June 7, 2021

Office of International Affairs
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW Room 4701
Washington, DC 20230

Docket No. 210503-0097
RIN 0660-XC050
Telecommunications/ICT Development Activities, Priorities and Policies To Connect the Unconnected Worldwide in Light of the 2021 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)

Submitted via email to: Ms. Diane Steinour <dsteinour@ntia.gov>, and WTDC21@ntia.gov

Dear Ms. Steinour,

The American Registry for Internet Numbers , Ltd. (ARIN) is pleased to submit the following comments in response to your Docket referenced above.

Established in 1997, ARIN is a non-governmental, non-profit, member-based organization and one of five global Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). ARIN supports the governance of the Internet throughout our service region, comprised of Canada, the United States, and Caribbean and North Atlantic islands.

Our core functions include the management and administration of Internet Protocol ('IP') number resources and Autonomous System numbers (ASNs). ARIN devotes significant effort to policy development and on working with the community to improve the integrity of traffic on the Internet. Since 1997, Internet service providers (ISPs) of all types and sizes – ranging from large nationally known telecommunication/cloud providers & corporate networks and down to small entrepreneurial ISPs – have successfully participated in a self-governance framework for Internet address coordination that works collegially with both the private sector and government entities.

The Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences have exacerbated global ICT/Internet connectivity challenges. On the other hand, it has shown us that online capacity development, operations, and support to our whole service region could be done, as well as participation to all international organizations meetings. We appreciate all the more the WTDC-21 theme of 'Connecting the Unconnected for Sustainable Development'. ARIN, as a sector member of the ITU-D, has actively engaged in preparations for the WTDC-21 and is looking forward to working with all stakeholders towards improved and inclusive global connectivity to reduce the digital divide.

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1. <u>ICT/Internet Development:</u> Regarding connectivity globally and nationally, it is crucial to continue promotion and implementation of IPv6 to keep the user experience at its best as the Internet grows. IPv6 provides a much larger address pool so that many more devices can be connected to the Internet. It also improves addressing and routing of network traffic. Because the free pool of IPv4 addresses has been depleted, customers will want to request IPv6 address space for new networks, and eventually transition their networks from IPv4 to IPv6. In addition to the main ARIN website, ARIN maintains a community blog called "Team ARIN" (www.teamarin.net) to inform individuals, businesses, civil society, and governments on issues facing the Internet community. The site features a library of IPv6 case studies which offer detailed accounts from organizations that have deployed IPv6. Guest authors from different organizations (including government, private sector and academia) share opportunities and challenges related to the deployment of IPv6. The case studies are available at: https://teamarin.net/get6/ipv6-case-studies/

2. <u>Stakeholder Community & Capacity Development:</u> In our approach to stakeholder engagement and capacity development, ARIN places strategic and operational focus on public sector awareness building, cooperation with law enforcement and public safety entities, technical community capacity building, Internet infrastructure resilience, and emerging networks support. As a result, our various meetings and fora serve to facilitate more effective technical coordination of the Internet. Furthermore, they:

   - support regional and global Internet public policy development consistent with the aim of an open, resilient and secure Internet;

   - support inter-agency collaboration on Internet-related issues amongst justice sector stakeholders, including law enforcement & public safety agencies;

   - foster broad participation in the Internet number resource policy development process; and

   - support development and resiliency of critical Internet infrastructure.

3. <u>WTDC-21 Enabling Environment in Policies and Regulations:</u> The growth of the Internet and the increase in usage (not least for the past year) has also brought a dramatic uptick in network security incidents as well as increased regulatory and legislative efforts to curb those incidents. There are growing calls to protect, strengthen, and localize critical internet infrastructure.

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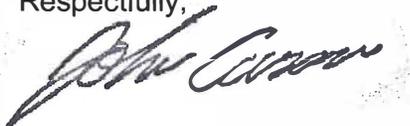ARIN Response to Docket No. 210503-0097
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ARIN is a supporter of the multi-stakeholder model of cooperation and believes that it should be utilized as the first step in exploring and resolving Internet issues. The multistakeholder model has proven to help grow the Internet and minimize the need for laws and regulations that might impact having one interoperable global Internet to the benefit of all.

1. <u>Other - Security:</u> With regards to Internet security, ARIN actively works toward ensuring that the Internet remains stable and secure. This is done through a number of different methods including outreach and engagement, capacity building, collaboration and strategic alliances with industry partners, and the provisioning of various tools and services that enhance the functionality of the Internet. ARIN has dedicated a significant amount of effort over the past several years toward developing technologies that will help to improve the integrity of Internet traffic on a global scale. Examples of this work are Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) and a validated Internet Routing Registry (IRR). Both of these technologies were specifically designed to help secure the Internet's routing infrastructure leading to more secure data being sent over the Internet.

ARIN is grateful for the opportunity to have provided these comments.

Respectfully,

John Curran
President and CEO
American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)