

Statement of the ISPCP Verisign Settlement Agreements At Wellington, New Zealand ICANN Meeting

March 2006

During the ICANN meeting in Wellington the ISPCP have carefully reconsidered the ICANN Board's decision to approve the Verisign Settlement Agreements. After listening to the rationale offered by those Board members who voted in favour of this motion, the ISPCP remain convinced that the basis for that decision was flawed and failed to address the many concerns raised, not only by the ISPCP but by the vast majority of the ICANN Community.

The ISPCP wish to underline that they do recognise the complex nature of this issue and the many difficult aspects which impact, but stress the point that in such situations, a far more open, two way dialogue, between those who make the final decisions and the community who have offered substantial and valid input to the process is required prior to a final decision being taken. Such action is considered an essential requirement for any Board responsible for taking final decisions on behalf of a bottom-up, consensus driven organisation. Being told 'we have listened' is not enough, when the many points raised have received minimum acknowledgement or public response.

The ISPCP would like to publicly acknowledge their gratitude for the Board members who voted against the proposed settlement. We also appreciate those who took the time and initiative to describe their respective rationale, and decision making process. By posting individual public statements explaining the reasons for their stance on this issue, these board members reinforced the belief that ICANN serves a large and diverse community, as well as the necessity for openness and transparency which serve as fundamental facets of ICANN. Had all board members done this, they would have added much legitimacy to the process.