An Introduction to ICANN

Dr Paul Twomey

President and CEO

WSIS PrepCom

17 September 2003

ICANN

Brief points to provide clearer information on:

- What we do
- What we don't do
- Why and how the private-public partnership works
- Some comments on redelegations of ccTLDs
- Completing the transition and the withdrawal of the US government

ICANN

ICANN has a limited mission

- Ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN:
- 1. Coordinates the allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet, which are
    - a. Domain names (forming a system referred to as "DNS");
    - b. Internet protocol ("IP") addresses and autonomous system ("AS") numbers; and
    - c. Protocol port and parameter numbers.
- 2. Coordinates the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system.
- 3. Coordinates very limited policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions.

ICANN

What we don't do:

- Content on the internet
- SPAM
- Financial transactions online
- Consumer protection law
- Privacy law
- Data protection law
- Intellectual Property law
- E-commerce, e-education, e-government etc.

ICANN

The various interest groups competing for influence over the Domain Name and Addressing systems put the previous administrative process under breaking strain
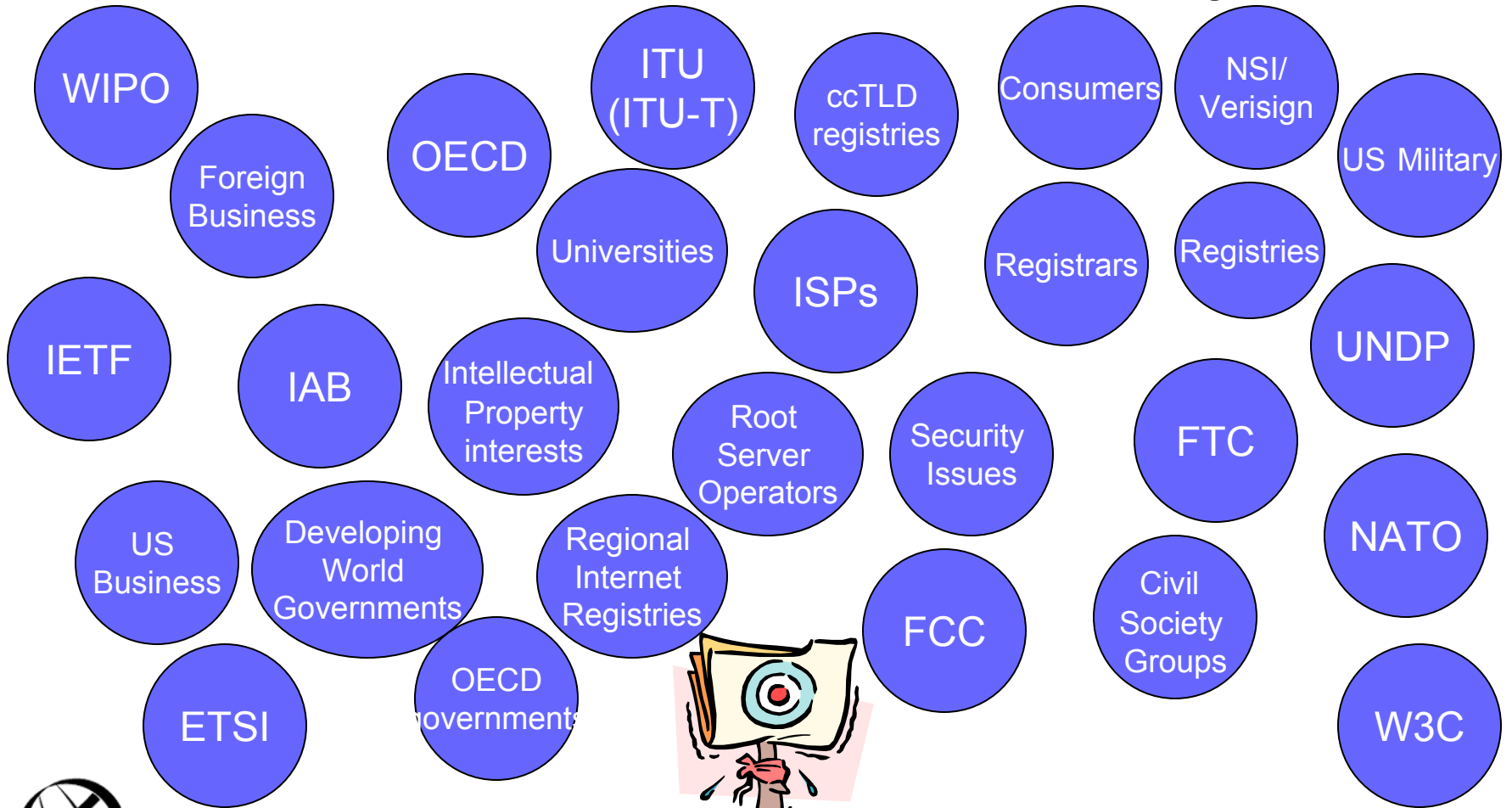
The public-private policy forum establishes a bottom-up and balanced mechanism for interest groups to arrive at consensus on issues within a limited technical administrative mandate

