

CONAC on Enhancing ICANN's Accountability

Over the past 11 months, the entire ICANN community has conducted deep and broad discussions on the issue of enhancing ICANN's accountability, which is closely related to the IANA Stewardship Transition. CONAC has been closely following this process and would like to express our thanks to the efforts made by the community and experts, and to congratulate on the results delivered by the community.

CONAC would like to offer the following comments to the proposal of enhancing ICANN's accountability:

I. We would like to thank ICANN's timely delivery of the Chinese proposal, which is extremely crucial and helpful for the Chinese community to understand the entire proposal and engage in discussion. Thank you for the outstanding improvement in ICANN's Language services.

II. In the draft proposal of CCWG, SOs and ACs need to exercise the community power jointly via the Sole Membership Model, which is under ICANN in the jurisdiction of California, USA. We would suggest that CCWG reconsiders the jurisdiction of ICANN, to change the status-quo of ICANN, an international organization, from being controlled by the US laws to being controlled by international laws.

III. Currently, CCWG is discussing how to distribute the votes for all SOs/ACs in the proposal so that they can exercise the power. As we all know, most of the fees ICANN receives come from the registration fees paid by registrants and collected by ICANN contracted registries and registrars. Therefore we would like to suggest that while distributing the votes, please give more weight to the contracted parties who have closer relationship with ICANN than others, so as to honor the interests of registrants.

IV. China, a country with 1/5 of the world's Internet users, is an unforgettable major power in the Global Internet Governance. We should not forget the participation of China when talking about ICANN's accountability. However, in the current ICANN multistakeholder model, the participation and power from the Chinese community are limited and weak due to not only existing problems in the Chinese community, but also the current ICANN's model that is inclined to the western world. ICANN and the Chinese community should cooperate and collaborate. Hopefully in the future accountability mechanisms, more effective methods will be applied to enable better engagement from the Chinese community.

After the IANA's Stewardship Transition from the USG to the global multistakeholder community, ICANN community will need to rely on the agreed model to practice governance and accountability. Future practice

will be the best way to test the effectiveness of the model. CONAC will keep following and focusing on the implementation of the proposal, and actively participate in the community discussion.

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