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**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on the “Privatizing the Internet Assigned Number Authority”**

Thank you Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo for holding this hearing today. Thank you also to the witnesses for being here. I know many of you were in Morocco last week for the ICANN meeting, and so I appreciate your willingness to testify so quickly after your return.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration first contracted with ICANN in 1998 to perform the technical functions that have made the Internet such a powerful platform. At the time the Clinton administration suggested eventually privatizing these functions. And now we are on the cusp of completing the transition, but the members of this subcommittee have made clear that this transition cannot take place without measures in place to keep ICANN accountable for its actions.

I'd like to congratulate the Internet's multi-stakeholder community on reaching an agreement on a final IANA transition and accountability proposal. I know that getting to this point took an impressive amount of work.

But the work is not done. New bylaws for ICANN need to be completed to make the proposal legally binding. And now that we have a proposal, NTIA can begin officially reviewing it.

This Committee crafted the bipartisan DOTCOM Act, which would have given Congress an official role in this process. The House passed this legislation but unfortunately the bill has not made it through the Senate. Nonetheless I am pleased that NTIA Assistant Secretary Strickling has committed to comply with the ideas behind the DOTCOM Act—even if it isn't signed into law.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses. Your testimony will help to inform our own understanding of the IANA transition proposal.

Thank you.

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