of the Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) Review Teams and any other ICANN bodies should be added to the ASO Procedures.	<p>The ASO AC agreed in new Procedures to Appoint Members to Various Bodies.</p> <p>https://aso.icann.org/documents/aso-ac-procedures-to-appoint-members-to-various-bodies/</p>	Closed

Recommendation	Report	Status
<p>Recommendation 20: A procedure for advising the ICANN Board on the recognition of new RIRs should be added to the ASO Procedures.</p>	<p><i>Not relevant. Not applicable</i></p>	<p><i>Closed</i></p>
<p>VI) Recommendations to the ICANN Board</p>		
<p>Recommendation 21: The ICANN Board should be urged to request advice from the ASO on policy issues regarding IP number resources other than global addressing policies.</p>	<p><i>Out of scope recommendation is for ICANN Board</i></p>	<p><i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 22: The ICANN Board should check if its Procedures for the Ratification of Global Addressing Policies are in conformity with the ATRT Report's recommendations in this regard.</p>	<p><i>Out of scope recommendation is for ICANN Board</i></p>	<p><i>Closed</i></p>
<p>VII) Recommendations to the NRO Executive Council</p>		
<p>Recommendation 23: The NRO Executive Council should help to empower the Policy Proposal Facilitating Teams (PPFT) in their facilitation role.</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p><i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 24: The NRO Executive Council should respond to the ICANN Board's request to react to the ATRT Report as soon as possible.</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p><i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 25: The ICANN Board and the NRO Executive Council should agree on the content of a FAQ of the ASO to be posted on the ASO website.</p>	<p><i>Not applicable. Should be agreed by the constituency.</i></p>	<p><i>Closed</i></p>

Recommendation	Report	Status
Recommendation 26: The ICANN Board and the NRO Executive Council are encouraged to agree on the content of a documented History of the ASO to be posted in the ASO website.	<i>Not applicable. Should be agreed by the constituency.</i>	<i>Closed</i>



Status - Independent Review Recommendations Advancing Graphic

27 November 2013

Raymond A. Plzak,
Chair, Structural Improvements Committee,
ICANN

Re: ASO Independent Review

I am writing to you regarding the finalization of the ASO Independent Review, which was undertaken by ITEMS International and completed in 2012.

As you know, the ASO Address Council and the NRO Executive Council have responded to the 26 recommendations¹ of the ITEMS report. We are pleased to report² that 21 of those recommendations have been completed, while the remaining 5 are in progress and due for completion by the end of 2013. We believe that while there is more work to be done, this report is sufficient to close the review process finally.

Regarding the work to be done in response to the report, this was considered at the annual Face-to-Face meeting during ICANN 46, where the ASO AC identified a number of recommendations that require support from ICANN. These needs can be summarised as follows:

1. Logistical support, including staff support and meeting rooms, for ASO and NRO activities during ICANN meetings;
2. Allocation of time in the ICANN meeting agendas for ASO and NRO reports to the ICANN community;
3. Support for translation of selected ASO documents to ICANN official languages;
4. Support for higher visibility of ASO and NRO activities in ICANN's website and printed publications.

These needs are relatively modest and we do trust that we can rely on ICANN for this level of support. Of course, a range of ASO and NRO activities will continue to be held during ICANN, contributing representation from key members of the Internet address community. However travel support from ICANN as not requested, as the NRO will continue to support its own travel requirements, and those of the AC.

We do believe that the ITEMS Review has shown that the ASO is an effective component of the ICANN system, playing its important role to the expected levels of quality, accountability and reliability. We are committed to ongoing improvement of the ASO, and looking forward to the next review which we hope will also reflect well on its ongoing development.

Thanks to you for your support of this process and of the ASO.

Best regards,

Paul Wilson
Chair, NRO Executive Council

¹ <http://www.nro.net/documents/response-to-aso-review-report>

² see attached status report

ANNEX TO BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2014.11.17.2a

**SUBMISSION TITLE: Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG)
Recommendations Implementation Plan for 2016**

Implementation Actions:

Under a resolution adopted at the 26 June 2014 Board Meeting, the Board directed staff to provide an implementation plan for recommendations made by the Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG) in time for implementation in 2016.

Implementation tasks are included below for consideration.

- Staff to identify dates and regional rotation for ICANN Meetings 2016 – 2020.
(See Exhibit A)
- Staff to develop requirements for the three different meeting formats (see Exhibit B), and ways to engage local meeting hosts.
- Staff to consult with ICANN SOs and ACs on scheduling needs for Meetings A, B, and C.
- Upon completion of consultations, staff will develop and post block schedules for the three different meetings.
- Staff to clarify and define processes for schedule development and scope of work for each of the three meetings.
- Plan/design Outreach programs.

