



Welcome to **ICANN70!**

By **Mason Cole**

It's my pleasure to welcome you to **ICANN70**, our community's first meeting in 2021 and the fourth held virtually since the start of the global pandemic.

While we all look forward to a return to face-to-face meetings at some point in the future, the Business Constituency (BC) is grateful to ICANN organizers for making the arrangements necessary for the opportunity to collaborate on the many important issues facing our community.

This is my first newsletter as Chair, the

office I assumed at the beginning of the year. As the BC kicked off 2021, our first order of business was to recognize and thank our departing officers for their outstanding work. We pay tribute again to Claudia Selli (Chair), Dr. Jimson Olufuye (Vice Chair, Finance and Operations), Barbara Wanner (CSG Representative) and Scott McCormick (GNSO Councilor). These four served the BC admirably during their respective tenures and earned well-deserved thanks from colleagues. I again add my own thanks and congratulations to them for their exceptional service.

Concurrently, we welcome our new

officers. Lawrence Olawale-Roberts has capably assumed the role of Vice Chair, Finance and Operations; Waudo Siganga is our new CSG Representative; and Mark Datysgeld took his seat on the GNSO Council last October. As Chair, I look forward to collaborating with these talented leaders as we conduct the business of the BC.

This newsletter is an important outreach tool of the BC. I encourage you to give it a close read, and to review past editions at <https://www.bizconst.org/newsletter>. We use this newsletter as a conduit to BC members and the community to

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discuss and invite collaboration on issues of importance.

This is a busy time for the BC, as it is for all within the ICANN sphere, and there is much work to do.

The spectre of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) looms over the community and has resulted in significant changes to the legacy WHOIS domain name registration directory.

ICANN has unfinished business to conclude, including finishing privacy/proxy accreditation work.

Domain name system (DNS) abuse remains a growing threat to internet stability and security (a subject addressed later in this newsletter).

These are but a few of the priorities on which the BC is focusing in 2021. We will very much need the help of our BC members and cooperation with the broader community to make progress on these and other important issues.

This is my 54th ICANN meeting. I've been privileged to participate in this unique multistakeholder model for more than 20 years now (which, naturally, will cause some to wonder about me). Whether this is your first ICANN meeting or one of many, I encourage you to involve yourself in the work of the BC and contribute to our mission to serve the interests of the global business community.

Your voice is important, and the BC looks forward to your valuable input.

Stay safe and healthy, and good wishes to you as we begin ICANN70.



DNS Abuse & ICANN: Opportunities to Collaborate and Act

Over the past year and a half, the ICANN community has talked extensively about abuse in the domain name system (DNS). While there is disagreement about its severity and reach, all seem to agree it's a matter that needs continual attention as a component of internet security and stability.

DNS abuse is a persistent problem and it deserves not only attention, but action. The Business Constituency (BC) believes ICANN is in a unique position to act decisively against such abuse, and should.

Recent trend lines are fairly clear when it comes to the problem of abuse.

Some key learnings:

- DNS abuse constantly persists at some level, but is amplified during times of crisis, as abusers tend to want to exploit associated vulnerabilities. This was very true during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic; it also has proven true during natural disasters, periods of civil unrest, and other humanitarian crises.
- Criminal opportunists, to no one's surprise, have exploited public fear and leveraged the DNS to lure victims. WIPO documents a surge in cybersquatting case filings and, according to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, "rogue pharmacy" scams — which push unproven

COVID-19 treatments — have been rampant at domain names sponsored by notoriously lax registrars. Google reported a dramatic surge in COVID-19 related abuse, citing 18 million daily malware and phishing emails related to COVID-19 during one week in April 2020.

Contracted parties (registries and registrars) have taken an admirable step by creating and signing on to a "DNS Abuse Framework" that is meant to proactively address abuse at the operational level. This of course should be applauded. However — and this of course is a long-touted argument — the registries and registrars housing the bad guys are not signing on to frameworks, nor are they attending ICANN meetings. ICANN must take enforcement action against these players if the problem is to be meaningfully handled.

