

NomCom report

I take pleasure in submitting this report on behalf on the 2008 Nominating Committee of the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus.

Members

This year's NomCom was chosen by an algorithm specified in RFC3797 from a list of over 25 volunteers from the Civil Society list. The five randomly chosen names were

Robert Guerra
Rudi Rusdiah
Ian Peter
Hakikur Rahman
Gurumurthy K

Robert Guerra was initially appointed Chair and served in that capacity until late April. Ian Peter then took over as Chair until completion of the NomCom's work.

How this year was different

The process the NomCom was asked to undertake was quite new to IGC, which itself is a relatively new organisation still formalizing many matters of process. There had only been one previous NomCom dealing with MAG nominations in 2006 – in that case, the nominations were for population of a new MAG. This NomCom had to deal with the new issue of MAG rotation, where an unknown number of current MAG members would be rotated out. As well, we had existing MAG members renominating as well as new candidates. This provided for some interesting complexities in determining what sort of slate and what sort of candidates we should be putting forward.

Call for candidates

The following call for nominations was issued to the IGC mailing list, but also (with slight variations) to a wide range of other mailing lists of interested civil society organizations and alliances.

Please submit nominations – including self-nominations – for choosing IGC recommendations for the MAG. The recommended persons may or may not be IGC members. However, they should have a civil society identity, and broadly be in alignment with positions given in our charter, and as adopted by the caucus at different times.

- In nominating someone else please obtain the person's consent to be on the MAG if selected, and to seek IGC's endorsement for her candidature.

- Each nomination should come with a brief bio. It should mention with some clarity the activities and/ or positions taken by the person in the IG and information society arena.

- Please also include a brief write up of why the nominated person will be a good CS/ IGC representative on the MAG.

- Those who are already on the MAG may also briefly mention about how they carried out their responsibilities in the last two terms, in advocating and pushing the wider CS positions, and IGC's positions. Their level and manner of engagement with the IGC, and the wider CS constituencies, may also be mentioned.

Nominations should also include an assurance that if selected for the MAG one will keep up a strong engagement with CS constituencies, including and especially the IGC. One will both keep CS constituencies and the IGC informed about the MAG proceedings and related matters, as well as present/ push their positions in the MAG.=

As of April 14, 08 - 00:30 Geneva Time (the deadline for submissions) 32 Candidates statements and/or expression of interest were submitted to the IGC nominating committee. One late nomination (within 24 hours) was accepted by the committee as it was due to an electricity interruption in a developing country. Two other late nominations were not accepted.

Breakdown

1. By region

Africa – 8 (25%)

Asia Pacific – 10 (30%)

Europe – 5 (15%)

LAC – 5 (15%)

North America – 5 (15%)

2. By Gender

Male – 25 (75%)

Female – 8 (25%)

Candidate numbers

Early in the piece, after considerable discussion, the NomCom decided it should choose about 14 candidates, depending of course on capabilities of available candidates, but that this should ideally include both male and female candidates from each region. In addition to this, we considered

- if the existing MAG member from a particular region is rotated out by the MAG Secretariat, do we have a suitable replacement candidate from the same region?
- Gender balance
- Regional balance
- Developed country and developing country balance (particularly in regions where both exist)

It proved impossible to get this completely in balance, given the candidates put forward, the issues we needed to address which are outlined below, and the differing perspectives of the NomCom members. But the final announced slate of 16 candidates was

Africa

Sheeran Amod
Ken Lohento
Natasha Primo

Note: Dawit Bekele was originally nominated from the region but subsequently withdrew

Asia

Izumi Aizu
Iffat Rose Gill
Y. J. Park
Adam Peake

Europe

Vittorio Bertola
William Drake
Jeanette Hofmann

LAC

Valeria Betancourt
Carlos Affonso Pereira de Souza
Graciela Selaimen

North America

Robin Gross
Michael Gurstein
Milton Mueller

As can be seen, that slate largely neutralized the regional participation and resulted in a 44%/56% gender split among candidates nominated.

