

Strategic Plan 2010–2013

Statement by ICANN Chairman and ICANN CEO

In September 2009, ICANN took a historic step by ending the Joint Project Agreement with the US Department of Commerce and replacing it with an Affirmation of Commitments. In essence, the Affirmation confirms ICANN's multi-stakeholder bottom-up decision-making model as the only suitable mechanism for ensuring a secure, stable, and resilient global Internet. Equally important, the Affirmation broadens ICANN's reporting relationships in a way that encompasses the entire global community and removes any concept that any single entity has primacy in matters of Internet operation.

This important transition in ICANN's existence and in the Internet offers unprecedented opportunities for the global community. The second paragraph of the Affirmation acknowledges:

The Internet is a transformative technology that will continue to empower people around the globe, spur innovation, facilitate trade and commerce, and enable the free and unfettered flow of information. One of the elements of the Internet's success is a highly decentralized network that enables and encourages decision-making at a local level. Notwithstanding this decentralization, global technical coordination of the Internet's underlying infrastructure – the DNS – is required to ensure interoperability.

Over the past several years, the ICANN community has undertaken a series of Strategic Plans intended to identify important areas for strategic focus and work to ensure both technical coordination of the Internet's infrastructure and consensus-based policy making. Each Strategic Plan looks forward into the coming three-year period, and its objectives are translated through an annual Operating Plan and Budget into projects and initiatives to be accomplished during the current year. This Strategic Plan continues that process, and will be followed by a public comment process in developing an Operational Plan and Budget to carry into effect the strategies outlined in this Plan.

This Plan focuses on four key strategic areas, which have found strong support in the public comment process. ICANN remains committed to maintaining a secure and stable Internet, to improving competition, trust and consumer choice, to excellence in the IANA function and to improving the health of the Internet eco-system.

Within a year of this plan, ICANN will introduce IDN ccTLDs, and complete most, if not all of the preparatory work to allow the introduction of new gTLDs. DNSSEC will be introduced, the IANA function will be enhanced and made more accessible, and we will strengthen partnerships and participate together in crucial debates about Internet Governance and Internet Security.

We do this in the exciting new world of the Affirmation of Commitments, under which ICANN's work is going to be reviewed by the whole stakeholder community.

We look forward to continuing our work with the community to identify measures and metrics, and to implement the Strategic Plan into ICANN's operations.

Peter Dengate Thrush
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Rod Beckstrom
President and Chief Executive Officer