The ICANN GNSO Business Constituency

News from the Chair

by Elisa Cooper

Dear ICANN Community Members,

More than ever, the Business Constituency (BC) remains focused on ensuring that the Internet is a safe place for Businesses and their customers. And this year promises to be a big one for both ICANN and the Business Constituency (BC) given the 450 new gTLDs now delegated, a changing Internet governance landscape, ICANN's desire for further globalization, and requirements for enhancing ICANN's accountability.

Looking back to 2014, the BC reviewed and evaluated issues of importance to Business and submitted over 40 comments through the Public Comment Process on topics ranging from ICANN Accountability and the IANA Transition, to New gTLD Directory Services and Whois Misuse. Last year, the BC also welcomed a number of new members including Adobe, Disney and Twitter.

The coming year will continue to bring complexity as we seek to understand this changing landscape, and the BC will do our best to ensure that the interests of Business are considered. Undoubtedly the road ahead may be one filled with hard work and challenges, but the BC will continue to forge ahead to ensure that our voices are heard.

Wishing you all a successful meeting in Singapore.

Best regards,
Elisa Cooper
ICANN Business Constituency Chair

On the Road to Singapore

by Marilyn Cade

ICANN launched in Singapore, March 2-4, 1999. Only a few of those now engaged in ICANN and its growing group of stakeholders knew who ICANN was at that time, or contributed to its first meeting.

We return now to Singapore 8-12 February for ICANN 52. In between 1999 and February 2015, ICANN met in Singapore in June 2011, and March 2014. The topics we discussed at ICANN's inaugural meeting mirror many of the topics that are emerging in today's ICANN – what does it mean for ICANN to act in the public interest; what is ICANN's role in IANA; what is accountability and to whom; how do we broaden and deepen participation from those from developing countries in ICANN; how should the governments engage in ICANN; and how do we ensure that ICANN, as it evolves, understands its core mission? At that meeting, the BC and other

On the road to Singapore

constituencies were just being 'born', and the bylaws of the DNSO were first presented.

Today among changes in that original organization structure are the separation of the ccNSO from the GNSO; the emergence of the SSAC and the ALAC, and the growing inclusion of governments in the Governmental Advisory Committee. Of course, there are other more recent changes as well, with the introduction of the massive expansion of the new gTLD program, and its continuing challenges in implementation.

The Board itself has evolved. The staff has grown from four – yes, four staff, and a budget that was mostly a line of credit. Today, over 300 staff, and distributed offices bring ICANN into more contact with stakeholders around the world than we had in 1999. In short, ICANN has evolved and grown into an international organization.

 As ICANN 52 gathers in Singapore, IANA transition is a consuming priority that cuts across all constituencies, as does the discussion of accountability mechanisms. But, the work of the communities also continues with many focused meetings on new gTLDs. The Cross Community Working Group on Internet Governance will also meet face to face, and hold a public session. This WG is focused on ensuring that input from ICANN stakeholders is advising ICANN staff and senior management on Internet Governance activities that are influencing ICANN's future.

The BC looks forward to returning to Singapore at ICANN 52 and to bringing the voice of business as users into this important stage of the debates about the IANA Transition, and to the discussion of Accountability mechanisms.

Policy Perspective

By Steve DelBianco, Vice Chair for Policy Coordination

First, congratulations to BC members for raising the breadth and depth of their participation in drafting positions and statements, resulting in a record 38 public comments for the year 2014.

Beyond the public comment process, the BC also had a major impact on policy debates at ICANN meetings and in working groups. 2014 was the year the entire GNSO came together to insist that ICANN's board defer to us — the community — for defining new accountability mechanisms to replace the last vestige of US oversight once the IANA contract expires. The BC was the first stakeholder group to suggest specific new accountability mechanisms, and we are a leading voice in the cross-community working group now developing proposals.

Our early work on accountability helps the BC to lead discussion towards workable ideas, adding to our growing reputation for generating common-sense policies that serve business users and registrants. At the same time, we are reserving judgment on the full range of accountability mechanisms that will eventually be posted for public comment.

ICANN Accountability and IANA

transition will be major policy topics in 2015. In addition, the BC could play a significant role in the Affirmation Review of the new gTLD program, including the effectiveness of rights protection mechanisms and Public Interest Commitments. This work will lead into planning for the next round of new gTLDs as well.