Selection Process

The NomCom attempted two conference calls using Skype, However three of the 5 NomCom members were not able to obtain a reasonable voice connection to participate, and early during the second call Skype chat was used as an alternative. Therefore almost all our business was conducted via email or chat lines. That is a more difficult medium to understand nuances of meaning, particularly for the NomCom members for whom English is a second language.

A Wiki was established on which details of candidates were placed. The wiki was extremely useful in getting all the given information quickly and easily and allowed members to give their comments etc for each candidate which other members could also see. The wiki thus helped in helping members quickly get a base understanding of the views of others. The nomcom feels that a wiki kind of process would be useful in future as well.

As an initial step towards selecting a final slate, NomCom members were asked to use the following gradings to indicate candidate preferences.

0 - Reject. Do not recommend. Not involved with CS not IG at all.

1 - Reject. - has some NGO and/or CS background, but little to no past activity @ WSIS, CS, or IG

2 - Not recommended. Candidate could be useful, but have reservations about the candidate

3 - acceptable . On one or more CS lists. Known to be active in CS, or IG

4 - Excellent Candidate. Recommended candidate Actively involved in CS & IG

5 - Outstanding Candidate. Should be on the MAG without a doubt.

This process eliminated from our thinking 14 of the 33 candidates. It also confirmed as universally supported 8 of the candidates eventually selected.

And it could be said that this is where the fun began. That left us with eleven candidates enjoying some degree of support within the NomCom – of these, eight were eventually added but only after some considerable discussion. The issues that led to much of this discussion are outlined below.

Issues and responses

Weighting of criteria

No formal weighting of selection criteria was carried out, and as a result members had vastly different opinions as to the importance of specific criteria. Some members also thought it was our duty to rotate out some existing MAG members – other thought this was the Secretariat's business and not ours.

One substantial difference was in the importance of MAG members reporting back to and communicating with IGC Caucus. While some members considered this to be very important, others thought that providing reporting back was achieved somehow within the slate of candidates working collegiately this was difficult to apply to each candidate individually. Some members also interpreted reporting back as including the range of IGF associated activities civil society was associated with, including regional internet governance lists and dynamic coalitions, and not just the IGC Caucus.

Reporting back was considered important, however it was interpreted. In this respect we note the Secretariat's recent statement, ie "Members need to be willing to reach out and ensure continuous flow of information to and from interested groups and to participate actively and constructively in the Group's work"

In this respect we can suggest to the next NomCom that they might like to weight criteria beforehand so as to get a clear understanding of importance of various criteria. We can also suggest that a future NomCom, if IGC cannot make a clear decision on this in the meantime, may wish to demand either reporting or regular participation in IGC list as a prerequisite to IGC nomination, and could ask each candidate to indicate in advance that they agree to report back and consult with IGC regularly as a condition of acceptance of their nomination – and not accept nominations that do not make this undertaking. Within this NomCom healthy differences of opinion existed as to the degree of relevance of this, and of other criteria.

Candidates employed by Internet Governance Organisations

Another matter that emerged was whether to accept candidates who are full time employees of existing Internet governance organizations – irrespective of their civil society credentials. Some members believe that the issue is really of primary identity of the person – if a person is a fulltime employee of IG organization then though they may have progressive views, they can not be said to be having CS credentials. Again there was no consensus on this issue within the NomCom – but there were seen to be potential conflicts of interest involved for employees and this was combined with the precedent already established within CS Caucus to not accept nominations from full time employees of existing Internet governance organizations in arriving at our decision. However, at the same time, there was a strong feeling we should work closely with these bodies and build relationships as with other stakeholder groups. We believe they should

be welcome and encouraged to participate on the CS mailing lists. However, a future NomCom, if IGC does not adopt a formal position on this in the meantime, might wish to include in its call for candidates that employees of internet governance organizations will not be considered for endorsement by CS Nomcom because of potential conflicts of interest (but are encouraged of course to separately apply for representation on MAG)

Random Generation Method of determining NomCom members

On this particular occasion, the random generator chose four Asian males and one North American male. While we do not oppose random generation per se, we do wonder if there is a way to ensure a more balanced NomCom – particularly as regards regions, where this NomCom has to admit its knowledge of candidates from some regions was better than for others. We have no firm recommendation in this area but do believe that, with thought, an improved process could be devised.

