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For Immediate Release

ICANN CEO Announces Expanded Partnership Initiatives at Close of Internet Governance Forum

Baku, Azerbaijan... ICANN Chief Executive Officer Fadi Chehadé has announced a series of working partnerships that have sprung out of this week's Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Azerbaijan.

"During the past week here in Baku, I have been fortunate enough to have some extremely productive meetings with some important organizations and groups in the Internet ecosystem," said Chehadé. "These meetings are already helping us progress toward the organizational goals I published earlier in the week."

"The launch of our new generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) program will dramatically increase the need for ICANN to work with businesses all over the world," added Chehadé. "To serve them, we need to expand our outreach, so we have agreed to set up engagement frameworks with both the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO). Our hope is that by utilizing their existing networks we can engage in a constructive dialogue."

"We're keen to ensure that our members, who are primarily Telcos, have more opportunities to engage in high levels discussions around the future of the internet," said Luigi Gambardella, Chair of ETNO's Executive Board. "We're hoping a closer collaboration with ICANN will help us do precisely that."

"ICANN needs to broaden and deepen its dialogue with businesses around the world and our members have much to contribute to the debate around the future needs of business on the internet," said ICC Secretary General Jean-Guy Carrier. "I appreciate Fadi's openness and readiness to strengthen our already good relationship".

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also voiced support for the expanded ICANN effort. "As use of the Internet continues to expand, we are ready to support ICANN with their capacity building plan," said Janis Karklins, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information. "We have agreed to appoint liaisons to work on the precise activities moving forward".

Chehadé said he was delighted with the energetic support from partners during the IGF meeting and thanked them for their openness and willingness to work together. "I am confident that creating the mechanism for detailed on-going engagement will do much to help ICANN achieve its goals for the entire community," said Chehadé. "I hope to create similar activities with many other partners – those already involved in ICANN and those with whom we need to build relationships for the first time."

Also during the IGF in Baku, the ICANN Board of Directors convened a special meeting to discuss a report by the WHOIS Review team. WHOIS is a listing of web site registrants and their contact information.

The Board said it would report the outcome of its course of action on WHOIS by 19 November.

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To view a short video with CEO Fadi Chehadé at the IGF in Baku, go here:
http://www.icann.org/en/news/press/kits/video-chehade-igf-06nov12-en.htm

To read Fadi Chehade's 5 November 2012 letter on organizational priorities, go here:
http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/chehade-to-icann-community-05nov12-en.pdf

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Brad White
Director of Global Media Affairs
Washington, DC, USA
Tel. +1 202.570.7118
brad.white@icann.org

Andrew Robertson
Edelman Public Relations
London, U.K.
Tel. + 44 (7811) 341 945
andrew.Robertson@edelman.com