This is not a new message to ICANN. Tracking backward for the past six years, the communications have come from multiple corners of the community that abuse needs attention:

Continued: **DNS Abuse & ICANN:** Opportunities to Collaborate and Act

Date	Message
January 2016 - SSAC (SAC77)	ICANN should collect and disseminate information about known categories of how domain registrations are used for abusive and fraudulent purposes.
November 2016 - GAC (Hyderabad Communique)	GAC questions Board on ICANN's plans for abuse mitigation.
June 2018 - SSAC (SAC101)	Security practitioners' and law enforcement's ability to mitigate cybercrime and DNS abuse has been negatively affected.
September 2018 – CCTRT Final Report	ICANN Org should work with registries and registrars to add provisions to contracts aimed at preventing DNS abuse.
October 2018 - GAC (Barcelona Communique)	Not having reasonable access to WHOIS data is prolonging the exposure of victims to crime and abuse.
October 2018 – SSAC (SAC 103)	SSAC recommends requirements for new gTLDs include robust abuse mitigation measures.
December 2018 - SSAC (SAC 104)	The current lack of definition of reasonable access impacts the ability of security actors to fight abuse and cybercrime.
September 2019 - GAC (Statement on DNS Abuse)	Protecting the public from security threats and DNS Abuse is an important public policy issue.
November 2019 - GAC (Montreal Communique)	The Board shouldn't proceed with a new round of gTLDs until after implementation of recommendations on DNS abuse mitigation.
December 2019 - ALAC	DNS Abuse is a key factor eroding confidence in a single, trusted, interoperable Internet.
March 2020 - SSAC (SAC 110)	It's clear the domain name system is under continual pressure from various forms of abusive and fraudulent behaviours, and the position is not improving.
March 2020 - GAC (ICANN67 Communique)	GAC reiterated previous advice calling for implementation of community recommendations in light of previous advice on abuse mitigation.
June 2020 - GAC (ICANN68 Communique)	Governments, ICANN, and the Community must take a multi-pronged approach to combating DNS abuse.
October 2020 - GAC (ICANN69 Communique)	From the GAC's perspective, the momentum has been increasingly building for concrete action as the Community has progressively engaged in constructive dialogue to advance work on a shared goal, the mitigation of DNS abuse.

Unfortunately, neither ICANN Org nor the community has taken constructive action.

If nothing changes, the pattern will continue, DNS abuse will persist as it has, and policy groups will continue to punt on new DNS abuse requirements, despite objections. ICANN Org must

break out of its rut and secure real tools for mitigating abuse, which includes a robust WHOIS system to identify and proactively respond to DNS abuse.

While the BC will continue to speak to the issue and seek solutions, the ball is now squarely in the ICANN Board's court to demand that ICANN Org show

leadership and do what it is supposed to do as an accrediting body meant to oversee the DNS.

There's still an opportunity to remedy things for the better — it requires leadership, a firm direction, and community collaboration, but it's not too late to act.

Report on BC Outreach Session at AfICTA Summit, November 25, 2020

By Waudo Siganga



The Business Constituency (BC) of ICANN successfully conducted an outreach to commercial and business users of the Internet at the annual Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA) Summit. The event was held virtually from the 24 to 25 November 2020.

The outreach session channelled to ICT business owners in attendance was moderated by **Mr Tola Sogbesan** (CEO, Axiom Consulting) and BC SME representative to the NOMCOM; alongside himself were BC Member panellists: **Mr Lawrence Olawale-Roberts** (Vice Chair Finance & Operations, ICANN-BC); **Dr Jimson Olufuye**, (former VC Finance & Operations, ICANN-BC); **Dr Waudo Siganga** (ICANN-BC liaison to Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) & **Ms Arinola Akinyemi** (CEO Digisphere Investments Ltd). There was also an intervention from **Ms Claudia Selli** (Outgone Chairman ICANN-BC). In her Keynote Address, Claudia Selli recognized AfICTA's efforts at policy engagements through the ICANN-BC towards a safe, secure and resilient Internet. She estimated that by the year 2022 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, video consumption is estimated to witness an increase of 75%. For better delivery to consumers, there is a need for policy frameworks that aid investment and innovation, and a growing demand for secure and stable networks. She later highlighted that, to combat the surge in DNS abuse and cyberattacks, the ICANN-BC is pushing strongly for orderly access to the WHOIS data in compliance with the EU-GDPR and as a means of mitigating cyberattacks.