Privacy and candidates details

This issue did not affect the outcome or the slate of candidates at all, but should be raised in this report.

This NomCom was placed in the unfortunate position of issuing a Call for Nominations while not being aware of 2006 Procedures of IGC which demand that details of rejected and accepted candidates should be published. As a consequence, the Call for Nominations did not advise candidates that their details would be available for public scrutiny.

We were then left to balance the existing (if widely unknown) process of IGC, with its objective to achieve openness and transparency, against the conflicting privacy principle of not publishing emails received confidentially without the owners consent.

To resolve this issue in the immediate circumstances, the NomCom has written to all candidates asking them to write back to us if they specifically object to their details or name being published. Should any candidate lodge such an objection, details will be withheld, but information on the gender and region of such candidates will be made available.

Clearly this is not the ideal solution, but we believe it is the best available to us in this year's circumstances.

This matter needs to be discussed by IGC to clarify a long term position. Some members of this year's NomCom believe this policy is not in IGC's best interest, and point to other NomComs where the practice is entirely different. Our recommendations below suggest how we might best deal with this and other issues to avoid such problems in the future. If a future NomCom in the absence of any policy decision decides it wants to publish rejected candidates details, it should do so only after informing potential candidates of this intention as part of the Call for Nominations.

Independent non voting Chair

One matter not carried out this year in our rush to meet deadlines was the appointment of an independent non voting chair. We do recommend that this procedure, carried out with the last NomCom, be reinstated.

We recommend that an independent non voting chair serve a minimum say three year term, so as to obtain some continuity, and be a person used to facilitating processes such as recruitment and appointments. This addition would ease the considerable burden placed on volunteers chosen at random, none of whom might have both the time and the expertise to conduct this process effectively.

This matter needs to be thought through well before a new NomCom is formed, and a suitable person appointed. Then there is some hope that some of the process issues which plagued our work will be eliminated more quickly than if the baton is simply passed on to the next committee to do the best it can within the constraints of the people randomly chosen and their time availability.

Timeframes for activities

Adequate time must be available throughout the whole process to obtain feedback from all members of the NomCom. Regarding the time slots between Call for Nominations, submission of candidate's bio, initial selection round, second selection, acceptability statement from the candidate and final selection round, a reasonable time period should be given. Most of the NomCom members are highly engaged in other form of activities in their real life. Otherwise, fast run down creates confusion, improper selection of candidates, and may give rise to non-confidence among NomCom/other group members. This may be transmitted to the whole selection process.

Final observations and recommendations

There is much that can be learnt from this years NomCom process, and a number of issues arose which require further discussion and clarification.

As in many areas of CS operations, the procedures are new, untested, and not well communicated. We do not hold great hopes that this situation will be improved greatly within a year unless some specific action is taken.

There are a number of matters in this report for the IGC list to consider. We cannot see this happening without someone taking responsibility to address these issues well in advance of any future NomCom work.

Therefore our principal recommendation is that an independent Chair –either voting or non-voting – be appointed now, and charged with a review in association with the Internet Governance Caucus of all processes associated with future NomComs. The matters which we believe need review, clarification, or further discussion, so that a next NomCom has a smoother operation, include

- Clarification and weighting of selection criteria
- Clarification of IG Caucus position on publication of candidates details
- Clarification of IG Caucus position on candidates who are paid employees of internet governance organisations
- An examination of ways to ensure regional representation or input on NomComs
- Clear publication on the Caucus website of a list of procedures for future NomComs.

