



Welcome to Panama City and ICANN62!

On behalf of the ICANN Business Constituency (BC), dedicated to the interests of business users of the Internet and the future of business growth on the Internet, welcome to Panama and ICANN62!

In 2018, work will continue to focus on the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its impact on WHOIS. Even if GDPR has entered into force on 25 May, the BC will continue to work tirelessly around a possible “accreditation model” for interested third parties, security researchers, and companies to access to the WHOIS register. Discussions will as well continue around a long-term model to comply with GDPR. This, however, will not be the only topic discussed during the ICANN Public Meeting. Other critical issues and priorities include: New “GTL

Subsequent Procedure”; “curative rights”; and finally wrapping up the cross Community Working group on Accountability, which includes issues such as “transparency” and “jurisdiction”.

ICANN62 will be the only “Policy Forum” of the year and will also focus on (apart from policy issues) outreach, capacity building, and showcasing ICANN’s work to a broader global audience. Recognizing that the Internet affects business users all over the world, the BC is thrilled to expand outreach to the broader business community, and particularly, in the Latin America Region.

The BC welcomes all business and commercial users to join us at our outreach events in Panama to learn more about what the BC does, how business can benefit from the BC representation, and how members in the BC positively

engage in the community. The BC values geographical diversity and involvement of women in the community!

The BC continues to play its part to make sure the ICANN community is more transparent and accountable every day. The BC remains committed to helping strengthen the multi-stakeholder model that has helped build the successful, global, and business-friendly Internet community we have today. And we look forward to more and deeper engagement of new potential members in different regions of the world: from Panama to Barcelona, where the next ICANN meetings will be held.

Claudia Selli, BC Chair

For more information regarding the BC, please go to our updated website at bizconst.org.

Policy Perspective

BC: influencing decisions that affect business

By Steve DelBianco, Vice Chair for Policy Coordination



“The focus on GDPR led the BC and its member companies to work closely with ICANN’s Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) to preserve Whois access for legitimate purposes...”

The BC takes a broad view of ICANN policy and compliance as we work to influence decisions that affect the business community. But in the world of ICANN policy, we sometimes see that a single issue can dominate the debate.

For example, the IANA transition and ICANN accountability enhancements were the focus during 2014-16. Beginning in 2017, the dominant question has been how to maintain Whois services that comply with Europe’s GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). The GDPR question has acquired outsized significance since fines can be assessed for violations after May-2018.

The focus on GDPR led the BC and its member companies to work closely with ICANN’s Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) to preserve Whois access for legitimate purposes to protect business users and registrants from confusion and fraud. We pushed back on ICANN’s decision to drop

registrant email address from public Whois, and were joined in this effort by the Government Advisory Committee (GAC).

At the same time, BC and IPC members dedicated substantial resources to design a mechanism where accredited users could access Whois data that isn’t publicly available as it was before GDPR. Our goal was to begin implementation of an accredited access model by the time we meet in Panama. (Are we there, yet?)

In the first half of 2018, the BC also paid close attention to ICANN’s budget and operating reserves. We commented on ICANN’s proposed budget, giving specific recommendations of which programs to preserve and which could be trimmed. And the BC is encouraging ICANN to replenish its operating reserve fund, partly by tapping the new gTLD auction proceeds – the subject of yet another cross-community working group.

The second half of 2018 will see continued attention to Whois and

GDPR, and hopefully a resumption of the Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review. And BC members will work for community approval and board acceptance of multiple accountability recommendations in Work Stream 2 of the IANA transition.

Also in 2018, the BC will to advocate for general business interests in planning for future expansions of the gTLD space.

Anyone with concern—or even just curiosity—about how businesses are affected by ICANN should join our meetings in Panama and learn more about the ICANN Business Constituency.



Steve
DelBianco,
Vice Chair
for Policy
Coordination

Report on BC outreach at 5th AfICTA Summit in Abuja

Towards a stable, secure and resilient Internet

Arinola Akinyemi, BC member

For the 5th time in a row, the Business Constituency (BC) of ICANN successfully conducted an outreach to commercial and business users of the Internet at the annual Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA) Summit. The event was held from 7 - 9 November, 2017 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, in conjunction with eNigeria event powered by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications Nigeria.

