

Registries Stakeholder Group Statement

Issue: **Recommendations to improve SO (Supporting Organization) / AC (Advisory Committee) Accountability.**

Date statement submitted: **26 May, 2017**

Reference URL: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/soac-accountability-2017-04-14-en>

Background:

Draft report by the CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2 subgroup on SO/AC Accountability.

RySG Comment:

The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations to Improve SO/AC Accountability and wants to express its appreciation for the work of the CCWG WS 2 Subgroup on SO/AC Accountability.

The RySG supports the consensus view that ICANN SOs and ACs are accountable to the segment of the global Internet community that each SO/AC was designed to represent in the ICANN Bylaws and acknowledges that the proposed best practice recommendations could contribute to an increased accountability, transparency, and participation within SOs and ACs. The RySG further agrees with the CCWG-Accountability that the proposed best practices should not become part of the ICANN Bylaws, or that SOs/ACs should be required to implement them.

We note the call for open meetings, public notes, minutes and recordings, and a publicly visible mailing list. There is a public benefit that could follow but there may also be less favorable consequences including diminishing the free-flow of beneficial interchange among registries concerning ICANN policy matters. If this provision is in the final report the RySG will consider whether and to what extent, if any, its adoption would be appropriate. There are already important opportunities that allow for public debate and participation, for example the open RySG sessions during ICANN meetings, our meetings with the Board, cross-constituency/SG sessions, etc. .

The RySG suggests that the CCWG-Accountability reviews transparency recommendation 5 ('Notes, minutes, or recordings of all membership meetings should be made publicly available.') and participation recommendation 4 ('For any meetings, be they closed to members or open to anyone, the members have to be able to access notes, minutes and/or recordings, subject to exceptions for confidential matters.') as they might be seen as confusing or inconsistent.

The RySG supports the report's conclusions on Track 2 (the "Mutual Accountable Roundtable" should be optional, subject to approval of SO/AC chairs) and Track 3 (the IRP should not be made applicable to SO/AC activities).