

DotConnectAfrica Comments to the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) Charter

On 6 June 2014, ICANN published a Process to [Develop the Proposal and Next Steps](#) that is the culmination of a series of community discussions and input into the process to develop a proposal to transition stewardship of the IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community.

On July 18, the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) produced a [draft charter](#) [PDF, 43.7 KB] that defines its own tasks. The ICG views defining the broad outlines of its charter as important, but it views finalizing the charter and moving on to the real work of the transition planning to be of equal importance.

IANA Stewardship Transition is an important chapter in the growth and development of the internet; it is the chance that the users of the internet, service providers and all stakeholders have to properly prepare a proposal that transcends geographic or economic boundaries. A moment that should be competition free and collaboration oriented, where all voices can be equally heard. DotConnectAfrica has been a champion for the bridging of the digital divide we therefore supports the efforts to process that will determine the future of the internet stewardship.

Issues that must remain as a constant running principles and ethics

Communication:

Constant communication on the current processes in the ICG ought to be made publicly available at every convenience; this will enable the community and all constituencies to track the development of the proposal at a detailed level.

Open communication will eliminate any aspersions, doubts or suspicions that have evidently affected previous processes at ICANN, individuals and organizations will appreciate availability of transcripts and all media related to the proposal crafting to be able to audit, comment, question or complement and assist at all times. Such communication will greatly open the process and give the public an inclusiveness that they need to be plugged.

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Transparency

Transparency throughout all the proceedings will help in the development of an acceptable proposal that has the spirit of inclusiveness and consensus at all time. This will be achieved through availing all proceedings in an openly accessible portal

Independence

The ICG proposal to transition stewardship should be given all the independence possible with no influences from any of the parties involved, this will enable the development of an influence free proposal that does not have bias.

Calendar

The transition stewardship proposal should have its calendar of events with a timeline with which to achieve the desired goals, this should give the proposal development proper planning and ample time to avoid the pressure of deadlines and or delays.

The coordination group has four main tasks:

- (i) *Act as liaison to all interested parties, including the three “operational communities” (i.e., those with direct operational or service relationship with IANA; namely names, numbers, protocol parameters). This task consists of:*
 - a. *Soliciting proposals from the operational communities*

There should not be any operational differences between ccTLD and gTLDs, all comments and contributions should be viewed as from one constituency, separating the two while they operate under the same root will complicate matters. Common requirements can be translated into a common parameter proposal that can also appreciate the distinctive levels of the domains

The ICG should anticipate a joint plan from the country code and generic name communities if this can be achieved the management of ccTLDS and gTLDS will be better organized so as not

to put ICANN in a complicated case when handling cases that touch on domain names as properties.

- b. Soliciting the input of the broad group of communities affected by the IANA functions.*
- (ii) Assess the outputs of the three operational communities for Compatibility and interoperability*

This is an important stage, the collection and assessment of the outputs will enable to ICG to identify similar trends and ideas within the proposed frameworks and also the differing views from the inputs this will enable the group to determine the direction the proposals take. This analysis of similarities vs differences can be communicated to the community for further study so that comments can be coalesced and comments placed to seek clarifications and reasons behind the divergent views.

All these should be done without a pre-mediated plan or structure to help create and open proposal.