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.SE remarks on Draft charter for IANA Stewardship Transition

The internet Infrastructure foundation (.SE) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft charter for the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG), as presented in version 6 (July 17, 2014).

In general we are pleased with the holistic approach in the draft charter for IANA Stewardship transition. We especially welcome the idea of soliciting broader input, information sharing and public communication. Below we highlight remarks under four main points.

The need for coordination of two parallel processes
One crucial aspect of continued work is the expected relation between transition coordination group (ICG) on the one hand, and on the other hand its parallel process of enhancing ICANN accountability. The Draft needs to be more explicit on this relationship, since separation of actions and accountability rarely is successful.

We therefore would like to emphasize the need to design work process according to different sets, or chains of accountability, in between different actors in the global naming community. This issue is addressed also in Centrs background paper.

The need for common principles and work principles
We believe that work need to take origin in some axiomatic principles common to all three (naming, numbers, and protocol) groups. These principles could be expressed e.g. in a common statement, to avoid erroneous assumptions further down the line. Such principles could state, or even codify, what today is taken for granted by many, but not known by others.
For example: that Domain name services should be Secure and stable, that they should be automated, non-discriminatory, predictable reliable etc. Such principles are e.g. elaborated in Centrs draft paper under Principles.

Additionally, and related to principles, is that a charter for IANA transition need to develop consensus on basic work principles. Beforehand.

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For example: In ICANN community, consensus is the default method of decision-making. In a wider naming community, voting is default. Since ICG and ICANN accountability work address wide groups of users, such fundamental rules need to be expressed early.

Principles and work principles mentioned above has implications for the work process, and would be necessary to take into account in an early stage.

Make sure that all proposals can reach ICG

The draft charter presented has pronounced an explicit balance of responsibility for proposals. Draft clearly states that potential conflicts should be handled within each of the three (naming, numbers, and protocol) groups, and that ICG should not be presented competing proposals. This is a form of strict decentralization of conflicting interests.

We believe such strict rule of submitting proposals to ICG might become counterproductive. Too strict silo management might have an inhibiting effect of what proposals actually reach all of ICG. We believe that also contesting proposals from respective group should have a chance to reach all 27 ICG members.

Furthermore. If proposals are to be vetoed already within each (naming, numbers, and protocol) group, there is a need for yet another charter for each group respectively. This gives additional need for time.

Community need more time for sub-consulting local communities

In preparations for the ICG we've seen a very compressed process for work up till now. Under (iii) Assembling and submitting a complete proposal, continued work process is outlined. Given the forced work process this last summer, we would like to reiterate the need for allowing the community a *reasonable* period of time for reviewing the final draft proposal, analyzing and preparing supportive or critical comments. There is among several stakeholders a need to sub-consult a local community before replying with comments and remarks.Ample time for this sub-consulting is need in the process.

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With Best Regards

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