

ICANN Board Accountability

Work Stream 2

Expanded Topic of ICANN Board Accountability

1. Expand the topic as a broader topic of Board Accountability
2. Discuss Board Accountability in the same manner as AC/SO or Staff Accountability is to be discussed
3. AC/SO and Staff Accountability measures work at one level
4. ICANN Accountability is epitomized by a Board Accountability design.
5. This topic is distinct from the generalized discussions on ICANN Accountability.

The extent of Board Accountability

The ICANN Board is to be held accountable for **what it does do what it does not do** that affects ICANN.

everything that ICANN as an organization does do and does not do that affects the DNS and the larger Internet

even if

such actions of ICANN or **such actions** of any of its parts **happen WITHOUT discernable directives** or consent from the Board.

The Board ought to be held accountable for **even that which arises from outside the Board.**

Board Empowerment

If the Board is notionally to be held so accountable it requires to be **sufficiently empowered** first.

review how the Board is **positioned** in the organization
in the past we have had situations where
Board's affairs **depended** on certain Administrative decisions,
and there were some difficulties in the Board - Staff interactions.

We need to **look into issues that may potentially limit the Board's** ability to function.

New challenges, new processes of Work Stream 1

Work Stream 1 has created new challenges and new processes for safeguards, which proceeded on the assumption that new Community powers would provide the necessary challenges against abuse of Board powers.

These measures tend to **disperse responsibilities** and increase room for **lack of clarity on who is to be held accountable** for the decisions needed for the pursuit of the overall mission of ICANN and on developments that may occur to the distortion of the overall purpose of the Organization.

New processes, oversight or a larger solution?

Board Accountability NOT an exercise of creating more processes

NOT a question of who would oversee the Board and who would oversee the overseer.

We could come up with a new solution that may **neither entirely depend on a oversight, nor on challenges** and limitations.

Higher standards for Board Accountability

ICANN Board as an an entity comprises **individuals**. The propensity of the Board to be effective, correct and just depends on who the Board attracts to be its constituents.

If the Board, as it does to a noticeable extent now, attracts individuals **from any part of the world** who are of such stature that they are not expected to deviate from the larger purpose, we will have **an accountability framework around an evolved Board even more worthy of trust** on its conduct of business in a manner that would require little or no challenges or a close oversight.

Such an Accountability framework would ensure **good governance** even **ahead of implementation of diversity, irrespective of jurisdiction** or even Staff diversity.

All of the above are rough ideas to be brought to shape by Work Stream 2

Sivasubramanian M, India