Proposed new recommendations

Hypothesis of problem

There is a general perception among many ICANN participants that ICANN is too "silo-ized". Augmented by the occasional meeting between selected pairings of AC/SO/Sub-units, most work is carried out within the confines of particular ICANN organizational units. Where joint meetings do occur, it is relatively rare that there is a true exchange of ideas and in-depth discussion among participants.

Background research undertaken

- Summary of ICANN input

  The problem of silos is raised time and again within ICANN, most notable in relation to the Board, the SOs and AC. It is also heard within sub-units, such as the various constituent bodies of the GNSO not regularly communicating, and the Regional segments of At-Large working in isolation. At the same time, everyone tends to have completely packed days during ICANN meetings, and those who participate in activities remotely between ICANN meetings tend to fill their calendars based on their own home-unit.

- Summary of community input via the public comment process and face to face meetings

  To be reviewed

- Summary of other relevant research

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Relevant ICANN bylaws

The Bylaws define each unit within ICANN but with the exception of a few references to Liaison's do not contemplate cross-unit efforts..

Relevant ICANN published policies

None.

Relevant ICANN published procedures

None that I am aware of.

ATRT2 analysis

The natural tendency for groups to work within their own territory and among those where they feel some level of kinship is strong. Moreover, for most groups within ICANN, there is an overwhelming amount of work to done, without sufficient resources or time to do it all. When individuals do try to penetrate the boundaries of other groups, they are met with reactions ranging from being welcomed to outright hostility. It will take positive action from ICANN leaders to change this.

Working methods also vary significantly across ICANN units. When units do decide to try to work together, the selection of operating rules have at times been problematic. The GAC is often the focal of discussions related to working methods, but in fact, as each operational arm of ICANN has evolved, so have its working methods, and there would be clashes regardless of which two units are selected for formal joint efforts.

Lastly, everything is needed yesterday. Forcing cross-constituency work is sure to take longer, even if only due to the start-up pains of figuring out how to do it.

Draft recommendation including rationale

Look for opportunities where there are real benefits from joint-efforts. The Board in particular must charter cross-constituency groups where there are synergies between and amongst ICANN units.

Public Comment on Draft Recommendations (to be completed later)

Final recommendation (to be completed later)