

Comments on ICANN Accountability:

1. What issues does the community identify as being core to strengthening ICANN's overall accountability in the absence of its historical contractual relationship to the U.S. Government?

ICANN's accountability mechanism is an integral part of the IANA transition process. ICANN should demonstrate accountability to the global stakeholder through the accountability systems already in place or enhancing or replacing them to a level that all stakeholder groups are involved in order to enable a suitable transition process. It may require

- i. All ICANN supporting organizations and affiliate organizations will require to put in place accountability and transparency mechanisms similar or aligned to those of ICANN so as to have a mechanism in place to facilitate ICANN's accountability to the global stakeholder.
- ii. ICANN reaching out to maintain or establish engagement with the all governments whether or not they have been involved in ICANN. ICANN should welcome governments to be involved alongside other non-government stakeholders in a multi-stakeholder model.
- iii. ICANN increasing visibility to stakeholders all around the world in various strategic ways as management will determine.

All of the above being carried out with emphasis on sufficient time for continual consultations on improving overall accountability.

2. What should be the guiding principles to ensure that the notion of accountability is understood and accepted globally?
 - i. **Building co-operation between various stakeholders** to ensure a sustainable multi-stakeholder model that strives for unity of purpose
 - ii. **Ensuring open, honest and accountable engagements** with the global community
 - iii. **Sustainability of the bottom up policy development process**
 - iv. **Continue to ensure sound, objective, standards and professionalism** within the community and staff.
 - v. **Communication clarity** by ensuring accurate and timely reports of activities to all stakeholders.
 - vi. **Commitment to ensuring regional and multi-stakeholder balance** in ICANN activities, supporting organizations and engagement strategy; striving for balanced and diverse representation.

What are the consequences if the ICANN Board is not being accountable to the community?

There is likely to be an affront from the community for institutional changes especially at the Board level.

Is there anything that should be added to the Working Group's mandate?

The working group should consider ICANN's global accountability mechanism in view of the existing challenge of ICANN visibility and awareness in some parts of the world.

3. Do the Affirmation of Commitments and the values expressed therein need to evolve to support global acceptance of ICANN's accountability and so, how?

The Affirmation of Commitments and the values expressed in the AoC are important to ensuring accountability however, there is a challenge with the implementation process of recommendation generated out of the review process. The time frame between the main AoC review process is too short (a period of 3years) during which 3 reviews are carried out and the ATRT team is expected to review the previous ATRT implementation and AoC related reviews. The process puts the institution in a continuous review process cycle where it is possible that boxes are ticked with little consideration for time to implement changes; monitor and evaluate the impact of the recommendations before the next ATRT team comes in for the next review. I would propose ICANN look into spreading the AoC review process over a 5year period as opposed to a 3year period.

4. What are the means by which the Community is assured that ICANN is meeting its accountability commitments?

The community is assured accountability commitments are met when the guiding principles are met and the values of the Affirmation of commitment are upheld.

5. Are there other mechanisms that would better ensure that ICANN lives up to its commitments?

Yes, a clear accountability monitoring and evaluation mechanism that makes accountability a process that is ingrained in all the institutions activities and process.

6. What additional comments would you like to share that could be of use to the ICANN Accountability Working Group?

None at the moment