

**Statement of the Co-Chairs of the Cross Community Working Group on Internet Governance, signing in their individual capacity.**

**Co-signatories: Rafik Dammak and Olivier Crépin-Leblond**

The Cross Community Working Group on Internet Governance (CCWG-IG) was created in late 2014 to enable an ongoing bridge between Staff and Community as well as a meeting point among the Community. It pre-dates the creation of the charters for the CWG Stewardship and CCWG Accountability.

Its Charter explains the working group's primary objectives (as quoted):

*“ Objective*

The Internet Governance CWG has been established by the participating SO's and AC's to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of the ICANN community in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet Governance.

All issues, processes and discussions regarding the Transition of NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions, and/or current and future accountability and accountability mechanisms related to the aforementioned Transition, are deemed to be out of scope of the objective of the WG.

For avoidance of doubt: The WG shall not act as a representative of the participating SO's and AC's collectively or individually, nor others, unless they have been explicitly asked to do so by all the participating SO's and AC's collectively or individually.

*Scope of Activities*

The scope of activities of the WG is to do whatever it deems relevant and necessary to facilitate and ensure engagement and participation of the ICANN community in the global Internet governance scene and multi-stakeholder decision-making processes.

The WG will take a proactive role in seeking and fostering participation and input into the processes and provide regular feedback to the SO's and AC's.

In achieving its objective the WG will undertake, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- Provide input to ICANN staff, SOs and/or ACs on issues pertaining to Internet Governance discussions and processes.
- Provide input to the participating SOs and/or ACs to ensure such input as mentioned under a. above is reflected in ICANN's activities in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet Governance.
- Convey to the ICANN community discussions about ICANN or ICANN matters that arise in other Internet Governance discussions and processes.
- Organize SO and AC focused sessions
- Disseminate and summarize information relevant and related to the Internet Governance events and processes described above.
- Draft Position Papers and Statements as deemed appropriate, in accordance with the rules of this Charter (section 4). “

These objectives have been achieved since the inception of the working group, with no need for the work to conclude, as Internet Governance is an ongoing activity. In the past, members of the working group have coordinated external workshops and activities including a session about the multistakeholder process used to reach consensus in the IANA Stewardship Transition Process both at the WSIS Forum in May 2015 and at the Internet Governance Forum 2015, as well as a forthcoming session explaining the multistakeholder process used in CCWG Accountability, at the WSIS Forum in May 2016.

By its very nature, the CCWG IG does not have an inherent end point because of the ongoing nature of its work. It is the belief of the authors of this comment that such CCWGs should describe why this is the case in their Terms of Reference and to propose some amended language. Any guidelines should embrace CCWGs that do not have an end point.

We see that there are several classes of CCWGs:

- Some CCWGs produce recommendations which, if ratified by their Chartering Organisations, will eventually reach the Board for action
- Some CCWGs produce recommendations which might not require Board action
- Some CCWGs produce guidance or advice about ICANN activities, Staff and Board external engagement that has implications for Chartering Organisations

As the use of CCWGs in recent work has shown the variety of formats that a CCWG may take, it is clearly too early to think that a “one size fits all” format for all CCWGs is possible.

We therefore suggest that for the time being the flexibility of CCWGs in drafting their Terms of Reference in individual Charters should be maintained and that the variety of Chartering practices be monitored for a period of two years, when a better knowledge of the needs of CCWGs will have been acquired. At that time, we expect that Standard and Usual Operating Practices as well as areas of exceptions will become apparent.