

DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP

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Abstract

Any organization, whether new or well established, benefits from periodic 'self assessments' of what and how it can improve. In 2002, ICANN completed a community-based self-evaluation, that resulted in a series of significant reforms. This paper focuses on the status and effect of these reforms with respect to ccTLDs and governments.

Under the reformed structure, there will be a Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) directed to matters of global policy and other issues affecting ccTLDs. Work towards the structure of this supporting organization is nearing completion, and will be finalized by the next ICANN Board meeting in late March 2003.

ICANN is a public/private partnership in which governments play a critical role. Governments and distinct economies participate in ICANN through the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). Governments representing over 90 percent of the world's Internet users participate actively in the GAC; membership is open to all national governments and distinct economies; and, on invitation of the GAC through its Chair, other governmental and international treaty organizations.

The GAC played an important role in the ICANN reform discussion, advising on structures and processes to strengthen governmental participation in ICANN and to integrate governmental advice more firmly into the ICANN decision process where matters of public policy are involved. The GAC plays a key part in issues affecting ccTLDs and their relationships with their governments.

Contact:	Stuart Lynn President and CEO ICANN	Tel: +1 310 823 9658 Fax: +1 310 823 8649 Email lynn@icann.org
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