

Minutes SOP Working Group Telephone Conference
21 October 2010

Attendees:

Jessica Calvo, .cr
Lesley Cowley, .uk
Atsushi Endo, .jp
Byron Holland, .ca
Staffan Johnsson, .se
Paulos Nyirenda, .mw
Pablo Rodriguez, .pr
Leonid Todorov, .ru
Peter Van Roste, CENTR
Matthieu Weill, .fr

Support Staff:

Bart Boswinkel
Gabriella Schitteck

Apologies:

Fahd Batayneh, .jo
Roelof Meijer, .nl
Giovanni Seppia, .eu

1) Welcome New Members

Byron Holland welcomed the new SOP Working Group members:

Jessica Calvo, .cr (observer)
Atsushi Endo, .jp
Mohamed Ibrahim, .so
Staffan Jonson, .se
Debbie Monahan, .nz
Pablo Rodriguez, .pr
Grigori Saghyan, .am
Giovanni Seppia, .eu

2) Review of Minutes 7th June 2010

No changes were noted.

3) Action Items from June 7th meeting

All action items have been completed.

4) Review of Updated SOP Charter

Byron Holland noted that only minor changes were done to the charter, which were focusing around the notion of the Working Group members who want to participate and how to present the working group's work.

Bart informed the group that the ccNSO Council has adopted a Finance Working Group charter. The Finance Working Group will deal with how ccTLDs should contribute to ICANN. A call for volunteers will be made shortly. He noted that there will be some overlapping issues, so that a close cooperation between the groups will be necessary.

Mathieu Weill asked why a new Working Group was set up, when the SOP Working Group could have added the topic to their work list.

It was explained that although related, contributions is still a major separate and "politically hot" topic, which would be too big to add to the current SOP Working Group task list. The intention of the work of the SOP Working Group is to focus on giving the ccTLD community facilitated feedback into the Strategic and Operational planning process. The working group did not want to derail this work by adding further topics on their agenda.

5) Review of Output from Brussels' Strategy Workshop

Byron noted that the general feedback of the Brussels Strategy Workshop session had been positive. He asked whether the group felt that the document, summarising the session, had captured the essence and whether there was anything to add. He reminded the group that the document will be a reference document for future work.

Peter Van Roste felt that the word "competitor" in the first paragraph was not an appropriate description, as it was suggesting possible conflicts of interests. He suggested changing it to "colleagues" instead.

The group agreed to the change.

Action I: The ccNSO Secretariat to change the word "competitors" to "colleagues" in the document summarising the Brussels Strategy Workshop.

Mathieu Weill said he was missing reference to future items that the ccTLD community would work on. He underlined that future strategies will be highly impacted by external issues.

Byron agreed and suggested to add a sentence, mentioning that external influences, such as changes to navigation search issues, regulatory and environment issues may have an impact ccTLDs in a near and medium future.

Action II: The ccNSO Secretariat to add a bullet point to the Brussels Strategy Workshop paper, mentioning that external environmental issues, such as navigation search issues, regulatory and environment issues may have an impact on ccTLDs in a near and medium future.

Lesley Cowley thought that the session had been less interactive than what the group had hoped for. The discussions were very broad, but lost focus on ccTLD priorities. She suggested that the members should be encouraged to participate more in the discussions in future. It was also suggested to add more time to future sessions, in order to receive enough feedback.

Bart Boswinkel asked whether the Working Group was comfortable to have the Summary published on its website, once the changes had been incorporated.

The group agreed to the posting.

Action III: The ccNSO Secretariat to publish the Brussels Strategy Workshop Summary on the Working Group website, after incorporating the suggested changes.

6) ICANN's Updated Strategic/Operating Development Schedule

Bart Boswinkel informed the group that ICANN initially planned to post the Strategic Plan for public consultation in the foregoing week. However, it had not yet been published. He did not know why, or how long the public comment period will be once posted. However, it is planned that the ICANN Board will adopt the Strategic Plan at the Cartagena meeting, which means there will only be a limited time for submitting input.

He had been informed that the Strategic Plan for this year is based on last year's plan; only some adjustments had been done.