Proposed Resources:

The plan mainly requires efforts from the current meetings staff. Additional support from other ICANN departments will be required for various scheduling and outreach development, such as:

- Policy department support
- Board administration support

- Global Stakeholder Engagement support

Estimated Resource Costs:

Meeting A: No change.

Meeting B: Estimated 25% decrease

Reduced delegate count for Meeting B may result in additional savings. Costs for regional outreach have been considered.

Meeting C: Estimated 25% increase

Key Consultations:

ICANN Executive Staff, ICANN Board, and all ICANN SOs/ACs.

Submitted by:	Nick Tomasso and Tanzanica King
Positions:	VP, Meetings & Int'l Real Estate Operations, and Sr. Manager, Meeting Strategy & Design
Date Noted:	7 November 2014
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EXHIBIT A TO BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2014.11.17.2a

**SUBMISSION TITLE: Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG)
Recommendations Implementation Plan for 2016**

Five (5) Year Plan: Meeting Dates, Duration, and Geographic Rotation 2016-2020

Meeting A (6 days): First meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle.

Meeting B (4 days): Second meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle.

Meeting C (7 days): Third meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle including the AGM.

NO.	PROPOSED DATES	NORTH AMERICA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA
55	6-11 March 2016		A			
56	27-30 June 2016					B
57	29 October - 4 November 2016	C				
58	12-17 March 2017				A	
59	26-29 June 2017		B			
60	28 October - 3 November 2017			C		
61	8-13 April 2018	A				
62	18-21 June 2018					B
63	20-26 October 2018				C	
64	10-15 March 2019			A		
65	24-27 June 2019		B			
66	2-8 November 2019	C				
67	8-13 March 2020					A
68	22-25 June 2020			B		
69	17-23 October 2020				C	
TOTAL MEETINGS PER REGION OVER FIVE (5) YEARS:		3	3	3	3	3

Submitted by: Nick Tomasso and Tanzanica King

Positions: VP, Meetings & Int'l Real Estate Operations, and Sr. Manager, Meeting Strategy & Design

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EXHIBIT B TO BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2014.11.17.2a

**SUBMISSION TITLE: Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG)
Recommendations Implementation Plan for 2016**

Meeting Structure, Timing, Duration and Format

MEETING A

MEETING A 6-DAY FORMAT					
Day 1 SAT	Day 2 SUN	Day 3 MON	Day 4 TUE	Day 5 WED	Day 6 THUR
INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	WELCOME CEREMONY	INTRA + INTER-COMMUNITY WORK	INTRA + INTER-COMMUNITY WORK	PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
BOARD COMMITTEES	BOARD COMMITTEES	PUBLIC FORUM 1	SO/AC REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY	SO/AC REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY	PUBLIC FORUM 2
OUTREACH	NEWCOMERS	HIGH INTEREST TOPICS / GDD TRACK	HIGH INTEREST TOPICS / GDD TRACK	HIGH INTEREST TOPICS / GDD TRACK	HIGH INTEREST TOPIC (INTERNET GOVERNANCE)
					INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK (WRAP-UPS)

- Timing of this meeting is the first meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle
- Duration is six (6) total days, similar to the current ICANN meeting structure
 - For reference, the current ICANN meetings are officially five (5) days, but when on-site pre- and post-meeting activities are accounted for, the actual duration of the meetings is seven to eight days.
- Location and Rotation
 - Meeting A will adhere to a regional rotation
 - The focus of the rotation is the geographic locations that can support the meeting space requirements for the expected content, organization and attendance for this meeting (1800+)
- Format will be similar to the current ICANN meeting, with exception of the revised format for the public forum outlined below.
 - Two (2) days dedicated to internal SO/AC work (**Intra-Community**

Work)

- Two (2) days dedicated to cross-community interaction (**Inter-Community Work**), with possible additional internal SO/AC sessions
- One-to-two (1-2) days dedicated to public forum, opening session, hot topic briefings and sessions like IETF “birds of a feather” (ICANN Pre-WG Efforts), cross-community interaction, such as issues-driven or regionally-focused topics (with the goal to be in a non conflicting time)
- Public forum evolution
 - The MSWG recommends splitting the current public forum format into two different meetings

The first session would be on the same day as the opening session and run 90-minutes in length.

 - The Board would hear from the community
 - SO/AC chairs would join the Board in this session, to hear and give brief updates from the community and listen to topics of interest by the community
 - The second session would fall on the final day of the meeting agenda, where the Board would hear complementary statements from the community and then respond as appropriate, as well as address any questions posed at the first public forum meeting.

