



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

26 February 2014

Mr. Keith Drazek
Chair
Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG)

Mr. Michele Neylon
Chair
Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG)

Dear Keith and Michele:

RE: /1net AND BRAZIL MEETING REPRESENTATION

Thank you for sharing the views of the Registries and Registrars on this important matter.

As you know, ICANN is one of the multistakeholder organizations in the Internet eco-system, and a partner among many that ensures multistakeholder cooperation on a range of Internet related issues. ICANN is committed to both improving ourselves as a multistakeholder organization as well as partnering and contributing to strengthening Internet cooperation globally. As such, we continuously seek to ensure our own mechanisms continue to evolve, and through dialogues with the ICANN Community identify areas of improvement to enable ICANN to serve its global community within our mission and mandate.

Nevertheless, it is important to distinguish ICANN's multistakeholder structure and activities from how other Internet groups organize themselves to address Internet Governance issues.

ICANN has been a long-time participant and partner in Internet Governance related initiatives and debates. As a partner in global Internet governance and cooperation, ICANN works closely with other partners in the Internet eco-system across all stakeholder groups, supporting the IGF, and engaging in discussions on strengthening Internet cooperation to ensure issues of Internet-related matters are addressed from a multistakeholder approach, as global discussions evolve. As is widely known, ICANN joined other Internet Technical Organizations in the Montevideo statement last year and has engaged with other organizations on topics around Internet Governance.



These engagements occurred at the 2013 IGF, and through the launch of the /1net.org dialogue to increase awareness and discussion around multistakeholder and Internet cooperation – serving as a canvas for the community to fill with ideas. I do urge your groups to follow the conversation online, over email, and receive updates about the topics they care about most. I think your colleagues should contribute to the discussion by signing up for the /1net mailing list as well.

Concerning the coming Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance hosted in Brazil. (NETmundial.br.) Again, please encourage stakeholder groups to be more active. Here are ways you can influence and shape the discussions with your ideas and comments -- <http://content.NETmundial.br/interests/expression>. Contributions are also invited on Internet Governance Principles and The Roadmap for the Further Evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem at <http://content.NETmundial.br/>.

In terms of ICANN representation as part of these emerging forums, ICANN has always advocated our organization's structure and how it operates to reflect the multistakeholder model in action. However, ICANN bottom-up consensus based process and structures do not always mirror existing governance structures and models. This is a challenge for all our stakeholders when cooperating and collaborating in formal and informal ways to reflect our views and values.

This is one of the reasons why we encouraged the formation of a cross-community working group, the CCWG on Internet Governance, within ICANN, as an opportunity for the ICANN community to exchange information and ideas on how to participate in /1net, and to provide input on evolving Internet governance issues, including for the meeting in Brazil in April 2014. The CCWG is of course not intended to replace other dialogues or mechanisms, but was initiated to further ICANN community dialogue on these important topics. I'm pleased to see that both the registries as well as registrars are actively participating in this initiative. Your voices representing registries and registrars are needed in this group and we hope you would involve others from your stakeholder groups in the exchange of views and ideas on Internet Governance.

There are multiple other dialogues relating to Internet Governance coming up over the course of the next years. A diagram of key global Internet activities towards the Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance can be found here. These all provide additional opportunities for community engagement and expertise.

As such, although I understand your frustration in relation to registry/registrar representation in /1net, I want to assure you that there are plenty of additional mechanisms through which



your voice will be heard and is able to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on Internet Governance.

Furthermore, as one of the co-chairs of the Brazil Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, you have my commitment that I will be representing all of our ICANN stakeholders, including registries and registrars, in this evolving Internet Governance eco-system. As a way to increase the participation at the Brazil conference, we understand that remote participation will be available. I would encourage you to take full advantage of this participation, so that you can listen and provide input into the dialogue in Brazil, as well as through your participation in the CCWG – as we take another step in the evolution of the Internet Governance process.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fadi Chehadé", written over a thin blue horizontal line.

Fadi Chehadé
President and CEO