RrSG Response to Next Steps On Reviews

The Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) welcomes the opportunity to again contribute to ICANN's ongoing work on improving Reviews by responding to the Consultation Paper on Next Steps on Reviews. In its comprehensive response to the Short Term and Long Term options, which we will not repeat in detail here, the RrSG advocated for adjustments being made to the timeline and process of Organisational Reviews, rather than Specific Reviews, although the focus of these next steps appears to be more on Specific Reviews.

As such, the RrSG supports the proposal under Short term improvements (and ATRT3) to proceed with appointing the review team for ATRT3 by 30 November 2018 (The RrSG previously noted its support for there being limitations on the amount of time spent to select volunteers), start its substantive work in January 2019, and run for the 12 months mandated by the Bylaws.

The proposal under Long-term improvements to streamline Specific Reviews is to 'consider undertaking a discussion on how to streamline Specific Reviews to make them more effective and impactful'. The RrSG is in favour of any work within ICANN to improve efficacy, and indeed, efficiency, particularly with regards to reigning in expenditure, given that contracted parties are ultimately responsible for funding ICANN's budgets. However, as noted in our earlier comments, whilst Specific Reviews should not be allowed an unreasonably long timeline, the RrSG do not believe that Specific Reviews should have further limitations placed on their current timelines.

Regarding the proposal on Long-term improvements to streamline Organizational Reviews to 'begin an effort to formulate a shared understanding of the purpose of Organizational Reviews and their expected outcomes', as noted above, the RrSG stated in its earlier comments that Organizational Reviews should be the focus of streamlining efforts and hopes that achieving a shared understanding leads to an actual reduction in both the frequency and length of Organizational Reviews.

Finally, regarding the proposal under Next steps for Operating Standards for Specific Reviews to 'incorporate proposals based on significant lessons learned and include operational process improvements implemented within the past year', any practical and effective improvements on the Review process would again be welcomed by the RrSG and we look forward to hearing about, and having an opportunity to comment on, ICANN Org's plans for what and how this will be implemented in the future.