Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum

Speech by Fadi Chehadé
President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
— As prepared for delivery —
14 May 2013

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the ITU; Minister Doris Leuthard; your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegations; Distinguished Guests and Colleagues; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. I am deeply honored to be here today at this eminent, high-level international event, and I would like to first start by congratulating Minister Ivanovski on his role as chair of the WTPF. On behalf of ICANN, and the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Steve Crocker, I would also like to thank our friend, Dr Hamadoun Touré, for this gracious speaking invitation, which builds on the new era of structured dialogue between us.

It started on a small but important scale in Baku where we both spoke; but has grown through WCIT and today to benefit us all; am so pleased we have brought our worlds together; thanks for welcoming us;

Personal courage; grace and reciprocity is what we all need to show in working together;

We were very pleased that the preparatory process for the WTPF was open to all stakeholders. I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for this and to the Group of Experts fpr the six resulting opinion papers reflecting the issues and challenges we face. I trust this collaborative approach will continue during the next few days.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

At the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), global leaders and heads of state adopted the general principles of a multistakeholder Internet governance model.

This multistakeholder approach has proven capable in adapting to the growth and diverse demands inherent in the adoption of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), which has enabled Internet users to access domain names in their own language. The model has also been effective throughout the implementation of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) to improve Internet security and stability, and as is also the case with Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) deployment. The New gTLD Program – which I am sure you have all heard about - is also an example of a bottom-up process hopefully fostering greater Internet growth and transparency, along with enhanced law enforcement mechanisms,

Therefore, we would hope any further reforms from this WSIS Review process should originate from a community led Multistakeholder dialogue,.

In the last few months, there has been much discussion about the role of governments relative to the Internet. In ICANN, governments are key stakeholders and are vital to shaping our global and cross-border multi-stakeholder policy process. Effective government participation is critical to the credibility of our multistakeholder approach.

ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) is comprised of 124 government representatives (members), as well as 28 observer organizations. Of these, approximately 70 member states represent developing countries. The GAC provides

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necessary advice and input to our board in areas related to ICANN's mission, such as policy development for Internet naming and addressing, and recently in Beijing comprehensive advice on the names applied for in the gTLD process

Of course ICANN is only one part of the global Internet governance ecosystem, and as such, we are fortunate to work alongside dedicated and skilled colleagues from the Internet Society (ISOC), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) - AFRINIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, and RIPE NCC - along with many other organizations that are a vital and dynamic part of this remarkable global resource.

ICANN is also very supportive of the IGF as the right platform for the discussion of evolving Internet governance issues at the global, regional and national levels. In all of our regional engagement activities, we work closely with the regional IGFs in the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin and North America. Recently we partnered with others in the Regional IGF events in Dubai and Addis Ababa; and thank you to the ITU for helping us the latter.

We remain heavily engaged in the WSIS follow-up process with the leadership of UNESCO and the ITU, as well as with other organizations. We welcome the ongoing evolution of Enhanced Cooperation, leading to the CSTD Working group on Enhanced Cooperation, which ICANN is happy to be part of.

Working together we are stronger, no one country or organisation runs the Internet; our Unity does.

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ICANN is changing; my mission is to enhance the globalization of ICANN; it should not be about the world coming to INANN but us coming to world; we will lose if we remain a US fortress; we must be an Oasis;

I was brought into ICANN to accelerate real change; that is my commitment;

As well as names and numbers there are many challenges that we all face in addressing Internet governance issues, We are all confronted with matters of Internet security, privacy, access, affordability, multilingualism, and the list of issues increases, on a global scale.

But we should also give thanks to those who gave us the Internet; such as Bob Khan and Steve Crocker (my Chairman) who are with us today and Vint Cerf;

As the next billion Internet users are projected to come from emerging economies, not Europe or the US, finding ways to integrate them into the world Internet economy is critical. By 2015, users accessing the Internet in Chinese will surpass those who use it in English.

WTPF is another step forward in our common journey to govern this global, shared and valuable resource. Our responsibility is to work together and to develop a single stable, secure and affordable Internet that serves the entire world and the global public interest. We are committed to that, and I know you are as well.

Thank you

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