WS2 Group on SO/AC Accountability

Questions to be sent to SO/ACs

Preamble
The newly-adopted ICANN bylaws created several Work Stream 2 accountability subgroups. This subgroup is responsible for reviewing how each SO and AC is accountable to its designated community, and potentially to global Internet stakeholders as well. The background and progress for this group are described here.

The new Bylaws charge our subgroup with reviewing and developing recommendations relating to "Supporting Organization and Advisory Committee accountability, including but not limited to improved processes for accountability, transparency, and participation that are helpful to prevent capture". Moreover, the CCWG-Accountability has recommended that the group "Develop a detailed working plan on enhancing SO and AC accountability taking into consideration the comments made during the public comment period on the Third Draft Proposal."

To that end, we are asking each AC and SO chair to point us to resources and documents used to maintain accountability to your respective designated community, taking into account the particular or specific working modalities of each SO/AC (and any subgroups).

Questions:

Designated Community:
The designated community of each AC/SO is defined in ICANN bylaws:

ALAC is "the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual internet users"

ASO is "the entity established by the Memorandum of Understanding [2004] between ICANN and the Number Resource Organization ("NRO"), an organization of the existing RIRs"

ccNSO is "ccTLD managers that have agreed to be members of ccNSO"

GAC is "open to all national governments (and Distinct Economies upon invitation)"

GNSO is "Open to registries, registrars, commercial stakeholders (BC, IPC, ISPCP), and non-commercial stakeholders"

RSSAC "members shall be appointed by the Board" to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System"

SSAC members are "appointed by ICANN board" to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems."

What is your interpretation of the designated community defined in the Bylaws. For example, do you view your designated community more broadly or narrowly than the Bylaws definition?

Accountability related policies and procedures

What are the published policies and procedures by which your AC/SO is accountable to the designated community that you serve?

- Your policies and efforts in outreach to individuals and organizations in your designated community who do not yet participate in your AC/SO.
- Your policies and procedures to determine whether individuals or organizations are eligible to participate in your meetings, discussions, working groups, elections, and approval of policies and positions.
- Transparency mechanisms for your AC/SO deliberations, decisions and elections

- Were these policies and procedures updated over the past decade? If so, could you clarify if they were updated to respond to specific community requests/concerns?

Mechanisms for challenging or appealing elections
- Do your AC/SO have mechanisms by which your members can challenge or appeal decisions and elections? Please include link where they can be consulted.

Any unwritten policies related to accountability
- Do your AC/SO maintain unwritten policies that are relevant to this exercise? If so, please describe as specifically as you are able.