If these matters are left until a month or so before the next NomCom is appointed, they will not be adequately discussed or resolved.

But in the meantime – this year's NomCom worked diligently, with the best interests of civil society in mind, and with forthright discussion advancing a range of views on the candidates and their respective merits. I believe that an excellent and representative result was obtained in the circumstances.

On publication of this report, all working records of the NomCom will be deleted except those approved for publication, which will be forwarded to Avri Doria for subsequent posting on the IGC website.

Ian Peter
2008 Nomcom Chair
15 May 2008

Appendix – Bios of selected candidates

AFRICA

Sheraan Amod

Sheraan Amod is a young entrepreneur currently based in Cape Town, South Africa. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Cape Town, where he specialized in wireless telecoms. His student interests now continue at Stellenbosch University (South Africa) where he is doing research towards his Master of Science degree in Engineering Management, this time focusing on collaborative Internet trends and technologies that can be applied to enterprise level organizations. His entrepreneurial interests began at the age of 18, when he started the innovative student marketing company Trafik Student Networks. He has recently founded a new company which is in the early stages of developing proprietary social media technologies and products.

Amod's involvement in Internet Governance began in 2007, where he joined the pre-IGF youth roundtable discussions hosted by DiploFoundation and Mindset Networks. His contributions there resulted in the award of an ITU fellowship to attend the IGF in Rio de Janeiro as a DiploFoundation youth representative. At the IGF, he made various interventions during certain discussions, and cemented his constructive interest in IG. Amod's key focus areas were emerging issues, youth involvement in IG, and economic trends in the information society. Being an entrepreneur, he feels that greater private sector involvement in IG is crucial if more rapid progress is to be made. His strong relationship with DiploFoundation continues, as he is a student in their Internet Governance Capacity Building Programme, and also acts as their expert advisor on all issues related to online social networking, developing best practices and helping to Diplo to achieve maximum virtual community interaction and visibility. Aside from his activity with Diplo, Amod's civil society activities extend into areas including leadership, engineering, human rights and international law. He has worked as a facilitator at the International Youth Leadership Conference in Prague, been Vice-Chairman of the IEEE student branch at his university, and coorganized various conferences in South Africa. He believes in pursuing a pragmatic, high visibility approach to IG, where inter-disciplinary thinking is combined with effective actions, in order to create tangible outcomes in the real world. In his free time, he enjoys sipping a good coffee on his balcony in Cape Town, and thinking about far future technology trends in the 21st century.

Ken Lohento

Ken Lohento, has been engaged in ICT4D policy activities in Africa for 10 years in various capacities in national and international civil society or inter-governmental institutions.

He is presently Coordinator of the ICT Programme of the Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA, based in Senegal), where he manages ICT policies and oversees initiatives on

various issues including media and ICTs, multi-stakeholder engagement in ICT policy processes, research and development in the ICT field, African participation in the WSIS process, universal access, internet governance, etc. PIWA collaborates with several key African media and ICT policy focussed organisations, including the two NGOs he founded (Oridev in Benin and lafric), ISOC-Benin, APC, ACSIS, UNDP-Benin, UNESCO-Paris, and Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie.

Mr Lohento actively contributed to the various phases of the WSIS process, and is member of the African Civil Society for the Information Society (ACSIS) network and the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus. Mr Lohento was born in Benin and holds a Master of Research degree in Information Sciences (Universite Paris X - France).

Natasha Primo

Natasha Primo is a feminist ICT for development and social justice practitioner and advocate based in Johannesburg. Currently, she is responsible for coordinating and building capacity for national ICT policy advocacy among member organisations of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). She is also responsible for spearheading the APC's engagement with Access to Knowledge (A2K) issues and advocacy spaces, and developing partnerships for implementing A2K-related activities.