Beyond new gTLDs, ICANN has placed itself in the center of a debate over the roles of governments and intergovernmental organizations. In the year ahead, the BC will continue to defend ICANN's multi-stakeholder model while also pressing ICANN leadership to refrain from top-down strategic initiatives that would take ICANN beyond its narrow technical mandate.

There's a lot on the horizon for 2015, so look forward to another year of helping ICANN maintain a DNS that works for businesses around the world.

Steve DelBianco, Vice Chair for Policy Coordination

From the Desk of BC Councilors to GNSO Council

by Gabriela Szlak & Susan Kawaguchi

There are many important issues facing the Business Constituency (BC) in 2015 especially within the next several weeks leading up to the Singapore meeting. The GNSO Council is currently focused on the following issues:

· IANA Transition – The GNSO Council is very interested in the ongoing progress of the work by the IANA transition team.

· Development of Accountability Mechanisms – The charter for this Cross Community Working Group was recently adopted by the Council. The group has started working and will have it´s first face to-face meeting in Frankfurt, Germany on 19-20 January 2015.

· Restructuring of the NomCom – The council has submitted public comments for the reply period on the Board Working Group (BWG) recommendations to restructure the NomCom based on the comments offered by the community in the first comment period and in line with the BC views. It is interesting to note that it was John Berard, former BC Councilor, who drafted the comments and has always expressed the view that the Council should comment on the reply period, in order to let different groups express themselves first and then the Council can take the commonalities and express a stronger and solid voice that can advocate for the community as a whole. This was also the first time a new procedure to vote outside of a meeting with electronic ballots was implemented by the Council. This new procedure was developed under the leadership of the Standing Committee on Improvements Implementation (SCI) Chaired by Ron Andruff, BC member.

· Name Collision – ICANN staff has reached out to the GNSO Council to determine whether or not policy work on developing a long-term plan to manage gTLD name collision issues should be undertaken. The new gTLD registries have agreed to implement Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPM's) in the allocation of the names on the current Name Collision hold list, which was something the BC has been asking for. Policy work should occur for the next round of gTLD applications.

· Expert Working Group report and the GNSO/Board working group providing input on transitioning this report to the community working group – Several council members have joined board members to develop a plan to transition this to a Policy Development Process (PDP).

· Proxy Privacy WG report and recommendations – this report is expected to be delivered soon to the Council.

· The council is offering input developed by a Discussion Group regarding the next round of gTLD applications. The Group is revising the current round to identify the issues that would need to be improved for a future round of applications. The BC is participating in the Discussion Group as we can offer the business user point of view of what needs to be improved to guarantee that the Internet is a safe place to conduct business.

It is a busy time for the BC and the workload can feel overwhelming for all of us but with more members actively participating in the working groups, providing input and collaboration in drafting comments on these issues and helping to develop BC positions the voice of business is being heard on the GNSO Council and the ICANN community."

Susan Kawaguchi, BC Councilor

Gabriela Szlak, BC Councilor

ICANN Multi-Stakeholder Model

Representatives on these Charts are updated as of the end of the Annual Meeting, ICANN 48.
Note: Officers for the GNSO Policy Council are elected at the close of ICANN 48.

ICANN Board of Directors

Top row Left to Right: Fadi Chehadé – President & CEO, Steve Crocker – Chair (Nom Com), Bruce Tonkin – Vice Chair (GNSO), Rinalia Abdul Rahim (At-Large), Cherine Chalaby (Nom Com), Chris Disspain (ccNSO), Asha Hemrajani (Nom Com), Wolfgang Kleinwächter (Nom Com), Bruno Lanvin (Nom Com)

2nd row Left to Right: Erika Mann (Nom Com), Gonzalo Navarro (Nom Com), Raymond A. Plzak (ASO), George Sadowsky (Nom Com), Thomas Schneider (GAC), Mike Silber (ccNSO), Kuo-Wei Wu (ASO), Jonne Soininen (IETF Liaison), Ram Mohan (SSAC Liaison), Suzanne Woolf (RSSAC Liaison)

