Newsletter, March 2020

The ICANN GNSO Business Constituency

On behalf of the ICANN Business Constituency (BC), dedicated to the interests of business users of the Internet and the future of business growth on the Internet, welcome to Cancún and ICANN67!

Welcome to Cancún and ICANN67!

In Cancún, the BC celebrates its 20th anniversary as a Constituency within the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) and welcomes the ICANN Community to celebrate with us. As we commemorate this important milestone, we pause to recognize and thank the businesses, organizations, and member representatives who have contributed to our success.

On a policy front, the BC continues efforts related to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the ongoing work of the GNSO's Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Policy. We continue to advocate progress towards an "accredited access" system where security researchers and companies can benefit from non-public WHOIS data for legitimate purposes. However, the ongoing work of the EPDP will not be the only topic discussed during the ICANN Public Meeting. Other critical issues and priorities include planning for the next expansion of gTLDs; Rights Protection Mechanisms; and use of Auction Proceeds from the last round. To learn more about the BC's role in policy work at ICANN, please look at our Policy & Positions Statement archive, located on the BC's website.

ICANN67 is ICANN's Community forum, which showcases the work of the community. The BC continues to seek ways to address outreach, capacity development, and divulge CANN's work to a broader global audience. We do this via several different programs—some funded by ICANN and other programs funded by the BC. ICANN's Community Regional Outreach Program (CROP) and internal, BC funded, grants are regularly earmarked to support the outreach efforts by our members. We recognize that the Internet affects business registrants and users all over the world, and the BC is keen to continue its efforts to engage the global business community.

The BC also continues to play its part to ensure that ICANN is more transparent and accountable to global internet users. We remain committed to strengthening the multi-stakeholder model that has helped build the successful, global, and business-friendly Internet we have today. And we look forward to more and deeper engagement of new potential members in different regions of the world: from Cancún to Kuala Lumpur, where the next ICANN meetings will be held. Please reach us if you have any questions about the Business Constituency. We're always ready to meet and help you engage at ICANN.

The BC welcomes all business registrants and users to join us at our meetings in Cancún to learn more about what we do, how business can benefit from the BC representation, and how our members positively engage in the ICANN community.

Claudia Selli, BC Chair

For more information regarding the BC, please visit our website at:
https://www.bizconst.org

In 1999, the Business Constituency (BC) also known as the Commercial and Business Users' Constituency (CBUC) was formed as an important constituent of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). We recognise that 20 years is a milestone, an important period to take stock and reflect on the role of BC in ICANN, and we also note that distinguished business organizations, men and women have impacted positively on the BC over the years and there is need for them to be recognized. So, please join us as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary in Cancún!

ICANN is one of the world's most unique, and innovative approaches in multi stakeholder governance, drawing together business, the technical community; civil society and NGOs; individuals; governments; and participants from international and intergovernmental entities to participate and collaborate to analyze challenges and issues; devise consensus, bottom up policy proposals, and manage and coordinate the Internet's unique indicators [domain names; IP addresses, root servers, protocols –technical elements upon which the Internet depends for secure and stable operations]. While they may sound mysteriously technical, their stable and secure operations is critical to online business. If the Internet, and the online world affect your business as a user, you belong at the BC, and you belong at ICANN.

We are business users of the Internet – individual entrepreneurs and micro enterprises, SMEs, large and global corporations, and associations and professional alliances of companies. The BC gives its members a significant platform for participation, engagement, policy analysis, and contribution to guide informed and accountable policy decisions and implementation.

The BC is not alone as a key Stakeholder group at ICANN, and learning more about the rest of ICANN's structure and how to be effective within ICANN is a core contribution of the BC's services to its members.

The BC advises and represents business user views and concerns in the development of policy that affects business directly, and in the broader governance of ICANN as an organization.

We also undertake outreach and participation into the broader business community; and many of our members are key leaders in the broader Internet governance debates. We have conducted awareness events this year in Latin America, MENA, Europe, United States and Africa. We also work throughout the year electronically to stay closely engaged in ICANN.

We ensure that there is open and frequent interaction for our members with the ICANN Government Advisory Committee and with the ICANN Board, as well as other stakeholders within ICANN. The BC has a role in electing two of the 21 members of the Generic Names Supporting Organisation (GNSO) policy Council; and in the selection of ICANN Board members, as do other parts of ICANN.

