

UNINETT Norid AS comments on the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability's Draft Proposal on Work Stream 1 recommendations

Introduction

UNINETT Norid AS (hereafter Norid) runs the registry for Norwegian domain names and is the not-for-profit manager of the Norwegian ".no" country code Top Level Domain. Norid is registering and administrating all domain names directly under .no. Norid is actively participating in ICANN.

Norid welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Draft Proposal of the Cross Community Working Group on enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG). Norid appreciates the heavy workload taken on by the CCWG and the challenging task it has been to reach compromises and taken all stakeholders comments into consideration. We support the transition process and look forward to a conclusion that all can consider a success.

Norid appreciates the willingness from different stakeholders to adjust their position to reach a compromise everyone can live with. Even if some areas still could need some more clarification, we are positive that the goal will be reached.

Issues of special interest to us as ccTLD manager

Our primary focus in this process has been not to lose what ccTLD managers have fought for and achieved for many years. The subsidiarity principle is still important, that local policy should be made locally and that only global policy should be made through PDPs. It is essential to maintain the autonomy of the ccTLDs and the integrity of Policy Development Processes (PDPs) performed through the ccNSO.

Development and implementation of policy related to ccTLD issues must remain under the affected community and not be subject to veto or objection from non-direct stakeholders.

Issues in connection with Budget and Strategic and Operating plans

Norid appreciates the reason behind the CCWG's decision to allow the community to have oversight and veto powers relating to the above. Budget, strategy and operating plans are always important governance mechanisms in all organizations, also in ICANN.

An important aspect of this, however, is who will have these powers. Should all stakeholders have the same role? We mean that it is the direct customers of IANA (such as RIRs, IETF, gTLDs and ccTLDs) that should have these powers, at least that they should play the most significant role when considering rejecting the IANA Budget.

Issues in connection with The Board

Norid supports the proposal giving the community powers to remove individual Board Directors. In addition to the proposal of giving power to remove the entire Board is this an important factor when considering the accountability of ICANN.

However, this is a power that should not be misused, and we have to be sure that the rules that will be developed on how to execute these powers will be established through openness and transparency.

Delegations and revocations of ccTLDs

We are happy that delegations and revocations of ccTLDs have been excluded from the proposed Independent Review Panel process. Norid reiterates the point mentioned above on the importance of the subsidiarity of ccTLDs regarding their operation and policy development and is content that the CCWG has not changed this long-standing principle.

Mission Statement

Norid supports the key principles of the CCWG's suggested edits:

- That ICANN's mission is limited to developing and implementing policies for the operation of the DNS, incorporating values of security, stability, openness and interoperability
- That ICANN's mission does not include regulation of services or content
- That ICANN's powers are restricted to those explicitly mentioned in the Bylaws. Any role or responsibility not mentioned are out of scope for ICANN

Sole Designator Model

The current proposal of the CCWG for a "Sole Designator" seems to be acceptable as a compromise. It will not be a change that is too fundamental at the same time as it will lead to enhanced accountability.

It should be more pencilled out how the proposed entity of "empowered community" should be created. And it is unclear for us who the "decisional participants" will be.

Accountability reviews of SOs and ACs

Since ICANN includes all stakeholder groups it makes sense that also the SOs and ACs should be reviewed to ensure that also they are accountable to their respective communities. Just make sure that the review process is not developed to be a tedious process, but efficient and effective and not demanding too much work and time. We suppose that this will be looked into in Workstream 2.

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Interaction between ICANN Board and Governments has always been an issue of great importance and often time consuming and leading to delays in process. It is still heavily debated and since this first and foremost is an area that the GAC should consider, the proposed amendments to the ICANN Bylaws will have strong influence on the other stakeholder groups and other processes. The relationship between ICANN Board and the GAC is of utmost importance to safeguard.