GNSO

(see following page)

ccNSO

Byron Holland (Chair)
Keith Davidson (Vice Chair)
Katrian Sataki (Vice Chair)

ASO

Louis Lee (Chair)
Fiona Asonga
Alan Barrett (Vice Chair)
Douglas Onyango
Ajay Kumar
Tomohiro Fujisaki
Aftab Siddiqui
Jason Schiller
Ron da Silva
Jorge Villa
Ricardo Patara
Hartmut Glaser
Filiz Yilmaz
Dmitry Kohmanyuk
Wilfried Woeber

Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

Thomas Schneider – Switzerland (Chair)
Olga Cavalli – Argentina (VC)
Gema Campillos – Spain (VC)
Henri Kassen – Namibia (VC)
Wanawit Ahkuputra – Thailand (VC)
Ihsan Durdi –Turkey (VC)

Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Patrik Fältström (Chair)
James Galvin (Vice Chair)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Lars-Johan Liman (Co-Chair)
Tripti Sinha (Co-Chair)

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Allan Greenberg (Chair)
Olivier Crepin (Vice Chair)
Tijani Ben Jemaa (Vice Chair)

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

Bilel Jamoussi
Wendy Seltzer
Daniel Dardaillier
Warren Kumari

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Jari Arkko (Chair)
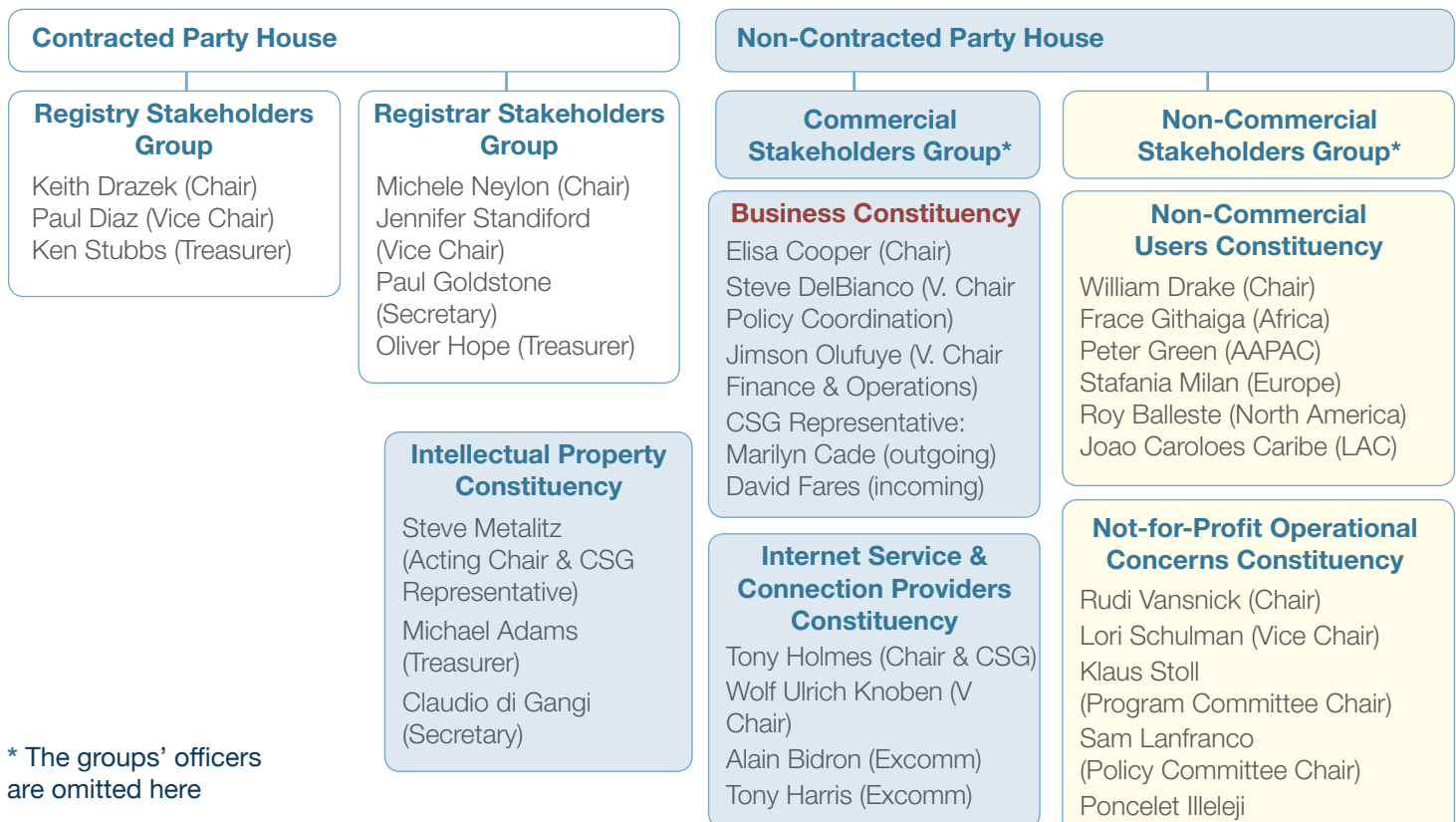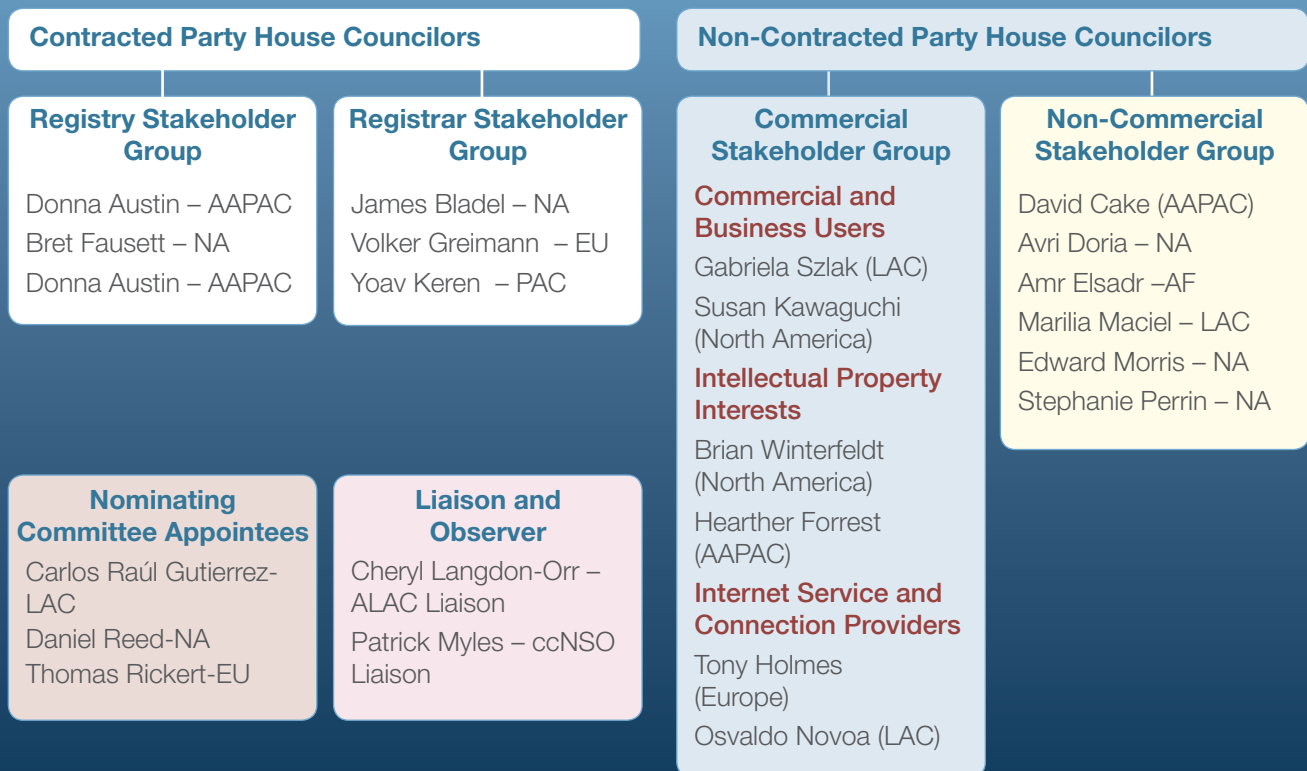
Nominating Committee 2015

