

Country Code Names Supporting Organisation

9 December 2010

To: Peter Dengate Thrush – Chair ICANN
Cc: Rod Beckstrom – CEO - ICANN

Dear Peter,

re: ICANN Strategic Planning process

The ccNSO created its Strategic and Operational Planning Work Group (SOP WG) in November 2008 in order to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN's strategic and operational planning processes and budgetary processes.

The SOP WG, and the ccTLD community, has been working diligently and consistently to make constructive contributions to all aspects of ICANN's strategic and operational planning, by maintaining dialogue and providing constructive feedback. ICANN staff have been instrumental in making this a smooth and useful process.

Recent moves by ICANN, however, have seriously compromised the ability of the ccNSO, and indeed all stakeholders, to adequately provide valuable input on the strategic planning process and the plan itself. During communications with ICANN in mid-November 2010, the SOP WG was informed that the Strategic Plan would be approved at the ICANN meeting in Cartagena, that is to say December 10th, 2010. However, ICANN has missed all of its own deadlines for submitting a copy of the Strategic Plan in advance to the community to allow enough time for meaningful comment. Subsequently, on November 27th, ICANN posted the draft Strategic Plan for public comment, with a comment period open until January 10, 2011.

At our council meeting yesterday the Council expressed its serious concerns and has asked me to write to you.

The ccNSO is attempting in earnest to provide ICANN the input it requires and requests in order to improve its draft Strategic Plan. It has been frustrating and counterproductive that we have been unable to rely on the agreed timelines and processes. ICANN's accountability has been seriously compromised. In addition, the current process contradicts previous comments made by you as ICANN's Chair and by the CEO on the desirability of community participation in the strategic planning process.

I want to make it clear that this letter should in no way be taken as a criticism of ICANN staff. They work diligently but can only work within the confines of the systems, processes and directions they are given.

To alleviate the current situation the ccNSO formally request ICANN to, firstly, establish an organised process that it can commit to and, secondly to increase the number of days provided for public comment to 60. This may require changing internal planning processes, but is crucial to ensuring sufficient time for community members to provide appropriate feedback.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Disspain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Disspain
Chair - ccNSO