As a consensus driven, bottom-up decision-making organization, ICANN depends on a strong foundation of informed and committed stakeholders from all these groups. In short, we need you in ICANN.

Join us as we celebrate 20 years of helping to create a stable, predictable and secure operation of the Internet.

www.bizconst.org

Policy Perspective
Privacy, consumer protection & crime prevention

By Steve DelBianco, Vice Chair for Policy Coordination

In her introduction, Claudia Selli describes the major 2020 policy challenges for business users and registrants in the domain name system coordinated by ICANN.

Privacy laws such as Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) caused ICANN to suspend Whois, its legacy system to identify domain name registrants. That has driven the business community to help design new ICANN policies that balance privacy with consumer protection and crime prevention. It's a frustrating process but well worth the effort, as you'll observe by attending any of our meetings in Cancun.

ICANN is also planning for further growth of generic top-level domains (TLDs), even as the business community is assessing the value of using TLDs that emerged from the 2012 expansion.

Join our BC meetings in Cancun to learn how we are trying to shape the next expansion to be productive and protective of business users and registrants.

Another aspect of BC meetings that you will likely observe in Cancun is the diversity and depth of participation by our members.

During 2019 the BC submitted over 25 public comments crafted by 23 different BC members coming from large and small businesses around the world. That indicates the welcoming environment we have created for all business users of the domain name system and ICANN policies.

And it indicates the true value of the BC: to bring the views of business into policy debates at ICANN. This business focus is a necessary part of the ICANN community, in order to balance against the perspectives of registries, registrars, governments, privacy advocates, and the ICANN organization itself.

As noted above, that business perspective is essential to restore some access to registrant data we need to research and respond to consumer confusion and fraud.

The BC is highly attentive to accessing registrant data because our mission to ensure that ICANN "promotes user confidence in online communications and business interactions".

Businesses use Whois data to protect their customers from confusion and fraud that is often enabled by deceptive domain names, and to track malware and DNS attacks targeting business websites. Acknowledging that all of ICANN's contracts and commitments are enforced subject to applicable laws, there is much room for interpretation and discretion of GDPR and other privacy laws when applying them to Whois.

If you share that business perspective, come join our meetings in Cancun and consider becoming part of the ICANN Business Constituency.

Steve DelBianco
Vice Chair for Policy Coordination

BC Outreach
The African Internet Summit 2019, Uganda

by Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Microboss

The outreach provided the BC an opportunity to directly reach over 100 participants at the conference and generated enquiries from 16 persons running different businesses within the Continent of Africa and one based in China. Of this number there are seriously engaging with a view to becoming members of the Business Constituency of ICANN.

Above: The Honourable Frank Kagyigyi Tumwebaze, Minister of Information, Technology and Communications Uganda during the AIS opening ceremony

The Outreach and its Gains

In preparation for outreach in Uganda – venue of the Africa Internet Summit (AIS) 2019 – the BC focal point and representative for the outreach printed 100 copies of the BC Fact Sheet in English for distribution, produced 50 customized BC pens, 50 customized laptop stickers and a customized roll-up banner for advocacy during the event.

The African GSE team were very helpful to our cause and ensured the BC had time during the ICANN Day program to interact with the Community with a view to growing our membership. There were some small business owners in attendance who were getting to meet the BC for the first time and indicated huge interest in engaging further.

The BC was granted space at the ICANN exhibition stand to announce

its presence for over a week with the same spot serving as a venue to interact with members of the community who requested information to join the BC.

The BC representative participated actively at the ICANN Day sessions alongside staff and an ICANN board member. The ICANN Day forum was one of the best attended programs at the conference with community members showing great enthusiasm. The event was on the 22nd and 23rd of June. On each day of the ICANN Day event, there were over 100 persons participating in the sessions. On the 23rd the BC was given an opportunity to address the participants which lead to a couple of follow-up conversations from interested participants seeking to engage actively with ICANN after the event.

The daily social events were another great opportunity for outreach and advocacy. It was an opportunity to enlighten members of the business community on the values of engaging with the business constituency in ICANN and merits for membership. Some alluded to their desire to engage but that since most of the communication was conducted in English it was quite challenging as they were not native English speakers. While another member blamed his inactivity within the BC to the fact that he had to take up a leadership role within the technical community, he was encouraged by the BC representative to nominate an alternate on behalf of his company to the BC so as to keep their participation active and get the full benefit of membership.

