

AFRALO / AfrICANN Joint Meeting
Hyderabad, Tuesday 8 November 2016

Statement

We, African ICANN Community members participating in the ICANN 57th International Public meeting in Hyderabad and attending the joint AFRALO / AfrICANN meeting on Tuesday 8 November 2016, discussed the IANA Functions Stewardship transition and its implementation, as well as the ICANN Accountability Work stream 2 (WS2) proposal development.

We first want to congratulate the entire Internet community for the completion of the process of the IANA functions stewardship transition from the US Government to the multi-stakeholder Community.

This transition would not be possible without the huge amount of work undertaken by the ICANN community over the past years towards developing the various proposals, with the precious help of the ICANN Board of Directors as well as the dedication and hard work of the wonderful ICANN staff. Our thanks go also to the NTIA and especially Lary Strickling, who was one of the key persons in the transition initiative, together with the former ICANN President and CEO Fadi Chehadé.

We are pleased that the US government kept to its intention of completing the privatization of the DNS as planned since the inception of ICANN in 1998. That act will also strengthen the Internet Multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance.

We commend the effort of the Cross Community Working Group on accountability for forming 9 sub-groups to address the various issues identified by the Supplemental Final Proposal on Work Stream 1 Recommendations

We strongly recommend to the 9 sub-groups to strictly follow the recommendations detailed in Annex 12 of the [Work Stream 1 Supplemental Final Proposal](#), specifically:

- remain focused on the scope of the WS2 as described in Annex 12
- Address all the issues identified in Annex 12 without addition or diminution
- Keep in mind the narrow mission of ICANN while working on those issues, and avoid to give recommendations that broaden it
- While the inspiration from other documents is encouraged, the only reference document that is binding for the various sub-groups remains the Work Stream 1 Supplemental Final Proposal

We reiterate our support to the CCWG's idea of sub-groups and we expect that it will make the work more productive. However considering that these are concurrent activities, it becomes difficult for the community members to be able to participate actively or even follow the discussions. We are concerned that participation within the sub-groups may lack

the desired level of diversity that is required for such work. In view of this, we suggest that a phased approach to the sub-group is considered so that all the activities are not happening concurrently to reduce the level of burn out on the volunteers.

As the CCWG continues its work for WS2, we like to reiterate our previous comment in Marrakesh and in Helsinki: the work stream 1 was developed at a pace beyond average. This has made it difficult for some volunteers to follow-up with the process hence may have reduced the level of diversity of views in the development of the proposal. In view of this, we recommend that adequate and flexible time be provided for the development of work stream 2.

ICANN accountability is a continuous process and while we understand that, we do not have all the time to ourselves, we believe that we no longer have a hard target compared to WS1.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and welcome the new era ICANN is entering in by the fact of the expiration of the US Government contract and the transition of its stewardship to the Internet community. We look forward to participating in further contributing to the development of ICANN in the global public interest.