Stephane Van Gelder (Chair)
Cheryl Langdon-Orr (Assoc-Chair)
Ron Andruff (Chair Elect)

Ombudsman

Chris LaHatte

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 – AAPAC
Bret Fausett – NA
Donna Austin – AAPAC

Registrar Stakeholder Group
James Bladel – NA
Volker Greimann – EU
Yoav Keren – PAC

Nominating Committee Appointees
Carlos Raúl Gutierrez-LAC
Daniel Reed-NA
Thomas Rickert-EU

Liaison and Observer
Cheryl Langdon-Orr – ALAC Liaison
Patrick Myles – ccNSO Liaison

Non-Contracted Party House Councilors

Commercial Stakeholder Group

Commercial and Business Users
Gabriela Szlak (LAC)
Susan Kawaguchi (North America)

Intellectual Property Interests
Brian Winterfeldt (North America)
Hearther Forrest (AAPAC)

Internet Service and Connection Providers
Tony Holmes (Europe)
Osvaldo Novoa (LAC)

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group
David Cake (AAPAC)
Avri Doria – NA
Amr Elsadr –AF
Marilia Maciel – LAC
Edward Morris – NA
Stephanie Perrin – NA

Contracted Party House

Registry Stakeholders Group
Keith Drazek (Chair)
Paul Diaz (Vice Chair)
Ken Stubbs (Treasurer)

Registrar Stakeholders Group
Michele Neylon (Chair)
Jennifer Standiford (Vice Chair)
Paul Goldstone (Secretary)
Oliver Hope (Treasurer)

Intellectual Property Constituency
Steve Metalitz (Acting Chair & CSG Representative)
Michael Adams (Treasurer)
Claudio di Gangi (Secretary)

* The groups' officers are omitted here

Non-Contracted Party House

Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Business Constituency
Elisa Cooper (Chair)
Steve DelBianco (V. Chair Policy Coordination)
Jimson Olufuye (V. Chair Finance & Operations)
CSG Representative: Marilyn Cade (outgoing)
David Fares (incoming)

Internet Service & Connection Providers Constituency
Tony Holmes (Chair & CSG)
Wolf Ulrich Knoben (V Chair)
Alain Bidron (Excomm)
Tony Harris (Excomm)

Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Non-Commercial Users Constituency
William Drake (Chair)
Frace Githaiga (Africa)
Peter Green (AAPAC)
Stafania Milan (Europe)
Roy Balleste (North America)
Joao Caroloes Caribe (LAC)

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency
Rudi Vansnick (Chair)
Lori Schulman (Vice Chair)
Klaus Stoll (Program Committee Chair)
Sam Lanfranco (Policy Committee Chair)
Poncelet Illeleji (Program Committee Vice Chair – African Region)
Joan Kerr (Membership Committee)
Martin Valente (Secretary)

The GNSO Policy Development Support Team supports the GNSO community's development of bottom-up, consensus policies and guidelines that help advance the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

David Olive, Steve Chan, Glen de Saint Gery, Gisella Gruber, Julie Hedlund, Lars Hoffman, Robert Hoggarth, Susie Johnson, Marika Konings, Nathalie Peregrine, Carlos Reyes, Steve Sheng, Mary Wong

BC & ICANN, advancing global cooperation and diversity @ AfICTA Summit by Jimson Olufuye

Convening in Cairo, Egypt, November 3-5, 2014, AfiCTA's second Summit was a collaborative event with the Business Constituency @ICANN, and ICANN Middle-East & North Africa with a shared goal to advance global outreach for BC membership diversity and DNS business development.

2nd AfICTA Summit 2014

FOSTERING A SMART AFRICA
3-5 November 2014

The Summit, held under the auspices of H. E. Eng Atef Helmy, the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt, and in conjunction with Cairo ICT, had the theme "Fostering a Smart Africa".

Attracting over 200 delegates from 20 African countries, including Ministers of ICT from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Djibouti and government officials from Benin, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, the Gambia, the event included Africa's founding father of the Internet, Nii Quaynor, Chair Ghana IT Agency.