It was interesting to note that all the

Above: Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, represented the BC during the ICANN Day Forum

BC Fact Sheets were exhausted by the second day of the week-long event, while the stickers and pens did not go past the first day. There was so much interest in the BC and related activities at this event, such that the BC should consider sponsoring more of its members to future similar events across Africa - as there is deep interest in engaging where the ability to understand issues and ongoing discussions within the constituency in the context of its effects on Africa and the domain name system can be made easy for newcomers.

A contact list of prospective members gathered from the outreach has been passed on to the BC secretariat with the outreach committee copied for follow-up.

The AFRICA INTERNET SUMMIT is a platform for technocrats and business to discuss policies, trends, resources and challenges in growing Internet for sustainable development in Africa and the Indian Ocean Region. The event, which is held annually, consists of keynote speeches, policy discussions, seminars, workshops, tutorials and other forums for sharing ICT knowledge within the African region.

ICANN Multistakeholder Organizational Chart

ICANN Board of Directors

Top row Left to Right: Göran Marby – President & CEO, Maarten Botterman – Chair (NomCom), León Sánchez – Vice Chair (At-Large), Harald Alvestrand (IETF Liaison), Becky Burr (GNSO), Ron da Silva (ASO), Sara Deutsch (NomCom), Chris Disspain (ccNSO), Avri Doria (NomCom), Lito Ibarra (NomCom)

2nd row Left to Right: Manal Ismail (GAC Liaison), Danko Jevtović (NomCom), Merike Käo (SSAC Liaison), Akinori Maemura (ASO), Mandla Msimang (NomCom), Ihab Osman (NomCom), Kaveh Ranjbar (RSSAC Liaison), Nigel Roberts (ccNSO), Matthew Shears (GNSO), Tripti Sinha (NomCom)

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

(see following page)

Keith Drazek (Chair)
Pam Little (V. Chair)
Rafik Dammak (V. Chair)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Katrina Sataki (Chair)
Byron Holland (V. Chair)
Alejandra Reynoso (V. Chair)

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Axel Pawlik (Chair)
Paul Wilson (V. Chair)
Oscar Robles (V. Chair)

Empowered Community Administration

Maureen Hilyard (ALAC)
Axel Pawlik (ASO)
Stephen Deerhake (ccNSO)
Manal Ismail (GAC)
Keith Drazek (GNSO)

Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

Manal Ismail (Chair)
Vice Chairs:
Luisa Paez
Olga Cavalli
Pär Brumark
Chérif Diallo

Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Rod Rasmussen (Chair)
Julie Hammer (V. Chair)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Brad Verd (Co-Chair)
Fred Baker (Co-Chair)

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Maureen Hilyard (Chair)
John Laprise (V. Chair)
Tijani Ben Jemaa (V. Chair)

Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC)

Duane Wessels (Chair)

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

Christian Toche (ETSI)
Howard Benn (ETSI)
Reinhard Scholl (ITU-T)
Jie Zhang (ITU-T)
Wendy Seltzer (W3C)
Daniel Dardailler (W3C)
Warren Kumari (IAB)
Tim Wicinski (IAB)

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Harald Alverstand

Nominating Committee 2019

Damon Ashcraft (Chair)
Jay Sudowski (Chair-Elect)
Zahid Jamil (Associate Chair)

Ombudsman

Herb Waye

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Lars-Johan Liman (CSC Chair)

GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies & Council

The GNSO Council is responsible for managing the policy development process of the GNSO.

Contracted Party House Councilors

Registry Stakeholder Group
Keith Drazek (NA), Chair GNSO Council
Rubens Kuhl (LAC)
Maxim Alzoba (EU)

Registrar Stakeholder Group
Pam Little (AP), V. Chair GNSO Council
Darcy Southwell (NA)
Michele Neylon (EU)

Nominating Committee Appointees (NCAs)
Erica Mann NCA (EU)
Carlton Samuels NCA (LAC)
Tom Dale NCA (AP)

Liaison and Observer
Maarten Simon ccNSO (EU)
Cheryl Langdon-Orr ALAC, (AP)