Formerly, she was the Executive Director of Women'sNet, an NGO that seeks to build capacity among women's rights and development structures to use ICT strategically both in South(ern) Africa and beyond. WomensNet is a member of the APC. In addition to her executive management experience, her earlier experiences include coordinating one of the earliest South African women's and gender studies postgraduate academic programmes at a South African university as well as coordinating research capacity building initiatives and facilitating access to research grants supplied by the National Research Foundation. Her organisational oversight and governance experience spans both ICT organisations and well as feminist NGOs, including time spent on the board for APC and the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET).

Note: One African nominee, Dawit Bekele, withdrew after the nominations were announced and was subsequently replaced by Sheraan Amod.

ASIA

Izumi Aizu

In summary, Izumi has rich experience in promoting the users and civil society's interests into the policy debate process around Internet and Information Society since early 1990s. He has been involved with the research and active promotion of the use of Computer Networking since mid 1980's, mostly focusing on community and citizen empowerment. He has "evangelized" the Internet in Japan and in Asia Pacific region in the 1990s through Center for Global Communications (GLOCOM) at the International University of Japan since 1992 and with the Institute for HyperNetwork Society since 1993 to date, where he serves as Deputy Director.

He was also involved with the formation process of ICANN since 1997, became a member of its AtLarge Advisory Committee (ALAC) since 2003 after its so-called Reform to promote voices of Individual users into ICANN process.

He has participated in the G8 Digital Opportunity Task Force from 2000 to 2002, representing Japanese NPO with specific focus on supporting developing country participation into new policy field of Internet and ICT. They brought the "Internet Governance" issues into the formal policy debate of the international community.

Since 2002, He has participated in the WSIS process from its first PrepCom, supported civil society participation in WSIS Tokyo regional meeting in 2003 and 2005. In 2004 he initiated the Internet Governance Task Force of Japan (IGTF-J) with Japan's Internet community, together with some non-profit institutions and his organization, Institute for HyperNetwork Society became the secretariat for this Task Force.

In 2006, he continued to participate in the ongoing Internet Governance Forum (IGF) at Athens and in Rio de Janeiro in 2007. He has organized a workshop on IPv4 and v6 at the Rio IGF together with Japanese Internet community organizations as well as international bodies such as NRO and ISOC.

Iffat Rose Gill

Iffat Rose Gill is a social activist based in Pakistan with educational background in Pharmacy. Her major interests include youth rights and their involvement in decision making. Trainings include Internet Governance Capacity Building Program 2007 & Electronic Voting Course, Diplo Foundation-Malta, NGO Management and Technical Training Programs-Awaz, Pakistan and Peace Building trainings.

She is currently working as Chief Executive with Peoples Development Organization, Pakistan. Previously worked as technical advisor with Justice and Peace Commission, Pakistan, Tehsil Youth Coordinator with Awaz Pakistan and Master Trainer/Facilitator-Punjab Education Foundation, Pakistan.

She is focal point of Diplo Foundation for youth and IG issues. She is also a member of Expert Forum-Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Youth Caucus Working Group: Sustainable Development-Land; World summit

on Sustainable Development (WSSD), International Young Professionals Foundation, Australia. I was ITU Fellow 2007 for Internet Governance Forum 2007, Rio and Diplo fellow for Global Knowledge partnership event GK3.

Iffat Rose Gill has been involved with compiling and co-authored the following papers; Youth and Internet Governance Strategy (Diplo Foundation), Civic Participation and Youth Involvement(Diplo Fondation), Position paper on Sustainable Development: Land-Working Group of Youth Caucus-WSSD,Impact of ICTs on Human Rights Situation of Pakistan- (Peoples Development Organization/Human Rights Commission of Pakistan)

Y. J. Park

Y J Park has undertaken extensive field work on Internet governance since 1999 with numerous Internet governance organizations as one of Asian Civil Society members.

YJ Park was actively engaged with a various levels of Internet governance discussions and debates both nationally and globally since 1999 as one of Asian Civil Society participants until she decided to pursue her Ph.D on Internet Governance at School of Information Studies, Syracuse University in 2003.