The Operating Planning process has been extended. In the past, ICANN staff would produce a framework document for consultation in January. Bart reminded the group that the SOP Working Group used to be involved in the first consultation round. The draft operational plan and budget would then be published around 17 May, to be adopted by the ICANN board at the June meeting. This year, however, the cycle will change: A third phase has been added to the beginning of the process, where the community will be asked for input. The SO/ACs will be asked directly to provide input on which activities they wish ICANN should undertake for them, by a letter sent to their Chairs. This letter is supposed to be posted to the Chairs during the coming days.

In the letter, the SO/ACs will be asked to designate a group of people who can attend a kick-off meeting with ICANN staff to provide input to the operational plan. The meeting with the group is foreseen to take place by the end of October. The input phase will then run until, and most likely include, the Cartagena meeting. On 15 November, a public comment forum will be opened.

The SOP Working Group members were surprised and very concerned that not only had the strategic planning process started late, but also will a pre-phase to the operating planning process start simultaneously. It was felt that very little time was left for submitting valuable input. It was underlined that if engagement is expected from the community, a better planning must be provided by ICANN. Furthermore, it was felt that, just like the recent DNS-CERT survey incident, this will give the cc community the impression of being bypassed, without an opportunity of getting engaged.

The group felt that it was urgent to let the ccNSO Chair know that this is an issue, so that a response could be sent quickly. It was felt that the response should state that it is

fundamentally unacceptable to have an ad-hoc process for the Strategic and Operational Budget process, which should not be affected by staffing changes. A lot of goodwill and work is going to be put into question because of the ad-hoc change.

It was also suggested that Mike Silber and Peter Dengate-Thush should be copied into the reply, in their capacity of ccNSO representatives to the ICANN Board, as it was felt that the board should be aware of what the management is doing.

Bart Boswinkel said he would try to find out more information regarding dates. He would also mention that the SOP Working Group foresees that it will be problematic to provide feedback if the situation prolongs.

Action IV: Bart Boswinkel to find out more dates on ICANN's Strategic and Operational Planning process and communicate these to the SOP Working Group.

7) Tentative Work Plan Leading to Cartagena

Byron asked the Working Group members if they agree to continue the work in the fashion it had been done in previous years, where working group members had been divided into teams of 2-3, which then analysed allocated topics from the Strategic Plan.

The group agreed on this.

It was decided that the allocation would be done electronically, once the group had received more information on the Strategic Plan.

Byron also reminded the group that since the strategic plan was expected only to be a "dusting off" the previous year's plan, the topics would most likely remain the same.

Bart Boswinkel said he would ask for a redline version of the changes made.

Action V: Bart Boswinkel to ask for a redline version of the amended Strategic Plan.

Byron also said he would email Rod Beckstrom and Kevin Wilson, asking for clarity of the timing of the Operational and Strategic Plan.

Action VI: Byron Holland to email Rod Beckstrom, asking for the timing of the Strategic Plan and Kevin Wilson, asking for the timeline of the Operating Plan.

Byron noted that the group would need to schedule several calls during November, in order to be able to meet the upcoming workload. In Cartagena, a face-to-face meeting would also be scheduled on the Sunday afternoon.

Peter Van Roste asked to have last year's SOP Working Group submission to the Strategic Plan forwarded to the group.

Action VII: The ccNSO Secretariat to forward the previous year's submission on the ICANN strategic plan to the working group email list.

8) AOB

Leonid Todorov asked whether the SOP Working Group members would have an introductory meeting with the Financial Working Group members, since the topics would be related.

Bart Boswinkel clarified that the Finance Working Group Charter had just been adopted and that a call for volunteers would be posted within a few days. Byron Holland would also be an ex-officio member of the Working Group, in his capacity as SOP Working Group chair.

Leonid further asked whether there would be any continuation in Cartagena of the Brussels Strategy Workshop, as he felt the issues should be explored in further detail.

It was explained that this was not planned for the Cartagena meeting and that there was no time on the agenda for such a detailed discussion again. The items discussed in Brussels would be submitted as input to the Strategic Plan. However, it was felt that it would be good if the SOP Working Group could get some time allocated in the agenda to discuss the upcoming Strategic Plan with the community.

Action VIII: The ccNSO Secretariat to provide some time for the SOP Working Group on the Cartagena meetings agenda.

The meeting closed.