**Introducing ICANN
and the Global Partnership approach**
Giovanni Seppia
European Liaison
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What is ICANN ?

Non-profit company incorporated in California to coordinate, at the overall level, the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers, and in particular to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN:

– coordinates the allocation and assignment of the sets of unique identifiers for the Internet;

– coordinates the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system; and

– coordinates policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions.

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What is ICANN ?

Founding principles: stability and security, competition, transparency, bottom-up coordination, representativeness, internationalisation

We match: [www.example.tld] with [255.255.255.255] and manage resources for both

Not involved with content [i.e. what runs on the Internet]

Who decides how it is managed? You!
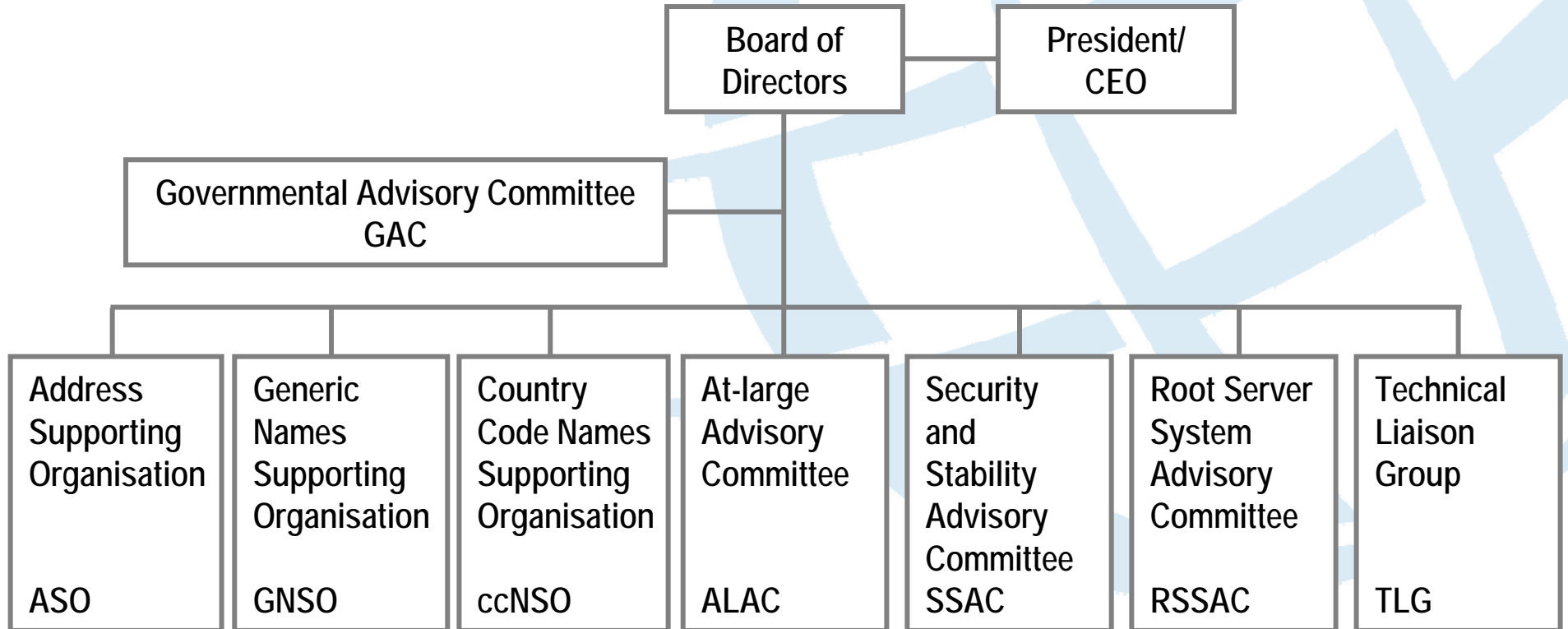A consensus policy development process

Part of a global Internet community

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What ICANN does *not* do

- Content on the Internet

- Spam

- Financial transactions online

- Consumer Protection Law

- Privacy Law

- Data Protection Law

- Intellectual Property Law

- E-commerce, e-education, e-government, etc.

