

Questions to be sent to SO/ACs

Preamble

The newly-adopted ICANN bylaws created several Work Stream 2 accountability subgroups. The subgroup on SO/AC Accountability is responsible for reviewing how each SO and AC is accountable to its designated community, and potentially to global Internet stakeholders as well. The background and progress for this group are described [here](#).

The new Bylaws charge our subgroup with reviewing and developing recommendations relating to "Supporting Organization and Advisory Committee accountability, including but not limited to improved processes for accountability, transparency, and participation that are helpful to prevent capture". Moreover, the CCWG-Accountability has recommended that the group "Develop a detailed working plan on enhancing SO and AC accountability taking into consideration the comments made during the public comment period on the Third Draft Proposal."

To that end, we are asking each AC and SO chair to point us to resources and documents used to maintain accountability to your respective designated community, taking into account the particular or specific working modalities of each SO/AC (and any subgroups).

Questions (please respond to all that are applicable to your AC/SO/subgroup):

Designated Community:

What is your interpretation of the designated community for your AC/SO, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws and shown below? For example, do you view your designated community more broadly or narrowly than the Bylaws definition?

The designated community of each AC/SO, as defined in ICANN bylaws:

ALAC is "the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual internet users"

ASO is "the entity established by the Memorandum of Understanding [2004] between ICANN and the Number Resource Organization ("NRO"), an organization of the existing RIRs"

ccNSO is "ccTLD managers that have agreed to be members of ccNSO"

GAC is "open to all national governments (and Distinct Economies upon invitation)"

GNSO is "Open to registries, registrars, commercial stakeholders (BC, IPC, ISPCP), and non-commercial stakeholders"

RSSAC "members shall be appointed by the Board" to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System"

SSAC members are "appointed by ICANN board" to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems."

The gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) is a recognized entity within the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) formed according to Article X, Section 5 (September 2009) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Bylaws

Accountability related policies and procedures:

What are the published policies and procedures by which your AC/SO is accountable to the designated community that you serve? Please include, as applicable:

- Your policies and efforts in outreach to individuals and organizations in your designated community who do not yet participate in your AC/SO.

Outreach letters sent to all new gTLD registry operators upon signing their registry agreement with ICANN.

Outreach session held during ICANN 56 in Helsinki, and two sessions planned during ICANN 58 in Copenhagen.

- Your policies and procedures to determine whether individuals or organizations are eligible to participate in your meetings, discussions, working groups, elections, and approval of policies and positions.

A. Eligibility

1. Registries

All Registries are eligible for membership in the RySG upon the “effective date” set forth in the Registry’s agreement with ICANN. For all purposes under this Charter (including voting), each operator or sponsor shall be considered a single Registry Member of the RySG (whether providing registry services for one or more than one gTLD or IDN version of a gTLD). Further, in cases where an operator or sponsor has a controlling interest in another registry operator or sponsor, either directly or indirectly, the controlled registry operator or sponsor shall not be considered a separate Member of the RySG. Membership shall be terminated if a Member's agreement with ICANN is terminated or a Member voluntarily terminates its membership. A Registry that is owned or controlled by, or under common ownership with, or affiliated with any entity that votes in another stakeholder group or constituency in either house of the GNSO is not eligible for voting membership in the RySG. Any question regarding eligibility or exceptions shall be determined by a vote of the RySG.

2. Associations

In order to join the RySG as a full Member with voting rights, the potential Association Member must meet the following criteria: • The Association must be created primarily to represent registry operators; • The Association’s voting membership must be composed only of gTLD registry operators; • The Association may also allow applicants or potential applicants to be gTLD registry operators to become members of the Association, but these applicants/potential applicants may not have a vote within the Association; and • At least one Association member must be a gTLD registry operator that is NOT a RySG Member. The RySG would evaluate eligibility via the Executive Committee to vet applications. The Executive Committee has final decision-making authority on any association membership application and may use discretion if unique circumstances make it appropriate to do so.

- Transparency mechanisms for your AC/SO deliberations, decisions and elections. Please describe not only your disclosure practices, but also any efforts that you make to explain the meaning of released material, so that they are more effectively transparent to a wider range of stakeholders.

VI. C. Record of Meetings

Minutes of all meetings shall be kept in electronic form or audio form, or both, if feasible, and copies of the minutes (if available) shall be sent to the membership as soon as conveniently possible after each meeting. Private deliberations and conversations need not be recorded.

- Does your AC/SO conduct internal reviews of your accountability related policies and procedures?

- Were these policies and procedures reviewed and/or updated over the past decade? If so, could you clarify if they were updated to respond to specific community requests/concerns?

Community request to translate our Charter into the six UN approved languages. All translated versions now available on our website.

Community request for Association membership was approved and now part of our Charter. Two Association members now part of the RySG community: Brand Registry Group and the GeoTLD Group.

Mechanisms for challenging or appealing elections:

- Does your AC/SO have mechanisms by which your members can challenge or appeal decisions and elections? Please include any links where these mechanisms can be consulted.

Section X. in our Charter is devoted to our voting procedures. They can be found at : http://media.wix.com/ugd/ec8e4c_f27e896d19a94e169af3e73347513ac6.pdf

Any unwritten policies related to accountability:

- Does your AC/SO maintain unwritten policies that are relevant to this exercise? If so, please describe as specifically as you are able.