**Report and Recommendations**

**Of**

**The Second Accountability and Transparency Review Team**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The second Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT2) presents this Report to the Board of Directors of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) as required under the Affirmation of Commitments (AoC). The Affirmation of Commitments requires ICANN to conduct recurring reviews of the organisation’s accountability and transparency and for the Board of Directors to take action on Recommendations made by the ATRT2 within 6 months of the receipt of Recommendations.

ATRT2 is required to assess ICANN’s implementation of Recommendations of three prior AoC Review Teams:

1. the first Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT1);

2. the Security, Stability and Resiliency Review Team (SSR-RT); and

3. the WHOIS Review Team (WHOIS RT).

The AoC states, “[e]ach of the foregoing reviews shall consider the extent to which the assessments and actions undertaken by ICANN have been successful in ensuring that ICANN is acting transparently, is accountable for its decision-making, and acts in the public interest. Integral to the foregoing reviews will be assessments of the extent to which the Board and staff have implemented the recommendations arising out of the other commitment reviews.”

ATRT2 is also charged with making Recommendations to ICANN concerning improvements to the Review process itself. It has been three years since the first Review Team issued its Report and Recommendations to the ICANN Board. The period of time affords ATRT2 an opportunity to assess the effect of implementation of Recommendations and to gain a perspective on the AoC review process itself.

Lastly, ATRT2 engaged an Independent Expert for the purpose of providing and analysis and recommendations on the GNSO Policy Development Process. The Independent Expert’s draft report is attached as Appendix A.

**II. OBSERVATIONS**

Before presenting its Recommendations, ATRT2 offers the following observations that influenced its assessment of ICANN’s accountability and transparency.

What is the objective of the Review?

The importance of implementing AoC Review Team Recommendations is for ICANN to create and “culture of accountability and transparency” throughout the organisation where ICANN employees and Directors have a clear understanding of how their respective roles and responsibilities relate directly to accountability and transparency. ATRT2’s review focuses not just on determining whether ICANN has completed certain implementation tasks. Rather, ATRT2 is examining the effect implementation has had on the perspective of ICANN’s Board and Staff and the effect implementation has had on the work of the Community.

What is the current environment?

ICANN is an organisation in the process of significant growth both in terms of resources and geographic presence. Such significant growth provides significant challenges for any organisation. ICANN is also in the process of coordinating the launch of over 1,000 newTLDs and the ICANN Community has been deeply engrossed in the policy and implementation processes leading up to that launch.

For ICANN, which is somewhat unique as a multi-stakeholder organisation that coordinates a global resource and whose decisions must take into account the public interest, a deepening of visible accountability and transparency at this time is essential not only to its successful growth but also to its long term viability.

Where does ICANN need to go from here?

In an increasingly challenging global Internet governance environment, ICANN must establish *itself* as the benchmark of accountability and transparency. The Affirmation of Commitment Reviews themselves are an example of stakeholders working together on equal footing and, as such, they provide ICANN with an opportunity to set a global standard of multi-stakeholder governance. ATRT2 believes that ICANN needs to achieve the following: 1. establish clear metrics and benchmarks against which improvements in accountability and transparency can be measured; 2: communicate clearly and consistently about its accountability and transparency mechanisms and performance; and 3: improve and prioritize its AoC Review processes.

**III. ATRT2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1.**

**2.**

**3. (etc.)**

**IV. ASSESSMENT OF ICANN’S IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIOR REVIEW TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **ATRT1**
2. **WHOIS**
3. **Security, Stability and Resiliency**

**V. ASSESSMENT OF THE AoC REVIEW PROCESSES**

Appendix A – Report of the Independent Expert