

SSAC Comment on the Preliminary Issue Report on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information

The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) thanks ICANN for this opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Issue Report on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information. The SSAC supports the staff recommendation that a PDP should be initiated, but deferred, on the issue of translation and transliteration of contact information.

The SSAC has provided advice relating to the issues identified in the Preliminary Issue Report. In particular, it was an SSAC publication -- SAC 037, *Display and usage of Internationalized Registration Data: Support for characters from local languages or scripts* -- that resulted in the creation of the Internationalized Registration Data Working Group (IRD-WG). The IRD-WG, in which the SSAC was a co-chair with the GNSO, in its final Report, issued the recommendation that the SSAC and GNSO should request an Issue Report on whether to translate or transliterate contact information. Finally, as noted in the Preliminary Issue Report, the SSAC emphasized the IRD-WG's recommendation in SAC055: *WHOIS: Blind Men and an Elephant (SSAC Comment on the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report)*. The SSAC agreed with the recommendations of the Review Team on translation/transliteration of registration data and called on the ICANN Board of Directors to adopt Recommendation 2 in the IRD-WG's Final Report.

Also in SAC055 the SSAC stated that the ICANN Board should pass a resolution clearly stating the criticality of the development of a registration data policy defining the purpose of domain name registration data. The Board considered the SSAC's advice and on 08 November 2012 passed a resolution directing the ICANN CEO to launch a new effort to redefine the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data. The SSAC agrees with ICANN staff that this effort could have bearing on the issue of translation and transliteration of contact information and that a PDP on this issue should be initiated, but deferred.