Mr Tola highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has been key to the

rampant adoption of the digitalization of business operations across the globe. This digitalization process hinges solely on the stability of the Internet which is the cornerstone for the digital transformation of any society. The Business Constituency of the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN-BC) becomes a very important organization for entities that rely on the Internet for their business survival.

“ the COVID-19 pandemic has been key to the rampant adoption of the digitalization of business operations across the globe. ”

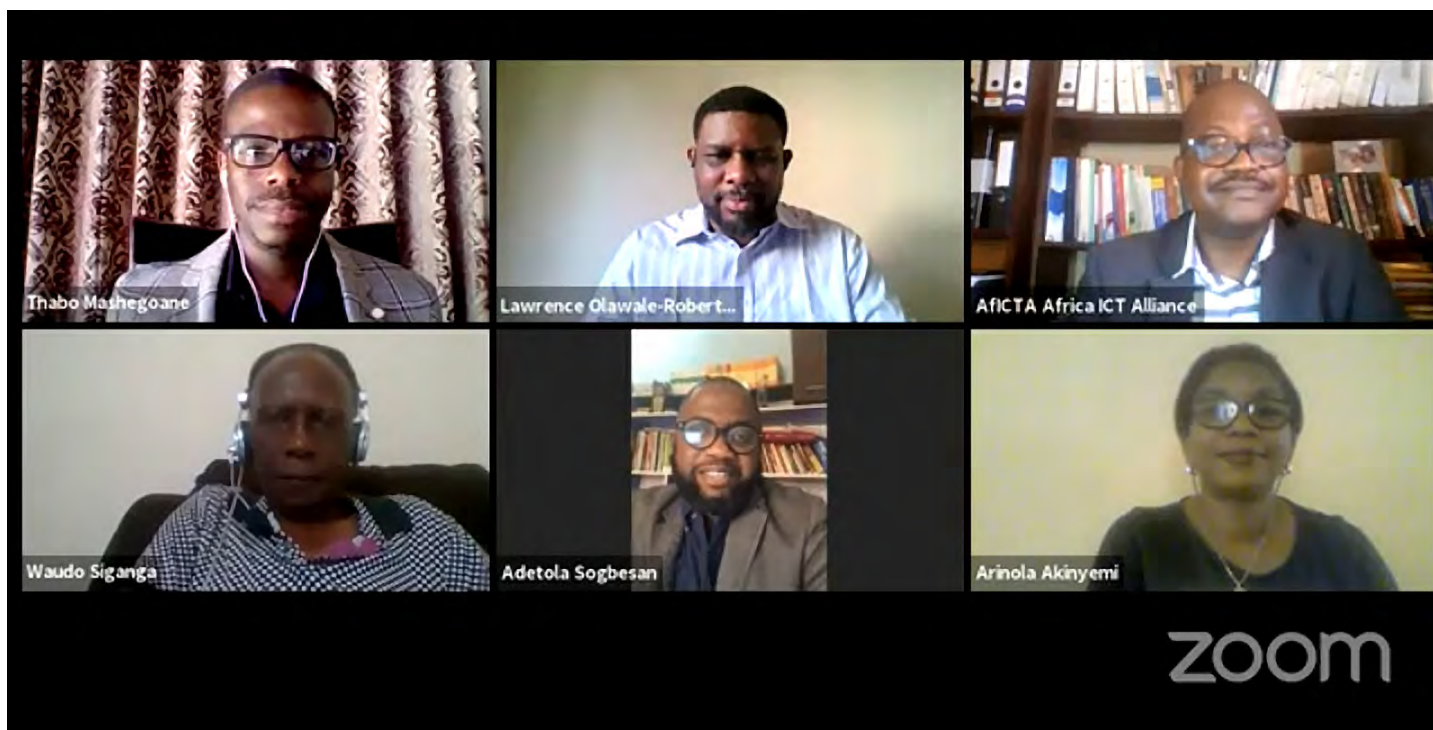
Mr Tola Sogbesan

The diversified nature of the ICANN-BC which consists of companies around the world makes it more inclined to the needs of the business sector in the Internet space. It behoves businesses on the Internet to get involved with the BC to ensure they participate in the formulations of policies that seek to make the Internet safe, stable and resilient to foster business growth.