Riding on the success of earlier outreaches, the outreach to more than 70 African businesses titled “Towards a stable, secure and resilient Internet” was moderated by Arinola Akinyemi (CEO DigiSphere Limited). On the panel were BC Members: Lawrence Olawale-Robert (CEO Microboss Ltd), Tola Sogbesan (CEO Chase Systems Limited), Marcus Eke (Founder, Mecloud Technologies), Toba Obaniyi (CEO WhoGoHost). There were also two online interventions from Andrew Mack (Chair BC & CEO AMGlobal Consulting) and Pierre Dandjonou (ICANN Vice President Africa).

Andrew Mack’s intervention focused on Africans developing home-grown strategies and initiatives to realise the full potentials of the Internet for e-commerce and general economic development. He underscored the critical role of the BC in the ICANN structure as the voice of commercial and business users of the Internet in the ICANN ecosystem and in advancing the dynamic global domain name system (DNS) industry. In addition, Andrew espoused the huge domain name business opportunities in Africa. He urged African leaders to create policies that would unleash this potential. Pierre on his part highlighted



various ways ICANN has been engaging in Africa and how this can be leveraged upon for further engagement.

The BC outreach further created opportunity for more stakeholders to know about the BC and what it does, and at the same time increased awareness about ICANN and the crucial role it is playing in the post IANA transition and accountability processes.

The AfICTA Summit with the theme “One Africa, One Future: Leveraging ICT for Sustainable Development” attracted participants from AfICTA member nations as well as from other countries from within and outside the continent. Jimson Olufuye, Ph.D, Chairman Africa ICT Alliance / Barr. Adebayo Shittu, Hon. Minister of Communications, Nigeria was the Chief host while the MD/CEO Galaxy Backbone Ltd, Yusuf Kazaure delivered the Keynote address on the theme: “Building One Future And One Network For Africa”. Other Speakers included, Marilyn Cade, CEO MCade

LLC (USA), Laicana Coulibaly, (AfICTA Board member & CEO Diamond Security Consulting (Cote D’Ivoire), Chris Mondini, Vice President, ICANN Global Business Engagement, Richard Lamb, ICANN, Agu Collins Agu, Ph.D, NITDA, Dr. Wunmi Hassan, President CEO - High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youths among other key stakeholders.

BC Newsletters, Factsheets, roll-up banners and logos were produced and extensively distributed and used at the event. The event organisers thanked BC and ICANN for the collaboration.



BC Outreach Report

2017 African Internet Summit – Nairobi, Kenya

By Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC Member from Nigeria

The Africa Internet Summit (AIS) is the pinnacle multi-stakeholder event combining, workshops, conferences and networking for the Internet industry. The annual summit attracts internationally renowned instructors, experts and speakers to share the latest innovations and best practices in the Internet industry. Launched in Gambia in 2012, the AIS consists of seminars, workshops, tutorials, conference sessions, birds-of-a-feather (BOFs), and other forums for sharing ICT knowledge within the African region.

The African Internet Summit 2017 held as scheduled at the BOMA Conference Center in Nairobi, from 21 May until 2 June 2017, was well attended by different interest groups ranging from members of the technical community to academia and business. A good number of local business owners, mostly entrepreneurs and small business owners, were present at all the sessions and networking events.

The Business Constituency (BC) reps had an opportunity to conduct outreach to participants at the conference, particularly on the 2nd of June during the community session with the theme **“How Do Small Projects Promote Internet Development”**. It was a full hour of presentation and interaction dedicated to the BC and the activity of its member, MicroBoss, at supporting start-up incubation Nigeria.

I opened up my presentation acknowledging the sponsorship I had received from the BC, which enabled my physical participation at the summit, and went on to introduce the BC and its role within the ICANN ecosystem, before proceeding with the rest of my presentation. This spurred questions of interest about the BC, ICANN and my company's small project aimed at providing infrastructure for small businesses to start and grow their business in Abuja, Nigeria.

My presentation ran for 20 minutes while

the remaining time was dedicated to questions. The audience engaged me for well over 40 minutes due to the huge interest in our project and the BC. I took time to explain that engagement in the BC was between companies through their representatives, as a cluster of individuals were interested to know how

“The audience engaged me for well over 40 minutes due to the huge interest in our project and the BC.”



they could engage the BC further. It was interesting for them to know that where prospective members could not meet the membership criteria set in our charter, there were other constituencies they could join within ICANN.