MEETING B

MEETING B 4-DAY FORMAT			
Day 1 MON	Day 2 TUE	Day 3 WED	Day 4 THUR
OUTREACH	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	INTER-COMMUNITY WORK

- Timing of this meeting would be the second meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle
- Duration would be up to four (4) total days, and would be focused on SO/AC policy development work as well as cross community interaction and outreach
- Location and Rotation

- Meeting B would adhere to a regional rotation
- The focus of the rotation would be on geographies which are unable to host meetings A and C, as the meeting space requirement for these meetings would be lessened due to organizational logistics
- Consideration would also take into account finding locations that pose the fewest issues with securing Visas for attendees
- Format would be adjusted from the current meeting structure in the following ways:
 - **Three (3) days of focused as SO/AC work**
The format for the three days focused on policy development work would have a shortened day agenda, for example 09:00-16:00, providing dedicated time from 16:00 on for cross community collaboration and networking.
 - **One (1) day focused on community outreach**

The MSWG recommends that a focused plan be developed for those Meeting B outreach activities to maximize opportunities

- No opening ceremony or a shorter one
- No public forum
- No public Board meeting

MEETING C

MEETING C 7-DAY FORMAT						
Day 1 SAT	Day 2 SUN	Day 3 MON	Day 4 TUE	Day 5 WED	Day 6 THUR	Day 7 FRI
INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	WELCOME CEREMONY	INTER-COMMUNITY WORK	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK
BOARD COMMITTEES	BOARD COMMITTEES	PUBLIC FORUM 1	SO/AC REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY	SO/AC REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY	PUBLIC FORUM 2	WRAP-UPS
OUTREACH & CAPACITY BUILDING	NEWCOMERS	HIGH-INTEREST TOPICS / GDD	HIGH-INTEREST TOPICS / GDD	HIGH-INTEREST TOPICS / GDD	INTER-COMMUNITY WORK	

- Timing of this meeting would be the third meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle and would include the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and would have a

focus on showcasing ICANN's work to a broader global audience.

- Duration would be up to eight (8) total days, but should be optimized to allow some groups to conduct their activities over a shorter duration within the overall meeting timeframe
- Location and Rotation
 - Meeting C would adhere to a regional rotation
 - The focus of the rotation would be on geographies that can support the meeting space requirement for the expected content, organization and attendance for this meeting (2000+)
 - Consideration would also take into account finding locations that pose the fewest issues with securing Visas for attendees
- Format would be similar to the current ICANN meeting, (with the continuation of the Annual General Meeting and a public Board Meeting) with a reorganization of the objectives of each day
 - Up to three (3) days dedicated to internal SO/AC work (**Intra-Community Work**)
 - One (1) day dedicated to cross-community interaction (**Inter-Community Work**)
 - One (1) day dedicated to either internal SO/AC work or cross-community interaction or both
 - Two (2) days dedicated to public forum, annual general meeting, opening session, hot topic briefings and sessions like IETF “birds of a feather” (ICANN Pre-WG Efforts), cross-community interaction, such as issues-driven or regionally-focused topics (with the goal to be in a non conflicting time)
 - One (1) day for meeting wrap up activities
- Public forum format would be the same as Meeting A

Submitted by: Nick Tomasso and Tanzanica King

Positions: VP, Meetings & Int'l Real Estate Operations, and Sr. Manager, Meeting Strategy & Design

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ANNEX A TO BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2014.11.17.2b

SUBMISSION TITLE: Planning for Future gTLD Application Rounds

Annex A: Initial Input on Areas for Possible Policy Work:

Area	Description and Rationale
1 Community considerations	Community considerations are relevant to multiple elements of the gTLD application and evaluation process, including objection mechanisms, contention resolution, and enforcement of community-related registry policies. Implementation guidance from the GNSO describes the handling of community considerations in objection processes as well as calling for priority to be awarded to applications claiming to support communities in cases of contention. The difficulty of defining a community, determining whether a claimed community is appropriately scoped for participation in a global process, and multiple other factors relating to communities means that a complex analysis is undertaken in each case to determine what type of treatment is appropriate in a given instance. Additional policy work in this area could be considered.
2 Special case considerations	Existing policy advice is broadly applicable e.g., policy advice specified requirements to be applied to all applied-for strings. Other than the community considerations noted above, policy advice does not provide a basis for differing requirements for certain types of applications, TLD uses, or business models. Following the publication of the applications received during the application period, issues were raised to the NGPC concerning development of rules for special cases. Examples include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="687 1352 1445 1532">a. the discussion of “closed generic” applications. The NGPC requested guidance from the GNSO on this topic on 2 Feb 13, if it wished to provide such guidance; the GNSO provided a response on 7 Mar 13.<li data-bbox="687 1541 1445 1800">b. consideration of a “.brand” category and applicable requirements. The NGPC passed a resolution on 26 March 14 on this issue, also providing the GNSO Council an opportunity to advise on whether the proposed amendment was inconsistent with the letter and intent of GNSO Policy. The GNSO provided its response on 9 May 14.<li data-bbox="687 1809 1445 1982">c. GAC advice also included recommendations relating to “categories” of strings (e.g., sensitive strings or strings relating to regulated markets) and requirements that should be applied to these strings.

