

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 17, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- A diverse global group of stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, the technical community and international organizations has formed a Panel on the Future of Global Internet Cooperation. The Panel's first meeting is scheduled for December 12 – 13 in London.

Focusing on the pressing issue of Internet governance, and committed to a multistakeholder approach, the Panel plans to release a high-level report in early 2014 for public comment. The report will include principles for global Internet cooperation, proposed frameworks for such cooperation and a roadmap for future Internet governance challenges.

Recognizing the importance of the initiative, President Toomas Ilves of Estonia has agreed to serve as the group's Chairman. President Ilves is a longtime public supporter of an open, secure and accessible Internet. Vint Cerf, often cited as one of the founders of the Internet, will serve as a vice-chair of the Panel.

ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, was an early catalyst for the Panel and recognized the need for a globally diverse group to independently address broad, complex issues. It will organize the secretariat and provide logistical support for the Panel. ICANN cited growing pressures to address issues outside its sphere of responsibility as a motivating factor in forming a high-level panel.

In the coming year, several key events will address Internet governance topics, including the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, and a recently announced conference to be hosted by Brazil in Spring 2014. The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands will also be a substantive partner in the work of the Panel and host a meeting at the historic Sunnylands estate in Rancho Mirage, California in early 2014.

ICANN consulted with a number of organizations to develop the Panel. Members were chosen to ensure that a regionally diverse cross-section of stakeholders would be represented. Panel members' activities will be independent of their organizations. Panel members include:

Mohamed al Ghanem, Founder and Director General of the UAE Telecommunications

Regulatory Authority; former Vice-Chair, UAE Information and Communications Technology Fund

Virgilio Fernandes Almeida, Member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Chair of Internet Steering Committee; National Secretary for Information Technology Policies

Dorothy Attwood, Senior Vice President of Global Public Policy, Walt Disney Company

Mitchell Baker, Chair, Mozilla Foundation; Chair and former CEO, Mozilla Corporation

Francesco Caio, CEO of Avio; former CEO, Cable and Wireless and Vodafone Italia; Founder of Netscalibur; broadband advisor in UK and Italy

Vint Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google; former Chairman, ICANN; Co-Founder of the Internet Society

Fadi Chehade, CEO and President of ICANN; Founder of Rosetta Net; technology executive

Nitin Desai, Indian economist and diplomat; former UN Undersecretary General; convener of Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

Toomas Ilves, President of Estonia; former diplomat and journalist; former Minister of Foreign Affairs; former Member of the European Parliament

Ivo Ivanovski, Minister of Information Society and Administration, Macedonia; Commissioner to the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development

Thorbjorn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe; former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Norway; Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee

Olaf Kolkman, Director of NLnet Labs; "Evangineer" of the Open Internet; former Chair of the Internet Architecture Board

Frank La Rue, labor and human rights lawyer; UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression; Founder, Center for Legal Action for Human Rights (CALDH)

Robert M. McDowell, former U.S. Federal Communications Commissioner; Visiting Fellow, Hudson Institute's Center for Economics of the Internet

Andile Ngcaba, Chairman, Convergence Partners; Executive Chairman, Dimension Data Middle East and Africa; former South African Government Director General of Communications

Liu Qingfeng, CEO and President of iFLYTEK; Director of National Speech & Language Engineering Laboratory of China; Member of Interactive Technology Standards working group

Lynn St. Amour, President and CEO of the Internet Society; telecoms and IT executive

Jimmy Wales, Founder and Promoter of Wikipedia; Member of the Board of Trustees of Wikimedia Foundation

Won-Pyo Hong, President, Media Solution Center, Samsung Electronics

Additional members to be confirmed.

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