Questions centred around the nature of what we do as the BC, to what financial benefits members stood to gain from their membership. A cross section of the audience not new to ICANN probed to know how to manage participation, as ICANN had multiple meetings across continents which would cost a fortune to attend. I educated the audience on the remote tools provided for participation and the ICANN fellowship program, aside from other membership incentives and support available in the BC. Ultimately, I informed the audience we were well focused on policy development.

My presentation bore information and links to joining the BC, while copies of the BC factsheet and cards were circulated at my session to compliment those earlier distributed to delegates at the conference through the use of the ICANN booth, aside from one-on-one engagements. Footprint Africa Business Solution, an online consultancy from Mauritius, showed appreciable interest in the BC and should be encouraged by the outreach committee and secretariat to join the BC.

The Conference Take-Away

The conference spotted a number of interesting sessions with a full day devoted to policy issues under development. I found the policy development process at Afrinic interesting and recommend that the BC monitor their proceedings – especially those of interest to Business. The topic that generated the most interest was **“Internet Shut Down”** as its recommendation was termed controversial. The proposal on the Anti-Shutdown Policy was such that requested for governments that shut down the internet in their countries be sanctioned, and have their block of IP resources revoked. Whilst it is clear in this instance that the bulk of IP resources within each country is largely owned by businesses, such revocation would be to the detriment of businesses for an action taken by Government. Its import, if approved, would have lead to further shutdowns and pitched business against governments; aside from resulting in further loss of service and revenue in the African region.

The policy development process

at the African Internet Summit and Afrinic is of great impact to the business sector in Africa, likewise other RIR's such as the BC should keep an eye on developments emanating from these bodies. There is a serious need for the business community to monitor and contribute to discussions ongoing in fora's such as this to secure our interest, especially when such policy developed could have an effect on the business climate within the region its developed and adopted. The conference also had a number of other stakeholders within the ICANN ecosystem conducting visible outreach. Most active was At-Large – they went all out to secure sessions with participants, collaborating with the ICANN team on the ground to speak at their sessions and maintaining a stand at the conference.

Special thanks to the BC for making this outreach possible through funding. Hoping to see our constituency engage more via partnerships of this nature within the Global South.

ICANN Multistakeholder Organizational Chart



ICANN Board of Directors

Top row Left to Right: Göran Marby – President & CEO, Cherine Chalaby – Chair (NomCom), Chris Disspain – Vice Chair (ccNSO), Becky Burr (GNSO), Ron da Silva (ASO), Maarten Botterman (NomCom), Sarah Deutsch (NomCom), Avri Doria (NomCom), Matthew Shears (GNSO), Leon Felipe Sanchez Ambia (At-Large)

2nd row Left to Right: Khaled Koubaa (NomCom), Rafael Lito Ibarra (NomCom), Lousewies van der Laan (NomCom), George Sadowsky (NomCom), Manal Ismail (GAC Liaison), Mike Silber (ccNSO), Akinori Maemura (ASO), Ram Mohan (SSAC Liaison), Jonne Soinen (IETF Liaison), Kaveh Ranjbar (RSSAC Liaison)

GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies & Council

The GNSO Council is responsible for managing the policy development process of the GNSO.

Contracted Party House Councilors

Registry Stakeholder Group

Donna Austin, V. Chair
GNSO Council (APPAC)
Keith Drazek (NA)
Rubens Kuhl (LAC)

Registrar Stakeholder Group

Pam Little (APPAC)
Darcy Southwell (NA)
Michele Neylon (EU)

Nominating Committee Appointees

Theo Geurts
Jon Nevett
Anriette Esterhuysen
Cheryl Miller
Jay Sudowski
Jonathan Cohen
Leah Synekher

Liaison and Observer

Olivier Crepin Leblond,
ALAC Liaison (EU)
Patrick Myles, ccNSO
Observer (APPAC)

Non-Contracted Party House Councilors

Commercial Stakeholder Group

Commercial and Business Users
Susan Kawaguchi (NA)
Marie Pattullo (EU)

Intellectual Property Interests

Heather Forrest, Chair
GNSO Council (AAPAC)
Paul McGrady (NA)

Internet Service and Connection Providers

Tony Harris (LAC)
Philippe Fouquart (EU)