“By and large, ICANN-BC is a melting point for the commercial and business users of the Internet to learn what is happening in the broader Internet

“ By the year 2022 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, video consumption is estimated to witness an increase of 75%. For better delivery to consumers, there is a need for policy frameworks that aid investment and innovation, and a growing demand for secure and stable networks. ”

Claudia Selli gave the Keynote address

Continued: Report on BC Outreach Session at AfICTA Summit

governance space and a platform for them to interact and bring their views from the developing regions and the rest of the world to infuse into policies being formulated.”

The BC is active in making these policies that ensure the Internet is stable and secure for businesses and this should not be taken for granted. The BC relentlessly works in the interest of businesses in the Internet space. Some of these efforts include: creating opportunities for businesses to get domains competitively, directing policies that make the Internet more transparent, stable and resilient.

Micro and Medium-sized business owners should see the Internet as a platform to grow their businesses in this digital era and should be interested in the policy frameworks that make that happen. Currently, there is an ongoing discussion on universal acceptance of internationalized domain names

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which is very important for businesses in Africa. Getting involved with the BC enables you to bring your input on these policy discussions so it can be taken into consideration.

The AfICTA Summit with the theme

“**Addressing ICT Business Challenges in the COVID-19 & Post Pandemic World**” attracted participants from AfICTA member nations as well as from other countries from within and outside the continent. **Engr Hossam Elgamal**, former Chairman AfICTA & Chief Host was in attendance. **Engr Hany Mahmoud** (Adviser to Egyptian Prime Minister Digital Transformation) delivered a keynote address on Digital Transformation in Africa: Other speakers include **Prof. Muhammad Bello Abubakar** (CEO Galaxy Backbone), **Ms Melissa Sassi** (Global Head IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator) amongst many others.

Newsletters, banners and logos were displayed and outreach videos were played intermittently. A hands-on session was carried out to illustrate how members could join the BC. The event organizers appreciated the BC for the unwavering support over the years.

ICANN Multistakeholder Organizational Chart



ICANN Board of Directors

Top row Left to Right: Göran Marby – President & CEO, Maarten Botterman – Chair (NomCom), León Sánchez – Vice Chair (At-Large), Harald Alvestrand (IETF Liaison), Becky Burr (GNSO), Ron da Silva (ASO), Sara Deutsch (NomCom), Avri Doria (NomCom), Lito Ibarra (NomCom), Manal Ismail (GAC Liaison)

2nd row Left to Right: Danko Jevtovic (NomCom), Merike Käo (SSAC Liaison), Akinori Maemura (ASO), Mandla Msimang (NomCom), Ihab Osman (NomCom), Patricio Poblete (ccNSO), Kaveh Ranjbar (RSSAC Liaison), Nigel Roberts (ccNSO), Matthew Shears (GNSO), Tripti Sinha (NomCom)

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

(see following page)

Philippe Fouquart (Chair)
Pam Little (V. Chair)
Tatiana Tropina (V. Chair)

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Katrina Sasaki (Chair)
Pablo Rodriguez (V. Chair)
Alejandra Reynoso (V. Chair)

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

Hans Petter Holen (Chair)
Oscar Robles (V. Chair)

Empowered Community Administration

Maureen Hilyard (ALAC)
Oscar Robles (ASO)
Stephen Deerhake (ccNSO)
Manal Ismail (GAC)
Philippe Fouquart (GNSO)

Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

Manal Ismail (Chair)
Vice Chairs:
Guiguemde Ragnimpinda Jacques Rodrigue, Jorge Cancio, Luisa Paez, Tepua Hunter

Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Rod Rasmussen (Chair)
Julie Hammer (V. Chair)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Fred Baker (Chair)
Brad Verd (V. Chair)

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Maureen Hilyard (Chair)
Joanna Kulesza (V. Chair)
Jonathan Zuck (V. Chair)

Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC)

Duane Wessels (Chair)

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

Christian Toche (ETSI)
Howard Benn (ETSI)
Reinhard Scholl (ITU-T)
Jie Zhang (ITU-T)
Wendy Seltzer (W3C)
Shadi Abou-Zahara (W3C)
Warren Kumari (IAB)
Tim Wicinski (IAB)

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Harald Alverstand

Nominating Committee 2021

Ole Jacobsen (Chair)
Tracy Hackshaw (Chair Elect)
Jay Sudowski (Associate Chair)

