

Introduction

At-large has published a white-paper for discussion on the on "Making ICANN Relevant, Responsive and Respected" (R3 White Paper). The authors seek to address questions that are raised about whether the present ecosystem of Internet governance, including ICANN, is able to adapt to recent changes in the ecosystem that have taken place, and more specifically, within the following four areas:

- The global public interest – In a continuously evolving and challenging environment, will ICANN be able to keep pace with growing public interest requirements and adapt its methods to better serve the global user community, while escaping capture by narrower interests?
- The multi-stakeholder system – Is ICANN's multi-stakeholder approach sufficiently robust and sustainable in the long run under increased external pressure?
- Global governance – Are the arrangements related to the governance of the Internet's critical resources, including that of ICANN's own internal governance, adequate to meet the needs of the growing and diverse community of internet users worldwide?
- Institutional and practical cooperation – Can ICANN coordinate and cooperate effectively with organizations that have been set up to deal with Internet governance issues beyond ICANN's remit of technical coordination?

Issue

In the document, the authors suggest a number of recommendations on how the challenges within each of these areas might be addressed. One of the recommendations relating to Multi-Stakeholder System is:

“Address the ccTLD diversity of practices vis-à-vis ICANN’s general standards and best practices”.

According to the authors of the R3 White Paper, ICANN’s value proposition and strength is it’s multi-stakeholder, bottom-up policy development model. However ICANN has neglected to improve this model to meet the differentiated demands. The proliferation of constituencies and stakeholder groups has not been accompanied by real efforts to achieve and maintain equality and balance among the various interests in the ICANN structure.

Options for action

- No action or
- ccNSO Council submission/letter

Staff- advise is to submit a ccNSO Council letter.

A reaction is advised for the following reasons:

The fundamental premise for the existence of ccTLD's is that ccTLD's were created to meet the local political, legal and cultural differences which reflects the diversity in local communities (including local government as a specifically relevant and interested party and local end-users) and the interactions of the ccTLD and its local internet community including end-users.

The ccNSO and its policy development process is a reflection of the different role and responsibility of ICANN vis-à-vis ccTLD's (including both ASCII and IDN) and (new) gTLD's.

Both fundamental premises are questioned by the recommendation.

Given the timeline, effectively the comment closes around Friday 21 December 2012 (if a reaction is indicated, by its duration the ordinary ccNSO statement procedure is not suitable.

Background

The paper is published to seek feedback and collect broader community input into the further development of this White Paper.

The public comment period opened on 20 November and closes on 2 January and reply period closes at 23 January.

The Paper will be updated, taking into consideration the comments received. The updated version will then be presented to ALAC and broader community at the Beijing meeting.

The paper itself can be found at:

<http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence/future-challenges-white-paper-17sep12-en.pdf>