From some of our members...

"Our group has been involved with NARALO since its inception in 2007. We have been able use this vehicle to voice our concerns and point of views regarding some of the Internet-related issues that we find important to address. We strongly recommend that you get involved too and help shape the future of the Internet."

Eduardo Diaz, President, Internet Society of Puerto Rico

"I represent the Internet Society's New York Chapter (ISOC-NY), which is an At-Large Structure in NARALO. I believe that what makes the Internet unique in history is that it is a global network that is, ultimately, controlled by its participants, and their agreements to use common protocols. The At-Large community is one of the prime avenues where users can influence the application of those protocols, with NARALO representing specifically the North American community. EVERY INTERNET USER should – either individually or through an At-Large Structure – join to make their voice heard."

Joly MacFie, New York City

"I represent the Canadian Foundation for Building Sustainable Communities (FBSC) by being active on two committees I highly recommend to anyone who is passionate about the future of the Internet to become involved and make your voice known through active participation. I am confident to say that the experience earned from participation is absolutely rewarding from a personal development point of view combined with the tangible positive impact you can make on future policies and protocols. Why not give it a try? I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised."

Glenn McKnight, Chairman, FBSC, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

"ICANN plays a critical role in the evolution of the Internet, though it's not well understood by people who are increasingly becoming dependent on it. The people involved in NARALO have had a significant impact on advancement of the public interest within ICANN. In our consensus-based processes, every opinion is respected within our diverse group. We have a welcoming atmosphere in our meetings at which newcomers and veterans alike have important contributions to make and everyone has something to learn. I'm proud to be a part of it."

Darlene Thompson, Secretary, NARALO, Iqualuit, Nanavut, Canada

"At-Large"

ICANN's At-Large community provides a mechanism for participation in ICANN by individual Internet users (called At-Large). It was created for people who want to be involved in issues that affect individual's use of the Internet's domain name system.

ICANN At-Large provides crucial contributions to ICANN's work on such matters as how internationalized domain names (local language domain names) are implemented, and how additional new top-level domains (i.e., .info, .name, .museum, etc.) are introduced. These are just two issues of importance in which the At-Large community is involved to support the Internet's individual users.

At-Large members are also a leading voice for Internet Governance and issues related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and work to raise awareness of key Internet resource issues that affect ICT development.

About ICANN

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.
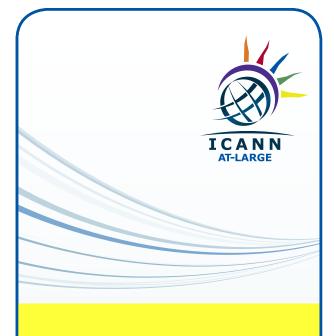
ICANN

Brussels, 6 Rond Point Schuman, Bt. 5, B-1040
Brussels, BELGIUM, T +32 2 234 7870, F +32 2 234 7848

Los Angeles, 4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Rey, CA 90292, USA, T +1 310 823 9358, F +1 310 823 8649

Washington, DC, 1101 New York Avenue NW, Suite 930
Washington, DC 20005, USA, T +1 202 570 7240, F +1 202 789 0104

Sydney, Level 2, 48 Hunter Street
Sydney NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA, T +61 2 8236 7900, F +61 2 8236 7913

www.atlarge.icann.org

ICANN AT-LARGE

**INTERNET CORPORATION
FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS**

NARALO

The Internet Needs You!

If you are an organization or individual located in Canada, the United States or Puerto Rico and concerned with Internet-related issues, you can help influence the operation, growth and development of the Internet by becoming part of the North American At-Large Organization (NARALO).

NARALO invites all interested civil society parties to join it in taking part in the decisions that shape the Internet.

Who is NARALO

NARALO (North America Regional At-Large Organization) encompasses all Internet end-users in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Together with other regions, we have a direct impact on the direction of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), working to ensure that the expansion of the Internet serves the public interest. As more Internet domain names and IP addresses are required to keep pace with demand, we advance policies and services that reduce confusion and abuse while enhancing security, accessibility and stable growth.