Ombudsman

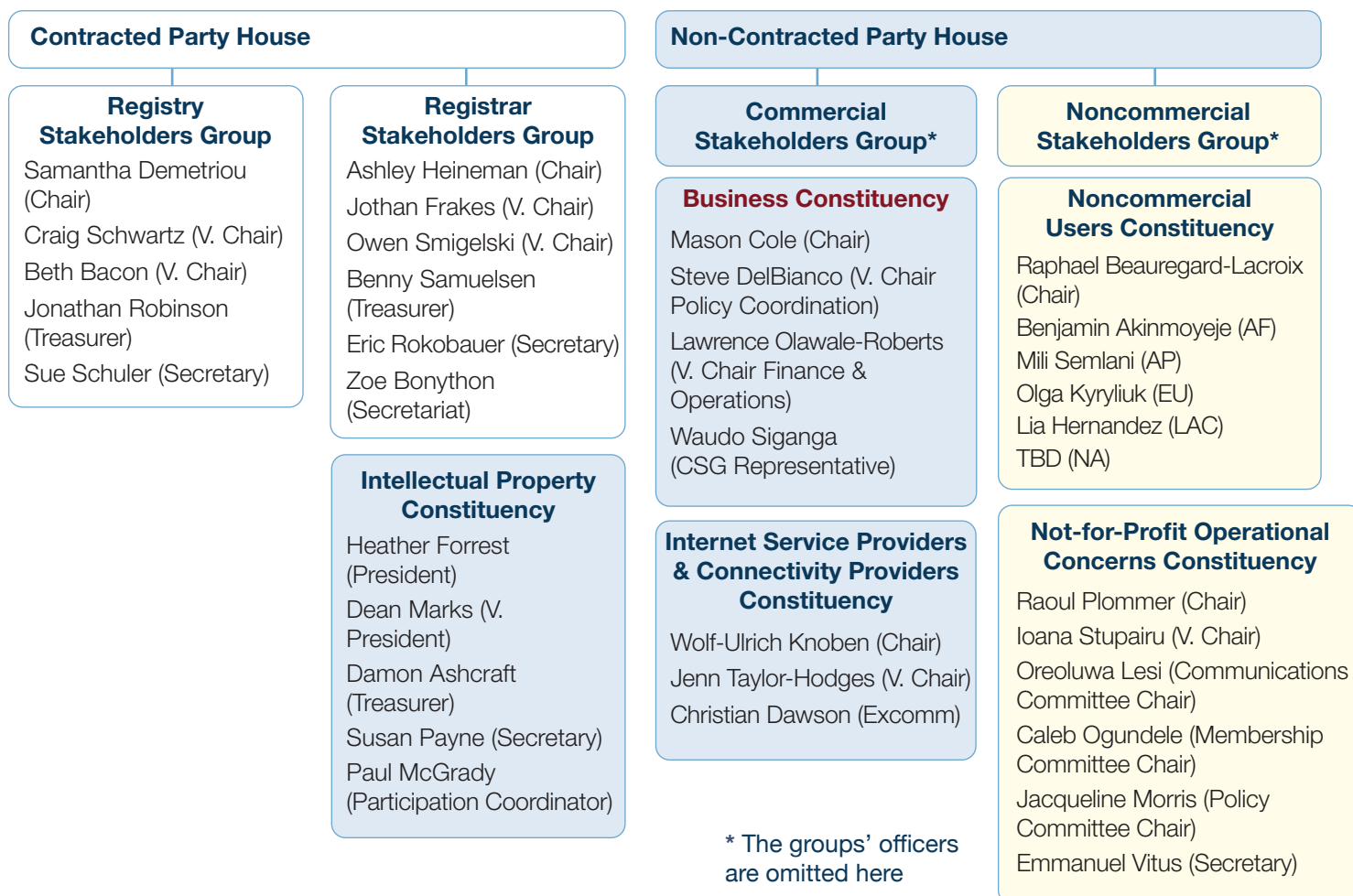
