**ICANN/NPOC**

**BACKGROUND, VISION, MISSION**

**2011-2012 RESULTS**

**2012-2013 PRIORITIES**

*Alain Berranger, Acting Vice-Chair, NPOC*

*for outreach to Costa Rican and other NGOs new to ICANN*

***BACKGROUND***

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| **INTRODUCTION TO ICANN**To understand the work of NPOC, you need to understand the work of ICANN.**What does ICANN do?** To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer -- a name or a number. That address must be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination, we wouldn't have one global Internet.In more technical terms, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) coordinates the Domain Name System (DNS), Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. These services were originally performed under U.S. Government contract by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities. ICANN now performs the IANA function.**How does ICANN work?**Besides providing technical operations of vital DNS resources, ICANN also defines policies for how the "names and numbers" of the Internet should run. The work moves forward in a style we describe as the "bottom-up, consensus-driven, multi-stakeholder model:"* **Bottom up.** At ICANN, rather than the Board of Directors solely declaring what topics ICANN will address, members of sub-groups in ICANN can raise issues at the grassroots level. Then, if the issue is worth addressing and falls within ICANN’s remit, it can rise through various Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations until eventually policy recommendations are passed to the Board for a vote.
* **Consensus-driven**. Through its By-laws, processes, and international meetings, ICANN provides the arena where all advocates can discuss Internet policy issues. Almost anyone can join most of ICANN’s volunteer Working Groups, assuring broad representation of the world’s perspectives. Hearing all points of view, searching for mutual interests, and working toward consensus take time, but the process resists capture by any single interest– an important consideration when managing a resource as vital as the global Internet.
* **Multi-stakeholder model**. ICANN’s inclusive approach treats the public sector, the private sector, and technical experts as peers. In the ICANN community, you’ll find registries, registrars, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), intellectual property advocates, commercial and business interests, non-commercial and non-profit interests, representation from more than 100 governments, and a global array of individual Internet users. All points of view receive consideration on their own merits. ICANN’s fundamental belief is that all users of the Internet deserve a say in how it is run.

*Source: ICANN -* <http://www.icann.org/en/about/welcome> |

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| **INTRODUCTION TO NPOC**NPOC is an ICANN Constituency within the Non-Commercial Stakeholders’ Group (NCSG), a part of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO).The purpose of the NPOC is to represent, specifically, the operational concerns related to service delivery of not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations who are domain registrants in the DNS. NPOC focuses on the impact of DNS policies and their effects on the operational readiness and implementation of non-commercial missions and objectives.  NPOC members rely on the Internet and DNS policies to provide valuable services to their communities. NPOC engages the ICANN community on how proposed and existing policies and initiatives may uniquely impact the operations of not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations and the delivery of their mission-related services.  Such not-for-profit and non-governmental organizational perspectives on operational concerns include domain name registration, expansion of the DNS, fraud and abuse, using the DNS to provide and collect information and serve their members and communities.The operational concerns described above drive how NPOC members actively manage their infrastructure, create and improve internal processes and controls, manage risk, and respond to and respect the welfare of the communities they represent.*Source:* <http://www.npoc.org/home.html> |

***VISION***

A world where Not-for-profits and Non-governmental Organizations participate fully in ICANN policy development.

***MISSION***

NPOC focuses on the impact of DNS policies and their effects on the operational readiness and implementation of developmental missions and objectives of not-for-profits and Non-governmental Organizations.

***2011-2012 RESULTS***

* Recruited 13 new members from Bangladesh, India, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, The Netherlands, Switzerland, The Gambia, Peru and Pakistan; Many more are awaiting approval and/or currently applying;
* In December 2011 the NPOC organized its first webinar with the kind help of GNSO Secretariat. The aim was to share basic information with the NGO community about the important upcoming changes in the DNS and internet governance landscapes. These changes will have a direct impact in the day to day operations of the vast majority of NGO’s. The webinar speakers, chaired by Klaus Stoll (NPOC), were comprised from a wide range of Internet Stakeholders, like NCUC (Avri Doria), PIR.org (Brian Cute) and NPOC (Debbie Hughes). As far as can be determined - Adobe Connect constraints - more than 250 participants took part in the webinar or part of the webinar, which gives a clear indication of the importance of the topic. It also shows that a brand new Constituency can draw in new audiences and in significant numbers.
* Partial NPOC participation in the San Francisco ICANN meeting (travel funded by the Global Knowledge Partnership Foundation);
* Membership Application form available in Spanish, English and French
* Active participation at the Costa Rica ICANN meeting (6 NPOC members sel-funded and/or sponsored and without financial cost to ICANN;
* Participation in the ICANN’s Joint Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees New gTLD Applicant Support Working Group (JAS-WG); This WG came up with financial and non-financial support recommendations for worthy applicants in developing economies with insufficient financing and/or in need of expert technical assistance.
* Participating currently in the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP) - Part C Working Group;… to make it easier, safer and cheaper for NFP/NGOs to change registrar.
* Responded on time to all ICANN requests for NPOC submissions: Costa Rica NPOC's program; FY 2012-2013 Work Plan and Budget Request; GNSO Toolkit Checklist Survey For FY13;
* NPOC raised sufficient funds to ensure short-term activities of NPOC at and after the Costa Rica meeting; That said, NPOC, perhaps not surprisingly, is still a fragile Constituency, whose long term sustainability as we speak is still to be established. They are limits to volunteering and ad-hoc fundraising. They are needed but not sufficient.
* With the encouragement of NPOC and the Fundacion Omar Dengo – a leading NPOC member based in Costa Rica, twelve (12) Costa Rican NGOs registered for ICANN 43 and will participate in NPOC’s Constituency Day meeting.

***2012-2013 PRIORITIES***

* 1. Hold its first elections for Officers of the Executive Committee in March 2012;
	2. Grow its membership to all developing and emerging regions of the world; Mostly small NGO/NFPS : 4 new members per quarter, which would represent a 46% increase over current and pending memberships numbers by July 2013;
	3. 4 ICT4D-Related events and 3 ICANN meetings related events for a total of 7 education, recruiting and policy advocacy events, touching new audiences of 175 NGO/NFPs by July 2013;
	4. Recruit and facilitate the emergence and development of a minimum of 2 or 3 NPOC member experts in various DNS Policy Development areas by July 2013;
	5. Develop Strategic Partnerships to increase the global reach of NPOC and its financial sustainability.