

# DEVELOPING A PUBLIC INTEREST FRAMEWORK - DISCUSSION PAPER

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# PROPOSED DRAFT

The public interest is more of a political concept that usually accompanies other main principles like transparency and accountability. As mentioned in the paper there were many attempts in the past to define the public interest in relation to ICANN's remit that did not succeed. This is understandable because generally speaking it is difficult to pin down exactly what public interest means. Usually we look at the public interest in relation to the common good and common interest. The public interest in relation to ICANN's work should be scope and purpose specific, therefore trying to identify the public interest in relation to specific purposes or instances and how these instances link to ICANN's work as defined by its mission and bylaws makes sense. So conceptually speaking the tool developed seems logical, however the problem lies in how we practically apply it or make use of it. In attempt to actually use the tool, one could argue that two opposite opinions on the same subject matter could equally use the tool and prove that their decision or comment is in the public interest. This is because both opinions could be complying with the mission and bylaws. Using the tool to justify one position over the other could prove in some cases to be not useful. However, after reaching a certain decision, the tool could be used to make sure that the decision or comment is in the public interest.

To conclude it is beneficial to note how a comment or decision serves the public interest, however, it will be sometimes challenging to use the tool as it is now to favor one path over another.

**THANK YOU - QUESTIONS?**

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