



*Addressing the global Internet*

**ICANN**

18 October 2010

**Rod Beckstrom**  
CEO and President

Mr. Sha Zukang  
Under-Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Office of the Under-Secretary-General  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
Room DC2-2320 2 UN Plaza, New York, New York 10017

Under-Secretary-General Zukang,

Thank you for your 6 October letter inviting ICANN to speak on behalf of the Internet technical community at the open and inclusive consultations being convened by the Secretary General on 14 December.

The consultations are in response to the request from the Economic and Social Council "to convene open and inclusive consultations involving all Member States and other stakeholders with a view to assisting the process towards enhanced cooperation in order to enable governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact upon those issues, through a balanced participation of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities, as stated in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda, and requests that the consultations be held before the end of the 2010 and their outcome submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council".

I was pleased that in response to ECOSOC's call, the Secretary General asked you to invite all stakeholders to contribute by submitting written comments before 15 November. I can assure you that ICANN will respond, as will others within the



multistakeholder community that is so fundamental to Internet governance. I will encourage this by publicizing your letter through ICANN channels.

I note that you have invited civil society and private sector stakeholders to participate. Your request for consultations has been widely distributed and I am confident that both civil society and private sector stakeholders will provide their views in writing.

The confluence of views from the many actors involved in supporting and evolving the Internet ecosystem should lead to an interesting and informative debate on 14 December. I hope that you will find ways to allow more non-governmental speakers to take part. The spirit of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Internet Governance Forum has been characterized not only by multistakeholder participation but by hearing the views of a variety of participants from each sector.

If meeting space is so constrained that only one member per sector can be accommodated, it could be more productive and more representative to find another UN venue that can accommodate more organizations.

You have invited ICANN to speak on behalf of the "technical community". Our experience within WSIS/IGF and in the technical community demonstrates that technical coordination of the Internet involves numerous organizations and thousands of independently minded individuals around the world. While ICANN is responsible for the technical and policy coordination of the Domain Name System, that is only a part of the Internet ecosystem. ICANN cannot speak for the much broader "technical community" that comprises the distributed knowledge, activities and decisions that constitute the true power of the multi-stakeholder community, which is responsible for both the correct functioning and the innovative evolution of the Internet.

I am sure that the Internet community will provide the multistakeholder input requested by ECOSOC and that a wide variety of organizations and individuals, including ICANN, will contribute by the 15 November deadline. We will also consult within the ICANN community to see how we might best participate on 14 December.



However, I believe that the starting point will be our joint experience of the IGF and WSIS processes and our experience of the Internet's evolution, where all stakeholders have been welcome to participate and have done so actively and cooperatively, with bottom up processes and rough consensus as a guide to progress.

We look forward to participating in the discussion on 14 December.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Beckstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rod Beckstrom  
President and CEO