Summary of the ccNSO strategic planning workshop
23 June 2009

Background and introduction
At the Sydney ccNSO meeting the Strategic and Operational Planning Working Group (SOP WG) organised a workshop on strategic planning to identify issues and topics which ccTLD’s considered of strategic importance from a global perspective. The session was structured around the following questions:

- What will be the most important drivers of change in the DNS and the Internet generally over the next five years?
- What are the most important political factors that will affect the ccNSO’s activity over the next five years?
- What are the most important things for the ccNSO to be working on in the next three years?
- What should ICANN as an organization be working on?

The questions were discussed by a panel and by the representatives of the ccTLD present in Sydney. The panellist were
- Chris Disspain (.AU)
- Sabine Dolderer (.DE)
- Byron Holland (.CA)
- Vika Mpisane (.ZA)
- Youn Eum Lee (.KR)
- Oscar Robles (.MX)

The session was chaired by Lesley Cowley (.UK) and moderated by Patrick Sharry. Patrick prepared the summary of the raised topics and issues as well. A full transcript of the session is available at:

Summary of topics and Issues
What will be the most important drivers of change in the DNS and the Internet generally over the next five years?

- Increasing volume of DNS queries, “traffic growth”, but possibly not at as fast a rate as in the recent past
- Increasing number of devices (including tethered devices) that will require an IP address (although other protocols may be used in some situations)
- Increase in bandwidth
- Increase in Internet use, especially from China and India
- DNSSEC will increase DNS traffic as packets are bigger
- DNSSEC will change the way that registries need to operate as “invalid” requests will need to be dealt with
- IPv6
- Security
- A reorganization of the landscape brought about through the introduction of IDNs and new TLDs (especially city name TLDs)
• More regulation that might lead to more filtering
• The introduction of a new service that will cause a step change usage (like Web, video streaming, movies in recent years)
• Increased dependency on the infrastructure of the Internet (eg for financial transactions)
• Increased security risks as the number and variety of devices increases
• Increased threats driven by the increased importance of the DNS
• Most people don’t make a distinction between the Internet and the DNS, so any issue related to the Internet could be seen as involving the ccTLD
• Demand for enhanced resilience
• Demand for enhanced robustness

What are the most important political factors that will affect the ccNSO’s activity over the next five years?
• Increasingly, the DNS is being seen as critical infrastructure
• Increased focus from governments on security, possibly including attempts to “governmentalize” the management of the Internet
• Issues such as spam, even though they are not in ICANN’s remit, are of concern to politicians
• Governments are waking up and paying more attention to DNS issues
• Financial services are also waking up to the importance of the Internet for their businesses
• In some countries, there are new laws (eg on filtering) that demonstrate how the governments are moving into this space
• Some governments (eg UK) are also expecting operators (eg ISPs) to take more responsibility for their operations
• Being seen to be taking responsibility is one way of reducing the risk of the government stepping in; a perceived lack of responsibility will force governments to act
• Increased government interest may lead to (hostile) redelegations in some places
• The resolution of the JPA negotiations will have an impact on how governments view the control of the DNS within their country
• Small group of governments at IGF that want the Internet to be government run
• With the introduction of IDNs and new TLDs, and also the rise of city TLDs, we may need to redefine what a ccTLD is

What are the most important things for the ccNSO to be working on in the next three years?
• Budget – What does the community really want? What are our priorities? What are those things worth to us?
• What are the roles and responsibilities of the cc community and the rest of ICANN in a post JPA environment?
• How do ccTLDs measure their impact on the social environment?
• Security – How do we work together to improve it?
• Demonstrating the ability to run the ccTLD in a secure and robust way – measures for success in this area
• IDNs
• New TLDs and their relationships with ccTLDs
• What is the definition of a ccTLD in a world with IDNs and new TLDs?
• Helping ICANN make the IANA function more secure
• The relationship between ICANN and governments, especially in the IGF arena
• User protection and content authentication
• The post-September 30 environment (which may or may not be a post JPA world)

What should ICANN as an organization be working on?
• Effectiveness and efficiency of the operation
• Improving accountability and transparency
• Better prioritisation
• Improved relationships between elements of ICANN
• IDNs
• Improving the community model
• Clarity of purpose
• Leadership to build trust