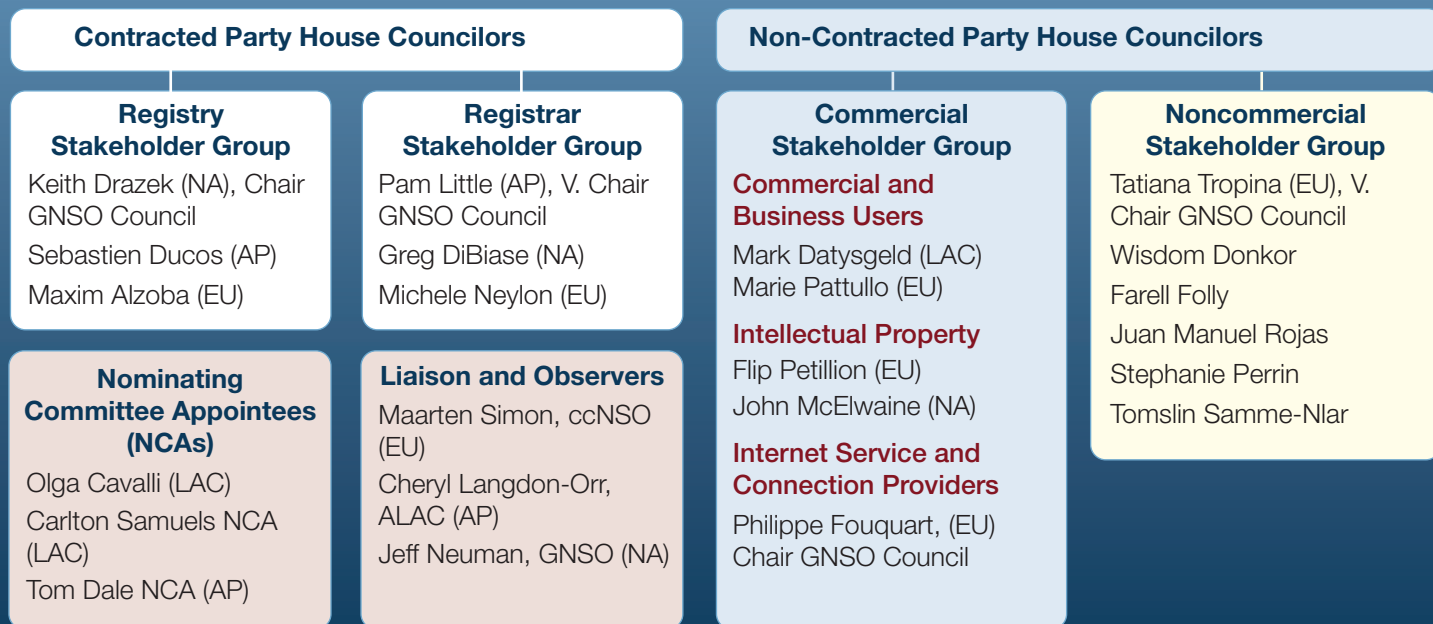
Herb Wayne