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group

Rafik Dammak (Vice Chair)
Farzaneh Badii (NA)
Stefania Milan (NA)
Marilia Maciel (LAC)
Tatiana Tropina (EU)
Stephanie Perrin (NA)

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

(see following page)

Heather Forrest (Chair)
Donna Austin (V. Chair)
Rafik Dammak (V. Chair)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Katrina Sataki (Chair)
Byron Holland (V. Chair)
Demi Getschko (V. Chair)

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Aftab Siddiqui (Chair)
Ricardo Patara (V. Chair)
Kevin Blumberg (V. Chair)

Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

Manil Ismail – (Chair)
Vice Chairs: Mark Carvell
Milagros Castanon Seoane
Ghislain de Salins
Guo Feng
Par Brumar
Cherif Diallo

Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Rod Rasmussen (Chair)
Julie Hammer (V. Chair)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Brad Verd (Co-Chair)
Tripti Sinha (Co-Chair)

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Alan Greenberg (Chair)
Bastiaan Goslings (V. Chair)
Maureen Hilyard (V. Chair)

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

Francisco deSilva
Howard Benn
Reinhard Scholl
Jie Zhang
Wendy Seltzer
Daniel Dardailler
Paul Wouters
Warren Jumari

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Jari Arkko (Chair)

Nominating Committee 2017

Zahid Jamil (Chair)
Damon Ashcraft (Chair-Elect)
Hans Petter Holen (Associate Chair)

Ombudsman

Herb Waye

Contracted Party House

Registry Stakeholders Group

Paul Diaz (Chair)
Samantha Demetriou (V. Chair Administration)
Stephane Van Gelder (V. Chair Policy)
Karen Day (Treasurer)
Sue Schuler and Cherie Stubbs (Secretariat)

Registrar Stakeholders Group

Graeme Bunton (Chair)
Tobias Sattler (V. Chair)
Kristian Ørmen (Secretary)
Ben Anderson (Treasurer)
Zoe Bonython (Secretariat)

Intellectual Property Constituency

Brian Winterfeldt (President)
Vicky Sheckler (V. President)
John McElwaine (Treasurer)
Kiran Malancharuvil (Secretary)
Brian Scarpelli (Participation Coordinator)

Non-Contracted Party House

Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Business Constituency
Claudia Selli (Chair)
Steve DelBianco (V. Chair Policy Coordination)
Jimson Olufuye (V. Chair Finance & Operations)
CSG Representative: Barbara Wanner

Internet Service Providers & Connectivity Providers Constituency

Wolf-Ulrich Knoeben (Chair)
Tony Holmes (V.Chair)
Alain Bidron (Excomm)

Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Non-Commercial Users Constituency

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Chair)
Loise Marie Hurel (EU)
Bruna Santos (LAC)
Michael Karanicolas (NA)
Elsa Saade (AAPAC)
Ines Hfaiedh (Africa)

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency

Joan Kerr, Chair
Raoul Plommer, V. Chair
Poncelet Ileleji, Policy Committee Chair
Juan Manuel Rojas, Communications Committee Chair
Gangadhar Panday, Membership Committee Chair
Olevie Kouami, Secretariat

* The groups' officers are omitted here

The evolving face of “Enhanced Cooperation”

What is next after WGEC2.0?

By Jimson Olufuye, Vice Chair Finance & Operations, BC Executive Committee



Ordinarily when you review the phrase “Enhanced Cooperation”, it should reflect the etymology of the two words “enhanced” and “cooperation” to indicate that a measure of existing cooperation is being taken to the next level. Yes, this is the intention of the architects of the language to avoid an imminent deadlock at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, 2005.

The European Union (EU) who have successfully used many forms of cooperation to achieve tremendous success over years came to the rescue when countries demanded that they join the US in its historical oversight role on the management of the critical Internet resources (CIRs); Internet Address names, numbers and protocol parameters.

It can be recalled that the United States (US) provided initial research funding that resulted in the global networks of networks called the Internet which is managed by interest-motivated volunteers across the US and later the rest of the world. As the Internet

became the cornerstone of any modern economy, and governments in the late 1990s began to take note of this critical development enabler, they began to express interest in the management of the Internet which culminated in the convening of the 1st World Summit on Information Society in Geneva in 2003; and due to inconclusive outcome scheduled another round of Summit for 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia that produced the famous Tunis Agenda (TA).