Focusing on advancing awareness and the value of engagement and participation in ICANN's Business Constituency, at the luncheon keynote, Day 1 of the Summit, Jimson Olufuye, Chair of AfICTA, [and BC Vice Chair, Finance & Operation), Jimson Olufuye underscored the importance of building a more representative and inclusive membership of business users, acknowledging the importance of this diversity of business engagement as part of general ICANN strategy of global engagement for a stable, open, secure and resilient Internet

for all particularly the commercial and business users of the Internet. He said, "The voices of commercial and business users in the developing world particularly from Africa and Asia are missing in important and crucial policy development processes in ICANN and this gap needs to be addressed by first building awareness and engagement, and then finding mechanisms to encourage business entities in developing countries to participate actively in ICANN through the BC". He invited "Becoming engaged in the BC@ICANN can help business to add value to the future of the Internet on which the survival of many businesses depended on and to enable a more prosperous Internet that we want for Africa to continue to flourish."

As a critical partner in organizing the Summit, ICANN held a 2-day workshop on growing the DNS Business in the Middle-East and Africa in conjunction with AfICTA and the National Telecommunication Regulatory Agency (NTRA), with over 40 delegates participating in the Workshop. "This workshop

contributes to ICANN's commitment to support the development of the domain names sector in Africa and the Middle East. We were very pleased with the partnership with AfICTA in organizing this first of many to come workshops exploring the domain names industry and the opportunities available in business innovation and development to bring economic prosperity to both Africa and the Middle East," said Baher Esmat, ICANN Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement for the Middle East.

Pierre S. Dandjinou, ICANN VP Stakeholder Engagement Africa, and co-host of the event said "The DNS entrepreneurship workshop was certainly useful as per the interest shown by participants and the opportunities for information and knowledge sharing. My expectations are that while AfICTA continues its growth and deepens its African network, the continent better contributes to ICANN's policy development process as regards the business constituency on the one hand, and the advent of a sustainable Internet industry and business in Africa on the other hand."

Patrick Jones, Senior Director Global Engagement was also in attendance. He said "the opening session and the DNS Entrepreneurship Workshop were both excellent events, well attended and with interesting speakers. The participatory approaches taken in our DNS segment enabled interaction on the topics supporting the DNS industry in the region, registrar accreditation and information about the new gTLD program. My impressions were that it was a good event and provided opportunities for people to speak informally, as well as to learn more about developments in the DNS. At the same time, the broader outreach to business users made this a truly unique and valuable collaboration for ICANN. Each region is unique, and AfiCTA's collaboration, now into its second year, is an excellent role model for other regions."

Left to right: Jimson Olufuye, Eng. Hesham El Alaily, NTRA Exec. President, Pierre Dandjinou, ICANN

During the earlier opening ceremony, Eng Helmy, Minister of ICT underscored Egypt's commitment to building bridges of brotherliness, cooperation and collaboration across Africa towards a smart Africa that delivers a better life for her people. He said "It is a major focus of the government of Egypt to engage the rest of Africa where it rightly belongs and to foster regional cooperation with the private sector for improved job creation and better intra-African trade for the benefit of all Africans".

Engineer Hossam Elgamal, Chair of the Organising committee and AfICTA Board member, thanked the collaborators in organizing and sponsoring the event: BC@ICANN, ICANN, the IT Development Agency Egypt, officials of the International Relations Department Ministry of Communication and IT and H.E. Eng Atef Helmy, the Minister of CIT for their strong engagement and support.

Other programmatic highlights of the event included a high level panel on Policies and Initiatives for a "smart " Africa and several subject matter panels on e-Learning, e-Agriculture, Internet Governance and Cybersecurity, Broadband and ICT industry development among others. Speaking on the Internet Governance Panel, Markus Kummer, Internet governance luminary and past Executive Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum said "AfiCTA's engagement in just the last two years has already broadened the voice of African business users in global for a – at ICANN, but also at the important UN activities on Internet

Governance. Engagement with national governments is absolutely key to ensuring the success of the Internet. AfiCTA's model can serve as an example to other regions – engaging the informed voice of business with their governments, and participating in relevant Internet governance for a as advisors to national governments".

