Preparing the IGF 2014
Reply from the regional ccTLD organisations on the request for Public input - 10 February 2014

On behalf of the regional ccTLD organizations, AfTLD (Africa), APTLD (Asia and the Pacific), CENTR (Europe) and LACTLD (Latin America and the Caribbean).

Since the first IGF meeting in Athens, and even before, the ccTLD community has been an active participant and strong supporter of the IGF process. The four regional ccTLD organisations have established a tradition of joint workshops at the IGF during which they shed light on the tasks and challenges of the ccTLDs, discuss their responsibilities in their local communities and as a group within the Technical community, and highlight the primary role they have played in the DNS environment over almost three decades.

The 8th IGF meeting in Bali was again an example of a well organised meeting at an exquisite venue for which our appreciation goes to the Host country and the Organising team. We like to congratulate the IGF Secretariat for an astonishing job in planning and running a smooth schedule with a limited number of staff.

Looking ahead, we would like to make the following suggestions as topics to be discussed at the 9th edition of the Internet Governance Forum:

- The Internet Governance Model is being discussed by different actors, within different institutions and in different parts of the world. Some already describe 2013-2014 as pivotal years for the way the Internet is and would be governed.
The Internet Governance Forum should fully play its role as an interface between the different discussions as a platform to exchange ideas and voice opinions open to all stakeholders. Only then will the IGF maintain its relevance in between the other initiatives and discussions.

- Internet Standards are essential for the functioning, the security and stability of the Internet. Internet Standards have their own unique development path within the IETF. Developing, reviewing and testing them take huge amounts of man-hours, efforts and commitment which is not awarded by direct personal or commercial gain. In the interest of the whole Internet community, it would be worth to investigate how to preserve this open environment while other parts of the Internet have become very commercial and highly competitive.

- The Internet has been playing various roles over the years, supporting commerce, but also helping governments and other public and private organisations in developing institutional actions. It might be valuable to explore these two facets of the Internet with a higher involvement of the private sector which is not only the technical one, but the one of the private end users who conduct their activities thanks to the internet. In addition one should explore how successes in the developed world could be replicated in developing countries.

- The Local Internet Community cannot be ignored when discussing Internet Governance. How to combine a bottom-up approach which respects the local needs and in the meantime doesn't threaten the principle of one united Internet?

- From a logistic and organisational point of view, the IGF could benefit from a more structured agenda with eventually fewer workshops.

- Updated information on the website is encouraged to promote the IGF website as the legitimate source of information for IGF program issues and to avoid misunderstandings and confusion in the wider community.

This would make it easier and clearer for participants and could in the meantime enhance participation to and interaction during individual workshop, including remote participation.

AfTLD - Africa Top Level Domain Organization
www.aftld.org

APTLD – Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association
www.aptld.org

CENTR – Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries
www.centr.org

LACTLD – Latin American and Caribbean TLD Association
www.lactld.org