4 October 2012

Revised Draft Statement of ICANN's Role and Remit in SSR

Recommendation 1 of the final report from the SSR Review Team under the Affirmation of Commitments states that ICANN should "publish a single, clear and consistent statement of its SSR remit and limited technical mission." (20 June 2012).

Following public comment on the draft statement of ICANN's role and remit in SSR (http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/draft-ssr-role-remit-17may12-en.htm), staff has prepared a revised draft statement. This statement is a work in progress and will be updated following the ICANN meeting in Toronto. As suggested in comments received from the ccNSO, ISPCP, RySG, and others, this statement will be closely aligned with documentation of SSR relationships in the ICANN community and greater Internet ecosystem under **Recommendation 4** of the SSR RT.

Draft Statement of ICANN's Role and Remit in Security, Stability and Resiliency of the Internet's Unique Identifier Systems

ICANN (the organization) acts within its Bylaws to support a multi-stakeholder model collaborating to ensure the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

ICANN's Security Stability and Resiliency (SSR) role and remit is based on the following terminology:

> Security – the capacity to protect and prevent misuse of Internet unique identifiers.

> Stability – the capacity to ensure that the system operates as expected, and that users of the unique identifiers have confidence that the system operates as expected.

> Resiliency – the capacity of the unique identifier system to effectively withstand/tolerate/survive malicious attacks and other disruptive events without disruption or cessation of service.

The community input on the coordination of this role assumes that ICANN (the organization) will act in an open, accountable and transparent manner and inclusive of the diversity of stakeholders in the global Internet ecosystem.

Coordination and collaboration is a shared responsibility among the community of multi-stakeholder participants in the Internet ecosystem and not one borne alone by ICANN as a singular entity.

Within its technical mission, ICANN's SSR role encompasses three categories of responsibilities:

1. ICANN's operational responsibilities (internal operations including L-root, DNS operations, DNSSEC key signing operations, IANA functions, new TLD operations, etc);

2. ICANN's involvement as a coordinator, collaborator and facilitator with the global community in policy and technical matters related to the Internet's unique identifiers;

3. ICANN's engagement with others in the global Internet ecosystem.

Responsibilities that lie outside ICANN's role in SSR include:

- ICANN does not play a role in policing the Internet or operationally combatting criminal behaviour;

- ICANN does not have a role in the use of the Internet related to cyber-espionage and cyber-war;
- ICANN does not have a role in determining what constitutes illicit conduct on the Internet.

ICANN is not a law enforcement agency, a court of law or government agency. ICANN cannot unilaterally suspend or terminate domain names. ICANN is able to enforce its contracts with third parties, including domain name registration providers. Furthermore, ICANN does play a role in supporting the work of law enforcement or government agencies in carrying out legitimate actions at their request.

ICANN plays the same part as any interested stakeholder with regards to Internet protocols; evolution of Internet protocols and related standards are not under the purview of ICANN.

Appendix – Background

ICANN was founded in 1998 to coordinate the Internet's unique identifier systems for worldwide public benefit to enable a single, global interoperable Internet [United States Department of Commerce, Statement of Policy, Management of Internet Names and Addresses, 5 June 1998, 63 Fed. Reg. 31741 (commonly known as the White Paper), http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/white-paper]. ICANN operates in an open, accountable and transparent multi-stakeholder model that reflects the diversity of all Internet users as a whole.

Since its formation, stability of the Internet has been a central priority for ICANN [ICANN Articles of Incorporation, 21 November 1998, http://www.icann.org/en/about/governance/articles]. Security and reliability of the Internet's unique identifiers are important parts of stability.

According to ICANN's Bylaws (most recently updated on 16 March 2012) [ICANN Bylaws, dated 16 March 2012, Mission & Core Values, http://www.icann.org/en/about/governance/bylaws#I], ICANN's mission is "to coordinate, at the overall level, the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers, and in particular to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN:

1. Coordinates the allocation and assignment of three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet, which are

a. Domain names (forming a system referred to as DNS);

b. Internet protocol ("IP") addressees 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 policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions."

ICANN acknowledges responsibility in its core values for "preserving and enhancing the operational stability, reliability, security, and global interoperability of the Internet."

From 1998 to 2009, ICANN operated under a set of transition agreements with the United States Department of Commerce, known as the Memorandum of Understanding [Memorandum of Understanding between the US Department of Commerce and ICANN, 25 November 1998, http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/mou-jpa/icann-mou-25nov98-en.htm] (and later Joint Project Agreement) [Joint Project Agreement, dated 29 September 2006, http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements]. Collaboration by ICANN in technical coordination of the Internet's unique identifiers was a central theme in these agreements.

On 30 September 2009, ICANN and the United States Department of Commerce entered into the Affirmation of Commitments [http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/aoc/affirmation-of-commitments-30sep09-en.htm]. The Affirmation of Commitments "institutionalized and memorialized the technical coordination of the Internet's domain name and addressing system (DNS), globally by a private sector led organization."

The Affirmation of Commitments requires periodic reviews of ICANN's execution on its plans and processes related to operational stability, reliability, resiliency, security and global interoperability of the DNS [Affirmation of Commitments, Section 9.2]. A Security, Stability and Resiliency Review Team commenced its work in October 2010, and published its initial report for public comment on 15 March 2012 [http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/ssrt-draft-report-15mar12-en.htm].

The Security, Stability and Resiliency Review Team recommended that ICANN "publish a

single, clear and consistent statement of its SSR remit and limited technical mission."
(See Recommendation 1, draft report dated 15 Mar 2012).

Consistent with this recommendation, a draft statement of ICANN's SSR role and remit was developed based on its foundational documents, previous SSR Plans and Frameworks, and the SSR Review Team draft report. This statement was published for community consultation between May-September 2012 (http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/draft-ssr-role-remit-17may12-en.htm). A summary and analysis of the comments received from the community is available at http://forum.icann.org/lists/draft-ssr-role-remit/msg00019.html.

Document and Resource Links

Learn more about ICANN's SSR role and remit

Specific information in support of this technical mission is described in ICANN's Security, Stability and Resiliency Framework (https://www.icann.org/en/about/staff/security)**.** This annual document explains the connection between ICANN's role and remit in DNS Security, Stability and Resiliency, ICANN's Strategic and Operational Planning and its related SSR programs and initiatives for each fiscal year.