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ICANN structure

Participation

Membership: GAC, ALAC, ccNSO, gNSO, ASO

Global meetings on a rotating regional basis

Partnerships with other international organisations

Coordination with government, business associations, civil society

And of course, regional liaisons

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Bottom-up consensus and stakeholder representation

2000   2005   2010

Current activities

Develops, maintains and improves policy development

Supports public meeting program and establishes ICANN presence in each region

Future activities

Establishes special restricted fund for developing country Internet communities

Develops multi-lingual communications strategy and outreach

Independent bottom-up coordination

Global stakeholder representation

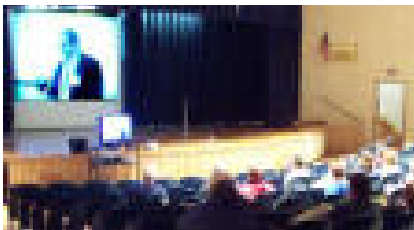ICANN

How we implement our multi-stakeholder process

- Regular meetings of Supporting Organisations Councils and Advisory Committees
- Defined policy development processes (PDPs) for Supporting Organisations
- Regular ICANN Board meetings

Most importantly, ICANN maintains a public meeting forum

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ICANN public meetings

History

- Several meetings a year since 1999
- Held in each of ICANN's five regions in rotation
- As many as 700 to over 1,000 registered participants
- Proceedings webcast, transcribed during meeting, and archived on ICANN's website to maximise accessibility

Future

- Continue global meeting program
- Promoting local attendance through Regional At-Large Organizations
- Sub-regional meetings to encourage participation of developing nation Internet communities and focus on regional concerns
- Ongoing workshops for IDNs, Security and other critical concerns

Benefits

- Informed participation of local and global communities in policy development processes
- Face-to-face dialogue offers ICANN better understanding of stakeholder issues
- Community workshops on critical issues, such as IDNs and DNS security

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ICANN meetings schedule

- 2006 ICANN Meeting Schedule

  – March 27-31 2006, Wellington, New Zealand

  – June 26-30 2006, Marrakesh, Morocco

  – December 2-8 2006, Sao Paulo, Brazil

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How ICANN works

Strategic Plan

Operational Plan

Budget

All the key documents are developed through large, open consultations that take place both on line and at meetings level

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The current geography of the global Internet

1 billion users
Developed world connectivity : 53.8 per 100
Developing world connectivity : 6.7 per 100

The G8 countries - home to 15% of the world's
population - have almost 50% of the world's total Internet
users

Over 80 million domain names registered worldwide

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Global Partnership approach background

- In developing the strategic objectives for the years ahead, the ICANN community identified a number of challenges and opportunities:
  - Increased globalisation of the Internet
  - Increasing threats to stability and security of the Internet
  - The need to engage with a broader group of international entities
  - The need to be closer and more responsive to all stakeholders
  - The need to design appropriate structures and processes for the post-MoU and post WSIS phases

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The Global Partnership approach

- The GP is a team of people with different expertise that are in charge of liaising with the world regions
- So far the Regional Liaisons are:
  - Baher Esmat, Middle East (baher.esmat@icann.org)
  - Pablo Hinojosa, Latin America (pablo.hinojosa@icann.org)
  - Anne-Rachel Inné, Africa (anne-rachel.inne@icann.org)
  - Jacob Malthouse, Canada and Caribbean (jacob.malthouse@icann.org)
  - Giovanni Seppia, Europe (giovanni.seppia@icann.org)

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The GP contribution to ICANN Strategic Plan

- The Region al Liaison network goals flow from ICANN Strategic Plan objectives:
  - Contribute to ICANN's organisational excellence in operation
  - Support policy development in regions where appropriate
  - Engage proactively with regional stakeholders and respond to the needs of the ICANN community and staff in the regions
  - Provide support to increase participation in and efficiency of the ICANN multi-stakeholder environment and mandate
  - Assist where appropriate in outreach activities relating to the post-MoU phase

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An information exchange exercise

- Pleased to
  - Receive inputs and feedback from the community
  - Help whenever we can
  - Be the "trait d'union"
  - Share views and opinions
  - Provide clarification

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Muchas gracias

Giovanni Seppia

giovanni.seppia@icann.org