

Public Interest Discussions Update



Ergys Ramaj, Sr. Director, Public Responsibility

ICANN60

02 November 2017

Public Interest Discussions

2014: Proposed Definition by the Panel on Public Responsibility Framework

2014: IANA Functions Stewardship Transition Announcement

- Limited bandwidth, focus on transition proposal.

March 2016: Transition proposal complete. Continue explore PI in a bottom-up dialogue.

ICANN55 HIT Session to explore the public interest within ICANN

At-Large Advisory Committee WG on the Public Interest created

ICANN57 HIT Session to explore the public interest within ICANN

Ongoing discussions through ICANN60

Resources available:

- Desk research
- Wiki space:
<https://go.icann.org/2mKgWLv>
- Mailing list: publicinterest@icann.org
- Staff support

Public Interest Discussions

- ⊙ Definition of the global public interest proposed by the Panel on Public Responsibility Framework (as it relates to the Internet):
 - *“ensuring that the Internet becomes, and continues to be, stable, inclusive, and accessible across the globe so that all may enjoy the benefits of a single and open Internet. In addressing its public responsibility, ICANN must build trust in the Internet and its governance ecosystem.”*

Public Interest Discussions

Definition vs. no definition

- Provides structure
- Highly context-driven

How is it understood & applied in different contexts

- Explored Europe and India, to date

Everything ICANN does is rooted in the public interest

- Develop best practices in multistakeholder systems
- Enhance diversity in stakeholder participation

SSR of the DNS (or diversity) is but one element of the public interest

- The aggregate of **all** special interests = the public interest
- PI is an abstract concept, it needs adaptable process, not a fixed definition

The public interest is designed to be self-executing in the new Bylaws

- *If the bottom-up, multistakeholder process is followed, and the end result is supported by consensus, then the global public interest is automatically served.*

Public Interest Discussions

- ⦿ What needs to be done to ensure more active engagement and participation on this topic across the community?
- ⦿ The creation of a loose/informal structure to help guide the work is needed. What can be done to help with this process?