

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 71

Designating the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as “Internet Governance Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as “Internet Governance Awareness Week”.

Whereas the United States remains committed to the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance, in which the private sector works in collaboration with civil society, governments, and technical experts in a consensus fashion;

Whereas the United States has, through its stewardship of key Internet domain name functions, maintained an important role in the protection of the Internet as presently constituted;

Whereas on March 14, 2014, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (referred to in this preamble as the “NTIA”) announced its intent to

transition these key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community;

Whereas the transition process demonstrates that the United States supports and is committed to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance;

Whereas the NTIA has asked the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (referred to in this preamble as “ICANN”) to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by the NTIA in the coordination of the Internet’s domain name system (referred to in this preamble as the “DNS”);

Whereas the NTIA has stated that there is no deadline for the transition, and that the transition proposal must have broad community support and must—

- (1) support and enhance the multistakeholder model;
- (2) maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;
- (3) meet the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority; and
- (4) maintain the openness of the Internet;

Whereas the NTIA has also stated that it will not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA with a government-led or an inter-governmental organization, a position that is consistent with S. Con. Res. 50 (112th Congress), a concurrent resolution that was unanimously passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives in 2012 and supported “the consistent and unequivocal policy of the United States to promote a global Internet free from government control and preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet today”;

Whereas ICANN will be holding its next global meeting, ICANN 52, in Singapore between February 8 and February 12, 2015; and

Whereas designating the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as “Internet Governance Awareness Week” will encourage the participants at ICANN 52 to focus on developing key ICANN accountability principles for the protection of the global Internet: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.**

3 The Senate designates the week of February 8
4 through February 14, 2015, as “Internet Governance
5 Awareness Week” to—

6 (1) increase public awareness regarding the
7 March 14, 2014 announcement by the National
8 Telecommunications and Information Administration
9 (referred to in this resolving clause as the “NTIA”)
10 declaring the intention of the NTIA to transition the
11 stewardship of the functions of the Internet As-
12 signed Numbers Authority to the global multistake-
13 holder community;

14 (2) encourage public education about the impor-
15 tance of this transition process; and

16 (3) call the attention of the participants at the
17 next global meeting of the Internet Corporation for
18 Assigned Names and Numbers (referred to in this

1 resolving clause as “ICANN”) to the importance of
2 designing accountability and governance reforms to
3 best prepare ICANN for executing the responsibil-
4 ities that it may receive under any transition of the
5 stewardship of the functions of the Internet As-
6 signed Numbers Authority, including reforms that
7 would—

8 (A) insist that the domain name system
9 continues to function as part of a secure, stable,
10 resilient, single, decentralized, open, and inter-
11 operable Internet;

12 (B) ensure a form of stewardship and ac-
13 countability that is based on the separation of
14 the functions of policy-making, policy imple-
15 mentation, and, as needed, independent adju-
16 dication or arbitration for dispute resolution;

17 (C) limit and maintain ICANN authority
18 to matters that pertain to the coordination of
19 Internet unique identifiers, and limit each func-
20 tion to those rights, responsibilities, and au-
21 thorities that have been explicitly assigned;

22 (D) protect ICANN from undue influence
23 or capture by one or more governments or mul-
24 tilateral or intergovernmental organizations, or

1 a single set of other commercial or noncommer-
2 cial stakeholders;

3 (E) maintain the commitment of ICANN
4 for final action regarding key policy decisions to
5 demonstrate broad support by the community
6 of ICANN stakeholders;

7 (F) reinforce and expand transparency and
8 accountability measures to ensure community
9 access to ICANN documents and records; and

10 (G) ensure that, prior to the execution of
11 the transition of the stewardship of the func-
12 tions of the Internet Assigned Numbers Author-
13 ity, each of the foregoing elements of such pro-
14 posal is adopted and made effective by ICANN
15 through incorporation in its articles of incorpo-
16 ration and by-laws, as needed, and subject to
17 independent adjudication or arbitration for dis-
18 pute resolution, as appropriate.

19 **SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

20 Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as con-
21 gressional approval of any proposal by ICANN to transi-
22 tion the stewardship of the functions of the Internet As-
23 signed Numbers Authority to the global multistakeholder
24 community.

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