To: Accountability and Transparency Review Team 2

From: Brian Cute

Re: Potential engagement of Independent Expert

Date: May 19, 2013

The Accountability and Transparency Review Team 2 (ATRT2) will consider whether it will engage an Independent Expert to assist in its task of assessing ICANN’s accountability and transparency under the Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) para. 9.1. ATRT2 has identified “metrics” as an issue that is critical to ICANN and the community to benchmark and measure improvements to accountability and transparency from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective. Other than providing target dates for some of its recommendations, ATRT1 did not offer, suggest or recommend specific metrics for ICANN to implement deferring the task of developing performance measures to the organization.

In its initial interaction with ICANN staff, ATRT2 observed that, to a large degree, development of specific metrics to measure accountability and transparency (and forward going improvements) has not yet occurred. At the first face-to-face meeting in Los Angeles between ATRT2 and ICANN staff, ICANN CEO, Fadi Chehade, made a commitment that metrics would be developed by ICANN to measure progress going forward.

An independent expert could provide a benefit to the ATRT2 and to ICANN in a number of ways: 1) work with ATRT2 to provide a third party assessment of ICANN with respect to accountability and transparency to establish benchmarks to measure against going forward. 2) provide specific guidance to ATRT2 and ICANN concerning the use of metrics specifically tailored to the issue of accountability and transparency; 3) provide tools that ICANN could employ going forward to measure accountability and transparency and more effectively communicate to the community on these issues; 4) provide future audits of ICANN’s accountability and transparency.

Organizations that focus on accountability and transparency practices and metrics exist. For example, ICANN worked with One World Trust in 2007to undertake an independent review of standards of accountability and transparency within ICANN <http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-4-29mar07-en.htm>. Other organizations provide guidance and tools to measure accountability and transparency of organizations. <http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=content.view&cpid=1283> Other resources focused on accountability and transparency in both the public and private sector exist as potential points of reference for ATRT2 on this issue.