NCUC Answers to the CCWG WS2 SO/AC Accountability

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."

Answer:

NCUC is part of only one stakeholder group (the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group). Its bylaws section I(B) defines the NCUC's purpose as: to provide a voice and representation in ICANN processes to non-profit organizations and individuals that serve non-commercial interests and provide services such as education, community organizing, promotion of the arts, public interest policy advocacy, children's welfare, religion, scientific research, human rights and the advancement of the Internet as a global communications system for all segments of society. NCUC is currently going under a Bylaws review process. The purpose of NCUC in the new (subject to approval) bylaws is:

"B. The purpose of the Noncommercial Users Constituency is to represent individuals and organizations that use the domain name system (DNS) for noncommercial purposes. The primary purpose of the Constituency is the protection of noncommercial communication online, which includes expression for political, personal, research, educational, and recreational purposes. It gives a voice and representation in ICANN processes to nonprofit organizations that serve noncommercial interests, such as nonprofit educational and philanthropic organizations, human rights and public interest policy advocacy organizations, and families or individuals who register domain names for noncommercial personal use and are primarily concerned with the noncommercial, public interest aspects of domain name policy".

Accountability related policies and procedures:
Question: What are the published policies and procedures by which your AC/SO is accountable to the designated community that you serve?

Answer: NCUC holds annual elections for Chair and Executive Committee members. We find elections to be one of the most important aspect of NCUC accountability.All appointed offices are also renewed annually and term-limited. This means that there is a very regular process for renewing or replacing elected officers. Elected representatives have to report and show progress on a regular basis to be considered for reelection.NCUC has the highest degree of geographic and gender diversity by design (regional representation in the EC) in its elected officials and its membership (list of members is public and automatically updated http://www.ncuc.org/about/members/) of all the GNSO constituencies, and there is a high degree of change in its leadership.

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

Answer: NCUC's membership has tripled in the last 8 years and is still growing. We customarily do the following with regards to outreach:
- Outreach events before and during each ICANN meeting
- Brochures in different languages
- Free membership
- Exhibitions and booths in various events outside ICANN meetings, such as IGF
- Maintain a website,
- Participation in Internet governance related civil society email lists and events, such as WSIS, the Internet governance caucus list, Bestbits, global and regional IGFs and civil society organized events such as Rightscon and Internet Freedom Festival, among others. NCUC members aim to carry out outreach and inform the broader community about NCUC and ICANN at different IG-related events. A new initiative is underway to facilitate further the outreach requests from NCUC members and the external noncommercial users.
- Close collaboration with ICANN global and regional engagement teams
- Supporting noncommercial and civil society events outside of ICANN and informing them about our work
- Use of CROPP to hold events and send delegates to meetings to encourage the NCUC designated community to join

Question: 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.

Answer:
- NCUC's policies and procedures for membership eligibility are stated in section III of the NCUC bylaws. Any organization or individual that becomes an NCUC member will be able to get involved with all policy matters discussed at NCUC, working groups etc. http://www.ncuc.org/governance/bylaws/
- Each membership application is individually vetted by the NCSG executive committee. There are also new procedures in the recently amended bylaws to ensure that organizations or individuals whose eligibility status changes can be removed if appropriate.

2

- NCUC is also aligned with GNSO operating procedures,
- Members are encouraged to join the different PDP working groups and information about policies are shared in regular basis in the main mailing list.

Question: 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.

Answer:
- All of our deliberations, decisions and discussions take place on mailing lists with open archives, and are accessible for everyone (the general public). The chair of NCUC can decide to have closed meetings in accordance to Section XI of the bylaws. However, this is rarely enacted. Open meetings are the rule. Conference calls recordings and transcripts are also archived and publicly accessible including the EC calls.

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

Answer:

NCUC just conducted a major review and revision of its bylaws. The process, which started almost two years ago, has involved a major redrafting and finally approval by a supermajority of the membership. The revised NCUC bylaws provide more clarity on membership eligibility requirements as well as formal procedures for removal of members and officers. The new bylaws also contain a clause reaffirming NCUC's commitment to accountability.

Question: 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?

Answer: See above. NCUC just conducted a major review and is in the process of approval of its new bylaws.

Mechanisms for challenging or appealing elections:
Question: 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.

Answer: Yes, see section IV (G) of the new NCUC bylaws.
http://www.ncuc.org/governance/bylaws/bylaws-revision-2016/differential-document/

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

Answer: Before elections, candidates are expected to express in their SOI the ways they will be keeping the members (regional groups and full membership) up to date with their activities - through bulletins, use of social media or other communication strategies. The interval of time which these updates is done (fortnightly, whenever there is an event, other options) is also discussed with membership or potential voters. Members appointed by NCUC

for different working groups or committees or members receiving funding for particular activities may also submit reports.