CCWG-Accountability-WS2 QUESTIONS ON DIVERSITY

The CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2 Diversity Sub-Group wishes to gather information from ICANN SO/AC/groups on their current consideration of diversity and any actions they undertake to promote diversity. In this context, the term SO/AC/groups refers to:

SO – ccNSO, GNSO, ASO
AC – ALAC, GAC, RSSAC, SSAC
Groups – ICANN Board, ICANN Staff, NomCom, Stakeholder Group or Constituency, RALO

Other groups and individuals are also welcome to complete this questionnaire and are requested to indicate their special interest and/or affiliation.

The Diversity Sub-Group has identified the following non-exhaustive list of elements of diversity as potentially relevant to ICANN SO/AC/groups:

A. Geographic/regional representation
B. Language
C. Gender
D. Age
E. Physical Disability
F. Diverse Skills
G. Stakeholder group or constituency

Your cooperation is sought to answer the following questions:

1. **What relative importance does your SO/AC/group give to these seven dimensions of diversity?**

   The charter of the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) as outlined in Section 12.2.C of the ICANN Bylaws narrowly defines its purpose "to advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System."[1] As such, the root server operator organizations nominate representatives to RSSAC and the ICANN Board ultimately appoints the members of RSSAC.

   Section 1.2.1 of the RSSAC Operational Procedures more specifically defines the composition of the RSSAC to include alternate representatives from the root server operator organizations, representatives of the root zone management partner organizations, and liaisons from reciprocating bodies.[2]

---

[1] https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article12
[2] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rssac-000-op-procedures-30jun16-en.pdf

The independent root server operator organizations, the root zone management partner organizations and reciprocating bodies determine their representatives to RSSAC. Therefore, the RSSAC is structurally limited in its consideration of these seven dimensions of diversity.

2. **What, if any, additional dimensions of diversity are important to your SO/AC/group?**

In the report from its September 2015 Workshop, the RSSAC states that the various aspects of diversity of root server operations are strengths of the overall system. The diversity in the following areas help strengthen the root server system: 1) diversity in funding models, 2) diversity in operational models, and 3) diversity in governance structures.[3]

In RSSAC024: Key Technical Elements of Potential Root Operators[4], the RSSAC also considers seven points of diversity relevant to the evaluation of technical elements in a potential evaluation process of root server operator organizations. These points include: 1) geographic diversity[5], 2) network provider diversity, 3) network hardware diversity, 4) server diversity, 5) operating system diversity, 6) application diversity, and 7) human diversity.

3. **How, if at all, does your SO/AC/group measure and track diversity issues related to its work?**

Based on its definition and understanding of technical and operational diversity, the RSSAC encourages root server operator organizations to track and measure "the stability of the operation of the root server system."[6] This is at the core of RSSAC002. Furthermore, the RSSAC affirms its position in RSSAC001 that "diversity of approach is desirable in the root server system."[7] Eleven of the twelve root server operator organization publish this data on http://root-servers.org/.

4. **How, if at all, does your SO/AC/group seek to promote diversity in its membership, its active participation, and its leadership?**

The restructure of 2013 established the RSSAC Caucus of DNS experts to broaden and diversify the base of technical expertise and experience available

---

[3] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rssac-workshop-07jan16-en.pdf

[4] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rssac-024-04nov16-en.pdf

[5] N.B.: This is not geographic *representation* as scoped in this questionnaire, but rather, the provision of root zone service from multiple geographic locations.

[6] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rssac-002-measurements-root-06jun16-en.pdf

[7] https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rssac-001-root-service-expectations-04dec15-en.pdf

for RSSAC work. The RSSAC Caucus produces RSSAC documents such as reports and advisories.

The RSSAC Caucus consists of the members of RSSAC as well as individuals who have expressed willingness to work on RSSAC documents. Per Section 2.1 of the RSSAC Operational Procedures, each member of the RSSAC Caucus maintains a public description of his or her willingness and motivation to help produce the RSSAC documents, relevant expertise, and formal interests in the work area of the RSSAC.

RSSAC Caucus membership is open to the global technical community – inclusive of all aspects of diversity – with the requisite technical background.

5. **What, if any, educational and informational initiatives does your SO/AC/group pursue to promote diversity awareness?**

The RSSAC has more flexibility to promote diversity awareness in the RSSAC Caucus, through the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee. The RSSAC established the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee to ensure that the RSSAC Caucus has a high-functioning and healthy body of technical experts in DNS root name service. To this end, the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee has been tasked with conducting outreach efforts in relevant forums (ICANN, IETF, DNS OARC meetings, etc.) to broaden and diversify the membership of the RSSAC Caucus.

The RSSAC provides public briefings on its publications (and updates on its ongoing work) at every ICANN meeting. The RSSAC also briefs the ICANN Board during joint meetings. Moreover, the RSSAC participates in a tutorial series organized by the Office of the ICANN CTO, presenting on root server operations. The RSSAC welcomes invitations to explain its publications or to conduct joint meetings with other groups.

6. **What, if any, formal or informal practices or written or unwritten policies are pursued in your SO/AC/group to promote diversity?**

The RSSAC does not pursue any formal or informal practices or written or unwritten policies to explicitly promote diversity. However, the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee considers several points[8] when reviewing applicants for the RSSAC Caucus. These include DNS community experience, DNS knowledge, and commitment to participate.

You are also welcome to append any additional general comments on the topic of diversity.

---

[8] https://www.icann.org/groups/rssac-caucus