

## Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) on Enhancing ICANN Accountability

### What is this about?

The CCWG-Accountability is expected to deliver proposals that would enhance ICANN's accountability towards all stakeholders. The goal is for the transition proposal regarding the IANA functions to be communicated to NTIA in a timeframe which is consistent with the expiration date of the current IANA Functions Contract, which is set at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The CCWG-Accountability will therefore work as expeditiously as possible to identify those mechanisms that must be in place or committed to before the IANA Stewardship Transition in light of the changing historical contractual relationship with the U.S. Government (Work Stream 1) and those mechanisms for which a timeline for implementation may extend beyond the IANA Stewardship Transition (Work Stream 2).

In order to facilitate evaluation and adoption of its proposals, the CCWG-Accountability is expected to provide a detailed description on how its proposals would provide an adequate level of resistance to contingencies ("stress tests"), within the scope of each Work Stream.

Further, Work Stream 1 may identify issues that are important and relevant to the IANA stewardship transition but cannot be addressed within this time frame, in which case, there must be mechanisms or other guarantees that can ensure that the work would be completed in a timely manner as soon as possible after the transition.

### Why is this important?

During discussions around the IANA Stewardship Transition process, the community raised the broader topic of the impact of the change on ICANN's accountability given its historical contractual relationship with the United States and NTIA. Accountability in this context is defined, according to the [NETmundial multistakeholder statement](#), as the existence of mechanisms for independent checks and balances as well as for review and redress.

The concerns raised during these discussions around the transition process indicate that the existing ICANN accountability mechanisms do not yet meet stakeholder expectations. Recent statements made by various stakeholders suggest that current accountability mechanisms need to be reviewed and, if need be, improved, amended, replaced, or supplemented with new mechanisms (see for instance ATRT recommendations) in light of the changing historic contractual relationship with the U.S. Government. Considering that the NTIA has stressed that it is expecting community consensus regarding the transition, a failure to meet stakeholder expectations with regards to accountability may create a situation where NTIA does not accept the IANA transition proposal as meeting its conditions. Thus reviewing ICANN's accountability mechanisms was considered to be crucial for the transition process.

### **What is the current status of this project?**

The scope of the Enhancing ICANN Accountability process is defined as ensuring that ICANN enhances its existing accountability in the absence of its historical contractual relationship with the U.S. Government.

The group's work is divided into two work streams:

- WS1 is focused on identifying mechanisms enhancing ICANN accountability that must be in place or committed to within the timeframe of the IANA Stewardship Transition.
- WS2 is focused on addressing accountability topics for which a timeline for developing solutions and full implementation may extend beyond the IANA Stewardship Transition.

The CCWG-Accountability expects to complete its work on Work Stream 1 within the same timeframe as the parallel, interrelated IANA Stewardship Transition process.

The CCWG held its first face-to-face meeting in Frankfurt, Germany on 19-20 January 2015. The [Frankfurt meeting](#) was attended by more than fifty members and participants with an additional 40 participants and observers who joined the meeting remotely. The meeting led to significant progress, including initial agreement on a problem statement, a list of "stress tests" and requirements for Work Stream 1. The basic themes were identified in a mind map, which will be a roadmap for the next phase of the group's work.

### **Expected next steps**

The CCWG-Accountability will continue to progress in all work paths identified during the Frankfurt meeting. A [series of sessions](#) will be held at the upcoming ICANN 52 meeting in Singapore, including a community engagement session and two working sessions, with remote participation. In addition, the group will meet with the ICANN Board.

### **Background**

The Charter of the CCWG-Accountability has been adopted by the Address Supporting Organization (ASO), At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Country Code Supporting Organization (ccNSO), Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO). The CCWG-Accountability consists of 161 [people](#), organized as 25 [members](#), appointed by and accountable to chartering organizations, 136 [participants](#), who participate as individuals, and 38 [mailing list observers](#). The group also includes one ICANN Board liaison, one ICANN staff representative, and one former ATRT member who serves as a liaison. In addition, there are 4 ICG members who participate in the CCWG-Accountability, including two who serve as liaisons between the two groups.

Six [Advisors](#) have also been appointed to contribute research and advice, and to bring perspectives on global best practices to enrich the CCWG-Accountability discussion. The [Public Experts Group \(PEG\)](#) continues its search for an Advisor who will bring expertise in International Law/Jurisprudence and will strive to select this Advisor as soon as possible.

### **How can I get involved?**

The CCWG-Accountability is an open group: anyone interested in the work of the CCWG-Accountability, can join as a participant. Participants may be from a chartering organization, from a stakeholder group or organization not represented in the CCWG-Accountability or currently active within ICANN, or self-appointed. Anyone interested in participating in or following the work of the CCWG-Accountability can find information on the Wiki [here](#).

### **Where can I find more information?**

- CCWG Workspace - <https://community.icann.org/x/ogDxAg>
- CCWG Charter - <https://community.icann.org/x/KYMHAW>
- CCWG Working Sessions on Monday 9 February from 15.30 – 18.30 local time (<http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-ccwg-accountability>) and Thursday 12 February from 7.00 – 10.00 local time (<http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/thu-ccwg-accountability>)
- CCWG Engagement Session on Wednesday 10 February from 9.45 – 11.15 local time (<http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/wed-ccwg-accountability>)

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