

NEW SUBSECTION IN 3A Mission, Commitments & Core Values

Elaborating an ICANN Commitment to Human Rights

The CCWG-Accountability extensively discussed the opportunity to include into ICANN Bylaws a commitment related to Human Rights. The group commissioned a legal analysis of whether the termination of the IANA contract would induce changes into ICANN's obligations with regards to Human Rights (LINK). While no significant issue was found to be directly linked to the termination of the IANA contract, the group acknowledged the recurring debates around the nature of ICANN's accountability towards the respect of fundamental human rights.

These discussions identified the following, non-exhaustive, list of accountability-related requirements:

- the NTIA criteria to maintain the openness of the Internet, including free expression and the free flow of information
- the need to avoid extending ICANN's mission into content regulation
- the importance of assessing the impact of ICANN policies on Human rights

Examples of language that could serve as a Commitment were as follows:

- Within its mission and in its operations, ICANN will be committed to respect the fundamental human rights of the exercise of free expression and the free flow of information.
- Within its mission and in its operations, ICANN will be committed to respect internationally recognized fundamental human rights.

The group has achieved consensus on including a human rights related Commitment in ICANN's Bylaws. However no particular wording currently proposed achieved consensus. Reiterating its commitment to elaborate concrete proposals as part of its mandate, the CCWG-Accountability is calling for comments on this approach and the underlying requirements.