On March 14, 2014, the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced its intention to transition the IANA functions to the global Multistakeholder community. The Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus (IGC) is the oldest civil society network formed since pre-WSIS.

 The IGC welcomes this decision and appreciates the opportunity for these functions and the stewardship of the Internet domain name system (DNS) to further evolve toward a governance model that is truly global and widely accepted. The IGC welcomes NTIA’s resolve to involve all stakeholders in the transitionary process toward a stakeholders-led administration of the DNS (what NTIA has been referring to as the privatization of the DNS.)

 The IGC supports the multi-stakeholder policy making model as an inclusive, bottom-up, consensus driven model that enhances democracy by its inclusiveness of all people from around the world who might be affected by its policy decision processes and outcomes. The need to enhance meaningful engagement globally is critical for the processes to be authentic and in the global public interest.

We understand the multi-stakeholder governance model as distinct from the "inter-governmental" model, from the private sector led model, as well as from a model that exclusively accommodates technical standards setting groups. In the inclusive spirit of an authentic Multistakeholder model, we stand ready to work with all stakeholders and make sure effective consideration is given to the concerns and views of Internet users, citizens and civil society organizations across the world.

 We support the four principles put forward by NTIA to guide IANA and the global Internet community in the formulation of a transition proposal. It is critical that we continue to strive for openness and global availability of the Internet while continuously improving on its security and at the same time preserving and furthering Civil Liberties for all Internet users around the globe.

The IGC urges the international community and the global Internet community to give particular attention to the cost structure associated with the emerging governance framework so as to make effective participation affordable for developing nations and related Internet stakeholders. Capacity development initiatives outreach and are also critical in improving access and enabling meaningful participation.

 Finally, the Internet Governance Caucus expresses hope that the globalization of the IANA function will eventually become more complete with an internationally appropriate and neutral machinery and that suitable and effective accountability and transparency mechanisms will be established for the new global Internet governance institution.

The Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus

March 21, 2014.