



# BASIS

Business Action to Support the Information Society

## ICC BASIS response to NTIA announcement regarding the transitioning of IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community

On Friday, 14 March 2014, the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community. The current Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions contract with NTIA expires on 30 September 2015, but at present, there is not a set timeline for the proposed NTIA transition.

The NTIA announcement indicates that the first step in this process will be for the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene the global stakeholder community to develop a proposal for the transition. NTIA stated that it will not accept any proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an inter-governmental organization solution, and that any transition proposal must not only have the broad support of the multistakeholder community, but also satisfy four critical requirements for any proposed solution:

- Support and enhance the multistakeholder model of Internet governance
- Maintain the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet domain name system
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services
- And maintain the openness of the Internet

The International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) takes note of the NTIA announcement and its important message of globalization for the Internet Governance ecosystem. ICC BASIS welcomes the opportunity to be an active participant in these discussions. Any transition of the IANA contract and functions must be considered and conducted in a deliberate and cautious manner, to ensure that no incremental risk or instability is introduced into IANA's functions, including to the root zone management process, and must recognize and respect other existing agreements related to the IANA functions. The global stakeholder community would need to be fully engaged, both in developing and implementing milestones and timelines for the "globalization" of these critical functions. It is important to ensure that any changes would contribute to maintaining or enhancing the security, stability, resiliency, and interoperability of the global Internet. A critical goal in all facets of Internet governance is to ensure consumer



# BASIS

Business Action to Support the Information Society

and user trust in the Internet as a means of speech, creativity, innovation and legitimate commerce in a secure environment that respects user privacy. Business is committed to its role in the multistakeholder process, and in the context of the NTIA statement, to safeguard these objectives.

While business recognizes the importance of this announcement and the discussion process that will ensue, we also note the importance of other processes that business is vitally engaged in the broader Internet Governance mechanisms, such as the WSIS evaluation, the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

ICANN and the IANA functions are part of a larger Internet Governance ecosystem, and business notes the importance of credible and appropriate multistakeholder engagement in all discussions about governance of the Internet.

\*\*\* \*\*



## **Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS)**

ICC created BASIS to raise awareness among the public, governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and technical community of what business requires to continue contributing to the development of the Information Society. It serves as the voice of business in the global dialogue on the Information Society, following two World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005).

To promote the environment in which business around the world will continue to thrive as an innovator of information and communication technologies, BASIS participates in UN-linked forums set up to continue the dialogue, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS follow up and implementation processes, particularly through the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

To help shape the agenda and participate in these global discussions, BASIS relies on the policies developed in ICC's Commission on the Digital Economy as the foundation for its efforts.

BASIS builds on the activities and network of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), which ICC formed to coordinate participation by world business in the processes leading up to, and at WSIS.

BASIS members include business organizations such as the Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA), the Computer Society of India, and the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) as well as several ICC national committees and companies from across sectors and geographies.

BASIS is an initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), an organization composed of hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations from over 120 countries.

\*\*\* \*\*