Area	Description and Rationale
	Additional policy work on identifying particular cases of strings, applications, or TLD registration models, and whether any such should be recognized as requiring particular treatment, could be undertaken.
3 Rights protections at the second level	Existing policy advice specifies that strings must not infringe the existing legal rights of others. As part of the implementation of the New gTLD Program, a number of rights protection mechanisms applicable to domain name registrations at the second level were created. The GNSO's Special Trademark Issues (STI) working group gave advice on the proposed mechanisms of the Trademark Clearinghouse and Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS); however, these mechanisms have not been the subject of policy development in the GNSO process. An April 2012 NGPC resolution requested the GNSO to consider whether additional work on defensive registrations at the second level should be undertaken. The GNSO Council has requested an issues report to be delivered in 2015 on the status of all rights protection mechanisms.
4 String similarity	<p>Existing policy advice provides that confusingly similar strings should not be delegated as TLDs. This was implemented in a process incorporating use of an algorithm and human review for visual similarity, and an objection process for any claimed form of similarity. Individual panels reviewed string confusion objections and issued these decisions, which varied according to the analysis of the panel in question.</p> <p>The NGPC discussed a possible review mechanism for perceived inconsistent string confusion objection expert determinations, and directed that it be posted for public comment. The NGPC passed a resolution in June 2013 providing for no changes in the objection process relating to decisions on singular and plural versions of strings, and subsequently approved a resolution identifying two expert determinations as not in the best interest of the New gTLD Program and the Internet community, and requiring a three-member expert panel to re-evaluate the materials and determinations and render a final determination.</p> <p>Due to perceived inconsistency in process results as well as questions about the means used for determining what is confusingly similar (e.g., assessing similarity between singular and plural strings), this is an area where further policy guidance could be provided.</p>
5 Registry agreement terms	The base Registry Agreement was drafted based on existing policy advice on contractual conditions; for example, requiring the use of ICANN-accredited registrars.

Area	Description and Rationale
	Subsequently, additional discussions and negotiations resulted in additional terms to the agreement. It may be appropriate for the GNSO to consider whether additional requirements relating to contractual conditions should be applied, or existing requirements updated in light of new market conditions or practices, for example, the presence of vertical integration, and adoption of a Code of Conduct.
6 Public interest guidance	The New gTLD Program was developed in the spirit of advancing the public interest; however, existing policy advice does not define the application of “public interest” analysis as a guideline for evaluation determinations on individual applications. Issues such as those identified in GAC advice on safeguards, the development of Public Interest Commitments (PICs), and associated questions of contractual commitment and enforcement may be an area for policy development.
7 Applicant support program	Existing policy implementation guidelines provide that ICANN may develop a fee reduction scheme to aid applicants from economies classified by the UN as least developed. An applicant support program was included in the application process for this round; however, additional policy guidance on the construction and rules of this program could be sought.
8 Name collision	The NGPC passed a resolution on 30 Jul 14 directing staff to work with the GNSO to consider whether policy work on developing a long-term plan to manage gTLD name collision issues should be undertaken.
9 IGO/INGO Protections	<p><u>At the top level:</u> The Applicant Guidebook approved by the Board in 2011 incorporated text concerning protection for specific requested Red Cross and IOC names for the top level only during the initial application round, “until the GNSO and GAC develop policy advice based on the global public interest.” In April 2012, the NGPC passed a resolution acknowledging receipt of GNSO policy advice on extending certain protections to the Red Cross/Red Crescent and the International Olympic Committee names at the top level but directing no changes to the Guidebook for the current application round.</p> <p><u>At the second level:</u> In September 2012, the NGPC requested input from the GNSO on any advice the Board should take into account in considering second level protections for IOC and Red Cross/Red Crescent names, via a reserved list. The GNSO provided its response in February 2013. In April 2014, the Board passed a resolution adopting certain of the GNSO recommendations on the Protection of IGO-INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs (those identified as not inconsistent with GAC advice), and indicated that it would consider the remaining</p>

Area	Description and Rationale
	<p>recommendations and facilitate discussions among the relevant parties to reconcile any remaining differences between the policy recommendations and the GAC advice on the topic. On 16 June 14, the NGPC provided a letter giving the GNSO an opportunity to consider modifying some of the policy recommendations that conflict with the GAC advice pursuant to the GNSO Operating Procedures. The GNSO provided a response on 7 October 14.</p> <p>In June 2014 the GNSO voted to initiate a new PDP on Curative Rights Protections for IGO/INGOs. This PDP is underway and is related to the topic.</p>

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