

## **Meeting Highlights ccNSO Meetings Dakar**

*23-27 October 2011*

The ccNSO conducted meeting from Sunday to Thursday. At the ccNSO members meeting 130 participants from 44 different ccTLD's and other organisations

### **ICANN Finances**

During the meetings the ccTLD community present have held extensive discussions relating to the ICANN expenses on ccTLD's and financial contributions of ccTLD's. The discussions were held in the context of the ICANN Board-ccNSO dialogue, ccNSO meeting and the Finance Working Group. First of all the ccNSO welcomes Xavier Calvez as ICANN's CFO, and is very encouraged by the conversations that have taken place and looks forward to work with him and his team.

Secondly, the ccTLD community present had an initial discussion on possible models to structure the financial contribution of ccTLD's to ICANN. At the same time the ccTLD community wishes to explore and understand at the appropriate level of detail ccTLD related costs. In order to move forward meaningfully, the two processes are running in parallel. The ccTLD community is aware and appreciates that, with a new CFO only recently joining ICANN and a new finance system being implemented, it will take some time to provide the relevant information.

Finally, the ccNSO expressed its intention and willingness to continue the constructive and informed dialogue on this topic with the ICANN Board of directors. It was noted and appreciated that the Board itself needs more information on ICANN's expenditure.

### **Confusing Similarity of IDN ccTLD Strings with Two Letter ASCII ccTLDs**

At its meeting in San Francisco the ccNSO Council adopted a resolution to request a sub-group of IDN ccPDP Working Group 1 to develop, as soon as possible, guidelines (within the framework of the existing rules for the Fast Track) to improve the predictability of the evaluation process relating to string confusion as defined in the IDNC Working Group Final Report and the Final Implementation Plan as adopted by the ICANN Board in November 2009.

One of the items identified by the sub-working group is that in some cases, the requested IDN ccTLD string – which is a meaningful representation of the name of the territory - is **only** confusingly similar with the two-letter [a-z] country code that is associated with the same territory.

At the meeting in Dakar the proposal of the sub-working group was discussed at the ccNSO meeting. The ccNSO Council requested the ICANN Board of Directors to instruct staff to amend the relevant sections of IDN ccTLD Implementation Plan to deal with the specific issue.

### **Selection of Mike Silber as ccNSO Appointed Board Member**

The ccNSO Council selected Michael Silber as the ccNSO appointed Board member for seat nr 12. Mike was nominated and seconded as candidate by the ccNSO members to

serve on the ICANN Board of Directors for a term for 3 years starting at the end of the ICANN meeting in June 2012. Mike has accepted his nominations. The secretary of the Board will be informed accordingly.

### **ccNSO Membership**

The ccNSO welcomes its 121<sup>st</sup> member the ccTLD manager of Burkino Faso (.BF).

### **ICANN Strategic Planning**

During the meetings the ccTLD community present have held extensive discussions relating to the ICANN's Draft Strategic Plan 2013-2015. The ccNSO SOP Working Group will submit its comments to ICANN by 14 November 2011, and inform the ccTLD community by 11 November. The ccNSO welcomed ICANN's staff initiative to discuss the draft Strat Plan in a more interactive fashion, and looks forward to continuing this type of dialogue in Costa Rica and beyond.

### **Panel Discussions: New gTLD's: Partners or Competitors?**

As is customary by now, the ccNSO conducted a panel discussion. This was the second consecutive one focusing on the launch of new gTLD's . The objective of this panel discussion was to understand whether the business environment of ccTLD will change as a result of the new gTLD process, and if so, how this would impact a ccTLD and its need to cope with the changes. The ccNSO wants to thank the Panel members: Elliott Noss of Twocows, John Matson of Achitelos, Lise Fuhr (.DK), Victor Abboud (.EC), and Mathieu Weill (.FR and .Paris initiative) and the moderator Byron Holland (.CA) for a thought provoking and lively debate.

The ccNSO Tech day has organised a roundtable on the same subject and focused on technical /operational aspects.

### **Framework of Interpretation Working Group**

The ccTLD community and the GAC members present were updated by the Fol Working Group on its latest activities and on the public consultation process on obtaining and documenting consent for the delegation and re-delegation of ccTLD's. It was also noted that the Board has a great deal of interest in the progress of the Fol Working Group and it is considered a major step forwards to sort out issues.

### **Other Major Activities**

At the ccNSO Tech Day topics a wide variety of topics were discussed ranging from African Payment Methods to DNSSEC Domain Cleanup and DNSSEC via PCH

At the ccNSO meeting sessions were held on the Geographic Regions, and the inclusion of IDN ccTLD in the ccNSO. Updates were presented on the activities of the ICANN Variant Issue Project, the Security and Stability review team, the Nominating Committee, and IANA. The IANA presentation focused on the automation of the root zone management.

The presentations ranged from WHOIS, working group updates, and new from ccTLD's and the Regional Organisations. All presentations can be found at:  
<http://ccnso.icann.org/meetings/senegal/agenda.htm>.

The majority of the 12 ccNSO Working Groups conducted one and in some cases two face-to-face meetings.

### **Meeting with other SO's and AC's**

The ccNSO had a meeting with the GAC. Both the ccNSO and the GAC provided an update on their current activities, and the FOI Working Group provided an update of its activities.

At the ICANN Board-ccNSO meeting the following major topics were discussed: The ICANN CEO succession planning process. As a follow-up the ccNSO will provide input on the requirements and skill set for the CEO. Conflict of interest rules for ICANN Board members and senior ICANN staff, including the so-called "revolving doors" issue. The transcript of the meeting can be found at:

<http://dakar42.icann.org/meetings/dakar2011/transcript-ccnso-board-25oct11-en.pdf>.

At the GNSO-ccNSO Councils meeting the following topics were presented and discussed: status of the GNSO consumer Metrics Working Group and possible participation of the ccNSO in this working group, progress of the ccNSO Finance Working Group, possible cooperation in future in the context of ICANN's Strategic Planning and Operational Planning process and Budget processes, and an overview how the GAC is involved in the activities of the ccNSO.

The ASO presented an overview of its activities and structure.

### **Thank You**

The ccNSO Council wants to thank Jian Zhang as NomCom appointed ccNSO Councillor since June 2008, for her outstanding contributions and active participation in the work of the ccNSO as ccNSO Councillor and hopes Jian will remain to be as actively involved in the work of the ccNSO and its Council as APTLD observer to the ccNSO Council and as the ccNSO appointed member on the Nominating Committee.

The ccNSO also wants to thank the sponsors for the ccNSO lunches and ccNSO dinner.

Finally, the ccNSO wants to thank the Senegalese local host wholeheartedly for its great hospitality, help and support to organise the ccNSO meetings in Senegal.