She created the WG Review process to conduct review on DNSO of ICANN when she served on Names Council and submitted the WG Review report to the ICANN board asking for changes. She has raised awareness on Multilingual Domain Names internationally at a time when the Internet community was not ready to embrace the concept of multilingual DNS since 2000 until she stepped down from CEO of MINC in 2002.

As a founder of WSIS Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus (February 2003) during the first PrepCom of the WSIS, she continuously contributed to presenting the visions for IGC when IGC was drawn to other international issues.

Adam Peake

Adam works at the Center for Global Communications (GLOCOM), a research institute in Tokyo. They are part of the International University of Japan (IUJ), a post graduate MA/MBA school. His work at GLOCOM focuses on public policy and the Internet, promoting information and communication technologies in society, telecommunications and broadband policy, and Internet governance. He teaches a course at IUJ "Electronic Media Governance and Policy Issues" for MBA students one term each year.

He was co-coordinator of the WSIS Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus from the end of the Geneva Summit to shortly after the Tunis Summit (approx. December 2003 to February 2006.)

He has been involved in Internet policy since the early 1990s. There have been two constants in his work, first supporting and advocating for the fundamental principle of openness that distinguishes the Internet from other communications media. Second, encouraging participation in the Internet, both through activities to get people, organizations, companies, government, etc. online (in the early and mid 1990s), and later the adoption of broadband, and since the mid-1990s encouraging broad and meaningful participation in the processes and activities that help shape the Internet and ICTs, i.e. Internet governance.

EUROPE

Vittorio Bertola

Mr. Bertola is a founding partner in Dynamic Fun, a company leading innovation in Italy in logistical and commercial processes through the use of wireless and Internet technologies, and in Glomera, an Internet television platform. He has also been dealing for many years with Internet policies at the national and international level; he was a member of the United Nations' Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), appointed by the UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan, and is a member of the Internet Governance Consulting Committee of the Italian government, appointed by Minister Luigi Nicolais. He co-founded and co-coordinates the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus in the United Nations' Internet Governance Forum (IGF), where he is also leading the Dynamic Coalition on the Internet Bill of Rights. He represented the global Internet users in the Board of ICANN, the global policy making entity for Internet domain names. He is a Councillor of Società Internet, the Italian chapter of the Internet Society, and is or was a member in the policy boards of top level domain names such as .it and .mobi.

William Drake

William J. Drake is Director of the Project on the Information Revolution and Global Governance in the Program for the Study of International Organization(s) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. He has published widely on issues directly related to the IGF mandate. He is a member of the Board of Directors, Euralo, ICANN (2007-present); member of the Start-Up Group and the Group of High-Level Advisors of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (2005-present); member of the Start-Up Group and the inaugural Steering Committee of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (2006-2007) and elected co-chair (declined, 2008); member of the faculty, European Summer School on Internet Governance (2007-present); member of the Internet Governance Caucus (2003-present); member of the Multistakeholder Modalities Working Group (2006-2007); member of Working Group 1, UN Task Force on Information and Communication Technologies (2003-2005); member of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance (2004-2005); and member of the Research Network on IT Governance and Transnational Civil Society, the Social Science Research Council (2003-2005).

Jeanette Hofmann

Jeanette is a researcher at the London School of Economics in the Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation. Internet Governance has been her research field for almost 15 years. Right now, she is starting a research project on the management of the remaining IPv4 address space. Beside ongoing research on Internet infrastructure resources, she has participated in various ways in civil society activities in this field. In 2000, she was a European candidate in ICANN's first and only online election. In the following year, she

participated in the NGO and Academic Study Group (NAIS), which evaluated the election and developed proposals for reforming ICANN's At Large Membership. In 2004 and 2005 she served on ICANN's nomination committee.