In the Tunis Agenda are a reaffirmation of Action Lines and Targets of the Geneva Action Plan of WSIS 2003 with two important outcomes connected to the management of CIRs namely the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and Enhanced Cooperation (EC). While IGF convened immediately first in Greece in 2006 and every year till the last in Geneva in 2017, Enhanced Cooperation track could “not take-off” as envisaged due to different interpretations by UN member states of the meaning of “Enhanced Cooperation” and the nature of mechanism for its implementation.

I had the privilege to speak though

remotely at the 1st United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UN CSTD) consultative forum on Enhanced Cooperation on International Public Policy Issues pertaining to the Internet in 2012, where I reflected as a matter of fact that EC has been on-going for years even at the bedrock of the Internet.

Without sustained cooperation, networks cannot be built talk-less of a network of networks. I also indicated that in the government circle, the government have increasingly continued to cooperate on diverse public policy issue pertaining to the Internet. Issues like cybersecurity and cybercrime have seen governments collaborating through Interpol, OECD, EU, G7, etc with positive outcomes like the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and more recently on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe.

While some stakeholders, including governments, maintained that EC was already taking place, other governments indicated that EC according to paragraphs 69 to 71 of the TA was yet to begin. The consultation on EC in 2012 led to the convening of the first Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation by a resolution of the UN General Assembly (GA) (paragraph 20-21) asking the Chair of CSTD to establish the WG which convened between 2013 and 2014.

Composed of 22-nation representatives according to UN representation process and 5 representatives each from business, civil society, academic and technical communities; and International organizations with previous hosts of IGFs; the WG could not agree to produce a consensus report due to just one controversial issue – how governments on an equal footing can make decisions on international public policy matters pertaining to the Internet viz-a-viz CIRs.

Based on the work of a correspondence group, the WG produced evidence that EC has increasingly been on-going among governments and other stakeholders.

On the strength of increasing evidence of cooperation on International public policies issues pertaining to the Internet, the GA by a resolution in 2015 asked the Chair of CSTD to once again convene another WGEC with the hope of finding a consensus position on the intractable Tunis Agenda outcome.

By the time the WG was to meet in September 30, 2016, the United States Government (USG) had wisely in 2014 announced and begun a process to relinquish its unique oversight function on the Internet. USG said it was in continuation of a planned process begun in 1998 that saw to the creation of ICANN, a private sector-led US registered company not-for-profit organisation focused on serving global public interest in ensuring a stable, secure and resilient Internet. The USG through its agency, the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Commerce Department as part of its condition to the global Internet community indicated that it would not subscribe to any government led replacement to its oversight role.

ICANN based on the mandate given by NTIA led the world to produce an acceptable proposal to NTIA that convinced the USG to abandon its oversight function on the Internet on October 1, 2016. This event was like a miracle because a young US Official once told me in Geneva that “I don’t see USG relinquish this role in my lifetime.”

USG relinquished its oversight function on the Internet but yet some governments still wanted paragraph 71 implemented to the letter. Most private



WGEC2.0 met eight times for three days each in Geneva over a two-year period (2016-2018) under the distinguished chairmanship of Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca

sector (business, civil society, academic and technical community) and Western Countries, including Japan, posited that nations can exercise their public policy sovereignty within their borders but not on International Internet public policy issues (IIPPI). But come to think of it, what is wrong if governments on an equal footing have a mechanism to discuss IIPPI? Nothing is really wrong and that was why I proposed for adoption at the WGEC2.0 for the CSTD to continue to provide the platform for governments to discuss IIPPI with full participation of other stakeholders since the CSTD already has in its mandate the responsibility to discuss and make recommendation on public policy issues to the GA through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

This was to be the consensus agreement as many Western countries that hitherto objected to the idea later embraced it in the spirit of compromise. Unfortunately, a handful of countries (e.g. Saudi Arabia) opposed the idea insisting the only idea they supported was the creation of a new

Institutional mechanism in the likes of ITU or UNESCO to handle IIPPI. A vast majority did not support the creation of new Institutional mechanism because 1. the nature of the Internet (which is distributive) does not concentrate control on one entity and 2. it would be expensive considering cost-cutting measures within governments across the world not least the UN itself.

