**Food for thoughts on the CCWG Accountability – Problem definition – Strawman proposal:**

This paper suggests to consider a restructuring of the document and to add a few elements that should help explaining the concept of accountability and then applying this to the ICANN context

1. **Problem Statement**

*(no comments on the existing text in the draft paper*)

1. **What is accountability?**

*I would like to propose two main elements of this chapter: One is a quick explanation of the “concept of accountability” in general and the second one is some explanations about why and how to apply the concept to the ICANN context.*

* 1. **The concept of accountability in General**

*Here are some elements for an explanation of the concept of accountability in general:*

*Meaning of accountability:* „The condition or quality of being accountable which in turn means responsible; having to give an explanation for one’s actions; answerable.” *(Longman Dictionary)*

*Definition:* “Accountability refers to the implicit or explicit expectation that one may be called on to justify one’s (beliefs, feelings and) actions to others” (Lerner, J.; Tetlock, P.E. 1999, p. 255)

Another element is a “notion of personal responsibility for potential negative consequences of one’s own behavior and actions on others”.

Accountability may be achieved through the adhering to a framework of agreed rules and standards and of defined rights and responsibilities for those accountable and for those that an individual/entity is accountable to.

Another important element is transparency which is a prerequisite for any accountability mechanism to achieve its purpose.

Such a framework should include checks and balances, to be understood as “a system in which the different parts of an organization (such as a government) have powers that affect and control the other parts so that no part can become too powerful” (*Source: Merriam Webster dictionary (*[*http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/checks%20and%20balances*](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/checks%20and%20balances) ).

* 1. **Accountability in the ICANN context**

*This section should explain the purpose of accountability in the concrete ICANN context (as it has been drafted under Chapter 3 in the current draft) – maybe with a distinction between aspects belonging to WS1 and those belonging to WS2.*

*This section can be based inter alia on the NETmunidal text and have the following elements*:

* + 1. **Checks and balances**
    2. **transparency**
    3. **Review mechanisms**
    4. **Redress mechanisms**
    5. **Independence**

…

1. **What is the purpose of accountability? How should accountability be achieved?**

*(build on Chapter 4 of the current draft)*

1. **To whom should ICANN be accountable?**

*(build on Chapter 2 of the current draft)*

***Annex***

***Possible additional elements to explain the general concept of accountability (Chapter 2):***

*Distinction between Internal and external Accountability:*

* External Accountability: monitoring and assessment of behavior of the accountable entity by the a general public.
* Internal Accountability: Desire of the accountable individual/entity to justify his/her/its actions vis-à-vis him-/her-/itself.