In 2002 and 2003 she served as an editor for an IETF working group charged with describing problems related to the IETF's structure and procedures and with proposing processes to address the identified problems. In autumn 2003 she joined the Internet Governance Caucus. Throughout 2004 and 2005 she served, together with Adam Peake, as co-coordinator of the IG caucus. During the same period, she was a member of the German delegation to the World Summit representing German WSIS civil society coordination group.

LAC

Valeria Betancourt

Valeria Betancourt is an activist in the field of ICTs for development and social justice. Her work in the last seven years has focused on ICT policies and internet rights in the context of development countries.

Since 2003 she coordinates the Communication and Information Policy Programme in Latin America of the Association for Progressive Communications, APC. As part of APC's staff, she participated intensively in both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and has followed actively the regional eLAC process since its beginning. She is a member of the eLAC2007 Creative Industries and Content Working Group. Ms Betancourt has extensive experience in facilitating engagement of civil society organizations in ICT policy processes in national, regional and global levels.

During the WSIS process she co-facilitated the Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Caucus. She also worked closely with the official administrations of Ecuador to orientate national participation in the Summit and contributed to formulate national positions for the eLAC process. She was invited to be part of the national delegation of Ecuador for the WSIS in Tunis 2005. She has worked as a consultant of UN bodies and national ICD networks around communication and information policies as well as ICT policy advocacy. Ms Betancourt supported APC's work in both editions of the Internet Governance Forum, in Athens and Rio de Janeiro. She has been actively coordinating content production and dissemination strategies in Spanish to keep the Latin American civil society groups informed about the IGF process through APC's specialized websites, newsletters and blogs.

Ms Betancourt speaks in diverse forums and events in Latin America and participates in non-governmental and intergovernmental events related to Information Society and information and communication for development matters. She is part of the APC Women's Networking Support Programme and is collaborating to adapt gender tools (as the Gender Evaluation Methodology, GEM) to national ICT policy process. She has published articles in national, regional and global magazines and books around information society issues.

Ms Betancourt has promoted consensus building among diverse stakeholders in Latin America to reach common agendas and positions in relation to ICT policy interventions at different levels.

Carlos Affonso Pereira de Souza

Carlos Affonso Pereira de Souza is the Vice Coordinator of the Center for Technology and Society (CTS), at Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) Law School, in Rio de Janeiro. He holds a Master degree in Civil Law from the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) and teaches intellectual property, contracts and torts at FGV and the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio).

He is an attorney and a member of the Copyright Law commission of the National Bar Association (Rio de Janeiro section). Member of the Commission for the Protection of consumers in e-commerce, established by the Brazilian Ministry of Justice.

Member of the GNSO (Generic Name Supporting Organization), being one of the NCUC's (Non-Commercial Users constituency) representatives. He participates in several projects related to intellectual property such as the Creative Commons, A2K Brasil and Communia. During the last IGF he has engaged in the organization of the Internet Bill of Rights coalition.

Graciela Selaimen

Graciela Selaimen, Brazilian, based in Rio de Janeiro, was nominated by the CS AL&C Caucus for the MAG selection process. Working in Rits for the last eight years, Graciela has participated actively in the WSIS process, especially helping to inform Brazilian civil society organizations about the issues, challenges and outcomes of the discussions around the World Summit on the Information Society. Also, was one of the creators of the Brazilian chapter of the CRIS Campaign and, as the executive coordinator of Nupef - Rits' Center for Research, Studies and Capacity Building -, is helping foster the participation of NGOs and social movements on the IGF process, having organized, in 2007, a preparatory process to the IGF meeting in Brazil.

NORTH AMERICA

Robin Gross

Ms. Gross runs a boutique law practice Imagine Law that handles entertainment, intellectual property, and cyberspace legal matters of a transactional nature.

She represents the Non-Commercial Users (NCUC) Constituency on the GNSO Policy Council at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Union for the Public Domain, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. that is dedicated to protecting the public domain. Ms. Gross also serves as a member of the Advisory Board for Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility - Peru, and for FreeMuse, an independent international organization based in Copenhagen that advocates freedom of expression for musicians and composers worldwide.