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Lars-Johan Liman (CSC Chair)

GNSO Stakeholder Groups, Constituencies & Council

The GNSO Council is responsible for managing the policy development process of the GNSO.



Marilyn Cade: A Tribute



By Waudo Siganga

I met Marilyn at numerous ICANN meetings across the globe, from Buenos Aires to Beijing.

In my region Africa not only was she a constant participant at ICANN events but also in other Internet Governance related activities. She was a firm believer in inclusivity, diversity and the multi-stakeholder model. Within the multi-stakeholder model she was fervent about the place of business and building bridges to other stakeholders, especially to Governments. She relished the opportunity to make introductions at any opportunity, be it huddles at hotel lobbies, cocktail receptions or over dinner. During meetings she

always sought the chance to speak; she wanted to add value by giving her perspectives and insights.

Perhaps the event I remember most vividly about Marilyn was the ICANN meeting held in Nairobi in September 2011. Attendance at the meeting was affected by security-related apprehension. Some corporates were wary sending their staff to attend. But Marilyn was there anyway. In fact she came early to attend to the pre-meeting events. Since I was the local BC contact she suggested that we organize a reception for BC members and the local business community. She was really into networking.

Organizing such a reception faced dual challengers. Firstly the local business community were having a problem grasping the concept of issues related to the Internet, or whether such issues were strong enough to allocate the time and other resources to attend. Secondly, the only time available for a reception was a Sunday evening. In Nairobi it is relatively easier to congregate corporates to an evening event on a working day because they come in from offices. But on a Sunday it's hard because everyone is home. Anyway we proceeded with the arrangements and managed to get a quorum. The event was set for 19th

Continued: Marilyn Cade: A Tribute

Marilyn joins other guests at the CSR event at Namirama Girls School September 2011

September and from the ICANN side Marilyn managed to pull the attendance of not just the BC members, but almost all the who's who of ICANN community members and ICANN Board. The event was a big success due to her organizing skills. That BC evening event could easily have earned the dub "ICANN informal meeting in Nairobi". Some days later, at the conclusion of the ICANN event on Friday the 23rd Marilyn agreed to help out with a CSR event where the business community was to handover some computing equipment to a girls' school in a remote part of the country. At the last minute the airline called to say that they had cancelled the flight because the airfield at the destination was unserviceable. We relocated the flight to another town about 50 miles away but this meant she had to wake up in the middle of the night and be at the airport at 5am for the one hour flight. She did not mind. I sent a car to pick her from Kisumu airport for the one hour drive to another

town, Kakamega where we had a quick breakfast. After that it was a ride on a rough (dirt) road for another hour. Marilyn remarked that in her youth in the 50s in rural Missouri (which she informed was pronounced *Missoura*) she used roads like that. At one moment she asked quizzically about some grass thatched dwellings along the road, and was surprised when I told her those were peoples' dwellings. About midday we arrived at the School to be met by the Principal and a retinue of local leaders. There was a buzz because word had circulated that a visitor was coming from abroad. We toured the school. The technology in the office was really old, including a typewriter that seemed to have survived from the 1930s! Where they were getting supplies for it is anybody's guess.

Then the schoolgirls were assembled in a hall and we did the presentation ceremony. Marilyn made a motivational talk to the girls in which she extolled

on them to always aim high and also speak whatever was on their mind. She reminded them that the world had opened wide because of technology and as much as possible they should inculcate technology in their studies and their lives. Although a sumptuous lunch was offered, Marilyn only picked at some vegetables. She was a keen vegetarian. At the end of the proceedings a big fat ram was presented to Marilyn as a sign of gratefulness for her sharing a day in her life with the villagers. Of course she could not take it with her. An old man stepped forward and offered to look after it until arrangements could be done for its transmission to America. Later, I escorted her to the airport. That was just one day in the life of Marilyn Cade.

May her memory live on, and those she mentored and the many brought on board the Internet Governance train reflect her aspirations into the future.



The Benefits of BC Membership

The Business Constituency (BC) is the voice of commercial Internet users within ICANN – the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Business users rely on a stable and secure Internet and e-commerce experience, one that serves their users and customers on a global basis. Through your participation in ICANN, and in the Business Constituency, your company will make a difference on behalf of business.

BC members contribute as:

- participants on the BC e-mail list to learn about and debate issues
- participants on telephone conferences to reach consensus on key issues
- participants at physical meetings coincident with ICANN global meetings
- issue managers on specific topics
- bridges for information flow between other GNSO constituencies

The mission of the BC

The Constituency fully represents the views of the Internet business user community.

ICANN policy positions are consistent with the development of business via an Internet that is stable, secure and reliable while promoting consumer confidence.

ICANN policy positions derive from broad stakeholder participation in a common forum for suppliers and users.

BC Executive Committee



Chair
Mason Cole



Vice Chair Policy Coordination
Steve DelBianco



Vice Chair Finance & Operations
Lawrence Olawale-Roberts



CSG Representative
Waudu Siganga



GNSO Councilor
Marie Pattullo



GNSO Councilor
Mark Datysgeld

2021 Nominating Committee (NOMCOM members)



Large Business Seat
Scott McCormick



Small Business Seat
Adetola Sogbesan

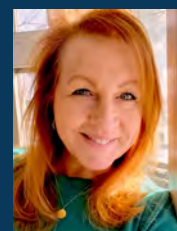


Associate Chair
Jay Sudowski

BC SECRETARIAT



Chantelle Doerksen



Brenda Brewer

If you would like to become a member of the BC, please contact the BC Secretariat at: info-bc@icann.org or simply visit our website and register online:

www.bizconst.org

BC Credentials Committee:

Zak Muscovitch (Chair), Roger Baah, Vivek Goyal

BC Finance Sub Committee:

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts (Chair), Adetola Sogbesan, Tim Smith, Yusuph Kileo



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