

**DONA FOUNDATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**(July 6 and 7, 2017)**  
**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES**

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**Board Members Present:** Robert E. Kahn (**Chair**), Stefan Eberhard, Gao Xinmin, Antoine Geissbühler, Ed Pentz, Adama Samassékou, Peter Wittenburg and Steve Wolff.

**Also Present:** Alexander Ntoko, institutional representative of ITU; Patrice Lyons, institutional representative of CNRI; DONA Foundation's Executive Director, Christophe Blanchi; and, as a guest, Vasily Dolmatov, technical representative of absent Board member Rashid Ismailov. In addition, several individuals that attended the 4<sup>th</sup> DONA MPA-CG meeting (mentioned below) were present as guests for all or part of the meeting at the invitation of the Chair.

### **1. Opening of the Board Meeting**

On notice duly given, a meeting of the Board of Directors (**Board**) of the DONA Foundation (**DONA** or **Foundation**) was held, beginning at 2:10 pm on July 6, 2017, at the Maison de la Paix, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2, Geneva, Switzerland. The Chair thanked the *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies* for their hospitality and for making their excellent facilities available for the Board meeting. The Chair welcomed the Board members and invited them to introduce themselves. He then presented a brief overview of DONA activities, particularly the authorization and credentialing of three new Multi-Primary Administrators (**MPAs**), since the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Board.

### **2. Report from the Executive Director**

a) *GHR-related activities:* The DONA Executive Director, Christophe Blanchi, presented a detailed report on DONA's activities and progress made over the last year on the operation of the Global Handle Registry (**GHR**); and the integration of the three new MPA GHR Services. Mr. Blanchi reported that the GHR, operating on a multi-primary basis, continued to work satisfactorily and that the response time and collaboration from each of the MPAs has been positive.

b) *Financial Situation:* Mr. Blanchi reported an increase in revenue during the past year due to the addition of new MPAs. This represented a positive trend for 2016 despite a slight increase in expenses due to professional services and the cost of hosting the annual Board meeting.

c) *Personnel:* Mr. Blanchi reported that DONA is now considering hiring new employees to assist with matters such as financial reporting, budgeting, event planning and perhaps the creation of special projects and events, as appropriate.

### **3. Report on 4<sup>th</sup> DONA MPA Coordination Group Meeting**

Following brief comments by Board members and institutional representatives, Mr. Blanchi reported, in general terms, on the 4<sup>th</sup> DONA MPA Coordination Group (**DONA-CG**) meeting that took place on 5 and 6 July 2017, immediately prior to the Board meeting. He highlighted the active discussions and participation of representatives from the MPAs at the meeting. He noted a need for DONA to develop certain software tools and utilities to assist the MPAs in their work and that efforts were underway to define those requirements.

### **4. Current MPA Status**

The Chair noted that three new Multi-Primary Administrators had entered into MPA Service Agreements with the DONA Foundation since the last Annual Meeting: MISAVA Agency for Digital Identifiers (MISADI) (effective October 16, 2016), Smart Africa Alliance, which is a joint initiative between the Smart Africa Secretariat and the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (effective October 19, 2016), and Tunisia Internet Agency (ATI) (effective June 27, 2017). There are now eight MPAs authorized and credentialed by DONA: the three mentioned above, plus CNRI, Coalition, GWDG, IDF and CITC. The Board also discussed plans for authorization of additional MPAs during the coming years.

### **5. Discussion of Proposed Specifications**

The Chair invited the CNRI institutional representative, Ms. Lyons, to discuss some remaining substantive matters that need to be addressed in completing the transition process from CNRI, as Founder, to the Foundation, including, in particular, the updating of the three IETF RFCs relating to the identifier /resolution component of the DO Architecture that will now be called the *Handle Technology Protocol*, as well as the Digital Object Interface Protocol (**DOIP**). CNRI noted that stable versions of the Handle Technology Protocol and of DOIP, compatible with ITU Recommendation X.1255, would be provided to the Foundation in the coming months.

### **6. Provision of Additional GHR Resolution Services**

The Chair introduced a new topic for discussion, namely, the potential need for additional GHR resolution capabilities as might be appropriate for load sharing or certain kinds of reliability and performance in the face of widespread local outages. The Board was asked to consider the case where a particular MPA, say one to whom credential “35” was allotted, wishes to provide one or more GHR Services only for resolution purposes.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board authorized, in principle, the proposal for the authorization of such resolution services, provided, however, that the technical and procedural changes that would be required in both the DONA Foundation Policies & Procedures and the MPA Service Agreement be coordinated by the Chair; and the proposed changes submitted by the Chair to the Board for review and approval prior to moving forward.

During the discussion of the proposal, the issue of the allotment to an existing MPA of one or more additional credentials was raised. In light of the views presented, the Board reflected that it would need to know more about these situations and agreed that this matter should be referred to the *Task Force on New MPAs* for their input.

## **7. Observations from MPA Representatives**

The representatives of the MPAs who had attended the Board meeting as guests were invited by the Chair to share their reflections on the DONA-CG meeting and the work of the Foundation more generally. Observations were quite positive. Steps taken at the DONA-CG meeting to establish working groups, as well as the support expressed for more frequent meetings was very encouraging. The scope of applications and services was clearly growing quickly, and it was deemed important to exchange technical views on how best to address these developments with a focus on the implementation and use of components of the DO Architecture. While the energy and openness among participants in the DONA-CG was important, it was also recognized that there was a need for strategic planning.

## **8. Reports from Existing Board Committees**

(i) *Public Communication:* Mr. Eberhard recalled the detailed report of the Public Communication Committee that had been presented to the Board at its last meeting. It was intended in part to stimulate thinking by the Board at the strategic level, but that there had been little, if any, substantive feedback. Instead, there was now a focus on encouraging MPAs to make information on their respective MPA GHR Services available to the public and to provide the Foundation with a link to their websites so visitors to the dona.net site know how to contact them for further information.

(ii) *Pilot Projects:* On behalf of the Pilot Project Committee, Mr. Geissbühler reported on progress that had been made on two specific health care projects that had been authorized at last year's Board meeting. There was a mix of applications, use cases, and explanations that drew interest to the need for interoperability. A Board member cautioned, however, that, while DONA remains responsible for developing and demonstrating DONA-approved specifications and standards within its mission, DONA should not be perceived as competing with the MPAs.

The Chair observed that there was a need to improve the quality of the intelligent supply chain, where information is visible across the entire or part of a supply chain. He viewed logistic services as an important area for deployment of handle services and suggested that the Foundation focus on a specific pilot project now that could eventually evolve into a more generic implementation of the DO Architecture; however, no specific action was authorized by the Board absent a detailed plan.

## **9. End of Board Meeting**

No further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.