In July 2004 Managing Intellectual Property Magazine named Ms. Gross as one of "2004's Top 50 Most Influential People in Intellectual Property in the World." She was called to testify before the US Copyright Office during the 2003 and 2000 Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) Rulemaking Hearings .

Before founding IP Justice in 2002, Ms. Gross was the first Staff Attorney for Intellectual Property with the cyber-liberties organization the Electronic Frontier Foundation where she began the group's campaign in intellectual property litigation in 1999. While at EFF, she defended Morpheus P2P file-sharing software developers in the district court and represented consumers over their right to use digital VCRs. In 1999 Ms. Gross led EFF's defense of web publishers of DeCSS computer code that unlocks DVDs (including Norwegian teen Jon Johansen). She also represented 2600 Magazine (against the major movie studios) and Princeton scientists (against the recording industry) over publication of technical information banned by the DMCA. In 2001 she developed EFF's Open Audio License, an early public license for music that permits public sharing in exchange for artist attribution.

California's legal newspaper The Daily Journal selected Ms. Gross as one of "California's Top Ten Most Influential Attorneys in 2001". She has appeared as a guest legal expert on TV and radio news stations including CNN, BBC, NPR, PRI, Tech TV, NHK, DRS, VOA, and CBC. Ms. Gross has been quoted in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, USA Today, Business Week, Wired News, Associated Press, Reuters, Financial Times, Billboard and other media outlets.

Michael Gurstein

Dr. Gurstein is currently Executive Director of the Centre for Community Informatics Research, Development and Training (Vancouver BC), a Director of The Information Society Institute, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town South Africa; Research Professor in the School of Management at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (Newark); and Research Professor in the Faculty of Management at the

University of Quebec (Ouatouis). His book "Community Informatics: Enabling Communities with Information and Communications Technologies: (Idea Group, 2000) provided a focal point for "Community Informatics" as and the development of strategic and policy thinking concerning the social appropriation of ICT.

Dr. Gurstein has been active in helping to create a Telecentre Movement providing an opportunity for grassroots Information and Communications Technology users, practitioners and ICT4D activists to come together to promote their collective interests and to participate in local, national and global policy processes.

Milton Mueller

Milton Mueller is Professor at Syracuse University School of Information Studies, USA, and also XS4All Professor at the Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. Mueller received the Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989. He was one of the founders of the Internet Governance Project, an alliance of scholars in action around global Internet policy issues. Dr. Mueller's research focuses on property rights, institutions and global governance in communication and information industries. His book Ruling the Root: Internet Governance and the Taming of Cyberspace (MIT Press, 2002) was the first book-length analysis of the political and economic forces leading to the creation of ICANN. He is currently working on a book about Internet governance in the post-World Summit on the Information Society environment: Networks and States: The Global Politics of Internet Governance. The sponsor of his endowed chair at Delft University of Technology, a Dutch Internet service provider known for its commitment to social responsibility, XS4All, is interested in supporting the security and privacy of Internet users, and in connection with that position he is doing research on the policy implications of Deep Packet Inspection technology and the security governance practices of ISPs.

Mueller has played a leading role in organizing and mobilizing civil society in ICANN. He was a founder of the noncommercial users constituency and has served as its chair for several years. He was elected to ICANN's GNSO Council and has worked on various task forces related to new TLDs, Whois/privacy, and the .org reassignment. Mueller is on the Advisory Council of Public Interest Registry (.org) and the Policy Advisory Board of .mobi.

Dr. Mueller brings specific expertise and experience to the MAG that is related to priority aspects of the IGF mandate that are emerging as critical issues including internet governance arrangements, access for all, increasing transparency and accountability in internet governance processes, building civil society networks in public policy processes related to internet governance, and a rights based approach to the IGF. He is an active and committed member of the Internet Governance Caucus and works hard to include broader CS participation from sectors not currently active in the IGF, but who are critical to it's ongoing development.

