5A) Community Mechanism as a Sole Member Model

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5A.3   An ICANN Community Forum

In developing the Sole Member Model, the CCWG-Accountability has been careful to specify that any decisions made by the Member are simply decisions by those SOs and ACs who have votes within it (as set out in section 5A.2 of this report). Those SOs and ACs make their decisions as to how to allocate their votes internally.

Alongside the powers granted to the community through the Sole Member Model, the CCWG-Accountability has determined that there needs to be a forum where the use of any of the powers is discussed across the whole ICANN community – **before** the power under consideration is used. This discussion phase would help the community reach well-considered conclusions about using its new powers, and would ensure that decisions were taken on the basis of shared information as well as what was known within the individual decision-making processes of the SOs and ACs that cast votes in the Community Mechanism.

Importantly, it would also create an opportunity for Advisory Committees that aren't currently participating in the Community Mechanism to offer their insight, advice and recommendations on the proposed exercise of a community power.

A forum of this sort would bring together people from all the SOs and ACs, the ICANN Board and some selected staff representatives. Before a community power was exercised, there would be discussion and debate in this forum. People would have a chance to examine the issue before a decision was made. Decisions made would thereby be better informed, and the community's views more considered, than simply allowing SOs and ACs to make decisions through the Community Mechanism without such conversation.

This sort of forum would have no standing and would make no decisions. It would be open to participation from the full diversity of the ICANN community. It should be open to members of the public – certainly to observe all its proceedings, and probably to participate as well.

Such a forum could also be the basis of a Mutual or Public Accountability Forum, suggested as an annual meeting in conjunction with ICANN's AGM at the third meeting of the year. Such an event would help the various components of the ICANN system hold each other to account, transparently and in public.

The CCWG-Accountability will pursue the establishment of such a forum in the implementation phase of Work Stream 1. Comments on the general concept are, of course, more than welcome as part of this Public Comment process.