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For Immediate Release

CEO to Prioritize Agreement with Registrars and Establishment of Trademark Clearing House

ICANN's Second Largest Meeting Draws to a Close in Toronto

Toronto, Canada… ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer, Fadi Chehadé says he is prioritizing efforts to reach a resolution with domain name registrars in the on-going negotiations to achieve a Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA).

Chehadé said he will also become personally involved in ICANN's efforts to establish a Trademark Clearing House prior to the introduction of new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) in 2013.

"I'm going to be inserting myself personally in both these issues," said Chehadé. "I've already discussed this with the community and there's frankly universal agreement that if I participate personally in these activities, I could help us come to hopefully reasonable conclusions that we can all bank on in moving forward to next year and with the new gTLDs"

The chief executive made the comments during a video interview at the close of the organization's 45th public meeting in Toronto. 1,800 People from around the world registered for the meeting, making it the second largest in ICANN history.

The meeting began only a few days after ICANN announced a plan to use a draw, or drawing, to determine which gTLD applications would be prioritized. This system would be used as a way to equitably schedule the release of initial evaluation results, pre-delegation testing, and contract execution.

When asked to characterize the reaction he had received to the plan for a draw Chehadé said, "There is a collective sigh of relief that we have a mechanism that is equitable, that is fair, that is very transparent and simple in many ways and which allows us to move forward."

During the same video interview, Board Chair Dr. Stephen Crocker said his take-away from the Toronto meeting was "progress across every front."

ICANN's next public meeting will be 7-11 April 2012 in Beijing.

To view the video interview with the CEO and Board Chair, go here:
http://www.icann.org/en/news/press/kits/toronto45/video-post-meeting-19oct12-en.htm

To download high resolution photos of ICANN's Toronto Meeting, go here:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/collections/72157631775838695/

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About ICANN: *ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. **For more information please visit: www.icann.org.***