

Workshop on Member States' experiences with ccTLD

Geneva, 3-4 March 2003

DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP

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Workshop on 3-4 March 2003

Commission on E-Business, IT and Telecoms, Task Force on the Internet

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) appreciates the opportunity to convey its views on ICANN and Country Code Top Level Domain Name Administrators (ccTLDs) in anticipation of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Workshop on Member States' Experiences with ccTLDs to be held in Geneva, 3 - 4 March 2003. At the outset, we would like to note the critical importance of the technical co-ordination of the Internet to all of our members given that an increasing amount of their business is conducted over it. In that regard, the smooth and stable functioning of the domain name system, including ccTLDs, especially with the increasing registrations within ccTLDs, is essential to ensure the Internet continues to be a viable medium for commerce. ICC's long-held positions vis-à-vis the technical coordination of the Internet and domain name administration remain relevant.

ICC has been a supporter of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) since ICANN's inception. ICC recognized early on that the Internet would be the driving force behind global electronic commerce, and ICANN's stability and security are key to the ability of the Internet to provide a platform for business. Consequently, ICC has long held that business should have a significant role in the formation of policy for technical management of the domain name system. Technical coordination of the Internet and policy matters directly related to it, for example allocating IP addresses, managing the domain name system, and other ICANN functions, are best driven by the private sector. ICANN, with its balanced representation, is the appropriate organization to fulfill these functions. As such, ICC places high importance on ICANN concluding mutually beneficial relationships with key operators, including ccTLDs, regional Internet registries, and root-server operators, given the importance of their practices and policies to ICC members.

An effectively functioning and accountable ICANN is the best means of ensuring private sector leadership. Governments and inter-governmental organizations should continue to support ICANN through the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). ICC recognizes and appreciates the ITU's efforts, through its participation in the GAC, to bolster the existing institution of ICANN. In this

Contact:	Angelika Pohlenz	Tel:	+49 221 257 5571
	ICC Deutschland	Fax:	+49 221 257 5593
		Email	apz@icc-deutschland.de

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context, ICC urges the participants of the workshop to continue to work towards improving the stability and effectiveness of ICANN in the future.