Board of Directors

President and CEO

ASO

GNSO

CCNSO

NN s

ICANN
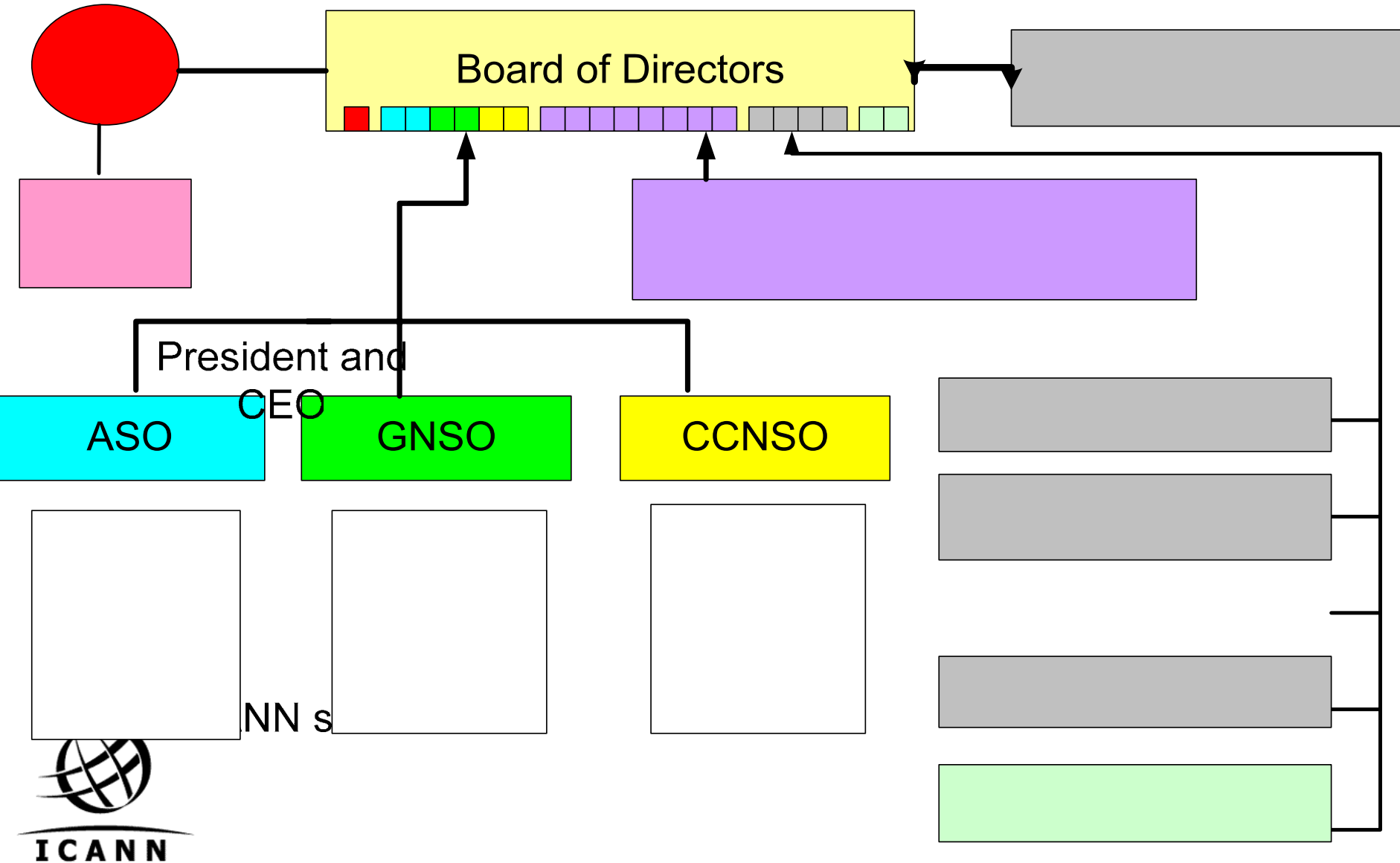
Redelegations:

- Governments input: GAC principles on redelegation followed
- No role in internal rules of ccTLD or country policy
- Very careful process
- Important for national administrations to approach with one voice and to determine who should have responsibility for their ccTLD administration

ICANN

Completing the transition from the US:

- Final step
- Further internationalization – staff, materials, education and skills transfer, presence
- Transition from US backstop function.

ICANN