

Public Consultation Processes

This document describes the consultation process that will be used to develop the mechanism for stewardship transition with respect to the IANA Functions and related root zone management. This process borrows from and builds on the consultation process utilized to support ICANN's community reviews.

Background

ICANN, in its role as administrator of the IANA Functions, is responsible for coordinating unique Internet identifiers (names, IP numbers and protocol parameters) pursuant to a contract with the United States Department of Commerce. ICANN has performed these functions since 1998. The U.S. government has long envisaged transitioning its stewardship role to the multistakeholder community to instill confidence in the integrity of the IANA Functions. As ICANN has matured as an organization and in its administration of the IANA Functions and associated root zone management, the U.S. government is now prepared to transition its stewardship role. In this regard, ICANN, both as the IANA Functions contractor and as the global coordinator of the Domain Name System (DNS), is uniquely positioned to convene a multistakeholder process to develop a plan to transition the U.S. government stewardship role.

Consultation Process

- ICANN will initiate the launch of the multistakeholder-designed process for the community at the ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore (21-27 March 2014) to address how the mechanisms for the transition should occur.
- Input from the community discussions will be compiled into materials for posting subsequent to the ICANN 49 Meeting for public comments.
- The process will be open, global, and transparent, and will ensure:
 - *Full engagement* with all stakeholders and interested or affected parties, including discussions at respective meetings.
 - *Global reach*, including translation of relevant materials.

Timeline

The initial community consultation process is proposed to include the following:

- **17 March 2014:** Posting of ICANN announcement outlining the principles of engaging with the community, and the objectives of the public consultation in Singapore.
- **21-27 March 2014:** ICANN 49 (Singapore) – public dialogue and consultation with the community on how the mechanisms for the transition should occur.
- **7 April 2014:** Posting of output of Singapore discussion and proposed timeline and specific next steps.
- **22-26 June 2014:** ICANN 50 (London) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meeting.
- **12-16 October 2014:** ICANN 51 (Los Angeles) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meetings.
- **March 2015:** ICANN 52 (date/location TBD) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meetings.
- **June 2015:** ICANN 53 (date/location TBD) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meetings.
- **30 September 2015:** IANA contract expires