WGEC2.0 met eight times for three days each in Geneva over a two-year period (2016-2018) under the distinguished chairmanship of Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca of Brazil, who did an outstanding job of co-ordination to the effect that even with high tensions many times and eventual failure of consensus recommendation, all participants remained cordial, hopeful and appreciative of his efforts. The CSTD Secretariat also worked tirelessly and impressively to support the work of the WG.

Nevertheless, the WG agreed on the characteristics of EC including transparency, inclusivity, collaboration, effectiveness, sustainability, responsiveness, peace etc. but its failure to agree a position by consensus on paragraph 71 torpedoed many other positive conclusions of the WG.

Perhaps the next line of action is for the subject of EC to continue to be a subject line item on the schedule of the CSTD whenever it convenes its annual meeting. CSTD already has such mandate within its statute anyway.

For me, it has been a great learning experience and a privilege representing business and participating at the cutting edge of global Internet public policy debate as the first African business person in two high profile UN Working Groups and on the same footing with states.

BC Outreach Report 15th IAD Summit – Kampala, Uganda

By Arinola Akinyemi, BC member (Nigeria)

The 15th annual Innovation Africa Digital Summit (IADS) took place from 25th – 26th April 2017 at the Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort by Extensia, in partnership with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, in Kampala, Uganda with participation from over 200 delegates from 26 countries, 14 of which were Africans. There were 50 speakers, panelists and workshop leaders who shared technology trends and business insights over 18 separate sessions, private business meetings and networking.

The summit aimed to support the sustainable development of telecoms and ICT in Africa by connecting key stakeholders with their peers and potential partners and solution providers. The agenda showcased possibilities for those people planning their development strategy based on African best practices and international technology innovations, whilst the business meetings and Extensia Bridge’s solution sourcing services helped those people seeking solutions for current needs.

The two-day summit themed “**Smarter Thinking**” dealt with smarter management of ICT infrastructure, networks, data sourcing, management and security with particular focus on business strategy, ICT impacts, risk management, digital startups, and collaborative governance was declared open by the Ugandan Minister for ICT and National Guidance, Frank Tumwebaze.

Day one of the summit featured several keynote addresses on Smarter Data Outsourcing, Management, Security, Insights and Decisions along with workshop programmes and a cultural extravaganza and dinner. The summit was brought to an end on day two with



“When you innovate you move forward and when you don’t, you lose.”

Frank Tumwebaze, Ugandan Minister for ICT and National Guidance

various panel discussions on Smarter Networks, Finance, Policy & Regulations Infrastructure, Open Data and Public, Private and Civil Society Partnerships alongside workshop programmes and a keynote address on Post IANA Transition.

BC-ICANN AfICTA Role

The keynote address on “*Post IANA Transition: The role of ICANN and Business in the new Empowered Community*” was presented by Arinola Akinyemi Member of the BC and Board Member, AfICTA. The presentation, whilst underscoring the importance of the Internet to the Digital Ecosystem and the important role ICANN is playing to ensure the Internet remains open, resilient, secure and reliable, also highlighted the success of the IANA Transition, the ICANN multi-stakeholder

model and ICANN engagement in Africa. Furthermore, it emphasized the need for business and commercial users of the Internet to join and engage in ICANN policy development processes via the BC in order to build more representation and inclusive participation in crucial policy development processes. The voice of business from developing countries, especially Africa, is largely missing in these processes and the presentation encouraged Africans – particularly the business stakeholders and youths – to get involved in local and continental advocacy on the multi-stakeholder based internet governance and policy development processes by keeping track of and active participation in the deliberations at ICANN.

The ICANN59 meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa was announced during the presentation as an avenue to connect ICT industry players, discuss and engage ICT stakeholders on the opportunities in DNS industry.

BC newsletter, brochures, complimentary cards and one-on-one networking were also used during the summit to further engage participants. It was observed that most of the participants had very little knowledge about ICANN and as such require follow-up communication by BC-ICANN to further sensitize those who have shown interest in knowing more about the functions of ICANN as a global multi-stakeholder corporation and the role of BC-ICANN as related to Business and Commercial users of the Internet. Also, the summit chair, Dr. Madanmohan Rao, requested that workshops on Internet Governance be conducted at summits like this one.

About 10 contacts were collected of individuals and organizations interested in follow-up communication.