Non-Contracted Party House Councilors

Commercial Stakeholder Group
Commercial and Business Users
Scott McCormick (NA)
Marie Pattullo (EU)

Intellectual Property
Flip Petillion (EU)
John McElwaine (NA)

Internet Service and Connection Providers
Osvaldo Novoa (LAC)
Philippe Fouquart (EU)

NonCommercial Stakeholder Group
Rafik Dammak (AAPAC), V. Chair
Elsa Saade (NA)
Tatiana Tropina (EU)
Martin Silva Valent (LAC)
Farell Folly (EU)
Farzaneh Badii (NA)

Contracted Party House

Registry Stakeholders Group
Donna Austin (Chair)
Beth Bacon (V. Chair)
Samantha Demetriou (V. Chair)
Jonathan Robison (Treasurer)
Sue Schuler (Secretariat)

Registrar Stakeholders Group
Graeme Bunton (Chair)
Tobias Sattler (V. Chair)
Owen Smigelski (V. Chair)
Benny Samuelsen (Treasurer)
Kristian Ørmen (Secretary)
Zoe Bonython (Secretariat)

Intellectual Property Constituency
Heather Forrest (President)
Dean Marks (V. President)
Damon Ashcraft (Treasurer)
Susan Payne (Secretary)
Brian Scarpelli (Participation Coordinator)

Non-Contracted Party House

Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Business Constituency
Claudia Selli (Chair)
Steve DelBianco (V. Chair Policy Coordination)
Jimson Olufuye (V. Chair Finance & Operations)
Barbara Wanner (CSG Representative)

Internet Service Providers & Connectivity Providers Constituency
Wolf-Ulrich Knoben (Chair)
Jenn Taylor-Hodges (V. Chair)
Christian Dawson (Excomm)

Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group*

Non-Commercial Users Constituency
Bruna Santos (Chair)
Ines Hfaiedh (AF)
Antonella Perini (AAPAC)
Louise Marie Hurel (EU)
David Cake (LAC)
Michael Karanicolas (NA)

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency
Joan Kerr (Chair)
Raoul Plommer (V. Chair)
David Cake (Policy Committee Chair)
Olumuyiwa Ogundele (Communications Committee Chair)
Juan Manuel Rojas (Membership Committee Chair)
Oreoluwa Somolu (Secretariat)

* The groups' officers are omitted here

The Benefits of BC Membership

The Business Constituency (BC) is the voice of commercial Internet users within ICANN – the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Business users rely on a stable and secure Internet and e-commerce experience, one that serves their users and customers on a global basis. Through your participation in ICANN, and in the Business Constituency, your company will make a difference on behalf of business.

BC members contribute as:

- participants on the BC e-mail list to learn about and debate issues
- participants on telephone conferences to reach consensus on key issues
- participants at physical meetings coincident with ICANN global meetings
- issue managers on specific topics
- bridges for information flow between other GNSO constituencies

The mission of the BC

The Constituency fully represents the views of the Internet business user community.

ICANN policy positions are consistent with the development of business via an Internet that is stable, secure and reliable while promoting consumer confidence.

ICANN policy positions derive from broad stakeholder participation in a common forum for suppliers and users.

BC Executive Committee

Chair
Claudia Selli

Vice Chair Policy Coordination
Steve Del Bianco

Vice Chair Finance & Operations
Jimson Olufuye

CSG Representative
Barbara Wanner

GNSO Councilor
Marie Pattullo

GNSO Councilor
Scott McCormick

Nominating Committee (NOMCOM members)

Large Business Seat
Paul Mitchell

Small Business Seat
Lawrence Olawale-Roberts

BC Credentials Committee:
Arinola Akinyemi (Chair), Andrew Mack, Adetola Sogbesan, John Berard, Lawrence Olawale-Roberts

BC Finance Sub Committee:
Jimson Olufuye (Chair), Chris Chaplow, Arinola Akinyemi, Tim Smith

Outreach Committee Members:
Andrew Mack, Gabriela Szlak, Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Omar Mansoor Ansari, Adetola Sogbesan, Arinola Akinyemi

Join the conversation on Twitter: @BizConstituency

BC Secretariat:
Chantelle Doerksen

If you would like to become a member of the BC, please contact the BC Secretariat at:

info-bc@icann.org

or simply visit our website and register online:

www.bizconst.org