GNSO Activity Update for ccNSO Council meeting
Prepared by Patrick Myles – November 2014

Below is selected discussion points from within the GNSO. More detail available upon request.

Charter for a CWG on Enhancing ICANN Accountability
The GNSO council, at their meeting (Thurs 13 Nov 2014) reviewed and voted the motion for the charter for the CWG on Enhancing ICANN Accountability – the motion passed and Thomas Rickert was appointed GNSO co-chair to the CWG.
Each SG will select 1 member for the CWG by 20 November. A general discussion took place on the scope of the charter with Thomas highlighting that the drafting team allowed flexibility for the CWG. The membership (as opposed to the non-member participants) to the group was also discussed and some raised concern highlighting the SG and constituencies within the GNSO. Mary Wong noted that in cases where there is a limit on Member numbers, all the Charters contemplate non-Members (whether they are called Observers or Participants) participating on an equal footing with Members, and further provide that the CWG must always seek to act by consensus of all participants.

Name Collision work
In July 2014, the New gTLD Program Committee directed staff to work with the GNSO to consider whether policy work on developing a long-term plan (As opposed to a temporary framework currently in place) to manage gTLD name collision issues should be undertaken. A paper was discussed among GNSO groups as to what action should be taken. The GNSO will be discussing this within their various Stakeholder groups before discussing at council level whether or not to undertake any policy work.

GNSO/GAC Consultation Group
Mason Cole (liaison to GAC) provided the GNSO with an update at their recent council call with the following key points:
-   2 work tracks between GNSO and GAC: PDP work track and day to day work track
-   On PDP worktrack there is limited progress so far. Some work on early engagement and GAC finding ways at getting contribute early on in the PDP. There is a suggestion to a 'quick look' mechanism so GAC and check if there are public policy implications on the subject of a PDP.
-   Timing is important as GAC only meets 3 times a year and also because often need to go back to governments to determine positions. Potential for committee within GAC to provide input to GNSO.
-   On other day to day worktrack Mason said it would be helpful that he finds someone in the GAC for a closer dialogue (rather than 1 person to entire GAC). This could potentially be GAC secretariat or a GAC vice-chair
-   Biggest challenge is timing issues of GAC and their workload.
-   First opportunity for engagement is on IGO/INGO topic

Other
GNSO Council liaison to the ccNSO – volunteer: Thomas Rickert

Monthly GNSO WG Newcomer Open House Session
The GNSO provide monthly sessions for new GNSO WG participants to discuss questions they may have about GNSO Working Groups, procedures and/or processes. As there is a lot of information to digest, this initiative helps newcomers learn about the working groups which is very important especially when trying to attract a broader cross section of community involvement into the policy making process.