BC Outreach Report ICANN61 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Andrew Mack, BC Outreach Chair

Just before the formal start of ICANN61 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, members of the BC met with the leadership of the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce. Key ICANN staff also attended including ICANN’s Vice President for Global Business Engagement, Chris Mondini; and ICANN’s Senior Manager for Stakeholder Engagement, Daniel Fink, also participated.

The meeting started with an in-depth briefing by Javier Rua, an ICANN veteran and San Juan native, who detailed the condition of Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria and the challenges faced as the island rebuilds key infrastructure, including key technology infrastructure. President and Chair of the Chamber Board Alicia Lamboy-Mombille and Chamber Executive Director Miguel Vargas Jimenez both detailed the challenges the Chamber has faced and talked about the way forward for Puerto Rican businesses – including discussion of the country’s business environment both before and after the hurricane, the impact of the debt situation, changes in the country’s employment landscape as a result of changes in US legislation, and other key issues. Pablo Rodriguez, President of the Telecommunications and



Technology Committee of the Chamber (and ICANN61 host) also spoke.

The BC team, led by Chair Claudia Selli and Outreach Chair Andrew Mack talked about the BC’s work at ICANN, and key issues/priorities of the business community in the ICANN ecosystem. The BC attendees asked questions to learn more about the Chamber’s membership, and answered questions about the BC’s role within the ICANN ecosystem. The groups held a lively give and take for over an hour and a half.

As in most outreach events, participants were keen to hear from BC members about their motivations for participation – why long-time BC members participated,

how they first got involved, and the “value proposition” for a business from participation. BC members talked about three of the most typical drivers for most participants – the importance of creating a business-friendly policy environment for the internet space, the ability to influence policy – especially for SMEs, and international networks they had established through their participation in the BC.

The program was originally planned as a larger event to be held at the Chamber but was streamlined to a leadership-to-leadership format given logistical challenges facing the Puerto Rican business community – including the need to repair infrastructure like the Chamber’s own building, which had been damaged in the hurricane!

In the end, the BC was pleased to show its support for the Puerto Rican Chamber as the private sector gets back on its feet and plans for the future. The Chamber leaders promised to carry the BC’s messages – and our interest in their participation – to the Chamber’s members, and all agreed to continue building ties between the BC and the island’s apex organization for private sector engagement.





The Benefits of BC Membership

The Business Constituency (BC) is the voice of commercial Internet users within ICANN – the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Business users rely on a stable and secure Internet and e-commerce experience, one that serves their users and customers on a global basis. Through your participation in ICANN, and in the Business Constituency, your company will make a difference on behalf of business.

BC members contribute as:

- participants on the BC e-mail list to learn about and debate issues
- participants on telephone conferences to reach consensus on key issues
- participants at physical meetings coincident with ICANN global meetings
- issue managers on specific topics
- bridges for information flow between other GNSO constituencies

The mission of the BC

The Constituency fully represents the views of the Internet business user community.

ICANN policy positions are consistent with the development of business via an Internet that is stable, secure and reliable while promoting consumer confidence.

ICANN policy positions derive from broad stakeholder participation in a common forum for suppliers and users.

BC Executive Committee



Chair
Claudia Selli



Vice Chair Policy Coordination
Steve Del Bianco



Vice Chair Finance & Operations
Jimson Olufuye



CSG Representative
Barbara Wanner



GNSO Councilor
Marie Pattullo



GNSO Councilor
Susan Kawaguchi

Nominating Committee (NOMCOM members)



Large Business Seat
Cheryl Miller



Small Business Seat
Jay Sudowski

BC Credentials Committee:

Andrew Mack, John Berard, Arinola Akinyemi, Adetola Sogbesan, Lawrence Olawale-Roberts

BC Finance Sub Committee:

Jimson Olufuye (Chair)
Marilyn Cade
Chris Chaplow
Arinola Akinyemi

Outreach Committee Members:

Andrew Mack (Coordinator)
Gabriela Szlak, Marilyn Cade, Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Omar Mansoor Ansari, Adetola Sogbesan, Arinola Akinyemi



BC Secretariat:
Chantelle Doerksen

If you would like to become a member of the BC, please contact the BC Secretariat at: info-bc@icann.org

Join the BC:
www.bizconst.org/joinus.htm

www.bizconst.org