

ccNSO Council Workshop Mexico City

The ccNSO Councillors met on the 1st March 2009 in Mexico City to review their work and the work of the ccNSO and to seek improvements.

ccNSO Council Doing Well

A list of what was working well was established:

- Collaborating with other parts of ICANN
- Engaging the ccNSO membership
- Engaging new members
- Meetings have more substance
- Better planning
- Evolving well
- Constructive common purpose
- Tackling issues and closing out
- Good leadership, new talent
- Getting practical work done
- IDNs and Fast Track
- Working Groups

It was felt that many of the goals set at the previous year's Council retreat had been fulfilled and that many recommendations from the Participation Working Group were achieved. Thanks to the improvements the ccNSO has become more structured and efficient in its work. The Working Groups were considered to be working satisfactory and much practical work, such as that on IDN issues, has been handled well. It was also highlighted that the ccNSO has developed positively thanks to good leadership.

Suggested Improvements

The Councillors did, however, also identify several areas where improvement is still desired:

1) Distribution of Workload

- *More Help to the Chair*

Although Councillors were very satisfied with the work of the current leadership, it was felt that some of the workload should be taken off the Council Chair and be distributed amongst other Councillors.

Two vice-chairs were appointed in order to balance the workload. The goal is that the two vice-chairs will become more involved in the day-to-day work of the ccNSO and act as back-up to the Chair.

- Establish Programme Working Group

Another suggestion was to set up a Programme Working Group which would help define the agenda for each ccNSO meeting and which would find a system for receiving input from membership and beyond it before each meeting.

A Programme Working Group was therefore formed during April 2009. It has 10 members, including representatives from all four regional ccTLD organisations. Ondrej Filip, .cz was selected to chair the group.

Suggestions on how input shall be gathered have been put forward, as well as finding a smooth system of putting the agenda together. Other improvements to the meetings are also being considered.

2) Better Communication and Involvement with ccNSO Members

- Involve Members in Newsletter

A newsletter would not only keep ccTLDs up-to-date on important events, but would also be helpful in getting members involved and committed to the ccNSO and ICANN.

- Early Communication of Issues/ More Consistent Communications Between Meetings

It was felt that some important issues were communicated too late to members and in a inconsistent manner.

Improvements in this area will be prioritised by staff.

- Open Microphone Sessions During Meetings

Short open Microphone Sessions on either a certain or a free topic during ccNSO meetings could encourage ccTLDs to speak up during the meeting.

This suggestion was forwarded to the Programme Working Group, which has incorporated it into their meeting planning.

- Message Board/Notice Board

It was suggested to arrange a Message Board on the ccNSO website in order to give members an opportunity to interact on topical issues (such as IDN ccTLDs, ICANN's Strategic and Operational Plan). This would also ensure a more interesting and updated website which would attract more visitors.

ICANN's IT department has agreed to set up such a Message Board on the ccNSO website in the near future.

– Better Links with Regional Organisations

It was felt that the Regional Organisations should become even more involved in the work of the ccNSO.

By having all Regional Organisations present on the Programme Working Group, they have direct input on the ccNSO meetings agenda. Their expertise on regional matters will facilitate in the immediate shaping of agenda items and defining the focus of the meetings.

It has also been suggested by some of the regional organisations to conduct a general, joint survey between all regional organisations and the ccNSO. Such an initiative would also serve to improved cooperation, but would require equal engagement from all parties involved.

3) Tackling of ccTLD Relevant Issues

- Set up Delegation and Redelegation Working Group

The ccNSO should continue taking the lead on ccTLD related policy issues and the setup of a Delegation and Re-delegation Working Group was therefore considered a necessity.

A Charter is in the process of being drafted. Once the Council has approved it, a call for interested parties will be launched.

- More Best Practice Output for Members.

It was felt that members would be more satisfied if the ccNSO could offer them more hands-on output, such as developing Best Practices.

4) Council Setup

- Encourage New Blood on Council - Term Limits?

Currently there is no limit to how many times a Councillor can be re-elected. A suggestion was to put time limits on the Councillor's term in order to encourage new people getting involved in the ccNSO work.