NARALO consists of the civil society organizations, non-profits and individuals to represent the rights of Internet users across the region, from Hawaii, to Nunavut, to San Juan. We represent their views in the bottom-up, consensus based, multi-stake-holder ICANN policy development process. And we can always benefit from new perspectives.

We are comprised of individuals and organizations that are formally recognized by ICANN as "At-Large Structures". To ensure that we represent views as diverse as our continent, we encourage individual and groups to join us. Membership is simple and free of charge.

Amongst the types of organizations that can join us are:

- Professional Societies
- Academic and Research Organizations
- Community Networking Groups
- Consumer Advocacy Groups
- Internet Society Chapters
- Computer User Organizations
- Internet Civil Society groups

Come and work with us on improving the Internet experience for all. Previous experience with ICANN or Internet governance can be useful but is not required. Our goal is to make ICANN Internet policy understandable, transparent, and responsive to end-user needs.

Find out more at *http://www.naralo.org or contact us at info@ naralo.org*. To get your organization certified as an At-Large Structure see *www.tinyurl.com/naralo-certified*.

At table from left: Monique Chartrand, Beau Brendler, Louis Houle, Evan Leibovitch, Darlene Thompson, Gareth Shearman, Seth Reiss, and Dharma Daily

What Issues are Important to NARALO

We are particularly interested in the following ICANN issues. We believe these have more relevance in our region since they affect, in some way, everyone and every time we connect to the Internet:

Introduction of the New Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs)

Currently the Internet uses only a few top-level domains (TLDs) — well known "generic" ones (.com, .net, .org), lesser known TLDs (such as .travel and .info), and country-based ones (such as .ca, .us and .pr). ICANN has started a process to greatly expand the number of TLDs. NARALO is working to ensure that this process is open, fair, protective of free expression, and accessible to communities as well as businesses. NARALO has been especially active in ensuring that the process's trademark protection is done in a manner to reduce consumer confusion while protecting legitimate free expression.

IPv4 to IPv6 Transition

The first publicly used version of the Internet Protocol, Version 4 (IPv4), provided an addressing capability of about 4 billion addresses. With the explosive growth and worldwide proliferation of networks this resource is fast facing depletion. Since every single Internet-connected device needs a unique IP address, ensuring that the system has a way of growing in the future is important to everyone. The addressing system is transitioning to the next generation (IPv6) and NARALO is contributing to policy development that will ensure that this transition is done as efficiently and transparently as possible.

Whois

The Whois registry is the domain name systems' legacy database that contains contact information from registrants of Internet domains. Often WHOIS contains inaccurate or intentionally fraudulent information. NARALO is heavily engaged in establishing a balance between the privacy and free-speech rights of content providers, with the public need to hold unethical website operators responsible. Fraudulent Whois information undermines any effort for policing of 'bad actor' sites thus undermining legitimate commerce on the net. The rise in Internet crime is a serious problem that requires proactive solutions starting with the removal of false and misleading information, whilst protecting privacy and free speech.

ICANN Transparency

Since ICANN policy shapes the crucial global addressing system of the Internet, it is of the utmost importance that ICANN exercise good and open governance. NARALO is dedicated to making ICANN more democratic, transparent and accountable. The governance of ICANN needs to reflect — and respond to — the linguistic, ethnic, gender composition of the non-virtual world in its directorship and committee composition. NARALO members have been heavily involved in the new process through which the At-Large community will collectively appoint a member of the ICANN Board.

End-user Protection

NARALO is involved in creating formal measures to protect the rights of those who buy Internet domains, as well as the rights of Internet end-users. Our efforts deal with domain hijackers, reducing spam and ensuring the adoption of consumer-centric solutions to cyber threats. A robust and secure addressing system is a crucial component of an Internet that everyone can trust.

To download language versions of this document:

Version française: *http://www.atlarge.icann.org/fr/naralo/ outreach-materials-fr*

Versión español: *http://www.atlarge.icann.org/es/naralo/ outreach-materials-es*