Building business opportunity is a key focus of AfiCTA, and two MOUs were signed between AfiCTA and ASOCIO – Asian and Oceanian Computing Industry Organisation, and the Computer Society of Kenya and EiTESAL – Egypt IT, Electronics and Software Alliance.

More than 100 business to business matching meetings took place. The Summit Declaration is available @

www.aficta.org
http://www.aficta.org/index.php/
summits along with other speeches, and presentation materials.

AfiCTA's third Summit will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa Aug 31 to Sept 4, 2015.

Governmental Advisory Commitee (GAC)

Left to Right: Thomas Schneider – Chair, Peter Nettlefold – Vice Chair until closure of ICANN 52, Tracy Hackshaw – Vice Chair until closure of ICANN 52, Olga Cavalli – Vice Chair, Gema Campillos – Vice Chair, Henri Kassen – Vice Chair, Wanawit Ahkuputra – Vice Chair, Ihsan Durdu – Vice Chair.

Chair
Thomas Schneider - Chair - Switzerland

VICE CHAIRS
Remaining Vice Chairs until ICANN 52
Mr. Peter Nettlefold - Australia
Mr. Tracy Hackshaw - Trinidad & Tobago

New Vice Chairs elected at ICANN 51
Dr. Olga Cavalli - Argentina
Ms. Gema Campillos - Spain
Mr. Henri Kassen - Namibia
Mr. Wanawit Ahkuputra - Thailand
Mr. Ihsan Durdu - Turkey

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.

Executive Committee

Chair: Elisa Cooper

Vice Chair, Policy Coordination: Steve DelBianco

Vice Chair, Finance & Operations: Jimson Olufuye

CSG Representative: Marilyn Cade (outgoing) David Fares (incoming)

GNSO Councilor: Susan Kawaguchi

GNSO Councilor: Gabriela Szlak (outgoing) Philip Corwin (incoming)

BC Appointees to the Nominating Committee 2014/15

Zahid Jamil (Small Business Seat) Sarah Deutsch (Large Business Seat)

BC Credentials Committee: Philip Corwin, Laura Covington, Martin Sutton

BC Finance Sub Committee: Angie Graves, Chris Chaplow

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

Report on the Intercessional of the NCPH

by Marilyn Cade

The Intercessional of the Non Commercial Party House concluded a two day gathering in Washington, DC, with 24 participants from both Stakeholder Groups, joined by Dan Reed, Nominating Committee appointee, and Markus Kummer, Board member elected from the House to the ICANN Board. This Intercessional focused on building bridges and engagement areas where the SGs members are affected by ICANN decisions and activities. Participants were drawn from officers and members of the Constituencies and Stakeholder Groups, supported by a multi-month planning process, coordinated by Rob Hoggarth and Benedetta Rossi, ICANN staff, to develop the shared agenda for the meeting.

Hosted at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, guests and speakers included Steve Crocker, ICANN Board Chair; Fadi Chehade, CEO and President; and several staff, including David Olive, Theresa Swinehart, Marika Koenings, Mary Wong, Rob Hoggarth. Other staff participated by conference call at various points in the meeting as subject matter experts. The meeting included both plenary sessions and breakout sessions for the two Stakeholder groups to allow focus on issues of interest and priority to the Stakeholder group.

The meeting included extensive discussion time with Fadi Chehade,

CEO and President, and with Steve Crocker, Chair of the Board. Key topics that were explored during the Intercessional included the NETMundial Initiative; IANA Stewardship Issues/Transition; Accountability Mechanism development; implementation issues with the new gTLD program; ICANN compliance matters; ICANN global engagement, and GNSO Review Matters. Plenary sessions were transcribed and are posted on the meeting wiki.

Discussion among participants identified disappointment about the failure to address structure of the GNSO in the Review process, leading to a consensus statement to ICANN from individual participants, that the present structure is not meeting the needs of the two Stakeholder groups. It was also acknowledged that each group will make their constituency aware of the participants' statement. During the closing session focused on assessing the meeting and its outcomes, the joint participant statement was identified as a major outcome of the Intercessional. Participants agreed that the Intercessional had positive outcomes, and suggested that funding for a next version of the Intercessional be requested. Several improvements, including how to be more inclusive of additional participants were noted, as needing further examination for the next Intercessional.