

# nominet

## International policy

*What is it, and why bother?*

21 November 2007

# Overview

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- What is ICANN?
- What is the IGF?
- Why should we bother?
- A case study – processes at the national level

## What is ICANN?

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- ICANN, a public benefit, non-profit entity, is the international organization responsible for the management and oversight of the coordination of the Internets domain name system and its unique identifiers.
- The policy process – support organisations and advisory committees:
  - Governments
  - Generic space
  - Users “At Large”
  - Country Code Registries
  - Security and stability

# How and why does Nominet participate in ICANN?

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- ccNSO council member
- Participation Working Group chair
- Strategic importance of the IANA function
- Contributing towards ccTLD policies – taking a leading role
- Support for private-sector led management of DNS
- Best practice sharing with counterparts
- Meeting point for registrars

## What does ICANN mean for you?

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- Stability and professionalisation of the root zone
- Input into gTLD policies?
- Support for private sector management?

## What's coming up next year - ICANN?

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- ICANN meetings:
  - Delhi – February
  - Paris – June
  - Africa - Nov
- Key agenda items:
  - New gTLDs
  - WHOIS privacy
  - Internationalised Domain Names

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Internet Governance Forum



## What is the IGF?

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- Created by the UN World Summit on the Information Society
- A space for dialogue
- Multi-stakeholder
- Matters relating to the use and misuse of the Internet
- Advisory Group appointed by Secretary General

## Process

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- Public consultation meetings
- Five core themes:
  - Access
  - Diversity
  - Openness
  - Security
  - Core Internet Resources

## Meetings to date

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- Athens 2006
  - 1300 multi-stakeholder participants
  - 4 core themes
  - Little sharing of best practice
  - Participation of business
  
- Rio 2007
  - 1700 multi-stakeholder participants
  - 5 core themes
  - Best practice sharing
  - Emergence of child protection as a key issue
  - Active participation of UK parliamentarians

# IGF - why bother?

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## Opportunities

- Showcase examples of best practice
- Participate on an equal footing – discussion of principles
  - Encourage capacity building
  - Highlight factors which encourage investment
  - Advocate self- and co-regulation on the Internet

## Threats

- Business a key stakeholder – we must help to create value from IGF...
- ...or leave it to those who want recommendations, additional costs, bureaucracy, (inter-)governmental oversight

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Building on processes at the national  
level

*A case study*

2006

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- Parliamentary event 4 July.
- UK IGF mailing list.
- Preparatory event for the Athens meeting, 9 October
  - > 70 attendees.
  - > 600 downloads of the webcast  
<http://www.rawcoms.com/content/corporate/nominet/061009/index.html>

2007

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- Promoting awareness with US Influencers
- Best Practice Challenge
  - Parliamentary launch on 5 June.
  - Announce winners in 11 October
  - 100 multi-stakeholders
  - Nominet workshop and exhibition of winning and shortlisted entries in Rio.
- UK Stakeholder messages for Rio
  - Security as the key issue for UK; Access for global development internationally
  - Messages brought to Rio

2008?

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- A UK IGF
- Best Practice Challenge 2008
- Messages for India
- Focus: industry participation

## How can we work together?

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- Feedback and contributions to international processes
- Tell us what you think
- Enter the competition!